

**IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA**

Episode #1602 "Frank Vs Russia"

Written by

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**PRODUCTION DRAFT: 1/23/23**

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# IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA

Episode #1602 "Frank Vs Russia"  
Production Draft

CHARLIE ..... CHARLIE DAY  
DENNIS ..... GLENN HOWERTON  
MAC ..... ROB MCELHENNEY  
DEE ..... KAITLIN OLSON  
FRANK ..... DANNY DEVITO  
UNCLE JACK ..... ANDREW FRIEDMAN  
BONNIE KELLY ..... LYNNE MARIE STEWART  
MRS. MAC ..... SANDY MARTIN  
SPORTSCASTER MARK .....  
SPORTSCASTER SUSAN .....  
PATRICK .....  
KYLE .....  
ATTENDANT .....

## SET LIST

### PERMANENT SETS

INT. PADDY'S PUB  
INT. CHARLIE & FRANK'S APARTMENT  
INT. MAC & DENNIS' APARTMENT

### LOCATION SETS

INT. CHARLIE'S MOM'S HOUSE  
INT. RESTAURANT  
INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM  
INT. ICE CREAM VAN  
EXT. HIGH SCHOOL

OVER BLACK:

TITLE: 10:30 AM

TITLE: ON A SATURDAY

TITLE: PHILADELPHIA, PA

SPORTSCASTER MARK (O.S.)  
It's certainly unorthodox, Susan.

201

INT. CHARLIE & FRANK'S APARTMENT - MORNING (D23)

201

FRANK is passed out in his underwear. There's empty booze bottles everywhere. A TV plays softly into the room. Two SPORTSCASTERS (Mark and Susan) are talking in hushed tones.

SPORTSCASTER SUSAN  
It is, Mark. If you're just joining us, we're watching Russian Grandmaster Vladimir Nobivikov, still waiting for his opponent to arrive.

CHARLIE (wearing his Americas) bursts in.

CHARLIE  
Frank! Get up, man! We gotta go.

FRANK  
Wha? What's going on?

CHARLIE  
We're gonna miss it! We gotta go!

Charlie grabs some clothes and shoves Frank out the door.

202

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - LATER (D23)

202

Double doors swing open. Flashbulbs POP! Frank shields his eyes. The crowd murmurs with excitement. Charlie and Frank find DENNIS.

DENNIS  
Jesus, Frank. Cutting it close.

CHARLIE  
Don't worry. He's good.

Frank grabs his stomach in pain.

FRANK  
Ohhh. I think I gotta take a shit or something.

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS  
There's no time for that.

FRANK  
I'm not ready for this!

DENNIS  
You are ready! Listen to me.  
Everything you need is already  
inside you.

The crowd parts to REVEAL a chessboard and a sour-faced  
RUSSIAN MAN. All is quiet, except for the clock.

Tick, tick, tick...

TITLE: "FRANK VS RUSSIA"

TITLE: "IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA"

203 EXT./INT. PADDY'S PUB - DAY (D21)

203

CHYRON: "TWO DAYS EARLIER..."

MAC follows Dennis out of the back office.

MAC  
Please. Please. Pretty please.

DENNIS  
No! I'm not going to help you, Mac.  
Stop talking to me about Johnny.

DEE  
Who's Johnny?

MAC  
This guy I've been dating for three  
months now, and I want to take our  
relationship to the next level, but  
I need Dennis' help.

DENNIS  
No.

DEE  
I'll help you with your man  
troubles.

MAC  
No thanks, Dee. You're terrible  
with men.

(CONTINUED)

DEE

Tell that to the guy leaving my apartment this morning. That's right. Your girl got her guts pumped last night.

The Guys react: gross.

DENNIS

Dee, anybody can get a guy to bang them once.

DEE

Oh he'll be back for seconds. In fact, he pulled an old move of mine. He swiped my phone "by mistake" so he has an excuse to see me again. Any minute now he's gonna call me and come "pick it up."

