

Harper's Way
Episode 4: Fast Times at Harper's Class

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1 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A school BELL rings in the distance.

HARPER sits in class with a dozen other students, a NOTE is being passed between them.

EVERYONE
Tee-hee-hee.

The teacher, MR. BENNETT, turns, with his hands on his hips.

MR. BENNETT
Are we all paying attention?

EVERYONE
Yes, Mr. Bennett.

MR. BENNETT turns back around. HARPER puts her hands on her hips.

HARPER
(quietly mimicking Mr. Bennet)
"Are we all paying attention?"

EVERYONE
Tee-hee-hee.

MR. BENNETT hears them and turns again.

MR. BENNETT
Class, pay attention! Your final exam
is this afternoon, and you all know
what happens if you don't pass your
final exam... *SUMMER SCHOOL*.

Church bells toll. Thunder rolls through the classroom and lightning strikes the walls.

EVERYONE
NO!!!

MR. BENNETT
We're almost there, everyone. Just
stay focused.

MR. BENNETT heads toward the desk and opens his drawer for chalk. He sees the CREEPY DOLL holding the CHALK.

CREEPY DOLL
Looking for this?

MR. BENNETT
Aaaahhhh!!!

MR. BENNETT quickly takes the CHALK, slamming the drawer shut.

MR. BENNETT
Ugh, I need a vacation!

MR. BENNETT turns and begins writing a math problem on the chalk board.

HARPER turns to ANNA, who is sitting behind her.

HARPER
I bet I could do a better job teaching than Mr. Bennett. Heck, I could even stop Thomas from sniffing books.

In a corner of the room, a dazed-looking THOMAS takes a whiff of the BOOK in his hand, he raises his nose from the BOOK.

THOMAS
Ahhh. Shakespeare.

ANNA
That's actually not a bad idea.

HARPER
You wanna sniff books?

PRINCESS
No! About you being the teacher. I think you would do a great job!

SHANE
I don't know if that's a great idea. What about the final exam?

HARPER
Oh, so instead of me, you'd rather listen to blah blah this and blah blah that from stinky old Mr. Bennett?

ANNA, PRINCESS, and SHANE point behind HARPER.

MR. BENNETT is standing right behind HARPER.

HARPER'S face turns red.

HARPER
Oh, hi Mr. Bennett. How much of that
did you hear?

SMASH CUT.

2 INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

HARPER sits alone with THOMAS. THOMAS keeps lifting the BOOK up to his nose, but HARPER keeps pressing his hand back down. Over. And over.

HARPER
Ugghh, this is so unfair. I wish
things were different.

She presses THOMAS's hand back down one more time.

HARPER
That's it!

HARPER turns to FAYE.

HARPER
Faye, I wish I was the teacher.

FAYE chuckles.

FAYE
Oh, I bet you do Harper, but that's
not a helpful wish.

HARPER considers this.

HARPER
Helpful? I can be helpful. I can be
very helpful.

HARPER turns back to FAYE.

HARPER
Mr. Bennett said he needed a vacation,
right?

FAYE
Harper, you're getting that look
again...

HARPER jumps with glee.

HARPER

That's my wish! I wish for my poor,
stressed teacher, Mr. Bennett, to take
a nice, *long* vacation.

FAYE

Well, that is pretty helpful. Are you
sure about this, Harper?

HARPER

I'm always sure.

TWINKLE TRANSITION.

3 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

HARPER is back in her original spot. MR. BENNETT begins to
prepare for his next subject until the principal, MS. JOANNA,
bursts into the classroom.

MR. BENNETT and the rest of the class jump in fear.

MR. BENNETT

Principal Joanna. What's going on?

MS. JOANNA

Mr. Bennett! You've won a free trip to
the Cayman Islands! You are going on
vacation!

MR. BENNETT

Really?!

MS. JOANNA

Yes, and it begins right now. Go on.

MR. BENNETT

Oh, well... bye class.

MR. BENNETT tosses the chalk and walks out of the classroom.

MS. JOANNA

Now, class, I can trust you to behave
until a substitute arrives, yes?

EVERYONE

Yes, Principal Joanna.

MS. JOANNA

Wonderful. I'll come back later to
collect your final exams.

MS. JOANNA runs leaves the classroom. The class is frozen.

SHANE

But, now who's going to teach us?

HARPER

I am!

HARPER stands up on Mr. Bennett's desk.

HARPER

The time has come to fight for
freedom. Freedom to have fun! Because
the best way to learn is to have fun.
Stay by my side, and I will never lead
you astray!

The rest of the class throws their BOOKS in the air to cheer
and rally behind HARPER.

EVERYONE

HARPER! HARPER! HARPER! HARPER!

HARPER

You have entrusted me with your
happiness, citizens. For my first act
as your new teacher, we will have
snack time. But there's a catch. All
you're allowed to eat... is candy!

EVERYONE

Yay!!!!

CANDY flies in the air.

HARPER

I want you to put away your books and
take out all your toys!

EVERYONE

Yay!!!

Some of the classmates retreat to the ROUND TABLE at the far
side of the room and play CARDS. PRINCESS and ANNA come up to
HARPER.

PRINCESS

Can we play with the sports equipment
inside, Harper?

HARPER
Of course you can!

