

# Apple a Day

Libretto

By

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## DAY 15

*(A title above declares "DAY 15". Hugo, Celie, and Dallin sit at a table. Hugo heartily eats a large bowl of hot stew, while his parents sit on either side perfectly still. An alarm goes off, which Dallin and Celie stop by simultaneously pressing a tab on their wristbands. They then simultaneously take colored tablet from a compartment on their wristbands and swallow then dry. They watch intently as he takes every bite.)*

CELIE: How's your stew?

HUGO: Pretty good. *(He looks at Celie and waits for a response, but she just stares at him, as does Dallin.)* Its perfect. Thanks, Mom.

CELIE: You're welcome. I know it's your favorite, but I'm afraid I won't be making it ever again.

HUGO: Are you serious? The meat and veg are so good.

CELIE: Carrion and roots. I don't know how you can still eat. I'm throwing out all the rest of that garbage tomorrow. It's for the best.

HUGO: I need more time. Maybe if I just...

DALLIN: Don't argue, Son. We've been very patient with you. Enough's enough. Your program starts tomorrow. You're going on Xupedno.

HUGO: But I like real food.

DALLIN: I liked drinking.

CELIE: I liked smoking.

HUGO: It's not the same.

DALLIN: How many times do we have to tell you?

*(DUET)*

DALLIN: Food is obsolete. Useless. Get with the program. Look at me. Look at your mother. Two whole weeks without a bite. Hunger at first, but not for long. Anger at first, but not for long. The program is simple. "Four "F's". And now... and now, never felt stronger. Never felt sharper. Xupedno is change. It's an answer. You want what's best? Then get with the program, Son!

CELIE: Food is poison. Toxins. Get with the program. Look at me. Look at your father. Two whole weeks without a drop. Thirst for a while, but not for long. Shakes for a while, but not for long. The program is simple. Four "F's". And now..., and now, never felt better. Never felt younger. Xupedno is change. It's a gift. We want what's best. So, follow the program, Son!

HUGO: (interrupting) I know! I know! Enough's enough!

DALLIN: We're lucky Xupedno is finally accessible. You're lucky I can afford enough supply for the three of us. Never mind shipping all the way from the Viendax System. So many families barely have enough for one. Way too many kids. They'd kill for your supply just sitting in the cabinet, wasting away. Don't you see? Don't you...

CELIE: I think he's gotten the message.

DALLIN: I hope so. *(to Hugo)* When you're done, I want you to dispose of the rest of the food yourself. Tomorrow morning, Xupedno for breakfast. For ALL of us. *(Hugo continues to eat while his parents watch him. Blackout to transitional music.)*

### DAY 30

*(A title above indicates "DAY 30". Hugo is alone in his room, barefoot, savoring a piece of fruit. He now wears a Xupedno wristband like his parents. A loud knock at the door startles him.)*

DALLIN: *(outside)* Hugo! Hugo! Let me in.

HUGO: Just a sec! *(He hides the fruit, then unlocks the door.)*

DALLIN: What are you doing in here? The sun's out.

HUGO: And?

DALLIN: And that's an anomaly. The smog rarely parts anymore. Your mother and I are going for a walk. You're going to join us.

HUGO: I have to study.

DALLIN: That's always your excuse, yet your marks remain at a low plateau.

HUGO: Thanks.

### *(ARIA)*

DALLIN: The Xupedno won't take full effect unless you adhere to the program. They've made it so simple. Four "Fs". "Fasting and Fitness Fuels Focus." We'd all lost our ability to focus. Clouded our potential with screens, noise, and cholesterol. Disgusting. Wasteful. Shameful. The Viendax have enabled us to remedy that. No other species has had the honor of sharing their gift. With enough time and focus, we may one day achieve their plain of greatness. Not my generation, but yours may. You can't see it yet because you're young. But you will. You've only had two weeks on the program. Keep fasting, start moving, and the clarity will change you. Trust me, I didn't believe either... Then your mother showed me. We're different people now. Stronger, better. Keep fasting, keep moving...