DENNIS

Right. How's he gonna call you?

Dee slowly realizes: shit.

DEE

Dennis, can you help me get my phone back?

\*  
\*

DENNIS

No.

Frank and Charlie fire in.

CHARLIE

Dennis! I need your help!

DENNIS

No! No! No!

CHARLIE

I gotta find that restaurant buzzer we stole. It's a matter of national security.

DENNIS

I'm sure it is.

Charlie and Frank start to search the bar.

MAC

Frank. You gotta help me.

(CONTINUED)

DEE

Oh, come on. You think Frank's gonna help you with your guy troubles? He's insanely homophobic!

FRANK

Not anymore. Mac did a dance and now I "get" the whole gay thing.

MAC

Yeah he gets it. He gets it. Okay, so I'm dating this guy. It's only been a few months, but I want to take our relationship to the next level. By meeting him. In person.

FRANK

You've never met him?

MAC

No. Never seen him. Or spoken to him. But it's not weird. We're in constant communication. Through the beads.

FRANK

What beads?

MAC

Anal beads. I put them inside my butt and Johnny controls them from an app on his phone. When he buzzes me, that's the signal to go to the motel room and wait. It's super hot. Yes, he hasn't shown up yet, but he has provided me with plenty of long distance pleasure. So, you see my issue, I don't wanna mess this up because I think he might be "the one". What do you think?

FRANK

I'm out. I take it back. I don't get it. I do not get it.

MAC

But Frank--

FRANK

Uh uh. The dance didn't say nothing about beads!

Charlie runs out of the back office with buzzer in hand.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Got it!

FRANK

Let's get the hell out of here.

Frank and Charlie exit.

DEE

Dennis, please help me get my phone back.

MAC

No, help me.

DEE

You're beyond help. You let a stranger hack your butthole!

DENNIS

Enough!

(then)

It's obvious I won't get a moment's peace unless I foist you two off on someone else. So fine. I'll help you.

Mac and Dee celebrate.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Don't speak. The only way this works is if you become my puppets. And puppets don't speak unless spoken through. From this moment on, you must do exactly what I say. Otherwise I walk. Do you agree to those terms?

\*

DEE/MAC

I uh...Do we speak now?

DENNIS

Yes for crying out loud. I just asked you a question.

204

INT. CHARLIE'S MOM'S HOUSE - LATER (D21)

204

BONNIE has put a briefcase filled with spy equipment on the kitchen table. MRS. MAC smokes and watches TV.

BONNIE

This was all I could find.

(CONTINUED)

FRANK

Bingo.

Charlie sifts through it.

CHARLIE

But are there a set of, like spy glasses in here? I don't see them.

BONNIE

Want me to ask Uncle Jack? I think he's in the basement.

CHARLIE

No. I don't want him involved. Hey, Mrs. Mac, have you seen a pair of spy glasses?

MRS. MAC

...no.

Frank plops down next to her and watches TV too.

FRANK

Mind if I watch with you?

MRS. MAC

Meh.

UNCLE JACK enters from another room.

UNCLE JACK

What are you guys doing with my research equipment?

CHARLIE

Oh goddamn it.

BONNIE

Charlie and Frank are going to play spies.

CHARLIE

We're not playing spy. We're playing chess. There's a Russian grandmaster coming to town and Frank is gonna beat his ass.

FRANK

By cheating.

BONNIE

Isn't cheating bad?

(CONTINUED)



CHARLIE

Not when it's a matter of national security, mom. The Russians do it all the time.

FRANK

(to Mrs. Mac)  
You got any extra smokes?

MRS. MAC

No.

We see an open pack with a bunch of them.

CHARLIE

So Jack, I need your spy glasses so Frank can transmit me the board, while I play along on a computer and signal him moves with a restaurant buzzer.

Charlie is rifling through Uncle Jack's stuff. \*

UNCLE JACK

Stop. You're going to break it. It's sensitive equipment.

FRANK

Why you got all that stuff anyway?

