

Jimmy

THE CHESS MATCH-

Richard's opponents are getting pissed, much to the delight of the crowd. Arnie loves it.

PLAYER THREE

Has he got a computer or somethin'?

ARNIE

Only in his head. Nothing else up there though.

The observers laugh. The players play on desperately as Richard mops them up.

RICHARD

Queen to C-7-check; Knight to B-6 - check-- Pawn to F-8- check--- Rook takes Queen A-3 - checkmate.

The defeated player throws up his hands in frustration.

PLAYER 2

How is this possible? Never in my life-

Highly animated, he begins to swear in something that sounds like fractured Greek. The crowd cracks up. Jimmy pokes his head through near Arnie and quickly grabs up a CHESS LEAGUE hat and pulls the brim low.

JIMMY

What's going on?

Arnie lifts the hat off of Jimmy's head.

ARNIE

You mean besides hat theft?

Arnie grins at Jimmy's panicked expression and puts the hat back on the kid's head.

ARNIE

That guy over there--he's kicking fourteen butts at once.

JIMMY

No way.

He looks toward Richard and grins.

The Knights of South Bronx

→ Start

1/3

JIMMY
I know him! Hey Cokey!

Richard falters. He turns to see Jimmy ambling toward him.

~~RICHARD (under his breath)~~
~~Not now--not now---~~

He continues to play his now 13 opponents---

~~RICHARD~~
~~Queen to e5 - check; Rook takes~~
~~knight f5, check---~~

Jimmy is now by his side.

RICHARD
What are you doing here?

JIMMY
What? I can't come downtown if I
want to?

RICHARD
Rook E-7 takes Rook E-1; pawn takes
Queen H-5---

JIMMY
They told me some cat was kicking
butt. I thought it was Kung Fu, not
checkers.

RICHARD
Not checkers, chess. Bishop takes
Queen A-8 - checkmate.

His opponent groans and slams away from the table.

JIMMY
Wow, did you just whup him?

RICHARD
Yep.

JIMMY
How's it work?

~~RICHARD~~
~~I'll call you later. So sit down.~~

Jimmy makes no attempt at leaving. Richard sighs. He whispers
to Jimmy as he moves down the line demolishing his opponents.

2/3

RICHARD

It's a war, see. Each piece has a certain way it can fight. If your King gets trapped, you're dead. Get it?

Jimmy

So it's like we're in the army?

RICHARD

Better than that. We ARE the army, our own specialized army, and our job is to stay alive and take down the other King. Survival and victory.

JIMMY

Survival and victory. Cool.

RICHARD

And style. Watch this.

Richard makes rapid moves down the length of the table.

RICHARD

Checkmate; checkmate; checkmate;
checkmate; checkmate, checkmate--

Jimmy howls with laughter.

JIMMY

One dude is beating on all yall? My hamster got more game!

The onlookers crack up. Jimmy, now "on", stands behind a young woman who Richard demolishes.

JIMMY

Yo- I'd call Oprah if he trashed me like that--

He stands behind an OLDER GUY who concedes his King.

JIMMY

Better call the fire department-- 'cause he just smoked you, buddy.

Jimmy jumps behind a GNARLY OLD MAN still battling his last moves. Richard takes his Queen and puts him in check-

JIMMY

Whoaaa he just moon-walked all over your ass.

→ END

3/3