

# Eddie, The Senior Year

## A Physics Test Gone Bad

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A few days later, the tribe is sitting in physics class discussing the upcoming track season. The rest of the class is cramming for the test that will begin when Miss Amherst walks in. Chuckie, Goldstein, and Haynes take a seat next to the tribe, specifically close to Wendy and Mitchell. It's no secret why they chose those seats. Wendy and Mitchell are honors students, and are the perfect students to cheat off of. It's not likely that Miss Amherst will notice that Chuckie, Goldstein, and Haynes are perfectly positioned to cheat. She has had to move the three troublemakers all over the classroom in the last few weeks.

Wendy passes a note to Mitchell, who passes it to Mark, who then passes it to Eddie. Although she is blonde, Wendy is not stupid. She knows exactly why Chuckie and Goldstein are sitting next to her and Mitchell with Haynes behind them. Wendy's note reads,

Chuckie, Goldshit, and the Bitchkrieg are going to cheat off me and Mitchell.

Plan A: Do nothing.

Plan B: Mark and Eddie switch seats with us.

Eddie writes "B" on the note, and passes it back to Mark. Mark also writes, "B" on the note, and passes the note to Mitchell, who gives it back to Wendy. The note is then passed to Johnson, Braden, and Bobby B., to fill them in on what's going on. The plan is now set. It's not that Eddie and Mark are dumb, but rather that they will not

allow Chuckie or Goldstein to easily see their papers, mostly due to the sheer size of their arms blocking the view. It's also not likely that Haynes will be able to see around Eddie's or Mark's broad shoulders.

Miss Amherst walks in as everyone is doing their last minute cramming. Wendy announces to the tribe, "plan B." Eddie and Mark quickly switch seats with Mitchell and Wendy. Miss Amherst missed what just happened, but it's not exactly something she was looking for. Students move around all the time. Chuckie, Goldstein, and Haynes, however, are ticked off. They all know exactly what just happened, now knowing that they'll have to do their own work on the test that they failed to study for.

Miss Amherst tells everyone, "today, we are having a test, which hopefully does not come as a surprise to anyone. Please place your books on the floor under your desk so we can get started. And, no calculators are allowed." Sounding a little like Mr. Zunde, Miss Amherst adds, "if you can't do the simple math on this test, you probably shouldn't even be in this class." Miss Amherst hands out the tests, face down, as not to give anyone a time advantage. Once everyone has a test, she tells the class, "you may begin taking the test. If you are done early, please place your test paper face down on the desk and relax."

Instead of immediately beginning the test, Eddie, Mark, and the rest of the tribe sit in their seats with their arms crossed, as they often do during a test. The class period is 45 minutes, but tests can usually be completed in half that time. Two minutes go by, and the tribe still all sits with their arms crossed.

Goldstein looks at Eddie, who pays him no attention. Goldstein looks over at Braden, who grins as Goldstein makes eye contact. Chuckie, likewise, is very irritated. Looking through his test, Chuckie cannot answer a single question. Three minutes into the test, Goldstein cannot find any questions he can answer either. Haynes, imitating the tribe, sits with her arms crossed. Seeing what is going

on, Mark laughs under his breath. Psychological warfare is just as effective in the classroom as on the track.

Goldstein, however, does not see any humor in the situation. Standing up, Goldstein has a meltdown, kicking Eddie's desk and then kicking Mark's desk. Goldstein then attempts to push Mark out of his seat, but is not very successful. Mark, however, pretends that Goldstein pushed him really hard, and falls out of his chair, landing on the ground. Mark exclaims, "geesh! I can't even take a test without these guys causing trouble."

In response to Mark's comment, Goldstein exclaims, "you guys suck," then kicks Braden's desk. Miss Amherst yells out, "Andrew Goldstein, please sit in your seat!" Ignoring Miss Amherst, Goldstein punches Braden several times, and then attempts to push Braden out of his seat. Not able to budge Braden, Goldstein kicks Braden in his leg, yelling out, "asshole!"

