

EXT. DAY, SNOWY MOUNTAINS SOMEWHERE IN THE ALPS

White mountain peaks fill the view, mile upon mile of snowy summits with nothing else. The wind blows powder snow off the edge of cliffs, and the sound of whooshing wind reigns. There is no other noise than the wind throwing ice cold gusts at the mountains. The area is desolately covered in snow, completely uninhabited. The snow is piled up heavy on the pine trees, making their branches look like they're bearing a large weight of melted wax frozen on them.

INT. DAY, CHALET LIVING ROOM

JAY shoves another log into the open fireplace. DAVE is standing by the window, staring out at the mountain view. He walks back towards JAY, sits on the couch as JAY gives the fire one last poke.

DAVE

Looks like it snowed again last night, must be another foot at least.

JAY

(turning away from the fire towards DAVE)

And the roads don't get swept on a Sunday... We're stuck up here until tomorrow.

DAVE shifts his mouth sideways in thought, clicks his tongue off the roof of his mouth and looks down at the floor. After a few seconds he looks up again, an idea in mind.

DAVE

You got Monopoly or Risk or something...?

JAY begins to think about whether those board games are in the house or not, only for a second before DAVE adds:

DAVE

What about Chess?

JAY

(slightly dubious)

Chess? You know how to play?

DAVE

Yeah I'm quite good!

JAY

OK, I'll have a look, I'm sure my mum had an old chessboard somewhere.

INT. DAY, CHALET KITCHEN

JAY and DAVE are sat at the kitchen table playing a game of chess. DAVE is staring at the board with utter confusion. He appears to have no idea how the game even works. JAY is not looking at the board, but at DAVE, staring at him with a withheld frustration, and yet also nonetheless a slight amusement at DAVE's blank look.

JAY

..you said you knew how to play.

DAVE

I do. I did. I thought I did.
Maybe it wasn't chess.. No, it
was. It definitely was.

JAY

Then how come you've been staring
at your pieces for the past 5
minutes like you've no clue what
they are?

DAVE

Well these are different shapes
to the ones I played with last
time.. This one has a weird
crown.

JAY

That's the King.

DAVE

Yeah but the crown's all weird..
And this one's a horse.

JAY

That's your knight. They're the
universal shapes for chess
pieces.

Progressively, JAY's tone gets sharper and sharper, his
patience thinning rapidly. DAVE has a sudden epiphany.

DAVE

(clicks his mouth)

Ooooooooooh! yeah yeah yeah yeah I
remember how to play this!
(suddenly quite chirpy and
uplifted) Ok, I'm going to move
this little fellow aloooooong to
here. (moves a pawn two spaces)

JAY

You don't need to say your moves
out loud.

DAVE

I know... (rolls eyes in semi-confusion)

JAY moves a pawn forward, without making a sound, and continues to stare at the board, his fingers intercrossing, supporting his chin in a scheming manner.

DAVE
So.. What happens if I move the horse/

JAY
(interrupting)
The knight.

DAVE
What happens if I move the knight here, can he jump over these lot here?

JAY
He can jump over anything as long as his landing box is clear. Are you sure you've played this before?

DAVE
Oh right yeah! So, Knight to D7!
(or other square ref number)

DAVE looks up at JAY with a big grin, content with his last move.

EXT. DAY, SNOWY MOUNTAINS SOMEWHERE IN THE ALPS

Glacial wind blows over the desolate summits of the snowy alps as time passes.

INT. DAY, KITCHEN

The volume of voices has suddenly risen as JAY and DAVE argue over the rules of Pawn movement.

DAVE
But why not? Why can't he just take people out head on?

JAY
Because there are rules! The pawn can only take another piece out diagonally forwards!

DAVE
That's stupid! It makes it way harder!

JAY
That's the point you fucking

idiot! Chess is about strategy,
not just plowing in with all your
might!

DAVE

All my might? All I've got left
is a queen, four pawns and.. a
horse!

JAY

IT'S A FUCKING KNIGHT!

INT. DAY, CHALET LIVING ROOM

A log on the fire reaches the point where it is weakened
through and crumbles over another burning log. The fire
has been burning for a long time now.

INT. DAY, KITCHEN

The tone has quietened nearly to pure silence. DAVE is
scanning the board as if some hidden message or answer is
coded into it. JAY is staring at DAVE with a smug look of
sorry contempt, his face supported by one hand.

JAY

..while we're young..

DAVE ignores him, still fixed on finding the pattern
encrypted within the board. Finally, he moves his last
remaining pawn up one space, placing it against JAY's
end. He looks up with delight.

JAY

..Oh well done..

DAVE

I'm making that a queen.

JAY

(suddenly amused)

You.. You're what? You can only
do that to bring your queen back
if she's been taken already.. You
can have a knight or a rook or a
bishop if you want..

DAVE

No, that's my second queen now.

JAY

No it's/ You can't have two
queens in play. It's to bring her
back if she gets taken earlier.
You can have a different piece/

DAVE

(interrupting)

I saw it on TV! The lad had two queens! Check the rules!

JAY
 (completely lost)
 You saw it on/ When were you watching chess on TV?!

DAVE
 Just check the rules..

JAY
 FINE! (mumbling to self as he flicks through the rule book) fucking waste of time, thinks he knows the rules.

(reading from rule book)

"Promotion is a chess rule describing the transformation of a pawn that reaches its eighth rank into the player's choice of a queen, knight, rook, or bishop of the same color. The new piece replaces the pawn on the same square and is part of the move.

(pauses to look up at DAVE with a self justified nod)

Promotion is not limited to pieces that have already been captured.

(his voice now slows and quietens, sudden confusion overtakes him)

Since the queen is the most powerful piece, the vast majority of promotions in practical play are to a queen. Promotion to a queen is often referred to as... queening."

JAY continues to stare at the rule book in disbelief whilst DAVE smiles to himself smugly.

DAVE
 Queening...See?... told you that/

JAY
 OK it's a fucking queen then!
 Well done! Can we get back to it then?

DAVE bites his lip, and looks from the board to JAY and

back again.

DAVE
well... actually...

JAY puts the instructions back in the box and closes it before looking up at DAVE

JAY
Actually what?

DAVE
Well... Your King is stuck against the edge because I've got that queen there and this queen here is.... after the queening....so.... checkmate. (gives a condescending yet sympathetic smile.)

JAY closes his eyes as his face gets more and more red, finally he pounds the board with his fist, sending the last pieces flying everywhere, the screen cuts to black half way through him cursing.

JAY
FU/!!!

End.

ALTERNATE ENDING

JAY closes his eyes as his face gets more and more red, finally he pounds the board with his fist, sending the last pieces flying everywhere.

JAY
FUCK!!!

A pause lingers as JAY stands up and turns his back on DAVE, resting against the kitchen counter. DAVE remains sat at the table with a wide grin.

DAVE
So.. D'you want another game?

End.