

Queen's Gambit

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INT. BETH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Beth and Harry sit in the living room. Harry takes out a few books that he brought over.

HARRY

A.I. Deenkoff, Middle Game Strategy.

BETH

I've read that one.

HARRY

J.R. Capablanca, My Chess Career.

BETH

That one too.

HARRY

Frono Alakine's games 1938 to 1945.

BETH

Yes.

HARRY

Meyer, Rook and Pawn Endings. I know, you've read it.

BETH

No, but I have my own copy upstairs.

HARRY

Well, some of these are gonna be new to you.

BETH

Capablanca played on intuition.

HARRY

And on natural gifts, which obviously were considerable.

BETH

Unlike Bogolyubov and Grundfeldt who memorized everything.

HARRY

Yeah, I know how you feel about them. I read your piece in chess review. Nice cover photo by the way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BETH

I see players at tournaments after their games have finished. Sitting there studying opening variation or middle game strategy, end game theory. Like it would have made a difference.

HARRY

You don't ever study?

BETH

I analyze games. What actually happened, not what could have happened. And I play it by ear.

HARRY

Like Capablanca.

BETH

He would have beaten Borgov.

HARRY

Mmm, not every game.

BETH

Mmm, every game that counted. You think I'm a prima donna don't you?

HARRY

It's Chess, we're all prima donna's.

Beth goes to the kitchen to continue making food for them.

HARRY

So I've replayed your match with Benny Watts a dozen times now.

BETH

Why? That's ancient history.

HARRY

Well, it's not that ancient.

BETH

I'm a different player now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HARRY

In some ways. You're stubborn, so you get mad and when that happens you can only see what's right in front of you.

BETH

Anger clears my head.

HARRY

Anger is a potent spice, a pinch wakes you up, too much dulls your senses.

BETH

Where'd you get that from, a fortune cookie?

HARRY

Mrs. Grecko, my second grade teacher.

BETH

Ah.

HARRY

But the point is still valid, you've got to stay open. If you get locked in to one idea, like this King Knight Pawn say, it's death. Look.

Beth comes over to the chess board across from Harry.

HARRY

Now, the Knight Pawn is pinned.

BETH

So?

HARRY

So, you gotta move the King now or you get stuck later.

BETH

I can see that, but-

HARRY

Look at the Queen's side Pawn, way over here.

BETH

He could do this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HARRY

Try it.

The two play out the game.

HARRY

See?

BETH

It's a good sequence.

HARRY

It's Malachine. I'm saying I got it from a book.

BETH

I know what you're saying.

HARRY

Let's eat.

BETH

You know, you're not the same person you were five years ago either.

HARRY

No?

BETH

No. But I can't figure out what's different.

HARRY

Umm.. I've become more profound?

BETH

That's not it.

HARRY

And I, um, got my teeth fixed.

BETH

Yeah, that's it. It's the teeth. It was driving me crazy.

HARRY

I used my tuition money. My parents are plenty ticked off about it.

BETH

It was worth it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

HARRY

Uh, I should go. I'll leave my
board here, I'll take this.

Harry grabs the sandwich.

HARRY

I'll be back in the morning with
more books.

Harry leaves.