

Eddie, The Senior Year

Hazing: Not Allowed

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School lets out for the day, and Eddie decides to stop by Kathy's house on his way home. Since classes haven't started yet at the University, Kathy is likely relaxing in her back yard in her pool. This means John, whom Eddie gave a ride to school this morning, will either have to take the bus or walk home. Since the weather is nice, John decides to walk. Truth is, John has no idea of which bus he should be on. Besides, he can probably walk home faster than the bus can get him there.

Leaving the school grounds through a narrow walking path that serves as a short cut for students who walk to school, John is suddenly greeted by a few juniors and seniors. One of the seniors asks John, "you a freshman?" Aware that the high school is known for its hazing of freshmen, John replies, "no." Another one of the seniors pipes up, confidently announcing, "he's a freshman. That's a freshman math book he's got." Quickly realizing what he is up against, John strategically replies, "I failed math last year." One of John's adversaries announces to the others, "he's full of shit. I ain't never seen him around here before. He's a freshman." Outnumbered five to one, John tries to slip by, hoping to make a run for it.

Intercepted by the group of thugs, John tries to make a run for it, but is quickly detained by four people, some of whom are a lot bigger than he is. The head of the welcoming crew, some guy named Ronald Rex, walks up to John, and delivers a solid blow to John's mid section, announcing, "welcome to high school!" Delivering another

fierce blow, Rex tells John, "I hope you enjoy your stay." John is released by the four other thugs and doubles over in pain, now wishing he had taken the bus.

Seeing their next victim approaching, Rex tells the others, "forget this one for now. We'll finish him off later. We got ourselves another freshman coming." Not wanting to stay around for an extended welcome, John makes himself scarce as fast as possible. Rex, and the high school welcoming committee, waits as the next unsuspecting freshman approaches.

Later that night, John explains to Eddie what happened after school. Eddie assures John that he will take care of the situation. Eddie also explains that Ronald Rex and his buddies can usually be found behind the school late Friday or Saturday night, sitting in a stolen car, drinking beer, or smoking dope. To his credit, Rex occasionally makes it to school, but rarely during school hours. In one instance, Rex was caught burglarizing the school at three o'clock in the morning.

The next day, during physics class, Eddie explains to the tribe what happened to John. Braden asks Eddie, "are you gonna kick Rex's ass?" Eddie replies, "yeah, bro." Braden asks "when?" Eddie replies, "today, if I can. Hopefully, Rex made it to school today." Mark interjects, "he'll make it to school all this week only because he can mess with the freshmen." Eddie explains, "John said they were waiting behind the bushes on the other side of the walking path. Me and John are going to walk through there after school, and see what happens." Braden replies, "I'm gonna be there too. I'll be your backup." Bobby B., who walks to school, replies, "I'll be there, too." Mark, Johnson, and Mitchell all agree to back Eddie up just in case things happen to get a little rough.

The final bell of the day rings, and the tribe meets in the parking lot at Eddie's MGB. With them is John, who will be glad to see Rex go down. Seeing Rex and his welcoming committee off in a distance near the gate at the other end of the parking lot, Eddie tells John, "we're going to walk down the sidewalk along the main road on the

other side of the fence. When you see us getting close, walk through the gate, and we'll see what happens." John replies, "okay. But, I don't really want to take another hit by those guys." Braden informs John, "that ain't nothing compared to what Rex is gonna get!" John gets the point, but would rather not be defenselessly punched in his stomach again.

Eddie and the tribe walk down the sidewalk toward the corner of the schoolyard, discussing among themselves how they will handle this. Seeing Rex and his four thugs approach, John nervously walks through the gate, hoping not to have a confrontation like the one he had yesterday. The tribe turns the corner, nearing the gate from the back side. Rex, and his buddies, with their view blocked by several tall bushes, cannot see Eddie and the tribe approaching.