Frank is trying to sneak a smoke out of Mrs. Mac's pack.

MRS. MAC

No.

Frank stops.

UNCLE JACK

I'm a lawyer. Lawyers need to... gather information.

CHARLIE

Uh, huh. Look, where are the glasses?

UNCLE JACK

Fine. I'll let you borrow them but I'm coming with. I don't want you breaking my stuff.

BONNIE

(clapping)  
A play date!

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Goddamnit.

205 INT. PADDY'S PUB - DAY (D21)

205

Dennis is walking around the bar gathering some "presenting" materials. Mac and Dee approach.

MAC

Dennis, are we starting soon?  
Because I haven't felt Johnny in a  
while and I'm getting nervous.

DEE

Also, I was wondering if we could  
incorporate these into your plan to  
get my phone back.

She pulls out a baggie of pills.

DEE (CONT'D)

Roofies. Usually I use them on  
myself so my date has to "take care  
of me". Then one thing leads to  
another and we bang. At least, I  
think we do. But in this case, I  
say-

DENNIS

You are not to speak! And I'm not  
going to help you with a ghost man  
who talks to you through your butt  
or by drugging a gut-pumping thief!  
We're starting fresh. My goal is to  
find you normal people and simply  
get them to agree to a second date.  
That's it. Sit down.

\*

They sit down across from Dennis' trusty easel.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Now, as you are aware, I have a  
fool-proof system for attracting a  
woman. But I also have a foolproof  
system for attracting... a *man*.  
Now... we begin with me setting you  
up with nice, *normal* dates...

\*

206 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT (N21)

206

Mac sits at one table. Dee at another. Handsome men (PATRICK  
and KYLE) sit down at their respective tables.

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS (V.O.)  
You will greet them with  
traditional pleasantries.

MAC  
Nice to meet you, Patrick.

AT DEE'S TABLE

DEE  
Kyle, it's a pleasure.

DENNIS (V.O.)  
I will be nearby, of course, to  
make sure nothing goes awry.

We see Dennis lurking nearby.

207 INT. PADDY'S PUB - CONTINUOUS (D21)

207

Dennis continues. \*We'll INTERCUT back and forth as needed.

DENNIS  
Step one. You will...

Dennis flips the page...

DENNIS (CONT'D)  
"S" Suppress your instincts. You'll  
wanna make yourself seem awesome.  
But this isn't about you. This is a  
*man* we're talking about, *it's*  
*always about him*. So you must...  
(flipping the page)  
"I" Inflate his ego. Make him feel  
like *he's* awesome. *He's* funny, *he's*  
the most interesting person in the  
room.

208 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT (N21)

208

Mac and Patrick are enjoying COCKTAILS.

PATRICK  
Are you enjoying your drink?

MAC  
Ha! That is funny. You're the most  
interesting person in the room.

DENNIS  
(running over)  
Uhp. Hi. Hello, I'm the manager. I  
wanted to come over and say hello.

(CONTINUED)

MAC

I was just saying he's the most interesting man in the room.

DENNIS

Yeah, I caught that and I wanted to say that Mac does, in fact, know everyone here. Which he would, of course, have to in order to have said something like that. So it's meaningful.

They both look to Patrick waiting for his response. Patrick smiles proudly about the comment. Mac and Dennis are pleased.

209

BACK AT PADDY'S - DAY (D21)

209

DENNIS

Once your man is feeling important, you're going to show him that you-  
(flipping the page)  
"N" Need his power. Every man's greatest fear is that he's a pussy. You need to make him feel powerful.

210

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT (N21)

210

Dee is trying to open a GLASS KETCHUP BOTTLE.

DEE

Gosh, I just cannot get this open. Do you mind?

KYLE

Oh, sure.  
(struggling)  
Wow, this is really on tight.

Dee watches on with disdain. Then:

DEE

Seriously, dude? Christ, you want me to loosen it for you?

DENNIS

(running in)  
No, you couldn't! No one could. Because these bottles are defective and un-openable. There's been a recall.

