

## FAST TIMES AT D&D High, Episode 4: Detention

### CONTENT WARNINGS

Player Swearing; Mention of Fantasy Narcotic Use; Bullying with some Homophobia

[*FIRST GOOD BOUNCE, Derrick B Perry and Ashley Abbott*]

PERSEPHONE: Welcome to Fast Times at D&D High, where Grange knows exactly where the third sword goes. I'm your DM Persephone and I'm joined by our players, Nuance;

NUANCE: Hi, I play Surississah.

PERSEPHONE: Wren;

WREN: Hi! Oh wait, why did I squeak so much? Yeah, I'm uncomfortable. Also, Cecil. [*clears throat*]

PERSEPHONE: Elise;

ELISE: I'm Elise and I play Hudson. And where does that third sword go?

PERSEPHONE: And Caro.

CARO: I am Caro, I play Ollie, and I don't know where the third sword goes either! Hope we find out.

PERSEPHONE: Alright. Let's find out where the third sword goes. Let's begin.

WREN: Is this like the three seashells in *Demolition Man*?

SURI: So, last time on Fast Times, we learned some valuable lessons, like don't follow talking cats or haunting music because then you end up in a room that mysteriously appeared on the second floor of your high school. It was covered in mirrors, and there was a box with some kind of weird scrollwork that um...someone...thought might be like magic circuitry. And it kinda was! And we all took turns spinning it around to get different colors and phrases, like some kind of in-person Crysfeed "What Color is Your Soul?" quiz. We also got a fight against these scary mirror versions of ourselves. It was apparently some kind of aptitude test? Which seems really unfair because we did not have a chance to study beforehand. And don't listen to Cecil, we all tried our best, and that's the most important thing. Well, once we defeated the mirror selves, the room disappeared, and we found ourselves in the Arcana 101 classroom. And we had missed several classes and now had detention on the very first day, and I really am not sure how I'm supposed to explain any of this stuff to my parents.

[CIPHER, Kevin MacLeod]

PERSEPHONE: You all hear a bell go off. [*school bell rings*] It's now two o'clock and you know that that is the sound for school being over, Ollie.

OLLIE: Oh! Hey, good news! Uh, school's out! So, umm, I guess we'll, uhh, see you all in detention. Very soon.

CARO: Oh, sorry. Question for Persephone, are some of us going to detention right now?

PERSEPHONE: No. It's for next Monday.

CARO: Oh, okay. Okay, cool.

PERSEPHONE: Next Monday and Tuesday.

WREN: I have detention for right now, though.

PERSEPHONE: Yes.

SURI: Do you all remember the thing that it said? It said to go down.

OLLIE: Yeah, something about searching below?

SURI: Should we look into that?

HUDSON: I feel like--

SURI: Or maybe we should just call it good. Maybe we should just call it good.

OLLIE: I kind of want to go to the library and see if we can find something there?

SURI: Oh my goodness, yes.

HUDSON: Oh, I'll get snacks!

CECIL: I can't go anywhere right now, actually.

HUDSON: What's the matter, Cecil?

SURI: Are you okay?

OLLIE: Why not?

SURI: Did I not heal you enough?

CECIL: I...I have to go to detention.

OLLIE: What? No, you don't. Just come with us!

HUDSON: Oh yeah! No. They got detention for turning into a turtle earlier.

SURI: Did they know you turned into a turtle? You specifically? Oh! I mean, I didn't mean that. I didn't - I didn't - I didn't ask that.

CECIL: I guess I have to go.

OLLIE: Uh, well, we could just come with you. How long's detention?

CECIL: I don't know. I've never had a detention.

PERSEPHONE: Ollie, you would know this by heart at this point.

CARO: Yeah.

PERSEPHONE: Standard detentions, unless they're a Saturday detention, are an hour long.

OLLIE: Oh, detention's only an hour long. We can just come with you. And uh...and uh...or...Or we could split up? Suri and I could go to library.

HUDSON: We could pretend like we have detention and hang out with you. You know?

CECIL: I don't know how detention works.

HUDSON: We could practice for detention for next week.

CECIL: I-I-I can't tell any of you what to do obviously, I...

HUDSON: All right, cool! We're comin' with you!

ELISE: Hudson, like, leaves in a direction apropos of not actually knowing where the detention is. Just heads off.

WREN: Cecil pulls out the previous detention slip to look and see if there's instructions on it.

PERSEPHONE: There is. It says, "Report to the guidance office with Ember Dew."

CECIL: Do you know where the guidance office is?

OLLIE: Oh, yeah, uh, I can show you where it is.

CARO: I start and then I shout out to Hudson.

OLLIE: Hey! Wrong way!

HUDSON: Huh?

OLLIE: This way.

HUDSON: Huh. Oh. Okay.

OLLIE: This way. Okay.

CARO: And I start leading folks to Ember Dew's office.

PERSEPHONE: You go down to the first floor, and you know that the guidance counselor's office is about a hallway over from the principal's office. You see that there is another door with those sort of gridline patterns over it, and in gold font "Counselor" above it. You open the door and you see a desk in front of five desks that have been arranged in a row in front of the desk. You also see Ember, the beautiful counselor that you saw on the way into Varnum who took away Monette, is sitting in front of a desk. You also see that in two already-occupied desks in the back, are Ned and Monette. And they are looking down at notebooks, looking, well--Monette looks pissed, and Ned just looks kind of sheepish.

EMBER DEW: A-are you all here for detention? I was not told that there was going to be so many of you. Well, you, I believe.

OLLIE: Yep.

EMBER DEW: I... shouldn't have said that. Anyway, all of you, if you all have detention, come in. Take a seat.

NUANCE: Suri is frozen; she doesn't have detention, which is exactly what the authority figure said she has to have to come in. But the people that she's spending time with are all going in. So there's definitely a moment of 'I am not sure what the correct course of action is right now,' before sheepishly kind of sidling in as well.

PERSEPHONE: Cecil, what do you do?

WREN: Sigh deeply and go in.

PERSEPHONE: You go and you take your seats. Ember Dew goes over back to the door and closes it.

[*ON THE GROUND, Kevin MacLeod*]

EMBER DEW: Well, as you all know, you have detention with me. And quite frankly, this will not just be you writing lines in your notebooks or doing your homework. We're going to have a little chat and I'm going to tell you what I'm here for. As you know, Varnum is a correctional school. Though I would prefer to call it a... well, perhaps a learning center.

