

16 yr old boy

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29 CONTINUED:

Nate

29

~~HOUSE
So let's speed it up.~~

~~CAMERON
Why?~~

~~HOUSE
So you two kids will stop fighting.
Also, I don't feel like waiting for
respiratory failure. Chase, find a
way for the mother get lost for a
while.~~

House heads to the door.

~~HOUSE (CONT'D)
I'm gonna stress the kid 'til he
bites off a finger. Mom doesn't
need to see that.~~

House exits. Off Chase and Cameron --

30 INT. ICU -- EVENING

30*

Nate, still pale and weak, is lying propped up, when the door opens and in walks House pushing a cart with a chess board and timers up to the bed.

Start ->

NATE
They move me to geriatrics? Who are you?

SC

HOUSE
Doctor McCaney; the man who's going to kick your ass all over this chessboard.

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NATE
I'm too weak to--

HOUSE
--to bite yourself. You need some liquid energy.
(shows syringe)
If you consent, I'm gonna give you a shot of this adrenaline which will--

He sticks Nate with a syringe.

NATE
Ow! I don't want to play.

But Nate's energy level immediately starts to rise.

1/4

(CONTINUED)

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30 CONTINUED:

30

HOUSE

I heard you had little testicles. I
didn't know you had no cajones.

*
*

NATE

You think you can goad me into
playing?

*
*
*

HOUSE

Didn't think I'd need to. Figure
you'd jump at any chance to humiliate
someone.

*
*
*
*

Nate looks at House, then smiles.

*

NATE

Age before cripple. I'm white.

*
*

House pushes the cart back to the bed, then hits the timer.

*

HOUSE

It's on.

Nate launches right in and moves the white queen's bishop's
pawn two spaces ahead then hits the timer (note: Nate
continues to move his pieces with forefinger curled and thumb
straight).

HOUSE (CONT'D)

(re: Nate's move)

English opening. Passive approach.
Sign of a coward.

House moves his kingside knight, hits the timer.

NATE

Alekhine's defense. Book counter.
Sign of an idiot.

*
*

The game plays out in the same STYLIZED SEQUENCE of moves
and slaps of the timer as in the Teaser.

*

House's knight takes Nate's pawn. Nate is surprised; didn't
expect that.

*

HOUSE

Arrogance is earned. Tell me what
you've done to deserve yours.

NATE

I can walk.

*
*

HOUSE

My kidneys function.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

2/4

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30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

House's knight takes another pawn. Nate starts to grow anxious.

*

HOUSE (CONT'D)

*

You know, there's a real thin line between tortured genius and awkward kid who can't get girls because he's creepy.

*

*

NATE

*

Why are you doing this?

*

HOUSE

*

To stress you out.

*

NATE

*

Why?

*

HOUSE

*

I'd tell you but I figure it's more stressful if you don't know why.

*

*

And with that, Nate takes one of House's pieces.

*

NATE

*

(confident)

*

Not feeling too stressed.

*

HOUSE

*

You do know that no one likes you, right?

*

*

NATE

*

My mom likes me.

*

HOUSE

*

No she doesn't.

*

NATE

*

Anybody like you?

*

House pulls out the big guns.

*

HOUSE

*

You're dying.

*

Bam. Nate seems stung the harsh reality of the statement. House just smiles at him then casually takes Nate's knight with his queen.

Nate drops his eyes and sits there, lips pursed, practically hyperventilating, running his fingers through his hair in distress.

(CONTINUED)

3/4

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30 CONTINUED: (3)

30

House watches Nate expectantly... waiting for Nate to explode and self-mutilate. *

The final nail... House takes Nate's bishop and... *

...Nate's breathing starts to slow down. He looks back up and smirks at House. House looks at him, puzzled by the mood change. *

NATE

Care to lay down your king?

HOUSE

Why would I do that?

NATE

Because you can't win. I'll move my rook to A2. You'll counter by taking my bishop with your rook. My knight takes your bishop leaving your king with no cover. Checkmate.

House looks at the board, realizes Nate's right.

NATE (CONT'D)

Save your dignity; lay down your king.

← STOP

Nate's eyes suddenly go blank and his body starts to convulse and the machines start to beep. House is surprised.

HOUSE

Crap.

A medical team hurries in to assist. *

HOUSE (CONT'D)

He's having a seizure. Needs two milligrams IV lorazepam. *

House pushes the cart with the chess board away so the staff can get to work. As they restrain Nate and administer meds, House continues to stare at the chess board in disbelief. *

Finally, he taps over his king in defeat and heads for the exit. *

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

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