Rex and the four others in the welcoming committee step in front of John, asking, "you come back for some more?" John replies, "no. Get out of my way." Rex announces to his henchmen, "wow! Did you hear that? This freshman wants me to get out of his way! I don't think I'm in the mood to do that right now." As they did yesterday, Rex's four assistants approach John to detain him.

Walking up with the tribe and interrupting the party, Eddie asks John, "is there a problem here?" Rex turns around and, before he can say anything, Eddie firmly instructs Rex and his four buddies, "line up." Seeing who has confronted them, two of the five thugs try to make a run for it. They are quickly apprehended by Braden and Johnson who hold them in an arm lock. Eddie again instructs the five thugs, "I said, line up." The five thugs line up, clearly recognizing that they are outnumbered, seven against five. Not to mention, Rex and his four buddies are absolutely no physical match for Eddie and the tribe, and they know it.

Eddie tells Rex's group, "if any of you so much as move, we will tear you apart, limb by limb. Got it?" Replying for the group, Rex tells Eddie, "yeah. I got it. We can work

this out. Just chill out, man. We don't want no trouble." John thinks to himself that he really likes the phrase 'tear you apart, limb by limb', and plans to use it someday. Eddie asks John, "which one?" John points to Rex, telling Eddie, "that one." Eddie instructs Rex, "you. Step forward." Fearing what would happen should he disobey Eddie, Rex steps forward, telling Eddie, "hey! Chill out." Eddie points at Rex, and tells him, "shut up. And, don't move. If you do, you're dead meat." Eddie whispers to John, "punch him as hard as you can." Not fully comprehending the situation he is in, a sudden look of dismal fright comes over Rex's face.

John walks up to Rex and, with as much force as he can, delivers a solid uppercut, sending Rex to the ground. One of the thugs loudly exclaims, "are you going to take that from these guys?" Rex, lying on the ground making sure all the parts to his face are still attached, does not reply. Eddie tells John, "wow! It looks like junior, here, isn't as tough as he thinks." Braden comments, "he ain't looking too good. He should have ducked." Mark tells Braden, "he's too stupid to figure that out."

Eddie asks Rex's four accomplices, "who's next?" One of the accomplices, whose name is Scott, announces, "we ain't taking this shit from you!" Braden laughs, and replies, "oh yeah? And, just what's your puny ass gonna do about it, junior?" The hotshot accomplice, Scott, tells Braden, "I'll kick your ass!" Braden laughs, and replies, "bring it on, junior! I wanna see that!" Scott approaches Braden, attempting to throw a punch. Braden blocks the punch, picks up Scott, and hurls him through the bushes, landing him into the chain-link fence. The rest of Rex's group quickly realizes that they are in quite the predicament, with no easy way of escape.

As Braden retrieves Scott, another of Rex's accomplices, a tough guy wannabe who goes by the name Snake, pulls a knife out of his pocket. Mitchell, now trained in martial arts, swiftly kicks Snake in the arm, causing the knife to go flying. Bobby B. grabs Snake by the arm and, kicking him behind the knees, causes him to fall to the ground. Bobby B. picks up Snake, holds him upside

down, shaking him violently to see what else may fall out of his pockets. Once finished shaking down Snake, Bobby B. drops him on his head, announcing, "I think he's clean now. No more knives."

Eddie asks the tribe, "does anybody want that knife?" No one pipes up, so Braden replies, "I'll take it." Eddie tells Braden, "it looks like no one else wants it, so it's yours, bro." Braden picks up the knife, and puts it in his pocket. Eddie asks the group of thugs, "does anybody else got a knife?" No one replies, prompting Eddie to exclaim, "what? Only one knife? This isn't a very profitable day!"

Mark whispers to Eddie, "they're all wearing a belt. Let's belt their asses to the fence." Eddie smiles, and whispers back, "that's a great idea, bro." Mark then whispers to each tribe member individually, "before we leave, we're going to belt their asses to the fence." Meanwhile, Rex's buddies, clearly seeing that Mark is arranging something, are wondering what their fate will be.