Basically, you're all here through circumstances that may or may not have been in or out of your control. However your actions here, while you're attending this school, *are*. And as such, we, the faculty, will give you the chance to improve upon whatever got you here. This school is a place to grow. Not a prison, as so many people believe outside of here. It is a chance for redemption; or, in other ways, to prove to others you're not what they say you are. Is that understood?

OLLIE: Yup.

EMBER DEW: All right. I will let you know that my actual office, which is attached to this room, over there--

PERSEPHONE: She points to another door in the classroom on the right side of the chalkboard.

EMBER DEW: My door is always open, if you have anything to discuss.

ELISE: Hudson's looking, like, wicked intent. He's trying so hard right now.

EMBER DEW: Now, what I'm going to have you do today, instead of something pointless, like writing lines or cleaning up - things that won't teach you anything - I am going to have each of you write a paragraph. And in that paragraph, you're going to write what is bothering you at this very moment, what you think the source of that pain is, and how you wish to improve upon it in the future. And when you are done, you'll bring those papers up to me. And then I will send you on your merry way. I will keep those papers in my office and sometime during the next week, I will reach out to you to bring you into the office, one by one, to receive one-on-one guidance with me. So write your paragraph, take it seriously, and then you may go.

ELISE: So while Hudson's writing, he's going to write very slowly. And also keep looking over at Cecil to see how Cecil is doing, because he doesn't want to leave before Cecil. He's just like

writing. Peeking. Writing. Peeking. And he's just going to wait until Cecil gets up to leave before he gets up to leave.

EMBER DEW: Mister Eilauver.

HUDSON: Yeah?

EMBER DEW: This is not an exam; you cannot cheat. I suggest you keep your eyes when you own paper.

HUDSON: Oh, yes. Oh, sorry. Sorry.

CARO: Ollie finishes writing, stands up, tears off a piece of paper, [*paper rustling*] walks up to the counselor, drops the paper.

EMBER DEW: Oliver?

OLLIE: Mmhmm.

EMBER DEW: I hope that this time you didn't write...cuck funt? Yes, I hope you did not write 'cuck funt' again.

OLLIE: I didn't.

EMBER DEW: Let's see. Oh, it seems you're actually wrote something.

CARO: The words say, "What is bothering me right now," and then a dash, and it says "No stability in my life." Then it says, "Source," and then a dash and it says, "Home is bad." And then it says, "How to improve," and a dash and it says, "Make enough money to get my own place." So Ollie just stares at her and says,

OLLIE: How's that?

PERSEPHONE: Ember quickly scans the letter and looks back up at you; looks straight in your eyes and says,

EMBER DEW: This is something that we will discuss later. I will be sure to call you in. Thank you, Oliver, for listening this time. I greatly appreciate it. And I'm sorry.

CARO: Ollie just kind of shrugs, like he couldn't care less. But he obviously looks a little sad and then walks away.

PERSEPHONE: So you leave the classroom.

WREN: Hudson, you'll notice before you got chastised, when you peek over at Cecil that they have not written anything and are just staring at the paper.

HUDSON: Cecil.

CECIL: What? What?

HUDSON: She said it's like not an exam, so you could just write...stuff.

CECIL: There's so much bothering me, I don't know where to start.

HUDSON: Uhhh, you could start alphabetically.

CECIL: That's a good idea.

WREN: Cecil starts scribbling.

NUANCE: Suri does not write a paragraph. Suri writes several paragraphs in very nice, loopy handwriting. And eventually finishes and kind of skitters forward and hands it over to Ember Dew.

PERSEPHONE: Ember scans it.

NUANCE: Do you want me to read it, or sum it up?

PERSEPHONE: Just give a summation, yeah,

NUANCE: Yeah. Basically, Suri's is just about kind of confusion and a lack of control. Everything that is changing. Clearly it started being about what just happened, but as she wrote, it kind of morphed into all sorts of things. She doesn't feel like she's in control. She doesn't feel like anything that is happening has any input from her and that it doesn't matter. And for how to improve, it's just, "I don't know," several times; "I don't know. I don't know anything. I guess just trying to be the daughter my parents want me to be, because then at least I'll be doing something right."

PERSEPHONE: Ember finishes skimming it and looks up at you with soft eyes.

EMBER DEW: Thank you, Surississah. I appreciate it.

SURI: Yes, ma'am. Sh-should I go? Or sh-should - I could wait--?

EMBER DEW: You may. Yes.

SURI: Ok-okay.

NUANCE: And then she kind of sidles out, shoulders very hunched, and like she's trying to make herself small again.

WREN: Cecil is still scribbling.

ELISE: Hudson at this point is, like, pretending to write? So that it looks like he has a reason to still be in the classroom. A 'hard concentrate' look on his face looks pretty natural for him.

PERSEPHONE: She doesn't notice anything. Hudson tries so hard.

ELISE: He tries so hard.

NUANCE: So is Hudson just, like, keeping the pencil, like, an inch above the paper? Or is he just writing, like, the alphabet or something?

ELISE: He might be just, like, rewriting the stuff that he already wrote so that it looks like he's writing. He finished his paragraph, like, very quickly, as far as Hudson and writing goes. Not as quickly as Ollie, but probably before Suri, because she wrote so much more than him.

NUANCE: She just has a lot of feelings, okay? Full of feelings.

WREN: Cecil stops writing and looks up, kinda shrugs, and brings the paper to Ember.

PERSEPHONE: She scans it. What's the general gist of it?

WREN: It's not a paragraph. It's bullet points, but they say,

CECIL: I got kicked out of school for a misunderstanding. I think I might deserve to be here though. My head hurts. Stuck in detention for things that are out of my control. Things are really confusing in general.

WREN: What do you think the source of this is?

CECIL: Where do I even start?

WREN: How to improve?

CECIL: I have no idea.

ELISE: It's in alphabetical order.

PERSEPHONE: She finishes and looks up at you.

EMBER DEW: Not knowing is an answer as well. Thank you, Cecil. I'll call on you soon.

WREN: Cecil walks out of the room.

ELISE: Hudson looks so relieved when Cecil gets up and leaves. And he gets up and hands the guidance counselor his paragraph. Would you like me to read it out loud?

