

# **CHESS**

Script as per performances in the Prince Edward Theatre in June 1986.

\*Indicates spoken dialogue

NB: Chess commentaries by William Hartston are not included in this script, neither are counterpoint/backing lyrics in some scenes, e.g. the Prologue.

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## **PROLOGUE: THE STORY OF CHESS**

*(NB: The Chorus portray at various times characters in the lyric of the Prologue.)*

ARBITER

Each game of chess means there's one less  
Variation left to be played  
Each day got through means one or two  
Less mistakes remain to be made

CHORUS

Each game of chess means there's one less  
Variation left to be played  
Each day got through means one or two  
Less mistakes remain to be made

Not much is known  
Of early days of chess beyond a fairly vague report  
That fifteen hundred years ago two princes fought  
Though brothers, for a Hindu throne

Their mother cried  
For no-one really likes their offspring  
fighting to the death  
She begged them stop the slaughter  
with her every breath  
But sure enough one brother died

Sad beyond belief  
She told her winning son  
You have caused such grief  
I can't forgive this evil thing you've done

He tried to explain  
How things had really been  
But he tried in vain  
No words of his could mollify the queen

And so he asked the wisest men he knew  
The way to lessen her distress  
They told him he'd be pretty certain to impress  
By using model soldiers on  
A chequered board to show it was his brother's fault  
They thus invented chess

Chess displayed no inertia  
Soon spread to Persia, then west  
Next the Arabs refined it,  
Thus redesigned, it progressed  
Still further yet  
And when Constantinople fell in 1453  
One would have noticed every other refugee  
Included in his bags a set

Once in the hands  
And in the minds of leading figures of the Renaissance

The spirit and the speed of chess made swift advance  
Through all of Europe's vital lands

Where we must record  
The game was further changed  
Right across the board  
The western touch upon the pieces ranged

King and queen and rook  
And bishop, knight and pawn  
All took on the look  
We know today, the modern game was born

With such success  
We see a game that started by mistake in Hindustan  
And boosted in the main by what is now Iran  
Reach every corner of the globe with nation  
Squaring up to nation to determine, no holds barred,  
Who owns, who made, who will parade  
The champion of chess

#### ARBITER

\*The international chess federation of which I have the honor of being president announces that the next world championship will take place in Merano, Italy.

\*The current world champion, Anatoly Sergievsky of the Soviet Union, will defend his title against Frederick Trumper of the United States of America.

\*The first player to achieve six victories will be declared champion. The first game will begin on March 27th.

## ACT ONE

### Scene One : The Main Square of Merano, Italy.

*Is this The Sound of Music? Tirolean hats, leather pants, yodels and dancing. Snow-capped mountain peaks and icy rivers. Narrow, crowded, colourful streets of shops. Grapes and the benefits of the spa. The MAYOR and CITIZENS are waiting for an important arrival at the station.*

#### **MERANO**

CITIZENS OF MERANO (*including MAYOR*)

O light the heart  
That lingers in Merano  
Merano! The spa no  
Connoisseur of spas would miss  
So healthy  
Highly recommended  
Is this sweet metropolis  
Mental and physical bliss!

The gods have smiled  
And bless-ed is Merano  
Merano! There are no  
Fitter burghers to be found  
Such vigour!  
Take the time to taste us  
We'll give you a welcome that's typically Tirol  
For then we are sure of our ground  
Right now we're Italian - we used to be German  
The border keeps shifting around

MAYOR (*solo*)

Speaking as one of the patriarchs  
I don't mind taking your lira or marks

CITIZENS

Oh I get high when I saunter by  
the mountains of Merano  
Rosy-cheeked Merano  
Flourishing to a fault  
The sparkling streams, the bracing air  
The therapeutic salt  
I'd have to be carried away to call a halt!

Oh I feel great in this bouncing state  
O hail to thee Merano  
Hearty hale Merano  
Any objections? Nein!  
Where breathing in will turn you on  
Where water tastes like wine  
Get out your get up and go and get in line  
It's living your life in a show by  
Rodgers and Hammerstein!

O sad the soul  
Who passes by Merano

Merano! So far no  
Soul has ever passed us by  
They love us  
Why not stay forever?  
Oh so many reason why  
All those in favour say "Aye"  
Aye!

So sing our song  
Let's hear it for Merano  
Merano! Soprano  
Alto, tenor, bass agree  
We're wholesome  
What a happy haven  
This is a place where your arteries soften  
Cholesterol hasn't a chance  
From mountain to valley the natural goodness  
Is fighting pollution's advance

MAYOR (*solo*)  
So come to us and feel the force  
All major credit cards taken of course

CITIZENS  
Oh I get high when I saunter by  
The mountains of Merano  
Rosy-cheeked Merano  
Flourishing to a fault  
The sparkling streams, the bracing air  
The therapeutic salt  
I'd have to be carried away to call a halt!

Once in a while all the gods will smile  
On little old Merano  
Humble shy Merano  
Suddenly hits the press  
And I report with all the pride  
And joy that I possess  
Half of the world and his wife  
Has our address  
Our little town will be rife  
With games of chess!

*(A whistling/orchestral interlude during which a train rushes through the station)*

Get out your get up and go and get in line  
It's living your life in a show by  
Rodgers and Hammerstein!

*Another train. This one stops. The man more responsible than any other for the enormous interest in a World Chess Championship match, the current world champion, the American FREDERICK TRUMPER, gets off the train and pushes his way through the melee. He brushes aside the official reception. He is flanked by his second/lover FLORENCE VASSY and two or three other members of his delegation (males) one of whom is also the man who is ostensibly head of the American TV production company covering the event, WALTER DE COURCEY.*

**WHAT A SCENE! WHAT A JOY!**

*FREDERICK surveys the town, its people and its visitors with patronising amusement.*

FREDERICK

What a scene! What a joy!  
What a lovely sight  
When my game is the big sensation!  
Has the mob's sporting taste  
Altered overnight?  
Have they found new sophistication?

Not yet! They just want to see  
If the nice guy beats the bum  
If it's East-West  
And the money's sky-high  
They all come  
\*Florence!  
(*He takes a photograph of FLORENCE*)

You can raise all you want  
If you raise the roof  
Scream and shout and the gate increases  
Break the rules -- break the bank  
I'm the living proof  
They don't care how I move my pieces

I know I'm the best there is  
But all they want is a show  
Well that's all right I'll be glad to oblige  
S.R.O. S.R.O.

**MERANO (continued)**

*FREDERICK and his entourage leave. Determined to have their welcoming ceremony, the MAYOR & CITIZENS give the full works to a bewildered stranger who happened to be on the same train.*

Oh I get high when I saunter by  
The mountains of Merano  
Rosy-cheeked Merano  
Flourishing to a fault  
The sparkling streams, the bracing air  
The therapeutic salt  
I'd have to be carried away to call a halt!

Oh I feel great in this bouncing state  
O hail to thee Merano  
Hearty hale Merano  
Any objections? Nein!  
Where breathing in will turn you on  
Where water tastes like wine  
Get up you get up and go and get in line  
It's living your life in a show by  
Rodgers and Hammerstein!

Now for the sell  
We put the ice into paradise  
We are the salt of the earth  
Sound as a bell  
Check out the waters  
And check out the hygiene  
At which we excel  
Check into an hotel  
And schnell  
Body and soul get well!

### **Scene Two : Frederick's Suite/Press Conference**

*The Palace Hotel, Merano. FREDERICK's (and FLORENCE's) suite. FREDERICK is alone, playing chess against a computer.*

COMPUTER

\*Knight D 5.

FREDERICK

\*Bishop A 5 - check

*(FLORENCE enters with a bundle of newspapers)*

FLORENCE

Well, we can't complain that you're being ignored  
by the press

FREDERICK

\*What'd they say? What'd they say?

FLORENCE

They're not too polite

FREDERICK

They say I'm a shit?

FLORENCE

\*(Well), yes

\*They pulled you to pieces in  
Five different languages

*(FREDERICK goes up to FLORENCE, kisses her quickly, and starts looking through some papers)*

\*Here we are - The Times -

You "thrive on unpleasantness"

*(FREDERICK finds this amusing, and FLORENCE seems to too)*

\*Le Monde: "Frederick Trumper La Honte des Echès."

*(Frederick Trumper the Shame of chess)*

FREDERICK

I don't believe that they can't see my game  
I'm like that tennis player, what's his name?  
They love to hate me and for us that's dollars!

FLORENCE

\*Die Welt: Trumper Der Grössliche Skandal des Schachs!  
(*Trumper - the greatest scandal of chess!*)

FREDERICK

Hey, look here's a piece that some idiot's written on you  
\*"Florence Vassy, petite Hungarian-born Englishwoman  
His gentle companion" - huh! If they only knew

FLORENCE (*pushing him onto the bed*)

\*What do you mean? I've always been gentle with you Freddie -

BOTH (*reading*)

"She stands by her champion"

FREDERICK

\*I like this - "whose  
Demands are so infantile - "  
I don't like this!

(*he throws the paper away*)

FLORENCE

If you don't like it then it's up to you  
They like the Russian - they could like you too

FREDERICK

Commie newspapers!  
Of course the bastards all support the Russian

FLORENCE

But Sergievsky seems a sweet opponent -  
So why do you abuse him all the time?  
Freddie, I love you very much but just for once, don't go on about the Russians at the press  
conference, okay?

FREDERICK

All Soviets deserve abuse!

### ***PRESS CONFERENCE***

(*Dissolve into one of the hotel's conference rooms. A gaggle of REPORTERS,  
PHOTOGRAPHERS, INTERVIEWERS and TV PERSONNEL assembled to speak to  
FREDERICK, facing the gathering. FLORENCE not yet there.*)

REPORTER #1

Does your opponent deserve such abuse?

FREDERICK

\*All Soviets deserve abuse!



