

Apple Juice

by

Sara Beasley

3 x 20+ female voices and 1 x 24+ male voice (must be able to do a Polish accent).

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The sound of 40s dance music.

Joan (*Slurring*) What time is it?

Pat Five and twenty past Ten! What time did you think it was, Dizzy Lizzie?

Joan Dunno. Been havin' such a good time, I lost track. Met a lovely RAF lad Pat, smashin' dancer and generous too

Pat Mmm, I bet he was. *Beat.* What on earth's keeping Irene?

Joan She better hurry up. It's gonna be late by the time we get back. Matron'll lock us out.

Pat Don't worry, I've got a way of getting back in without the dragon finding out.

Joan I'm not climbing through any windows, not in me best frock! Me Mam made it me and she'll kill me if I get it torn!

Pat You won't have to do no climbing. *Beat.* Joan, did you come to the dance last week?

Joan Yeah, danced all night long I did

Pat Did you see Milly there by any chance?

Joan Not sure, why?

Pat Mmm, I've heard some rumours tonight ...

Irene joins them

Joan At last! Do you know what time it is Irene, we're gonna cop it now and that's a dead cert.

Pat I told you, don't fret. I made Milly promise she'll let us in if we're late back

Joan That's alright then. Oh, I don't feel too well. I think it must be that lousy rotten stew we had for tea.

Pat Ha! Couldn't be anything to do with all that cider you've been drinkin' all night!

Joan Course not – It were only apple juice. Very nice apple juice actually, lots of bubbles! (*starts giggling*)

Irene That RAF chap called it that did he. Cider might be made from apples but it's as strong as any beer. You're drunk me girl!

Joan Don't talk daft, I've never been drunk in me life!

Pat Well, there's always a first time. Come on Irene, let's get her back.

Sudden roar of a motorbike is heard slowing down to a stop.

Basil Ah, my three favourite beauties!

Irene Basil! You're our knight in shining armour!

Basil I no understand – Irana?

Irene (*Giggling*). Oooh I love it when he calls me that, makes me go all weak at the knees!

Pat It's this daft madam! Some chap's bin plyin' her with cider all night. Told Joan it was apple juice!

Irene Basil, could you give her a lift on the back of your motorbike?

Pat Do you think that's a good idea? She might fall off, the state she's in

Basil No problem girls. Basil will look after, but she must hold on tight to me

Pat Did you hear that Joan? Get on the back behind Basil and wrap your arms around him, but hold on tight – don't let go

Joan *Groaning* Oh, I don't feel very well, I think I'm gonna be.....*throws up*

Pat Irene, I've heard something you're not gonna like.

Irene Go on.

Pat It appears your blue dress went to the dance last week

Irene My dress?..... I don't understand

Pat I mean somebody 'borrowed' it last Saturday while you were visitin' yer Mam

Irene I don't recall anybody askin' if they could borrow my dress. You mean the one with the sequins and pearls me Mam sat up nearly two weeks sowing on.

Pat Yes

Irene Who was it?

Pat Milly

Irene Milly?! I don't believe it! I'll knock her block off when I get back!

Pat Better wait 'til the morning love. In case you wake Matron, you know what a light sleeper she is

Irene Well she's got it comin' tomorrow, I tell you.

Pat But Irene it's Sunday, we'll have church in the morning

Irene She's on taytie duty, I'll have it out with her then. *(Beat)* Anyway, what was **she** doin' at Suncastle? She always says it's full of riff raff...

Pat By the sounds of it she was with a Navy lad from the training base all night.

Joan Oh God! Me teeth, they've gone! I can't feel me top set o'falsies!

Pat Oh flamin' 'eck Joan!

Irene We'll have to find 'em. She can't go back without 'em.

Pat Well don't look at me. I can't deal with sick.....

Irene It's nowt worse than muckin' out cows *(Beat)* Yes! Found 'em! Right Joan, put 'em in your pocket and don't lose 'em.

Joan. Thanks Irene. Feel much better now!

Irene. Good. Now, hop up behind Basil. Remember, hold on tight Joan.

Basil. OK Joanie, here goes *(Engine starts)*.