

EXTRACT

Bake-Off

a short play

by

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Cast

TRISH

BELLE

FELICE

NISRINE

Setting

The lounge room of Trish's house in Ashtabula, Ohio.

Time

A Tuesday afternoon.

Lounge. Day.

LIGHTS UP. **TRISH** HOLDS A PLATE WITH A CAKE IN FRONT OF **BELLE**.

THEY BOTH LOOK AT IT. PAUSE.

BELLE: What is it?

TRISH: Strudel.

BELLE: What kind of a strudel?

TRISH: Pumpkin.

BELLE: A Pumpkin Strudel?

TRISH NODS.

BELLE: What's that other stuff?

TRISH: Pecan.

BEAT.

BELLE: A Pecan and Pumpkin strudel?

TRISH: With a caramel swirl. Don't forget the Caramel. Makes it 'strudel-icious'.

BEAT.

BELLE: I don't know.

TRISH: What's not to know?

BELLE: Sounds like a strange mix.

TRISH: It's not a strange mix. There's nothing *strange* about it.

BELLE: Pumpkin?

TRISH: And Pecan.

BELLE: In a Strudel.

TRISH: A 'strudel-icious' strudel. Try it – you'll see.

BELLE: I've just had lunch.

TRISH: It's morning.

BELLE: An early lunch.

TRISH: It's quarter to ten.

BELLE: A very early lunch.

TRISH: It won five gold medals.

BELLE: Where was that again?

TRISH: Wisconsin.

BELLE: Which is where?

TRISH: It's the strudel capital of the U.S.

BELLE: Pecan and pumpkin.

TRISH: With a caramel swirl. It's a great mix. The kind of mix that makes a statement.

BELLE: That you better get a bucket?

TRISH: That we are not going to stand for second.

BELLE: Second's not so bad.

TRISH: It's not first.

BELLE: We had a good run.

TRISH: Exactly. *We had.*

BELLE: Everything's got to come to an end, some day.

TRISH: Nothing has to end. For eleven years at the North-eastern Ohio Annual Cake Bake-Off we've come first. The Bake-off has belonged to Ashtabula. And now it belongs to them. The ladies from Lorain.

BELLE: They made a good sponge.

TRISH: Exactly – a *sponge*.

BELLE: Can't go past a good sponge.

TRISH: It was a *sponge*.

BELLE: With Vanilla Bean icing.

TRISH: *Vanilla* icing.

BELLE: I thought it was bean.

TRISH: Just vanilla. Sans bean.

BELLE: Still, can't go past a good sponge with good icing. Simple, hearty, like going home.

BEAT.

TRISH: Do you like being a loser? Cause that's what you sound like. L - o - s - e - r.

BELLE: We didn't lose.

TRISH: Second is losing.

BELLE: Not by much.

TRISH: Do you know what colour I like Belle? Gold. Do you know what colour I hate? Silver. Gold not silver. I experienced silver last year. I didn't like it. This year I'm bringing the gold back. And that's the colour the strudel will bring us.

BELLE: The Pumpkin strudel

TRISH: The Pumpkin and Pecan strudel with a Caramel swirl. The swirl is different. The swirl is exotic. That's what all the judges like these days. Ex-ot-ic. It makes it -

BOTH: 'Strudel-icious'.

BEAT.

BELLE: I still don't know.

TRISH: You have a losing mentality Belle. And you know what that means?

BELLE: We should at least listen to Felice.

TRISH: Felice?

BELLE: She said she's found a secret weapon.

TRISH: A secret weapon? This -