

Chess-Boxing

By

Danny Maldonado & Dan Healey

WGA Registered

Danny A. Maldonado  
61 Lexington Ave, Oyster Bay,  
NY 11771 - 516-864-1205

Daniel P. Healey  
8420 Freemantle Dr. Colorado  
Springs, CO 80920 719-659-2305

FADE IN:

INT. DAMIAN'S ROOM - MORNING

DAMIAN RODRIGUEZ, Mid 20's, an attractive, tan skinned man with a buzz cut lies face down on his bed. Naked, with a bed sheet barely covering his leg, he slowly awakens to the sound of knocking at his door.

SEAN  
(knocking)  
Damian?

Damian slowly lifts his head. He frantically feels around for something on the floor.

SEAN  
(Still knocking)  
D-Rod? You okay, buddy?

Damian's hands pass from object to object on the floor. First, he grazes his college diploma, then an overturned trash can, then finally settles on a small boxed fan.

SEAN MURRAY, a fragile looking man with short, light brown hair enters the room as Damian begins to puke into the fan.

SEAN  
How ya feelin?

Beige, chunky vomit sprays all over the room. Large quantities hit the ceiling, the window, and finally Sean's face and chest.

SEAN  
(In a dead stare)  
...you fuckin' asshole.

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER - DAY

Damian and Sean pull up to a quaint looking shopping center with a rather large variety of stores linked together.

The largest; "G.G's Pet Swag", a super store dedicated to the accessories and wardrobe of household pets

The second largest; Jim's Gym, a super gym complete with a spa, Olympic sized pool, and vitamin shop.

(CONTINUED)

And right in between these two mega stores sits "McDuffie's McMovies." A decent sized video and game rental store. Damian speeds into a parking spot that reads "Customer Parking", and him and Sean exit the car.

Damian yawns, unlocks the door to the store, and they enter.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S MCMOVIES - DAY

Damian sits at a desk behind the counter, counting money. Sean stands at the counter adjacent, sorting paperwork.

In walks a tall, plump, and distinguished looking MAN, sporting tiny worn bifocals, a short gray beard, and a stomach that made it look as if he was 11 months pregnant(With twins.)

SEAN

Mr. McDuffie!

Sean and Mr. McDuffie high five. Damian gets up from his chair.

DAMIAN

McDuff the crime dog! Hey, when's the baby due?

Damian taps Mr. McDuffie on his belly. Mr. McDuffie looks down at his stomach and then stares intently at Damian.

MR. MCDUFFIE

...you're fired.

Sean laughs and Damian goes back to counting money.

SEAN

So, what are you doin here so early?

Mr. McDuffie walks over to a small folding table with a few buckets of popcorn on top of it.

MR. MCDUFFIE

I'm here to make sure you two still open on time and aren't running my baby into the ground.

DAMIAN

If you cared about that, you wouldn't have hired us..

SEAN  
Or promoted us...

DAMIAN  
Twice...

SEAN  
And pretty much left us in charge..

DAMIAN  
When we were 18...

SEAN  
Yea, bad choice.

DAMIAN  
Terrible..

MR. MCDUFFIE  
Alright! Jeez, you two are like a  
married couple. Does your boyfriend  
know you're cheating on  
him?(Directed at Sean.)

Sean throws his hands up once more. Speechless, he walks over to the closed sign and flips it over to say "Open". Damian chuckles.

Mr. McDuffie smiles and looks at the table like he has an idea.

MR. MCDUFFIE  
I'm actually here to crunch some  
numbers because the lease is up  
soon.

Mr. McDuffie hops up and plants himself on the table. The table immediately collapses. Sean rushes over as Damian jumps to his feet with simultaneous concern.

Mr. McDuffie gets up immediately and waves his hand at the table as if to say "Forget about it."

Sean and Damian hold a hand over their mouths, stifling laughter.

SEAN  
You need any help? I'm good with  
numbers.

MR. MCDUFFIE  
Oh no, I'll manage just fine.

McDuffie seems troubled by something.

Damian puts the cash into the safe and walks over to the register. Sean sits on the counter. They notice the uncomfortable silence.

DAMIAN

So is this...bad or...?

MR. MCDUFFIE

Hm? Oh it's fine, Goonburg next door has just been up my ass, just like last year. Whattaya say, do I close up the old shop and make you two shitheads get real jobs? Eh?

Mr. McDuffie chuckles. Sean and Damian look at each other, both knowing exactly what the other was thinking.

Mr. McDuffie's smile fades as he looks back and forth between the two of them, hoping for a pleasant reaction.

MR. MCDUFFIE

Guys?...

SEAN

(shaking his head)

No. Yea, that's...that's funny.

DAMIAN

You sound just like my mom.

SEAN

Any my dad. Hey you even kinda look like him.

MR. MCDUFFIE

That's low, you gay bitch.

Sean and Damian can't help but smile.

MR. MCDUFFIE

Listen, guys. I'm just bustin' ya balls. I love the store, and I love the two of you. And, you guys do a good enough job to where I'm still makin' money so, don't worry! Nobody will get their hands on my store while I'm around.

Sean and Damian look upon this sweet old man with all the admiration in the world.

(CONTINUED)

MR. MCDUFFIE  
Now gimme the key I gotta take a  
shit.

McDuffie takes the key from Sean and walks past the  
collapsed table.

MR. MCDUFFIE  
Clean this up! Don't make em like  
they used to.

Sean and Damian both smile and shake their heads. The front  
door dings and a tall and almost sickly looking guy(20's)  
wearing a ratty hat and "Megadeth" shirt walks in. This is  
THE REGULAR

He smiles at Sean and Damian.

THE REGULAR  
What's up Sean? What's up D-rod?

They smile and look like they're trying to remember  
something.

SEAN  
Hey...man...how are you?

DAMIAN  
Yeah buddy, how's it hanging? You  
come in for the new releases?

THE REGULAR  
(chuckles)  
Does a bear ride the subway after  
midnight?

The Regular walks toward the outer wall of movies. Sean and  
Damian exchange a confused glance.

SEAN  
Does that mean...yes?

DAMIAN  
Man, what the hell is his name  
again?

SEAN  
I'm pretty sure it's Simon.

DAMIAN  
I thought it was Rupert or  
something weird.

(CONTINUED)

The front door DINGS open again. Sean and Damian organize movies behind the counter.

An in-shape, older businessman, with a salt and pepper top walks in. He has a bluetooth ear piece and is holding a Shih Tzu wearing a matching suit. This is GARY GOONBURG.

SEAN

I mean I feel bad, he knows our names.

DAMIAN

Everybody knows my name.

Goonburg stands at the register. He coughs loudly

SEAN

Oh did you change it to "Asshole who gets best friend punched in the face"?

Sean touches the swollen spot just above his eye. Goonburg coughs even louder.

DAMIAN

Oh don't cry baby boy, it makes you look bad-ass.

SEAN

Maybe it'll help me get laid at that lame ass party tonight.

DAMIAN

(Chuckles)

I'd have to somehow beat cancer into you for a chick to feel bad enough to touch your floppy-

Goonburg coughs obnoxiously loud. Sean and Damian finally turn and notice Goonburg. They look from the man to the little suited beast in his hand.

SEAN

Can we help you?

GOONBURG

I'm looking for McDuffie, is he here?

DAMIAN

Why is that dog wearing a suit?

Goonburg seethes in annoyance. He slowly pulls off his sunglasses.

(CONTINUED)

GOONBURG

I can't wait to make this place my warehouse. Or maybe I'll make into an indoor animal park where all my clients can shit everywhere.

Sean and Damian look confused and unimpressed.

GOONBURG

So...McDuffie?

SEAN

He's in his office.

Sean motions to the bathroom door. Goonburg looks even more annoyed.

GOONBURG

I'll just wait for him in his actual office.

Goonburg leaves them at the counter. Sean and Damian stare at the dog staring right back at them as he walks away.

Damian walks towards the back of the store.

DAMIAN

So what are we watching today?

SEAN

(shouting)

I don't know. What are you thinking?

Damian scans the Blu-ray section.

DAMIAN

Star Wars?

SEAN

Which one?

DAMIAN

We could watch all three...

SEAN

Which trilogy?

DAMIAN

Original, duh. We have Some class...

(CONTINUED)

THE REGULAR  
(from other side of store)  
Was that a real question?

Damian walks past with a Blu-Ray case in his hand.

DAMIAN  
Screw it. We're watching The Lord  
of the Rings.

SEAN  
Again?

DAMIAN  
Yup.

Damian inserts the movie into the Blu-ray player.

DAMIAN  
Lord of the Rings gets me pumped  
up. And I need all the pumping up I  
can get before this party tonight.

SEAN  
So I guess that means we're  
definitely going?

DAMIAN  
We have to. It's his engagement  
party.

SEAN  
So?

DAMIAN  
Connor's our friend. We owe it to  
him.

Sean looks skeptically at Damian.

SEAN  
Bullshit. Who is it? Who's gonna be  
there that you wanna fuck?

Damian turns toward Sean with a fake look of shock on his  
face, trying desperately not to smile.

DAMIAN  
Wha..? Sean Nicholas Murray! How  
could you think that of me?

Sean stares at Damian for a moment. Squinting his eyes as if  
trying to read something.

(CONTINUED)

SEAN  
...it's Katie Faulkner isn't it?  
You've always been into her.

Damian turns back toward the TV.

DAMIAN  
You've got me figured all wrong,  
man. I'm not into her.

SEAN  
Good, cause I wanna fuck her.

Damian quickly turns around again, and pauses for a moment.

DAMIAN  
Fuck you, she's mine.

SEAN  
See? I knew it. Fu..

The door dings open again and a beautiful young red head with glasses walks in. This is EMMA PAGE.

SEAN  
Hi.

Emma gives a shy smile.

EMMA  
Hi.

They stare at each other in an uncomfortable silence. Suddenly, inaudible arguing is heard from the office. Sean turns his attention to the shouting.

MR. MCDUFFIE  
You will never get your hands on my  
store you puppy-loving  
suit-matching psycho fuck!

McDuffie practically pushes Goonburg out of his office. Goonburg stops with a cocky smile on his face.

GOONBURG  
Don't be stupid, "Mcnothing."  
You're only delaying the  
inevitable. This store will be  
mine.

Goonburg throws his sunglasses back on and storms toward the exit.

(CONTINUED)

MR. MCDUFFIE

Over my rotting carcass! If you  
ever come back here I will end  
you...

McDuffie grabs the door...

MR. MCDUFFIE

...and your little dog too!

...and slams it.

Damian and Sean watch in silence as Goonburg walks out of  
the store.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S MCMOVIES - LATER

A few customers are scattered throughout the store. The  
Regular is in front of the television watching the second  
Lord of the Rings film.

Damian and Sean stand motionless behind the counter, staring  
at each other, reminiscent of an old west showdown. Their  
eyes squint, but don't blink.

Suddenly, they both pantomime drawing lightsabers.  
Pretending to swirl them around and making the noises to go  
with it, they begin their fake dual.

They continue to strike back and forth, until they hear  
distinct ringer on the store telephone. They stop fighting,  
and Damian presses the speakerphone button.

MR. MCDUFFIE

(through the speakerphone)

Put the lightsabers away and get  
back to work.

McDuffie hangs up and Sean and Damian stop. Damian motions  
toward the office.

DAMIAN

I'm kinda worried about him. He's  
been back there for hours.

SEAN

Yeah, I don't think I've ever seen  
him like this.

They throw a concerned look toward the office. The Regular  
puts the movies he wants on the counter.

(CONTINUED)

THE REGULAR

You think the number crunching  
isn't adding up?

SEAN

I don't kn--

THE REGULAR

Maybe it's not adding up at all.  
Maybe he's about to lose this place  
and you guys are gonna have to come  
up with some wacky plan to save the  
store in some astronomically short  
amount of time?!

Damian and Sean look at each other.

DAMIAN

You watch too many movies man.

SEAN

Yeah, I'm sure he's just  
frustrated. You know how he gets.

McDuffie bustles out of the door swiftly. He shows little  
emotion as he approaches the counter.

Sean opens his mouth about to speak.

MR. MCDUFFIE

I'm leaving for the weekend.

DAMIAN

Everything...ok?

MR. MCDUFFIE

What? Oh yeah, everything's fine, I  
just need to clear my head.

DAMIAN

Where you going?

MR. MCDUFFIE

I think I'm gonna try parkour.

They all exchange extremely confused and concerned glances.

DAMIAN

The free running thing on youtube?

MR. MCDUFFIE

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

SEAN

There's like a lot of...running and jumping involved in that right?

MR. MCDUFFIE

(completely innocent)

What are you saying?

The Regular looks at where the broken table still stands.

SEAN

Nothing, nothing, just be careful.

DAMIAN

Yeah, we got this covered.

McDuffie smiles big, almost like a little kid.

MR. MCDUFFIE

See ya on Monday boys!

McDuffie walks out of the store looking like a new man. Damian smiles, but Sean looks concerned.

SEAN

I don't know man. He-

DAMIAN

Just worry about having a good time tonight, he'll be fine! What's the worst that could happen?

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Sean and Damian are in suits seated in the middle of a GROUP OF MOURNERS. They look incredibly sad.

A picture of McDuffie with his wide boyish grin stands next to a coffin. THE PRIEST stands at the head of the coffin.

PRIEST

Thomas McDuffie was loved. He was a loved husband when his dear Margaret was still with us. He was a loved father.

A gorgeous, slender, blond GIRL sits closest to the priest. Although trying to smile she constantly dabs her eyes with a handkerchief. This is ANNA MCDUFFIE.

(CONTINUED)

PRIEST

And a beloved friend to all he  
knew.

SEAN

(quietly)

Why didn't we say anything? What  
the fuck was he thinking?

DAMIAN

That sweet bastard just didn't know  
how big he was...God he was so fat.

A FEMALE MOURNER gives Damian a harsh look. Damian doesn't  
seem to notice or care.

DAMIAN

I mean look at the size of the  
coffin.

The coffin bulges in the mid-section.

SEAN

Yeah, which is why we should've  
suggested the treadmill or  
something on level ground!

MOURNERS

SHH!!

Sean mouths "Sorry" to the people behind him.

DAMIAN

It wasn't our fault, we wouldn't  
have talked him out of it.

PRIEST

And now if Thomas' daughter would  
come up and say a few things in  
honor of her father.

Anna slowly stands from her chair, clutching the hanky for  
dear life. Damian can't keep his eyes off her.

SEAN

Haven't seen her in ages. Looks  
good.

DAMIAN

Ya.

(CONTINUED)

SEAN

You think she'll run things now?

Damian is completely silent as he looks at Anna with softer eyes than normal.

SEAN

Hey...Damian.

Sean jabs a fist in Damian's side.

DAMIAN

Ow, fuck!