Eddie kicks Rex, who is still laying on the ground, in the ass, telling him, "hey, you! Stand up!" Lecturing Rex and his four friends, Eddie explains, "today, you guys got off easy. If you so much as look at John the wrong way, next time they'll be a real ass kicking, not the little warning you got today. Got it?" Scott, now speaking for the group, replies, "yeah. We're good. We won't mess with him. We're good. We got it." Eddie then tells the five thugs, "everyone! Get against the fence. Now!"

Once the thugs are line up along the fence, Braden informs Rex and his four buddies, "nobody better move! If anybody moves, you're gonna get a major league ass kicking. And, it will be my pleasure to give you your major league ass kicking!" Eddie goes to the other side of the fence and, with Mark's help, belts each of the thugs to the fence using the same technique he perfected belting Chuckie to the fence over the years. The rest of the tribe make sure no one causes any problems. Once finished, Eddie returns, announcing, "I think we're done here. Let's get out of here."

Snake exclaims, “what? Are you just going to leave us here like this?” Eddie replies, “wow! You figured it out! I’m impressed. You’re smarter than they say you are.” Scott exclaims, “you guys can’t just leave us here!” Johnson replies, “sure we can. Watch us.” Mark mentions, “by the way, you guys are standing in Poison Ivy. You should have been more careful.” Snake exclaims, “shit! I’m really allergic to this stuff!” Sounding a bit like Mr. Zunde, Mark tells Snake, “that would be your problem, not mine.” Eddie announces, “we’re out of here.”

The tribe heads back to the school, leaving Rex and his four buddies belted to the fence, Chuckie style. It’s not likely anyone will come and rescue them anytime soon. On the way, Mitchell mentions, “we’ll probably all end up in Mr. Crum’s office tomorrow morning.” Eddie replies, “it won’t matter. Everything happened off school grounds, and school wasn’t in session.” Braden points out, “from where I was standing, it looked to me like we prevented a hazing.” Mark replies, “yeah. That’s it. We prevented a hazing. That sounds good.” Arriving back at the school, Mitchell heads to cross country practice. Everyone else heads home for the day.

Sure enough, the next day, between second and third periods, the announcement is made over the loudspeaker, “the following students please report to room 121 immediately. Ronald Rex, Scott Baird, Sean Smith, Jeff Houser, Wendell Wadler, John Bogenskaya, Edward Bogenskaya, Mark Svoboda, Eric Johnson, Axel Braden, Gary Mitchell, and Robert Bradshaw. Mr. Harrison, please report to room 121.” Mr. Zunde, sitting in the physical education office with Mr. Frazier and Mr. Chubin, announces, “I’m going to see what this is about. This sounds like the athletes versus the D-list.” Mr. Frazier replies, “I’m coming with you.” Mr. Chubin tells Mr. Zunde, “take your time. I’ll hold down the fort.” Mr. Zunde and Mr. Frazier head to room 121, wondering what is going on.

Taking the long way, Eddie and the tribe are the last to arrive. Seeing Mr. Zunde and Mr. Frazier standing in the back of the room gives the tribe a comforting feeling. Seeing the principal, Mr. Crum, pacing back and forth gives

the clear impression that he is very nervous about something. Pointing to the desks closest to the door, Mr. Crum instructs the tribe, "take a seat, over here." Eddie comically replies, "wow! What a disappointment! I was hoping for a window seat." Mark agrees, telling Mr. Crum, "me, too." Already displaying his anger, Mr. Crum tells Eddie and Mark, "I'm running this meeting, not you." Eddie replies with the highly sarcastic innuendo invented by the tribe, "waiting."

Mr. Zunde whispers to Mr. Frazier, "the guys seem really relaxed. That tells me Crum is on another fishing expedition." Mr. Frazier whispers back, "and, look who's on the other side of the room. Those guys will be lucky to make it out of high school." Mr. Zunde whispers to Mr. Frazier, "I don't know what's going on here but, if I'm right, this will be quite entertaining." Mr. Frazier replies, "it looks to me that he's arranging some sort of competition between the track team and the tobacco team." Mr. Zunde laughs, overheard by Mr. Crum, who is now getting even more stressed.

