

Word Gets Around

CHARACTERS

(4 Girls, 3 Guys)

Ashley: Tina's sister who isn't happy when she finds out her sister is throwing a party and didn't tell her.

Hope: Friend who eggs on Ashley's anger.

Georgia: Has an older brother, so she knows what Ashley is going through.

Adam: Guy who wants to crash Ashley's party with his friends.

Nick: Sometimes a little clueless. Adam and Chris' friend.

Chris: Friend of Adam and Nick.

Tina: Ashley's older sister who decides to throw a party without telling her sister.

SETTING

Sixth grade hallway.

- 1 **GEORGIA:** (*Enters and walks up to ASHLEY and HOPE.*) Hey
 2 Ashley, I heard your sister's having a party Friday night.
 3 **ASHLEY:** What? No, she's not.
 4 **GEORGIA:** Well I was turning the corner of the eighth grade
 5 hallway and just overheard her inviting a bunch of people
 6 over. A pre-dance party or something?
 7 **ASHLEY:** Oh, really? Tina didn't say anything to *me* about a
 8 party.
 9 **HOPE:** Probably because she doesn't want you to come.
 10 **ASHLEY:** Come? It's my house, too. It's not like I have to be
 11 invited.
 12 **GEORGIA:** For real. I can't believe she didn't tell you.
 13 **ASHLEY:** This is so like her. I'm always the last to find out
 14 about everything.
 15 **HOPE:** What do you expect? She's an eighth grader. Therefore,
 16 stuck up. They think they own the school. Especially now
 17 that the year's almost over.
 18 **ASHLEY:** (*Groans.*) She's going to be unbearable when she's in
 19 high school next year.
 20 **GEORGIA:** You're preaching to the choir, sister! Ever since my
 21 brother went to high school, he's been a total nightmare.
 22 He used to be cool. Now he's just a jerk. He acts like I
 23 have the plague or something whenever his friends are at
 24 the house. Sometimes, he won't even speak to me.
 25 **ASHLEY:** Great. So much to look forward to. (*Pause*) Well,
 26 nothing says I can't have a party, too. Right? She doesn't
 27 own the house. You all want to come over Friday night?
 28 **GEORGIA:** That'll show her! I like it!
 29 **HOPE:** We can have a **Matthew McCon-athon!** (*Or insert current*
 30 *hot movie star name*) *I've got all of his movies!*
 31 **GEORGIA:** Oh, come on, that's so lame. He's like ancient. Isn't
 32 he like forty or something?
 33 **ASHLEY:** My uncle is in his forties. Gross!
 34 **HOPE:** I don't care how old he is. He is *smokin'!*
 35 **ASHLEY:** Maybe we could watch an older movie of his, when he

1 wasn't so *old*.

2 GEORGIA: Or we could watch scary movies instead. Anything

3 with an axe and a saw and I'm there!

4 ASHLEY: Either one works for me. I love movies. And popcorn!

5 HOPE: But scary movies? Axes and saws? (*Grimacing*) Without

6 boys to (*Gestures air quotes around "protect" while talking*)

7 "protect" us, what's the point?

8 ASHLEY: That *does* make sense.

9 GEORGIA: Hope, you're just saying that because last time you

10 got so scared you made us sleep with the lights on.

11 ASHLEY: Oh yeah! I forgot about that.

12 HOPE: I did not! I just forgot to turn the light off after I went to

13 the bathroom. I was *not* scared.

14 ASHLEY: Whatever makes you feel better, Hope.

15 GEORGIA: Just don't forget your night light.

16 ASHLEY: Or your teddy bear.

17 HOPE: You guys are hilarious, you know that? All I really need

18 is Nick's arms around me.

19 ASHLEY: Don't we all?

20 HOPE: (*Glaring at ASHLEY*) I know you didn't just say that.

21 ASHLEY: Hey, you broke up with him. I'd say he's fair game

22 now.