PERSEPHONE: Sure.

HUDSON: At this moment, I'm bothered by my shirt because it's covered in blood. It smells bad and is sticky and is not soft anymore. I got it from being hit with a sword. In the future, I want to improve this by becoming a great fighter, so that I can be better at protecting my friends. If I keep getting hurt, then eventually, I might die, and then I can't protect them anymore because I'll be dead. Unless I come back as a ghost, like in that movie, but instead of making clay pots, I can fight anyone who tries to come for my buddies.

ELISE: And, like, he looks so proud of himself as he hands this over. Like, there's no irony in his face. He's just like,

HUDSON: Yeah, I really thought about what you said and I thought that was great.

CAST: *[laughing]*

PERSEPHONE: So good. That's so good. You see, Ember finishes the relatively short letter, and looks up at you, and then looks down again at the letter, and then back up at you.

EMBER: Well. We will certainly discuss...uh this...um, at a future date, Hudson.

HUDSON: Yeah, that'd be great.

EMBER: Thank you! Uh, you-you may go now, if you- if you so choose.

ELISE: Hudson leaves.

PERSEPHONE: So you all leave the classroom. You notice that Monette and Ned have not gotten up. Ollie and Suri are still in the hallway when Cecil and Hudson get out.

NUANCE: Suri is probably sitting on the floor with her knees up to her chest. Her skirt is, in fact, long enough to still kind of brush the tops of her feet, even sitting like that, because, you know, why wouldn't you wear the longest things possible? And she's probably working on homework,

at this point, cause why wouldn't you? And has texted home just to say that she's going to be late; she's doing additional research in the library.

PERSEPHONE: There's no response. So when you're all in the hallway again, you notice that it's about a half hour after the final bell has rung, but there's still a few people in the hallway. Some that are going to clubs, some that are still getting stuff in their locker. You see Kenneth, who Ollie and Hudson recognize from the blade class. Next to him is a much shorter Dwarven teenager with no beard, wearing a very open purple shirt with dark brown hair that looks like it has a lot of product in it. And they are talking. Can everyone roll a perception check.

[*die roll*]

CARO: I have a 15

WREN: 10

NUANCE: I also had a 15.

ELISE: Hudson has a 4.

PERSEPHONE: Okay.

ELISE: He is checking his own reflection in a locker.

PERSEPHONE: Hudson and Cecil. You're just too in your own little worlds right now for different reasons. Cecil because you're still thinking about the letter; Hudson because I just imagine that you have, like, a running teenybopper beat in your head as thoughts and emotions.

[*OVERCAST, Kevin MacLeod*]

HUDSON: [*singing*] I am Hudson and today is the best day I've ever had with my buddies. Doo doo doot doot doodoodoo doo doo doot dooo dooooot

[*musical chimes*]

[*INSPIRATION, Kevin MacLeod*]

NED: Hi, Ned here with a brief commercial break! Have you heard about the Fast Times Patreon?

SURI: It's *the* place on the Crysnet where you can support all of our adventures...antics...

OLLIE: And thievery.

SURI: Hey! We don't steal! ...Right?

OLLIE: Riiiiight.

CECIL: And anyway, heh, you can get early access! Plus, there's all sorts of other content on there, like character sheets and texts between all of us, and more. I even hear you can get a personalized shout-out during the show!

HUDSON: Yeah! Stop by in between searching for where the third sword goes! ...I'm still looking.

OLLIE: So run off to [patreon.com/FastTimesDND](https://patreon.com/FastTimesDND).

NED: I hope we see you all there!

HUDSON: Okay, no, but really? Where does the third sword go?

CECIL: Umm...

SURI: ...No.

OLLIE: Hudson, you're so pretty.

TELLUH BANES: Are you all skipping classes again?

OLLIE: Shit! Time to go!

SURI: Back to the episode! Bye!

TELLUH BANES: Detention! Detention!

*[musical chimes]*

PERSEPHONE: However, Suri and Ollie, you see that the Dwarven boy that's talking to Kenneth briefly looks over at you, and then looks over again at the four of you, and gestures to Kenneth. And Kenneth looks over, rolls his eyes, and turns back to his locker. When the Dwarven teenager sort of taps on his shoulder and, like, points at you very blatantly, and then starts dragging him away. Kenneth goes reluctantly; they walk over to you.

OLLIE: Uhhh, it's Elmer, right?

*[INSPIRED, Kevin MacLeod]*

ELMER: Well, hello. Yes, it is Elmer. I am delighted to make all of your acquaintances. Although, Ollie, we-we have classes together, don't we?

OLLIE: Yeah, we do.

ELMER: Very good to see you. Do you all know Kenneth?

PERSEPHONE: You see Kenneth sighs.

OLLIE: I think everyone knows Kenneth.

ELISE: Hudson turns around from admiring his own reflection.

HUDSON: Hey, you're in my class.

KENNETH: Uh, yeah. Uh. I am.

PERSEPHONE: Kenneth scratches at his temple, sheepishly.

KENNETH: I...yeah. We, umm, we're in class together. Are both of you okay?

HUDSON: Yeah. Thanks for asking.

KENNETH: Looks like things got a bit dicey with Grange.

HUDSON: Yeah, he's kind of a jerk.

KENNETH: Yeah, that's--

ELMER: That's one way of putting it. I would just say that he has a stick so far up his ass, he can taste it in his mouth.

OLLIE: Ha!

HUDSON: That sounds--

ELMER: I think he might actually like it, actually.

HUDSON: That sounds painful.

KENNETH: Elmer.

ELMER: What? I'm pretty sure that that man is so far in denial on that, well, you know how these things work. Don't you, Ollie?

OLLIE: Eyy, err, I am--First of all, not at all closeted; I am very openly bisexual. Uhh, not that I've ever had sex. [*awkward chuckle*] But I--if I could, it would be...with...

ELMER: A virgin, huh? Well, I didn't mean that you were closeted; I know very well that you're not. Since there are so few of us around here that are out. But you've seen the closet cases before, haven't you?

OLLIE: Oh, yeah. Typical male aggression bullshit.

ELMER: Of course. They're always so...sad, aren't they?

PERSEPHONE: Could everyone give me an Insight check?

WREN: Sure, but Cecil is just crawling within themselves right now, trying to avoid this entire conversation. [*die roll*] Holy shit.

