

Screenplay Title  
an original screenplay by  
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FADE IN:

EXT. CURTIS STREET -- NOTCHVILLE, USA -- NIGHT

Witches, princesses and assorted monsters roam the residential neighborhood. SHOUTS of "Trick or Treat" waft into the damp air and are intermittently punctuated by a LOUD POP.

Into one of the misty cones of light at the intersection step a Pirate and Cinderella, aka TRISTAN and KATIE. Tristan is in his early teens and Katie is his younger sister.

TRISTAN

I can't believe I have to escort  
your butt around on Halloween, again.

KATIE

You're not turning down the candy.

TRISTAN

Shut up.

KATIE

You shut up.

TRISTAN

I could be out doing cool things  
with my buds.

KATIE

Like putting firecrackers into jack-  
'o-lanterns?

TRISTAN

What? How'd you find out?

KATIE

Emily's baby monitor works in your  
room, too.

TRISTAN

Why you-

Katie lets out a squeal and takes off running. Tristan gives heaven a long-suffering look -- then does a double-take.

TRISTAN'S POV

Yellow streaks of light flash across the shimmering firmament.

TRISTAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

What the fu.. Uun?

BACK TO SCENE

Katie rejoins her brother and stares up at the sky.

KATIE  
Pretty shooting stars.

TRISTAN  
I hope one of 'em crashes into the  
earth and destroys dumbos like you.

KATIE  
You're the elephant.

Tristan gives her the evil eye, then crosses to the nearest house. Katie follows.

CARPENTER HOME

MRS. CARPENTER and her 5-year-old BUNNY are in the doorway, staring down at a busted jack-'o-lantern. Pumpkin innards are splattered everywhere.

KATIE (CONT'D)  
Trick-

TRISTAN  
- or Treat?

MR. CARPENTER (O.S.)  
Okay, the cops are coming.

Mr. Carpenter joins his wife and daughter at the door.

MR. CARPENTER (CONT'D)  
Hey, you kids wouldn't happen to  
know the punks putting fireworks in  
the jack-'o-lanterns, would you?

TRISTAN  
Uh... Hmm...

MR. CARPENTER  
Cause the police dispatcher said  
they've had several calls already.

TRISTAN  
Uh... Hmm...

KATIE  
You'll have to forgive my brother.  
(drawing words out)  
He's...a...little...slow...

Tristan keeps a blank look on his face but pinches Katie's back. She jumps a little but keeps smiling.

MRS. CARPENTER

The poor dear.

She reaches into the candy jar near the door and brings out a handful of treats which she hands to Katie.

MRS. CARPENTER (CONT'D)

Well, you be sure to give him his fair share of the candies, darling.

KATIE

Yes ma'am. Thank you ma'am.

MRS. CARPENTER

To look at him, you wouldn't know there was anything wrong with him.

KATIE

Yes ma'am. He's dumber than he looks.

She takes Tristan's hand and leads him down the steps.

EXT. FALL STREET -- CONTINUOUS

Katie runs around the corner, laughing hysterically, but stops in her tracks at sight of:

SMOKING CRATER IN YARD

About 10 feet in diameter. Long, curved slices of burned-black metal line the hole.

BACK TO SCENE

Tristan runs around the corner and bumps into Katie, almost knocking her down, but he manages to keep her upright.

TRISTAN

You're dead!  
(on seeing the hole)  
What the...?

KATIE

Fu...un? Maybe your 'buds' blew up a big pumpkin.

O.S. SCREAMS draw their attention to the house in BG. The front door has been replaced by a gaping hole. Through the dark windows we SEE red and yellow flashes accompanied by GUNFIRE and a BOOM that rattles the house.

TRISTAN  
This is too cool, you drool.

KATIE  
It's a haunted house.

TRISTAN  
Ghosts don't use guns -- it's a house  
of horror. Or terror. Let's go in.

Just then a big lumbering SHAPE fills the hole in the wall  
and Katie lets out a yelp.

EXT. SPRING STREET -- MOMENTS LATER

This time Tristan beats Katie around the corner. They slow  
down to a walk, winded but laughing.

