

CARNEY'S HALLOWEEN PARTY: A READERS THEATER SCRIPT

11 characters:

Narrator

Bonnie

Carney

Betsy

Mrs. Sibley

Alice

Tacy

Winona

Cab

Tony

Herbert

NARRATOR: When Carney learned that Larry couldn't come to the Halloween party she'd been planning for The Crowd, she decided to invite only girls. Seven girls adorned in sheets and pillowcases arrived at Carney's house, laughing uproariously. The shades in all the rooms were closely drawn—and soon the girls heard tapping on the windows.

BONNIE: It's probably the boys.

CARNEY: They're furious they're not invited. Herbert came down before supper and teased like a baby to be allowed to come.

BETSY: He only wanted to gaze upon his Bonnie. He knew she would make an elegant ghost.

BONNIE: *Betsy!*

MRS. SIBLEY: Three ghosts tried to make me believe they had been invited. But they couldn't fool me—I have boys of my own. Have a good time, girls.

ALICE: Good night, Mrs. Sibley!

TACY: Thank you, Mrs. Sibley!

CARNEY: Girls, we have a freezer full of ice cream in the woodshed, so don't eat too much popcorn.

NARRATOR: The tapping on the windows was now continuous, but the girl wouldn't raise the shades.

CARNEY: Those ghosts had better go home.

NARRATOR: She didn't take much interest in the prowling boys, since Larry was not among them.

WINONA: Let's snap apples!

BONNIE: I'll snap yours, Carney – for *Larry*, of course!

ALL GIRLS: (laugh)

BETSY: Tacy, will you snap my apple?

TACY: All right. Let's see, who shall I snap it for . . . ? Um, Tony, I guess.

NARRATOR: Tacy snapped the apple, which Betsy GOBBLED while the girls chanted:

ALL GIRLS:

One I love,

Two I love,

Three I love I say;

Four I love with all my heart,

Five I cast away.

Six he loves,

Seven she loves,

Eight they both love,

Nine he comes,

Ten he tarries,

Eleven he courts and

Twelve he marries.

NARRATOR: There were sixteen seeds.

TACY: Oh! That means . . .

WINONA: Girls! Betsy loves Tony with all her heart.

NARRATOR: Betsy blushed such a rosy red that it could be seen even by firelight.

WINONA: Betsy, you're blushing! Betsy loves Tony!

CARNEY: All right, girls, enough of this. Let's have our refreshments.

BONNIE: Wait till you see the beautiful cake Carney made. It has favors in it! A penny, a thimble, a button, a boat, a key, and a ring.

WINONA: Betsy'll get the ring, I'll bet.

BETSY: Don't be silly.

ALICE: Well, you do love Tony with all your heart, Betsy.

WINONA: Betsy loves Tony!

BETSY: Carney, did you say there was ice cream?

CARNEY: Yes, Mamma made it herself, and I turned the freezer for absolutely hours. It's out in the woodshed now, staying cold.

TACY: It sounds yummy!

ALICE: I just hope the woodshed was locked up tight.

CARNEY: Don't worry. We locked and double-locked it.

NARRATOR: But alas – as the girls headed outdoors to retrieve the ice cream, the flickering light of the candle revealed disaster.

ALICE: The door's open!

TACY: Oh my goodness!

CARNEY: The ice cream's gone! The ice cream's gone!

ALICE: Oh no!

NARRATOR: The girls flapped about the Sibley lawn like six ungainly white birds. But soon there were *nine* white birds.

WINONA: I've caught Herbert!

NARRATOR: Herbert may have been the star of the scrub football team, but he was no match for six girls who wanted sugar.

ALICE: Tell us where our ice cream is!

CARNEY: *Tell us*, Herbert!

HERBERT: Cab! Tony!

TONY: Be strong, Herbert!

NARRATOR: Two sheeted figures tried to pull the girls off Herbert. They were not successful.

CAB: We won't tell you where the ice cream is unless we can have some!

TONY: That's right!

CARNEY: Oh, FINE. You might as well come in.

NARRATOR: The boys dragged out the ice cream freezer from under a lilac bush.

CARNEY: How did you get into the shed, anyway? I locked that door myself!

TONY: The spirits let us in.

HERBERT: No, it was the strong right arm of Humphreys.

CAB: And his little friend Edwards.

NARRATOR: The friends gathered around the dining room table.

TONY: We saw you girls snapping apples.

WINONA: Betsy loves you with all her heart, Tony!

BETSY: Ha! Can I help it if someone snaps my apple for you instead of John Drew?

NARRATOR: Betsy tried to sound nonchalant, but her blush gave her away.

HERBERT: Betsy's blushing! Look at her blush!

CAB: Why, Betsy, I thought you loved me!

NARRATOR: Tony said nothing, but the expression in his eyes made Betsy tingle.

CARNEY: Oh no! I just found the *thimble* in my piece of cake.

ALICE: You're going to be an old maid, I'm afraid.

CARNEY: I am not!

HERBERT: Wait till Larry hears about this!

BONNIE: Wait a minute! Why is this table set for NINE when Carney only expected to serve SIX?

TONY: It's a Halloween mystery.

HERBERT: Ghosts did it!

CAB: I sneaked in and did it while you were snapping apples.

CARNEY: But you couldn't have—it's set so artistically . . . MOTHER!

MRS. SIBLEY: (laughing) Just leave enough ice cream for your brothers.

THE END