

THEY, THEM, THEIR

by

Mikki Gillette

mikkigillette@gmail.com
(503) 317-6932
mikkigillette.com

CHARACTERS

FAERIS – an AMAB nonbinary youth 18; they're creative and rebellious, their confrontational nature hiding the wounds of their past

AMBER/RAVEN – an AFAB nonbinary youth, 15; they enter with a guileless openness, which soon changes into a darkness and resentment

JESS – the AFAB nonbinary youth coordinator, 24; their formality at times obscures the deep care and concern they hold for Faeris and the others

JORDAN - a cis female youth, 18; bright and warm, they're bewitched by Faeris' wild streak as they hide from their own pain.

SETTING

An LGBTQ youth center in a mid-size U.S. city. The space is a bit ramshackle, furnished with hand me down couches and tables. The décor is queer and funky, featuring art made by the youth, clothes left out from the Drag Closet, and glitter everywhere. Despite this, though, sadness, pain and volatility suffuse the space, just as they do the lives of the youth frequent it.

TIME

In the year 2014 over the course of six months or so.

PUNCTUATION NOTES

A stroke (/) marks the point of interruption in overlapping dialogue.

A dash (-) marks the halting of a thought.

Scene 1

JORDAN sits on a couch at the center, listless and annoyed, looking at her phone. AMBER approaches tentatively and sits a little ways from her.

AMBER
Hi . . . you're / Jordan, right

JORDAN
(surprised)
What? / I didn't hear

AMBER
Oh, I – um, I've seen you with Faeris, like around the
center, / haven't I

JORDAN
Excuse me? . . . Do you know / me, or

AMBER
Oh, sorry. I'm /

JORDAN
Not to be rude, I / just didn't know if we'd met

AMBER
Totally . . . you're Faeris's girlfriend, right? Jordan?

JORDAN
(sighs)
Not exactly . . . I mean, I don't think they'd put it that
way.

AMBER
Oh, right. But . . . you do date them, though, right?
Like, when they post, they'll say you and them are, um -

Amber stops, embarrassed.

JORDAN
Are you friends with Faeris? Do / the two of you "hang
out"

AMBER
Me? . . . Not really.
(feigning nonchalance)

I mean, we've talked here at the center, / and stuff

JORDAN

Right, I only asked because -

(sighs, annoyed)

They're pretty private, and when people talk about them, they / kind of lose it

AMBER

Do they make you art? Like, as a / present

JORDAN

What's your name?

AMBER

Oh, I'm Amber.

JORDAN

Hi, Amber. I'm Jordan.

AMBER

Hi.

JORDAN

So, you've been watching Faeris, have you?

AMBER

(embarrassed)

Oh, I mean, / yeah

JORDAN

Sorry, that might have sounded mean.

AMBER

I just think they're interesting, you know? The art they make, and their clothes.

JORDAN

(under her breath)

The way they're always late.

AMBER

Huh?

JORDAN

Nothing. I'm just complaining.

AMBER
How old are you?

JORDAN
Eighteen.

AMBER
Oh, like Faeris.

JORDAN
(laughs)
I guess so. How old are you?

AMBER
Fifteen.

JORDAN
Have you been coming to the center long?

AMBER
For a few months. I was enjoying it –
(dark)
Until I got assigned to group.

FAERIS enters and crosses to them.

JORDAN
Oh, I'm / sorry

FAERIS
(to Jordan)
I'm here. You're welcome.
(to Amber)
Ah, look. It's my acolyte.

Jordan stands and hugs Faeris. They kiss her, and she backs away, nervous.

AMBER
What's an "acolyte"?

JORDAN
Faeris, you know the rule about / kissing

FAERIS
(to Amber)

It's like an apprentice, a student –
(teasing)
A copycat.

Jordan sits and Faeris sits by her. They move to kiss her again, and she pushes them away.

JORDAN
Faeris, youth aren't allowed to / kiss

FAERIS
You can't "ban" kissing.

JORDAN
Really? Are you going to tell that to Jess?

FAERIS
(ironic)
Yes, and they'll say, "You've really opened my eyes,
Faeris. You were right and / I was wrong"

JORDAN
They're not that bad.