Dennis "strains" to open one of the bottles.

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS (CONT'D)

I can't get it. Maybe you could give it one more shot though.

Kyle easily opens the loosened cap.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Whoa! You're the first person in this entire restaurant to be able to open one of these!!!

Dennis shoots a look to Dee having done her work for her.  
Kyle is feeling his oats.

211 BACK IN PADDY'S - DAY (D21)

211

DENNIS

Now that he's feeling powerful, you must rip it away from him.

(flipping the page)

"N" Negate his power. But it needs to be subtle. A man's ego is fragile. The goal is to make him suspect he may be a tad bit inadequate. But don't lay it on too thick.

212 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT (N21)

212

MAC

(to Kyle)

I used to fuck LeBron James.

213 BACK AT PADDY'S - DAY (D21)

213

DENNIS

Even if things have gone a little off the rails at this point, which I assume they will, we can get things back on track with a classic.

(flipping the page)

"E" Engage physically. Now it's important to make sure your physical engagement is appropriate to the environment and that your demeanor is elegant and classy.

214 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT (N21)

214

Dee's hand is under the table resting directly on Kyle's crotch. She's smirking and looking right into his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

KYLE  
What are you doing?

DEE  
Grabbing your ding-dong.

Nearby, Dennis just puts his head in his hands.

215 BACK AT PADDY'S - DAY (D21)

215

DENNIS  
And now the final step. The most  
profound move of the entire system.  
It's all been leading to this...  
(flipping the page)  
"D" "Do you want a tissue?"

MAC/DEE  
Huh?

DENNIS  
By asking him this one simple  
question, you transport him back to  
a time when he was a tiny, snot-  
nosed little bitch who relied on  
the most important person in his  
life. The person who inflated his  
ego, who made him feel powerful,  
but also powerless. The person  
whose validation he's been seeking  
every day of his life. Guys, the  
way to make a man fall in love with  
you is to make him feel like-- You.  
Are. His.... Mommy.

A BEAT as they stare at him. Then:

DEE  
What?

DENNIS  
STOP. TALKING. JUST DO AS I SAY.

216 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT (N21)

216

The dates are coming to a close. We INTERCUT between as they  
seemingly have the same conversation.

PATRICK  
Well, it's getting late.

DEE  
Yeah. We should probably call it.

(CONTINUED)

KYLE

This was... first dates are weird.

MAC

Do you want a ride home?

PATRICK

Nah. I can walk. Also I just saw you drink three bottles of wine.

DEE

Right, right.

MAC

Well, before you go....

SPLIT SCREEN to have DEE and MAC speaking at the same time.

DEE/MAC

Do you need to blow your nose?

PATRICK/KYLE

What?

Dee and Mac hand them each a tissue.

DEE/MAC

You need to blow your nose.

Both Kyle and Patrick feel shame in that weird way when someone tells you that you have a booger.

PATRICK

Oh geez. That's embarrassing.

MAC

Yeah, there's still some there. On your lip. Yeah, you got it.

DEE

Also, you have a little...

Dee licks a napkin and wipes a smudge off of Patrick's face.

DEE (CONT'D)

There. Now my little man is ready for the day.

Both Kyle and Patrick take a pause. A strange, growing feeling inside of them. Then:

KYLE

Hey um... any chance...

(CONTINUED)

PATRICK  
You wanna...

KYLE  
Do this...

PATRICK  
...Again?

DENNIS (V.O.)  
Men are so predictable.

217 INT. PADDY'S PUB - DAY (D21)

217

DENNIS  
And there you have it. That, my  
friends... is the SINNED System!

MAC/DEE  
Aww, cool! Creepy! So creepy!

MAC  
The name's a little heavy-handed.

DEE  
Lotta work to get there.

MAC  
Not as clean as the DENNIS System.

DENNIS  
The DENNIS System is for getting a  
woman. This is for getting a man.  
And that's why it's...  
(turning the page)  
DENNIS backwards.