PRINCESS and ANNA take out a BASEBALL BAT and a BASKETBALL.

HARPER walks over to the classmates playing CARDS in the back and sits down.

HARPER
Ahh, I can't believe it worked.

SHANE
What exactly is your plan, Harper?

HARPER
You're looking at it!

SHANE
But... shouldn't we be studying? If we don't pass the final exam this afternoon, we'll have to go to... SUMMER SCHOOL.

Church bells toll. Thunder rolls through the classroom and lightning strikes the walls.

HARPER
Oh, relax, Shane. We've got plenty of time. Have some candy and enjoy yourself!

HARPER walks away. SHANE shakes his head, nervous.

4 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

LATER...

HARPER walks up to the chalk board.

HARPER
Alright, class, listen up! Now that we've had some fun, it's time to start studying for the final exam...

PRINCESS
Ha! That's funny, Harper.

ANNA
Are you crazy? This is what we've all been waiting to do for years.

HARPER
But, what about the final exam?

ANNA
You're the one who said the best way
to learn is to have fun!

HARPER looks to FAYE, who waits, with her hands on her hips.

HARPER
I guess we could have a little more
fun...

EVERYONE
YAY!

SHANE walks up to HARPER.

SHANE
My tummy is hurting really, really
bad. What should I do?

HARPER
Ummm. I don't know. Have you tried
breathing?

SHANE
I've been breathing all day!

HARPER
Well, go get a sip of water?

SHANE walks away.

Just then, a fly BALL wizzes barely past HARPER's head. She
looks over.

HARPER (CONT'D)
Who threw that!?

There is no answer. A BOOK flies toward her head in response
She ducks just in time.

HARPER (CONT'D)
Hey, that was *not* nice!

HARPER crosses her arms.

The class throws a flurry of BOOKS toward her head. THOMAS
runs and pushes HARPER out of the way.

THOMAS

No, my precious ones! Don't leave me!

THOMAS steps in front of HARPER and gets hit by more books, falling unconscious.

EVERYONE

HA HA HA HA!

HARPER

That's not funny! Stop throwing things and get back in your seats!

ANNA

No! We will never go back to learning. Learning is boring. The time has come to fight for freedom!

HARPER

But if we don't pass the test, we'll have to do....

EVERYONE

We know, we know.

ANNA

But... We won't have to do it if Mr. Bennett never comes back.

SHANE returns to HARPER.

SHANE

My tummy is still hurting, Harper. I think it was all the candy.

HARPER

Just go sit down. It will all be ok.

SHANE starts leaning on the desk.

ANNA

I don't think Harper should be the teacher anymore. I don't think anyone should be the teacher.

EVERYBODY

Yeah! Down with Harper!

HARPER

Wait, everyone! I hear something!

Everyone stops and gets quiet. As FOOTSTEPS and humming are heard, they recognize it's MS. JOANNA.

Everyone quickly goes back to their seat.

MS. JOANNA enters the classroom.

MS. JOANNA
I see you've all been behaving
yourselves. I'm here to collect the
exams.

HARPER looks around nervously.

HARPER
We, uh, just need a little more time.

MS. JOANNA
But you've had all afternoon. You have
been working on this, right?

HARPER
Uh, well...

MS. JOANNA
Unfortunately, you know what this
means... *SUMMER SCHOOL!*

Church bells toll. Thunder rolls through the classroom and lightning strikes the walls.

MS. JOANNA walks out of the classroom as if everything was normal. Silence. Anna points at Harper.

ANNA
This is all your fault Harper!

SHANE throws up at HARPER's feet, and the students begin to revolt against HARPER.

EVERYONE
Down with Harper! Down with Harper!

The card gang brings in a POKER TABLE. ANNA goes flying out the window. THOMAS wakes up and inhales the BOOK he was sleeping on.

Before she knows it, HARPER is shackled by her classmates to the teacher's desk.

HARPER
Faye! Help me!

The CREEPY DOLL plops onto HARPER's chest.

CREEPY DOLL
No one can help you now!

FAYE dodges BOOKS and other school supplies being thrown. She gets hit and goes down. She reaches HARPER's feet.

HARPER
I wish Mr. Bennett was our teacher again!

TWINKLE TRANSITION.

5 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

MR. BENNETT returns to the classroom, smiling brightly then frowns slightly.

MR. BENNETT
Does anyone else think my vacation went by a little too fast?

THOMAS takes a huff from a BOOK.

THOMAS
The best ones always do.

All the students are back in their seats, BOOKS open, PENCILS out; not a word among them.

MR. BENNETT
Are you all ready to learn?

EVERYONE
Yes, Mr. Bennett.

MR. BENNETT faces the board for a second but then turns back.

MR. BENNETT
You seem unusually quiet today, Harper. Did you put a sign on my back?

HARPER
No, Mr. Bennett. I just finally know how hard being a teacher is.

MR. BENNETT
Did you put bugs in my coffee?

MR. BENNETT peeks inside his CUP.

HARPER
No, I mean it, Mr. Bennett. All of the
playing around should be left on the
playground.

MR. BENNETT considers this, but then nods approvingly and
opens the drawer on his desk to take out the chalk.

MR. BENNETT
Aaaahhhh!!!

HARPER smiles and blushes.

HARPER
Almost all of it.

THE END.