

GHOST OF HALLOWEEN'S PAST

Written by

Moe

**INT. MINI VAN - DAY**

A father, CHRIS (late 30s), drives, while a mother, VAL (late 30s), sits in the passenger seat.

In the captain seats of the mini van sit HEATHER (16), the older sister and a brat at that, and PETER (7) the younger brother and more cooperative than his counterpart.

Peter holds a cardboard travel box with holes in it, the print on the sides of the box obvious that they had just left the pet store.

HEATHER

You guys are being so unfair. I don't know why I can't go to Becky's Halloween party tonight.

VAL

We're not stupid, Heather. We both know what you're going to do there.

CHRIS

Yeah, I did it and I learned my lesson--

VAL

Chris--

CHRIS

Sorry. Heather, listen to your mother.

HEATHER

Ugh, God. So what am I supposed to do tonight?

VAL

We already told you, you either come trick 'r' treating with us, or you stay home and pass out candy.

HEATHER

Ugh. So lame.

Meanwhile, Peter attempts to look into the box through the holes in the sides.

**INT. HOUSE - PETER'S BEDROOM - DAY**

A young boy's bedroom, decorated as multiple themes: space, dinosaur, sports, with action figures and toys galore.

Peter and Val walk into the bedroom and up to a shelf with a cage on top. The inside of the cage has bedding, a hamster wheel, a food bowl and water bottle, and some toys. But it is unoccupied at the moment, until--

Peter opens the box. Val gently reaches inside and pulls out the cutest, sweetest little hamster. This is BUB.

VAL  
Now Pete, remember you need to feed  
this one, okay?

She sets Bub inside the cage and she and Peter stare at him as he cleans his ears, scratches himself, just does super adorable hamster things.

VAL (CONT'D)  
Have you thought of a name yet?

PETER  
Burp!

VAL  
Well, it's better than the last  
one's name...

Peter taps on the cage.

VAL (CONT'D)  
Alright buddy, wanna help with  
dinner? Then we can get you dressed  
in your costume!

PETER  
Yay!

Val and Peter walk out of the bedroom.

#### **INT. CAGE - DAY**

Bub runs around in circles. He twitches. He hops up and down, doing all the little hamster things that hamsters do. Then he finds the food and takes a bite. Then another bite. Then another and another until his cheeks are stuffed with food.

Behind him, however, the wheel begins to MOVE ON ITS OWN. It squeaks on rusty hinges.

Bub turns around and sees: A GHOSTLY HAMSTER WALKING ON THE WHEEL!

His mouth drops open, and all of the food in his cheeks spill out.

The glowing green hamster on the wheel suddenly stops and looks over his shoulder at Bub. This is ART.

ART

Boo.

Bub SCREAMS and runs!

...in circles around the cage. It's all he can do.

Bub finally stops and catches his breath. He takes a quick sip of water from the water bottle, another few breaths, and then--

He continues to SCREAM and run in circles!

Art casually steps off the wheel and walks over to the food bowl. He grabs a corn kernel and walks to the side of the cage, just as he's about to be smashed into by Bub--

Art shoves the kernel into Bub's mouth.

ART (CONT'D)

Chew.

Bub begins to chew as he continues to scream a muffled scream with his mouth full.

ART (CONT'D)

Now that I have your attention, I'm here to help get you out of here.

Bub opens his mouth to speak, but Art covers his mouth with his paw.

ART (CONT'D)

Don't talk. I've had this monologue saved for forever.

(beat)

I was adopted from the pet store, just like you, and I was given a name, just like you. My birth name is Art, but I was given the humiliating human name...Fart. And you, Burp, which I am assuming is not your real name--

BUB

It's Bub--

ART

BUB! I, too, was succumbed to this...prison. And now you, Bub, will die here just as I did.

(MORE)

ART (CONT'D)

Unless you listen to what I say,  
and do as as you are told. If you  
make it out of here alive, you will  
set us both free.

Bub looks around the cage, at the wheel, the food, and the  
water and toys.

BUB

I don't know, this place seems  
pretty nice. I mean, look at the  
toys over there! And that wheel!  
It's much bigger than the one at  
the pet store!

Bub walks over to the food and cracks open a sunflower seed.

BUB (CONT'D)

And all the food I can eat? All for  
myself, too!

ART

Ah yes, but what will happen when  
you run on that wheel and you look  
down to see you stepping over your  
own filth? When you take a sip of  
water and there's not a drop left?  
When you are out of all that food  
you can eat?

BUB

But...there are giants who take  
care of that!

Art frowns and turns away from Bub, faces the corner of the  
cage.

ART

Not always...

Bub looks on, suddenly sad. Art looks back over his shoulder,  
defeated.

ART (CONT'D)

One day I woke up, and there was no  
more food. All I could put in my  
stomach was water, and eventually  
that ran out too. The bedding was  
my savior, but there's not even  
enough to bury myself under. And  
then, a year ago today, I...

Art SIGHS and looks away. Bub drops in sadness. Then, he  
perks up.

BUB  
So, if I get out of this...  
prison...I save us both?

ART  
You get freedom, and I get release.

BUB  
So, how do I get out of here?

ART  
I've come up with a plan...

**INT. HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT**

Val, Chris, and Peter, dressed and made up to look like a Dalmatian puppy, stand at the front door while Heather takes a photo of them.