MOURNERS

SSHHH!!!

Damian turns to the mourners behind him and mouths "fuck you". He turns back around.

DAMIAN

Jesus dude...I don't know.

Anna is quiet as she approaches the podium. She sniffles a bit before starting. Even crying she looks angelic.

ANNA

I once asked my dad why he was so fat.

Anna chuckles. Low laughter spread through the mourners.

ANNA

He said it was because he needed a body that could hold his heart. He said his heart was filled with so much love for me and my mom that it spread to his belly and down to his fat hobbit feet.

Despite the tears running down her face, she manages to smile. Damian looks at her with pure awe.

ANNA

My dad had a heart big enough for everyone, but rarely needed anything in return. And that's how I think he'd want to be remembered...fat and happy...(quivering)and with love.

The tears are too much as she leaves the podium and sits back down. The priest consoles her for a moment, then moves to the podium.

(CONTINUED)

PRIEST  
Friends, let us pray for our dear  
Thomas.

Everyone bows their heads and locks their hands. Damian looks over to Anna with a genuine sympathetic look.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S MCMOVIES - DAY

Damian looks toward the old man's office where Anna now sits filing through some papers.

SEAN  
I can't believe he's gone.

Sean, Damian, and The Regular all mull around the counter. They all nod in agreement.

SEAN  
I wonder how it happened.

THE REGULAR  
You wanna see?

DAMIAN  
You think she's o.k?

Damian focuses his attention back to the office.

SEAN  
What do you mean, do I wanna see?

THE REGULAR  
It's gone viral man. It's all over  
Youtube.

SEAN  
No fucking way!

The Regular pulls out a laptop from a back pack and puts it on the counter.

DAMIAN  
I should see if she's o.k.

Damian walks toward the office while The Regular pulls up the video for Sean.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Damian softly knocks on the door.

ANNA

Come in.

Damian awkwardly walks in and nervously smiles at her.

DAMIAN

Just wanted to see how you were doing.

ANNA

I'm good...I'm good thanks.

DAMIAN

(nodding)

Good, good.

Anna seems like she is waiting for more, but Damian just stands there.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S MCMOVIES - SAME TIME

The Regular types "fat guy dies trying parkour".

SEAN

Dude.

THE REGULAR

I'm sorry man, that's the fastest way to get to it.

Many video results pop up, but the first one is clearly the correct one. The Regular clicks on it. It lists "1,516,244 views".

SEAN

Holy shit it already has over a million views!? What is wrong with people?

The Regular hits play, but nothing really happens.

THE REGULAR

Needs to buffer.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Damian still stands in the same spot.

DAMIAN

Like I said I just wanted to make sure you were doing o.k, and things were alright, and that you were, um...o.k?

ANNA

Yeah I'm fine. It's weird sitting here.

Anna looks around her father's office.

ANNA

It's like he's about to come in and tell me to get the hell out of his seat.

Damian laughs.

DAMIAN

Yeah, he told me that all the time.

Anna suddenly looks down at the papers on the desk.

ANNA

Actually, there is something you might be able to help me with.

Damian sits in a chair in front of the desk.

DAMIAN

Yeah, anything.

ANNA

You're here a lot more than me, so you would probably be better to ask.

DAMIAN

Sure.

ANNA

How's business?

DAMIAN

Business is good. I know Sean and I don't look too smart, but this is not our first rodeo.

Anna looks unconvinced.

(CONTINUED)

DAMIAN

I mean, your dad said we were  
making money so...

Anna sighs and shakes her head. Damian looks confused.

ANNA

Dammit dad....

DAMIAN

What?

ANNA

(slowly)  
Not exactly.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S MCMOVIES - LATER

The video is still buffering.

SEAN

Dude, the anticipation is fucking  
torture, just play the damn thing!

The Regular hits play.

IN THE VIDEO

McDuffie wears a skin tight bicycle outfit. He's smiling and  
laughing with some younger GUYS. He stands on the roof of a  
building.

The camera closes in on McDuffie. The big guy looks ready  
for anything.

CAMERAMAN (O.S)

Hey man, you nervous?!

MCDUFFIE

I was doing crazier shit while you  
were still suckling on your momma's  
tits!

BACK TO SCENE

SEAN

That's my boy.

INTERCUT - VIDEO AND STORE

MCDUFFIE  
...honestly I can't wait to do  
this. I feel alive!

CAMERAMAN (O.S)  
Hell yeah man! Do it!

McDuffie stretches while the young guys cheer him on.

SEAN  
He even stretched...he never  
stretched...

CAMERAMAN (O.S)  
Let me get a good view.

The cameraman jerkily moves the camera.

CAMERAMAN (O.S)  
Oh but first, here's where you're  
starting...

He points the camera at the ledge of the building.

CAMERAMAN (O.S)  
...and here's where you're going.

He points the camera to the adjacent building. The gap  
between is a good 15ft.

SEAN  
Holy Fuck! No wonder.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Damian sits across from Anna looking supremely confused.

DAMIAN  
But he said this place was fine.

Anna snorts and flips through some papers.

ANNA  
Come on, you know there was a  
certain way my dad saw things that  
wasn't always the way it actually  
was.

INTERCUT - VIDEO AND STORE

The cameraman focuses on how there is nothing to break his fall in between the two buildings.

MCDUFFIE (O.S)  
No Problem!

SEAN  
(screaming)  
Don't let him jump it, he's huge  
you jackass!

THE REGULAR  
It gets worse.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

DAMIAN  
How much are we talking?

Anna shakes her head.

ANNA  
\$75,000.

DAMIAN  
In 60 days!?

Damian looks like he's about to pass out.

DAMIAN  
That can't be.

ANNA  
I'm sorry. He loved you guys. He  
just didn't want to worry you, I  
guess.

There is a pause that feels like forever.

DAMIAN  
So what do we do now?

INTERCUT - VIDEO AND STORE

The cameraman moves so he is in perfect position to see McDuffie jump. All the guys are cheering him on.

(CONTINUED)

THE REGULAR

When you look into his eyes, you really think he's gonna make it.

SEAN

The guy used to sweat when he ate, he wasn't going to clear that huge gap no matter what.

McDuffie runs toward the edge of the building with the younger guys cheering.

SEAN

Nope, can't watch this.

THE REGULAR

Dude, you're going to miss it!

Sean turns away as he hears the reaction from the guys in the video.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Damian bolts from his chair.

DAMIAN

You can't sell the store to that asshole!

ANNA

He made a good offer and what else am I supposed to do?! I can't afford this place by myself and it's bleeding money!

INTERCUT - VIDEO AND STORE

CAMERAMAN (O.S)

(frantic)

Oh man! Not cool!

Sean is still turned away.

SEAN

Not cool!? Can we find these guys and break their legs?

The Regular watches intently until...CRASH. The Regular bites his fist in anguish.

(CONTINUED)

THE REGULAR  
Brutal...just brutal.

Sean can't be in the dark anymore, he has to look. He is beyond shocked.

SEAN  
Oh...he just missed the dumpster.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Damian sits in the chair defeated.

DAMIAN  
This place is an institution! I don't know what I'd, what we'd do without it!

ANNA  
Well, if you can somehow find a way to come up with \$75,000 in 2 months then I'm all ears, but until then...I'm gonna sell to Goonburg. I'm sorry.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S MCMOVIES - SAME TIME

Sean just looks at the aftermath as chaos echoes in the video.

THE REGULAR  
You know, I think it's how he would've wanted to go.

Sean shoots him a disgusted look, but then thinks about it.

SEAN  
You're probably right. (beat) Let's watch it again.

Damian bursts out of the office and storms out of the store. Sean looks at the The Regular confused. The Regular shrugs.

INT. GARY GOONBURG'S OFFICE - DAY

Gary Goonburg sits at a his desk petting his dog.

A thin, well dressed man(mid 20's) walks in. He's sporting extremely large designer sunglasses and is holding a chihuahua that is dressed identically to him. This is DEVIN GOONBURG.

(CONTINUED)

DEVIN

You called for me, daddy?

GARY

Yes. I have job for you to do.

DEVIN

Please don't make me clean the cages again.

GARY

No. I need you to keep an eye on those two idiots next door. I'm less than 2 months away from buying that place and I don't need them screwing it up. If you get wind of anything suspicious, you let me know.

DEVIN

I can do that.

GARY

Good.

Gary and Devin both smile maliciously.

INT. SEAN AND DAMIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sean, Damian, and The Regular all sit around the living room with their heads down.

Damian has a ski mask covering the top of his head and an empty knapsack in his hands.

DAMIAN

So that's it. We need \$75,000 in 60 days or else Anna's going to sell the store to Goonbitch and he's going to turn it into God knows what.

The silence is palpable. Sean looks sick.

THE REGULAR

You still haven't explained the ski mask.

Damian's annoyance is immediate.

(CONTINUED)

DAMIAN

I was desperate man! I was going to do what was necessary! I wasn't thinking clearly.

THE REGULAR

You have a gun?

DAMIAN

No.

THE REGULAR

So you were gonna rob a place with just a mask?

DAMIAN

I said I wasn't thinking clearly! All I know is I would do anything to save McDuffie's!

Sean sits seemingly pondering, but otherwise he is quiet.

DAMIAN

Right, Sean?

SEAN

(Pause)

Robbing anything with just a mask is stupid, but...

Damian's anger rises.

SEAN

...but, BUT, your heart was in the right place. How are we supposed to raise that kinda cash in that amount of time? I mean we only have one mask and no guns so we know that plan won't work!

The calm in the air returns as they all sit back and take a breath.

DAMIAN

I'm just trying to think outside the box man. I meant what I said at Connor's. We don't want that...

SEAN

I meant it too, but short of donning masks, what do you suggest we do?

Damian thinks even harder.

(CONTINUED)

SEAN

Name it man. As long as it's not like Breaking Bad, I'm down.

DAMIAN

Alright. Let's play to our strengths. Let's say I start some private physical training lessons with some of the rich folk in the area. Maybe even some dance lessons or something.

SEAN

Ok? Um. I guess I can take up some of those tutoring jobs my dad keeps throwing at me.

DAMIAN

There you go. You're also crazy good at video games. Maybe hustle some kids down at the arcade, huh?

SEAN

That's a little juvenile.

THE REGULAR

I could sell some drugs.

SEAN

What?

DAMIAN

Yea, that's good. We can even use the store. Come up with deals, ya know? Like buy a dime bag and get a free new release.

SEAN

No. That's...I just said, no Breaking Bad.

DAMIAN

Fine. We'll put that in the "Maybe" pile.

Damian looks at The Regular and gives a secret "yes" nod.

SEAN

Ok. So, private training, tutoring, and..drugs I guess. We'll give it our all and see what we come up with in 1 week. Then we can deduce whether it will work or not.

(CONTINUED)

THE REGULAR

I'm pumped.

DAMIAN

Me too. Let's do this thing.

MONTAGE - DAMIAN, SEAN, AND THE REGULAR TRYING TO MAKE MONEY

-- Ext. Empty street - Dawn -- Damian jogs at a steady pace. He looks back and stops. He runs back to a sweaty, out of breath, obese man.

The man refuses to keep running despite Damian's efforts. He eventually pushes Damian into a bush.

-- Int. Teen girl's room - Day -- Sean sits at a desk with numerous open books. He punches some numbers into a calculator, seemingly trying to explain something to somebody.

Sitting next to him is a distracted young girl with braces, texting on her phone.

--Int. McDuffie's McMovies - Night -- Damian and Sean are both helping customers at the front registers. A CUSTOMER(Male, early 20's) hands Damian an extra \$20.

Damian looks at Sean who doesn't seem to notice. He then looks at The Regular, standing by the exit, and nods at him. The customer walks toward The Regular who slips him a tiny bag, inconspicuously.

--Int. Arcade - Day -- Sean plays a driving game with a YOUNG BOY. Sean confidently smiles. He celebrates as the game ends.

The boy hands Sean money with his head down. A LARGE BLACK MAN with an ear piece walks up behind Sean. Sean turns and looks at him. The black man crosses his huge arms and shakes his head.

--Int. McDuffie's McMovies - Night -- Damian and Sean help customers. This time a YOUNG MAN hands Sean an extra \$20. Sean looks at Damian who is unaware and then nods at the Regular, who is still standing by the exit door.

The customer walks out and grabs a small bag from the Regular

--Int. Dance studio - Day -- Damian slowly demonstrates a dance move. He looks over at an ELDERLY WOMAN. She does not move, but instead glares at Damian with lust in her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

Damian repeats the dance move. He looks over again, the elderly woman is now topless and smiles seductively. Damian looks horrified as she draws closer.

End Montage.

INT. MCDUFFIES MCMOVIES'S - NIGHT

Sean and Damian lie on the ground, down two isles of the store, parallel to each other.

DAMIAN

Ugh! Has it been a week yet?

SEAN

Just about. How much have we made?

Damian and Sean look up at The Regular who sits on the floor, down the center isle, taking a bong rip.

He inhales an enormous amount of smoke, hands an envelope to Sean...

THE REGULAR

Almost 2 G's

...and finally exhales the smoke into a vacuum cleaner.

DAMIAN

Hm. That's not bad.

SEAN

Nowhere near enough though. And, I don't know if I can keep this up much longer.

DAMIAN

Same. I can't take anymore 80 year old women trying to go "num num" on my balls.

Sean looks at Damian through the movie rack with a confused look on his face.

SEAN

Num num?

DAMIAN

Yea. You know, like "Om num num num"

Sean still looks confused.

(CONTINUED)

THE REGULAR

How about gambling what we did make?

DAMIAN

We're not that lucky.

THE REGULAR

What if Sean counts cards?

SEAN

That takes a long time to learn how to do.

THE REGULAR

Stripping?

DAMIAN

Cause I don't already get enough shit from my mom...

SEAN

Porn?

Damian gives a "maybe" look but says nothing.

THE REGULAR

What about Chess-Boxing?

Damian and Sean both look down, curiously.

DAMIAN

What the fuck is Chess-Boxing?

THE REGULAR

Seriously? Exactly what it sounds like.

The Regular reaches forward and grabs a DVD off of the closest end cap and hands it to Sean.

SEAN

Suburban Treasures. Episode 12 through 16. Box car derbies, Worlds best pecan pie, world's oldest rocking chair, and Chess-Boxing...

He looks at Damian with a pleasantly surprised look. Damian grabs the DVD and sits up right.

DAMIAN

I didn't even know we had this. How is Chess Boxing gonna help us?

(CONTINUED)

THE REGULAR

Well, you could take money you've earned and use it to enter the chess-boxing tournament. The grand prizes are \$40,000 a piece.

Damian and Sean both stare at The Regular for a moment.

DAMIAN

Are you kidding me?

The Regular looks back and forth between the two of them.

THE REGULAR

What?