The attention in the room abruptly shifts as Braden stands up, and walks over to Goldstein. Johnson comments, "oh shit. Here it comes." Braden grabs Goldstein, placing him in an arm lock. Goldstein screams some obscenities, and tries to escape Braden's grasp. Goldstein, however, is no match for Braden, who tightens the arm lock. Braden asks Miss Amherst, "what do you want me to do with him?" One student on the other side of the class mutters, "kick his ass." That student must know Braden quite well.

Miss Amherst tells the class, "the rest of you are on the honor system right now. Please continue taking your test. I'll be right back." Miss Amherst instructs Braden, "please follow me. Bring him with you. We're taking a trip to the principal's office." On the way out of the classroom, Goldstein yells at Braden, "I'm going to kick your ass! Yeah, yeah. You just wait, man! I'm kicking your ass." Braden laughs, and replies, "yeah, right! I wanna see that. Go for it, junior. I'm waiting." Leading the way, Miss Amherst walks down the hall, followed by Braden, who is maintaining Goldstein in a tight arm lock.

After they leave, Eddie mentions, “dang. I missed my chance. I should have taken Goldshit outside and belted his ass to the fence.” Chuckie, who has a lot of experience having his ass belted to a fence, becomes irate. Chuckie stands up, and throws several punches at Eddie’s shoulder. Eddie, who is able to take out Chuckie with one punch, pretends to sob, and cries out, “please! Please! Chuckie, stop it! Stop it! I can’t take it anymore! Someone please find Erika to help me!” The whole class laughs at Chuckie, which does not sit well with Chuckie.

Mark asks Eddie, “hey, do you want me to belt Chuckie to the fence?” Chuckie becomes even more irate, and kicks Mark’s chair, and tries to punch Mark. Mark, quickly avoiding Chuckie’s jabs, laughs as Chuckie tries to connect but can’t. Mark comments, “this is called the rope-a-dope. I learned it from Muhammad Ali.” Eddie comments, “that would make Chuckie the dope.” Getting nowhere with Mark, Chuckie then starts attempting to punch Eddie again. Following Mark’s rope-a-dope tactics, Eddie now avoids Chuckie’s blows. Chuckie, however, quickly realizes he now has another problem.

Bobby B. stands up, and approaches Chuckie. Chuckie throws a punch at Bobby B’s. mid section, causing the shot doc to laugh hysterically. Bobby B. picks up Chuckie, and throws the 200-pound pest over his shoulder and across his back. The shot doc tells someone to open the door as he carries Chuckie out of the classroom in a fireman’s carry. Chuckie starts screaming, “someone stop him! Stop him!” Bobby B. announces, “someone come with me,” as he walks out the door. Mark comments, “well, this test didn’t go exactly as planned.”

Two students, Lynn Berson and Penny Hart, who are both involved in the school’s newspaper and yearbook, follow Bobby B. Perhaps a news story for this week’s newspaper will develop for Lynn and Penny. Lynn and Penny even bring their cameras, hoping to get a good photograph for the yearbook. Chuckie, being carried by Bobby B. over his shoulder to the principal’s office, is crying like a baby. Following Bobby B., Lynn and Penny get

a few good pictures of Bobby B. carrying Chuckie over his shoulder.

Miss Amherst enters the administration office, followed by Braden who still has Goldstein in an arm lock. Mrs. Marlowe, exclaims, "what is going on?" Miss Amherst asks Mrs. Marlowe, "is Mr. Crum in his office?" Mrs. Marlowe replies, "yes," and, using the intercom, tells Mr. Crum, "I think you'd better get out here now, sir. It looks like there is a problem." Mr. Crum rushes out of his office, seeing Miss Amherst, and Braden holding Goldstein in an arm lock.

Before Mr. Crum can fully assess the situation, Bobby B. carries Chuckie into the administration area, followed by Lynn and Penny. Bobby B. announces, "I have another one for you," and dumps Chuckie on the floor in front of Mr. Crum. Chuckie starts sobbing, acting again as if he is the victim.