Opening the meeting, using an angry tone of voice, Mr. Crum announces, "a very serious incident occurred after school yesterday. The reason I have called this meeting is to find out exactly what happened. I'm going to get to the bottom of this. Now, from what I understand, there was a massive fight yesterday after school. My understanding is those on the left side of the room were fighting with those on the right side of the room in what you people call a rumble." Mark interrupts, and asks, "are we on the right side or the left side of the room?" The tribe laughs as Mr. Crum exclaims, "it doesn't matter! And, don't interrupt me again!" Mr. Crum continues, "as I was saying, there was a very serious incident yesterday, and I'm going to find out exactly what happened."

Mr. Crum begins his interrogation, asking Ronald Rex, "Ronald, please tell me your side of the story." Rex explains, "we were just hanging out, minding our own business, and the jocks came over and picked a fight with us. They told us to line up and, if we move, they were going to tear us apart, limb by limb. Then, the freshman,

over there, socked me in my face. I think he knocked one of my teeth loose. And the big guy over there roughed up Snake, and stole his knife." Mr. Crum asks, "and, who is Snake?" Rex replies, "Wendell Wadler. He goes by Snake." Mr. Crum asks, "who is the big guy you are talking about?" Pointing to Bobby B., Rex replies, "that guy, sitting in the front seat on the end row."

Mr. Crum asks those on the left side of the room, "is there anything else?" Rex explains, "yeah. After they were done, they used our belts and tied us to the fence. We were there for about a half hour before Mr. Harrison saw us and helped us out." Knowing Eddie's method of operations quite well, Mr. Crum looks over at Eddie, who laughs.

Mr. Crum asks Mr. Harrison, "when did you first see them?" Mr. Harrison explains, "I was on my way home, and got stuck at the red light. I glanced over to my left, and saw them. So, I drove around the corner, and got them off the fence. They were all pretty traumatized when I found them." Mr. Crum has already heard Mr. Harrison's side of the story, for it was Mr. Harrison who brought the issue to the administration's attention earlier today. Mr. Crum was only asking Mr. Harrison to elaborate for effect.

Mr. Crum asks, "does anyone else on the left side of the room have anything more to add?" Mark interjects, "finally. He answered my question. We're on the right side of the room." Mr. Crum looks at Mark, and exclaims, "I'm running this meeting, not you!" Addressing those on the left side of the room, Mr. Crum again asks, "does anyone else have anything to add?" Wendell Wadler, also known as Snake, boldly demands, "I want my knife back." Mr. Crum asks, "who stole your knife?" Snake replies, "the big black guy. Yeah, that was him. He got my knife." Mr. Crum asks Wadler, "which one? There are three black guys sitting on that side of the room." Pointing to Braden, Wadler replies, "the one sitting next to the freshman." Braden stares at Wadler as if he is from a different planet. Mr. Crum makes a few notes so he can properly accuse those on the right side of the room when the time comes.

While Mr. Crum continues with his interrogation, Mr. Frazier whispers to Mr. Zunde, "I can't wait to hear our guys side of this story. I've never known them to start something, but I've seen them put an end to quite a few confrontations." Mr. Zunde replies, "you're right. Look at Mark. He's sitting comfortably with his feet up on the seat in front of him. And, Braden wasn't the least bit phased by Wadler's accusation." Mr. Frazier points out, "and, take a look at Johnson. It looks like he's taking a nap." Mr. Zunde and Mr. Frazier look over at the tribe, clearly seeing they do not appear worried in the least.

Focusing his attention on the other side of the room, Mr. Crum announces, "now, I'm going to hear your side of the story. I am going to ask you a few questions, and I expect serious answers. And, I don't want any backtalk. As I said earlier, I want to get to the bottom of this." Eddie replies, "waiting." Mr. Crum has learned not to respond to that particular innuendo from the tribe, for it never gets him anywhere. But, nevertheless, his blood begins to boil.