CARO: I've got a 16.

ELISE: 12?

WREN: I got a dirty 20.

ELISE: Yeah!

CARO: Yeah!

PERSEPHONE: What'd everyone else get?

NUANCE: I got a 6. So yeah, Suri is just bright red and can barely hear anything over the pounding of blood in her ears.

PERSEPHONE: So Cecil and Ollie, you notice that as Elmer is talking about closet cases, you see that Kenneth looks a little bit uncomfortable, but doesn't say anything.

HUDSON: Well, it's gotta be hard if you, like, spending your whole time kind of pretending to be something you're not.

ELMER: Is that something you know about, hmm?

HUDSON: Yeah. Like, when I was little, people used to tell me that I couldn't be a good fighter because I was pretty. And then, like, I had to prove that I was a good fighter. You know?

ELMER: Well, you are very pretty.

PERSEPHONE: Elmer looks you up and down.

HUDSON: Thanks, buddy. You, too!

ELMER: Thank you.

HUDSON: I like your, uhh--

ELISE: He points at a shiny thing on Elmer and says--

PERSEPHONE: Elmer is wearing several gold necklaces.

HUDSON: I like your, uhh. Necklaces.

ELMER: Thank you, I collect them, if you couldn't tell. Just like I collect other things. I was wondering if someone as attractive as you and your friends, would be interested in coming to a little party we're throwing this weekend?

OLLIE: Yes, definitely.

HUDSON: Aww, it sounds great! Oh, uh, Cecil collects stuff, too. They collect bugs. They're real good at it.

CECIL: No, no, no, no. I-I-I. No.

ELMER: You collect bugs?

CECIL: No.

HUDSON: Yeah, like really cool ones. Like, ones you can't, like, find like out and about, you know?

CECIL: Th-that - that's not a-actually accurate.

ELMER: I mean, whatever you're into. Anyway, the party is at the Train Graves. Friday night. Eight o'clock.

OLLIE: Fantastic.

HUDSON: Need us to bring anything?

ELMER: Oh, no, I think that we'll have plenty.

PERSEPHONE: Ollie, you have been to the Train Graves before. You know that the Train Graves are an abandoned tunnel and train lot from before the crystal portal system was stabilized, and it was the most common form of transit between cities in Cisternia. And specifically in Aria, the country that you're all in. And you know that a lot of teenagers sneak in and throw parties there. It's full of broken trains and torn up tracks. It was the site of a really, really bad accident about 150 years ago and has been abandoned since. You know that the subway system that runs in Cadence runs above and over it. And it's not too far from where you live.

OLLIE: Yeah, we'll definitely be there.

ELMER: Good. Right, Kenneth?

PERSEPHONE: You see Kenneth puts a hand on his forehead and sighs.

KENNETH: I have practice Friday. I don't think I'll be up to it.

PERSEPHONE: Elmer looks at him.

ELMER: This is the first big party of the school year and you're going to bail? What kind of Varnum student are you?

PERSEPHONE: You see Kenneth doesn't even open his eyes.

Kenneth: The kind that wants to graduate and not do anything else that's a problem.

ELMER: Well, that's just boring. If we're gonna be here, we might as well cause some trouble. You know, it's--everyone thinks that we're trash anyway, we might as well enjoy it.

HUDSON: Plus, it's a Friday. So Saturday, you could sleep in.

NUANCE: By this point, Suri has just completely checked out of the conversation as a whole. The Category Five anxiety spiral that's been brewing in her brain has finally exploded, and she has no capacity to focus on anything else outside of her head.

OLLIE: Oh, hey, uh, Elmer. By the way, uh, I know that you're, uh, a bit more connected than I am. If anyone's looking for anything, uh you know, to party with, let me know.

ELMER: Ooooh. Looking to do a fair bit of business, are we?

OLLIE: That's the plan!

ELMER: I think that that can be arranged at the party itself. There aren't just Varnum students coming, you know.

OLLIE: Perfect.

ELMER: Some of the people coming may have money.

OLLIE: Good.

ELMER: Well, that'll certainly liven things up.

PERSEPHONE: You see Kenneth looks at Elmer.

KENNETH: Drugs? Really? You know I can't--

ELMER: I didn't say you had to do it, but if someone chooses of their own volition to partake--

KENNETH: Well, what if something happens? What if someone gets in danger? What if someone dies or--

ELMER: Listen, Kenneth. I know that you're all about being upright and upstanding and having glowing swords and shit, but can you please just chill? Just for a little bit?

KENNETH: No, I have to do what's right.

ELMER: No you don't, you're a teenager! Eventually, we're going to be old enough that we can get arrested for this shit and it'll be on our records. We have to use this currency while we have it.

HUDSON: Oh, I think Kenneth is right though, because, like, I did drugs one time? And then I got in trouble and now I'm here. Which, like, Varnum's alright, but, you know. I miss my team.

OLLIE: All right. But, Hudson, follow my logic. Is it right to tell people what to do? Or is it right to let people do what they think is right?

ELISE: Hudson looks like he's trying to do math.

OLLIE: So, restricting people's freedom is wrong! So, if someone wants to do drugs, then that could be right as long as it's what they want to do, and stopping them from doing that is wrong.

HUDSON: So like if you wanna do...what you wanna do...and someone...doesn't wanna do what you wanna do....Then...you're...

ELMER: I believe you broke the poor boy.

OLLIE: *[laughs]* I think I did.

ELMER: Oh, Hudson, you're terribly pretty. Don't ruin your face by scrunching it up.

HUDSON: What?

ELMER: It would be such a waste.

HUDSON: I think Ollie tried to say something really smart and I'm trying to figure it out now.

PERSEPHONE: You see Kenneth looks kind of concerned for Hudson's well-being.

KENNETH: Uh, a-are you gonna be okay? Uh, y-you look like you're hurting yourself.

HUDSON: Oh, yeah, I'll be alright. Uh. I think I got it! So what Ollie is saying is that we have to do what we wanna do. Because if we don't, then we're restricting his freedom?

SURI: No? But, umm...

HUDSON: So Kenneth and I can't do drugs.

ELMER: It's close enough, right?

OLLIE: Yeah, it's close enough. Good enough. I-I feel like that's good. You can do whatever is right for you. But you can't tell other people what is right.

ELMER: Because that's pressure.

OLLIE: Exactly.