23 HOPE: But you know we're going to get back together. Everyone

24 says he still likes me. It's *so* obvious.

25 ASHLEY: What's obvious is that Nick is a single guy.

26 HOPE: (*She gets more and more upset.*) Maybe right this second,

27 but you wait and see ... (*ASHLEY starts laughing.*)

28 GEORGIA: Why do you do that to her?

29 ASHLEY: (*Still laughing*) Because it's just so easy!

30 HOPE: (*Totally confused*) What?

31 ASHLEY: I'm just kidding, Hope! I wouldn't touch Nick with a

32 ten-foot pole.

33 HOPE: Oh. Well, that's better. Because friends really shouldn't

34 try to take other friends' boyfriends. Even if they are ...

35 (*Pause*) Wait a minute. What do you mean by that? You

1 wouldn't touch him with a ten-foot pole? You think you're

2 too good for Nick because he is the cutest and sweetest

3 and —

4 GEORGIA: Hope! Let it go and focus on the party! We'll be there

5 at seven, OK, Ashley?

6 ASHLEY: Sounds good. See you then. (*ALL walk off and the boys*

7 *enter.*)

8 ADAM: Hey guys, want to crash a party?

9 NICK: Always! Whose house?

10 ADAM: Ashley's. I just heard she's having a sleepover with

11 Georgia and Hope on Friday night.

12 CHRIS: Ashley G? That hot girl in your math class?

13 NICK: If by hot you mean butter face.

14 CHRIS: Butter face. What's a butter face?

15 NICK: You know. She's hot ... But. Her. Face.

16 ADAM: Oh, that's so wrong! And *so* not true. Ashley is one of

17 the hottest girls in sixth grade. And the smartest!

18 CHRIS: Like way too smart to ever date you, dude!

19 ADAM: Girls don't like brainiac guys. You should know that,

20 since you're the dumbest guy I know and you sure don't

21 have trouble getting a girlfriend!

22 CHRIS: Well, since I'm in between at the moment, maybe I

23 *should* consider Ashley. Now that you mention it, she is

24 kind of cute ... in her own way.

25 ADAM: Off limits, Chris. I called her. You can have Georgia.

26 CHRIS: Awww, Georgia! Have you *seen* her play soccer? Those

27 legs ... man, they're kickin'! I guess I could go for that.

28 NICK: You guys are *so* on drugs. If anyone is hot, it's Hope.

29 ADAM: You're just saying that because she's your ex. If she was

30 so hot, why'd you break up with her?

31 NICK: Hey, sometimes you gotta explore your options. Haven't

32 you heard that expression about the grass being taller ...

33 or something?

34 CHRIS: I think you mean greener.

35 NICK: Whatever. I gave up Hope 'cause I thought I could get

1 something better and it turns out I can't.

2 CHRIS: Oh, you should definitely tell her that when you ask her

3 to go back out with you! "Sorry, Hope. I know I made a

4 mistake when I broke up with you because after I looked

5 around — and believe me, I *looked* — you really were the

6 best option out there." That'll make her feel real special!

7 ADAM: I want to be a fly on the wall when you tell her that.

8 NICK: Look, I'm not stupid. I got her to go out with me once. I

9 can do it again. Everyone says she still likes me. She's

10 been following me around the halls all week. Now I just

11 gotta reel her in.

12 ADAM: Well, maybe you'll have your shot at Friday's party.

13 CHRIS: All I know is there'd better be some food. They'll feed

14 us, right?

15 NICK: Man, is that all you think about?

16 CHRIS: Pretty much. Food and girls. What else is there?

17 ADAM: So we're set? We'll meet at my house since it's closest

18 and walk over.

19 CHRIS: *(He pulls a roll of toilet paper out of his backpack.)* Armed

20 with T-P and shaving cream.

21 ADAM: You've got to be kidding me! Do you carry that

22 everywhere?