Mr. Crum asks John, "John, did you hit Ronald Rex in the jaw yesterday after school?" John replies, "yeah." Mr. Crum smugly asks John, "please tell me why you hit Ronald in the face." John replies, "two days ago, that idiot punched me in the stomach twice while those four other jokers restrained me. I think you administrators call it hazing. So, I was walking home yesterday, and Rex asked me, 'did you come back for some more?' I told him no, and to get out of my way. When they approached me, my brother and the rest of the guys here stopped them."

Mr. Crum hostilely asks Eddie, "and, just why were you hanging around?" Eddie casually replies, "I wanted to make sure my brother got home safely." Repeating Eddie's answer, Mr. Crum states, "you wanted to make sure your brother got home safely." Eddie replies, "yeah. Two days ago, Rex and those four other clowns tried to kick the shit out of John. So, we all made sure John got off school grounds safely, which, by the way, is your job. You should be thanking me for doing your job for you." Admonishing Eddie, Mr. Crum exclaims, "don't you tell me what my job is around here!" Eddie replies, "that's okay. My father told

me to make sure John gets home safely. And, for the record, I think I did that quite well. John got home safely.”

Now realizing that there is more to the picture, Mr. Crum asks Eddie, “let me see if I understand this. Your father told you to make sure John got home safely?” Eddie replies, “yeah. I can tell you exactly what he said if you want.” Mr. Crum sarcastically asks, “and, just what did your father say?” Eddie replies, “he told me to kick the shit out of anyone who gets in John’s way, but make sure it’s off school grounds so that pencil pushing moron of a principal around there can’t do anything about it.” As the tribe laughs, Mr. Crum exclaims, “that’s enough! I’m just getting started, and I’ve had enough out of you already!” Eddie calmly replies, “does that mean I can leave now?” Mr. Crum exclaims, “no!” Purely to irritate Mr. Crum, Eddie points out, “well, you wanted to know what my father said. So, I told you. If you want, I can tell you what else he said.” Getting hot under the collar, Mr. Crum replies, “that won’t be necessary!”

Getting back to whom he sees as the more credible witnesses, Mr. Crum asks Rex, “did this incident yesterday happen off school grounds?” Rex replies, “yeah. It was right outside the fence.” Mr. Crum asks, “How far off school grounds?” Rex replies, “between the bushes and the road.” Mr. Crum authoritatively announces, “well, that’s close enough to school grounds.”

As Mr. Crum continues to interrogate Eddie, Mr. Frazier whispers to Mr. Zunde, “do you want to put an end to this now?” Mr. Zunde whispers, “no. Not yet. I’m curious to see where he goes with this. If this happened off school grounds, Crum doesn’t have a leg to stand on. Whether it’s two feet or two miles off school grounds, it’s out of his jurisdiction. And besides, the guys sound like they’re working Crum over really good.” Mr. Zunde and Mr. Frazier stand back and listen as Eddie and the tribe verbally rip Mr. Crum to shreds.

Coming to Braden, Mr. Crum asks, “Axel, did you steal Wendell Wadler’s knife?” Braden replies, “no. I found it laying on the ground.” Again repeating the answer he was

given, Mr. Crum says, “you found it laying on the ground.” Braden replies, “yeah. That’s right. Why don’t you ask junior, over there, about that knife, and how it got on the ground?”

Focusing his attention on the other side of the room, Mr. Crum tells Wadler, “tell me about this knife.” Wadler replies, “I dropped it. It fell out of my hand, and that guy stole it from me.” Braden stands up, points at Wadler, and exclaims, “that’s a bunch of bullshit! You pulled that knife, and it looked like to me that you were gonna use it! But, Mitchell kicked it out of your hand. Then Eddie asked everyone, ‘does anybody want that knife?’ It looked to me like nobody else wanted it, so I said, ‘I’ll take it.’ Then, Eddie told me, ‘it looks like no one else wants it, so it’s yours.’ So, I took the knife.” Wadler exclaims, “I want it back!” Braden yells back, “well, you ain’t getting it back, junior! It’s my knife now.” Mr. Crum exclaims, “that’s enough! I’m running this meeting.” Eddie intentionally yawns, and sarcastically replies, “waiting.”