SEAN

You knew about this competition the whole time and never thought to mention it to us?

The Regular shrugs his shoulders. Damian gets up and quickly unwraps the DVD. Sean and The Regular follow him as he puts the DVD into the Blu-ray player.

IN THE VIDEO

A ridiculous intro plays for the television show "Suburban Treasures." Various odd activities flash on the screen.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Do you think your home town is small and boring? Do you think you live in a place where nothing exciting ever happens? Well so do thousands of other people.

An ugly, elderly woman, with red hair posing with an over dramatic grin on her face appears on screen. The words, "JUDY HARRIS" appear under her.

BACK TO SCENE

Damian, Sean, and The Regular look disgusted.

SEAN

Ew..

INTERCUT - VIDEO AND STORE

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Join Judy, as she explores these dull towns and discovers what some people call boring, others might call treasures

"SUBURBAN TREASURES" appears on the screen.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Suburban Treasures, with Judy Harris. On this weeks episode, Oyster Springs: The Chess-Boxing capital of the world.

Sean and Damian stand looking utterly confused.

DAMIAN

...what?

The Regular continues watching, not phased at all by this claim.

Stock footage of Oyster Springs.

JUDY HARRIS (V.O)

Oyster Springs. A seemingly normal beach town like any other. Small, quaint, and peaceful, this town is actually the birth place of a fast growing new sport, known as Chess-Boxing.

DAMIAN

Birth place...

SEAN

No it's not!

JUDY HARRIS

Chess-Boxing. A sport that combines the calm logic of Chess, with the fast, aggressive nature of boxing. For more details about the game, I interviewed LESLEY KELLY. Local hero, and winner of the last 3 Annual Chess-Boxing World Championships, held right here in Oyster Springs

(CONTINUED)

SEAN

Annual championship!?

DAMIAN

Local hero?!?! Who the fuck is this guy?

Judy Harris stands in front of a boxing ring with a chess board in the center.

Next to her stands a tall, handsome, athletic looking man, with a very distinguished face and a rather large chin dimple. This is LESLEY KELLY.

JUDY HARRIS

Mr. Kelly. As the reigning Chess-Boxing champion, could you give us a brief description of how the game is played?

LESLEY KELLY

Absolutely, Judy.

As Lesley describes the game, clips of people chess-boxing are shown.

LESLEY KELLY

It's quite simple really. There are 3 weight classes. Light, middle, and heavy. Two competitors in equal weight classes face off in a round of speed chess. After four minutes, if nobody has won by checkmate, a 3 minute round of boxing takes place. If nobody is knocked out, another round of speed chess takes place, and so on. If neither player wins by knockout or checkmate within 11 rounds, it's a judge decision.

JUDY HARRIS

And how do the judges decide?

LESLEY KELLY

Well, they must take into account the amount of time each player has used during chess, and the amount of hits received while boxing. That part always gets a bit technical, which is why I generally win by knockout.

(CONTINUED)

JUDY HARRIS

Thank you so much, Lesley. And who is this?

The camera zooms out a bit, and Anna McDuffie appears next to Lesley Kelly.

Damian looks close at the television.

DAMIAN

Is that...Anna?

LESLEY KELLY

This is my girlfriend, my rock.  
Anna McDuffie.

Anna smiles.

JUDY HARRIS

Anna, what is your take on Chess-Boxing?

ANNA MCDUFFIE

I think it's great. It's been a big part of this town since its inception in 1945...

Sean and Damian stand with annoyed looks on their faces, shaking their heads.

ANNA MCDUFFIE

...and every year, practically the entire town gets together for the championship. It's nice, that in a town this small, we have something so big that *everybody* knows about.

Sean pauses the DVD before Anna can continue.

DAMIAN

How the fuck have we never heard about this?

SEAN

I have no idea. But we have a lot of catching up to do.

DAMIAN

So how do we get involved in this.

SEAN

Well, luckily we know somebody on the inside.

They both look at the t.v, which has Anna's face(mid blink) paused on the screen.

EXT. NINO'S PIZZERIA - DAY

A hole in the wall pizzeria stuffed in the middle of a busy main street.

SEAN (V.O)

We really appreciate you answering some of our questions man.

INT. NINO'S PIZZERIA - CONT'D

Lesley sits across from Sean and Damian looking even bigger than in the video.

LESLEY KELLY

Sure thing man.

SEAN

So, how can we get involved in chess-boxing? How does it all work? Oh, what do I eat to look like you? And how did you stay in the same room as that Orangutan-Pterodactyl thing in the video?

LESLEY KELLY

Whoa man, slow down.

Anna sets pizza down in the middle of the table. Damian diverts his attention to her.

SEAN

Alright, how do we win the tournament?

Lesley scoffs clearly offended.

LESLEY KELLY

Chess-Boxing is the ultimate test of both body and mind. It takes more than a dream to make it to the level I'm at. It takes more work than you've ever done in your life, it takes dedication and-

Anna puts her arm on Lesley's with a look that says "be nice". He takes a breath.

(CONTINUED)

LESLEY KELLY

(smiles)

I'll tell you what. I'll bring you where I got my start, introduce you guys to some solid people and maybe give you some pointers.

SEAN

Really?! That'd be awesome.

Sean playfully hits Damian in the arm.

SEAN

Sweet right?

DAMIAN

Yeah...sweet.

INT. DARK CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Sean and Damian follow Lesley down a concrete hallway with leaky pipes all over.

LESLEY KELLY

Make sure you keep up.

Sean looks extremely excited.

SEAN

It's like some Fight Club shit. The first rule of Chess-Boxing is you do not talk about Chess-Boxing.

Damian peers at the walls with suspicion.

The roar of a crowd gets louder and louder as they walk. They approach a light at the end of the tunnel.

INT. BASEMENT - CONT'D

The three emerge into a damp and grimy industrial basement. There are GROUPS OF MEN standing around roughly made rings where men are fighting and playing chess.

Lesley has a smile on his face, but Sean and Damian look horrified.

DAMIAN

This is where you got your start?!

(CONTINUED)

LESLEY KELLY

This is where everybody starts.

A bell DINGS and Sean sees a FIGHTER jump over the chess board and tackle his OPPONENT. As pieces fly the two beat the hell out of each other.

LESLEY KELLY

I'll be right back, I just have to see a guy.

Sean opens his mouth to stop him, but Lesley is already gone. They look around appearing lost.

Sean leans over to Damian.

SEAN

This place is intense man.

DAMIAN

You think?!

Damian points to a fighter who dips his hands in glue and then into a bucket of broken glass shards before he goes back in the ring to fight.

Sean and Damian move to another ring where they're playing chess. The crowd cheers. One of the FIGHTERS moves a piece.

FIGHTER (2)

CHECKMATE!

The REFEREE confirms the checkmate. The fighter stands and raises his hands in victory. The crowd roars. His OPPONENT sits fuming.

OPPONENT (2)

AAAAHHHH!!!

The opponent throws the chess board aside and punches the victor in the back of the head. People from both corners of the ring rush in creating a mass brawl.

SEAN

Is it too late to try porn?

Lesley appears right next to them.

LESLEY KELLY

Hey guys! Got you a fight!

SEAN

What!?

DAMIAN

Are you fucking serious?

LESLEY KELLY

Hell yeah, I thought that's what you wanted?

DAMIAN

We have no idea what the fuck we're doing!

LESLEY KELLY

(smiles)

The best way to learn is just to jump in there. Fear bruises worse than punches. Plus, I'll be in your corner...

Lesley gives them hand wraps and mouth guards.

LESLEY KELLY

Nothing to worry about!

MONTAGE - SEAN AND DAMIAN'S FIGHTS

-Damian's Fight -- Damian sits shirtless staring at the chess board. He looks horribly confused. His opponent is restless. Time is ticking away.

SEAN

Damian, move the fucking knight!

DAMIAN

What!?

SEAN

The horsie! Move it!

The referee points to Sean.

REFEREE

No assisting!

-Sean's Fight -- Sean confidently sits with the chess board in front of him. His opponent struggles, but slowly moves a piece. Sean immediately follows with his move.

(CONTINUED)

SEAN

Check!

DING! The end of the chess round. They quickly remove the table from the ring. Sean looks around terrified.

SEAN

No, no I just need one more move!

He moves over to the ref.

SEAN

Come on man just one more move!

The referee shakes his head with defiance.

DAMIAN

Sean!

SEAN

That's bullshit blue!

DAMIAN

Sean!

SEAN

What!?

DAMIAN

Turn around!

Sean turns and instantly gets punched in the face.

LESLEY KELLY

Oh Shit!! That's Chess-Boxing baby!

-Damian's Fight -- Damian's lip is puffy. His opponent has a cut above his eye. Damian stares at the chess board, dumbfounded.

Sean turns to Lesley.

SEAN

He seriously doesn't see it?

Lesley shakes his head.

SEAN

It's right there! Damian!

LESLEY KELLY

You tell him what to do one more time and he gets disqualified.

(CONTINUED)

SEAN

MOVE!

-Sean's Fight -- Sean's bloodied face slams on the floor. He tries to get up.

DAMIAN

(muffled)

MOOOVE!

SEAN

What?

DAMIAN

I said move around man, you're not supposed to block with your face.  
GET UP!

Lesley covers his mouth laughing.

SEAN

I don't think gettin up is a gweat idea.

DAMIAN

Pussy!

Sean begins to pull himself up.

SEAN

I hate you.

-Damian's Fight -- Damian bites his finger staring at the board. The clock really winds down and Sean looks just as nervous. Damian's opponent is pissed.

OPPONENT

Make a fucking move!

-Sean's Fight -- Sean finally straightens himself and feebly puts his arms up in defense.

-Damian's Fight -- Damian hastily moves a random piece.

-Sean's Fight -- Sean does a weak bob and weave.

-Damian's Fight -- Damian's opponent checkmate's him and stands in triumph. Damian just shakes his head.

-Sean's Fight -- Sean gets knocked out with one more monstrous blow.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Sean slumps over Damian's shoulder as Damian carries him through the empty lot. Lesley strolls squeaky clean beside them.

DAMIAN

Thanks for all the pointers man,  
you did a real bang up job.

LESLEY KELLY

What can I say, not everyone is cut  
out for chess-boxing.

Damian looks murderous.

DAMIAN

Not cut out?! You threw us under  
the fucking bus!

LESLEY KELLY

Look the only reason I said I would  
help is because I knew Anna would  
be up my ass if I didn't.

Sean gargles and spits on the ground.

LESLEY KELLY

The reason I brought you two  
retards here is to send a  
message...stay the fuck away from  
Chess-Boxing. You think you can  
just show up and be good. Beat a  
champion?

Lesley points to his flexed bicep.

LESLEY KELLY

You two are nothing. Stay away from  
this tournament and stay away from  
Anna...

Lesley leans creepily close to Damian's face.

LESLEY

(softly)  
...because you will NEVER beat me,  
at anything.

Damian and Lesley stare at each other like mortal enemies.  
Lesley walks away.

(CONTINUED)

LESLEY KELLY  
Have a good night ladies.

Damian struggles to keep Sean on his feet. Sean coughs.

SEAN  
What a dick...

Damian stares at Lesley as he walks away. Determinately, he speaks to Sean.

DAMIAN  
This isn't over.

SEAN  
I'm pretty sure it's over.

DAMIAN  
No. Not yet. Dude, together we're gonna destroy that cunt at his own game.

Damian looks at Sean, who stares back in admiration.

SEAN  
Let's do this.

MONTAGE - DAMIAN AND SEAN TRAINING

INT. GYM - DAY -- Sean thrusts his fist into a punching bag as Damian circles around it.

DAMIAN (V.O)  
You know chess, and I know boxing.

INT. GYM - Day -- Sean struggles to sit up in a crunch position as Damian holds his feet down.

DAMIAN (V.O)  
You teach me what you know...

INTERCUT - Punching bag/Sit ups

DAMIAN(V.O)  
...and I'll teach you what I know.

Sean barely finishes another sit up.

SEAN(V.O)  
How can we possibly get good enough in a month?

Damian holds the punching bag.

(CONTINUED)

DAMIAN

I don't expect us to become experts. We just need to be good enough to hold our own until we can finish off our opponents with what we're actually good at.

INT. GYM - DAY -- Sean pours sweat, his teeth are clenched, and his face turns beet red as he tries to lift a weight bar.

DAMIAN(V.O)

It's gonna be tough.

INT. MCDUFFIES MCMOVIES - NIGHT -- Damian pours sweat, his face scrunched up, he breathes heavily.

SEAN(V.O)

Real tough.

Damian moves a chess piece forward. Sean immediately moves one too.

SEAN

Checkmate.

DAMIAN

Goddamn it!

Damian gets up and furiously tosses the chess table.

INT. GYM - DAY -- They box. Damian gives Sean a right hook and sends him flying.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT -- They jog through the park in hooded sweat shirts. Sean struggles to keep up.

DAMIAN(V.O)

We'll train all night.

INT. MCDUFFIES MCMOVIES - DAY -- Damian sits at a desk, deep in thought, playing a puzzle game on his phone.

SEAN(V.O)

And all day.

INT. MCDUFFIES MCMOVIES - NIGHT -- They jump rope

INTERCUT GYM/MCDUFFIES MCMOVIES - DAY/NIGHT -- They steadily punch a small punching bag.

--They play chess in the store, each of them tapping a timer after they move.

(CONTINUED)

--They do pull-ups.

--They do push-ups in the store.

--They box. Sean violently swings at Damian. Damian casually moves to the side and Sean misses, flying forward. Damian shakes his head.

--Damian reads "Chess for Dummies" as a line of angry customers stand in the background.

EXT. BAR PARKING LOT - NIGHT -- Sean stands with his fists up, ready.

DAMIAN(V.O)  
We'll do whatever it takes.

Damian is in front of Sean, holding a drunken man by his arms. Sean punches the man with a right hook.

DAMIAN  
There ya go. This time, jab with  
the left and then swing with your  
right.

Sean nods his head.

EXT. PARK - DAY -- Damian sits at a chess table in the park. He makes a moves and jumps up in excitement.

DAMIAN  
Oh! Checkmate, bitch! Eat my dick!

A concerned WOMAN comes and removes her crying CHILD from the chess table.

SEAN(V.O)  
You have your weight class...

INT. MCDUFFIE'S MCMOVIES - NIGHT -- Sean and Damian play chess.

SEAN(V.O)  
and I have..

SEAN AND THE REGULAR TOGETHER  
my own...

The Regular stands in front of the TV, watching and quoting the LORD OF THE RINGS, with a flawless impression of Gollum.

THE REGULAR  
"my precious"

They look at The Regular, shaking their heads.

INT. GYM - DAY -- They spar. The Regular stands in the background. He holds a bell and looks at his watch.