Lynn, who accompanied Bobby B., tells Miss Amherst, "the guy on the floor went crazy and started punching everyone. He tried to start a fight with Eddie. Then, he punched Mark and Robert." Miss Amherst replies, "oh, wonderful. I can't even give a test without these two clowns causing a problem."

Mr. Crum asks Miss Amherst, "you're giving a test right now?" Miss Amherst replies, "yes." Mr. Crum tells Mrs. Marlowe, "page Mr. Harrison and tell him to report to the physics classroom immediately." The school's permanent substitute teacher, Mr. Harrison, will proctor the test in Miss Amherst's absence.

Mr. Crum, who seems agitated, asks Miss Amherst, "what is going on here?" Miss Amherst explains, "as if I don't have enough problems with Andrew Goldstein, he started kicking a few desks and pushing people out of their seats shortly after the test began." Mr. Crum asks, "what does Axel Braden have to do with this?" Miss Amherst tells Mr. Crum, "I asked him to bring Andrew Goldstein to your office. Goldstein was out of control." Mr.

Crum tells Braden, who still has Goldstein in an arm lock, "okay, let him go."

As instructed, Braden lets Goldstein go. Goldstein turns around and punches Braden in his mid section. Braden laughs hysterically, and exclaims, "somebody get a teacher! Goldshit's starting a fight!" Mr. Crum exclaims, "okay, I've had enough! Everyone into my office!" Miss Amherst tells Braden, Bobby B., Lynn, and Penny, "thank you for helping. You can go back and finish your test now." Mr. Crum, seeing Braden and Bobby B., remarks, "I didn't tell anyone that they can leave. Everyone, into my office! Now!"

Braden tells Mrs. Marlowe, "call Mr. Zunde. I ain't putting up with this shit today." Mr. Crum tells Mrs. Marlowe, "don't call Mr. Zunde. This has nothing to do with him." Braden tells Mr. Crum, "fine, then. I'll go and get him myself." Braden leaves the administration area, heading to the physical education office. Mr. Crum yells out to Braden, "Axel, get back here right now!" Ignoring Mr. Crum's command, Braden walks briskly to the physical education office in search of Mr. Zunde.

Mr. Crum sits behind his desk, and commands Miss Amherst, "tell me what is going on here!" Miss Amherst explains, "I was giving a test. About five minutes into the test, Andrew Goldstein stood up and started kicking a few of the student's desks, and pushed Mark out of his seat. I told Andrew to sit in his seat, and then he punched Axel, and then tried to push Axel out of his seat. Axel restrained him, and asked me what I wanted him to do with Goldstein. I told him we're taking Andrew Goldstein to the principal's office. And, here we are."

Because there is obviously more to the story, Mr. Crum, pointing to Chuckie, asks, "how does Charles fit into this picture?" Miss Amherst replies, "I don't know." Bobby B. interjects, "I can answer that." Mr. Crum tells Bobby B., "go ahead. I'm listening." Bobby B., describing what he saw, explains, "after Miss Amherst left, Chuckie started to punch Eddie. Eddie told him to stop, but he kept punching him. Then, Chuckie kicked Mark's chair and tried to punch

Mark, but Mark evaded all his punches. Then, Chuckie started to punch Eddie again, and Eddie also evaded his punches, like the rope-a-dope. Chuckie was going psycho, so I picked him up and carried him here.” Mr. Crum asks, “so, Eddie and Charles were in a fight?” Bobby B. replies, “no. I didn’t say that. Chuckie hit Eddie, but Eddie did not hit him back.” Over the intercom, Mr. Crum tells Mrs. Marlowe to get Eddie to his office immediately.

Mrs. Marlowe announces over the loudspeaker, “will Edward Bogenskaya please report to the principal’s office immediately.” Just as the announcement comes, Mr. Zunde and Braden walk into the administration area. Already getting the story from Braden, Mr. Zunde asks Mrs. Marlowe, “what seems to be the problem today?” Mrs. Marlowe replies, “I’m not sure. It’s going to take a while to sort this one out.”