KATIE  
That was funny scary.

TRISTAN  
I wasn't really scared like you.

KATIE  
I'd check my underwear if I was you.

TRISTAN  
Were you.

KATIE  
Were I what?

TRISTAN  
Huh?

KATIE  
What?

The pair turns to the next house, their heads craning up  
again as ANOTHER SHOOTING STAR SWISHES by overhead and  
disappears among the distant trees.

TRISTAN  
Oh, man, I bet that one hit!

A POP across the streets draws their attention and they see  
SEVERAL BOYS running away from a house, LAUGHING.

KATIE  
There go your 'buds.' Boy, they're  
gonna be in trouble

Right on cue, a police car, lightbar flashing madly, roars  
into the street and takes up pursuit of the boys.

Tristan and Katie turn back to the house and freeze.

ON THE PORCH

Lies a smoking SKELETON in a dress. Near an outstretched skeletal hand lie some candies.

TRISTAN (O.S.)  
God -- bless America!

KATIE (O.S.)  
Shoes!

BACK TO SCENE

The kids climb the porch steps slowly and stare at the thing.

TRISTAN  
It looks so real. It even smells  
burned.

KATIE  
It's gross, but cool.

She reaches out tentatively and picks up the candy.

KATIE (CONT'D)  
Okay, let's go.

She skips down the walk.

TRISTAN  
Hey, half are mine!

Katie giggles and takes off running to the house next door.

A RUSTLING in the yard next door draws Tristan to that side.

Behind him, at the other house, Katie RINGS the DOORBELL.

KATIE  
Trick-or-treat!

Tristan parts the bushes and sees:

AN EIGHT-FOOT TALL HUMANOID

taking a whiz on a flower garden and HUMMING in a basso profundo voice. Finished, the thing ZIPS UP and then jumps back when the flowers burst into flame, momentarily illuminating the puke green and yellow ALIEN wearing a round helmet, metallic kilt, furry boots (or are those feet?), a vest studded with short tubes and spheres, and a belt sprouting various implements.

The front door opens and an IRATE NEIGHBOR steps out onto the porch, adjusting his eye glasses.

IRATE NEIGHBOR  
What the hell are you doing?

The Alien unclips a conical device from the belt and aims it at the Neighbor, who throws his hands up.

IRATE NEIGHBOR (CONT'D)  
Hey, now! You go ahead and piss  
fire all you want.

A BOLT OF LIGHTNING crackles out from the cone and envelopes the Neighbor, instantly boiling away flesh, muscle and organs. All that remains is a skeleton in clothes and shoes. After a moment, the skeleton collapses.

TRISTAN (O.S.)  
Holy crap.

The Alien snaps his head in Tristan's direction.

EXT. NEXT DOOR HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Tristan dashes up the porch, a wild look on his face, startling Katie and the FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR.

TRISTAN  
There's a monster back there! Call  
the police!

FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR  
Calm down, son. It's just some kid  
dressed up like a monster. Have a  
chocolate bar.

TRISTAN  
It turns people into skeletons, man!  
(catching his breath)  
You gotta call the cops.

FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR  
(chuckling)  
Tell it to the Coughlin's across the  
street. They'll fall for anything --  
they even let Jehovah's Witnesses  
into their house.

The SNAPPING of branches from the shrubbery next door causes Tristan to spring into action: he takes the chocolate bar out of the Neighbor's hand and pushes Katie toward the street.

The bemused neighbor shakes his head.

FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR (CONT'D)  
Crazy kids.

More SNAPPING of branches makes him look O.S.

FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR (CONT'D)  
Oh my God...

EXT. SPRING STREET -- CONTINUOUS

Tristan catches up to Katie and takes her hand and urges her on to greater speed. Behind them, Friendly Neighbor's SCREAM is cut short by a CRACKLING BOLT.

Suddenly, a POLICE CAR swerves into view in front of them and screeches to a stop. The kids angle for it and stop in front of the COP when he steps out of the car.

TRISTAN  
Officer, there's a thing back there -

COP  
And you didn't just happen to make it angry by shoving a firecracker in its jack-'o-lantern?

