**Detective Assignment Scene - “A Righteous Daughter Rising”**

Exposition: a girl, around 16, and her dad tour Georgetown. They are dressed simply. Though down on their luck, they made the journey to D.C.  A beautiful, bright, expensively dressed blond leads their tour group.  As the tour ends near the Karski bench, the girl becomes visibly emotional, yet struggles to contain herself.

(She stands near the bench; her father stands next to her.)

               DAD

Wow, that was great; the overnight bus from Columbus was sure worth it.

GIRL

…Dad, I can’t do this. Let’s go home, I’m not meant to be here.

DAD

Yes, you are. Honey, you’re just as good as these other kids. Even better! Besides, what do these other kids have going for them that you don’t?

GIRL

                                  (Regretfully and tearful.)

Money.

(pause) (The dad looks deflated, but brightens on noticing the chess board.)

   DAD

Hey, have you ever played this?

GIRL

Played what?

DAD

Chess.

GIRL

Yes, of course, Dad!

DAD

Then you know how it works. You have two sides. Each side starts with pawns, the least powerful pieces. Then, as you go up, you have two rooks, two knights, two bishops, a queen, and a king. The goal is to take the king.

GIRL

Dad, I know how to play. Why are you--

DAD

--Just listen. The two sides, they mistrust, even hate, each other.  They will do almost anything to take the other down.  And while there are pieces that think they aren’t as strong, or as good, as the others, they still have to do everything in their power to take that king.

      (Dad begins pointing at the chess board.)

DAD

So look, these pawns. They can only move one space at a time. That is the power they have.

GIRL

Dad! Could you stop?

DAD

Look and listen for a second, this is important! Sometimes, one wants to be a knight in shining armor, when they are really a pawn who can’t do much. They are within their boundaries.  It feels like there’s nothing they can do about it. But here’s what they can do: if they know their limits, they can make a strategy.

        (Dad points at the chessboard, imitating moving pieces.)

DAD

Then, as soon as you know it, when the other pieces aren’t paying attention to the pawn, duh duh duh, Checkmate. A little pawn can take whatever piece she needs as long as she is smart and does the right things…I know we haven’t had the best luck in this life, but lemme tell ya – for a pawn, you’ve surely done the right things so far.

         (Girl begins crying and looks away.)

GIRL

That’s never happened.

DAD

What’s never happened?

GIRL

The little piece. You know. <sniffles> Winning the game.

DAD

Yes it has.

GIRL

Who?

DAD

Him.

           (Dad points at the statue of Jan Karski on the other side of the chessboard.)

(Photo of Shindler’s Mercedes van fades up and lights fade down.)