Eddie walks into the administration area, wondering why he is even here. Mr. Zunde asks Eddie, “what’s the problem?” Eddie replies, “I have no idea, other than Chuckie and Goldshit have gone off the deep end again.” Hearing the chatter outside his office, Mr. Crum tells Mr. Zunde, Braden, and Eddie, “please, come in. I can tell that this is going to waste my entire morning getting to the bottom of this one.”

Mr. Zunde tells Mr. Crum, “wow. It looks like there must be an epidemic of overdue library books. I didn’t even realize this school had so many books.” Just hearing Mr. Zunde’s comment puts Eddie, Braden, and Bobby B. at ease. Mr. Crum brashly tells Mr. Zunde, “that’s not the issue here today.” Mr. Zunde replies, “oh, I see. Axel Braden must have used profanity in the hallway again, and these are the witnesses.” Mr. Crum tells Mr. Zunde, “I’ve already found out what happened from Miss Amherst, and I got Robert Bradshaw’s statement. You missed it. And, I’m not going over it again.” While Mr. Crum is orating nonsense to the students, Miss Amherst explains to Mr. Zunde what happened.

Mr. Crum, getting on with his meeting, tells Goldstein, “Andrew, tell me what happened.” Goldstein answers, “they

switched seats. I think they were cheating. Yeah, yeah, that's what I saw. They wanted to cheat off of me." Mr. Crum asks Goldstein, "who switched seats?" Goldstein replies, "the blonde girl, yeah, her. And the smart guy behind her. Yeah, they switched seats with Egghead, and Bark." Miss Amherst informs Mr. Crum, "I can assure you, sir, that no one was going to cheat off of Andrew. Andrew got an F on the first quiz, and has failed to turn in any of his assignments."

Mr. Crum asks, "and just who are Egghead and Bark?" Pointing to Eddie, Goldstein replies, "he's Egghead, and Bark is his buddy. Yeah, yeah." Mr. Zunde whispers to Eddie, "I can't make any sense out of him." Eddie replies, "me either, and I was there. It looks like I'm Egghead and I'm guessing that Mark is Bark." Mr. Zunde whispers to Eddie, "there's definitely something wrong with that guy." Eddie replies, "yeah. He was born."

Mr. Crum, who is getting impatient, asks Chuckie, "Charles, tell me what happened. Why did Robert carry you to my office?" Chuckie replies, "Eddie was beating me up." Eddie interjects, "I was not." Mr. Crum abruptly tells Eddie, "I'll get to you. For now, please keep quiet." Lynn whispers to Miss Amherst, "the whole class saw it. Chuckie was hitting Eddie, but Eddie definitely did not hit him back." Chuckie explains, "Eddie started a fight with me after the teacher left the classroom." Eddie interjects again, "he's so full of shit." Mr. Crum again admonishes Eddie, telling him, "Edward, I told you I will get to you. In the mean time, please keep your mouth shut." Mr. Crum's blatant arrogance does not sit well with Eddie.

Mr. Crum thinks for a moment. Looking around the room, Mr. Crum sees five students that were clearly involved in a physical altercation. Braden had Goldstein in an arm lock. Bobby B. dumped Chuckie on the floor in the administration area. And, Eddie and Chuckie were in a fight, or at least some sort of clash occurred between them. Physical altercations are not allowed during school. What Mr. Crum saw, himself, was clear evidence of multiple physical altercations. Mr. Crum, therefore, must take action.

Mr. Crum announces, “as you all know, fighting is not allowed in school. We have a zero tolerance policy regarding this issue.” Mr. Zunde whispers to Miss Amherst, “here comes the mother lode.” Mr. Crum continues, “Miss Amherst reported that you, Andrew, started an altercation. So, I am suspending you. And, Axel Braden, I clearly saw that you had Andrew forcibly restrained, presumably against his will. It was not within your authority to intervene during a fight between other students. So, I am suspending you too. Robert and Charles, you were both obviously involved in some sort of an altercation, so I am suspending the both of you. And Eddie, I am suspending you too.”

