

HALLOWEENER—A
PERSON WHO HAS THE
MOST ENTHUSIASM
FOR HALLOWEEN
EX. MRS. REED

The Chatter

ISSUE 4

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STORIES
AND ARTI-
CLES ABOUT
REAL TEEN
ISSUES

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The History of Halloween

By: **KAILA RUDD**

The very last day in October is, for many, a day to transform yourself into anyone you want to be. Some people decide to be comical characters, such as clowns. Others decide to be fictional characters they could never be in real life, like witches or ghosts or vampires. Most people celebrate by passing out candy and throwing parties, but very few know the actual origin of the day that we call Halloween.

Halloween, or “All Hallows Eve”, gets its roots from Celtic practices. The end of October and the beginning of November was the Celtic New Year; in other words, it was the day celebrating the end of the light half of the year and the

beginning of the dark half. The Celts considered Halloween the day when the dead could come back to earth, so they lit bonfires and wore costumes to keep the ghosts away. Their purpose was to disguise themselves so the ghosts would not recognize them and



therefore leave them unharmed.

The colors originally associated with Halloween (black, orange, red, etc.) represent the colors of

night, fire, and leaves. The night is usually associated with death, cults, fear, and other horrifying topics according to many Christians. Some refuse to celebrate the holiday because they believe it celebrates Satan and the cults that surround him. However, many people, even some Christians, just see the holiday as a time for fun and games.

How do you celebrate Halloween? Is it a night of pure terror or a night of silly games to play with your friends? Now that you know the origins of this holiday, will you look at it differently than you did before?



13 Scariest Movies...

- 13) Drag Me To Hell
- 12) Dawn of the Dead
- 11) Nightmare on Elm Street (Original)
- 10) Halloween (Original)
- 9) The Texas Chainsaw Massacre

- 8) The Wrong Turn (Series)
- 7) The Haunting in Connecticut
- 6) The Last House on the Left
- 5) Rest Stop
- 4) Jeepers Creepers

- 3) The Amityville Horror
- 2) The Shining
- 1) The Omen

Think we got it wrong? If you think that we have a movie too high or too low on our list or if you think we left a movie out, let us know. Go to the F drive, to our **!Turn In** folder and give us your opinion.



"To avoid fainting, keep repeating 'It's only a movie...It's only a movie...'"

Pumpkin Cupcakes

Found By: **HALEY STRATTON**

Yields 18 cupcakes

Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour
 1 ½ teaspoon baking powder
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
 ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
 ¼ teaspoon allspice
 ½ teaspoon Kosher salt
 2 large eggs
 1 ½ cups light brown sugar
 ½ cup unsalted butter, softened
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 cup pumpkin puree
 1 container of cream cheese frosting

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line 18 cupcake cups with cupcake liners (I use a 6-cup cupcake/muffin tin and a 12-cup cupcake/muffin tin).
2. In a medium bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, allspice, and salt. Set aside.
3. In a stand mixer, beat together the eggs, brown sugar, butter, vanilla extract, and pumpkin puree until smooth.
4. Keep the mixer on low and add the flour mixture a little at a time until fully incorporated. Using a large serving spoon is great for

this.

5. Divide the batter evenly among the cupcake cups, filling each of them about ¾ full.
6. Bake for 20 - 25 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cupcakes comes out clean. Allow to cool for 5 minutes and then transfer the cupcakes to a metal rack to cool completely.
7. Then frost the cupcakes with cream cheese frosting and serve.

Why Do We Like Scary Movies?

By: **STEPHEN BOEHME**

Texas Chainsaw Massacre, *Blair Witch Project*, and *Saw*—all three are popular horror films from the past fifteen years. Many people are eagerly awaiting the release of *Paranormal Activity 2*. All of this excitement around horror movies makes you wonder: what makes humans so fascinated by scary movies?

