

PROLOGUE

The year was 1980. Fifty-two Americans were being held hostage in Iran, and President Carter's efforts to rescue them were not successful.

Everybody was talking about the dumped chemicals poisoning Love Canal, Mount Saint Helens erupted, and in outer space, Voyager 1 reached Saturn.

George Brett was the American League Most Valuable Player and Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run. The Phillies beat the Kansas City Royals 4-2 in the World Series. Pittsburgh took the Super Bowl from the L.A. Rams; the Lakers were the N.B.A. champs; and the underdog U.S. hockey team surprised the world by winning the "gold" in the Winter Olympics.

Ronald Reagan got elected president . . . John Lennon of the Beatles was shot dead . . . I drove everyone nuts singing the Doobie Brothers hit "What a Fool Believes" night and day . . . and Zayda came to live with us.

Yes . . . most of all, when I think back to that fall of 1980, I remember Zayda . . . and I remember his arrival as though it were yesterday . . .