

FREEING MICHAEL

Written By:

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INT. OLD MAN'S HOUSE - EVENING

An OLD MAN (60s) wipes away dust on an old VCR player, which sits atop an old-fashioned big screen TV from the 90s. He opens the VCR player and blows out more dust with a big puff, making him cough.

OLD MAN  
Whew! Dusty old thing.

Shelves of VHS cassettes and DVD's surround the TV, from which the man grabs a VHS cassette and almost romantically slides his fingers around the box, causing the VHS cassette to slide out and into his erect fingertips.

The man looks down at the cassette as if a prized possession. He slides the cassette into the player, and shuts it.

EXT. FRONT OF OLD MAN'S HOUSE - SUNSET

Kids, dressed as ghosts and ghouls, walk with their parents and friends amidst blowing leaves.

The old man secures a sign in front of his house which reads: No candy! Watching the greatest movie ever made, Halloween!

After securing the sign, he walks in the house and switches off the porch light.

EXT. THE SIGN - SAME

Michael (50s), in gray coveralls, and pale white mask, stares stoically at the sign.

MUSIC CUE: John Carpenter's 1978 Halloween Main Theme  
(<https://youtu.be/lPmXf7K91LM>)

Michael lumbers toward the sign, and then slowly looks up at the house.

MUSIC ENDS

INT. OLD MAN'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

The old man is getting dressed up. The bathroom is small, and the mirror is fogged up. He applies a lot of gel to his hair and combs it. He brushes his teeth and then takes a swig of mouthwash. He applies copious amounts of Cologne.

OLD MAN GETTING READY MONTAGE

The old man is dressed in a tuxedo and bow tie as he meticulously and ardously cleans a small popcorn machine.

He measures the distance between his recliner and the big screen TV. He pushes the chair forward ever so slightly.

He lights candles and places them on opposite sides of the TV and sits in the recliner.

With an almost lustful look upon his face, he grabs the remote and hits play.

END MONTAGE

KNOCK, KNOCK!

The man's mood immediately sours as he hits pause.

OLD MAN  
Read the sign!

KNOCK, KNOCK!

The old man angrily slams the recliner shut.

FRONT DOOR

The old man opens the door to Michael.

OLD MAN  
Little old to be going trick-or-treating ain't yah?

Michael shrugs as the old man looks him over.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)  
Say, you really take Halloween seriously, don't you? You look exactly like him!

Michael pirouettes around so the man can get a good look.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)  
Wow! Look at you! You got the overalls, even blood stains. Perfect. What about the knife!

Michael unleashes the knife from a pocket as the man laughs.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)  
And here I thought I was Halloween's biggest fan.  
(MORE)

OLD MAN (CONT'D)  
 You may have me beat. Say, wanna  
 come in and take a look at my  
 collection?

Michael nods, yes.

INT. OLD MAN'S HOUSE - LIVING AREA

The old man and Michael stand in front of the shelves.

OLD MAN  
 I have every Halloween, ever made.  
 Even a signed limited edition 1978  
 tape signed by the master himself,  
 John Carpenter.

Michael points at the TV.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)  
 Oh! Was just getting ready to watch  
 my favorite of the series.  
 Halloween: Resurrection. I watch it  
 every year.

Michael jerks his head at the old man, and then back to the  
 VCR. He hits eject.

MUSIC CUE: John Carpenter's 1978 Halloween Main Theme

OLD MAN (CONT'D)  
 (nervously)  
 What're you doing?

Michael places the tape of Halloween: Resurrection on the  
 man's forehead and stabs it there as the man lets out a  
 blood-curdling scream.

The man slumps to the floor as Michael stoically stares at  
 him lying there, from behind the pale mask.

MICHAEL  
 Another shitty remake.

EXT. FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Michael lumbers away from the old man's house as flames  
 appear in the windows.

INT. OLD MAN'S HOUSE, LIVING AREA - SAME TIME

The fire continues to grow as the old man's body still on  
 the floor, with the VHS Cassette of Halloween: Resurrection  
 still partially embedded into his forehead.

End music.

EXT. BUSY HOUSE - NIGHT

Michael lumbers down the neighborhood sidewalk as he approaches a two-story house with people coming in and out. From the home, screams and haunted sounds play. A TEEN BOY, with a fake knife in his head, sees Michael on the way in and turns toward him.

TEEN BOY

Hey, we rented Halloween: The End,  
if you wanna watch. You look like  
you'd fit right in!

Michael turns slowly toward the house.

INT. BUSY HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - LATER

In a dark and packed room, young people are gathered around a TV. The scenes of the film reflect off Michael's mask, who sits in the middle of a full couch.

Michael is passed a bowl of popcorn, but unable to get a kernal through his mask, passes it along.

LATER

Michael, head slumped down, SNORES loudly as the movie continues to play.

SHARP ELBOW GIRL (19) nudges him hard with her sharp elbow, waking him. Michael, upon realizing he fell asleep, angrily throws his head back and hollars -

MICHAEL

Booooring!

THE ROOM

Shhhhhhhh!

Michael lumbers out of the room.

BACK OF HOME

Michael nears the home's electrical box and opens it.