Damian jabs left and Sean avoids it. Sean jabs as well, and Damian barely avoids it. Damian smiles with pride.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT -- They jog. Sean no longer struggles to keep up.

INT. MCDUFFIES MCMOVIES - NIGHT -- They play chess. They move equally as fast, tapping the timer after every move. Sean smiles with pride.

INTERCUT - GYM/MCDUFFIE'S - DAY/NIGHT -- They continue boxing. The Regular hits the bell twice. They stop. Damian smiles, looking impressed.

They sit staring at the chess board. Sean looks up at Damian and smiles.

SEAN  
Stalemate.

End montage.

INT. GYM - DAY

As Damian holds his feet, Sean efficiently bangs out a few sit ups.

DAMIAN  
You're doin great, man.

Devin Goonburg pretends to do sit-ups and watches from a distance. His Chihuahua still in hand, and wearing a matching purple sweatsuit, he listens.

DAMIAN  
15 more, c'mon.

SEAN(PANTING)  
I can't believe...it's only a week away.

DAMIAN  
We're gonna win that prize money...

(CONTINUED)

SEAN  
...save the store..

DAMIAN  
..and flaunt it in front of that  
jew bastard, Goonburg.

SEAN  
Wow.

INT. GARY GOONBURG'S OFFICE - LATER

GOONBURG  
Dammit boy, what are you telling  
me?!

Goonburg paces behind his desk in his extremely lavish  
office.

DEVIN  
They're getting better; much  
better.

Goonburg kicks his matching dog, it flies with a YELP. He  
slicks back his hair trying to calm down.

GOONBURG  
Can they win?

DEVIN  
I can stop one of them, but the  
other one...

GOONBURG  
Well, do I have to put on the  
goddamn trunks myself!?

DEVIN  
(smiling)  
Way ahead of you.

The door opens and Lesley walks in. Goonburg instantly looks  
happier.

GOONBURG  
Oh son, I thought you were going to  
reveal some ferry thing like at  
your birthday, but this...the  
Golden Fist himself.

Lesley stands next to Devin. They size each other up.

(CONTINUED)

GOONBURG

I've got my brains and I've got my brawn.

LESLEY

Why am I here?

GOONBURG

Because we have a common enemy.

Goonburg maniacally rubs his hands together.

INT. MCDUFFIES MCMOVIES'S - NIGHT

Anna walks out of her father's office and trips over some bar bells. Utterly annoyed she storms over to Sean and Damian who are doing push-ups in the store.

ANNA

Why the hell are there weights in the action section?

Sean and Damian turn to her.

SEAN

Well, we didn't think they belonged in the comedy section.

ANNA

What? No, I mean why are there weights in the store at all?!

SEAN

Well, we'd be training at the royal palace if your dic--

DAMIAN

Dick was just a little bigger! Right?!

Damian points to Sean and laughs. Sean and Anna look at him confused.

DAMIAN

We were just trying to get ready for the competition Anna, we'll clean it up asap.

Sean opens his mouth, but Damian slaps him in the chest. Anna looks at them like they're retarded children and walks back to her office.

(CONTINUED)

SEAN

What the hell was that about?

DAMIAN

Look, we can't just tell her. Have you learned nothing from movies?

Sean looks shocked.

DAMIAN

A douche of that caliber can only hide for so long before his true douchery is revealed. But through actions...not words.

Sean understands.

SEAN

Oh! I like it...you gotta plan?

DAMIAN

Nope.

Damian walks toward the office leaving Sean behind. Sean calls after him.

SEAN

I don't like this man. Not one bit!  
Don't eat where you shit! Or  
whatever it is.

Damian waves him off.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S OFFICE - LATER

Anna sits at her father's desk horribly stressed. She fumbles through endless papers. She stops and just tosses them on the floor. She slams her head on the desk.

A small knock on the door.

ANNA

MEH!

Damian slowly opens the door. Anna doesn't move.

DAMIAN

Hey, you alright?

Anna still doesn't move. Damian closes the door and gets a bit closer.

(CONTINUED)

DAMIAN  
Anna! You alright?

ANNA  
What?!

Anna lifts her head with a piece of paper stuck to her forehead.

ANNA  
Yeah I'm fine.

Oblivious to the paper, Damian removes it for her.

DAMIAN  
(chuckles)  
Yeah I can tell. Whats wrong?

Anna laughs weakly.

ANNA  
Nothing. Why would anything be wrong? I mean my Dad just died, but its o.k, he left me a successful business that does nothing but hemorrhage money, but I can't tell because going through and "reading" his hand written taxes is like trying to translate the goddamn Rosetta stone!

DAMIAN  
Actually, I think the Rosetta stone *helped* to translate stuff.

Anna doesn't notice and just keeps ranting.

ANNA  
But nothing is wrong! Goonburg is constantly bitching about the price. I'm almost thirty and I'm still not married, I can barely afford the place I'm living in, and I haven't had sex in weeks because God forbid we interrupt training!

DAMIAN  
That was more than I needed.

ANNA  
(imitating Lesley)  
"I gotta get ready both physically and mentally." Yeah, well momma needs love too!

Damian mouths the words "Momma needs love too" to himself in disbelief.

ANNA

Which by the way, how come you're not training with Les?

Damian opens his mouth, but before he can say anything Anna picks up the phone.

ANNA

Old Golden Fist blew you off, didn't he? I asked him to help that selfish son of a--

Damian stands and stops her while she pounds the numbers on the phone.

DAMIAN

No, he was great, we just wanted to do our own thing. Really.

Breathing heavy, Anna hangs the phone up.

DAMIAN

Look, it sounds like you need to relax. A lot. Why don't I take you out somewhere?

ANNA

What?

She sits back down exhausted.

DAMIAN

Yeah! Get your mind off this place and Chess-Boxing. In fact, I could use it too.

ANNA

How are we going to do that here?

DAMIAN

I did it for over 20 years, I'm sure we can do it for the next couple hours.

They smile at each other.

INT. NINO'S PIZZERIA - LATER

A portly ITALIAN MAN with a friendly face brings Damian and Anna a delicious pizza. Damian doesn't hesitate to grab for the pizza.

ANNA

No, wait!

Damian shoves the pizza in his mouth and instantly regrets it. The pizza is obviously burning his mouth.

ANNA

You gotta reverse blow! Blow in!

Damian looks confused. She can barely stop laughing. She grabs his coke and opens it.

ANNA

Drink it!

Damian throws the coke back with relief. Anna continues to laugh at him.

DAMIAN

Blow in? What does that even mean?

Anna continues to laugh.

DAMIAN

No wonder you haven't had sex lately. You don't know what goes in or out!

Anna looks offended. She playfully throws little cheese packets at Damian's face.

ANNA

Dick!

Damian throws the packets back at Anna as they laugh like kids.

EXT. PARK/BAY - LATER

A GROUP OF PEOPLE of all ages are sitting on blankets watching a movie on the grass.

Damian and Anna walk along the beach on the edge of the water.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA  
This has been great, Thank you.

DAMIAN  
(laughs)  
Oh, we're not done yet.

EXT. HILLTOP - LATER

Damian and Anna sit on the hood of his car overlooking the entire town.

ANNA  
Wow, this...

DAMIAN  
I know right?

ANNA  
...Is so cliché. You gonna ask me to prom now?

Damian looks offended.

ANNA  
You gonna tell all your friends we got to second base?

DAMIAN  
Oh I get it, you're hilarious.

ANNA  
I'm cold, can I wear your letterman jacket?

DAMIAN  
I'm dying of laughter over here, just dying.

Anna laughs. Damian looks at her and smiles. He looks out over the town.

DAMIAN  
I haven't been here in a long time.

ANNA  
Sounds like you haven't got much action lately either.

Damian chuckles but continues to look out over the town.

(CONTINUED)

DAMIAN

My Dad used to bring me here.

Anna goes silent.

DAMIAN

He used to tell me, "Son, you work hard, and all of this will be yours."

Damian waved his arm above the town.

DAMIAN

And he did...lots of late nights.

Anna sits up and looks at him.

DAMIAN

Only thing he never worked hard for was his marriage. Left my mom when I was 7.

ANNA

I'm sure where ever he is, he regrets it.

DAMIAN

He lives right over there.

Damian points to a house down the road.

ANNA

What!?

DAMIAN

Oh yeah, I run into him from time to time. Has another family and the whole deal.

ANNA

What an asshole.

DAMIAN

Yeah, but he taught me a valuable lesson. (pause) Hard work is bullshit.

Anna scoffs and really looks at him.

ANNA

If you worked half as hard to get out of the store as you are to staying in it, you'd probably be a neurosurgeon by now.

Damian turns and knocks on the hood of his car.

DAMIAN

Hm. I didn't realize I was on a couch.

Anna throws her hands up.

ANNA

O.k, o.k, I get it.

DAMIAN

What about you? What do you work hard for?

ANNA

Well, I graduated early so I could work and pay for Les' training. He wasn't always so good. If he could win this one it could really boost his profile that much more and--

DAMIAN

No no no, I said what do YOU work hard for? What do YOU want?

Anna took a deep breath like she was really thinking.

ANNA

I want to be home. I want this.

Anna mimics Damian waving over the town.

ANNA

Not all of it, just my little corner. As stressful as its been I miss that damn store. It feels like the only thing he left.

DAMIAN

If that's what you truly want, its what you should fight for. It's what *he* should fight for.

Anna looks at him. Damian matches her intense gaze. Anna leans toward him. He leans toward her. Her eyes are closed. Her phone BUZZES to life.

She opens her eyes and pulls back. She pulls out her phone.

ANNA

Hey babe.

Damian just nods his head and smiles with a look that says "of course".

ANNA

Uh, yeah sure. Yeah, I'll be right there. (Pause) Love you too.

She taps the phone and puts it back in her purse.

ANNA

Um, can you take me home?

DAMIAN

Yea.

EXT. DAMIAN'S CAR - LATER

Damian slows down in front of her house. Anna slowly exits the car. She walks toward her door, but stops and turns back to the window.

She leans on the frame.

ANNA

Thank you, Damian.

Damian smiles and nods at her. She pauses briefly, but then continues to walk toward her front door. Damian sighs and drives off.

SPORTS BROADCAST - DAY

A Chess-Boxing logo appears on screen as "ESPN" style music plays in the background.

JERRY (V.O.)

Hello and welcome to the 75th annual Chess-Boxing World Championship Tournament. I'm Jerry Hathaway.

JIM STUDEBAKER and JERRY HATHAWAY sit at an announcer table in front of a boxing ring. The place is packed with people and decorated to the brim with Chess-boxing logos.

JIM

And I'm Jim Studebaker. Coming to you live from the hallowed grounds of Spring Stadium, the very birth place of Chess-Boxing.

Sean looks on and listens from a distance, shaking his head.

(CONTINUED)

JERRY

This highly anticipated tournament will not disappoint, because we've got a full roster of competitors this evening. 8 participants in each weight class will battle their way to the semi finals.

JIM

You said it, Jerry. 24 contestants. 6 will make it to the semi finals tomorrow, but only 3 will be crowned champions.

JERRY

And speaking of champions. I see Lesley Kelly entering the arena. As you all know, Lesley is the reigning middleweight champion.

JIM

Undefeated 3 years running.

JERRY

He is almost guaranteed to make it to the semi finals, and my money's on him to take home the gold as well.

JIM

Well, Jerry, unless there's an underdog with some personal vendetta here looking to take him down, I would have to agree with you.

JERRY

Let's take a look at the board for Round 1. In the first match, we have light weights Benny "The Bitch" Barnaby going up against Sean "the Pawn" Murray.

JIM

Boy, with names like that Jerry its no wonder they're up first.

JERRY

The second match will pit middleweights Tommy "Tenders" Molloy against Damian "Dragon Puncher" Rodriguez.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

Hey, Jer, what exactly is a "dragon punch"?

JERRY

Beats me Jim, but if it's anything like a donkey punch, we're in for quite a show.

JIM

Well let's get right into it, shall we? The chess board is in the middle of the ring, and our first two contestants get ready to begin.

INT. RINGSIDE - CONT'D

Sean, Damian, and The Regular stand ringside together. Sean and Damian are wearing black silk robes.

DAMIAN

Alright, man you got this. Just like we practiced.

SEAN

Look at all these people..

DAMIAN

Ignore them. Pretend they're just DVDs and we're back in the store.

Sean looks around nervously.

SEAN

That's a lot of fuckin dvd's.

DAMIAN

Forget about them. Just focus on the ring, the chess board, and your soon to be loser opponent. You got this baby!

The bell rings and the crowd starts cheering.

SEAN

Fuuuuuuucckkkkk.

DAMIAN

Let's go. Wooooo!

(CONTINUED)

Damian pushes Sean towards the ring. Sean climbs in and stands in front of the chess board. A scrawny, dark haired man(30's) with an untidy mustache does the same. This is BENNY "THE BITCH" BARNABY.

A referee stands adjacent to them.

REFEREE

Your first round will be 4 minutes of speed chess. If after 4 minutes there is a stalemate, we will proceed with a boxing round. Understood?

Sean and Benny nod in agreement.

REFEREE

Ready? Begin.

Sean and Benny sit and immediately begin. The crowd cheers. Sean quickly moves a pawn forward and taps the timer.

Benny is much slower but manages to moves a pawn and quickly taps the timer.

Sean moves his bishop. Benny moves another pawn. Sean moves his queen. Benny moves his knight. Sean quickly moves his Queen forward, taps the timer and..

SEAN

Checkmate!

The crowd goes wild.

JERRY

Oh my goodness I can't believe it.

JIM

Checkmate already?

Benny throws his head back in disbelief. The referee raises Sean's hand up.

REFEREE

The winner, by checkmate, Sean "the Pawn" Murray!

The crowds cheers some more. Damian and the Regular jump in the ring and hoist up Sean on their shoulders.

JERRY

The dreaded four move checkmate, I just can't believe it.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

That's a kind of rookie move you will only see in the first round of Chess-Boxing.

JERRY

I guess we know why they call him Benny "The Bitch" now, huh?

JIM

Benny "The Bitch" indeed. He has now been eliminated and Sean "the Pawn" Murray advances. And we will be right back with match number 2, right after a word from our sponsors.

Damian and The Regular put Sean down and celebrate some more. Emma Page approaches with a camera.

EMMA

Hi.

Sean sees Emma and immediately freezes.

EMMA

Would you mind if I got your picture for the paper?

Sean is unable to move. Damian looks back and forth between the two. He smiles in amusement.

DAMIAN

Absolutely!

Damian and The Regular stand on both sides of Sean and smile. Emma takes the picture.

EMMA

Thanks.

Emma looks down at her feet and very shyly brushes her hair back behind her ear.

EMMA

That was a really amazing win.

Sean is still frozen. After a moment, Damian nudges him in the shoulder.