REPORTER #2

But even you must concede he can play

FREDERICK

\*Yeah, he's the best Red on the circuit, sure, I'll give him that -

REPORTER #3

He hasn't lost for a long time

He could be a tough nut to crack

FREDERICK

\*Listen, if he gets one game off of me it's because I want to keep the press interest going -

REPORTERS

Why do you persist

With vicious attacks,

Ungracious remarks re:

Opponents? It smacks

Of a lack of conviction, admit

You're under duress

And that your only skill left

Is for money not chess

If Soviet life's

As grim as you claim

Then how come their boys are

So good at the game?

Though you swear the American dream

Is clearly the best

You're no advertisement for

Life and times in the West.

*(FLORENCE enters)*

REPORTER #4

Why did you risk the whole match breaking down?

FREDERICK

I don't know what you're saying. What are you - what are you implying?

REPORTER #1

All your outrageous demands, your conceit -

FREDERICK

\*I don't see anything outrageous in demanding what I'm worth.

REPORTER #5

They pay you all that you ask for

And then you demand even more -

FREDERICK

\*I'm the reason you're all here - who's ever heard of Sergievsky?

REPORTERS

It's hard to believe what we're reporting

Why so disparaging? Not very sporting

FREDERICK

\*Are the Communists sporting? My God -

REPORTERS

Tell all this to the United Nations

Are you an asset to East-West relations?

FREDERICK

\*What is this? What have the Russians ever done for East-West relations? Do you guys have any serious questions?

REPORTER #6

What's your impression of our little town?

FREDERICK

\*Rather cold and dull. As I expected.

REPORTER #2

Where would you rather have played? Leningrad?

FREDERICK

\*Leningrad was an insulting Soviet suggestion -

REPORTER #3

They only tried to be friendly

They would have played in New York

FREDERICK

\*Aw - c'mon, you know as well as I do what their motives were.

REPORTERS

You protest too much, we see your ploy, a  
Big noise to hide your fears, pure paranoia

FREDERICK

\*I'm not paranoid. They're out to get me!

REPORTERS

Tell all this to the United Nations

Are you an asset to East-West relations?

FREDERICK

\*Jesus...

REPORTER #7

Will you be quitting for good if you lose?

*(FREDERICK stares at the questioner, but makes no reply)*

REPORTER #2

How come your second's a girl, lover boy?

FREDERICK

*(a double take, then:)*

\*What'd you say?

REPORTER #2

How come your second's a girl, lover boy?

*FREDERICK rushes at the REPORTER and hits him. He storms off. Pandemonium, from which emerges:*

REPORTERS

Well, what did I say?

He's out of his tree

He's finally flipped

And between you and me

He's no hope of retaining his crown

In his frame of mind

In fact he shouldn't have come here

He should have resigned

*FLORENCE is desperately trying to restore order. As the REPORTERS continue, she dominates their words with a powerful outburst:*

FLORENCE

Smile, you got your first exclusive story

Now you can bask in his reflected glory

Naked, unprovoked, Yankee aggression!

Oh what a credit to your great profession!

REPORTERS

Much better to quit

While still number one

Than crash to defeat

Reputation undone

Though he's proved to himself

It's a communist plot

If you ask me it's money that did it

And started the rot

It's sad that the best

His country's produced

Is crumbling in front

Of our eyes and reduced

To a mindless abuse and assault

On all of mankind

In fact he shouldn't have come here

He should have resigned....

*The scene changes after FLORENCE's speech, during the REPORTERS' final words.*

### **Scene Three : Anatoly and Molokov/Where I Want to Be**

*MOLOKOV's suite in Merano. ANATOLY SERGIEVSKY, the Russian challenger to FREDERICK, and the head of his delegation, ALEXANDER MOLOKOV, have been watching the Press Conference on TV. The image of FLORENCE's face during her final speech to the REPORTERS is now on the screen. Newspapers, with all the stories about FREDERICK are lying around.*

MOLOKOV

\*The man is utterly mad - believe me, Anatoly, you're playing a lunatic.

ANATOLY

\*That's the problem. He's a brilliant lunatic and you can't tell which way he'll jump - like his game he's impossible to analyse - you can't dissect him, predict him - which of course means he's not a lunatic at all.

MOLOKOV

What we've just seen's a pathetic display  
From a man who's beginning to crack  
He's afraid - he knows he isn't the player he was  
And he won't get it back

ANATOLY

\*Nonsense!  
Why do my seconds  
Always want to believe  
Third-rate propaganda -

MOLOKOV

My friend, please relax  
We're all on your side  
You know how you need us -

ANATOLY

I don't need my army of so-called 'advisors'  
And 'helpers' to tell me  
The man who's revitalised chess single-handed  
Is more or less out of his brain  
When it's very clear he's sane

MOLOKOV

Listen, we don't underestimate Trumper -  
We won't get caught in that trap  
After all, winning or losing reflects on us all -

ANATOLY

Oh don't give me that crap!  
I win - no one else does  
And I take the rap if I lose

MOLOKOV

It's not quite that simple  
The whole world's tuned in  
We're on display  
We're not merely sportsmen -

ANATOLY

Oh please don't start spouting that old party line  
Yes I know it's your job but  
Just get out and get me a chess-playing second  
In thirty-six hours we begin  
That is if you want to win!

MOLOKOV

\*Wanting's not sufficient - we have to know , we must make sure. All men have a weakness, and his is that woman; take her and you win the game!

ANATOLY

\*So you think I can't win otherwise?

MOLOKOV

\*I'm not saying that - I'm just making certain - and she's attractive...then there's her intriguing family history - Hungary, 1956 and all that -

ANATOLY

\*I'm a chess player, Mr. Molokov - you go and play these other games!

### ***WHERE I WANT TO BE***

*MOLOKOV leaves, displeased. ANATOLY switches off the TV. He wanders over to a chess board and moves some pieces.*

Who needs a dream?  
Who needs ambition?  
Who'd be the fool  
In my position?  
Once I had dreams  
Now they're obsessions  
Hopes become needs  
Lovers possessions

Then they move in  
Oh so discreetly  
Slowly at first  
Smiling too sweetly  
I opened doors  
They walked right through them  
Called me their friend  
I hardly knew them

Now I'm where I want to be and who I want to be  
and doing what I always said I would  
and yet I feel I haven't won at all  
Running for my life and never looking back  
in case there's someone right behind  
to shoot me down and say he always knew I'd fall

When the crazy wheel slows down  
Where will I be? Back where I started

Don't get me wrong  
I'm not complaining  
Times have been good

Fast, entertaining  
But what's the point?  
If I'm concealing  
Not only love  
All common feeling

Now I'm where I want to be and who I want to be  
and doing what I always said I would  
and yet I feel I haven't won at all  
Running for my life and never looking back  
in case there's someone right behind  
to shoot me down and say he always knew I'd fall

When the crazy wheel slows down  
Where will I be? Back where I started.

*A RUSSIAN enters*

RUSSIAN

\*Molokov tells me you want to play chess. I have one hour before delegate's conference.

ANATOLY

\*Go to hell!

#### **Scene Four: The Arbiter's Chambers**

*The ARBITER has summoned the two opposing delegations to his room immediately prior to the first game of the match. The soviet delegation consists of about a dozen people led by MOLOKOV. The American delegation consists of FLORENCE (not yet present), WALTER and two other genuine seconds.*

#### ***U.S. vs. U.S.S.R.***

DELEGATES *(the division of lines between Soviet and U.S.sides is not indicated here)*

No one can deny that these are difficult times

No one can deny that these are difficult times

MOLOKOV

Mr. de Courcey!

WALTER

Mr. Molokov -

DELEGATES

It's the US versus USSR

Yet we more or less are -

No one can deny that these are difficult times

-to our credit putting all that aside

We have swallowed our pride

These are very dangerous and difficult times

It really doesn't matter who comes out on top

Who gets the chop -

No one's way of life is threatened by a flop -

But we're gonna smash their bastard  
Make him wanna change his name  
Take him to the cleaners and devastate him  
Wipe him out, humiliate him  
We don't want the whole world saying  
They can't even win a game  
We have never reckoned  
On coming second  
There's no use in losing

It's the red flag up against stars and stripes  
But we're peace-loving types

No one can deny that these are difficult times...

It's a sweet hail-fellow-well-met affair  
For both eagle and bear

These are very dangerous and difficult times

For those that say that this is not a friendly clash  
Don't be so rash!  
I assure you comrades that is balderdash

What a load of whingeing peasants!  
Thinking they can win - they can't!  
What an exhibition of self-delusion  
This one's a foregone conclusion  
But enough of all this beating  
Round the bushes of detente  
We intend to collar  
The Yankee dollar  
We shall trash them  
Thrash them

The value of events like this need not be stressed  
When East and West  
Can meet as brothers, ease the tension over drinks  
Through sporting links  
As long as your man sinks

### **ARBITER'S SONG**

*(Enter ARBITER)*

ARBITER

I've a duty as the referee  
At the start of the match  
On behalf of all our sponsors  
I must welcome you  
Which I do - there's a catch

I don't care if you're a champion  
No-one messes with me  
I am ruthless in upholding

What I know is right  
Black or white - as you'll see

I'm on the case  
Can't be fooled  
Any objection  
Is overruled  
Yes I'm the Arbiter and I know best

CHORUS (*of ARBITER acolytes*)  
He's impartial, don't push him, he's unimpressed

ARBITER  
You got your tricks  
Good for you  
But there's no gambit  
I don't see through  
Oh I'm the Arbiter, I know the score

ARBITER + CHORUS  
From square one I'll/he'll be watching all 64

ARBITER  
If you're thinking of the kind of thing  
That we've seen in the past  
Chanting gurus, walkie-talkies,  
Walkouts, hypnotists,  
Tempers, fists - not so fast

This is not the start of World War Three  
No political ploys  
I think both your constitutions are terrific so  
Now you know, be good boys

I'm on the case  
Can't be fooled  
Any objection  
Is overruled  
Yes I'm the Arbiter and I know best

CHORUS  
He's impartial, don't push him, he's unimpressed.