TRISTAN  
No! I'm telling the truth. It's like ten-feet high and green and yellow and it fires this cone-shaped thing that shoots out a lightning bolt that melts all the skin and muscles and innards!

The Cop places a hand on Tristan's shoulder to shut him up.

COP  
Hold on, hold on. Kid, are you're high on something, or drunk maybe?

KATIE  
He doesn't do drugs or booze, officer.  
(helpfully)  
Maybe he's crazy.

TRISTAN  
Thanks a lot.

COP  
You wouldn't happen to be carrying any firecrackers on you, would you?

TRISTAN  
Uh... Hmm...



Katie screams and points down the street -

THE ALIEN

Is coming down the middle of the street, cone in hand.

BACK TO SCENE

Katie ducks behind Tristan, who ducks behind the Cop, who pulls his gun out.

COP

Halt, whoever -- whatever -- you  
are! Stop right there!

Tristan looks for somewhere to run.

COP (CONT'D)

Last warning, mister!

Tristan shoves Katie under the car then follows her. The Cop SHOOTs. A moment later, a LIGHTNING BOLT blasts him.

UNDER COP CAR

The wide-eyed kids hold on to each other and give a start when the Cop collapses -- and lands with its grinning skull staring at them. They stifle screams and shut their eyes.

Alien stops next to the Cop's skeleton.

The Kids open their eyes and cringe when Alien steps closer, apparently checking the interior. They TALK in WHISPERS:

KATIE

You have a firecracker, don't you?

TRISTAN

So what?

KATIE

A big one?

Tristan fishes a fat firecracker out of a pocket and she takes it, while keeping an eye on the Alien as it moves to other side of car.

TRISTAN

An M-80. See the fuse in the middle?  
That means it's the real deal.

KATIE

And something to light it with?

Tristan pulls out a lighter.

TRISTAN

We're not going to scare it away.

Katie sidles to the side of the car the Alien is heading to and holds the firecracker out for a light.

TRISTAN (CONT'D)

You nuts?

KATIE

Hurry.

Tristan flicks the lighter on and applies the flame to the fuse. As soon as the fuse starts burning, Katie reaches out with a shaky hand and places it in on the ground -- and the Alien sets a hairy foot down on it.

THE ALIEN

Leaps when the M-80 EXPLODES and hops around, bellowing alien obscenities.

On other side of the car, the kids jump up and flee.

EXT. SMALL PARK -- MOMENTS LATER

Tristan and Katie stop running long enough to catch their breath, then duck as a SHOOTING STAR crashes through the trees and plows into the ground ahead of them.

When the debris and smoke clears, the kids gape at a big blackened steel EGG. Cracks appear in the egg and the sides crash open, revealing ALIEN 2. It steps out, sniffs the air and sneezes.

The kids drop to the ground, praying for invisibility.

Alien 2 SPEAKS into a thin tube attached to its helmet. It looks up as ANOTHER SHOOTING STAR flashes by.

Tristan pulls an M-80 out of a back pocket and the lighter from his shirt pocket. Kids exchange WHISPERS:

KATIE

Hit it in the eye.

TRISTAN

Why?

KATIE

If you blind it, it can't see us.

TRISTAN

You are so retarded.

Tristan puts the flame to the M-80's fuse.

KATIE

I believe "disturbed" is the proper word.

Tristan goes up on a knee, rears back and throws the firecracker as hard as he can. It tumbles end over end, disappearing behind bushes on the other side of the park.

The EXPLOSION draws a GRUNT from Alien 2 and LIGHTNING BOLTS from its cone of death. Then it plunges into the brush and the kids disappear in the other direction.

EXT. SUMMER STREET -- MINUTES LATER

Tristan and Katie skulk down the sidewalk, their heads swiveling back and forth, searching for aliens.

KATIE

If you hadn't used up all your minutes, we could've called mom.

TRISTAN

You talk too much.

KATIE

Know what you're problem is?

TRISTAN

You.

KATIE

Nope. You're suffering from reptile dysfunction.