ELMER: Of the peer kind.

OLLIE: And that's coercion.

ELMER: Inappropriate.

OLLIE: Yeah, it's tyranny!

ELMER: Mhmm. Anyway, I hope to see all of you there. And we'll have some fun, won't we?

HUDSON: Yeah, we will.

NUANCE: So, I would like to roll Insight because Suri's never gotten an invite to a party before. Especially not from cool kids or whatever. And she's not entirely sure that this is on the up and up. Not that she could go, anyway! Like, she already has 510 reasons why she clearly can't go, but she still isn't sure whether even this is legit.

PERSEPHONE: Mhmm. Roll Insight.

NUANCE: [*die roll*] 12.

PERSEPHONE: Seems like a legitimate offer. From the eyes Elmer is making a Hudson, you think that it might be because of your proximity to him, but it is a legit offer. Kenneth, on the other hand, seems to be filled with trepidation and doesn't even seem like he wants to go to the party, but you can tell he's definitely going to go.

KENNETH: Hudson, Ollie, I-I don't wanna, uh, upset you, but...

[*DISTRICT FOUR, Kevin MacLeod*]

PERSEPHONE: He points behind you. And when you look over, you see that Grange, the half-elven teenager you had a fight with in blades class, is standing against one of the lockers. You see that Buster is right next to him, the tall Goliath that was lying and saying that you started the fight. You see this girl with her arm wrapped around Grange's arm. She is about five-three, has blonde hair that's been really grown out so there's dark roots into, like, bleach blonde hair, looking like she needs a touch up. She's wearing a crop top and very loose jeans. And all of them are staring at you. And you see that Grange sort of snarls and starts to walk over.

NUANCE: That's just a lot of description for a beard.

CARO: Sick burn.

WREN: Wow.

PERSEPHONE: Sick burn.

ELISE: Come on, Suri.

PERSEPHONE: You see that as he starts to come over, Kenneth sort of takes a step forward in front of you two, and sort of puffs himself up.

ELMER: Are you really going to get involved with this, Kenneth?

KENNETH: Shut up, Elmer.

PERSEPHONE: Grange just walks straight up to Kenneth. Kenneth is about five inches taller than Grange, so Kenneth is looking down at Grange. And Grange lifts his chin, puffs up his chest, and says,

GRANGE: Kenneth.

KENNETH: Grange. Is there a reason you're here?

GRANGE: I have some business with the people that are cowering behind you.

OLLIE: Eh, I'm not cowering. I'm-I'm standing very normally. But I look like I'm cowering a lot, but I'm not.

GRANGE: Could have fooled me.

HUDSON: Who's cowering?

KENNETH: Listen, Grange. Don't start a fight here.

GRANGE: I'm not looking to start a fight. I wanna have a conversation.

PERSEPHONE: He gestures back, and the girl and Buster walk over and stand behind him with arms crossed.

GRANGE: I wanna discuss the reason that I was pulled into the principal's office when you two started a fight.

OLLIE: I'm sorry, do you want to go through exactly what happened again?

GRANGE: Oh, I know what happened.

OLLIE: Because--

GRANGE: I know what happened.

OLLIE: --I remember that you were insulting, uh, me and my weasel. And Ricky said something rude, I admit, that was very rude of Ricky to say that. But seeing as you can't understand him and only I can, I'm not really sure why you got upset. And then you elbowed me in the fucking face!

HUDSON: Yeah. You picked on my friend! And that wasn't cool!

GRANGE: All right. Pretty Boy. Skinny thing. I'm gonna tell you how things work here. You don't cross my path. You don't cause problems for me. When you went into that principal's office, you should have taken the blame. Instead, I got my ass pulled in there with Buster, and now we have Saturday detention. You know what that does? Puts a real big damper on the concert tickets I got for Saturday night. My girlfriend here is so disappointed.

PERSEPHONE: You see Matilda rolls her eyes.

MATILDA: Yeah. So disappointed, I guess. Whatever.

GRANGE: See? Real disappointed.

MATILDA: I didn't even want to go to the concert? But, you know, whatever.

OLLIE: Listen, Grange, I'll tell you what. If you start paying me on a weekly basis, I'll start taking the blame for you on whatever the fuck it is you want. But I need to be paid for that to happen. Otherwise, I just don't see it as an equal exchange.

GRANGE: You can get paid by not getting my fist in your face again.

OLLIE: Nope, that is not how I can get paid.

GRANGE: Well, why don't we settle this now?

PERSEPHONE: Grange starts to move around Kenneth, and Kenneth moves in front of him.

KENNETH: Don't, Grange. Just don't.

GRANGE: What are you, their lapdog now?

KENNETH: No, but I'm not gonna let you start a fight with anyone in front of me. I'm going to interfere, since I couldn't interfere in the classroom. But I will here. Is that something you want?

HUDSON: You want me out of your way, you leave my friends alone, all right? And I'm not gonna lie to the principal, because I'm really bad at lying! So...take that!

OLLIE: He is really bad at lying.

PERSEPHONE: You hear a small voice then.

NED: Umm, are we having a party?

PERSEPHONE: And you see that Ned walks up, his dreads sort of bouncing around his face, completely oblivious about what's going on.

NED: Did I miss something?

PERSEPHONE: Grange peers around Kenneth, looks at Ned, then looks at all of you.

GRANGE: What is this, your pet?

HUDSON: No!

GRANGE: Do you feed him? Pet him?

OLLIE: Uhh...

HUDSON: Ricky is the pet!

OLLIE: You should be--

HUDSON: He's a weasel!

OLLIE: Yeah--yeah, he's more of a familiar, but...Ned is not a pet! Ned is really fucking powerful! And if I were you, I would look out, because he completely broke the spell barrier in Banes's class. And if you don't look out, he's gonna break your fucking ass!

NED: A-a-am I going to break someone's ass?

GRANGE: Oh, is that for sure?

PERSEPHONE: You see Grange looks at Ned.

GRANGE: Can you kick my ass, little boy? Can you? Can you even reach it?

HUDSON: Ew!

PERSEPHONE: You see Kenneth puts a hand on Grange's shoulder and pushes him back.

KENNETH: Enough.

HUDSON: Why would you want Ned to grab your ass? That's such a weird thing to ask.

OLLIE: That was a weird thing to ask.

