

# Someone Else's Story

## Chess

- MUSIC LYRICS: Tim Rice
- MUSIC: Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson,
- STYLE: Modern Musical Theatre
- YEAR: 1984
- CHARACTER: Florence
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### Synopsis

The World Chess Championship is about to take place in Merano in Italy. The champion Freddie Trumper (the American) is defending his title against a new challenger Anatoly Sergievsky (the Russian). The temperamental Freddie arrives with Florence, and immediately alienates both the press and his Russian opponent Anatoly. Florence has become increasingly frustrated by Freddie's cheap theatrics and asks herself why she should endure such abuse (How Many Women).

**During the first game, Freddie, accusing Anatoly of cheating, creates a scene and storms out of the arena, leaving Florence and others to find a way to resume the game (Quartet). Later, in his hotel room, Freddie berates Florence for cooperating with the Soviets. Warning him that she has had enough, she tells him they are expected to meet with Anatoly that night. He will have none of it (You Want to Lose Your Only Friend?) and leaves Florence alone to consider her situation (Someone Else's Story).**

Florence joins Anatoly at the restaurant, but Freddie is nowhere to be found. Left alone, Florence and Anatoly find they are attracted to one another. Freddie comes along and is infuriated at the sight of them kissing. Florence's packs her bags to leave Bangkok and Freddie (Nobody's Side). Florence is given a letter stating that Anatoly, in spite of the fact that he is married, wishes to defect because he loves her. Upon their arrival at the airport they are faced by members of the press, who question Anatoly's reasons for defecting. He answers them with his stirring song Anthem.

At another World Chess Championship the Soviets have allowed the defector Anatoly to return behind the Iron Curtain to play chess as an American. Florence confesses sadly that she doesn't know what became of her father.

Florence learns that Anatoly's wife, Svetlana, is around. Anatoly allays her fears, assuring her of his love. Later he visits Svetlana. He is torn between love for Florence and compassion for his wife (You and I). At the match Freddie is beating an emotionally torn Anatoly. The managers find that opposing sides can help each other out. The Soviets would like Anatoly back and Freddie's manager has information about Florence's father. Perhaps some sort of trade can be arranged?

At a restaurant Florence asks to be excused and bumps into Svetlana her on the terrace. They discover they share a great deal in common. Both of them seem destined to lose the man they love (I Know Him So Well).

Florence is taken through the winding streets of Budapest to meet a man who might be her father.

Anatoly is the subject of speculation by the K.G.B., the Arbiter, the C.I.A., In a game at the height of the match, deciding to accept the K.G.B. offer to return to Russia so that Florence may be reunited with her father, he knowingly makes a wrong move - and Freddie is the victor (Endgame).

At the airport Florence has a tearful goodbye with Anatoly (You and I). Once he is gone, she is told that the man she met was not her father after all. Instead, Anatoly had been traded for a captured C.I.A. agent. Betrayed by her own country, having lost both her father and the man she loves, Florence is left alone to face whatever the future may bring.