

### **Your Story #25: April Fool's Day Joke**

Two boys attempt to pull an April Fool's Day joke on a female classmate, only to find out that she's the one fooling them. (Writer's Digest contest, March 2010)

Oh man, it was going to be good. I couldn't wait for Monday. Luke and Justin really thought they were going to have the last laugh. They had no idea. I personally had never spoken to Esther, but I knew her plan. I'd been sent to the principal's office that day, a routine for me, only this time I was second in line. I couldn't believe it! Shy little Esther, this girl that had transferred in two years ago and had barely said three words to anyone, was in trouble! Or so I thought until I pressed my ear against the other side of the door to listen in. And then she said it and I knew exactly what would go down.

It was perfect! I had to give Esther props. This was pretty funny.

Meanwhile, Luke and Justin, the two biggest pricks in our class, were oblivious, working out their scheme. Everyone but Esther knew. Thinking about it now, I guess the joke was on everyone. Except me, because I knew and I was glad the joke was on them. Sure, some of them were my crowd, but I knew that most of them were just assholes.

Luke and Justin were at least a little smart about it. They let the students know to expect something, but they weren't specific about a time or place. I had a feeling, remembering the last three years of April Fool's jokes, that this year was going to happen during the pep rally, in the girl's locker room, or the cafeteria.

My mom dropped me off at school Monday morning. For once, I wasn't going to skip or fake being sick. No, I wanted to see this. I mean, sure it was subtle, but I needed to see their faces. I was going to record it and everything because I was positive that this wouldn't happen in the history of Luke and Justin pranks again.

Sure enough, I walked into homeroom and Luke and Justin were in the center of a silent, whispering crowd. I shook my head, smiling, and took my seat. The big football game was after school. Every period was shortened. I saw Esther in the halls a few times. So did Luke and Justin. They approached her once, in-between periods, and said they hoped she had a good day. She smiled back and said, "I think I will."

Little did they know...

As I expected, it was going to happen at the pep rally. Man, had they done it earlier in the day, they might've gotten away with it.

I waited for it every second, waited for Luke and Justin to run out into the center of the gymnasium, waited for a scream, the power to go out—something! Then, as a video was being played on a huge projection screen, it happened. Kids in bleachers roared with laughter. Teachers dashed to the projector to turn the video off.

It was taken with a cell phone. From the giggles, I knew it was Luke. He was stretched out beneath a bathroom stall right next to Esther's. She was sitting, her face red obviously from pushing, reading a magazine. Her jeans and panties were down to her ankles, and all we could really see was her big thigh and some of her gut. Before the video finished, one of the teachers unplugged the machine.

I looked straight to Luke and Justin on the lowest row of the bleachers. Justin was having a seizure of laughter while Luke was amused, but clearly upset that they didn't finish playing the video. He stood up, facing the students.

“And then she looks and sees me!” Luke said, bending over with laughter. “And she kicks at me!”

“Come on, Esther, take a bow!” Justin said, standing next to his friend. Everyone looked around. I was laughing really hard by then.

“She’s gone, Mr. Rosen,” the principal said, approaching Luke with his arms crossed. “She transferred out. Today was her final day. I guess the joke’s on you.”

More laughter. Luke and Justin seemed stunned. I imagined Esther in a car at that second, driving away, laughing.

Those stupid jackasses.

“Not when I put this on Youtube,” Justin said. Everyone, including myself, gasped, then cracked up. Man, I hadn’t thought of that.

*Laugh it up while you can, Esther.*