MAC  
Oh shit!!

DEE  
Whoa, that's amazing!

MAC  
But what are the odds?!

DENNIS  
Huh?

MAC  
What are the odds it would have  
come out that way?!

(CONTINUED)



DENNIS  
High. I made it up.

MAC/DEE  
OHHHHH!!! Yeeeahhh!! Awesome!!!

218 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY (D21)

218

We see a sign that says "WELCOME CHESS CONTESTANTS". Frank and Charlie wait outside.

CHARLIE  
What is taking Uncle Jack so long?

FRANK  
Maybe we should just go in.  
(then)  
Wait. Is this him?

A dirty Ice Cream Van pulls up with Uncle Jack driving.

CHARLIE  
Uncle Jack? What is this?

UNCLE JACK  
It's my ice cream truck. I have a  
uh...side business.

CHARLIE  
Actually, this is good. I can  
signal Frank from in here. You got  
the glasses?

UNCLE JACK  
Here ya go.

He hands a pair of small black rimmed glasses to Frank.

FRANK  
Uh oh. We got a problem. They're  
too small.

CHARLIE  
Shit. That's no good. Okay. Let me  
think. Jack, how about you wear  
them and stand behind Frank so I  
can see the board.

UNCLE JACK  
Sorry, Charlie. I'm not allowed to  
knowingly enter a school.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Crap. Goddamnit. Fine, I'll wear them and you signal Frank.

FRANK

Hey Jack, give me a push pop will ya.

UNCLE JACK

I don't have any ice cream.

CHARLIE

Oh my god. Look, here's how this will go. Frank will hover the piece over the square. One buzz for yes, two buzzes for no and three buzzes if he needs to use a different piece. Got it?

UNCLE JACK

Okay, group hug for luck?

CHARLIE

No.

UNCLE JACK

Do you want an earwig in your ear?

CHARLIE

What? Gross no.

UNCLE JACK

Better take an earwig so we can be in contact.

CHARLIE

How's sticking an insect in my ear gonna help?

FRANK

An earpiece, Charlie.

CHARLIE

Oh. Well you can see my confusion.

219

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - LATER (D21)

219

Frank sits across a chessboard from a YOUNG BOY. The room is quiet. The mood, tense. Frank holds a piece above the board, taunting his opponent. Charlie stands behind Frank wearing the spy glasses and drinking a beer.

(CONTINUED)

FRANK

Am I going here? Or here? You'd  
like that, wouldn't you.

220 INT. ICE CREAM VAN - SAME TIME (D21) - INTERCUT 220

Uncle Jack watches a monitor and a computer at the same time.

UNCLE JACK

Charlie, move closer.

221 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - SAME TIME (D21) - INTERCUT 221

Charlie moves closer.

CHARLIE

Where's he gonna go, you little  
commie?

FRANK

Charlie the kid is American.

CHARLIE

He is?

Charlie looks at the Kid.

UNCLE JACK (V.O.)

Don't look at the kid, look at the  
board.

Charlie looks at the board again.

222 INT. ICE CREAM VAN - SAME TIME (D21) - INTERCUT 222

UNCLE JACK

Actually, one quick look at the kid  
again, so I can get a screen grab.

223 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS (D21) - INTERCUT 223

CHARLIE

Gross, no.

FRANK

(re: chess piece)  
What?

\*

CHARLIE

Not you, sorry. Talking to the  
uh...

(people looking at him)  
Voices in my head.

(CONTINUED)

UNCLE JACK (V.O.)  
Stay on the board.

CHARLIE  
Yup.

FRANK  
Yup, what?

CHARLIE  
Nothing. Sorry. Voices.

FRANK  
My friend is schizophrenic.

Charlie and the Kid exchange a look. We hear a fast click.

UNCLE JACK (V.O.)  
Got it.

FRANK  
So let's see. Maybe I'll go...  
(feeling the buzz)  
... here. Bam, took your castle  
thingy.

