

Poison Candy

(US = "Little Sweetheart")

UK TV : 1990 : dir. Anthony Simmons :

: 93 min

prod: Louis Marks : scr: Anthony Simmons : dir.ph.:

[Cassie Barasch](#) [d]; [Ellie Raab](#) [d]

John Hurt; Karen Young; John McMartin; Barbara Bosson; Guy Boyd; Jack Gilpin;
Jamie Waterston; Ann McDonough; Claude Brooks; Rose Parrah; Gary Basaraba;
Gene Densmore; Jessica Saunders; Phil Hunt; Jimmy Williams; Linda Twigg

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	☢	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3690c	2.5	3	2	632	-	-	-	-	-	No	Unseen

**“ He should have known better
than to talk to strangers ”**



Before there was **"THELMA AND LOUISE"** there was *Thelma and Elizabeth* (above). Time to reach for that
trusty old hairbrush, John !

Source: Radio Times



Source: CVMC website

Radio Times programme listing:

"Screenplay by Anthony Simmons, based on the novel "The Naughty Girls" by Arthur Wise. Starring John Hurt.. and introducing Cassie Barasch and Ellie Raab. "She's a 9-year old kid.. 9-year old kids aren't into blackmail. "..."

"Thelma (Cassie Barasch) and Elizabeth (Ellie Raab) have some evil surprises in store for new neighbour Robert (John Hurt)."

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"Not since "THE BAD SEED" have we seen a little girl as deadly as 9-year old Thelma (played by newcomer Cassie Barasch). She's far more enterprising than her predecessor as she delves in blackmail of a couple on the run from a bank embezzlement job. Rated R for violence. *** "

CVMC video retail/rental website review:

"When two nine year old girls (Cassie Barasch, Ellie Raab) learn that a couple vacationing in their small resort town is actually hiding from the law, they develop a plan of blackmail to earn themselves some extra spending money. One lass begins to feel guilty about the matter and wishes to call it quits, but the other is more evil in her disposition and has no intention of letting the "fun" stop. An update of "**THE BAD SEED**" which has developed a bit of a cult following.

Rated R: adult themes [sic]; brief nudity; sexual themes; violence; profanity
Categories: Girl Films, Little to Preteen, Horror "

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Radio Times Guide to Films", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

CAST:

Robert Burger.....	John Hurt
Dorothea.....	Karen Young
Thelma.....	Cassie Barasch
Elizabeth.....	Ellie Raab
Mrs Davies.....	Barbara Bosson
Uncle David.....	John McMartin
Richard.....	James Waterston
Sheriff.....	Guy Boyd
Mr Harrison.....	Jack Gilpin
Mrs Harrison.....	Ann McDonough
Little Billy.....	Claude Brooks
Marissa.....	Rose Parrah
Barkeeper.....	Gary Basaraba
Mr Manny.....	Gene Densmore
Woman in bar.....	Jessica Saunders
Deputies.....	Phil Hunt, Jimmy Williams
Waitress.....	Linda Twigg

No further information currently available. I've identified it tentatively as a British TV film although it may just as well be a European co-production (the names Barasch and Raab suggest Israel). Either way, it has been promoted to the realms of non-existence by the reference guides. It's not even mentioned among Hurt's credits in the *International Motion Picture Almanac 1994*. Nothing else is known of Cassie Barasch or Ellie Raab.

Sadly, the notion that nine-year old girls could blackmail an adult man does not seem at all so preposterous anymore. Even the most dull-witted child today knows precisely what they need to say. And with the prospect of large pay-outs from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, they're given ample incentive to say it. This story, all too plainly, hails from an era before "child abuse" became a staple food for the news media (even though the given date suggests otherwise).

See subject index under [BRATS / SPOILT CHILDREN](#) for bad seeds of both sexes.