

**TEENAGE ANCESTRY**

(A COMEDY)

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**THE CAST OF CHARACTERS**

**JOEY APPLETON:** 40s -50s overweight, surviving twin of the “Apple Dumpling Gang.”

**SIMON SHAW:** 40s- 50s Tall skinny, Tax Accountant, “Shaw the Straw.”

**PHOENIX GRANDVILLE:** 40s- 50s Wealthy, stocky build, “Phoenix Anvil”

**DETECTIVE WHEATLEY:** 30s, a female cold case detective placed in charge evidence room.

**PLACE**

Police Station Holding Cell.

**TIME**

Late on a Friday, afternoon.

*The lights fade-up on Phoenix Grandville sitting on a folding chair in a dimly lit, police holding cell, Officer Wheatley, a female detective enters with pen and a dictation pad in hand.*

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

Phoenix Grandville, I'm Detective Wheatley, I'm the officer in charge of your case.

*She pulls a chair up to a small table across from Phoenix.*

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

Well, it's about time! I've been in here for almost two hours! I demand to know just why I'm being held.

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

I understand your frustration Mr. Grandville. However, other extenuating circumstances affect your case.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

Just what is my case?

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

I was hoping you would make this easy.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

Easy?

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

Yes, easy Mr. Grandville. There is no use playing any of these adolescent games.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

I'm not paying any adolescent game. What do you want from me?

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

The truth.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

The truth?

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

Yes, just tell the truth.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

The truth. I don't know, what truth you want from me.

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

Come now, Mr. Grandville. You know the truth. You can't run away from the truth forever. Sooner or later it will catch up with you.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

I'm not running from anything. Now what do you believe, to be. the truth?

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

I'm afraid that at this time I can't reveal that information to you.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

It's my right to know!

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

Not if that information might interfere with our ongoing investigation.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

Ongoing investigation?

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

Yes, we're still tracking down one more lead, Mr. Grandville.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

What kind of lead?

*The detective rises from the table and walks to the cell door.*

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

All in due time, Mr. Grandville, all in due time. You will be amazed where a lead can take you these days. I will be speaking to you again soon.

*The detective exits. Phoenix gets up from his chair and starts to pace around the cell, wondering just why he is being detained. The sound of a cell door opening and a tall very nervous Middle-Aged man, Simon Shaw is tossed into the cell with Phoenix. The two men immediately are suspicious of one another and they move to the opposite sides of the cell. They try not to make eye contact but take turns sneaking a peek at the other guy. After they both get a look, Phoenix, catches Simon looking at him.*

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

What are you looking at?

SIMON SHAW

Nothing, nothing. I just thought you look kind of familiar.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

Well, I don't know you, so quit staring at me!

SIMON SHAW

Alright sorry!

*The two men move around the room a little trying to ignore one another, both of them slowly walking around, sneaking looks and glimpses at each other as they swap sides of the prison cell. Then Phoenix catches Shaw looking at him again.*

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

What is it with you? I told you to quit looking at me!

SIMON SHAW

Sorry. (Beat) You sure we don't know each other?

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

I've never seen you before in my life.

*Once again, the two men move around the room a little trying to ignore one another, both of them slowly walking around, sneaking looks and glimpses at each other as they swap sides of the prison cell. Then Phoenix snaps his fingers.*

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE (CONT'D)

Shaw the straw!

*Shaw stares hard at Phoenix's face then breaks out in a grin.*

SIMON SHAW

Anvil? Phoenix Grandville the Anvil, is that you?

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

It sure is you, tall twig!

*The two men meet each other in the center of the cell and do an elaborate secret handshake, that burst into laughter and give each other quick hug.*

SIMON SHAW

My god, it's been a long time!

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

Twenty, thirty years at least?

SIMON SHAW

Longer than that. My family moved at the end of the summer after Eighth Grade.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

That's right!

SIMON SHAW

I think the last time I saw you was that night at the city pool.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

That's right, the Appleton twins spent the night at my house and we snuck out and met you at the pool.

SIMON SHAW

Oh My God! The Apple dumpling gang. I totally forgot about the Appleton twins.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

How could you forget about Johnny and Joey? (Beat) You know Johnny passed last spring, heart attack.

SIMON SHAW

Jesus, I didn't know that. (Beat) I do remember them at that late night pool party. I think every high school kid in the city snuck out that night ended up at the city pool!

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

Yeah, that was a crazy night. I remember well, you playing, air guitar as you danced along the high dive pretending you were Angus Young, playing his guitar.

SIMON SHAW

For those about to rock!

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

We salute you!

*The two middle-aged men revert back to their boyhood days and start to high kick and dance as they play air guitar like Angus Young. They both pull muscles and stop abruptly laughing at the good old days.*

SIMON SHAW

Then the Apple dumpling gang climbed up the ladder of the high dive with that lifeguard umbrella.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

That's Right! Then all four of us jumped off the high dive holding on to the umbrella, it inverted halfway down, and then splash!

SIMON SHAW

Crazy Night. That was my last night in this city as a kid. My family moved to Cleveland the next day.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

That's right, you were not around when the shit hit the fan.

SIMON SHAW

What Happened?

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

I had a doubleheader the next day. Remember the ball fields were right next to the pool.

