

GROWING UP WITH STRICT PARENTS

FARIA KHAN

"But first, let me ask my parents" – that's the sacred reply of a son/daughter who is brought up by strict, overprotective parents when making plans with friends. Then there are those who straight up lie to their parents to avoid all the torture, but we'll get to that later.

Something as simple as going over to a friend's is equivalent to the preparation for an interview for a proper job. First of all, it takes hours of mental preparation to merely strike up the courage to go up to your parents. Except, you can't just walk up to them when you are ready; you need to keep track of their moods. A typical hourly observation and then asking for permission at the end of the day usually brings about positive results. If they reply with a "ask me again tomorrow morning", then you're trapped; they will probably overthink it and that's never good.

A sleepover is a whole different story. If an ordinary meet-up needs so much preparation, to ask for a sleepover at a friend's means double the trouble – planning for it from a week before or maybe



even more. You need to have the answers ready to all kinds of interrogative questions that will be thrown at you, sort of like Koffee with Karan's "rapid fire round". The worst situation is when you go through all the trouble with one parent and they end it with "go ask your

baba/ma". Then you just need to go through all of it, all over again. For the verdict to be out, you usually have to wait for a day or two. It's like they want you to suffer. Once you do get the permission, "mama partayy". Let's not think about those few unfortunate ones who are

simply not allowed to go to sleepovers, no matter what.

Now for the simpler things. Strict parents have a tendency of loving the idea of early curfews. With the uncertain traffic in Dhaka, you're bound to miss the deadline, and when you do, say your prayers before pressing the door bell and hope for the best. Also, if you miss more than two phone calls, your parents suddenly assume that you are lost or doing something you shouldn't be doing (which is probably true anyway). When you get back home, they start blaming "that one friend of yours" they knew for sure was going to be a bad influence.

It's because of these things that the children grow up to be sneaky. All the years of training and planning make these children good liars. They are also more likely to go through a rebel phase, but let's be real, they don't last that long. At the end of the day, strict Hitler-esque parents are still better than the ones who let loose and don't care at all.

Faria Khan is an ambivert who truly believes in the divine power of music. Give her a piece of your mind at fariaa.964@gmail.com

WHAT SIBLINGS ARE LIKE

SALMA MOHAMMAD ALI

If you're not an only child, then you've been blessed with a sibling or more who probably fall into at least one of the following categories.

The Flawless Overachiever

This sibling is perfect in every way – straight A grades, trophies from sports tournaments, and has never received detention. They're basically everything that you're not, and your parents never fail to remember this fact during every dinner, or worse - family gatherings. You're forced to endure them gush over how your brother got an A+++ on his paper. Don't worry, your parents love you both equally. Yes, keep telling yourself that.