She hands the camera back to Chris, who turns to open the front door.

VAL  
We'll be back later, Heather. Have  
fun passing out candy.

HEATHER  
(mocking)  
Have fun passing out candy.

Val turns for the front door to join Chris and Peter. Trick 'r' treaters walk up the pathway to the front door.

VAL  
Oh look, you already have visitors!

Val winks and walks away with Chris and Peter. Heather rolls her eyes, and reluctantly tends to the trick 'r' treaters.

**INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - LATER**

Val reaches the second story of the house and walks down the hallway toward her bedroom when she stops to the sound of loud, horrible SQUEAKING coming from Peter's bedroom. She walks to his door and inside the room.

**INT. PETER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Heather walks to the cage and finds Bub DEAD, on his back with his tongue out.

HEATHER

Oh my God, already?!

She reaches inside the cage and pokes Bub.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Come on...wake up...

Bub doesn't budge.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Great...Pete's gonna be  
devastated...

She looks at Bub, then SIGHS. She reaches back inside and takes Bub out. She sets him on the shelf surface and pulls out her cell phone.

She texts **BURP IS DEAD** to her mom.

Heather looks back to Bub--

He's gone.

Heather's eyes grow wide. Behind her in the B.G., the tiniest, plumpest hamster scurries across the floor to the doorway.

**BUB**

Runs across the floor, breathes heavily as he maneuvers through the bedroom.

Heather turns around and SCREAMS.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Oh my God! You're not dead?!

She rushes toward Bub and attempts to grab him, but she's too grossed out to touch him.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Gross! Oh gross!

She manages to pick him up, but he quickly slips out of her grasp and scurries up her arm, around her shoulders, in her hair!

Heather SCREAMS and attempts to shake Bub out of her hair, which she does successfully.

Bub hits the floor and immediately hops to his feet. He runs out of the bedroom.

Heather checks her hair, then STOMPS out of the bedroom. Like Godzilla, she maneuvers after Bub, who runs away from her.

**INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Bub reaches the top of the staircase but stops at the long decline below. He'll never make it!

Heather SNATCHES him up and he attempts to escape from her grasp, but she has him tighter now.

HEATHER

You stupid thing! Gross!

Bub looks around, unable to escape. Instead, he bites her!

Heather YELPS and throws Bub up into the air. He lands on the stairway banister and slides down.

He reaches the banister post and twirls around it, continues to slide down the staircase banister.

Heather chases down the stairs after him.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Get back here! Ugh, Mom and Dad are going to kill me!

**INT. FOYER - NIGHT**

Bub reaches the bottom of the staircase and jumps off the banister. He lands on the wood floor and rolls to a stop.

Heather STOMPS menacingly down the steps.

Bub looks down all the different ways he could escape. To the living room, down another hallway, toward the front door.

The doorbell CHIMES.

TRICK 'R' TREATERS (O.S.)

Trick 'r' treat!

The mail slot flap in the front door opens, and a trick 'r' treater looks through.

Bub's eyes grow wide. It's his escape!

He runs to the front door, a straight shot to freedom!

Bub smiles as he's going to make it!



A CAT suddenly slides into view! It wears a devilish smile like the Cheshire cat.

Bub screeches to a stop.

The cat licks its chops, and then--POUNCES!

Bub jumps to the left to hide under a china cabinet, and the cat puts on its brakes and slides across the floor.

Heather reaches the bottom step and steps on the cat's tail, who SCREECHES!

Heather SCREAMS, falls on her face.

The trick 'r' treater watches the scene unfold in awe.

The cat scrambles around the foyer, claws scraping against the wood floor.

Meanwhile, Bub shoots out from underneath the china cabinet.

The cat sprints after Bub, jumps onto the china cabinet, which shakes on rickety legs--

Bub runs toward the front door, sights on the mail slot.

The legs of the china cabinet SNAP!

**IN SLOW MOTION:**

The cabinet falls in such a cinematic, dramatic way, crumbling downward as if it were made of concrete. The cabinet's glass doors explode, and China dishes fall out like razor sharp saucers, shattering into pieces.

The cat suddenly falls into view behind Bub, who continues to run. The cat lands so awkwardly, it's uncomfortable to watch. They grow closer and closer to Bub, who doesn't even look back behind him.

The trick 'r' treater's eyes are wide in complete captivation.

Bub jumps just as the cat swats at him.

He flies up toward the mail slot as the China cabinet crashes beneath him.

**BACK TO SCENE**

**EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT**

Bub flies out of the mail slot and smacks into the trick 'r' treater's face, who falls backward.

Bub falls to his butt as well, and shakes his head as he stands to his feet.

He looks up, and sees all the giant humans looking down at him. Some look normal, others look like scary monsters (costumes).

**THE HUMAN'S POV**

Bub SCREECHES an adorable little hamster scream before he runs off into the night.

EVERYONE

Awwww!

**EXT. OUTSIDE - NIGHT**

Bub runs, and then comes to a stop. Art joins his side.

ART

You did it Bub. You freed us both.

BUB

Where do I go now?

The two look around, then Art looks back at Bub.

ART

I dunno.

And then he floats away into the starry night sky with a full moon, finally released from his cursed hamster cage.

An owl flies through the night sky and then dives downward. A loud SQUEAK is heard off screen.

**FADE OUT.**

THE END.