PERSEPHONE: You see at this point, Elmer has had enough, uncrosses his arms, and walks up next to Kenneth.

ELMER: Grange, darling.

GRANGE: What do you want, Elmer?

ELMER: If you just could go? That would be great, darling. That would really excite me.

GRANGE: I'm not gonna do anything that you tell me to, you little bitch!

ELMER: Oh, am I - am I a bitch, now? I'm a bitch? Oh! No. Honey, I believe the term you're looking for is, I'm *that* bitch. So why don't you just...shoo. So I can focus on people that are worth my attention, and don't ugly up my sight with, ah, repression.

GRANGE: What exactly am I repressing?

ELMER: Ohh, you know. And from the looks of it, your girlfriend knows, too.

GRANGE: What do you--?

PERSEPHONE: You see Matilda sort of, like, looks away and doesn't say anything, but looks kind of sheepish. And Buster just puts a hand on Grange's shoulder.

BUSTER: It's not worth it right now. Can we please just go?

GRANGE: Fine. Fine. We'll go. But I'll remember all of you. Every single one of you.

HUDSON: Well, you see us every day, so it'd be weird if you forgot. Cause then, you'd just see us tomorrow. What are you, dumb?

GRANGE: Watch your back, pretty boy. I'll beat your face in yet.

ELMER: Right? That's not homoerotic at all. I would never watch that on Pay-Per-View.

GRANGE: [*sputters*] Don't be so gross!

ELMER: Oh, is being gay gross? Is that what you think?

GRANGE: Yeah! It's--it's--it's--it's just [*sputters*]

PERSEPHONE: You see Matilda puts her hand on his opposite shoulder and says,

MATILDA: Can we just go now? Like, let's just go.

GRANGE: No! This person-- [*sputters*]. No! Elmer just called me gay and I just--I don't--I'm not! I'm totally not!

ELMER: No one called you gay, darling; that's something you just assumed yourself.

PERSEPHONE: You see Buster and Matilda start pulling Grange away and out down the hallway.

ELMER: Oh, I--I hate that man more than I hate Crocs! More than I hate--

ELISE: Hold on. We're not avant garde, here!

CAST: [*laughing*]

ELMER: I hate him more than I hate Crocs, socks with sandals, and, of course, facial hair. I really don't know how my people deal with it. It's so goddamn itchy! It's itchy!

OLLIE: Eh, you know, at least you can grow facial hair. Ugh, some of us are still working on it.

ELMER: I have to shave twice a day to keep it off, otherwise my face feels like a Brillo pad.

OLLIE: Yeah, I trade with you if I could, but.

HUDSON: Why is Graham such a jerk all the time? Man!

KENNETH: He-He's been that way since we were kids.

HUDSON: You've known him since you were kids?

KENNETH: Yeah, I mean...

ELMER: Kenneth actually has a very interesting history here with Grange if you couldn't tell.

KENNETH: That's enough. Elmer, look. We invited them to the party. Stopped Grange. Can we go now? No offense to all of you, but I need to get to practice.

[*CIPHER, Keven MacLeod*]

HUDSON: Thanks for standing up for us, bud. That was really cool of you.

OLLIE: That was really cool.

PERSEPHONE: Kenneth blushes and looks away.

ELMER: Oh, look at him. He's so cute when he plays the big damn hero and gets all sheepish.

KENNETH: I'm gonna go, Elmer. I'll see you tomorrow.

PERSEPHONE: And Kenneth just storms out, too.

ELMER: So touchy. So we'll see all of you at the party, right?

HUDSON: Yeah!

OLLIE: You bet.

HUDSON: Thanks for the invite, bud.

ELMER: You're certainly welcome, honey.

PERSEPHONE: He looks you up and down.

ELMER: Make sure to wear that shirt again. I'll see you later.

PERSEPHONE: And walks out. Ned looks very confused.

Ned: Um. Did that scary person with a mohawk just, uh, threaten me? Umm, and us?

HUDSON: I think so.

OLLIE: Aww, they threaten everyone. Don't-don't worry about it.

NED: Are you sure? Because, like, I um...I'm kind of concerned about that. Just a little.

OLLIE: Don't worry. We'll, ah, we'll look out for you.

NED: Okay, I-I-I mean, I guess you looked out for me earlier, Ollie, so I appreciate that!

HUDSON: Aww, Ollie!

OLLIE: Yeah. Is everything all right? Well, I-I saw you were in detention. Uh, how come...?

NED: That was, uh...

OLLIE: Oh, was that because of that?

NED: Yeah. It was, um. They, uh, just thought it would be good for me to spend some time with the counselor. It wasn't - it wasn't fully detention? They just, you know, thought that I could use some time.

SURI: But they know it wasn't your fault, right?

NED: No! No, it wasn't--it-it totally wasn't my fault! No. Um. No. It was nothing I could control, anyway.

SURI: It was just an accident.

NED: Yeah. It was totally an accident. Absolutely.

HUDSON: Are you - are you all friends? I don't know this kid.

NED: Oh, hi, I'm Ned. What's your name?

HUDSON: Oh hey, Ned, I'm Hudson.

NED: It's nice to meet you.

HUDSON: Yeah!

NED: You're really tall.

HUDSON: Thanks. People don't say that to me very much.

NED: I mean, like, everyone's taller than me, umm. A little bit.

HUDSON: That's fair. Yeah, you're pretty small.

NED: An-and what's your name?

PERSEPHONE: Ned, like, jumps; he almost, like, vibrates with energy over to Cecil, right in front of Cecil.

NED: Hi, I'm Ned.

CECIL: What?

NED: You've been really quiet.

WREN: Cecil has been just completely in their own little world. As soon as there was talk about closets and things, and then just leaned up against a locker and started imagining what they were going to do once they finally got home. And actively did not pay any attention to the threats with whatever was happening. Just, like, was sitting there, looking up, thinking, and now someone's in front of their face.

CECIL: What?

PERSEPHONE: Ned holds out his hand.

NED: I'm Ned! It's nice to meet you. What's your name?

WREN: Cecil looks around at everyone else.

CECIL: Oh, um. I-I'm Cecil. Ned. Uh, you're Ned. I'm Cecil.

NED: Right! Uh, are you gonna - are you gonna shake my hand, or...?

CECIL: Oh! S-sure.

WREN: And shakes Ned's hand.