The "I Got Your Back" Sibling

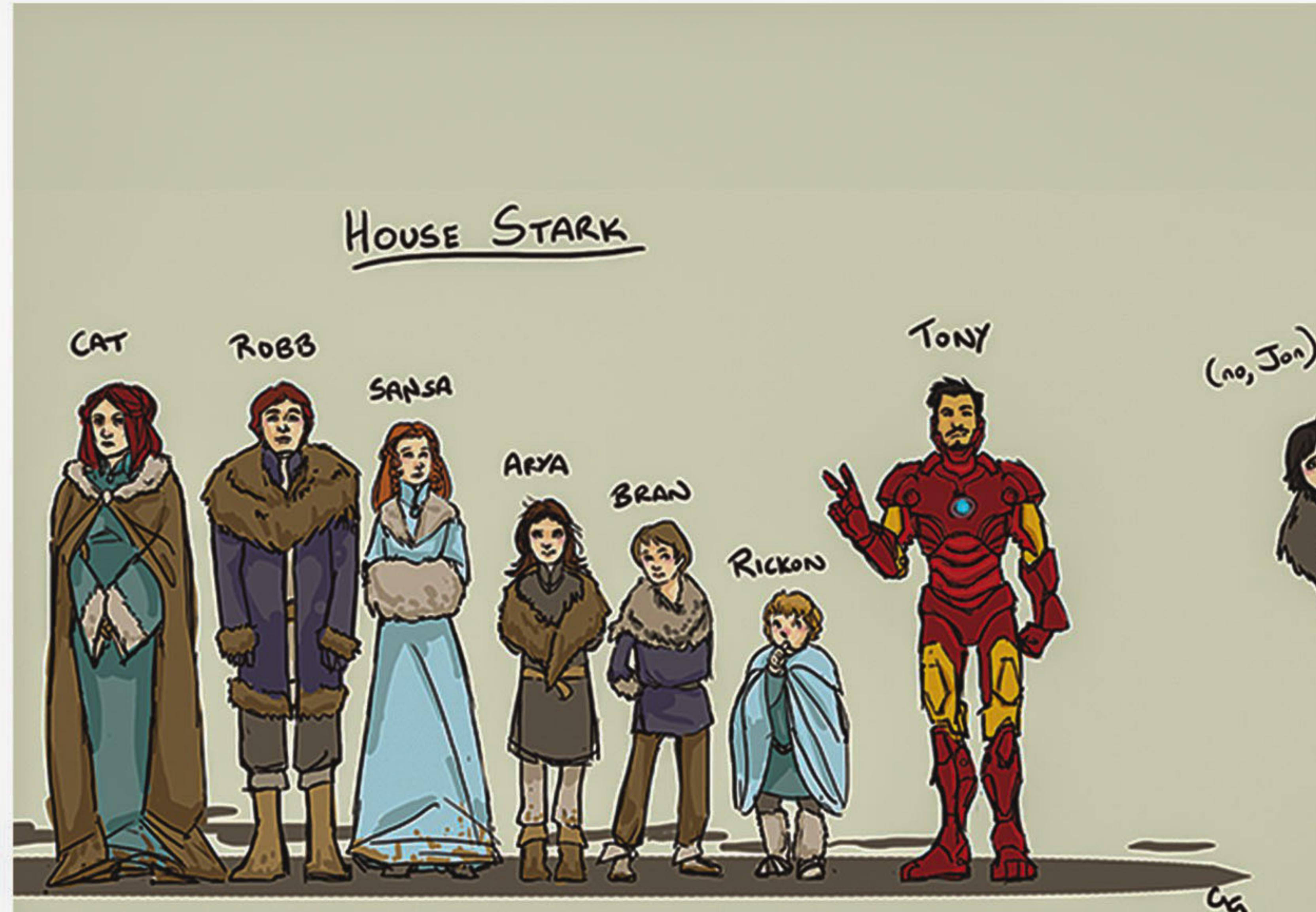
You've probably snuck out with friends for the first time and after you enter the house stealthily, you find that your parents are awake. Just when you think all hell is about to break loose, your older sister appears out of nowhere and casually responds with a "We just came back from the mall" and smiles innocently at your suspicious parents. You are safe.

The 3rd Parent

Sadly not everyone is blessed with a cool older sibling. You may have thought your parents' constant yells of "Go study" or "Stop using your phone" or "Who's that boy you're talking to?" are too much to handle, but wait till your sibling decides to go into 3rd parent mode. From forcing you to show your terrible report card to your parents, to interrogating your significant other, the 3rd parent either wants to make your life miserable or is just practicing parenting skills for the future.

The Leech

Whether it's that top you've finally bought after saving pocket money for months, or the last piece of cake that rightfully belongs to you, you can count on your sister to make it disappear. Try complaining to your mom and brace yourself for a good old family lecture on "sharing is caring", while your sister smirks at you from across the room. How she manages to look better than you in your clothes even after eating all your food is



baffling.

The Snivelling Snitch

If you thought the 3rd parent was bad, allow me to introduce you to the little snitch. If you happen to be a middle child with both an older sibling, and a younger tattle-tale, God bless your poor soul. This, usually younger, sibling probably possesses the Invisibility Cloak because no matter how careful you are or how hard you try to cover your tracks, the snitch always sees what you've done. They will then proceed to blackmail you,

asking for cash or candy. The moment you hand it over, the snitch skips over to your parents, spilling all the beans while munching on the Kit Kat you just gave them. You have my permission to convincingly tell the snitch that he was rescued and adopted from a trash can. Bonus points for making him cry.

As much as I love my brother, I also hate him for being an overachiever, but I can't help but feel guilty about all the times I had snitched on him as a kid, so I guess we're even. I mean, what are siblings for?