

## **The Apple Killer**

Judy was alone in her house. She was waiting for all the guests to arrive and she was starting to feel nervous. Every year they met at the same date, but this time she could feel that something wrong was going to happen ... She heard the doorbell but no one was there. She called her best friend Lilly but she went to voicemail. The sound of broken glass resounded near the kitchen. Judy started to feel fear. She went to the kitchen but there was nobody, just a glass, not broken weirdly, full of orange soda. Judy was thirsty, so she drank the glass. Suddenly she fell on the floor and lost consciousness. Nobody was in her house, she stayed alone, unconscious.

A few hours later, Judy woke up in a place that she did not remember, but it felt as if she knew it. This was like a wet and dark cellar. She was tied up to a chair, she could not move and there was an apple tied to her head. In front of her stood a person with a balaclava and a crossbow. He was near a table with many arrows on it. This scene reminded her of an old story called William Tell: a man was forced to shoot in the apple on his son's head because he had not hailed to the King. Judy started to cry, she did not want to die, she screamed: "Why? What have I done? Please, do not do this! I did not do anything wrong! Who are you? Show me your face!" The man did not answer and prepared his crossbow to shoot. He took an arrow, dipped it in alcohol, set fire to it and placed it on his crossbow. He stretched it and shouted: "Fire!"

After the party Tony was aggressive with every teacher, pupil and particularly with Judy. But there was something weirder than his attitude. He was following her after school every afternoon. One day, Judy went to Tony's home to have some explanations because he scared her. In his bedroom they talked about why he was angry at her. Judy understood that she was not nice with him and that he did not deserve to be excluded. Then Judy said she was thirsty and Tony went downstairs to the kitchen in order to get some soda from the fridge. In the meantime Judy discovered a box in Tony's wardrobe, with many pictures of her and some little notes like: "Monday: blue dress, black shoes, straight hair"; "Tuesday: black pants, green jumper, hair tied up..." Judy felt scared and ran away from the house. Tony heard that she was running in the stairs, but when he left the kitchen it was too late, Judy was gone.

On the next Monday there was another party at Judy's house, for her birthday, like every year, and Tony had not been invited...again. That was too much for him.

He prepared some soda with a sleeping pill, took his bike and went to Judy's home. He entered through an open window and put the soda into a glass and on the kitchen table. He hid in the closet and waited for Judy.

Today is a sad day at Judy's high school. All the girls are crying and all the boys are sad. Everybody looks shocked except for one person. Tony is walking in the corridors with a strange smile. He takes a deep breath and leaves.

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