Tired of getting nowhere, Mr. Crum announces, “I’ve about had enough of this! I have half a mind to suspend everyone in this room!” Mark raises his hand, as if he has a question. Mr. Crum points at Mark, asking, “you. What’s your question?” Mark replies, “is that the left or the right side of your mind that wants to suspend us?” Mr. Crum exclaims “that’s it! Everyone in this room is suspended for one week!” Eddie replies, “that’s really kind of stupid.”

Now hot under the collar, Mr. Crum, with a bit of sarcasm of his own, asks Eddie, “and, just why is my decision stupid?” Eddie calmly replies, “well, let’s think about this. Rex, over there, should have graduated a year ago, along with half his moronic buddies. He’s always absent anyway. So, by suspending him, you’re giving him exactly what he wants. And, when he does show up at school, it’s usually on Friday or Saturday night, when he’s behind the school smoking dope, drinking beer, or taking apart a stolen car. If he does manage to make it to school during a school day, he’s probably cutting class.” Rex stands up, points to Eddie, and exclaims, “hey, you! Shut up!” Eddie tauntingly replies, “make me.” Mr. Crum

exclaims, "that's enough! As I said, everyone here is suspended for one week."

Ignoring Mr. Crum, Rex stands up, walks across the room right by Mr. Crum, telling Eddie, "you're dead meat." Mr. Zunde and Mr. Frazier, both aware that a confrontation is on its way, stand and watch. Rex approaches Eddie, and attempts to throw a punch. Eddie blocks the punch, stands up, and hurls Rex right into the concrete wall with all the force he can deliver. Rex goes down, and is knocked unconscious. Mr. Crum exclaims, "that's it! I've had enough!" Eddie sarcastically replies, "that's two of us." Mr. Crum yells at Mr. Zunde, "why didn't you do something?" Mr. Zunde replies, "you've made it perfectly clear to everyone that you are running this meeting. Rex walked right by you. You should have stopped him."

Mr. Zunde checks on Rex, and tells Mitchell, "go and get the school nurse." Mr. Crum asks Mr. Zunde, "is he all right?" Responding to Mr. Crum's stupid question, Mr. Zunde replies, "I don't know. Why don't you ask him?" Mr. Crum brilliantly exclaims, "he's been knocked out!" Mr. Zunde replies, "then, if I had to take a wild guess, I'd say he's not okay." The tribe laughs, quite aware that Mr. Crum walked right into that one.

As the nurse is working on Rex, Mr. Zunde tells Mr. Crum, "Mr. Crum, you are not suspending anyone. The incident that occurred yesterday happened off school grounds at a time when school wasn't even in session, which means it is completely out of your jurisdiction. There's nothing you can do about it." Mr. Crum replies, "something has to be done about this, Mr. Zunde!" Mr. Zunde calmly replies, "I agree. The incident that occurred yesterday would be in the jurisdiction of the police department, not the school. Perhaps you should give the police a call." Mr. Crum, who detests any mention of police involvement, tells Mr. Zunde, "I don't think we need to go to that extreme." Mr. Zunde suggests, "then, send everyone back to class."

Mr. Crum points out, "I can't send everyone back to class right now! This isn't over yet. Eddie and Ronald were

just involved in a fight.” Eddie stands up and, pointing at Mr. Crum, exclaims, “what do you always tell us to do when there’s a fight? Get a teacher? Yeah, that’s it! Get a teacher! What did you do to stop Rex? Nothing! That’s exactly why your stupid advice about go and find a teacher never works! You just stood there like a moron and let him attack me! So, I’m taking my father’s advice, and kicking the shit out of anyone who attacks me. If you don’t like it, call my father. By the way, he’s waiting for your call.” Hearing that Mr. Bogenskaya is awaiting a phone call regarding yesterday’s incident, Mr. Crum begins nervously shaking.