INSIDE THE HOME

The power and TV go out.

SHARP ELBOW GIRL

Oh my God, really, you guys? Who's  
playing the sick joke?

A voice from the back of the room -

TEEN BOY  
(high pitched voice)  
Mommy, I'm sca-

A knife through human flesh, and a body thumps to the floor.

SHARP ELBOW GIRL  
This isnt funny, you guys!

She jumps up and lets out a single high pitch scream, as her eyes meet Michael's masked face.

She stumbles backward, and looks down at her now missing elbow, and bloody remaining stump.

MICHAEL  
Your elbow is very sharp. Not anymore.

She falls to the floor as panic grips the house. People race for the front door, only to find a dead body hung from it.

THE FRONT YARD

The sound of a knife repeatedly slashing through flesh, followed by screams, emanate from the house as out on the street, oblivious children and families walk about with their trick-or-treat bags.

Along the sidewalk, LAURIE STRODE's (50s) head pokes out from behind a large tree, looking toward the house. She scribbles furiously in a small notepad.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Michael lumbers down the sidewalk, with a limp. He stops, sighs, and bends his knee.

MICHAEL  
Too old for this shit.

He starts walking again, only to be distracted, and slowly turn to look at a house and it's sign out front.

The Sign: Halloween 1978 Rocks!

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Seriously?

Head down, and a deep sigh, Michael takes out his knife and performs a few practice swings. He bends his knee repeatedly, trying to limber it up.

Putting the knife back in his pocket, he approaches the home's door and rings the bell.

The door is opened quickly by Laurie.

LAURIE

There you are, I've been expecting you! Come on in. I'm on a deadline here.

He tilts his head like a dog, and follows her inside.

INT. LAURIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LAURIE

I know why you're here. Look at this.

She hands him a short screenplay: FREEING MICHAEL.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

I'm determined to become the best screenwriter in the world, and it all starts with freeing you - right here, and right now, Michael.

Michael slowly takes the script and studies it.

MICHAEL

How?

LAURIE

On Simply Scripts, we were tasked with writing a short script about a noun with a Halloween curse, and it could only be you, Michael. I mean, what curse could be worse than to have decades of shit re-makes tied to your name?

MICHAEL

I know, right!

LAURIE

I've been following you tonight. I've added some stuff to your kills, and if this script wins the challenge, he'll make it, and you'll finally have one good script to your name.

Michael wraps the script up in his arms and giggles.

MICHAEL  
I could... get a puppy?

LAURIE  
(laughs)  
You certainly could! Here, sit and  
read it.

Laurie ushers Michael to a lazy-boy, where he sits and opens the script.

MONTAGE OF MICHAEL IN THE RECLINER, READING FREEING MICHAEL

Laurie cleans his knife.

Laurie cleans Michael's mask.

Laurie applies Ben Gay to Michael's bum knee.

Michael points out a line to Laurie as they laugh.

INT. LAURIE'S HOUSE, OFFICE - NIGHT

Laurie sits at a computer with Michael looking on over her shoulder.

LAURIE  
30 minutes till' the midnight  
deadline.

Laurie looks up at Michael.

LAURIE (CONT'D)  
Michael, would you like to click  
the submit button?

MICHAEL  
(nervous)  
Can I?

Laurie nods, as Michael nervously clicks, leaving blood residue upon the mouse.

LATER

Laurie at her computer.

LAURIE  
Oh, got a comment already, Michael!  
Wanna come read it?

Michael over her shoulder again, as Laurie reads.

LAURIE (CONT'D)  
 Gerald says the script is, oh dear.  
 He says he loved Halloween  
 Resurrection! And did not  
 appreciate us making fun of it!  
 Damn you, Gerald!

Laurie turns back to find Michael, gone.

MUSIC CUE: John Carpenter's 1978 Halloween Main Theme

Her eyes go wide as she turns back to her computer, and types furiously.

INT. GERALD'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

GERALD (60s), overweight and with a comb over, in pajamas pouring a glass of milk with a plate of cookies ready to be devoured. He walks out of the kitchen with the milk n' cookies, and into the...

DINNING ROOM

He places the milk n' cookies down and checks his laptop sitting on the dining table.

GERALD  
 (perplexed)  
 What?

LAPTOP SCREEN: Gerald, get out! Get out now!

Gerald sighs and picks up his milk n' cookies.

GERALD (CONT'D)  
 (to the laptop)  
 Ungrateful bitch. Don't ask for  
 feedback if you can't handle it!

A loud crash from the living room as Gerald drops his milk and cookies, which shatter to the ground.

He slowly walks into the...

LIVING AREA

To see the TV smashed and broken, with his copy of Halloween: Resurrection DVD broken into tiny little pieces on the floor.

GERALD  
 That was my signed copy!

Gerald nervously returns to the laptop, and eyes a nearby phone. But before he can move toward it, he's grabbed from behind.

MICHAEL

(whispers in his ear)

I was finally gonna get a puppy.

Blood spatters across the laptop's screen, and down Gerald's face and pajamas.

Stabbed into Gerald's skull is, FREEING MICHAEL.

FADE OUT.