ARBITER  
You got your tricks  
Good for you  
But there's no gambit  
I don't see through  
Oh I'm the Arbiter, I know the score

ARBITER + CHORUS  
From square one I'll be watching all 64

ARBITER  
I'm on the case - can't be fooled!  
You've got your tricks - good for you!



I'm on the case  
Can't be fooled  
Any objection  
Is overruled

Yes I'm the Arbiter and I know best

CHORUS  
He's impartial, don't push him, he's unimpressed

ARBITER  
You got your tricks  
Good for you  
But there's no gambit  
I don't see through  
Oh I'm the Arbiter, I know the score

ARBITER + CHORUS  
From square one I'll be watching all 64

ARBITER  
Oh I'm the Arbiter, I know the score

ARBITER + CHORUS  
From square one I'll be watching all 64

*(FLORENCE enters to take up a central position amid the American delegation)*

ARBITER  
\*If the leaders of both delegations are now present, we are available to consider their pre-match applications, representations or objections. Miss Vassy?

FLORENCE  
\*Thank you. The American delegation wishes to protest the size of the Soviet delegation which far exceeds the permitted number -

MOLOKOV  
\*Our delegation consists of just four people, including our champion. Our doctor, PT expert, psychologist, security agents and chef cannot be considered delegates.

ARBITER  
\*Objection overruled. Mr. Molokov?

MOLOKOV  
\*The Soviet delegation has reason to believe that the American player's chair could contain communications devices. It objects to the constitution of the chair -

FLORENCE  
\*That's impossible. Both chairs were made in Sweden. With non-aligned aluminum -

ARBITER  
\*Objection overruled.

WALTER

\*On behalf of the television companies, making such a major financial contribution to this match, I request the Arbiter's permission for an opportunity to be given to a few commercial supporters of chess to set up a discreet display of wares in the arena -

MOLOKOV + SOVIET DELEGATES

\*Objection!

ARBITER

\*Overruled! Mr. de Courcey, further economic discussion with my office could clear the way to a fresh look at the status of merchandizing and advertising interests. But now let us dedicate ourselves to the spirit of chess!

### ***HYMN TO CHESS***

ALL

Don't you find it rather touching to behold  
The game that came in from the cold  
Seen for what it is - religion plus finesse  
Countries, classes, creeds as one, in  
Love of chess

### ***MERCHANDISER'S SONG***

*Suddenly the cathedral-like atmosphere is shattered by the entrance of a garish, colourful, cheer-leading mob of MERCHANDISERS:*

MERCHANDISERS

Whether you are pro or anti  
Or could not care less  
We are here to tell you  
We are here to sell you chess  
Not a chance of you escaping from our wiles  
We've locked the doors, we've blocked the aisles  
We've a franchise worth exploiting  
And we will - yes we will!  
When it comes to merchandising  
We could kill

When you get up -  
When you get up in the morning  
Till you crash at night  
You will have to live your life  
With bishop, rook and knight  
Clean your teeth with chequered toothpaste  
Wear our vests  
Our kings and queens on bouncing breasts  
You could even buy a set  
And learn to play  
We don't mind we'll sell you something  
Anyway

We've done all our market research  
And our findings show  
That this game of chess could be around  
A month or so  
Maybe it's a bit confusing

For a game  
But Rubik's Cubes were much the same  
In the end the whole world bought one  
All were gone  
By which time we merchandisers  
Had moved on

By which time we had moved on!

### **Scene Five : Chess**

*The actual arena. We dissolve from the ARBITER's chambers to the spectacular setting for the match. The two players say nothing during this scene. However, their manner at the board becomes more and more agitated during the scene. They both get up from the board and get into a near-fight which ends with FREDERICK pushing ANATOLY into the table, spilling board and pieces over the floor.*

*Present are FLORENCE, MOLOKOV, the ARBITER and his assistants. Throughout the scene we see and hear commentators and commentaries on the big match on the vidi-walls.*

TV PRESENTER #1 *(on screen)*

\*The opening match of the World Chess Championships got underway today in the small Tyrolean town of Merano, Italy. The title, which will be contested between the current world champion Frederick Trumper and the Soviet challenger Anatoly Sergievsky, will go to the first man who wins six clear games. Experts are predicting that since many games may be drawn, the contest could last as long as two months. The political overtones of this contest between a Russian and an American has attracted more than usual interest for a match which is increasingly taking on the aspects of a confrontation between East and West.

TV PRESENTER #2 *(on screen)*

\*This attack is either brilliant or crazy, I don't know which. Frederick's giving up his bishop just to trap the Russian's king in the center. It's a fantastic idea. If it works. Trumper's won the white queen and I think that spells curtains for Mr. Sergievsky. This is Kurt Johnson reporting for CBN News in Merano, Italy.

TV PRESENTER #3 *(on screen)*

\*And now for a further report, we go to our chess expert, Will Hodson [?], here in Merano.

HODSON *(on screen)*

\*The world championship match here in Merano has begun with a really dramatic victory for the American champion Frederick Trumper. This same position must be on every chess board in Merano because everybody's talking about this game. Trumper with the white pieces just attacked from the start. All the books say you must defend with black in the early stages but Trumper's always been someone to break the rules. He just attacked from the word go. Sergievsky's never landed a decent punch in the whole game. Trumper sacrificed a pawn, then a bishop, broke through [?] king in position and when Sergievsky resigned in this position in front of me, he was just hopelessly behind on material. That's a drastic defeat for the Russian and a brilliant victory for Trumper.

TV PRESENTER #5 *(on screen)*

\*And now from the World Chess Championships in Merano, Italy, at the end of the first week's play, current World Champion Frederick Trumper has taken a commanding lead by two wins to nothing....

*At the end, there is pandemonium:*

TV PRESENTER #6

\*There's been a sensational development here in the very first game of the world Chess Championships here in the snow-covered Tyrolean town of Merano, Italy. The board and the pieces have been thrown to the floor in disgust by one or other or both players, the champion has walked out in a rage....

ARBITER

I'm on the case  
Can't be fooled  
Any objection  
Is overruled  
Don't try to tempt me  
You've no hope  
I don't like women  
I don't take dope  
I'm the Arbiter, my word is law  
From square one I'm watching you

*(Lyrics below are as revised and used throughout the run)*

(By all the pawns  
(On Heaven's board  
(Of all officials,  
(Why me, oh Lord?  
(The greatest insult  
(Suffered yet  
(By my profession,  
(But do not forget  
(I'm the Arbiter, my word is law  
(From square one I'll be watching you

### **Scene Seven : Quartet (A Model of Decorum and Tranquility)**

#### ***QUARTET (A Model of Decorum and Tranquility)***

*FLORENCE, MOLOKOV ANATOLY and the ARBITER remain in the arena.*

MOLOKOV

We wish, no must, make our disgust  
For this abuse perfectly clear  
We're here for chess - are the US?  
If so why foul the atmosphere?

FLORENCE

I must protest - our delegation has a host of valid points to raise  
Our player's sporting attitude's beyond all praise  
As any neutral would attest  
But we concede  
The fact his masters bend the rules is not a player's fault  
We'll over look their crude political assault  
And under protest will proceed

MOLOKOV *(simultaneously with FLORENCE's  
speech above)*

We wish, no must, make our disgust  
At this abuse perfectly clear

We're here for chess - are the US?  
If so, why foul the atmosphere?

MOLOKOV (*simultaneously*)

If your man's so sweet  
Then why his fighting talk?  
If he's not a cheat  
Then why on earth  
Did he go take a walk?

ARBITER  
I call this tune  
No-one's immune  
To my power  
Once in this hall

FLORENCE

Why let him loose?  
He'll soon reduce  
This great event  
To a brawl

I am not surprised  
He wanted fresher air  
Once he realized  
There was no hope

It's very sad  
To see the ancient and  
Distinguished game  
That used to be

Of your lot playing fair  
How sad to see  
What used to be

MOLOKOV + FLORENCE

A model of decorum and tranquility  
Become like any other sport  
A battleground for rival ideologies  
To slug it out with glee

ANATOLY (*simultaneously*)

Through the elegant yelling  
Of this compelling  
Dispute  
Comes the ghastly suspicion  
My opposition's  
A fruit

MOLOKOV

We wish, no must  
Make our disgust  
At this abuse perfectly clear  
We're here for chess - are the US?  
If so why foul the atmosphere?

FLORENCE (*simultaneously*)

I don't suppose  
You understand the strain and  
pressure getting where he's got  
For then you'd simply call him  
highly-strung and not  
Imply that he was one of those

ARBITER  
I must insist  
That you desist  
If you value  
Your livelihood

ANATOLY

But how can you  
Work for one who  
Treats you like dirt?  
Pay must be good

MOLOKOV

It seems to us  
There's little point in waiting  
here all night for his return  
And since a peaceful match is  
our soul concern  
We won't make an official fuss

FLORENCE

I'm not getting rich  
My only interest  
Is in something which  
Gives me the chance  
Of working with the best

In short we rise  
Above your guy's  
Tantrums, dramas,  
Dirty tricks

ANATOLY

I can only say

I hope your dream comes true

Till that far-off day

I hope you cope

With helping number two

ARBITER

Get this straight, I

Will not stand by

While you play at

Politics

ANATOLY, FLORENCE, ARBITER & MOLOKOV (*together*)

A model of decorum and tranquility

Become like any other sport

A battleground for rival ideologies

To slug it out with glee

ARBITER

\*Enough of this piety! If the players do not return to the arena within 24 hours, the match is null and void - the game is greater than its players.

*The ARBITER leaves, as does ANATOLY. FLORENCE and MOLOKOV remain to salvage the situation.*

MOLOKOV

\*The game is greater than its players, Miss Vassy - how true!