Eddie tells Mr. Crum, “no, you’re not. You’re not suspending me.” Mr. Zunde whispers to Miss Amherst, “this is going to get good. Just watch.” Miss Amherst whispers back, “I can see that.” Mr. Crum brazenly asks Eddie, “what did you just say?” Eddie informs Mr. Crum, “do you need a hearing aid? Maybe that discus last year did a little more damage than they thought. I told you that you’re not suspending me.” Now angry and agitated, Mr. Crum asks Eddie, “and, now just what is that supposed to mean?” Eddie slams his fist onto a shelf on Mr. Crum’s bookcase, breaking the shelf. The books on the shelf fall to the floor, and Eddie steps aside. Mr. Zunde whispers to Miss Amherst, “I think he’s just getting warmed up. Let’s see how this goes.”

Eddie exclaims, “I did not hit the Chuckie! He knows it! The whole class saw what happened. And, this time, I’m telling you what I’m going to do. So, you just shut up for once and listen.” The whole room falls silent as Eddie takes control of Mr. Crum’s meeting.

Eddie continues, “if you suspend me for fighting, go for it. If I have to pay the price for something I haven’t done, the way I see it, I now have the right to do whatever it is that I’m falsely accused of. So, If you suspend me for fighting with the Chuckie, I’m going to kick the shit out of the Chuckie. And, when I’m done, no one will ever recognize that piece of shit again. And, I’ll do it right here in this school. In front of you, and in front of everyone.

And, go ahead and call a teacher to break it up. We'll see how well that goes. If anyone tries to stop me, I'll kick their ass too. And, that includes you!"

Miss Amherst whispers to Mr. Zunde, "did I really just hear that?" Mr. Zunde whispers back, "yes. And, I don't think he's done." Miss Amherst whispers to Mr. Zunde, "it sounds like Mr. Crum has a lot of square root of negative one<sup>1</sup> activity going on his head today." Mr. Zunde whispers back, "it's not like any other day with him."

All of a sudden, Chuckie starts sobbing, and confesses, "he didn't hit me. He didn't start a fight. I made it all up! I made it up!" Adding his opinion, Goldstein says, "hey! Can't you see that Egghead's threatening Charles. I saw what happened! Yeah, yeah, I saw it. Egghead was hitting Charles. Yeah, yeah, I saw the whole thing!" Raising his voice, Braden exclaims, "that's a bunch of bullshit! I was dragging your ass to the principal's office when that went down. You didn't see shit." Eddie tells Mr. Crum, "why don't you call my father down here to your little pussy factory? I'm sick of your bullshit and your shit shows."

Miss Amherst cannot believe what she is hearing. Mr. Zunde, who heard Miss Amherst's side of the story during Mr. Crum's earlier pontification, interrupts the meeting. Giving Mr. Crum some advice, Mr. Zunde tells him, "may I suggest that you reconsider your position, Mr. Crum. It seems to me that Miss Amherst asked for help from the students. Did you really expect her to drag Goldstein to your office all by herself?"

Silence falls over the room as Mr. Crum thinks of a way to back himself out of the dead end he just drove into at 90 miles per hour. Mr. Crum cannot decide what to do. He's heard Chuckie retract his accusation. He caught Goldstein in a flat out lie. If Mr. Crum suspends Eddie, Mr. Crum will have a bigger problem should Eddie decide to kick the shit out of Chuckie. And, seeing Mr. Bogenskaya

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<sup>1</sup> Square root of -1, ie., an irrational number. Miss Amherst's reference is that Mr. Crum is being irrational.

show up again at the school is not exactly at the top of Mr. Crum's list. Everyone else's stories seem to coincide. Mr. Crum is at a dead end, and he knows it.