SEAN

Uh, thanks. Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

They smile at each other for a moment and then Emma walks away.

DAMIAN

You see that. After only 1 match  
the girls are lining up.

Sean smiles as Damian playfully shakes him by the neck. The three of them walk back towards the ring. They unknowingly pass Devin Goonburg and his father.

Devin and his pet chihuahua are wearing matching pink silk robes. Devin and his father glare at Damian and Sean, seemingly worried.

DEVIN

It's just one match.

GARY

You had better hope so.

Just then, Lesley walks up from behind them sporting golden robes and a ridiculous Chess-Boxing Championship belt.

LESLEY

They won't get far.

INT. ANNOUNCER TABLE - CONT'D

JIM

Welcome back to the 75th annual  
Chess-Boxing tournament. Match 2 is  
about get under way as we welcome  
middle weights Damian "Dragon  
Puncher" Rodriguez, and Tommy  
"Tenders" Molloy.

JERRY

Hopefully this match lasts a little  
longer than the first one.

INT. RING - CONT'D

Damian stands opposite a stout, chubby man with a caveman like brow and two chicklet-like front teeth. This is TOMMY TENDERS MOLLOY.

Sean and The Regular stand ringside cheering him on.

Emma snaps pictures from the other side of the ring and Gary Goonburg sits himself in the front row of the stands.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA  
(from crowd)  
Go, Damian! Woo!

Damian quickly turns his attention to Anna in the stands. They lock eyes and Damian smiles. From just outside the ring, Lesley notices the connection.

INTERCUT - ANNOUNCER TABLE AND RING

Damian and Tommy begin playing chess.

JIM  
Now Tommy here made it to the semi finals last year but Rodriguez is competing here for the first time.

JERRY  
That's right, Jim. Tommy shouldn't have any trouble putting him away quickly. My money's on him.

Damian, deep in concentration, plays chess as Sean and The Regular cheer him on.

JIM  
I wouldn't count Rodriguez out just yet, Jerry. He seems to be playing chess very defensively, almost as if he's just biding his time. I have a feeling we're gonna see his true colors once the boxing round starts.

Lesley and Devin stand together outside the ring.

LESLEY  
(smirking)  
There's no way they're making it to the boxing round.

JERRY  
They might not make it that far, because it looks as if Tommy is closing in on Damian's king.

SEAN  
Do it, now!

Damian moves his king two squares to the right, and places his rook where the king was.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

Oh! As I said before Jerry, don't count him out yet.

Disappointment rushes over Tommy's face and Lesley immediately stops smirking.

JERRY

Wow. I'm honestly shocked, Jim.

JIM

Damian "Dragon Puncher" Rodriguez just castled his king, saving him from a possible check-mate.

JERRY

It looks like we're gonna get to see a boxing round after all.

JIM

We sure are, Jerry. Tommy's rethinking his strategy but there isn't enough time because there's the bell.

The crowd goes nuts. Damian sighs in relief as Sean and the Regular cheer him on some more.

Damian and Tommy go to their respective corners. The Regular takes Damian's robe and Sean hands Damian his boxing gloves.

SEAN

You got this, baby. Just like we practiced. Hold em' in chess, down em' in boxing.

DAMIAN

I was worried for a second.

SEAN

You played beautifully man. Now it's time to end this.

Damian puts in his mouth guard as Sean and the Regular leave the ring. The bell sounds and Damian and Tommy walk towards each other.

JERRY

And here we go, the first boxing round of the night.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

I am so goddamn excited.

JERRY

Well the clock is ticking, lets see if Damian can land enough hits on Tommy to knock some of his chess skills out of him.

Damian, light on his feet, circles Tommy, throws a few light jabs here and there. Tommy keeps his gloves up and tries to keep his distance.

JIM

Well it certainly looks like the tables have turned. Now Molloy is on the defense.

Damian fakes a right hook to the face, Tommy covers up and Damian quickly delivers a hard left, right into Tommy's ribs.

Tommy immediately clenches to cover his mid section but Damian follows up with a hard downward right thrust, right into Tommy's temple.

JERRY

Oh, and Molloy goes down!

JIM

What a shot by, Rodriguez.

Tommy struggles to get up, grabbing the ropes for balance. He staggers but puts his gloves up again.

JERRY

Molloy is back on his feet. I'm not sure he's knows where his, Jim.

JIM

Now he's actually engaging Rodriguez.

Tommy jabs at Damian, but he blocks and avoids all of them. Damian connects with a quick jab. Tommy is taken back a bit and Damian follows up with a huge right hook.

JERRY AND JIM

OH!!!!

JIM

And Molloy is down again!

(CONTINUED)

JERRY

I don't think he's getting up from that one.

The referee looks down at Tommy and calls for the bell.

JIM

And that's it.

JERRY

I can't believe it.

REFEREE

The winner, by knockout, Damian "Dragon Puncher" Rodriguez.

The crowd roars and Sean and the Regular jump into the ring. Lesley and Devin look on in anger.

JERRY

What a knockout by Damian Rodriguez!

JIM

I guess that was the infamous "dragon punch".

JERRY

You were right, the gloves came on and it was all over. Damian Rodriguez advances.

JIM

Next up, we have our 1st round heavyweight match with Rick "the rabbit" Peterson and Billy "the puma" Collins, right after a word from our sponsors.

Goonburg fumes as Devin and Lesley watch Damian leave the ring.

GOONBURG

This can NOT happen!

DEVIN

I...I don't know what's happening.

Lesley only looks at the side of the ring where he sees Anna congratulating Damian.

(CONTINUED)

GOONBURG

You said this was fool proof, you  
said they wouldn't advance!

Anna hugs Damian. A vein in Lesley's forehead looks like  
it's about to explode.

DEVIN

I don't know Daddy I...

Lesley turns to the Goonburg's.

LESLEY

Stop blubbering like a bitch! They  
won't get farther than us, I  
promise you that.

Lesley leaves the arena. Goonburg smiles more confidently.

INT. ARENA HALLWAY - LATER

Sean, Damian, and The Regular stare up at a massive board  
breaking down the different fighters and weight classes into  
brackets.

The names of the losers are crossed out, while the winners  
names are all in the next level.

THE REGULAR

You guys just gotta win two more  
times!

Damian looks toward the main arena. Sean hits his arm.

SEAN

Look, we fight at different times  
again. Awesome!

DAMIAN

Yeah, awesome.

THE REGULAR

Look who's fighting right now.

INT. ANNOUNCER TABLE - SAME TIME

JIM

Here's what we've all been waiting  
for...The Golden Fist has returned.

(CONTINUED)

JERRY

In a year full of unknowns it's good to see a real champion once more.

RING SIDE

Lesley walks into the arena in all gold robes followed by TRAINERS and SUPPORTERS also in gold.

Anna waits by his corner smiling.

Lesley stops in front of Anna, he does some fake jabs in the air then raises his hands to the crowd. They cheer loudly.

He turns toward the ring.

ANNA

Good Luck babe--

LESLEY

Save it. I saw you with him. I know what's going on.

ANNA

What are you-

LESLEY

Don't deny it! I can't believe you would leave me, the champ, for that sack of shit.

ANNA

Damian is just-

LESLEY

Just what uh?! Just what?

Anna is about to speak, but Lesley puts his gloved hand up.

LESLEY

No more of your whore-ish lies. I don't need you. I never did...I have the crowd, and they'll always love me.

Lesley climbs into the ring and raises his hands to the crowd. Anna is stone for a moment. Lesley turns to her.

LESLEY

I'm gonna make sure that boy doesn't win and Goonburg turns that dump heap into whatever the hell he wants.

(CONTINUED)

Anna looks like she's on the edge of tears.

LESLEY

Don't be here when I get back.

Lesley turns to his opponent. Anna rushes toward the exit.

INT. ARENA HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Sean points to the board.

SEAN

I'm fighting Ivan "Kingslayer"  
Ivanoff. Who the fuck is that?

The Regular pats Sean on the arm and points over to a  
incredibly tall wirey russian who looks like he was carved  
from stone. This is IVAN "KINGSLAYER" IVANOFF.

SEAN

Holy fuck. That guys a lightweight?

Damian sees Anna leaving the arena, noticeably upset. He  
instantly follows her.

SEAN

Jesus, if I have to box him, you  
better tell me what to do, Damian.  
Damian?

Sean sees Damian running after Anna.

SEAN

Dude! 5 o'clock, be there.

Damian waves a hand like he understands. Sean turns back to  
the board.

THE REGULAR

You better pray he sucks at chess  
man. That guy looks like he  
strangles kittens or something.

Sean gulps.

EXT. STADIUM - CONT'D

Anna walks towards her car in an angry haste. Damian finally  
catches up to her.

(CONTINUED)

DAMIAN  
Anna! Anna, wait!

Anna stops and turns to look at Damian as strands of her hair press against the tears running down her face.

DAMIAN  
What's the matter?

Anna looks down and shakes her head. She brushes some of the hair from her face. She avoids eye contact.

ANNA  
Lesley he...ugh. The only thing worse than dating a self absorbed, emotionally unavailable, and sexually deprivative asshole is getting dumped by one.

A look of shock and relief comes over Damian.

DAMIAN  
He dumped you?

Anna nods her head, and continues to look away.

DAMIAN  
I'm sorry.

ANNA  
Are you?

Anna finally looks at Damian. Damian stares into her eyes for a moment. He exhales and very subtly smiles.

DAMIAN  
No.

Anna rolls her eyes.

ANNA  
Ugh. You know, you're to blame for this.

Anna walks away. Damian immediately follows.

DAMIAN  
Why? Did he dump you because I'm so openly flirty with you, or because my utter infatuation with you is so painfully obvious...

Damian cuts in front of Anna, causing her to stop in her tracks.

DAMIAN

...or is it because Lesley can see as well as I can that you feel the same way about me?

Anna looks down at her feet. She remains silent.

DAMIAN

Look, I know I may not be as smart or successful as Lesley. I may not be, this towns hero(apparently), but I am giving everything that I have to try and keep your dad's legacy going. I loved your dad, and I lo..

Damian stops himself. Anna looks up at him. Shocked and teary eyed, she stares into Damian's eyes.

DAMIAN

I never envied Lesley because he was famous or because he was a Chess-boxing champion. To me, Lesley was a winner because he had you.

She stares at Damian, but soon begins to look sad. She walks over to her car and leans against the front hood. She sighs and looks down at her feet again.

DAMIAN

Am I crazy? Do I not also have your love?

Damian looks down at this feet and whispers to himself.

DAMIAN(WHISPERING)

A im ú-'erin veleth lîn?

A giant smiles comes over Anna's face. She looks up at Damian.

ANNA

Leave it to you to pour out your heart to me and then end it with a quote from The Lord of the Rings.

Damian looks up in shock.

DAMIAN

How did you...

ANNA

My dad owned a movie store,  
remember?

Anna walks up to Damian. She get about an inch away from his face and whispers..

ANNA

Gerich meleth nîn.

Damian immediately kisses her. Anna embraces it. After a moment, they stop and stare at each other, smiling.

ANNA

C'mon.

Anna grabs Damian's hand and drags him towards her car. Damian pauses for a second. He looks towards the stadium and then towards Anna again.

After a moment, he smiles at Anna and follows her.

INT. ANNOUNCER TABLE - CONT'D

JERRY

Welcome back. We have just  
completed round 1 and we now have  
all of our semi-finalists.

JIM

That's right Jerry. And they are as  
follows...

The tournament bracket posts with pictures of all the contestants.

JIM

Our light weight semi-finalists  
are, Sean "The Pawn" Murray, Devin  
"Air" Goonburg, Ivan "King Slayer"  
Ivanoff, and Shivam "Chi-bomb"  
Bar-lava? Bagavavava? I'm still not  
sure how to pronounce that Jer'.

JERRY

Nobody is Jim. Our middle weight  
semi finalists are, Lesley "Golden  
Fist" Kelly(no surprise there),  
Damian "Dragon Puncher" Rodriguez,  
Brian "Baby Kicks" Torba, and  
"Krooked" Kevin Kollery.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

Boy we got a weird bunch in that middle weight division. One guys got shark teeth and another guy wears baby boots around his neck.

JERRY

Up next is our first Semi-final round. It's Murray vs. Ivanoff.

INT. RINGSIDE - CONT'D

Sean and The Regular stand at ringside. Sean looks around eagerly for Damian.

SEAN

Where the fuck is he?

THE REGULAR

I'm sure he'll be here soon.

INT. ANNA'S CAR - SAME TIME

Anna locks the door to her backseat and gets on top of Damian. The two furiously make out.

INT. RINGSIDE - SAME TIME

SEAN

He'd fuckin better be.

THE REGULAR

You'll be fine man. You'll probably just win by checkmate again.

SEAN

What if I don't? What if I have to box that?

Sean motions towards Ivan in the ring.

Ivan stands in the ring chugging a bottle of pure vodka. After finishing it to the last drop, he smashes the bottle over his head and yells in Russian.

THE REGULAR

Well IF that happens, Damian will definitely be back by the time you start.

INT. ANNA'S CAR - SAME TIME

ANNA

You are all mine for the next 30  
minutes.

Damian rips open Anna's shirt, aggressively kissing her, he picks her up, and then positions himself on top of her.

INT. RING - CONT'D

Sean sits at the chess board and the match begins.

Sean quickly moves his pawn forward and taps the timer but Ivan is equally as fast. They go back and forth, quickly moving piece after piece.

INT. ANNOUNCER TABLE - CONT'D

JERRY

Just look at the speed and  
professionalism between these two  
contestants.

JIM

I can barely keep up, Jerry.

JERRY

I tell ya Jim; as much as it seems  
like Ivanoff is keeping up, it  
looks like Murray is gaining the  
upper hand.

JIM

I think you're right, Jerry. Murray  
has just captured another one of  
Ivanoffs pawns.

INT. RING - CONT'D

Sean quickly moves his rook forward and captures Ivan's queen.

JERRY(V.O)

Oh! And there goes Ivanoff's queen.

JIM

A lot of pieces are coming off.

INT. ANNA'S CAR - SAME TIME

Damian sits up and removes his shirt. He then removes Anna's pants and lays back down on top of her.

INTERCUT - ANNOUNCER TABLE, RING, AND ANNA'S CAR

JERRY  
Ivanoff's in trouble.

JIM  
Murray's closing in.

JERRY  
One wrong move and Ivanoff will lose everything.

JIM  
Murray's got him in check.

JERRY  
Here it is.

Sean smiles and goes to move his queen. The bell rings.

JIM  
Oh, and the round is over.

JERRY  
Saved by the bell, literally.

Sean looks terrified. Ivan smiles maliciously.

JIM  
Sean "the Pawn" Murray is literally one move away from a checkmate, but that bell means his time is up and it is time for the boxing round.

Sean moves to his corner. He looks around for Damian and then over at The Regular, who stands shaking his head.