I don't know how you can allow this

Harm to be done to chess, and how this

Baby of yours can be persuaded

Back to the game

FLORENCE

\*Easy. You stop playing politics and you start playing chess.

I don't know how you have the gall to

Criticise us when it is all too

Obvious this is what you wanted -

We get the blame

\*Your man, following orders, was up to some sort of bust-up from the word go...

MOLOKOV

You really are mad! He has no orders!

Now let me put my cards upon your table

If he is aggrieved then who can blame him?

He is up against a man who's less than stable

FLORENCE

\*Freddie less than stable? You're goading him -

Who rocked his chair throughout the match then?

Who sniffed and coughed, began to scratch then

Played with his flag and tapped his fingers?

Then took a walk!

Your precious boy!

MOLOKOV

\*A piccydillo -

FLORENCE

\*Peccadillo.

MOLOKOV

\*- peccadillo compared with the neurotic behavior of Trumper -

FLORENCE

Listen, you Plutocratic throwback  
You and your cronies want to go back  
Home to your dachas, not the saltmines?  
We better talk

MOLOKOV

\*I wish, Florenz (*he mispronounces her name*) -

FLORENCE

\*Florence.

MOLOKOV

\*- you would refrain from cheap political jibes at a time when cooperation between us is vital.  
Besides, I thought you would be reluctant to criticise fellow Eastern Europeans

FLORENCE

\*Fellow Eastern Europeans! I was born a Hungarian. Remember Hungary? I wish I could. I was only five when you bastards moved in. I have no memory of my homeland, my people, my mother and father - all taken from me by you-

And you call yourself a fellow Eastern European!

MOLOKOV

Come now, Miss Vassy, we're digressing  
Back to the point, let's start addressing  
All our attention to the World Chess Championship -

FLORENCE (*after a long pause in which she wonders whether to contemplate any further dealings with this man. She decides she has to. She takes out a piece of paper from her bag*)

\*The Merano Mountain Inn - famous for its peace and tranquility - that's where I want you to deliver me one Soviet Grandmaster...

**Scene Eight : Nobody's Side**

*FLORENCE moves into a TV control room. FREDERICK is there with WALTER.*

WALTER

\*For God's sake - be reasonable -

FREDERICK

\*Twenty thousand dollars!

WALTER

\*Why should we pay you to televise tantrums?

\*We prefer to see chess being played

*(he sees FLORENCE as he prepares to leave)*

You can deal with him - he's getting heated -  
Now he's claiming that he's underpaid *(exits)*

FREDERICK *(into a microphone)*

\*I said, twenty thousand dollars - a game!

*(He wheels round to face FLORENCE)*

\*And as for you -

I shouldn't have to be dealing with Walter  
Where were you when the shit hit the fan?

FLORENCE

Saving your income by fixing a meeting  
So you better start liking the man!

*(she hands him a piece of paper)*

FREDERICK *(ignores the paper)*

When the interest is bigger than ever  
And my walk-out my smartest move yet  
All you say is that I ought to meet him  
On the top of a mountain?

FLORENCE

\*You bet!

FREDERICK

Can't you see that you're losing your grip, dear  
Are the Communists fooling you too?  
Why should I be the only one trying -

***YOU WANNA LOSE YOUR ONLY FRIEND?***

FLORENCE

You wanna lose your only friend?  
Well, keep it up you're doing fine  
Why this humiliation?  
Why treat me like a fool?  
I've taken shit for seven years



And I won't take it anymore

FREDERICK

I'm only teasing Soviets  
With gentle bonhomie  
And you've a better reason to be anti-them than me

FLORENCE

There's a time and there's a place

FREDERICK

Well how about here and now? Are you for me or for them?

FLORENCE

There's a time and there's a place

FREDERICK (*into a mike - his voice is duplicated and re-processed:*)

1956 - Budapest is rising  
1956 - Budapest is fighting  
1956 - Budapest is falling

I'd have thought you'd support  
Any attack on these people  
On the people who ran  
Mindlessly over your childhood  
Don't let them fool you for  
Thirty years on they're the same

FLORENCE

1956 - Budapest is fighting  
1956 - Budapest is falling  
1956 - Budapest is dying

FREDERICK (*simultaneously with FLORENCE's lines above*)

They see chess as a war  
Playing with pawns just like Poland  
If you walk out on me  
You're really betraying your father  
Were he alive now  
He'd surely be dying of shame

FLORENCE

You know that there's nothing I've done  
That he'd be ashamed of in my whole life!  
Why'd you have to do this to me?

(*FREDERICK leaves*)

### **NOBODY'S SIDE**

FLORENCE

What's going on around me  
Is barely making sense  
I need some explanations fast  
I see my present partner  
In the imperfect tense

And I don't see how we can last  
I feel I need a change of cast  
Maybe I'm on nobody's side

And when he gives me reasons  
To justify each move  
They're getting harder to believe  
I know this can't continue  
I've still a lot to prove  
There must be more I could achieve  
But I don't have the nerve to leave

Everybody's playing the game  
But nobody's rules are the same  
Nobody's on nobody's side  
Better learn to go it alone  
Recognize you're out on your own  
Nobody's on nobody's side

The one I should not think of  
Keeps rolling through my mind  
And I don't want to let that go  
No lover's ever faithful  
No contract truly signed  
There's nothing certain left to know  
And how the cracks begin to show!

Never make a promise or plan  
Take a little love where you can  
Nobody's on nobody's side  
Never stay too long in your bed  
Never lose your heart, use your head  
Nobody's on nobody's side

Never take a stranger's advice  
Never let a friend fool you twice  
Nobody's on nobody's side  
Never be the first to believe  
Never be the last to deceive  
Nobody's on nobody's side

Never leave a moment too soon  
Never waste a hot afternoon  
Nobody's on nobody's side  
Never stay a minute too long  
Don't forget the best will go wrong  
Nobody's on nobody's side

Better learn to go it alone  
Recognize you're out on your own  
Nobody's on nobody's side

*The set changes to the Merano Mountain Inn. FLORENCE puts on a coat.*

FLORENCE

\*OK - now for the Merano Mountain Inn.

### **Scene Nine : Mountain Duet**

*A restaurant half-way up a mountain in Merano. It is packed with laughing, noisy, celebrating people, many singing the epic song "Der Kleine Franz." ANATOLY is in the middle of the crowd. FLORENCE enters and fights her way through to ANATOLY. They try to talk but it's impossible. They decide to go outside.*

CHORUS (*lyrical accuracy not guaranteed!*)

Der kleine Franz  
Er sagt: ein prosit  
Meide den Schmerz!  
Ich bin wie ein  
Tannenbaum so grun im Herz  
Bier ist was ich brauche  
Wann in Hofbrauhaus  
Trinken Bruderlein,  
Und lassen die Sorgen aus  
Es gibt gemutlichkeit  
Und Freude, saubere zunft  
Lorelei un Bratwurst  
Gute Nacht Zukunft!  
Und jetzt  
Im tiefen Keller  
Sitz Ich hier  
Schon am Morgen  
Fing' ich an  
Und trinke Bier

Der kleine Franz<sup>1</sup>  
Ist auf de Heide  
Ich bin im Wald  
Lustig bin ich nicht  
Mein Sauerkraut ist kalt!  
Drunten in dem grunen Thal  
Ein Birnbaum steht  
Lieben bringt uns  
Grosse Freud' und Zeit  
Bald vergeht  
Er war in Heidelberg gesoffen  
Ein braver Mann!  
Hier in Munchen  
Niemand das Vertragen kann  
Zum wohl!  
Da streiten sich  
Die Leut herum  
Bruderlein und Kummer  
Sind ja nicht so dumm

*(Note: second verse cut early in the run)*

*Outside, away from the noise:*

---

<sup>1</sup> The second verse of this song was eliminated after several months.

FLORENCE

This is the one situation  
I wanted most to avoid  
Nothing I say will convince him this isn't a trick

ANATOLY

A walk on a clear moonlit night - I relax, she smiles  
There's something peculiar going on

FLORENCE

So, through my own stupid fault, I'm stuck here to carry the can  
Embarrassed, deserted, marooned

ANATOLY

Now she can't be working for them - I mean us -  
She seems so very straightforward - but where is he?

FLORENCE

He has to turn up - it's not just for money –  
Perhaps it is!

ANATOLY

Maybe he's scared - just as scared as he was in the game

FLORENCE

Oh I just couldn't care less  
He can go right ahead, go and wreck his career,  
I know I've done my best

ANATOLY

Well at least she's a good-looking spy

FLORENCE

What if my Russian friend thinks that my plans  
Have nothing to do with the chess?  
If I don't say something and soon  
He'll go - Nobody's on nobody's side!

ANATOLY (*for the first time addressing FLORENCE*)

Listen, I hate to break up the mood  
Get to the point, begin the beguine  
Haven't you noticed we are one character short  
In this idyllic, well-produced scene?

FLORENCE

He couldn't wait to join you up here  
Maybe he walked, cable cars scare him

ANATOLY

Never mind him - I haven't missed him so far

FLORENCE

Maybe it won't do any harm  
To struggle on without his charm

ANATOLY

Funny how all at once I feel that he can go jump off the mountain I won't care

FLORENCE

This is the one situation I wanted most to avoid

ANATOLY

My dear opponent - I really can't imagine why

FLORENCE

So I am not dangerous then? - what a shame!

ANATOLY

Oh you're not dangerous - who could think that of you?

FLORENCE + ANATOLY

You - you are so strange - why can't you be what you ought to be?

You should be scheming, intriguing, too clever by half -

ANATOLY

I have to hand it to you

For you've managed to make me forget why I ever agreed to this farce

FLORENCE + ANATOLY

I don't know why I can't think of anything

I would rather do

Than be wasting my time on mountains with you

*Suddenly they are aware that they have been joined by FREDERICK.*

FREDERICK

Who'd ever think it?

Such a pretty setting!

Tell me what's the betting

Very pretty plotting too?

No matter - I've done all your work for you.

\*What do all Soviets deserve? Have you forgotten? Well you'll soon remember!

Who'd ever guess it?

Daughter in collaboration

With the very nation

Gave her father the third degree!

Where's Daddy? Dead or in the KGB?

*(FLORENCE runs off)*

FREDERICK *(continued)*

\*I've agreed to new terms, which in short means more money. For you too, but that can't be helped. This meeting is therefore unnecessary - the match can continue and we don't have to be friends.

*ANATOLY and FREDERICK are left staring at each other. They are already in their positions for the continuation of the match.*

## **Scene Ten : Chess 2**

*The arena and surrounding areas. The match has been resumed. We see it through the eyes of the world's media. ANATOLY forges ahead to a 5-2 lead.*

## **Scene Eleven : Florence Quits/Pity the Child**

*FREDERICK/FLORENCE's suite. FREDERICK is there already, FLORENCE enters.*

FREDERICK

\*Five games to two. It's all over -

### ***FLORENCE QUILTS***

So you got what you want  
What a nasty ambition!  
Set me up, pull me down  
Then exploit my condition  
I should have guessed, woman  
That if pressed, woman  
You're on nobody's side but your own  
And you're behaving  
Like a mere woman  
It's so clear woman -  
It's your sex!  
Once they start getting old and getting worried  
They let fly, take it out  
On the one who supports them  
That's you I'm talking about

FLORENCE

Who'd ever guess it?  
Such a squalid little ending  
Watching you descending  
Just as far as you can go  
I'm learning things I didn't want to know

FREDERICK

Who'd ever think it?  
This would be the situation -  
One more observation -  
How'd we ever get this far  
Before you showed me what you really are?

FLORENCE

You'll be lost without me  
To abuse like you're used to

FREDERICK

Go away! Just get out! Be someone else's parasite!

*(But FLORENCE has already gone)*

## **PITY THE CHILD**

FREDERICK

When I was nine I learned survival  
Taught myself not to care  
I was my single good companion  
Taking my comfort there  
Up in my room I planned my conquests  
On my own - never asked for a helping hand  
No one would understand  
I never asked the pair who fought below  
Just in case they said no

Pity the child who has ambition  
Knows what he wants to do  
Knows that he'll never fit the system  
Others expect him to  
Pity the child who knew his parents  
Saw their faults, saw their love die before his eyes  
Pity a child that wise  
He never asked did I cause your distress?  
Just in case they said yes

When I was twelve my father moved out  
Left with a whimper - not with a shout  
I didn't miss him - he made it perfectly clear  
I was a fool and probably queer  
Fool that I was I thought this would bring  
Those he had left closer together  
She made her move the moment he walked away  
I was the last the woman told  
She never let her bed get cold  
Someone moved in - I shut my door  
Someone to treat her just the same way as before

I took the road of least resistance  
I had my game to play  
I had the skill, and more - the hunger  
Easy to get away  
Pity the child with no such weapons  
No defence, no escape from the ties that bind  
Always a step behind  
I never called to tell her all I'd done  
I was only her son!

Pity the child but not forever  
Not if he stays that way  
He can get all he ever wanted  
If he's prepared to pay  
Pity instead the careless mother  
What she missed  
What she lost when she let me go  
And I wonder does she know  
I wouldn't call - a crazy thing to do  
Just in case she said who?

*Back in the Arbiter's chambers the ARBITER opens an envelope before an anxious gathering of all those involved in the championship.*

ARBITER

\*Frederick Trumper has resigned. Anatoly Sergievsky is the new World Champion.

*Sensation. Wild celebrations and back-slapping in the Russian camp. FLORENCE is alone and still on her side of the stage. Suddenly, ANATOLY breaks free of his colleagues and runs to FLORENCE. They both rush off.*

TV PRESENTER *(on screen)*

\*The drama at the World Chess Championship here in Merano, Italy is now off the board. Barely had Anatoly Sergievsky of the Soviet Union been proclaimed the new World Champion thanks to his crushing of the former champion Freddie Trumper of the United States by six games to two, when he upstaged his own triumph by deserting his Soviet team and supporters. He is now believed to be seeking political asylum in the West...

### **Scene Twelve : Embassy Lament/Heaven Help My Heart**

*An unspecified embassy or, more likely, a consulate, in Merano. WALTER leads ANATOLY and FLORENCE into the consulate. CIVIL SERVANTS seem uninterested.*

#### **EMBASSY LAMENT**

CIVIL SERVANTS *(to each other)*

Oh my dear how boring  
He's defecting  
Just like all the others  
He's expecting  
Us to be impressed with what he's done here  
But he  
Hasn't stopped to think about the paperwork  
His gesture causes  
We've an embassy to run here  
If these people can't strike blows for freedom  
With a valid visa  
We don't need 'em  
*(to ANATOLY)*  
If we seem offhand then please remember  
This is nothing very special  
He's the fourth we've had since last November  
*(to each other)*  
Who do these foreign chappies think they are?

And when he's safely in the West  
He'll be the hero to discuss  
The media will lionize him  
Fame and fortune plus  
No one will recall  
It's thanks to us.

CIVIL SERVANT # 1



&You have a wife?

ANATOLY

\*Yes.

CIVIL SERVANT # 1

\*You have two children?

ANATOLY

\*Yes.

CIVIL SERVANT # 2

\*And they are not coming with you?

*(FLORENCE and WALTER both show particular but differing interest in this conversation. Maybe WALTER scribbles something on a pad.)*

ANATOLY

\*No - not for the moment.

CIVIL SERVANT # 2

\*You play chess. You are good at it? Ah yes, it says here you are World Champion.

ANATOLY

\*Since yesterday.

CIVIL SERVANT # 1

\*That's still good.

WALTER

\*Gentlemen, you guys are dealing with a major international figure. May I -

CIVIL SERVANT # 2

\*Are you defecting too, sir?

WALTER

\*...no, this man is a citizen of the Soviet Union - I am an American citizen and by the authority of this government and this agency *(he shows the CIVIL SERVANTS a card)* I demand that you give this man your immediate attention!

CIVIL SERVANTS

Have you an appointment with the consul?

If you don't we know what his response'll

Be, he will not see you, with respect it

Buggers up his very taxing schedule

Pushing peace and understanding

Let us hope this won't affect it

Far too many jokers cross the border

Not a single document in order

Russia must be empty, though we're all for

Basic human rights, it makes us wonder

What they built the Berlin wall for

Who do these foreign chappies think they are?

And when you've filled in all the forms

And been passed clear of all disease

Debriefed debugged dedrugged disarmed

And disinfected, please  
Don't forget the guys who cut your keys

*As the paperwork staggers on, FLORENCE moves away from the argument:*

**HEAVEN HELP MY HEART**

FLORENCE  
If it were love I would give that love every  
second I had  
And I do  
Do I know where he'll lead me to?  
Did I plan  
Doing all of this for the love of a man?  
Well I let it happen anyhow  
And what I'm feeling now  
Has no easy explanation, reason plays no part  
Heaven help my heart  
I love him too much  
What if he saw my whole existence  
Turning around a word, a smile, a touch?

One of these days, and it won't be long,  
he'll know more about me  
Than he should  
All my dreams will be understood  
No surprise  
Nothing more to learn from the look in my eyes  
Don't you know that time is not my friend?  
I'll fight it to the end  
Hoping to keep that best of moments  
When the passions start  
Heaven help my heart  
The day that I find  
Suddenly I've run out of secrets  
Suddenly I'm not always on his mind

Maybe it's best to love a stranger  
Well that's what I've done - heaven help my heart  
Heaven help my heart

*Various documents are stamped and handed to ANATOLY. With great delight he rushes over to FLORENCE and they hurry out. WALTER picks up a phone.*

**Scene Thirteen : Anthem**

*WALTER, FLORENCE and ANATOLY arrive at Merano station. As they arrive they are surrounded by pressmen.*

REPORTER #1  
\*Excuse me, Mr. Sergievsky. Why are you leaving Russia?

*(ANATOLY tries to brush him off)*

\*What about your wife and family?

REPORTERS

How long was this planned?  
What made you defect?  
Did anyone help you?  
And do you expect  
To be joined in your exile  
By loved ones e.g. your wife?  
Or are you starting again  
In all aspects of life?

ANATOLY

\*Walter, you bastard! You never told me you'd fixed all this!

REPORTER # 2

\*Why did you leave Russia?

ANATOLY

\*I don't leave anything!

### ***ANTHEM***

No man, no madness  
Though their sad power may prevail  
Can possess, conquer, my country's heart  
They rise to fail  
She is eternal  
Long before nations lines were drawn  
When no flags flew, when no armies stood  
My land was born

And you ask me why I love her  
Through wars, death and despair  
She is the constant, we who don't care  
And you wonder will I leave her - but how?  
I cross over borders but I'm still there now

How can I leave her?  
Where would I start?  
Let man's petty nations tear themselves apart  
My land's only borders lie around my heart.

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

### Scene Fourteen : One Night In Bangkok

*Bangkok. A year later.*

*The Act opens with the Golden Ballet leading into "One Night in Bangkok."*

## ONE NIGHT IN BANGKOK

FREDDIE

Bangkok! Oriental setting  
And the city don't know what the city is getting  
The creme de la creme of the chess world in a  
Show with everything but Yul Brynner

Bangkok, just another stop in  
The chess world circus--Masters drop in  
Play, checkmate, check out and then you  
Move on to another venue.

It's Iceland - or the Philippines - or Hastings - or - or this place!

