

Chess  
by  
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INT. CHESS COMPETITION - DAY

PAUL (30) dressed in a smart suit sits by a table facing BRIAN (30) also in a smart suit. On the table is a chess board in its starting position. On PAUL'S left is a CAMERAMAN (40) and behind him is a silent AUDIENCE on a sloped row of chairs.

PAUL makes the first move.

BRIAN  
Ah, pawn to king 4? Nice move!

PAUL  
Yeah, take it.

BRIAN  
I'm sorry?

PAUL  
I said take it.

BRIAN  
It was only the first move. You're not beating me already...

PAUL  
You sure?

BRIAN  
Eh?

PAUL  
I was told it's the best opening move...

BRIAN  
Who by?

PAUL  
A friend...

BRIAN  
When?

PAUL  
Yesterday.

BRIAN  
Ok...

BRIAN makes a move.

PAUL  
Ooh, scared.

PAUL moves a pawn on the far left side of the board forward.  
BRIAN makes his move.

BRIAN  
You're not going to win, by the way.

PAUL goes red and taps on the table nervously. He moves the same pawn further still.

BRIAN  
Like your pawns, huh?

PAUL  
Uh-huh.

BRIAN makes another move. PAUL moves the same pawn further.

BRIAN  
Well, that was different...

PAUL  
It was an anti-fascist statement.

BRIAN  
What in the world does that mean?

PAUL  
I'm moving pawns on the far left of the board. Not far right.

An AUDIENCE MEMBER claps.

BRIAN  
Oh, I see what you're doing there.  
But if you carry on playing this way.  
.. I mean... there's no chance of you winning.

BRIAN moves again.

PAUL moves the same pawn further.

BRIAN  
Look, I admire you're passionate political views, but save them until AFTER the match. Ok?

BRIAN moves.

PAUL moves the same pawn further.

BRIAN  
Do you know how to move the other pieces?

PAUL  
I can move the other pawns...

BRIAN  
That would be something. And you DO know what the far left means, don't you? You're saying you're an anarchist.

PAUL  
Am I? I just assumed... I thought far left sounded liberal...

BRIAN  
No, it's anarchism...

BRIAN moves.

PAUL moves a pawn in the middle forward. The same AUDIENCE MEMBER claps again.

PAUL  
How was that?

BRIAN  
It wasn't good, it wasn't good.

PAUL  
Why?

BRIAN  
Look, how did you find yourself in this tournament?

PAUL  
I couldn't TRULY prove how good a chess player I was, but I have evidence of playing countless games and that was enough for the manager of the contest.

BRIAN  
You acted in the same way in the other matches?

PAUL  
Yes.

BRIAN  
Well, it's sending a very powerful message and good luck with the anarchism, but I think it's best you retire now and avoid further humiliation.

PAUL  
I have won matches before, you know?

BRIAN  
And how did you do that?

PAUL  
I made the other players retire in  
frustration.

BRIAN  
I see.

PAUL  
That's not going to happen here?

BRIAN  
Nope.

PAUL  
Please.

BRIAN  
Sorry.

PAUL  
As a compromise, can I frustrate you  
without you retiring?

BRIAN  
Sure.

PAUL  
You're a bellend.

BRIAN  
Ok, you can go now.

PAUL  
Thanks man.

PAUL leaves his chair and starts to walk away.

AUDIENCE MEMBER  
It WAS an interesting game, you know?  
I had a great time!

The AUDIENCE cheers as PAUL skips with joy.

PAUL  
Oh, I'll be back! My next game is in  
the upcoming punk-chess festival!  
(MORE)

PAUL (cont'd)  
Those disliking the music are saying  
there's a very good chance I can win  
without getting the other players to  
retire!

The AUDIENCE cheers even louder.

PAUL  
Yes!