An article about this topic on WiseGeek.com makes the point that while some people see the fixation on horror stories as a decay of society, this fascination is actually nothing new. Even the very early societies had stories about beasts, men, and gods who committed horrible and gory acts. The theory that seems to hold the most weight is that humans just enjoy the adrenaline rush that comes from fear, the same thing that makes us enjoy

roller coasters. Horror films offer a channel to be terrified, and are a much safer way of getting an adrenaline high than practicing mixed martial arts against an angry bear in real life. [WiseGeek](http://WiseGeek.com) goes on to say that humans also enjoy the sense of relief that comes after being frightened, and finding yourself safe and warm in your home or a theater (although you may be scared to walk back out to your car or go to sleep). However, ScienceDaily.com reported that a 2007 study by Berkeley University debunked this last theory, in addition to the idea that humans are only excited by the films, not scared. This study claims that the “watch for the thrill” argument is false because it assumes that people are unable to experience positive and negative reac-

tions at the same time. This point is off base as well though because science shows us that humans can experience two opposite emotions at once. Some people enjoy being scared, not just the relief when the threat is removed. The authors of the study embellished: “the most pleasant moments of a particular event may also be the most fearful”. This study expands to not just horror films, but to other frightening experiences, including extreme sports.

So why do we like scary movies? They give us a release from our ordinary lives and allow us to experience extreme terror and pleasure in a secure environment, with no more negative consequences than an uneasy bedtime.



UNSCRAMBLE THE LETTERS TO FIND WORDS IN OUR

Halloween Anagram

- abt _____
- acdny _____
- adehntu _____
- aehllnow _____
- aeimprv _____
- cemostu _____
- chitw _____
- eeflorww _____
- koopsy _____
- oshtg _____

Hidden Word
(solve using the underlined letters)

“Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water.”

From Jaws 2 (1978)

Candy Corn Balls

Found By: **HALEY STRATTON**



A sprinkling of candy corn makes these popcorn balls an extra-special treat. While boiling the syrup is a job for adults only, shaping the balls is a fun activity for little hands.

Instructions

Put 12 cups popped popcorn in a mixing bowl large enough to allow for stirring. Mix in 1 1/2 cups candy corn.