CHORUS

One night in Bangkok and the world's your oyster  
The bars are temples but the pearls ain't free  
You'll find a god in every golden cloister  
And if you're lucky then the god's a she  
I can feel an angel sliding up to me

FREDERICK

One town's very like another  
When your head's down over your pieces, brother

CHORUS

It's a drag, it's a bore, it's really such a pity  
To be looking at the board, not looking at the city

FREDERICK

Whaddya mean? You've seen one crowded, polluted,  
stinking town, you've -

CHORUS

Tea, girls, warm, sweet  
Some are set up in the Somerset Maugham Suite

FREDERICK

Get Thai'd! You're taking to a tourist  
Whose every move's among the purest  
I get my kicks above the waistline, sunshine

CHORUS

One night in Bangkok makes a hard man humble  
Not much between despair and ecstasy

One night in Bangkok and the tough guys tumble  
Can't be too careful with your company  
I can feel the devil walking next to me

FREDERICK

Siam's gonna be a witness  
To the ultimate test in cerebral fitness  
This grips me more than would a  
Muddy old river or reclining Buddha

I don't see you guys rating  
The kind of mate I'm contemplating  
I'd let you watch, I would invite you  
But the queens we use would not excite you

So you better go back to your bars, your temples, your massage parlors

CHORUS

One night in Bangkok makes a hard man humble  
Not much between despair and ecstasy

FREDDIE AND CHORUS

One night in Bangkok and the world's your oyster  
The bars are temples but the pearls ain't free  
You'll find a god in every golden cloister  
And if you're lucky then the god's a she  
I can feel an angel sliding up to me

One night in Bangkok makes a hard man humble  
Not much between despair and ecstasy  
One night in Bangkok and the tough guys tumble  
Can't be too careful with your company  
I can feel the devil walking next to me

*The match (ANATOLY v. LEONID VIIGAND, the new Soviet Champion) has already started as FREDERICK argues with the locals in the song.*

### **Scene Fifteen : Florence and Anatoly/You and I**

*The Oriental Hotel, Bangkok. ANATOLY and FLORENCE in their suite. They are watching FREDERICK on television.*

\*FREDERICK

This is Frederick Trumper on behalf of International Global Television. The all-Russian struggle for world chess supremacy is well under way here in steamy Bangkok, Thailand. But it's also a titanic battle between East and West, with the current World Champion a stateless person., having defected to the free world when he won his title last year in icy Merano, Italy.

*Anatoly clicks channels, gets Abba singing "Money Money Money." Clicks back to FREDERICK:*

It's honours even so far with the match only two games old. In the first game Sergievsky was inspired and Viigand played like a man petrified, awestruck -

ANATOLY (*switching TV off*)  
But why is he really here?  
A whole year of silence  
Then suddenly here he is -

\*FLORENCE  
He's working for the TV company, for a lot of money

ANATOLY  
So that's all it is then?  
He has no desire to see you anymore?

FLORENCE  
Who cares what he's up to?  
You're not playing him

ANATOLY  
Oh no? I've the feeling I am  
\*Why is he here?

FLORENCE  
Don't talk yourself out of form  
Viigand's the one  
You have to beat

ANATOLY  
And he's a fine player

FLORENCE  
Predictable - he's a machine!

\*ANATOLY  
A very fine machine!

FLORENCE (*light-heartedly, affectionately*)  
So are you - so are we!  
But there is one other thing

\*ANATOLY  
What?

FLORENCE  
I gather Svetlana is hoping to come out here

\*ANATOLY  
My wife? In Bangkok? No!

FLORENCE  
\*You must know about it  
It's been in the paper  
They may let her out -

ANATOLY  
This has to be Molokov - right up his street!

FLORENCE

So now you've got one more opponent to beat  
Surely you knew -

ANATOLY (*angry*)  
I did not!

(pause)

FLORENCE  
Well this is a problem we knew we'd be facing soon

\*ANATOLY  
But not now. But not now

***YOU AND I***

FLORENCE  
This is an all too familiar scene

ANATOLY  
Life imperceptibly coming between

BOTH  
Those whose love is as strong as it could or should be

ANATOLY  
Nothing has altered -

FLORENCE  
- yet everything's changed

ANATOLY  
No one stands still -

BOTH  
Still I love you completely and hope I always will  
Each day we get through means one less mistake left for the making

ANATOLY  
And there's no return  
As we slowly learn  
Of the chance we're taking

FLORENCE  
I'd give the world to stay just as we are  
It's better by far  
Not to be too wise

BOTH  
Not to realise  
Where there's truth there will be lies

FLORENCE  
You and I  
We've seen it all  
Been down this road before

Yet we go on believing -

BOTH

You and I

We've seen it all

Chasing our hearts desire

Yet I'm even more certain

This time it will be

My happy ending.

*The phone rings. ANATOLY answers:*

\*ANATOLY

*(Into the phone)* Thank you. *(He hangs up)* The car to take me to the television studio is here.

You know, the interview I promised Walter -

\*FLORENCE

Fine - ask Walter what he knows. Maybe they've fixed the result of the match already. We could go home now if you're going to lose.

*ANATOLY leaves.*

### **Scene Sixteen : The Soviet Machine**

*MOLOKOV and his cronies have assembled at their HQ in their Bangkok hotel. Throughout this scene, only VIIGAND, ANATOLY's challenger, seems interested in chess, poring over a board, making moves for both black and white, ignoring most of the discussion around him. They have been bugging ANATOLY and FLORENCE's room. We hear their last speeches from the previous scene again.*

MOLOKOV

\*Comrades! Why are you looking so worried? We're not dealing with the traitor Sergievsky now. Comrade Viigand here is a disciplined Soviet chess-playing machine!

#### ***SOVIET MACHINE***

Just in case you feel a trace  
Of doubt or even nervous tension  
Let me draw the latest score  
To your attention

Not the score the witless corps  
Of commentators are debating  
Come, admit - who gives a shit  
For Elo rating?

No, I prefer and I'm sure you concur  
To see who's ahead  
Psychologically  
For example:

We have on tap an inscrutable chap  
Whose thoughts never stray



From the state of the play

*(He bangs a gong in VIIGAND's ear. No response.)*

\*Fantastic!

Whereas -

It's so difficult to concentrate if

You have left your native

Country for a woman who has plans of her own

It's not easy for a chap to excel

Feeling guilty as hell

Having left his wife to face the music alone

But even worse, imagine if his ladies met

Well then I bet

The atmosphere round here would be a little strained

As he explained

How he could do what he's done to those two

Most wonderful girls

"Yes I love you both!"

CRONIES

Most amusing!

MOLOKOV

Starting from scratch they'll torpedo his match

His horse-power dead

On the board and in bed

MOLOKOV + CRONIES

Bit by bit the pieces fit

The Soviet Machine advances

Not one move that won't improve

Our nation's chances

We predict a stunning victory

Both on the board and off it

We will show the traitor no-one

Rats with profit

Oh we're gonna smash that bastard

Make him wanna change his name

Take him to the cleaners and devastate him

Wipe him out, humiliate him

We don't want the whole world saying

They can't even win a game

We have never reckoned on coming second

There's no use in losing

We can feel the flame of triumph burning

Our people's pride returning/Bit by bit the pieces fit

The Soviet machine advances

Not one move that won't improve

Our nation's chances

No I prefer and I'm sure you concur

To see who's ahead  
Psychologically  
For example:  
We have on tap an inscrutable chap  
Whose thoughts never stray  
From the state of the play

La la la....

Bit by bit the pieces fit  
The Soviet Machine advances  
Not one move that won't improve  
Our nation's chances

Hey! Hey!

We predict a stunning victory  
Both on the board and off it  
We will show the traitor no-one  
Rats with profit

La la la...La!

From Moscow to the Baring Straits  
Citizens will hail our victory  
In Arctic circles frozen states  
Will join with warmer climes in revelry  
And I can say of this affair  
I was there, did my share, played my part

And Russians all will be aware  
I was there, from the start  
Mmm - mmm

\*VIIGAND  
Checkmate! Goodnight.

*They are all asleep or drunk, or both, save MOLOKOV and a WAITER. MOLOKOV goes to the telephone and makes a call.*

\*MOLOKOV (*into the phone*)  
Mr. de Courcey? ... Good news. We are going to be able to help each other...yes, heart-warming international co-operation. I have the proof that Florence Vassy's father is alive ... you are going to be able to stage a great human rights victory and all we want is a tiny triumph on the chess board ... it's on its way to you now ... what's that? ... thank you - Walter ... goodbye.

*(he hands the WAITER an envelope. The WAITER takes this to WALTER as we merge into the next scene - a TV studio)*

### **Scene Seventeen : Interview**

*The TV studio. WALTER reads the letter. He registers astonishment. FREDERICK arrives.*

WALTER  
Remember last night I was saying

The interview shouldn't be vicious?

*(FREDERICK looks surprised)*

Well, times have moved on and  
Forget what I told you  
You have my permission, no - order  
To go for the jugular - just as you wanted

\*FREDERICK  
Well that's fine by me but why the change?

WALTER  
It seems to me on reflection  
We don't need to pander to Russians  
He may have defected  
He may be a good guy  
But face it, he's yesterday's issue  
\*Here are some questions - go for him!

*WALTER hands FREDERICK a sheet of questions. FREDERICK exits to get ready for the programme.*

WALTER *(to FLOOR MANAGER)*  
Whatever, and I mean whatever,  
They say or do make sure you stay on the Russian  
Don't let your cameras off him for a moment  
\*And get the Svetlana video lined up!

Is this the tide in my affairs  
When I write a little history?  
Or just an interview whose wares  
Will flood the screens with triviality?

*ANATOLY arrives. WALTER greets him with exaggerated warmth.*

Ah, Anatoly! - if I may -  
Let me say right away  
You'll be thrilled  
Because the other seat is filled  
\*By a long standing friend of yours

*FREDERICK returns. ANATOLY is amazed and angry when he sees who is to interview him. WALTER steers them both onto the same studio sofa before ANATOLY has time to protest. The cameras spring to life - they are on the air.*

\*TV PRESENTER  
Tonight's final item is a fascinating confrontation in connection with the World Chess Championship. The former World Champion talks to the man who took his title a year ago in Merano, Italy, and who is defending that title right now here in Bangkok.

FREDERICK  
Well here we are face to face once again

ANATOLY  
By any standards a bizarre reunion

FREDERICK

Is being homeless affecting your game

ANATOLY

I wouldn't know as I've a home in England

FREDERICK

No by a home I mean real home - the place where your family is

ANATOLY

England is my real home!

FREDERICK

What are your latest political aims?

ANATOLY

What are you saying?

FREDERICK

Your anti-Russian crusade - has it worked?

ANATOLY

I'm no crusader -

FREDERICK

What is your true motivation? - that's something we all want to know

\*ANATOLY

Listen - you know damn well what my motivation is -

FREDERICK (*to camera*)

Here we see a man under great pressure  
Two fights to fight yet he could not look fresher  
Chess and politics! I take my hat off  
To any champion who can pull that off  
(*to Anatoly*)  
I hear your second controls everything

ANATOLY

Chess is her passion

FREDERICK

But her obsession is East versus West

ANATOLY

Chess is her passion

FREDERICK

I know a little about her and she's got her own axe to grind

\*ANATOLY

That's not true -

FREDERICK

Aren't you concerned that your wife's not here?

ANATOLY

I don't discuss my private life in public -

FREDERICK

But don't you care that she's not by your side?

ANATOLY

I think I've had enough of this discussion -

FREDERICK

Well, we've a little surprise, we have  
your wife on the video -

Let her talk to you, give you her version

How married life has changed since your desertion

Hey! Come back my friend, we're only showing

Home movies, nothing more - where are you going?

*A video clip of SVETLANA starts rolling. She is appealing to her husband in Russian. ANATOLY pulls off his clip-on microphone (with difficulty) and attempts to leave the set.*

\*WALTER (to ANATOLY)

A wonderful interview!

*ANATOLY barges WALTER aside and exits. The clip changes to the arrival of SVETLANA at Bangkok airport.*

### **Scene Eighteen : The Deal**

*The foyer of the Oriental hotel which becomes a chessboard.*

ARBITER

Isn't it strange the complications

People attach to situations

Almost as if they want to miss

The wood for the trees

Nothing will change my basic feeling

When they've done all their wheeler-dealing

Those in the strongest situations

Do as they please

\*You might see all kinds of human emotion here - passion and pain, love and hate-

I see nothing other than a simple board game

\*In the Dusit Thani hotel, Bangkok, Alexander Molokov makes his first move.

MOLOKOV

\*We did not bring you to Bangkok for a holiday, my dear. You must tell your \*husband that he has to come home.

You can have the life you want

And anywhere you want it -

\*But if he's going to win, then life is going to be very tough for you - tell \*Anatoly that!

Make him think of you not  
Narcissistic dreams of glory

\*How many times does he want to be champion, anyway?

ARBITER

Two days later the wife makes her move...

SVETLANA

\*How many times do you want to be champion anyway?

Who needs a dream? Who needs ambition?  
Who'd be the fool in my position?

ANATOLY

Once I had dreams; now they're obsessions  
Hopes became needs, lovers possessions

SVETLANA

Now you're where you want to be and who you want to be  
and doing what you always said you would  
and yet you know you haven't won at all  
Running for your life and never looking back  
in case there's someone right behind to  
shoot you down and say he always knew you'd fall

When the crazy wheel slows down  
Where will you be? Back where you started

\*ARBITER

Back at the Oriental, Walter de Courcey makes his gambit perfectly clear.

\*WALTER

Your father is alive.

\*FLORENCE

My father? Alive?

\*WALTER

In Russia. Thirty years in prison.

\*FLORENCE

And you think I believe you?

WALTER

\*The evidence is conclusive. And Anatoly will believe me. Now you get Anatoly \*to lose to  
Viigand and Molokov assures me he can get your father out - and not \*only him -

There are some people to recover  
I know that you would simply love a  
Chance to make sure your father's name  
Is high on our list  
We want him back which is to say a

Gesture is needed from your player  
We wouldn't mind if he got beaten  
In fact we insist

FLORENCE

There must be a lie  
You wouldn't tell me  
A limit to your devious ambition  
But what they could be  
I can't imagine  
Is there no one here who's not a politician?  
There's no deal!

*(she hands the document back to WALTER who sidles away)*

When I was young I learned survival  
Taught myself not to care  
Luxuries such as father, mother  
Vanished into thin air  
How can a half-remembered figure  
From a past so remote that it's hardly real  
Alter the way I feel?  
Pity the child who 35 years on  
Finds that confidence gone

\*ARBITER

While in subterranean marble surroundings two of the most powerful players make a mid-game assessment....

WALTER

You should have seen how she reacted  
I couldn't leave till she'd extracted  
Promises she would see her father  
Simple I said  
Told her the way she could achieve this  
Even though you might not believe this  
She said that I was not to worry  
Go right ahead

MOLOKOV

You don't know her well  
She could have fooled you  
She could despite herself try to resist us

WALTER

I don't think I'm wrong  
But let's be certain  
There are others we can call in to assist us...

*(WALTER moves over to FREDERICK)*

\*ARBITER

And who better than the dethroned king?

\*WALTER

Remember, Freddie, who's paying for you to be here in Bangkok - not the Chess Federation. Now we've got a deal to get some people out - including Florence's father - provided Anatoly loses, so convince him!

FREDERICK  
*(on phone to ANATOLY)*  
Communist, Democrat

ANATOLY  
An intriguing collusion

FREDERICK  
Fair exchange - tit for tat

ANATOLY  
Comradeship in profusion

FREDERICK  
And the appeal, partner  
Of this deal, partner  
Is we all stand to win  
You and me, the lady also  
Don't break her heart, partner  
FREDERICK *(continued)*  
*(+ WALTER + MOLOKOV: Partner!)*  
Just be smart, partner  
*(+ WALTER + MOLOKOV: Partner!)*  
Throw the match, show your love  
Is as pure as snow in Moscow

\*ANATOLY  
Who put you up to this? There's no deal!

\*ARBITER  
So Frederick makes a desperate final play for the woman he hasn't seen for a year

FREDERICK  
Silly boy, woman who  
I should not have let walk out  
There's no hitch  
That we two  
Can't untangle or talk out  
And the appeal, partner  
Of this deal, partner  
Is we both stand to win  
We'll bring back the golden era  
Stick with me, honey  
Leave him be, honey  
You don't know what they've planned  
For you long ago in Moscow

FLORENCE  
Can't you see we've moved on?  
Chess has nothing to do with this -  
\*Freddie - Chess isn't life!



\*FREDERICK

But I've changed - I've grown up! He won't help you! He won't throw the match! I'm telling you the truth, Florence!

FLORENCE + FREDERICK

Who'd ever guess it?  
This would be the situation  
One more complication  
Should be neither here nor there  
I wish I had it in me not to care

ANATOLY

Let him spill out his hate  
Till he knows he's deserted  
There's no point wasting time  
Preaching to the perverted

FLORENCE + ANATOLY + FREDERICK + SVETLANA

Who'd ever think it?  
No-one makes the moves intended  
'Til the game has ended  
Then they say I told you so  
I'm learning things I didn't want to know

\*FREDERICK

It can all be different now Florence - I love you!

ARBITER

Everybody's playing the game  
But nobody's rules are the same

ALL

Nobody's on nobody's side  
Everybody's playing the game  
But nobody's rules are the same  
Nobody's on nobody's side

### **Scene Nineteen : I Know Him So Well**

*After the deal, FLORENCE and SVETLANA are the only two to remain.*

\*FLORENCE

Svetlana?

\*SVETLANA

Florence

\*FLORENCE

I don't know what to say

\*SVETLANA

There is nothing. I have seen what he really needs and I can't give that to him - you can

FLORENCE

\*You don't understand. What he really needs is you and his family -

**ENDGAME**

Nothing is so good it lasts eternally  
Perfect situations must go wrong  
But this has never yet prevented me  
Wanting far too much for far too long  
Looking back I could have played it differently  
Won a few more moments, who can tell?  
But it took time to understand the man  
Now at least I know I know him well  
FLORENCE (*continued*)  
Wasn't it good?

SVETLANA  
Oh so good

FLORENCE  
Wasn't he fine?

SVETLANA  
Oh so fine

FLORENCE  
Isn't it madness?

BOTH  
He can't be mine?

FLORENCE  
But in the end he needs a little bit more than me  
More security

SVETLANA  
He needs his fantasy and freedom

FLORENCE  
I know him so well

SVETLANA  
No one in your life is with you constantly  
No one is completely on your side  
And though I move my world to be with him  
Still the gap between us is too wide  
Looking back I could have played it differently

FLORENCE  
Looking back I could have played it differently

SVETLANA  
Learned about the man before I fell

FLORENCE  
I was just a little careless maybe

SVETLANA  
But I was ever so much younger then

FLORENCE  
Now at least I know him well

SVETLANA  
Now at least

BOTH  
I know I know him well

SVETLANA  
Wasn't it good?

FLORENCE  
Oh so good

SVETLANA  
Wasn't he fine?

FLORENCE  
Oh so fine

SVETLANA  
Isn't it madness

BOTH  
He won't be mine?  
Didn't I know How it would go?  
If I knew from the start  
Why am I falling apart?

SVETLANA  
Wasn't it good?  
Wasn't he fine

FLORENCE  
Isn't it madness

BOTH  
He won't be mine?

FLORENCE  
Isn't it madness

BOTH  
He won't be mine?

FLORENCE  
But in the end he needs a little bit more than me -  
More security

SVETLANA  
He needs his fantasy and freedom

FLORENCE  
I know him so well

SVETLANA  
It took time to understand him

BOTH  
I know him so well.