TRISTAN

What?

KATIE

Nila's sister, Stormy, said it's when a guy's snake is crooked and it makes him sad and stupid. Of course, you don't own a snake, but remember you used to have a lizard?

TRISTAN

(laughing)  
Stormy's a skank.

KATIE

What's a skank?

TRISTAN

A girl skunk.

He spots movement across the street and they freeze.

KATIE

Yeah, she does smell kinda funny.  
But mom says it's cause her colon  
doesn't agree with her body chemicals.

THREE BOYS are approaching a porch with a fat jack-'o-lantern.

TRISTAN

It's the guys.

The Boys toss firecrackers into the pumpkin, then turn and run, LAUGHING. The door behind opens and ALIEN 3 steps out and raises its cone.

TRISTAN (CONT'D)

Watch out!

The warning comes too late. LIGHTNING BOLTS crackle across the damp air and impale the boys in the back. Their AGONIZED SCREAMS end abruptly. Their skeletal bodies remain upright for a moment or two, then crumple to the ground.

TRISTAN (CONT'D)

Oh, no!

Alien 3 turns to the kids and raises its cone, but the EXPLODING JACK-'O-LANTERN throws its aim off.

The BOLT SIZZLES harmlessly over their heads as they jet around the street corner.

EXT. WINTER STREET -- 5 MINUTES LATER

The kids are exhausted and depressed as they scamper from tree to bush across the front lawns on this street.

TRISTAN

What am I gonna do without the guys?

KATIE

Yeah... At least you still have me.

Tristan puts an arm around her shoulder as they turn up the walk to their home.

INT. MCCARTHY HOME -- ENTRANCE HALL -- CONTINUOUS

The kids deposit their bags on a table by the door. A glass bowl on the table holds assorted candies and chocolate bars.

TRISTAN

Hey, mom!

MOM enters from the living room, a BABY draped over one shoulder. Mom is young, pretty, and happy.

MOM

See, Emily. Your brother and sister are back. Kiss your sister, children.

The kids do as they're told, to the baby's delight.

TRISTAN

We've been invaded, mom! Big hairy monsters are shooting people with lightning. They just killed Allan, Vince and Chase!

KATIE

Yeah, mom, and we've almost been liquidated dozens of times!

MOM

Monsters? Liquidated?

TRISTAN

Mom, we're serious. You have to call the cops and the national guard.

KATIE

Yeah, we're deadly serious!

Mom looks at their agitated faces and smiles.

MOM

I'll call the authorities as soon as I see one of these monsters for myself. Okay?

TRISTAN

I knew you wouldn't believe us.

He sprints up the staircase to the second floor.

KATIE

When's dad coming home? He'll believe us. If they don't get him first.

MOM

He'll be here soon, and I'm going to find out why he goes around teaching you words like "liquidated" instead of something useful like "May I help you clean the house, mom?"

The DOORBELL RINGS and Katie jumps. Mom crosses to the door.

KATIE

I wouldn't do that, ma.

MOM

It's just trick-or-treaters. And stop calling me "ma". You make me feel like I ought to be moonshining.

She puts a smile on her face and throws open the door and lets out a PIERCING SCREAM at sight of Alien 3.

KATIE

Told you.

Mom stumbles away from the door, shielding the frightened baby with her body.

Alien 3 raises its cone at the same as Tristan steps in front of Mom and puts the business end of a shotgun into the monster's snout. Alien 3 frowns and its eyes cross as it tries to focus on the barrel.

TRISTAN

Nobody scares my mother.

He pulls the trigger and the SHOTGUN BLAST blows off the head. The monster slowly topples backward, fountains of slimy black ichor geysering from the neck hole.

Katie steps up beside Tristan. Behind them, Mom takes a look at the creature and shudders. Emily quits crying when she sees the thing.

MOM

I'm calling the cops. Then I'm getting a drink.

She goes into the living room.

KATIE

What a mess you made.

TRISTAN

Well, I'm not gonna clean it.

KATIE

You killed it. You clean it.

TRISTAN

Shut up.

KATIE

You shut up.

FADE OUT: