

13 EXT. ACROSS THE PARK -- SAME TIME

13

Across the park: Monk is watching the TWO MEN play. Monk addresses the OLDER MAN-

START →

MONK
Mr. Lenzi? Do you have a minute?

Monk is mistaken. BRIAN LENZI is the teenager! Lenzi is 17. A little overweight. Disheveled. With very few social skills.

Lenzi is beating his older opponent, aggressively moving his chess pieces. He never looks up.

BRIAN LENZI
I'm a little busy at the moment.

MONK
You're Lenzi?

BRIAN LENZI
(to HIS OPPONENT)
Are you ready for this? Say goodbye to your rook. You know what I call your other rook? Dead man walking.

Lenzi SLAMS a chess piece down. Then SLAPS a CHESS CLOCK.

MONK
I'd like to ask you a few questions about Gregory Kloster.

BRIAN LENZI
Do I know you?

MONK
My name is Adrian Monk. I'm with the San Francisco Police Department.

BRIAN LENZI
Where's your badge?

MONK
I'm not with the department... technically.

BRIAN LENZI
Then I don't have to talk to you... technically.

Lenzi makes another fast, aggressive move. During this, Natalie and Julie step up.

"MONK" - BRIAN LENZI

(CONTINUED)

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BRIAN LENZI (CONT'D)

Mate in three.

(to Monk)

Look. I'm working here. If you
wanna talk, you gotta play me. Twenty
bucks.

Lenzi indicates a HOMEMADE SIGN: ADULTS- \$20 PER GAME- UNDER
18- \$5. Monk opens his wallet.

MONK

I don't have twenty dollars.

Natalie opens her PURSE.

NATALIE

I have eight dollars and an IOU from
my boss.

LENZI'S OPPONENT resigns the game. He gets up and leaves.

BRIAN LENZI

Who's next?

JULIE

I can play. Five dollars, right?
I'm under 18.

Julie sits down, puts her money down, and starts setting up
her pieces.

BRIAN LENZI

You play chess?

JULIE

I was in the chess club for two
semesters.

BRIAN LENZI

Ooooo. That'll impress the Vassar
Dean Of Admissions. It's your move.

Julie moves a pawn.

BRIAN LENZI (CONT'D)

The Mugassi Opening? I've only seen
that five times today.

While Julie and Lenzi play, Monk resumes...

MONK

I heard you almost beat Gregory
Kloster.

(CONTINUED)

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BRIAN LENZI

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BRIAN LENZI

I'll get him next time. I'm playing him again next week, at a charity tournament.

MONK

What kind of player is he?

BRIAN LENZI

Read his books. He's written twenty of them. Kloster is a behaviorist. He studies you, not the game. He crawls inside your head. It's kinda spooky.

NATALIE

What's a Poison Pawn?

BRIAN LENZI

The Poison Pawn is a trap. He dangles a pawn in the middle of the board. Most people can't resist it. Then he swoops in and crushes you.

MONK

They can't resist it..?

BRIAN LENZI

Checkmate.

Lenzi SLAMS a piece down. Julie is stunned.

BRIAN LENZI (CONT'D)

(dismissively)

Thank you, Vassar. That was fun.

Monk steps away. He's thinking out loud.

MONK

A trap... she couldn't resist...

Monk smiles. He's solved the case! Natalie steps up.

NATALIE

What? I know that look! You did it, didn't you? You figured it out (like a proud mom) who's the real genius now? Huh? Who just outsmarted the smartest man in the world? Tell me who.

// END
Sc. 1

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

NATALIE

Can I be honest with you? I'm still not sure why we're here.

MONK

Because I made a promise. I gave Susan Kloster my word.

NATALIE

But he doesn't want to talk to you. He's not returning any phone calls. What can we do?

MONK

I don't know. But I can't just quit. To me, quitting would be like giving up.

(then)

If I was playing against him, he'd have to talk to me.

Julie gets an idea.

JULIE

Wait here.

Julie walks away. She crosses to Brian Lenzi. We can't hear what she's saying. She smiles. She laughs.

Across the room: Monk and Natalie are watching.

MONK

What's she doing?

NATALIE

(concerned)

She's flirting.

MONK

She's good at it.

NATALIE

Shut up.

Julie and Brian Lenzi agree on something. Together, they return to Monk and Natalie.

START →
SC. 2

JULIE

Mom. Mr. Monk. You remember Brian Lenzi. I told him about the case, and how you think Mr. Kloster killed his wife.

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BRIAN LENZI

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BRIAN LENZI

I believe it, too. The guy's a major
Geep.

JULIE

Isn't he?
(then)
Brian wants to help us.

Brian hands Monk a LAMINATED PLAYER PASS.

BRIAN LENZI

Congratulations. You're player number
one.

MONK

You mean I can play? In the
tournament?

BRIAN LENZI

You're my proxy. It's in the bylaws.
I can designate someone to take my
place. Don't bring your queen out
too early.

NATALIE

Why are you doing this?

BRIAN LENZI

(loftily)
Ma'am, if Gregory Kloster did what
you and Mr. Monk say he did, than it
is my sacred duty to assist in any
effort-

JULIE

(interrupting)
I'm meeting some friends at the mall.
I told Brian he could come.

BRIAN LENZI

That too.

// END
Sc. 2

35 INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - CHESS EXHIBITION -- MOMENTS LATER

35

Moments later. On stage: the FOUR CHALLENGERS are at their
boards, ready to play. One of them is... Monk!

Monk is obsessively centering and lining up his chess pieces.
Then he leans over and starts lining up pieces on the other
boards.

(CONTINUED)

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