### **Scene Twenty: The Temple**

*A Buddhist temple. MONKS chanting. ANATOLY enters.*

\*ANATOLY  
*(reading note)*  
Meet me in the temple of the Reclining Buddha? Meet who?

*(FREDERICK enters)*

Oh it's you!

FREDERICK  
This is the one situation  
I wanted most to avoid -

ANATOLY  
Then what on earth are we doing?  
I could be better employed -

FREDERICK  
No - please hear me out  
I think I can help -

ANATOLY  
If it's about Florence  
I'm warning you -

FREDERICK  
No - it's not about her, your wife or your kids  
Or money or Walter, or Molokov

ANATOLY  
What the hell is it?

FREDERICK  
I want to talk chess!

\*ANATOLY  
Chess?

FREDERICK  
Something I've noticed in Viigand

It's his King's Indian defence -  
One of the lines he's been trying  
Doesn't completely make sense -

ANATOLY  
I - I don't understand -

FREDERICK  
I told you - his King's -

ANATOLY  
No - I don't understand why  
You're helping me

FREDERICK  
Because I love chess!  
Does nobody else?  
Jesus - sometimes I think I'm the only one  
How can you let mediocrity win?

ANATOLY  
I think I believe you. Show me

*(FREDERICK begins to explain with a pocket chess set)*

\*FREDERICK  
You know, in all my dealings with Florence I never once made a good move

\*ANATOLY  
Me too, Freddie, if I win, it's bad for her father and I can't lose for the wrong reasons -

FREDERICK  
How can you let mediocrity win?

*(FREDERICK leaves)*

### **Scene Twenty-One : Endgame**

*The Arena. The final game in the final match between ANATOLY and VIIGAND.*

CHOIR  
Morphy, Anderssen, Steinitz, Lasker, Capablanca,  
Alekhine, Euwe, Botvinnik, Smyslov, Tal, Petrosian,  
Spassky, Fischer, Karpov, Kasparov

*(NB: this is the chronological order of champions. On the album the names are not sung in this order; neither was current champ Kasparov included)*

\*ARBITER  
Two weeks ago I gave you a limit of six more games to end this sequence of draws. Five of these have now passed. If today's game does not produce a decision, the match is cancelled.

\*FREDERICK *(on TV screen)*

All eyes in the world of chess and indeed many eyes outside it are turned towards Bangkok, Thailand, today where the final match in this gripping encounter has just been launched with ceremonial splendor. And all the talk is of the recent and sensational loss of form of the World Champion who seems certain to surrender his title here today.

### **ENDGAME**

MOLOKOV

How straightforward the game  
When one has trust in one's player  
And how great the relief  
Working for one who believes in  
Loyalty, heritage, true to his kind come what may

WALTER (*to Molokov*)

Though it gives me no joy  
Adding to your satisfaction  
You can safely assume  
Your late unlamented employee  
Knows if he wins then the only thing won is the chess

MOLOKOV

It's the weak who accept  
Tawdry untruths about freedom  
Prostituting themselves  
Chasing a spurious starlight  
Trinkets in airports sufficient to lead them astray

FLORENCE

Does the player exist  
In any human endeavor  
Who's been known to resist  
Sirens of fame and possessions?  
Nothing can harm the successful except for success

*By now the CHOIR has stopped singing names of champions and are instead reprising FREDERICK's lines from Act One:*

1956 - Budapest is rising  
1956 - Budapest is fighting  
1956 - Budapest is falling  
1956 - Budapest is dying

ANATOLY

They all think they see a man  
Who doesn't know  
Which move to make  
Which way to go  
Whose private life  
Caused his decline  
Wrecked his grand design  
Some are vicious, some are fools  
And others blind  
To see in me  
One of their kind

Anyone can be  
A husband, lover  
Sooner than me  
When they discover  
Their domestic bliss is  
Shelter for their failing

Nothing could be worse  
Than self-denial  
Having to rehearse  
The endless trial  
Of a partner's rather sad  
Demands prevailing

SVETLANA

As you watch yourself caring  
About a minor sporting triumph, sharing  
Your win with esoterics,  
Paranoids, hysterics  
Who don't pay attention to  
What goes on around them  
They leave the ones they love the way they found them  
A normal person must  
Dismiss you with disgust  
And weep for those who trusted you

ANATOLY

Nothing you have said  
Is revelation  
Take my blues as read  
My consolation -  
Finding out at last my one true obligation!

FLORENCE

Since you seem to have shut out  
The world at large then maybe I should cut out  
My tiny inessential  
World, inconsequential  
In the kind of games you're playing  
How do you do it?  
I tried to be that cynical but blew it  
I only changed your life  
You left your home, your wife  
Or maybe that had slipped your mind

ANATOLY

Nothing you have said  
Is revelation  
Take my blues as read  
My consolation -  
Finding out at last my one true obligation!

SVETLANA/FLORENCE/CROWD

Listen to them shout!  
They saw you do it  
In their minds no doubt

That you've been through it  
Suffered for your art but  
In the end a winner

We have never heard  
Such an ovation  
Who could not be stirred?  
Such dedication  
Skill and guts a model  
For the young beginner

They're completely enchanted  
But they don't take your qualities for granted  
It isn't very often  
That the critics soften  
Nonetheless you've won their hearts  
How can we begin to  
Appreciate the work that you've put into  
Your calling through the years  
The blood and sweat and tears  
The late, late nights, the early starts

There they go again!  
Your deeds inflame them  
Drive them wild, but then  
Who wants to tame them?  
If they want a part of you  
Who'd really blame them?

ANATOLY  
And so you're letting me know -

FLORENCE  
And you're the only one who's never suffered anything at all

ANATOLY  
How you've hated my success -

SVETLANA  
Well I won't crawl -  
And you can slink back to your pawns and to your tarts

ANATOLY  
And every poisoned word shows that you never understood

SVETLANA  
Liar!

ANATOLY  
Never!

SVETLANA  
Liar!

ANATOLY  
Never!



FLORENCE  
Liar!

ANATOLY  
Never!

SVETLANA + FLORENCE  
Liar!

ANATOLY  
Never! Never!

ANATOLY, FLORENCE, SVETLANA  
Nothing you have said  
Is revelation  
Takes my blues as read  
My consolation -

SVETLANA + FLORENCE  
Finding out that I'm my only obligation

ANATOLY  
Is there no-one in my life  
Who will not claim  
The right to steal  
My work, my name  
My success, my fame  
And my freedom?

*As ANATOLY concludes his words, he sets off on a series of sensational moves that culminate in the checkmate of VIIGAND. Pandemonium.*

\*ARBITER  
Anatoly Sergievsky is the winner.

### **Scene Twenty-Two : You and I/Florence and Walter/Epilogue**

*The arena after all the crowds have gone.*

\*FLORENCE  
So - you've done it. You're still the champion.

\*ANATOLY  
I had to win. If I had lost for Molokov, I would be the same as Molokov. I had to win to be free.

\*FLORENCE  
Free? For what?

\*ANATOLY  
Free to decide what we are going to do.

\*FLORENCE

No Anatoly. You aren't free - neither am I. You have to go back - your wife and your family -

\*ANATOLY

Your father -

***YOU AND I (reprise)***

FLORENCE

This is an all too familiar scene

ANATOLY

Life imperceptibly coming between

BOTH

Those whose love is as strong as it could or should be

FLORENCE

I'd give the world to stay just as we are  
It's better by far

BOTH

Not to be too wise  
As we realize  
There was truth and there were lies

*The arena dissolves into the airport.*

ANATOLY

Knowing I want you  
Knowing I love you  
I can't explain  
Why I remain  
Careless about you

FLORENCE

I've been a fool to allow  
Dreams to become great expectations

ANATOLY

How can I love you so much yet make no move?

BOTH

I pray the days and nights  
In their endless weary procession  
Soon overwhelm my sad obsession

You and I

We've seen it all  
Chasing our hearts' desire  
But we go on pretending  
Stories like ours  
Have happy endings

ANATOLY

You could not give me  
More than you gave me

Why should there be something in me  
Still discontented?

FLORENCE

I won't look back anymore  
And if I do - just for a moment

ANATOLY

I'll soon be happy to say I knew you when

BOTH

But if you hear today  
I'm no longer quite so devoted  
To this affair, I've been misquoted

You and I

We've seen it all  
Chasing our hearts' desire  
But we go on pretending  
Stories like ours  
Have happy endings

*They hold each other for the final time, then separate. MOLOKOV, SVETLANA and Russian DELEGATES arrive. Eventually ANATOLY joins them and leaves with them to board a plane. Soon after they are gone, WALTER arrives at the airport.*

WALTER

So in the end our hero won  
\*Brilliantly!  
Surprised us all -  
He played as well as he has ever done

FLORENCE

No surprise –  
\*and what's more he's gone back to the Soviet Union.

WALTER

He seems unable to win  
Without the added thrill of changing sides

*(pause - no response from FLORENCE)*

Is there nothing more you have to say?

FLORENCE

No, you wouldn't listen anyhow  
And what I'm feeling now  
Has no easy explanation  
Hasn't this been a great achievement?  
Losing your man and nothing in return!

WALTER

\*Not my man - your man. Anyway, Anatoly's return to the Soviet bosom is a very decent gesture if I may say so - he has virtually guaranteed us - er, you - your father. He must have done it for you, he wouldn't have done it for me.

(sings)

Don't be so quick to put us down  
We'll get your father out soon  
That is, as long as he is still alive

\*FLORENCE

What - what did you say?

\*WALTER (*backing away*)

Well, we can't be sure that he's alive but you couldn't be sure that he was dead, so you're no worse off....

(*WALTER sidles out*)

FLORENCE

\*Playing games - using our lives for nothing!

**FINALE**

(*The COMPANY enters*)

How to survive them?  
Where do I start?  
Let man's petty nations tear themselves apart  
My land's only borders lie around my heart

THE END