Mr. Zunde, quite angered by Mr. Crum’s attitude and belligerence, steps in, calmly telling Mr. Crum, “Eddie does have a point. Ronald Rex did walk right by you with a hot temper, and you did absolutely nothing to stop him. Rex even told Eddie that he’s dead meat. You should have realized a fight was about to break out, stepped in, and stopped it. And, if a massive fight broke out here, what can you possibly do to stop it? By the way, while we’re on the subject, the only person here who should be suspended is Wendell Wadler, since he obviously brought a knife to school, which is against school regulations. Other than the case against Wadler, you have no case here today.” Not wanting to be admonished by Mr. Zunde in front of the students, Mr. Crum exclaims, “Mr. Zunde, we’ll discuss this later!” Mr. Zunde quickly replies, “no, we won’t. And, as I said, you won’t be suspending anyone on the right side of the room. As for the left side of the room, you sort that out yourself.”

Mr. Crum, realizing that he completely misunderstood the situation, composes himself, and announces, “everyone in this room is walking a fine line. I haven’t decided what I’m going to do yet, but I’ll have my eye on each and every one of you. Once I get to the bottom of this, I will be calling you into my office one by one. This is a serious matter, and, I can assure you, none of this will be overlooked.” Mark interrupts, and asks, “can we go now?” Angrily pacing back and forth and not wanting to get into an argument, Mr. Crum replies, “yes! And stop by the office to pick up a late pass.” The tribe gets up and walks

out, followed by their coaches. In the hallway, Mr. Zunde tells the tribe to head to the auxiliary gym, where he intends to find out what really happened yesterday.

In the auxiliary gym, Mr. Zunde asks, “so, what really happened yesterday?” Eddie explains, “Rex and the other four clowns tried to kick the shit out of John a second time, so we stepped in. I told the five of them to line up. I was surprised that they even listened to me. So, I asked John, ‘which one?’ John pointed to Rex, and said, ‘that one.’ So, I whispered to John and told him to punch Rex. I seriously expected Rex to put up a fight, but he didn’t. So, Rex stepped forward, and John gave him an uppercut. Rex fell to the ground, and laid there for a while. Then, the guy they called Snake pulled a knife, and Mitchell disarmed him. Then, we belted them to the fence, and went home.” Mr. Zunde asks, “all of this happened off school grounds?” Eddie replies, “yeah.”

John tells Mr. Zunde, “two days ago, when I got my hazing, that was on school grounds.” Mr. Zunde replies, “good. If Mr. Crum decides to suspend anyone, we have that fact on our side.” Mr. Frazier asks John, “you couldn’t escape?” John explains, “one guy had me in a choke hold, and the other three were holding me by my arms. Then Rex punched me in my stomach.” Mr. Frazier shakes his head, and comments, “I know a few people who are going to fail gym class this year.”

Mr. Zunde asks Mitchell, “how did you disarm Wadler?” Mitchell explains, “I kicked the knife out of his hand.” Johnson interjects, “Mitchell is a third-level black belt now.” Mr. Zunde replies, asking Mitchell, “oh, really? When did you earn your Sandan¹?” Mitchell replies, “over the Summer.” Mitchell started taking martial arts when he was a freshman, after he was a target of hazing.

While on the subject of the knife, Braden mentions, “that Wadler guy didn’t seem to want his knife back. So, I took it. Now, all of a sudden, he wants his knife back.” Mr.

¹ Sandan: Proper name for the third-level black belt.

Zunde tells Braden, “don’t worry about Wadler’s knife. Knowing those guys, Wadler probably has at least a dozen more at home.”

Mr. Zunde and Mr. Frazier wind up the meeting, and head back into the gym. Stopping by the office for their late pass, Eddie and the tribe head back to class, clearly off the hook. Mr. Crum, however, is more angry than ever. There is no doubt that he’s on the warpath this year.