Mr. Crum, knowing that he's lost this one, announces, "okay, I have made a decision." Mr. Zunde whispers to Miss Amherst, "here it comes. He's made a decision. Hold on." Mr. Crum announces, "for now, I am not suspending anyone. But, I am not through with my investigation. I will get to the bottom of this and, when I do, I will take the appropriate action. Until then, I will have a close eye on every single one of you." Miss Amherst whispers to Mr. Zunde, "he basically just said nothing." Mr. Crum tells everyone, "okay, everyone get back to class."

Eddie, who is the first one to leave, tells Mr. Crum, "oh, and by the way, I'm sorry about your bookcase. You should have bought a better one. It's built like a piece of shit." Fear comes across Mr. Crum, for those are the exact words that Eddie's father used when he broke Mr. Crum's desk two years ago. Eddie, slightly perturbed, is gone before anyone else leaves the office.

Mr. Zunde escorts Miss Amherst back to her classroom. Braden, Bobby B., Chuckie, Goldstein, Lynn, and Penny all walk down the hall together. On the way, Goldstein tells Braden, "paybacks, man. Yeah, yeah, paybacks. You're gonna get yours." Mr. Zunde stops, and asks Goldstein, "would you care to elaborate on what you just said?" Goldstein boldly replies, "yeah, yeah. There's definitely going to be a payback for this one." Mr. Zunde sternly advises Goldstein and Chuckie, "if I were either one of you, I would carefully calculate what you are up against. If you are foolish enough to start something with any of these guys, you are not likely to make it out the other end in one piece." Goldstein tells Mr. Zunde, "those guys don't scare me." Mr. Zunde replies, "that would be your problem, whether you recognize it or not."

Miss Amherst, Mr. Zunde, and the other students continue to the classroom, where the rest of the class is finishing the test. Miss Amherst tells the seven students who were in Mr. Crum's office to begin taking their tests.

Mr. Zunde spends the rest of the period, which amounts to less than five minutes, talking with Miss Amherst. Mr. Zunde is hanging around until the end of the period, making sure no further altercations occur between the students.

Eddie, Braden, and Bobby B. do not have enough time to answer even one question on the test. Lynn and Penny, likewise, do not have enough time to answer a single question. Chuckie and Goldstein do little more than put their names on their papers. The bell rings, everyone turns in their test papers, and it's off to the next class.

The next day, Miss Amherst returns the graded tests to the students. Chuckie upon receiving his paper, exclaims, "hey! How come I got a zero?" Miss Amherst replies, "if a student receives a grade of zero on a test, it's usually because they didn't answer any of the questions correctly." Chuckie tells Miss Amherst, "I didn't have enough time!" With absolutely no sympathy, Miss Amherst, sounding a bit like Mr. Zunde, tells Chuckie, "that would be your problem, not mine."

Next alphabetically is Eddie, who, after hearing Chuckie got a zero, is a little concerned. Yesterday, during the test, Eddie did not have enough time to answer any questions either. Eddie receives his paper and, unlike Chuckie, is very quiet. Braden, who is also concerned, receives his paper. Upon receiving his test paper, Braden also says nothing, if anyone can actually believe that. Bobby B. is next, and follows suit.

Goldstein, sitting next to Chuckie, receives his test, and exclaims, "this ain't fair! I got a zero too. Yeah, yeah, this definitely ain't fair."

Bobby B. shows his paper to Eddie and Braden, which has a grade of 100. Eddie and Braden received the same grade as Bobby B. Sitting at the other end of the room, Lynn Berson and Penny Hart have also both received a grade of 100.

Eddie, Braden, and Bobby B. are puzzled about their grade. After class, Braden, standing with Eddie and Bobby B., asks Miss Amherst, "how come I got a 100?" Miss Amherst replies, "because you didn't get any questions wrong." Braden then asks, "then, how come Chuckie and Goldshit got a zero?" Miss Amherst replies, "because they didn't get any questions right." Miss Amherst explains, "anyone who had to go through what you guys did yesterday deserves a break." This is good news to Eddie, who, having to deal with Mr. Crum's bullshit, was contemplating quitting school and going to work for Angelo.