SIMON SHAW

The little league fields, yeah.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

I was in the outfield in the first game, bent over with the dry heaves from the night before. When all of a sudden the police pulled up to the pool. I'm talking five squad cars all at once. It was like watching a swat team move in on the city pool. By the time I finished the second game, they had police tape all around the pool. I walked home and took a shower. When I got out of the shower my Dad knocked at my bedroom door and told me I had visitors. I got dressed and there at the front door was the cops. They started asking me if I was at the pool the night before. I said no officer. They said, that's not what we understand son. I said, I was asleep officer. I had a doubleheader today. Then one cop says, it was reported to us by an eye-witness that you and some other individuals, jumped off the high dive with an umbrella. I smiled and said, that was not me officer. I was at home asleep. (He Laughs) There was not a damn thing they could do!

SIMON SHAW

Damn, I'm glad we moved. My dad would have kicked my ass if the cops showed up at my door. (Beat) Hey, Phoenix, what are you in here for?

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

The detective won't tell me. I'm sitting in my real-estate office and they send some curser by to pick me up.

SIMON SHAW

Same with me, I was in my office. I'm a tax accountant and they came and picked me up just before closing. I have all these returns streaming through my head. Did I do something wrong? They keep changing the tax code. You can never be too careful nowadays. One slip with the wrong person's return and they try sending you to jail.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

And I thought I had it bad. (Beat) I've done a few "Questionable transactions" in the past. However, they were technically within the letter of the law. I can't help it if a sucker is a sucker. In the end, it was nothing illegal. It's crazy.

SIMON SHAW

Yeah, crazy. It's crazy running into you after all these years man. We need to meet out for a beer sometime.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

So, your back in town now?

SIMON SHAW

Yeah, my parents moved back years ago. I moved back this fall after my mom passed.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

I'm sorry to hear that, she was always a sweet lady.

SIMON SHAW

Thanks. Yeah, she was. My dad has Alzheimer, so I moved back to take care of him.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

Wow man, I'm sorry.

SIMON SHAW

Yeah, I hope he remembers me when I have to call him to get out of this place.

*The sound of the cell doors opening once more and then Joey Appleton enters the Cell and freezes in his tracks!*



JOEY APPLETON

Anvil! Shaw the Straw!

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE AND SIMON SHAW

Joey Appleton!

JOEY APPLETON

What are you guys doing here?

SIMON SHAW

Oh my god! You don't think?

*Simon mimics holding onto an umbrella in the middle of a free fall.*

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

No. No?

*The sound of the cell door opening, once more and Detective Wheatley enters carrying a large lifeguard stand umbrella inside out.*

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

NO! (Beat) Do you mean you have been holding me hear over some stupid umbrella?

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

Mr. Grandville. For someone who...

*She sets the umbrella down on the table and flips her pad open and starts to read from her notes.*

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY(CONT'D)

... "Who had a doubleheader and was home asleep all night" you sure cut to the chase when you saw this umbrella. Some might say that was admission to guilt.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

I did have a doubleheader the next day. You can look it up! I'm not admitting to anything!

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

And you Mr. Shaw. What about you? You seem to recognize this umbrella too? Just what were you doing that night?

SIMON SHAW

I moved to Cleveland the next day. IF you don't believe me you can ask my Dad, he is still living.

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

What about you Mr. Appleton? Were you there that night?

*She flips open her note pad again and starts reading from it.*

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY(CONT'D)

Or are these eye-witness accounts incorrect about seeing the " Apple Dumpling Gang" climb up the high dive with this umbrella.

JOEY APPLETON

Apple Dumpling Gang? I have no idea what you were talking about. I was at home playing Atari with my twin brother.

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

Your Lying! All of you all Lying, and I can prove it!

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

It's our word against yours. You couldn't prove it then and can't prove it now. I had a doubleheader and I was asleep all night.

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

That's where your wrong Mr. Grandville, I have witnesses that prove that all of you were at that pool that night and can prove you all jumped off that high dive with this umbrella! (Beat) Yes, I have witnesses Mr. Grandville, in your case I have twenty-three of them, or should I say Twenty-three and me, of them.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

What?

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

Your DNA Mr. Grandville. Your DNA is a match with the sample from this umbrella. The umbrella that I found in the back of the evidence room. Yes, Mr. Grandville I was instructed to clean out the old cold cases and clean up that evidence room. When I came upon this umbrella, well, let's just say your teenage ancestry caught up with you!

JOEY APPLETON

Jesus, Johnny gave that ancestry.com kit for Christmas last year!

SIMON SHAW

I got mine for Christmas too.

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

Mr. Grandville?

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

I got a Twenty-Three and me, kit as a gift when I turned Fifty.

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

There now, That, was not so hard. (Beat) You are hear by each fined Fifty dollars for the destruction of city property.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

Fifty bucks? Is that what this is all about?

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

Well, of course that find increases fifty dollars for every year that it has not been paid.

JOEY APPLETON

You got to be kidding that was like twenty something years ago!

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

Twenty-Eight to be exact.

PHOENIX GRANDVILLE

That's got to be like a grand apiece for that cheap umbrella!

*The Detective flips open her pad and looks up a dollar amount.*

DETECTIVE WHEATLEY

The Umbrella was initially listed, at the cost of thirty-nine dollars. It's not a grand Mr. Grandville, it's actually, it's fourteen hundred apiece. (Beat) Will that be cash or credit card?

BLACKOUT

END OF PLAY