

PAWN TO TWEEN FOUR
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CHARACTERS

| | |
|--------|---|
| ASHLEY | 13 and a half |
| LEEANN | 13 and a half, Ashley's best friend |
| CARLEY | 13 and a half, Ashley's other best friend |
| MIKE | 17, Ashley's brother |
| HANK | Talking Chess Computer |

SETTING

The action takes place in Ashley's room.

TIME

Late Saturday night

(The curtain rises on Ashley's empty bedroom. The closet door is cracked open and trails of smoke are coming into the bedroom from within. Ashley, Leeann, and Carley can be heard from within.)

ASHLEY
(coughing)

And so then like, the babysitter hears the phone ring...from *Upstairs!*

LEEANN
I've *heard* this one.

CARLEY
A million times!

ASHLEY
Shut UP, this one's different. And so she like, she like starts creeping up the stairs to like check on the kids.

LEEANN
(coughing)
Are you like SURE your parents won't be home til' past midnight?

(The bedroom door opens and Mike quietly enters and gingerly walks up to the closet door.)

ASHLEY

I like told you, right? Okay, so she like goes up the stairs and ...

(Mike bursts open the closet door.)

MIKE

BUSTED!

(The girls shriek and emerge from the closet holding their vaping cigarettes.)

ASHLEY

Get OUT!

LEEANN

Hi Mike!

CARLEY

Hi Mike!

MIKE

What are you twerps doing?!

ASHLEY

Go away!

MIKE

Vaping? Is that what you dorks are doing?

ASHLEY

Like you don't?!

MIKE

I'm 17.

ASHLEY

Are you like gonna tell?

MIKE

I'll trade you.

LEEANN

Okay!

CARLEY

Sure!

ASHLEY

Trade us *what?*

MIKE

Cool your jets. Be right back.

LEEANN

Your brother is SO cute!

ASHLEY

EEEWWWWWWW... SHUT. UP.

CARLEY

Super cute!

ASHLEY

GA-ROSS!

LEEANN

Does he have a girlfriend?

CARLEY

I bet she's super pretty!

ASHLEY

Are you kidding me? He's a total geekasaurus! So where was I? Oh! Okay, so she like goes up the stairs to check on the kids and then...

LEEANN

We know! All the lights go out!

CARLEY

We *told* you... we've heard this one!

(Mike pushes the button again and Hank stops talking.)

MIKE

Just push this button when you want to pause and push it again to continue.

ASHLEY

GET. OUT.

MIKE

One hour.

(Mike exits. All three girls crawl on the bed and peer down at the chess board and Carley pushes Hank's button.)

HANK

Pawns provide the first line of defense for their king. On the first move, you may move your pawn two squares forward. For subsequent moves, pawns can only move one square forward, unless the pawn is capturing a piece, which must be a diagonal move. However, on its first move, a pawn may capture an enemy pawn En Passant, French for "in passing," by moving two squares forward to rest beside an enemy pawn, thereby capturing it.

ASHLEY

UH. MAH. GAH! SOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO stupid!

LEEANN

Shhhhhh....

CARLEY

Listen!

(The lights go out. Three beats later
the lights come back up revealing
that Mike has reentered.)

MIKE

Leeann, that is close but the knight only moves two forward and one to the side,
not three forward. But pretty good!

LEEANN

Thanks Mike! You are so smart to show us Hank!

ASHLEY

Okay like we all learned. So no tattling!

MIKE

And Carley? Great job. You whizzed through those moves like an old pro!

CARLEY

Thanks Mike! It was super fun!

ASHLEY

Okay, *now* Geekatroid? Can you please make like a banana and split?

MIKE

Alright twerps, your vaping secret is safe with me. *This* time. Better not catch you doing it again!

(Mike exits.)

ASHLEY

Wow Carley, I'm glad you remembered all that stuff! SOOOO boring!

CARLEY

Well... I like already knew how to play.

ASHLEY

You did?

LEEANN

You're kidding!

CARLEY

My dad taught me and then like last summer I won the Camp Naugatuck junior chess title up in Connecticut.

ASHLEY

What?!

LEEANN

WOW? You did? Cool!

CARLEY

Yeah. First place and I was the only girl entered!

ASHLEY

You play chess? Why? SOOOOOO boring!

LEEANN

Like why didn't you tell us?!

CARLEY

I didn't want Mike to notice that Hank wasn't like talking. He's SOOOOOOOO cute!

LEEANN

Super cute!! Hey Carley, will you show us that castle thingie move again?

ASHLEY

NO!

CARLEY

Yes! It's sooo cool!

LEEANN

Neat! Show us!

ASHLEY

Oh, *okay*, whatever... go on then.

CARLEY

Okay, so like rooks are super, duper boss. Ya know how Hank was saying that rooks are like the most powerful pieces except for the queen?

LEEANN

Yeah???

ASHLEY

Uh-huh??

CARLEY

Well I kinda think of it like rooks are such badasses that they like eat knights and bishops for breakfast.

ASHLEY

Oh! That's kinda cool!

LEEANN

SO cool! Knights are like the horses, right?

(The girls are absorbed watching Carley move Hank's pieces.)

CARLEY

Okay, so like to castle, the knight has to be out of its starting space on that side. So like you take the rook and like move it beside the king and then you like move the king to where the knight was so it sits behind the three little pawn dudes and after that you ...

END OF PLAY