JERRY  
As great as that chess game was, I'm glad we finally get to see what Murray can do in the ring.

JIM  
A riveting game of wits followed by what promises to be a grand show of physical competition. I ask you, is there in anything more exciting?

(CONTINUED)

Anna sit on top of Damian again and removes her bra.  
Damian's face lights up.

The Regular takes Sean's robes.

SEAN

Where the fuck is he? What the hell  
am I supposed to do?

The Regular shrugs. The bell rings, he shoves a mouth guard  
into Sean's mouth and leaves the ring.

JERRY

And here we go. The match has begun  
and it seems like Ivanoff is taking  
the offensive.

Sean keeps his distance from Ivan. His gloves up by his  
face, he circles the ring.

Ivan follows Sean with a few quick jabs. Sean continues to  
block and move away.

JIM

Murray seems to be trying his best  
to keep his distance from Ivanoff  
but it looks like Ivanoff's about  
to corner him.

Damian has Anna bent over in front of him. He grabs her by  
the waist and begins thrusting back and forth

ANNA

Uh uh uh!

SEAN

Uuf uuf uuf

Sean is in the corner getting pummeled by Ivan.

JERRY

Oh, and Ivanoff drills away at  
Murrays midsection.

Damian lays over Anna again and Anna claws at Damians back  
passionately. Damian arcs his back in response.

DAMIAN

Holy shit!

THE REGULAR

Holy shit!

Ivan delivers a thunderous right blow.

(CONTINUED)

JIM  
And Murray goes down!

JERRY  
What a shot by Ivanoff! I don't  
think Murray's out just yet though.

Sean struggles, but uses the ropes to get back to his feet.  
He stumbles around trying to find his bearings.

JIM  
Murray looks lost out there. If he  
takes another shot like that, its  
over.

JERRY  
I'll say. Too bad his buddy  
Rodriguez isn't out there coaching  
him. I wonder where he is.

JIM  
Wherever he is, he is missing all  
the action.

Anna's hand presses up against the fogged up window and it  
slowly drags down.

Ivan delivers a solid punch, right into Sean's nose. Sean  
slams up against the corner and slowly slumps down.

JERRY  
And Murray is down again.

JIM  
And he's getting up again. I can't  
believe it.

JERRY  
I don't think he's gonna make it.

Sean tries with all of his might to stand up.

REFEREE

4

The Regular slams on the mat from outside the ring

THE REGULAR  
C'mon!

REFEREE

5

(CONTINUED)

EMMA

Keep climbing. Don't stop, don't stop.

REFEREE

6

ANNA

Don't stop, don't stop!

Anna's ankles are behind Damian's head as he thrusts back and forth.

REFEREE

7

JIM

Ohh, he's almost up, he's almost up.

Sean grabs the middle rope and tries to hoist himself up.

REFEREE

8

ANNA

Ohhh!

DAMIAN

I'm almost done, I'm almost done!

Sean finally grabs on to the top rope and throws himself into the corner. The crowd goes wild.

JERRY

And Sean "The Pawn" Murray makes it back onto his feet. I can't believe it.

JIM

Well believe it baby. He's still in the game and there's the bell.

Ivanoff swears in Russian. Sean makes it back to his corner where the Regular wipes him down.

THE REGULAR

Dude, I don't know how you survived that. That was incredible.

Damian and Anna lie down side by side, struggling to catch their breath, each of them sweaty.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

I don't know how I survived that,  
that was incredible.

JIM

Sean Murray narrowly escapes  
defeat, getting up after being down  
for 8 counts.

JERRY

Incredible perseverance by young  
Sean, and that's bad news for our  
Russian comrade, Ivanoff, 'cause he  
is one move away from a checkmate.

Sean stumbles back to his seat. The bell sounds and Sean's  
quivering hand moves his queen.

JIM

And that's all she wrote, Jerry.  
Sean "The Pawn" wins by checkmate  
once again, and is now going to the  
championship round.

JERRY

What a match, Jim. What a match.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - LATER

Sean sits on a bench while a medic stitches up his right  
eyebrow. His right eye is swollen shut and his lower lip is  
double its normal size and bleeding.

Emma and The Regular stand by the entrance looking on,  
concerned. Damian suddenly runs in.

DAMIAN

Sean. Holy shit.

Damian makes his way to Sean and notices his wounds as he  
gets closer.

DAMIAN

(cringing)

I uh, heard you won. Congrats.

SEAN

Yea, no thanks to you.

Anna enters the room, her hair now a mess. She covers her  
mouth in shock after seeing Sean.

Sean looks at Anna and then back at Damian.

(CONTINUED)

SEAN

I hope it was worth it.

Sean gets up and puts his clothes on.

DAMIAN

Look, I'm. I should have been there, man. I'm sorry.

Sean continues to dress and says nothing.

DAMIAN

C'mon man. It all worked out. I may not have been there to tell you exactly what to do but our training worked ya know. You won, right?

SEAN

Are you fucking kidding me? Do you see my face? Did you see how close I was to getting completely knocked out? Of course you didn't. You were too busy fucking Anna. Once again I get my ass kicked because of you.

DAMIAN

Dude I..

SEAN

You know the only reason I agreed to this after we got the shit kicked out of us in that underground place was because you promised to have my back. You promised we would see this through together but no. Once again my best friend would rather get his dick wet than keep me from getting my ass kicked.

DAMIAN

You know it's not about that, and..

SEAN

Fuck you, Damian. Good luck with your next chess game. You're gonna need it.

Sean limps toward the exit. Damian looks down at his shoes. Sean looks at Anna.

ANNA

I'm so sorry, Sean. It was my  
fault, really.

Sean shakes his head.

SEAN

And good luck keeping the store  
open without me.

Sean leaves the room. Damian remains still and silent.

INT. ARENA ENTRANCE - LATER

The referee holds Devin's arm up and declares him the  
victor.

Damian walks toward the ring with Anna on one side and The  
Regular on the other. People are lined up cheering him on.

JIM (V.O.)

What a match. Goonburg advances to  
the finals. Now, here comes one of  
the best stories of the tournament.  
Everybody is going crazy for that  
dragonpunch!

Damian looks at all the unfamiliar faces. He looks almost  
helpless as he looks from face to face.

JERRY (V.O.)

Rodriguez seems to be missing his  
trainer and partner, Sean "The  
Pawn" Murray.

JIM (V.O.)

His absence is notable Jer, I can't  
imagine what could possibly come  
between two lifelong friends on  
such an important night.

Damian climbs into the ring and raises his fists to the  
crowd. Cheers ring out, but Damian looks miserable.

He goes back to his corner and continues to look through the  
sea of faces. He turns to The Regular.

DAMIAN

He'll show right?

(CONTINUED)

THE REGULAR  
I don't know bro.

DAMIAN  
(scoffs)  
Fuck it. I can last long enough to  
beat the hell out of this guy.

The Regular gives him a feeble smile.

THE REGULAR  
I hope so.

Damian turns to the center of the ring as they put down the chess board. He looks far less confident.

Damian and Brian "Baby Kicks" Torba seat themselves at the chess table.

INTERCUT - ANNOUNCER TABLE AND RING

JERRY  
And there's the bell. Our  
middleweight semifinals match has  
begun.

JIM  
This one should be a doozy, Jer'.  
In one corner we've got a new crowd  
favorite, Damian "dragon puncher"  
Rodriguez, who has shown real  
promise in the ring.

JERRY  
That's right Jim, and in the other  
corner we've got Brian "Baby Kicks"  
Torba. I tell you Jim, this guy is  
smart on the board and in the ring,  
but I just can't take him seriously  
with those baby boots around his  
neck.

Brian and Damian continue playing chess. After every move,  
Brian removes one of Damian's pieces.

JIM  
All the tattoos and muscles in the  
world can't take your attention off  
the fact that's he's wearing infant  
footwear on a chain around his  
neck.

(CONTINUED)

JERRY

Maybe if they weren't baby blue.

Damian plays much more slowly, trying very carefully not to make a wrong move. He glances outside the ring for a moment.

The Regular stands alone, shaking his head.

JIM

Well, baby boots or not, Torba is showing no mercy. He has taken the majority of Rodriguez's pieces and is going in for the kill.

JERRY

Rodriguez better be careful, Jim. Castling won't help him this time.

Damian starts sweating. He moves his hand from piece to piece, not sure which one to move. He finally decides. Brian immediately follows.

JIM

Uh oh, Torba has got Rodriguez's king in check. This could be it, Jerry.

Damian begins moving his king. Brian follows up immediately.

JERRY

Rodriguez is in a very bad place. His king is in check, and is slowly getting cornered. I'd say he's only got about 3 more moves before a total checkmate.

Damian goes to move his king one last time but stops himself. He changes his hand to the rook...

JIM

Damian just found an opening.

JERRY

An easy escape for Torba, but this may just give Damian enough time to get to the boxing round.

JIM

We'll see soon enough. Damian's got his king surrounded. One more move.

Brian goes to move and the bell rings.

(CONTINUED)

JERRY

Saved by the bell. Torba can't believe it.

JIM

Neither can I, Jerry. Damian makes it through the chess round by the skin of his teeth.

Damian slouches in his chair in relief. The Regular makes a celebratory fist pump and enters the ring to help Damian prepare for the boxing round.

Anna cheers from the stands.

JERRY

Well Rodriguez better capitalize on the situation and end it right here and now.

JIM

That's right, if he wins this round by knockout, he will face Lesley Kelly in the championship round tomorrow.

JERRY

But if he doesn't, he will lose in the next round of chess for sure.

The bell rings and Damian quickly advances on Torba. They hold their gloves up, releasing quick jabs at one another.

JERRY (V.O.)

Rodriguez wastes no time, taking the offensive on Torba.

JIM (V.O.)

Boy look at him move.

Damian pounds furiously on Torba's midsection, forcing him into the corner.

JERRY (V.O.)

Oh my goodness. Look at the verocity.

Torba explodes, pushing Damian away from him, and lands a right hook. Damian, takes the hit but quickly recovers with a huge right hook of his own.

(CONTINUED)

JIM AND JERRY

OH!!!

Brian falls and Damian backs away. The referee counts.

JERRY

What a shot! Torba lands a solid right punch but Rodriguez barely even flinched.

JIM

He ate that punch like it was dinner!

JERRY

And then delivered a punch of his own.

JIM AND JERRY

A "dragon punch!"

Torba gets back to his feet and Damian advances. He weaves in and out, jabbing at Torbas head and midsection with tremendous speed.

JERRY

Wow, just look at the agility of this young athlete. What a competitor.

JIM

Torba can't keep up, Jerry. He's taking hits left and right.

Torba swings violently. Damian avoids every wild punch, but slowly gets pushed into the corner.

JERRY

And look at this, Jim. Torba is swinging away like a mad man. He can't possibly hope to land any of those wild punches.

JIM

I don't think he means to, Jerry. By swinging like that, he's keeping Damian at a distance. He may be exhausting all of his energy but it may just buy him enough time.

JERRY

Let see if it pays off.

(CONTINUED)

Torba unleashes an enourmous right swing, but Damian avoids it. He jumps to the right, turns in mid air, and lands a right punch.

The crowd goes wild as Torba's chain flies off.

JIM

What a move by Rodriguez. Now  
Torba's in the corner.

JERRY

He knocked his baby boots off!

Damian pounds away again at Torba's mid section. Torba tries to block but takes considerable damage. He finally unleashes a huge left hook.

Damian avoids it by leaning back, the bell rings, and then Damian hits Torba with a huge uppercut.

JERRY

Oh my God. What a huge uppercut by  
Damian. That has to be it.

JIM

It's all in vain, Jerry, because  
that was the bell.

JERRY

Rodriguez was so close to a  
knockout, but it looks like its all  
over. This should be an easy  
checkmate for Torba.

Damian holds his head in disappointment and moves to his corner. The Regular stands on the outside.

THE REGULAR

Sorry, dude. You were close.

JERRY

Well the chess board is set up, but  
it looks like Torba is still unable  
to get up.

Two trainers gather around Torba. Damian turns and notices. He looks to The Regular with a hopeful look in his eyes.

JIM

This may not be such an easy win  
after all, Jerry. Torba can't even  
make it to the table, let alone  
play chess.

(CONTINUED)

Torba slowly makes it to his feet. He holds himself up with the ropes for a moment, looking around, dazed. He stumbles but finally plants himself on his chair.

JIM

Well it looks like its all over  
folks. Theres the bell, and Torba  
is one move away from a checkmate.

Damian stares at Torba. Torba has trouble keeping his head up. He lifts his hand to move his chess piece.

Torbias hand stops directly over the chess board, Damian closes his eyes. Torba collapses to his right and the crowd goes wild.

JIM

Oh my God. Brian "Baby kicks" Torba  
just keeled over.

JERRY

He wasn't able to make his move,  
and, wait a minute.

The referee waves his arms. The bell rings. Damian opens his eyes and looks confused. He looks down and sees Torba on the ground.

THE REFEREE

Brian "Baby kicks" Torba is unable  
to compete. The winner by default,  
Damian "Dragon Puncher" Rodgriguez.

Damian jumps up and raises his arms in shock and relief.

JIM

And its all over.

JERRY

The Dragon Puncher is going to the  
championship round, against the  
Golden Fist.

JIM

Just listen to this crowd roar.

Damian and The Regular celebrate outside the ring. Anna runs down from the stands and jumps in Damians arms.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONT'D

Lesley Kelly stands with Devin and watches Anna and Damian on the television.

DEVIN

Daddy is not going to be happy.

LESLEY

This just means I get to finish him off myself.

EXT. ELECTRONICS STORE - NIGHT

Sean presses against the store front watching the footage. He takes a giant swig from a bottle wrapped in a brown bag.

SEAN

What a dick.

He takes another huge swig and stumbles into the street.

INT. ANNOUNCER TABLE - SAME TIME

JERRY

Well, this has been a riveting first day Jim.

Highlights of the first day begin to show.

JIM (V.O.)

That's for sure Jerry. Upsets...

-Sean wins by checkmate in first round.

JIM (V.O.)

Champions rising to the occasion...

-Lesley punches another fighter in the face.

JIM (V.O.)

Cinderella showing up to the ball...

-Damian uses the dragon punch.

JIM (V.O.)

And buckets of blood, sweat and tears...

-Devin stands up in victory as his opponent begins to cry.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

It's enough to make any sports fan go nuts.

JERRY

Well said my friend. In just 48 hours titans of unimaginable will and strength duel for ultimate domination of both body and mind. Lightweight battle is Sean "The Pawn" Murray vs. Devin "Air" Goonburg. Middleweight bout is Damian "Dragon Puncher" Rodriguez vs. Lesley "The Golden Fist" Kelley. And for the Heavyweights...

