It was just two simple sandwiches. One with butter and cheese, and the other with just a slice of ham. One for Dad and one for Dev. The two have actually been getting along really well lately. Dad is sitting by the TV as Dev arrives in the living room with the two sandwiches on two tiny plates. Won’t be making the same mistake twice.

Putting down the plates, one close to dad and the ham one more to the side. Dev quickly went back to get the drinks, it was just juice, and when he returned, he saw that dad had moved the ham one closer to himself. In essence, saying that the two sandwiches where his. Maybe Dev should have made two for the both of them? No, it would have been better if he had just given dad a sandwich and drink first, or maybe it would have been better to bring out the juice first? Though last time he did that-

“Dev, sit down. You’re in the way.”

“Right, sorry, here.” Giving Dale the juice. Dev quickly sat down, he could make another sandwich, but then he wouldn’t get to spend quality time like this with dad. Plus, it’s not like he hasn’t gone hungry before, and this time he did actually have some juice. And- and it’s not like he can leave now that Dale told him to sit down, it’s important to listen after all.

This is nice. He likes spending time with dad. Especially when it’s late cause then dad might fall asleep, and Dev can get a hug in. It would be nice to get a hug back, but that’s probably too much to ask, dad is busy after all.

“Shouldn’t you be in bed?” Dale asks when whatever he was watching comes to an end.

“Right, thank you dad.” Dev takes the plates and glasses back to the kitchen and gets ready for bed. Brushing teeth, changing clothes, taking melatonin and then crawling into the bed to fall into slumber, not disturbing dad.

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Dev wakes up groggy as always and let the au pairs prepare him for the school day. They even made a simple breakfast for him. That just proves that dad really appreciated what he did yesterday, or at least didn’t disapprove of it. Yay! This was surely going to be a good day.

He goes to school in style as always, it’s important, he’s a Dimmadome after all. Though listening in class is a whole other thing, it’s not that he’s learning anything of worth. Dev already has a plan for his future, so what’s the use? Plus, he’s pretty sleepy, so why not just sit back and relax? It’s not like anyone will know if he dozes of slightly, as he always has his glasses on.

“Dev, class is over.” Right.

“Are you gonna eat that?” Yeah, need to.

“See you tomorrow, Dev!” Bye Hazel.

“Dale, your son has so much potential-”, *as he should,* “- but we worry that he isn’t really applying himself in school.” *Not that it would do anything.* “Maybe you could encourage him?” *What?*

“Dev.” I’m sorry, “Dev.” I didn’t even do anything bad this time. “Development!” No. I- I- “D-”

“Yes.” Like a rabbit caught in the claws of a hawk. Dev doesn’t dare look up at Dale.

“You know I’m busy, right?”

“Yes.”

“So, I’ll only say this once. DON’T. CUT. INTO. MY. TIME.”

“...” I’m- can’t let tears fall, Dale hates that.

“I can’t believe you! Do you know how much money I could lose if I’m not working? And then you force me to be present for some stupid conversation!”

“…”

“Go to bed.”

“Yes.” Should have eaten more at school.

Well, at least he still has some leftovers in his stash.

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Dev wakes up groggy as always and let the au pairs prepare him for school. They didn’t make breakfast. Dad must be really disappointed in him. He has to do better, he’s a Dimmadome after all.

“Hey Dev! How did your conversation go? For me, I have to read more books, mom promised that she would try and read with me when she had time. What about you?”

“It was fine.”

“Huh? You, okay?”

“I’m fine.” There’s a grumble. No! Quiet!

“Ah, did sleep in and miss breakfast?”

“I- yeah…” Sure, let’s go with that.

“You silly goose. Well, lucky you, I got an energy bar with me, want it?”

“Can I?” Would she really do that?

“Yeah, sure.” She does a little whisper and takes out the bar, giving it to him.

“Thank you, Hazel.” He could feel his eyes wet, good thing he has his glasses on.

“No problem, we’re friends, right? Friends help each other out! And mom says it’s important to be mindful of other’s feelings.”

“Your mom sounds great.” Wish his dad could be like that, but dad does love him. It has to be true. He just shows it in a different way. Dad just wants him to be stronger. He’s a Dimmadome after all.

“Yeah, your dad seems pretty- uhh- Oh! Look, it’s Jasmin and Winn, let’s go say hi.” Hazel quickly changes the subject and runs towards her other friends waving to Dev to follow along. He declines the offer. He doesn’t feel like being around others right now. Plus, he shouldn’t drag Hazel down, she’s always so happy.

Today he remembers to eat properly as well as gather some resources for his stash. It is Friday, so it’s important to have extra food. Especially now that dad isn’t in the best mood, but he’ll come around, he’s still dad and dad loves him. The school food today wasn’t the best, but he’s happy to always have a constant at least.

“Wow Dev, you must have been really hungry. Did you stay up all night planning a game? You know, dad says that breakfast is really important, you can’t just go skipping it.” Hazel lectures jokingly, trying to lift up the mood.

“Oh, okay.” Did he eat too much? But it’s important. No, what if he’s a glutton? What would dad think? He shouldn’t eat too much, dad would be so disappointed. He’s a Dimmadome, he has an image to keep.

“You okay, Dev?” Hazel askes concerned, giving a few glances to Jasmin and Winn. “Is there anything we can do to help?”

“Yeah!”, “We’re here for you Dev!”, the two inform. It’s nice to have people who sound like they care around, but he’s being selfish, he shouldn’t drag them down. Plus, it’s just his dad’s way of showing he cares about his future. It’s important to have discipline and be prepared for unforeseen consequences. That’s just how life is, and dad is kind enough to show that.

“Thanks, but I just didn’t get a lot of sleep.” They’d probably believe it, he feels pretty tired.

“Oh. So, what game where you playing?”

“Huh?” Where did that come from?

“Yeah, what kept you up?” Jashmin interjects. Why are they interrogating him?

“Why do you need to know?” Are they planning on telling dad? No! Dad will be so disappointed if he finds out a Dimmadome isn’t exuding presence. Dad always says it’s important to make a name and make it be known. If he keeps this up, he’s just going to disappear into the background. NO! He can’t let that happen.

“I’m not telling.” Dev continues, not letting anyone in the friend group answer his question. Snapping his fingers his au pairs come and help him escape the situation. Surely that would leave an impression.

After going on that treasure hunt with Hazel, he’s been exuding less and less presence. Like he doesn’t care as much anymore. Maybe Dad noticed that during the meeting? What if that’s why dad was so angry? And the reminder of how busy dad is, was just a front. He wanted Dev to think about it and figure out the real reason. He’s a smart kid, of course he would figure it out, and dad knew that. That’s why he didn’t say anything, it’s because he trusts Dev. Yeah, that has to be it.

He didn’t interact with the friend group for the rest of the day.

“Bye Hazel.” He said to the empty spot where they usually said their goodbyes. They’re still friends, right? What if he messed something up? No. He’s a Dimmadome he can’t be messing things up. He can’t. So obviously everything is fine, and Hazel just wanted to give him some space. It’s not like she forgot about him or anything. Plus, it’s not every day they say goodbye. It’s just, it would have been nice if today was one of the days they did.

Oh, an idea just hit  
What if Peri adores Dev’s desire for food so that when Dale \*truly\* loves Dev, there are still times when Dev is forced to go without food. The period is shorter of course, so that truly shows that Dale has made a change for the better. It isn’t that weird to leave a kid without food for a while, you love them, but sometimes it’s needed. Though it is odd that it often coincides with Peri being extremely hungry.