23 CHRIS: You never know when you might need it.

24 NICK: You are seriously whacked, you know that?

25 CHRIS: I think of myself as a Boy Scout gone wrong. Always

26 prepared.

27 NICK: Well, Mr. Boy Scout, don't forget your phone. We'll want

28 YouTube videos of this! *(They walk off. TINA enters to stage*

29 *right and ASHLEY walks up to her.)*

30 ASHLEY: So I hear you're having a party.

31 TINA: Funny, I was just about to say the same thing to you.

32 What do you think you're doing having friends over Friday

33 night?

34 ASHLEY: Hey, it's my house, too.

35 TINA: Mom is never going to let us *both* have friends over that

1 night. You know how she gets about too many people in the

2 house.

3 ASHLEY: Good thing I already called and asked her then.

4 TINA: What? No you did *not!*

5 ASHLEY: Yeah, we had a sub in English who was *so* nice about

6 letting me use the phone. Mom said it was *no* problem for

7 me to have some friends over on Friday.

8 TINA: You are such a brat! Why are you always trying to copy

9 everything I do? Can't you get a life of your own?

10 ASHLEY: Why can't you ever include me in your life? Is that too

11 much to ask?

12 TINA: I'm in eighth grade — almost a high schooler. You're a

13 sixth grader. We aren't supposed to be doing the same

14 things!

15 ASHLEY: I'm almost a seventh grader. Just like you're *almost* a

16 high schooler. But I'm more than that. I'm your sister.

17 Doesn't that count for anything?

18 TINA: Oh, come on! Why the guilt trip? I do stuff with you all

19 the time.

20 ASHLEY: Yeah, when you aren't hanging out with your friends.

21 Or when Mom makes you. And then you have to act like

22 you're baby-sitting me instead of just hanging out. You're

23 only two years older, you know.

24 TINA: Almost three. And we're supposed to have our own

25 friends. And interests. That's just the way it is. One day

26 I'll be off to college —

27 ASHLEY: College? Oh, come on! You haven't even started high

28 school yet and you're already talking about college?

29 TINA: Look. I know you don't like it, but I *am* older than you.

30 And things are changing. *(Pause. Shows sincerity.)* But I am

31 sorry that we don't hang out as much as we used to when

32 we were little.

33 ASHLEY: I know! You were always my best friend. Now I barely

34 even get to see you.

35 TINA: I'm sorry. I'll try harder. OK?

- 1 ASHLEY: Look, I know it's lame ... but ... I really miss playing
2 Barbies with you.
- 3 TINA: Barbies? Really?
- 4 ASHLEY: I said it was lame. But it used to be so much fun!
5 Remember how you used to take half the day setting up
6 your Barbie kitchen —
- 7 TINA: (*Sarcastic, but loving*) And how you loved coming in and
8 knocking stuff over. Yeah. Real fun. (*They both laugh.*)
- 9 TINA: But you're right. It was fun. And I miss it, too. Look. I get
10 it. If I promise to spend all day Saturday with you, maybe
11 even dragging out the Barbies and if we *never told a soul*,
12 would you cancel your party so that I can have mine?
- 13 ASHLEY: Um ... Didn't you say you were almost in high school?
14 Barbies? Really? How about a day at the mall instead?
15 Deal?
- 16 TINA: Deal.
- 17 ASHLEY: Great. Now I'd better go break the news to a few
18 people ... (*Starts to walk off.*)
- 19 TINA: How many did you invite?
- 20 ASHLEY: Oh, just one or two ...

The Party

CHARACTERS

(3 Girls, 2 Guys)

Ashley: Younger sister of Tina; has been threatened to leave Tina and her friends alone.

Tina: Hostess of the party. Wants her sister to stay far away from the basement.

Daniel: Funny guy. Loves to cut up.

Gregory: Loves food. Can be a little dense.

Tori: Friend who shows up late with the food. Very bubbly and happy.

SETTING

Tina's house.