

## Center Field

David Alan Firth

He wasn't such an old man, just a bit beyond his prime.  
Packing his glove and an old wood bat so he could play the game at any time.  
And she was quite a lady; a piano student's dream.  
Living and loving just to play the music with perfection on the ivory keys.  
You see to him life was just a game of baseball where coming home he had a chance to be safe.  
And the lady's best friend was the piano 'cause when they got together  
All they did was play.

One autumn afternoon he stepped into the church to see if someone there  
Would want to play ball.  
There sat the lady at the baby grand playing Christmas Carols in the fall.  
He got up the nerve to introduce himself and asked her why she was there alone.  
She was there to teach a kid who never showed up  
And it was better than being home.  
So he handed her his glove and like a school boy said,  
"You want to go outside and play ball? 'Cause there's nothing more delightful  
Then a simple game of catch in center field on a sunny day."

Oh, the ballplayer and the piano teacher each came from a different place.  
Her, from the cold notes on the score and him always rounding first base.  
And she caught his heart through music and he caught hers with his glove.  
And they both taught each other a new way to play,  
In the Center Field of love.

As the weeks went by and the days grew short she would meet him there in center field.  
And he taught her how to catch and how to throw it right back and how to  
Hit and bunt and steal.  
And when they got tired they would go inside, she'd teach him music on the baby grand.  
She taught him chords and scales and a little bit of Bach and the value of discipline.  
And then one afternoon in the winter, while in the middle of play ball,  
The wind got colder and the sky grew darker and the snow began to fall.  
As he silently walked toward her she could see sadness in his eyes.  
"The snow means the game is finished. I guess I'll have to say good-bye."  
And with a passion from within she never felt before she kissed him saying,  
"No need to go. You know there's nothing more delightful than a simple game of catch  
In center field; even in the snow."

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