

The Juicer

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Dad was doing something in the kitchen. That alone has Tom interested, because dad was not the kitchen type. He liked to grill and maybe throw something in the oven, but not much more. Tom went out to inspect, and found dad cutting vegetables. Things were getting stranger by the moment. Dad carefully cut vegetables into finger-length sections. So far, he had a little celery, tons of carrots, and some green stuff.

“What’s that green stuff?”

“Cilantro.” Dad answered.

“It smells like soap.”

“Maybe, but it’s good. It’s in guacamole. You like that.”



Tom withheld any judgment and continued to watch. Dad cut up an apple next, tossing aside the core and the stem. He added some more leafy greens that Tom knew were kale. With a huge bowl of vegetables, dad pulled out a machine.

It looked like a coffee maker, but it whirred when dad turned it on. A handful of carrots and other vegetables went inside. With a press of a round black piece on top, the machine started grinding. More veggies were added with the apple chunks. Juice began to flow out the bottom of the machine into a cup. Tom eyed the juice suspiciously. Who’d ever heard of such a mess in a cup? Celery? Carrots? Kale? Apples? Together? Dad just smiled, poured himself a cup when he was done, and sipped.

“Is it bad?” Tom asked, cringing.

“Try it.” Dad suggested.

Tom tried a sip, and found himself surprised to enjoy it. Carrots and apples made it sweet. The other stuff was only a little noticeable, giving it a fresh taste. This was way better than eating his vegetables!

“You should make juice more often, dad! Next time, I can even help.”

Dad just grinned and went to work cleaning the machine.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Dad making?
 - A. sauce
 - B. pudding
 - C. juice
 - D. dessert

2. TRUE O FALSE: Dad adds apples to the juice mix.
 - A. True
 - B. False

3. Which of these is NOT in the juice?
 - A. cilantro
 - B. carrots
 - C. celery
 - D. cucumbers

4. What ingredient does the story say is in the juice the most?
 - A. cilantro
 - B. carrots
 - C. celery
 - D. apples

5. How does Tom like dad's juice?
 - A. He cries after drinking it.
 - B. He is too scared to even try it.
 - C. He likes it and wants it more often.
 - D. It makes him sick.

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