CHARLIE  
Yeah, boyeeee! Suck on that!

224 INT. ICE CREAM VAN - CONTINUOUS (D21) - INTERCUT 224

UNCLE JACK  
If he does, let me get another  
screen grab.

225 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS (D21) - INTERCUT 225

CHARLIE  
Oh my god shut up!

A formal looking ATTENDANT approaches.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
(hushed)  
Uh oh. The jig might be up.

ATTENDANT  
Sir, may I have a word with you?

CHARLIE  
Well, I'm in the middle of watching  
a game, so absolutely not.

(CONTINUED)

ATTENDANT

There is no alcohol allowed on the premises.

CHARLIE

What do you mean? Like I got to drink wine or something?

ATTENDANT

No alcohol at all.

CHARLIE

At a sporting event? Crazy. Fine. Here.

He hands the Attendant the beer without taking his eyes off the board.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Damn. I'm gonna have to find another way to sneak booze in.

ATTENDANT

Excuse me?

CHARLIE

Oh crap man, are you still here? Go away.

226

INT. PADDY'S PUB - MORNING (D22)

226

Dennis is at the bar. Mac and Dee enter. Everyone is cheery.

DENNIS

Hey-o!!!!

MAC/DEE

Hey-o!!!

DENNIS

Guys I gotta say I'm still buzzing after last night. It got pretty hairy there for a while but we actually pulled it off.

MAC/DEE

Totally. Yeah that was great.

DENNIS

So when are your second dates?

DEE

Huh? Oh yeah. That's not happening.

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS

What? Why not?

DEE

I got horny when I got home, so I popped a couple of Mommy's magic beans and had Kyle come over. Not sure if we plowed but I do know I got this!

Dee pulls out a phone.

DEE (CONT'D)

His phone!

DENNIS

You stole his phone?

DEE

Yeah. That's all I needed from him. Dennis, the guy was a pussy. He couldn't even open up a ketchup bottle. Plus I don't wanna be some guy's mom.

\*  
\*

MAC

Yeah, I cancelled my date too.

DENNIS

What?! No! You two are the worst puppets! I had to do *everything* and the second I take my eyes off you, you mess it up!

MAC

I just realized that I'm meant to be with Johnny! We're in love!

DENNIS

Johnny doesn't love you, Mac! He doesn't even like you.

MAC

You don't know him.

DENNIS

You don't know him!

MAC

I know him better than you do.

DENNIS

No you don't, because I am him.

(CONTINUED)

Mac is confused. Dennis explains.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

I invented Johnny as a means of getting you out of the apartment. But the more demeaning I made the relationship, the more attached you became.

\*  
\*

MAC

I don't understand.

DENNIS

How do you not understand? I am Johnny. I dropped so many hints. Like when I made you get those soft shell crabs, and then you came home with them after Johnny ghosted you and I said, "Oh well, I guess I'll eat them. They're my favorite."

MAC

They're Johnny's favorite.

DENNIS

Yes. Because... I. Am. Johnny.

MAC

Then who's Dennis?

DENNIS

What?

MAC

If you're Johnny, then who is you?

DENNIS

I'm me. What the hell are you talking about?

Charlie enters.

CHARLIE

Dennis! I need your help!

DENNIS

NOOOOOO! I'm done helping people! All you ever do is mess it up!

CHARLIE

But we're so close! Frank's in the chess finals and going up against the Russian Grandmaster guy.

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS

Don't care.

CHARLIE

But I got caught sneaking booze in at halftime or whatever it was. And now they're gonna frisk everybody before the tournament.

DENNIS

Really don't care.

CHARLIE

But I've been using the buzzer to signal him on all the moves. How am I gonna get the buzzer in now?

DENNIS

I truly don't-- Hang on. Charlie, you've been controlling Frank like a pawn in a game? Like a puppet?

\*

CHARLIE

Well, me and Uncle Jack. It's a long story.

DENNIS

Very interesting. And he's been aware of the puppetry the entire time?