INT. SEAN AND DAMIAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Damian walks into the dark lifeless house.

DAMIAN

Sean!

Damian walks through piles of beer cans on the floor in the living room.

INT. SEAN AND DAMIAN'S HOUSE - CONT'D

Damian walks into the kitchen and sees a giant middle finger drawn on a white board on the refrigerator.

Damian slams his fist into the freezer door and rushes out of the house.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Sean sleeps on a bench, the bottle rolls on the ground back and forth. A stray dog comes up and begins to lick his face.

Sean wakes up and immediately freaks out, the dog runs away. He sits up looking like hell. He shields his eyes from the brightness of the sun.

INT. GYM - DAY

Damian furiously pounds on a punching bag over and over. He looks like he wants to punch the bag through the wall.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Sean sits at a stone chess table. He moves a piece.

SEAN

Ha! All day baby!

Nobody is seated across from him or at any of the other tables.

INT. GYM - LATER

Damian stares at the chess board. He moves a piece and taps the timer. No one is seated across from him.

Awkwardly he stands up and moves to the other seat. He makes a move and taps the timer.

He suddenly throws all the pieces on the ground and lets the timer run out.

His phone BUZZES to life. He checks it and immediately leaves.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S MCMOVIE'S - NIGHT

Anna stands near the checkout counter. Damian bursts into the store.

DAMIAN

I just got your message, what is it? Is it Lesley? You ok?

He rushes over to her. She nods and puts her hand on his chest.

ANNA

I'm fine, just promise you won't be mad.

Damian looks confused. At that moment The Regular walks in with Sean.

SEAN

Dude, what movie could you possibly want so goddamn bad? I was about to school some more punk bitches in the park.

Sean looks up and sees Damian. Damian looks right back at him. Sean straightens his back.

(CONTINUED)

SEAN  
What the fuck is this?

The tension could be cut with a knife as all of them just stand silently.

Anna looks at Damian with those eyes that say "talk to him". Damian refuses and continues to silently stare down his friend.

SEAN  
I'm out of here.

Sean moves for the door.

ANNA  
Sean, wait! I set this up, because you guys need to work this out.

Sean laughs and turns back around.

SEAN  
Is she gonna jump in the ring for you tomorrow too?

DAMIAN  
Fuck you!

SEAN  
Very witty, you better hope she jumps in because you certainly need the fucking help.

DAMIAN  
It's you who needs me, Scarface.

SEAN  
Need you? *I* need you?

DAMIAN  
(overlapping)  
Yeah, oh yeah my friend --

ANNA  
--Guys! --

SEAN  
--I need you like we need another Tyler Perry movie.

DAMIAN  
--Oh is that right? I've been carrying you ever since Mandy Parks  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAMIAN (cont'd)  
pulled your wiener in 3rd grade and  
you cried like a little bitch --

ANNA  
--GUYS! --

SEAN  
--She had huge man hands, that's  
why we called her A-man-hands Parks  
until we were seventeen. I cried  
cuz she just kept tuggin and tuggin  
--

DAMIAN  
--Cried like a little bitch --

SEAN  
--You know I don't think you  
would've even passed 3rd grade if  
not for me. You are SO stupid --

THE REGULAR  
ENOUGH!!

They all shut up. Damian and Sean breathe heavily.

THE REGULAR  
I can't believe you two. If  
McDuffie could see you now.  
Everyday for the last three years  
I've been coming here, and never  
once have I seen you guys be such  
assholes.

The Regular turns to Sean.

THE REGULAR  
(mocking baby voice)  
Oh, my friend pays more attention  
to a girl than to me, what will I  
do?

SEAN  
(quietly)  
I don't sound like that.

Damian almost chuckles, but The Regular turns on him.

THE REGULAR  
And you! (back to mocking voice)  
I'm so good at everything, but I'd  
rather be nothing and complain than  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THE REGULAR (cont'd)  
try and maybe fail cuz I'm a big  
fat pussy.

DAMIAN  
(quietly)  
That's harsh.

THE REGULAR  
Boo fucking hoo. You guys need to  
man up. Did Robin ever leave Batman  
because of Catwoman? Did Harry  
disaparate when Ron and Hermoine  
got together?

Damian and Sean shake their heads.

THE REGULAR  
(slowly)  
Did Samwise even think about  
leaving Frodo on the side of Mount  
Doom!?

Damian and Sean look at each other.

THE REGULAR  
Fuck no! He picked his little  
Hobbit ass up and carried him. You  
guys need each other. This  
place...needs you.

ANNA  
Sean, I never meant to come between  
you guys. But, this...guy is right.  
Remember why you started this in  
the first place. Neither of you  
could've got this far without the  
other.

Damian and Sean both look down at their feet.

ANNA  
So, what's it going to be?

Anna gives Damian the same evil look as before. Sean stares  
at his feet until finally looking at Damian.

SEAN  
I'm sorry man. I flipped out and I  
should--

(CONTINUED)

DAMIAN

No man, I'm sorry. I did bail on you and I shouldn't have. You're my best friend and I wouldn't let anything come between that. But, you gotta know it wasn't just for some random ass.

Damian turns to Anna, then back to Sean.

DAMIAN

I'm crazy about her. I spoke elvish to her.

SEAN

Wow...that's big.

Anna blushes.

DAMIAN

I'll always be in your corner. You're my brother. And I need you in mine.

Sean starts to smile.

DAMIAN

Can't let that crazy dog-loving asshole take this place.

SEAN

Ready to shove that golden fist right up his ass?

Damian and Sean give each other bear hugs. Anna and The Regular smile.

DAMIAN

(whispers)  
I'll never let go.

SEAN

(whispers)  
You had me at hello.

ANNA

Alright! We got a championship to win!

INT. STADIUM - NIGHT

The stadium is packed with people and purple and gold lights light up the crowd as exciting music blasts throughout the isles.

JERRY(V.O)  
Good evening one and all.

JIM (V.O.)  
Welcome to the 75th Annual World  
Championship Chess-Boxing finals.

INT. ANNOUNCER TABLE - CONT'D

JIM  
Tonight we conclude the epic  
tournament with our 3 finalists.

JERRY  
That's right, Jim. We're in for a  
hell of a night. 6 men, 3  
championships, and no prisoners!

JIM  
Up first we have Sean "The Pawn"  
Murray vs. Devin "Air" Goonburg for  
the Light Weight Championship.

INT. RINGSIDE - CONT'D

Sean and Damian stand ring side with Anna and The Regular.  
Emma stands at a distance and occasionally snaps pictures.

DAMIAN  
Alright buddy, you got this! This  
is what we've been waiting for. A  
shot at the championship, and a  
chance to beat the living shit out  
of that annoying, no neck, ugly  
piece of monkey shit Devin.

Anna gives Damian a "wow" look.

SEAN  
I'm gonna hit him so hard, his gay  
little matching dog is gonna feel  
it.

(CONTINUED)

THE REGULAR

You should kill his dog and make  
him eat it.

Sean, Damian, and Anna all stare at The Regular for a moment. The Regular gives a "what" look.

DAMIAN

Just try not to beat him too  
quickly. Enjoy it.

SEAN

Oh I will.

INTERCUT - ANNOUNCER TABLE AND RING

JERRY

And there's the warning bell.

Sean climbs up on the apron.

EMMA

Wait!

Sean turns his attention to Emma who runs up to the ring. She grabs Seans face and kisses him.

EMMA

(Smiling)

Good Luck!

Sean looks shocked as he watches Emma join his friends. Damian, Anna, and the Regular all smile and nod their heads at Sean.

Sean smiles and enters the ring. On the other side of the ring, Devin hands his father his chihuahua.

GARY

End this now or you'll be cleaning  
up dog shit for the next 6 months.

Devin gives a girlish gasp.

GARY

I mean it.

Devin's face suddenly turns serious. He turns towards the ring and enters.

(CONTINUED)

JERRY

Both contestants are in the ring,  
and this crowd is ecstatic.

Devin and Sean stand facing each other in the center of the ring. Their eyes locked.

DEVIN

I hope you started looking for a  
new job, cause tonight you're gonna  
hit the ground faster than your  
boss did.

Devin laughs very strangely. His shoulders move up and down and the sound of Z's are heard. Sean immediately looks pissed. They sit down.

SEAN

(whispering)

After I beat you, I'm gonna fucking  
kill your dog and make you eat it.

Devin's jaw drops. The referee looks down at Sean, shocked. The Regular smiles and nods his head. DING!

JIM

And there's the bell. Our first  
chess match of the night is  
underway.

Devin moves first. Then Sean. They move with speed and determination. Sweat accumulates on their faces.

JERRY (V.O.)

This is how a chess match should  
look. Two competitors of equal  
strength dueling wits.

They rhythmically move piece after piece, almost like a dance.

JIM (V.O.)

This seems to be the most either  
fighter has ever had to put into  
the first chess round. You can  
tell, they both want this bad.

-Devin moves a pawn.

-Sean takes a knight.

-Devin takes a bishop.

(CONTINUED)

Back and forth they go but the fight is very much equal.  
DING!

JERRY

And there it is...the first chess  
round with no clear advantage for  
either man.

JIM

Now we all know boxing is not  
Murray's strong suit, let's see how  
things play out.

Sean walks over to his corner where Damian and The Regular  
wait. The Regular pulls out a stool, while Damian prepares  
Sean's gloves.

SEAN

Holy shit, he's a lot better than I  
thought.

DAMIAN

Don't worry about that, you got  
him.

IN DEVIN'S CORNER

Devin's TRAINER gives him water and rubs his shoulders.

TRAINER

Alright, just like we talked about.  
You have the advantage over this  
guy.

Devin nods his head. Gary Goonburg looks on from the crowd  
with a stern expression.

JERRY (V.O.)

The gloves are on, we are ready for  
battle!

Damian gives Sean an inspirational slap in the face. Sean  
doesn't like it, but quickly refocuses. DING!

Sean and Devin move forward, arms raised. They exchange  
quick jabs, but nothing serious.

JERRY (V.O.)

Wow Jim, it doesn't look like  
either of them want to hit each  
other.

(CONTINUED)

JIM (V.O.)  
They're dancing around each other  
like prom dates...it's embarrassing  
Jerr.

DAMIAN  
Sean! Go for him! Attack!

Sean advances landing some body shots. Devin is more interested in protecting his face.

Devin throws his arms around Sean to stop the punches.

DAMIAN  
Pussy! Sean, be light on your feet,  
light on your feet!

Sean gets away from Devin and puts his arms back up.

JIM (V.O.)  
This honestly might be the most  
boring round of boxing I've ever  
seen Jerr.

JERRY (V.O.)  
(long pause)  
Oh I'm sorry Jim, I fell asleep,  
did I miss anything?

The two men bob and weave around each other.

DAMIAN  
Sean, hit him!

Sean turns toward Damian with a look that says "what do you want me to do?"

Devin lands a huge left cross into Sean's already bruised up right eyebrow.

JIM (V.O.)  
Oh hello, what was that?!

JERRY (V.O.)  
Looked like a cheap shot to me.

JIM (V.O.)  
Or maybe "The Pawn" needs to focus.

Sean quickly covers up. He tries to advance again, but DING!

(CONTINUED)

JERRY (V.O.)

Alright, and we are back to the board, let's hope someone takes a lead here.

Sean moves back to his corner. Damian cleans up Sean's bleeding eyebrow. The Regular takes off his gloves.

DAMIAN

Alright baby, this is where you shine. End this!

Sean nods looking inspired.

IN DEVIN'S CORNER

Devin's trainer gives him more water. Gary comes up behind Devin.

GARY

Stop fucking around.

Devin breathes heavy. The board is brought to the center of the ring.

THE REFEREE

Let's go gentlemen.

Sean moves to his seat, Devin sits in his. DING!

Their pace quickens. Pieces move. Pieces are taken. Furiously they battle.

JERRY (V.O.)

Back and forth they go, this is incredible.

JIM (V.O.)

The speed at which they must be processing their next move is uncanny.

JERRY (V.O.)

Truly exciting Jim.

-Devin moves his rook.

-Sean moves his queen.

JERRY (V.O.)

And Murray is the first to take out the first lady.

-Devin takes a pawn.

(CONTINUED)

-Sean takes a bishop.

-Devin takes Sean's queen.

DEVIN

Check!

The referee rushes to the board. Sean is shocked.

JIM (V.O.)

Amazing!

JERRY (V.O.)

This is the first time Murray has  
been in check all tournament.

Sean frantically looks over the board.

SEAN

Shit.

DAMIAN

Come on Sean!

FROM THE CROWD

EMMA

Let's go Sean!

JERRY (V.O.)

Murray looks like he might throw  
up!

BACK IN RING

Devin maniacally smiles. Sean reaches for a piece, but pulls  
back.

DEVIN

It's over.

Sean slowly looks from the board to Devin.

DAMIAN

MOVE!!

DING! Sean moves back to his corner emotionless. Devin  
confidently struts to his, even raising his arms to the  
crowd.

JIM (V.O.)

Goonburg seems to know something we  
don't Jerr.

(CONTINUED)

Damian prepares Sean's gloves.

DAMIAN  
What the hell was that? You left  
yourself in check.

SEAN  
(quietly)  
He's got me.

DAMIAN  
What?

SEAN  
I can't beat him. He's got me in  
six moves.

THE REGULAR  
You sure?

Sean nods his head.

DAMIAN  
Then you gotta knock him out.

Sean doesn't seem to hear him. Damian slaps him.

DAMIAN  
You hear me?! Knock his ass out!

SEAN  
I don't know if I can.

EMMA  
You got this Sean!

DAMIAN  
You hear that? Do you wanna fuck  
her?

SEAN  
Uh...yeah.

Emma blushed.

DAMIAN  
You will never fuck her if you  
don't knock him out. No one said  
the path to pussy is easy. You  
gotta fight for it. So get out  
there!

SEAN

YEAH!!

Sean stands up more confident than ever. He stares at Devin like he wants blood.

Devin eggs him on with his glove.

THE REFEREE

Fighters ready?

Sean moves toward the center of the ring.

SEAN

I'm gonna beat your ass for pussy!

Devin looks confused. DING!

Sean instantly jumps into action. Devin defends, while Sean advances. Sean lands body shot after body shot.

JERRY (V.O.)

Murray is on the warpath Jim.

DAMIAN

Go for the face, you're not going to tire him out!

JIM (V.O.)

We have never seen him be so furious.

Sean continues to hit the body. Devin is pressed up against the ropes. Sean isn't covering his face.

Devin sees an opening and goes for a hook. Sean miraculously dodges it and lands a huge blow to the side of Devin's face.

JERRY (V.O.)

Oh, what a blow by Murray!

DAMIAN

Do it now!

Sean gives Devin two shots to the body and one to his face. Over and over, two shots to the body and one to the face. Goonburg looks furious.

