

APPLE BOBBING

By Lila Whelan

28 Plays Later – Play 9

*LINDA has one hand round JON's throat and in her other hand she holds a knife which is pressing against JON's crotch*

JON Put the knife down, Linda! Fine, I'll tell you what he did with the apple!

LINDA You will?

JON I will. Just.

LINDA No bullshit?

JON No.

LINDA Stand still!

JON Alright, alright, I'm not moving. See? I'm standing right here not moving, OK?

LINDA OK

*LINDA releases his throat, the knife stays where it is*

JON Ok

Could you just move the knife a little, just lower it for a moment

LINDA No

JON Ah! Ah...ah...ok. Sorry, look let me explain. Let me clear this all up.

LINDA Talk

JON Then you'll put down the knife?

LINDA Talk!

JON You have to understand it, we. We were just little, stupid, young idiots. We didn't know any better. We didn't know anything. We, we, thought it would be funny. A laugh. You know, make everyone at school laugh.

LINDA That's sick

JON We didn't know! I promise you. We just, didn't think it through. And Ben, he. He always had something to prove, he carried this chip on his shoulder.

LINDA So you set her up

JON Yes, no. It was a game. Just a game. But Ben, he wanted to make it more interesting. Said apple bobbing was for babies, it was too easy. He had a way to make it. More fun. He's make us laugh.

LINDA And you let him

JON You weren't there! You, you didn't know him back then. Back then he was top dog, the fuckin Fonz. We hung on every word, did everything he said cos if you didn't... One boy, Tim, he said no and Ben hung him out to dry - he made us all piss over him, then we hung him up and left in the sun to dry...

LINDA Stop crying

JON Please, the knife, it's cutting me...

LINDA I don't care. What did you do to the apples?

JON I. I. The apples. Each of us, he gave each of us an apple. Told us to, to lace it with something

LINDA Spike it.

JON Yeah. That's, that what I thought. Spike the apples, he gave us syringes - his dad was a pharmacist – we took an apple and a syringe and we spiked them.

LINDA With what?

JON Vodka. I put vodka in mine. I swear it. Ryan he, he used gin, Thomas managed to find absinthe.

LINDA And Ben?

JON He. Maybe he didn't know. Maybe he did. I don't.

LINDA What did he put in the apple?

JON Lighter fluid.

He filled it with lighter fluid. She, she wasn't supposed to eat the whole apple!

LINDA But she did. She won it. She bit into it and she yanked it out and she ate it. She didn't want to. But you teased her, pushed her and laughed at her and told her she was a whiny little baby when she said it tasted bad - you FORCED her to eat it all. She was crying and pleading but you MADE her. You made her...

JON I'm sorry

LINDA She was 14.

JON I know. I. I'm sorry, I never meant.

LINDA You saw him do it.

JON What?

LINDA Saw him fill up that apple with poison

JON No.

LINDA Watched her eat it – KNOWING

JON No!

LINDA You're a liar.

*She cuts his throat.*