AMBER
I'm not copying you.

FAERIS
(to Amber)
Huh? . . . Oh, right. I was only joking. Mostly.
(to Jordan)
Are you kidding? Jess is okay maybe one out of five
times they speak. The other four – why are we
even talking about / them

JORDAN
We don't have / to

FAERIS
They still haven't told me about my art show. I need
to know if it's / going to happen

AMBER
You're having an / art show

FAERIS
Are you just listening / to our conversation

AMBER

Oh, sorry, should I . . . um, go / somewhere else

JORDAN

No, you're fine, Amber.

FAERIS

"Fine"? Alright -

(to Amber)

Just know, if f you repeat anything, it's a capital offense.

AMBER

Okay . . . is that, like, a / joke

JORDAN

Faeris.

FAERIS

Sure, if you think dead girls are funny, which, I'll admit, I / kind of do

JORDAN

(rolls eyes)

She's just excited for you.

Faeris, agitated, gets up and stands on the coffee table by the couch.

FAERIS

Is she? How nice. I'd be excited for me, too, if Jess would tell me whether Favor talked / with Madelyn

JORDAN

Faeris, you're not supposed to stand on / the table

FAERIS

I'm not?

(to Amber)

Am I not supposed to stand / on the table

JORDAN

Faeris, Jess / told you about doing that

FAERIS

Amber, Jordan is smiling, but she's also telling me I'll get in trouble. What do you think that / means

JORDAN

Faeris, you know Jess is strict / about the center's rules

Faeris jumps from the table onto the couch and steps up to the couch's back, where they balance. JESS enters.

JESS

Faeris, can you please climb down / from there

Faeris plops down onto the couch.

FAERIS

Of course. I don't even know how I got up there.

(to Jordan and Amber)

Did you see how I / got there

JESS

Thank you, Faeris. Amber, I believe group has started in the conference room. Can you / go join them

AMBER

Can I stay with Jordan and Faeris? Just this once. Please?

JESS

I'm sorry, Amber. You know that if you want to retain drop in privileges, you need / to attend group

Amber gets up, upset.

AMBER

Fine. I'll go.

Amber crosses and exits.

FAERIS

Jess, have Favor and Madelyn set the date for my art show yet?

JESS

Faeris, I know you're anxious about that, but I think I mentioned they'd be discussing it at the next board meeting, a few weeks from / now

FAERIS

“A few weeks”? Madelyn’s on the board, and she said she likes my art. Why doesn’t Favor / just call her and set the date

JESS

I think Madeline and Favor both like your art. You just need to be a little patient.

FAERIS

Ugh. I hate patience.

(to Jordan)

I’m going to the kitchen for snacks. I’ll be right back.

Faeris leans in to kiss Jordan, then pulls away, turning to Jess.

FAERIS

I almost forget your Abstinence for Queer Youth policy.

JESS

The ban on public displays of affection in the center was decided by the youth steering committee. I appreciate you following / it

Faeris stands and crosses toward the exit, covering their ears.

FAERIS

Jess is at least fifty percent robot. At night they plug into a wall to recharge.

Faeris exits.

JORDAN

They didn’t really mean that. They were just joking around.

JESS

Thank you. It’s nice of you to / say

JORDAN

They do that because – well, my theory is they do it to protect themselves, because of the way their parents and classmates treated them.

JESS

That's very compassionate, Jordan, and insightful.

JORDAN

It can be aggravating . . . but it's also pretty funny, I think.

Faeris reenters with a bag of chips and crosses to the two, sitting by Jordan again.

FAERIS

What did I miss?

JORDAN

Jess and I were just catching up.

JESS

I have a few things to do in my office.

Jess turns and crosses to exit.

JORDAN

Bye, Jess.

Jess exits.

FAERIS

(groans)

I just want the art show to have happened already, and for the rich people to have bought my paintings.

Jordan comforts them.

JORDAN

They will.

FAERIS

I don't know. They'll probably all say, "This looks like something a houseless, trans gutter punk would paint. I'd rather put it in the garbage than hang / it on my wall

JORDAN

Faeris. Madelyn's wealthy, and she said she likes your / paintings