GARY

Get out of there!

Sean is relentless. Devin doesn't know what to do. The clock is winding down on the round.

(CONTINUED)

THE REGULAR

DO IT!

ANNA

Is he crying?

Sean nonstop pounds Devin. Through the punches, Devin's eyes water. Damian looks at The Regular elated.

JIM (V.O.)

I don't know how much more Goonburg can take!

DAMIAN

FINISH HIM!!

Devin goes for a right cross, once again Sean weaves and lands a massive uppercut.

Devin's mouthguard flies into the crowd. His dog catches it out of mid air. Gary turns beat red, like he might explode.

Devin timbers to the floor. The crowd roars.

JERRY (V.O.)

Down goes Goonburg, down goes Goonburg!

Sean raises his hands in victory. The referee rushes over to Devin who is out cold. The referee waves his hands and moves over to Sean.

THE REFEREE

Winner!

The ref raises Sean's hand. Damian, The Regular, and Emma rush into the ring.

JIM (V.O.)

And we have a new Lightweight Chessboxing champion of the world!

JERRY (V.O.)

In a surprise knockout by Sean "The Pawn" Murray, he now reigns on top of the Chess boxing universe!

Damian raises Sean's other hand as an OFFICIAL puts a belt around Sean's waist. Emma jumps onto Sean and they furiously kiss.

(CONTINUED)

JIM  
Wow Jerr, it's nice to be the  
champ!

Gary rushes out of the arena. Sean puts Emma down.

SEAN  
(to Damian)  
Now it's your turn.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONT'D

Lesley sits on a bench watching the fight on a television. Gary bursts in with dog in hand. He gets right in Lesley's face.

GARY  
I don't give a flying rat shit fuck  
what you have to do, you can not  
let that bastard win! You HEAR ME!?

Lesley stares right back at him. Gary slowly straightens himself up and fixes his suit. He storms toward the door. Devin, barely awake, creeps in.

DEVIN  
(weakly)  
Have you seen my dog? Daddy?

GARY  
You're dead to me.

Gary walks right past him. Devin begins to sob. Lesley jumps off the bench and moves for the door.

DEVIN  
Do you think he meant that?

Lesley pushes past him.

INT. ANNOUNCER TABLE - CONT'D

JERRY  
Welcome back, ladies and gentlemen.  
If you are just joining us, we have  
just crowned a new Light Weight  
Champion.

JIM  
And now, the match we've all been  
waiting for. A true Cinderella  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JIM (cont'd)  
story. Damian "Dragon Puncher"  
Rodriguez vs The reigning Middle  
Weight Champion, Lesley "Golden  
Fist" Kelly.

JERRY  
They're calling Damian the new  
People's champion, but is his  
determination enough to beat our  
undefeated champion?

JIM  
Well we're about to find out,  
Jerry. There's the warning bell.

INT. RINGSIDE - CONT'D

Damian lightly jumps up and down in anticipation. Sean stands in front of him. The Regular, Anna, and Emma stand and watch.

SEAN  
Alright buddy. This is it. The  
battle of hogwarts; Minas Tirith;  
The fucking death star!

DAMIAN  
Big battles, I get it.

SEAN  
Everything we trained for comes  
down to this. Are you ready!?

DAMIAN  
Yea!

SEAN  
Ok, good. Cause I'm gonna go have  
sex.

Sean begins to walk away. Damian looks terrified. Sean turns back around.

SEAN  
I'm just fucking with you. Only an  
asshole would do that.

Damian shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

DAMIAN

Dick.

SEAN

Alright. Just like we practiced  
man. I'll be right here.

Anna comes up and kisses Damian.

ANNA

Kick his ass.

Damian nods and enters the ring.

INT. RING - CONT'D

In the center, Damian and Lesley stand facing each other,  
eyes locked.

JERRY(V.O)

Can you feel the intensity?

JIM (V.O.)

If you can't feel it, you can  
definitely see it.

JERRY(V.O)

Rodriguez and Kelly, staring each  
other down. No trash talking, no  
empty threats. Just two men with  
the same goal.

JIM

A goal only one of them is going to  
reach, Jerry. And there's the bell.

Damian and Lesley sit down and immediately start playing.

JERRY (V.O.)

And here we go. The match has begun  
and both players are already  
playing the game a bit more  
aggressively than they have all  
tournament.

JIM (V.O.)

Especially Rodriguez, look at him  
go. He is fired up tonight.  
Already, he has taken two of  
Lesley's pawns.

(CONTINUED)

JERRY (V.O.)

No doubt some influence from our  
new Light Weight Champion.

Lesley moves his queen. After a few more moves he captures  
two of Damians pawns as well.

JIM(V.O)

You can't count Lesley out just yet  
though. He is the current champion  
for a reason. Oh, and there goes  
one of Rodriguez's bishops.

JERRY(V.O)

He might be in trouble now.

Anna bites her nails.

SEAN

It's ok, man. Just like we  
practiced!

JIM(V.O)

Sean Murray, cheering on his friend  
from the outside. Lets see if his  
coaching pays off here.

JERRY(V.O)

Well it looks like Rodgriguez is  
playing a bit more defensively now  
and...there's the bell.

Damian and Lesley lock eyes again and remain seated as the  
officials try to clear the ring. They finally get up and go  
to their respective corners.

JIM(V.O)

Boy you can feel the hatred  
radiating from these two.

JERRY(V.O)

That should make for an interesting  
boxing round.

The Regular and Sean await Damian in the corner. The Regular  
takes Damians robes as Sean hands him his boxing gloves.

SEAN

This is your time to shine, man. Do  
it up.

Damian nods with a determined look on his face. DING!

(CONTINUED)

JIM (V.O.)  
Rodriguez and Kelly quickly advance  
on each other and...OH!

JERRY(V.O)  
What a shot!

Damian walks away from Lesley shaking his head. Lesley  
stands with his arms down, staring at Damian.

JIM(V.O)  
Lesley Kelly with an immediate  
right hook.

JERRY(V.O)  
Rodriguez tries to shake it off and  
here we go.

JIM(V.O)  
Rodriguez is being a bit more  
cautious now.

JERRY(V.O)  
He should have known better than to  
approach the champ like that.

Lesley swings at Damian and misses. Damian goes for a punch  
of his own, but Lesley blocks.

JIM (V.O.)  
Look at these two, exchanging blows  
left and right. Finally, a real  
boxing match.

Lesley goes for another swing, Damian ducks and recovers  
with two quick jabs and a solid right punch to Lesley's  
face.

Lesley takes all of the hits but doesn't go down. Instead,  
unleashes a huge right hook and Damian flies into the ropes.

JERRY (V.O.)  
Oh my goodness. Rodriguez unloads  
with a flurry of attacks but Kelly  
retaliates with a massive blow of  
his own, and Rodriguez is down.

JIM (V.O.)  
Here's the count.

Damian is on all fours. He shakes his head and gets back on  
his feet. DING!

(CONTINUED)

JERRY (V.O.)

And thats the end of the round.

Damian and Lesley go back to their corners. Anna tends to Damians face.

ANNA

Are you ok?

DAMIAN

This guy can really take a punch.

ANNA

Yea he can sure dish one out too.

DAMIAN

He doesn't hit much though. If I can outlast him, I think I can beat him by decision.

ANNA

Just be careful, ok?

Damian nods at Anna.

MONTAGE - DAMIAN AND LESLEY'S PLAY CHESS AND BOX.

-- In the ring - They play chess. Damian takes more of Lesley's pieces.

-- Ringside - Sean looks on and nods his head

-- In the ring - They box. Lesley nails Damian with a few solid blows to the head.

-- Ringside - Gary looks on and nods his head.

-- Ring corner - Lesley's face gets patched up.

-- In the ring - They play chess. Lesley takes one of Damians pieces and Damian grabs his head in disbelief.

-- Ringside - Sean looks worried as he shakes his head.

-- In the ring - They box. Lesley hits Damian with a huge uppercut. Damian goes down.

-- Ringside - Gary smiles.

-- Ringside - Anna slams on the mat and yells for Damian to get up.

-- Ring corner - Damian's face looks worse as Anna patches it up.

INT. RING - LATER

JERRY(V.O)

Rodriguez does not look good.

Damian is barely able to keep his arms up. He keeps his distance as Kelly continues to advance.

JIM (V.O.)

He is literally one punch away from being knocked out.

JERRY(V.O)

Well its the last boxing round of the match, Jim. Damian's only hope right now is to stay on his feet, land a few more punches, and pray that he beats Kelly by a judge decision.

JIM(V.O)

It could be very close, Jerry.

Damian advances on Lesley. Lesley swings and misses and Damian starts pounding away at his mid section.

JERRY(V.O)

Rodriguez has got Kelly cornered. But wait a minute.

Lesley grabs Damian and throws him into the corner. He pounds away and Damian struggles to block.

JIM (V.O.)

What a move by Kelly.

JERRY(V.O)

I'm not sure thats legal, Jim.

JIM(V.O)

I think Rodriguez's hopes of winning just went out the window because Kelly is landing shot after shot after shot.

Damian pushes Lesley back and releases a huge right hook. Lesley avoids it and uppercuts Damian.

(CONTINUED)

JERRY(V.O)

Oh! Rodriguez going for that dragon punch but misses. Kelly capitalizes. This could be it.

Damian's feet fly up and he is nearly launched over the turnbuckle. He comes down and slams on the mat.

Anna, Sean, and The Regular scream for him to get up, but Damian lies motionless. The referee counts.

JIM (V.O.)

It's all over, Jerry. There's no way he's getting up from that.

JERRY(V.O)

He put up quite a fight, Jim.

THE REFEREE

7!

Anna and Sean look down, accepting defeat. DING!

JIM (V.O.)

But wait a minute.

The referee signals the judges.

JERRY(V.O)

Could that be. Yes that was the bell and...yes it looks like the referee is signaling for the next round to begin. It's not over yet folks.

The crowd goes wild and Anna looks at Sean, shocked. She jumps into the ring and turns Damian over, who is still lifeless.

JIM (V.O.)

Well let's see if Rodriguez can get up, first.

Anna touches her forehead to Damians.

ANNA

(Whispering)

C'mon, baby. Come back to me.

She closes her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

Lasto beth nîn. Tolo dan na ngalad.

(HEAR MY VOICE, COME BACK TO THE LIGHT.)

Damian's eyes slowly open. His hand touches Anna's cheek, and her eyes open.

DAMIAN

"I know your face."

Anna smiles and the two of them get up. The crowd cheers.

JERRY

And Rodriguez is up! I can't believe it.

JIM

What resiliency, what passion. The courage of this young man is inspiring.

JERRY

With no hope of winning, he is up, and ready to finish this match.

Damian makes it to his chair and the bell rings. The crowd quiets down and the match resumes.

Lesley glares at Damian shaking his head. Without looking, he moves a piece forward and confidently taps the timer.

LESLEY

Should have just stayed down.

Damian can barely keep his head up. He stares at the chess board. He takes a moment to look back and forth between the pieces.

He sits up and moves a piece forward, then taps the timer.

INT. RINGSIDE - CONT'D

Anna and The Regular look on in suspense. Sean looks shocked. He looks up at a giant screen showing a close up of the chess board.

SEAN

Oh my God.

He looks back towards the ring. Anna and The Regular look at him, confused.

INT. RING - CONT'D

Lesley and Damian stare at one another.

LESLEY

You thought you could beat me by  
decision. But you know now that's  
not going to happen.

Lesley's eyes stay glued to Damian's. He moves another piece  
slowly and taps the timer. Damian looks down, and after a  
moment, smiles.

DAMIAN

What's the Chess-Boxing slogan  
again? Battles are fought in the  
ring...

LESLEY

But wars are waged on the board.  
So, what?

Damian picks up his queen...

DAMIAN

Well, you definitely won the  
battle, but I just won the war.

Damian moves his queen forward.

LESLEY

What?

Damian taps the time and leans forward.

DAMIAN

Checkmate!

Lesley looks confused and then looks down. He looks at the  
board trying to figure out what happened. Damian gets up and  
the bell rings. The crowd goes nuts.

LESLEY

No. no.

JERRY (V.O.)

Oh my goodness! Checkmate checkmate  
checkmate.

JIM(V.O)

What the hell just happened?!

Sean, The Regular, and Anna jump in the ring and grab  
Damian.

(CONTINUED)

JERRY (V.O.)

In a moment of distraction, Lesley Kelly made a disastrous wrong move and left his king unprotected.

JIM(V.O)

And Damian Rodriguez, barely able to sit up, was able to capitalize.

THE REFEREE

The winner, by checkmate, and the new Chess-Boxing Middle-weight champion of the world, Damian "Dragon Puncher" Rodriguez!

INT. RINGSIDE - CONT'D

Gary stands outside the ring, shaking his head in anger. He then walks out of the arena. Devin chases after him.

DEVIN

Daddy? Daddy!

INT. ANNOUNCER TABLE - CONT'D

JIM

What a match, what a match!

JERRY

A new middleweight champion has been crowned. Next up, our main event...

EXT. MCDUFFIE'S MCMOVIES - NIGHT

Damian and Sean stand in front of the video store. A large "Store Closing" sign hangs above the door.

Emma and Anna join them as they look on.

EXT. MCDUFFIE'S MCBOXING - DAY

SUPER: "One year later."

Damian and Sean stand in front of their old video store, looking in admiration.

(CONTINUED)

SEAN  
Dude, the place looks awesome.

DAMIAN  
Thanks, man. Check out the inside.

INT. MCDUFFIE'S MCBOXING - CONT'D

Sean and Damian walk in to a newly redecorated store. Gym equipment is scattered around with a boxing ring in the middle.

The Regular is in the ring with training pads, teaching someone to box.

SEAN  
Your very own training ring.  
Fucking awesome, dude.

DAMIAN  
Best investment I ever made.

Emma and Anna walk into the store with a small bag.

ANNA  
Check it out. We just picked up a  
copy of Sean's game at Best Buy.

DAMIAN  
Oh shit. Pop that bad boy in.

Anna walks over to a tv mounted on the wall and inserts a game into the Xbox below it.

On the screen appears a Chess Boxing logo.

ANNA  
Nice.

Everyone gathers around the TV. Anna goes into a character menu and shows everyone character models of Sean and Damian.

Everyone "Ooo's and Ah's"

DAMIAN  
Dude, why is my nose so big?

SEAN  
You should see Devin.

Anna scrolls to Devins character model. Everyone laughs.

(CONTINUED)

SEAN

So do you think your dad would be  
proud of us?

Anna looks at Sean and Damian. After a moment, she smiles.

ANNA

I know he'd be.

Damian and Sean smile back.

DAMIAN

Alright! Let's start chess-boxing!

Everyone scatters and Sean and Damian begin playing the  
video game.

FADE TO BLACK.