PERSEPHONE: Ned sort of fervently shakes it really hard. Like he's just full of energy. You see his dreadlocks, his short little dreadlocks down to his chin, just sort of sway to and fro as he's like, shaking your hand, cause his whole body shakes.

NED: It's really nice to meet you! Are you friends with Surississah? And Ollie?

CECIL: Umm.

OLLIE: Wow. Thanks a lot. Yeah, they-they're friends; they're friends with us.

NED: Oh, um.

HUDSON: They're friends with me too. I've known Cecil for like a long time.

NED: Really?

HUDSON: Yeah.

NED: Cool. It's really nice to meet you. I hope we get to be friends.

HUDSON: Yeah, you bet buddy.

CECIL: Yes, yes.

NED: Cecil, are you okay? You seem a little, y'know, stressed. What's wrong?

CECIL: I'm fine.

NED: Are you sure? Do you wanna talk about it?

CECIL: No.

NED: O-okay. Umm. I'll back off. Um.

ELISE: Hard no.

NED: Well, anyway, it's, um, it's totally nice to meet you. Did you hear about the party on Friday?

HUDSON: Yeah, you gonna go?

NED: Uh, I didn't have anyone to go with? But I-I-I was sort of torn because, like, I don't want to miss out on anything? But like, there's-there's-there's people that are kind of mad at me for what happened today. The same time if I don't go, like, they might make fun of me for that anyway, so... But I don't have anyone to go with.

HUDSON: Ollie says--

OLLIE: You should go with us. We're totally gonna go.

NED: All of you? Even you, Suri?

SURI: I...

OLLIE: Yeah!

NED: If you're going, I'll totally come!

SURI: I--I...

NED: Yeah, this is a plan! This is great! Thank you!

SURI: Oh, I--

NED: I'll totally come with you Friday! But I gotta get going now, so, um, I gotta run home. Uh, great meeting all of you!

HUDSON: Bye, Ned.

NED: Bye!

PERSEPHONE: Waves his hands energetically and, like, runs off.

SURI: I don't think I can go to the party.

OLLIE: What? What do you mean? You have to go.

NUANCE: Suri says as Ned is, like, fleeing.

HUDSON: Why not?

SURI: I-I would n-never get permission to go, my, uh...

OLLIE: What? Then just sneak out.

SURI: What?

OLLIE: Sneak out.

SURI: Of my house?

OLLIE: Yeah.. Of-of-of course.

SURI: Oh, um. I don't-- no, I-- that and I, umm, that... I don't even...I don't think [*helpless sputtering*]

OLLIE: Listen, listen.

SURI: ...just to get down to th-the lawn...

OLLIE: I can help you.

SURI: What?

OLLIE: I can help you.

SURI: H-how? I don't know. I, I don't know.

OLLIE: I can make it look like you're there, studying.

HUDSON: I mean technically it's a school event because there's going to be students there, right?

SURI: I couldn't look at my parents and say it's a school event. I can't. I can't lie to-- not my mom's face. And then...ohhhh...cause I don't... [*squeaks*] Like?

CECIL: You don't have to go to the party. I'm not gonna go to the--

OLLIE: What?! Yes you are, you have to go!

HUDSON: Come on!

CECIL: I don't want to go?

HUDSON: Well, why not?

OLLIE: Listen, we have to stick together. And we have to go to this place, because this place is kinda underground-ish? And it might be where we have to go next for our quest!

HUDSON: We're on a quest?

OLLIE: Yeah! We heard that voice said that, you know, go below.

SURI: Ohhhh.

OLLIE: This is probably where it is.

HUDSON: I thought it meant something completely different.

CECIL: Shh! Shh! Shh!

HUDSON: And I was just like, well, I guess I gotta get to know y'all better.

WREN: Cecil starts like,

CECIL: [*hushing noises*]

HUDSON: What?

CECIL: Hallway! [*more hushing noises*]

OLLIE: Is it a secret?

CECIL: [*hushing noises continue*]

WREN: Cecil is waving their hands and just looking around, scared.

OLLIE: What, it's a secret that we're awesome? Do we have to keep this--I don't think the voice told me to keep it secret. Is it secret?

CECIL: Probably!

SURI: You really think that's what we have to do?

OLLIE: I do! I really think that. I think you all have to go to the party.

NUANCE: Suri's gonna try to roll Insight to see if this is bullshit.

CARO: [*laughing*]

NUANCE: [*die rolls*] So Suri got a 13. To read Ollie's bullshit.

PERSEPHONE: Okay. You look at Ollie and Ollie roll Deception.

CARO: I'm so good at this. Hold on.

NUANCE: [*laughing*] I know! It's so unfair. To me.

CARO: *[laughing]* Watch me fail my role entirely, though. *[die rolls]* Oh, let's see, I only have a 10 on Deception.

PERSEPHONE: Total?

CARO: Yeah.

PERSEPHONE: Surissisah, you can tell it's bullshit.

SURI: You don't believe that. Not really.

OLLIE: I half-believe it! Okay? I-I really do think that we need to start looking for, like, places to go that are kinda underground-y. And this is a really good place to start.

SURI: But, I mean, how are we gonna...? If there are a bunch of people around, how would we even get a chance to look?

OLLIE: Oh, I dunno. I assumed that the magic inside of us will just, like, shimmer or whatever. And then, uh, y-you know.

SURI: I'd have to think about it. You've never met my mom.

OLLIE: I mean, you seem, like, drastically afraid of your mum. Is there something that we should know about? Are you safe?

SURI: Oh! Y-y-yeah, no. My parents, they're just--they just have really high standards for, umm, uhh, behavior and stuff. So. They can just be really strict is all.

CECIL: So you're saying that we can go to this party, but not actually have to engage in any of the party activities, and we can just go investigate instead.

OLLIE: Yeah, who knows? You might have fun.

HUDSON: Yeah, I can like--

CECIL: I can think of at least seventeen-and-a-half things way more fun to do on a Friday night than go to a party.

OLLIE: Really?

CECIL: Yes.

[*Shaving Mirror, Kevin MacLeod*]

HUDSON: I can't. Unless it was, like, a game.

CECIL: Games? I can think of several games.

HUDSON: Yeah, like a wrestling match. I used to love going to those. There're tryouts soon, aren't there? Huh. I should try out for the team here.