CHARLIE

Of course. But it's all over now. Unless you know how to help me.

DENNIS

Hmmmm. Maybe I do. But Frank isn't gonna like it. Dee, do you still have some of those magic beans?

CUT TO BLACK:

227 INT. CHARLIE & FRANK'S APARTMENT - DAY (D23)

227

Over black, we hear:

A MUFFLED TV. And then a familiar voice...

CHARLIE (O.S.)

Frank! Get up, man! We gotta go.

We see flashes of Charlie's Apartment from the opening. Only now, it's from Frank's cloudy POV. We hear his voice...

(CONTINUED)



FRANK

Wha? What's going on?

CHARLIE

We're gonna miss it! We gotta go!

228 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - LATER (D23)

228

Our disorientation comes into focus...

Double doors swing open. Flashbulbs POP in our face! The crowd murmurs with excitement. Dennis approaches.

DENNIS

Jesus, Frank. Cutting it close.

CHARLIE

Don't worry. He's good.

FRANK

Ohhh. I think I gotta take a shit or something.

DENNIS

There's no time for that.

FRANK

I'm not ready for this!

DENNIS

You are ready! Listen to me. Everything you need is already inside you.

The crowd parts to REVEAL a chessboard and a sour-faced RUSSIAN MAN. All is quiet, except for the clock.

Tick, tick, tick...

WE POP OUT OF FRANK'S POV as he sits down.

229 INT. ICE CREAM VAN - MOMENTS LATER (D23)

229

Dennis enters the van to find Uncle Jack.

DENNIS

We're all set.

230 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS (D23)

230

Frank is across from the Russian. Charlie is further behind him now, wearing his American clothes and draped in a flag.

(CONTINUED)

SPORTSCASTER MARK  
The excitement here is palpable.

SPORTSCASTER SUSAN  
At last, the moment we've all been  
waiting for, Mr. Reynolds is about  
to make his first move. \*

CHARLIE  
You got this, Frank!

FRANK  
I don't know what to do.

CHARLIE  
Just... trust your gut!

Frank shifts uncomfortably in his seat.

SPORTSCASTER MARK  
He seems a little uncomfortable,  
Susan.

SPORTSCASTER SUSAN  
Just think about the incredible  
pressure he's feeling right now.

Frank picks up his first piece. He's about to place it when..

231 INT. ICE CREAM VAN - CONTINUOUS (D23) - INTERCUT

231

UNCLE JACK  
I don't get it. How's this gonna  
work without the buzzer?

DENNIS  
I already made the mistake of  
allowing the puppets to know that  
they're puppets. *Of course* that  
can't work. Free will must be taken  
from the puppet entirely.

Dennis presses a button on his phone.

232 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - SAME TIME (D23) - INTERCUT

232

Frank feels something rumble. Deep inside. He reacts to the  
new sensation.

FRANK  
Oh... what's happening? \*

(CONTINUED)

DENNIS (O.S.)

The puppet must truly believe that he's a real boy. He mustn't know that the master's hand is inside him... Until it's too late.

JACK

I totally agree.

\*  
\*

A sickening moment of realization.

FRANK

Oh God....no...

SPORTSCASTER SUSAN

Mr. Reynolds is going through a range of emotions while contemplating his first move.

FRANK

Please... please no. You don't have to do this.

SPORTSCASTER MARK

He appears to be trying mind games with his Russian opponent.

233 INT. ICE CREAM VAN - CONTINUOUS (D23) - INTERCUT

233

DENNIS

Okay good. He felt it. Jack, which move?

234 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS (D23) - INTERCUT

234

Frank, sweating, hovers the pawn.

FRANK

Maybe I could just.... Oh! Oh! Ok. ...uh here?

He reacts. We hear a low humming buzz.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Oh god! Here?

Buzz.

FRANK (CONT'D)

No! I can't do this.

SPORTSCASTER MARK

Mr. Reynolds is highly distraught.

(CONTINUED)

FRANK  
Here goddamnit?