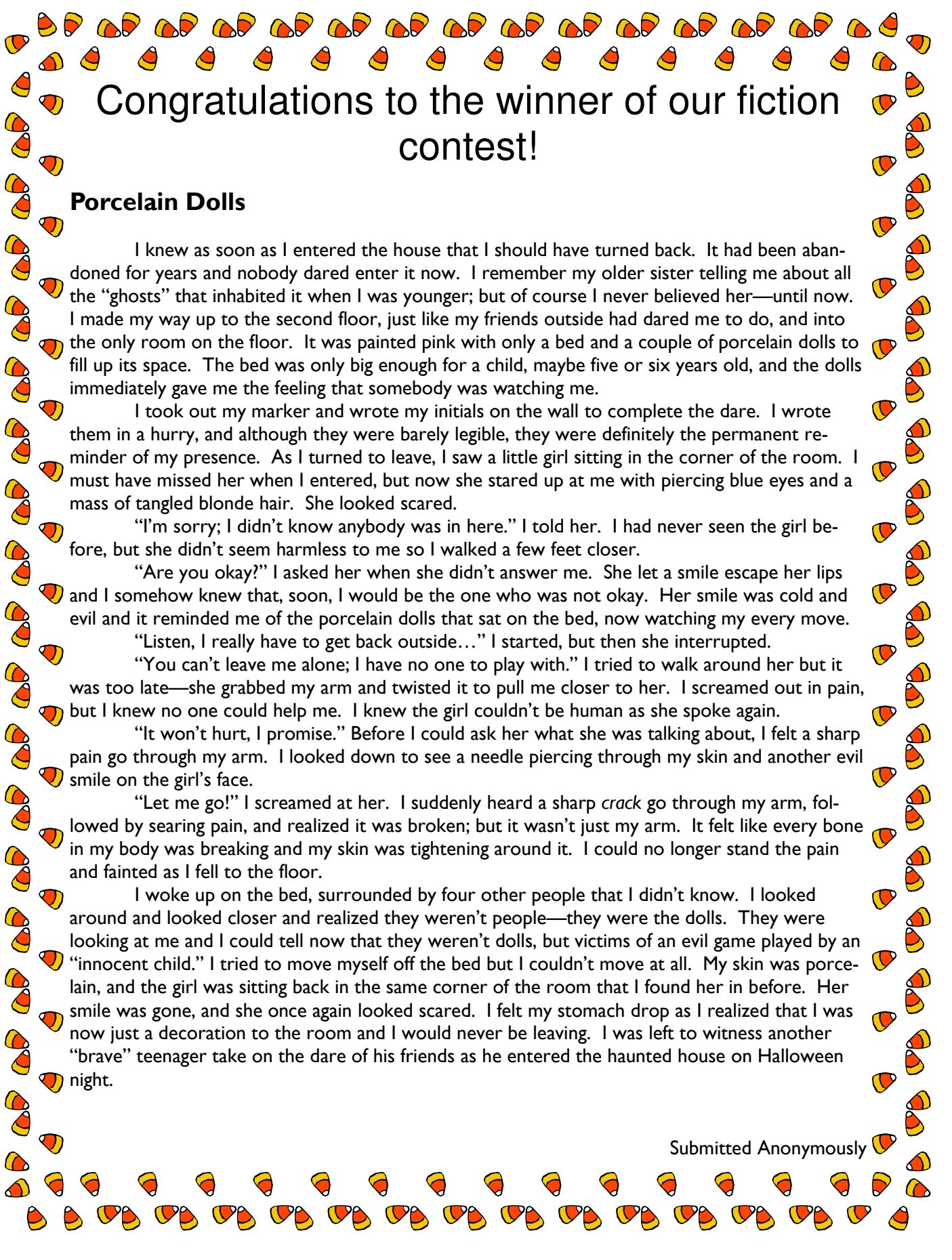
Fill a medium-size bowl with

ice water and set out a cookie sheet or a piece of waxed paper.

Mix 3/4 cup brown sugar, 3/4 cup corn syrup, 6 tablespoons butter, and 1/2 teaspoon salt in a 4-quart pot. Bring to a simmer over medium-high heat, stirring constantly. Stop stirring and let the syrup boil until an inserted candy thermometer reaches 275° (a parent's job). Carefully pour the syrup over the popcorn

and stir well with a wooden spoon to evenly coat the kernels and candy. Cool slightly.

Quickly dip your hands into the ice water and shape the popcorn into 3-inch balls. Place on waxed paper to cool completely. Tightly wrap the balls individually in plastic. Makes 18 to 24.



Congratulations to the winner of our fiction contest!

Porcelain Dolls

I knew as soon as I entered the house that I should have turned back. It had been abandoned for years and nobody dared enter it now. I remember my older sister telling me about all the “ghosts” that inhabited it when I was younger; but of course I never believed her—until now. I made my way up to the second floor, just like my friends outside had dared me to do, and into the only room on the floor. It was painted pink with only a bed and a couple of porcelain dolls to fill up its space. The bed was only big enough for a child, maybe five or six years old, and the dolls immediately gave me the feeling that somebody was watching me.

I took out my marker and wrote my initials on the wall to complete the dare. I wrote them in a hurry, and although they were barely legible, they were definitely the permanent reminder of my presence. As I turned to leave, I saw a little girl sitting in the corner of the room. I must have missed her when I entered, but now she stared up at me with piercing blue eyes and a mass of tangled blonde hair. She looked scared.

“I’m sorry; I didn’t know anybody was in here.” I told her. I had never seen the girl before, but she didn’t seem harmless to me so I walked a few feet closer.

“Are you okay?” I asked her when she didn’t answer me. She let a smile escape her lips and I somehow knew that, soon, I would be the one who was not okay. Her smile was cold and evil and it reminded me of the porcelain dolls that sat on the bed, now watching my every move.

“Listen, I really have to get back outside...” I started, but then she interrupted.

“You can’t leave me alone; I have no one to play with.” I tried to walk around her but it was too late—she grabbed my arm and twisted it to pull me closer to her. I screamed out in pain, but I knew no one could help me. I knew the girl couldn’t be human as she spoke again.

“It won’t hurt, I promise.” Before I could ask her what she was talking about, I felt a sharp pain go through my arm. I looked down to see a needle piercing through my skin and another evil smile on the girl’s face.

“Let me go!” I screamed at her. I suddenly heard a sharp *crack* go through my arm, followed by searing pain, and realized it was broken; but it wasn’t just my arm. It felt like every bone in my body was breaking and my skin was tightening around it. I could no longer stand the pain and fainted as I fell to the floor.

I woke up on the bed, surrounded by four other people that I didn’t know. I looked around and looked closer and realized they weren’t people—they were the dolls. They were looking at me and I could tell now that they weren’t dolls, but victims of an evil game played by an “innocent child.” I tried to move myself off the bed but I couldn’t move at all. My skin was porcelain, and the girl was sitting back in the same corner of the room that I found her in before. Her smile was gone, and she once again looked scared. I felt my stomach drop as I realized that I was now just a decoration to the room and I would never be leaving. I was left to witness another “brave” teenager take on the dare of his friends as he entered the haunted house on Halloween night.

Submitted Anonymously