CECIL: Or like a board game...

SURI: I guess if we're all gonna go to ex-- to investigate and try to figure out what comes next, I could...try?

OLLIE: Uh, so Suri. I, uh, I don't want to like - well I do kinda want to pressure you to go, but if you really need help, uh, with kinda getting around your parents, uh, I'm kind of an expert and that sort of thing, so let me know? But I don't want to, like, invite myself over cause that's weird.

NUANCE: Suri just gets a look with the phrase 'invite myself over.' She might even possibly pale a little bit.

SURI: I'm sssure that won't be nesssessary!

OLLIE: All right, sorry! Uh...

SURI: No, no! Not-- y-y-your--I just--

OLLIE: No, I get it. It's fine. Uh.

SURI: No--

OLLIE: I gotta get going anyway. All right, see you later.

SURI: Uh...

OLLIE: Bye guys!

CARO: And Ollie kind of, like, walks off.

SURI: Like...

HUDSON: Oh! Yeah. Huh. Sorry, Ollie was acting real weird. Now I'm, like, confused.

CECIL: I'm gonna go, too.

HUDSON: All right.

WREN: And Cecil takes the opportunity to get away.

SURI: I-I guess I should probably go, too. M-my family will be...

HUDSON: You need a ride home, Suri?

SURI: Uhh...yeah? I guess it's...yeah. It's kind of out--it's kind of a distance and I was just gonna try to figure out the bus schedule.

HUDSON: Where do you live? I'll give you a lift.

SURI: That's really nice of you, thank you. Umm...

NUANCE: And Suri gives Hudson an address about a block away.

ELISE: Hudson does not notice. Oh! In my head, I was just like, "Wow, Suri is just like really trying to work her way into spending more time with Hudson! That's, like, dope."

NUANCE: No! She didn't think he would. She feels bad about it like, "Oh no, he's being so nice. I'm sort of tricking him, but he'll never know. And that makes me feel both better and worse."

WREN: You mean a block away from your actual address?

NUANCE: Yeah. Y'know. Sorry. Yes. Not a block away from school, a block away from my actual address.

WREN: *[laughs]* Just drive one block.

NUANCE: Nope. She gives an address in the nicer part of town, probably not all that far away from where Hudson lives? But a block away from her house, because this way she doesn't have to explain why somebody is dropping her off who's not her eldest brother, Seth.

PERSEPHONE: Hudson, can you give me a pure luck check. Just a roll of the d20 to see if Suri accidentally chose your actual address.

ELISE: 13.

PERSEPHONE: That's your actual address.

ELISE: That's my address?

PERSEPHONE: Surissisah accidentally wrote down your actual address.

HUDSON: Aw, dope, you live at my house?! I had no idea!

Cast: [*laughing*]

SURI: Wait, what?

HUDSON: Yo, where you been--

SURI: What?

HUDSON: Where you been living?

SURI: *What?*

HUDSON: Is my mom your mom?

SURI: *What?!*

WREN: Oh no...

HUDSON: Well, that can't be right. My mom's, like, the nicest lady.

SURI: Wa--I'm sorry. W-what-what do you--what do you--what do you mean?

HUDSON: Or, if she's, like, crazy and then she's got, like, one nice family and then one bad family. And she's like...I don't know. I think I saw a movie like that one time. Anyways, we're going--

SURI: What?

HUDSON: --to the same place!

SURI: Wait--no--what? No! What?

HUDSON: Let's go!

PERSEPHONE: Hudson drags Suri off over her protests that she does not in fact actually live with Hudson. To which Hudson is paying not at all attention. Ollie and Cecil, what do you think you're doing when you leave?

WREN: Cecil is gonna start walking to...I don't actually know what kind of transport they take home. But they are, at that juncture, going to actually read their texts.

PERSEPHONE: So you see the text from Jenny earlier. There is a question mark text underneath it, but that's it. And there's no other text there.

WREN: There was also the texts that I deliberately ignored from my mother.

PERSEPHONE: Oh, yeah, you have that, too.

WREN: So I will just write, "On my way," to the mother. And to Jenny, I just write, "New school. Cell phone service bad. I'll email you later."

PERSEPHONE: You get about five text messages back from your mom.

CECILIA: Honey, are you not home yet? Are-are you not there? What happened to you? Where'd you go? You said you were doing something after school, but like, y'should be home now. Honey, I'm in between my shifts. I'm about to go to the restaurant straight from the factory. I can't--just tell me that you're okay, you're alive.

WREN: "I'm fine." And then puts the phone back in their pocket.

PERSEPHONE: Ollie, how about you?

CARO: Ollie is going to walk in the direction of ostensibly where he lives. But doesn't want to go home. So he's going to go sit outside a liquor store where he used to be able to get booze and retraces the x's on the backs of his hands.

PERSEPHONE: And with that, we end our session.

\*\*\*

PERSEPHONE: This has been Fast Times at D&D High. I'm Persephone and you can find me @Persephiroth everywhere online.

CARO: I'm Caro, and you can find me on all the things at @Car0mur, spelled with a zero.

NUANCE: I'm Nuance, and you can follow me @shadowravyn on Twitter, and booksomewench on Twitch. Check out Dun-gyms and Dratinis, my Pokemon homebrew.

WREN: I'm Wren, and I live on twitter @AtomicFirebird, Also make\_believe\_ on Twitch where I run indie system one-shots and do a weekly interview show.

ELISE: I'm Elise, several sentient otters. I am not on the internet. Don't @-me.

PERSEPHONE: You can also find all of us on Twitter @FastTimesDND. If you want to support us, please visit us at [patreon.com/FastTimesDND](https://patreon.com/FastTimesDND)

CARO: if you want to know more about the world, the players, our characters, check out [fasttimesdnd.com](https://fasttimesdnd.com).

NUANCE: Transcripts of our episode audio are provided by Zee Bowditch, @fandomjunkiezee on Twitter.

WREN: Fast Times at D&D high is an ArcanaCast production, copyright 2020, all rights reserved. Our editor is Derrick B Perry. Our theme song was produced by Derrick B Perry and Ashley Abbott. Our background music is courtesy of Kevin MacLeod, licensed under Creative Commons. Find individual track listings in our show notes.

ELISE: And we ran out of things. Still don't @-me.

PERSEPHONE: Tune in next time to hear the story unfold.