Another buzz.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
Thank Christ.

He puts the piece down.

CHARLIE  
Nice Frank. Stay tight!

Frank is sweating bullets.

FRANK  
(to the Russian)  
Please, take your time.

235 INT. ICE CREAM VAN - SAME TIME (D23) - INTERCUT

235

Dennis shakes his head and makes some swipes on his phone.

DENNIS  
Yes, yes. Do just what Mommy says.

Mac pokes his head in.

MAC  
Dennis! Hey, I had the craziest  
night. I blacked out and something  
must have happened because I think  
Johnny broke up with me. I woke up  
this morning and he was gone.

DENNIS  
Hey man, I can't with this right  
now. I'm trying to concentrate.  
It's Frank's move again.

\*

236 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS (D23) - INTERCUT

236

Frank picks up a knight.

FRANK  
This one!?

Buzz.

FRANK (CONT'D)  
Ah Jesus.

He picks up a rook.

(CONTINUED)

FRANK (CONT'D)

This one?

Buzzz.

FRANK (CONT'D)

You mother fu--

CHARLIE

Don't lose your shit!

SPORTSCASTER SUSAN

A language warning for anybody  
watching at home.

237 INT. CHARLIE'S MOM'S HOUSE - SAME TIME (D23)

237

Bonnie and Mrs. Mac watch from home. Frank writhes in pain on the TV. Mrs. Mac gives a satisfied smile.

238 INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - SAME TIME (D23) - INTERCUT

238

MAC

Oh now I get it. You told Johnny to  
break up with me.

DENNIS

I AM JOHNNY. It was me you idiot!  
It was this phone! I'll show you  
the texts.

Dennis shows him the phone. Mac grabs it. They struggle.

239 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - SAME TIME (D23) - INTERCUT

239

Frank reacts to the chaos happening inside of him. Buzz Buzzz  
Buzzz Buzzz.

FRANK

God! Stop! What is that!? What are  
you...I don't follow!!!

He puts a piece down and stops the clock. He hits the button  
several times.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Make it stop.

SPORTSCASTER SUSAN

Mr. Reynolds is absolutely cracking  
up under the pressure.

240 INT. ICE CREAM VAN - SAME TIME (D23) - INTERCUT 240

DENNIS  
Stop grabbing at it.

MAC  
That's Johnny's phone!

During the struggle, Dennis' phone goes flying.

DENNIS  
What have you done?

Dennis looks at the shattered screen. It reads: "FULL BLAST."

241 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - SAME TIME (D23) - INTERCUT 241

Frank's face is contorted in pain. He picks up his king and tries to give it to the Russian.

FRANK  
Take it! Just take it.

SPORTSCASTER SUSAN  
In a stunning move, Frank Reynolds has picked up his king. Which means he has to move it.

Frank puts the King down and collapses onto the floor. The Russian studies the board. Frank spins in a circle on the floor writhing in pain!

FRANK  
Get'em out! Get'em out!

The Grandmaster tips over his king in defeat.

SPORTSCASTER MARK  
Kd2! Kd2! That is checkmate. What a brilliant endgame by Reynolds.

242 INT. ICE CREAM VAN - CONTINUOUS (D23) - INTERCUT 242

UNCLE JACK  
He won!

DENNIS  
What? Really?

243 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS (D23) - INTERCUT 243

SPORTSCASTER SUSAN  
Nobivikov is stunned! Hard to say what Mr. Reynolds is feeling.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SPORTSCASTER SUSAN (CONT'D)

The game appears to have taken a  
lot out of him.

Frank's on the ground writhing. Charlie runs to his side. \*

FRANK

Get it outta me! It's gonna split  
me in half.

CHARLIE

You did it! You beat the Russian!

FRANK

Kill the Wi-Fi! Kill the Wi-Fi!

CHARLIE

You're a hero, Frank! USA! USA! \*

Charlie drapes an American flag and chants "USA! USA!" \*

END OF EPISODE