

HALO WINS

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FADE IN:

INT. PUMPKIN - DAY

Slimy orange inside.

A family of earthworms, MOM, DAD, GAS, CHRISTINA and ZEKE gathered for a family meeting. All are at places except for Gas who--

Meanders around, exploring, in and out the slimy holes.

DAD

All comfy? Next stop is garden.
Soil! I can't wait. Gas, keep
close, we don't wanna loose you.

GAS

Dad, what if they decide to eat
this pumpkin?

DAD

Gas, it's Halo Wins, they don't eat
pumpkins, they make halos from them.
Now to the lesson. People--

Gas, Christina and Zeke respond in sync, Christina and Zeke sound ready and excited, Gas - bored.

KIDS

--People are the enemy.

DAD

What kind?

KIDS

The one you never fight but avoid.

DAD

What do we do if they look straight
at us?

CHRISTINA AND ZEKE ONLY

Pretend we are snakes to scare them
away.

They wriggle and writhe to resemble snakes.

Dad nods content.

ZEKE

Have you seen my latest move?

Zeke coils up in the most cool way. Straightens up, swift.

CHRISTINA
Wow! That's cool.

GAZ
You guys are stupid.

He crawls up to Dad.

GAS
Dad, I think we need to plan for
emergency.

DAD
You think? We can't think.
Remember, worms have no brains.

Gas looks down, and as he does, his face is just as
featureless as his tail end.

GAS
I have a brain.

DAD
Gas, turn around, I wanna see your
face when I'm talking to you.

GAS
You are talking to my face.

DAD
Oh, is it the face? See! It's hard
enough to tell the face and the rear
end apart, much less to suspect brain
in one.

Tears appear in the corners of Gas' eyes.

MOM
Look what you've done.

She drags her body up to Gas, embracing him as tightly as her
armless body allows. Rubs her face against Gasses.

MOM
Dad is just being silly. We may not
have a brain but we all know that
YOU'RE special. Brainy... and...

DAD
--Feminine... I mean... We're not
sure about your gender really.

Dad senses that he said too much, bites his lip and scuds aside under Mom's glare.

MOM

What's the matter with you? Don't listen to him, Gas. A worm's gender is often a puzzle...

Christine and Zeke titter, point to each other.

CHRISTINA AND ZEKE

You got ours straight.

Gas bolts for the nearest hole, hiding, distressed.

The pumpkin begins to shake.

DAD

Oh, they are about to unload.

EXT. ANGEL'S HOUSE - DAY

The truck pulls at the curb, human MOTHER and human FATHER step out.

Their children, REBECCA, 4, SID, 10, and ANGEL, 8, run up to the truck loaded with an assortment of candy and pumpkins.

Rebecca is lovely, Sid is a wimpy kind, dressed as a pirate and

Angel - a chubby redhead, Jan Brady type, in an angel outfit - the least becoming for her, with a halo on her head.

Kids BUZZ delighted. Angel grabs a pumpkin.

ANGEL

I love this one. Let's have this one inside, huh?

MOTHER

Okay, honey. Whatever you want.

Angel squeals with pleasure, skips towards the house, hugging the pumpkin tight to her chest. Bangs on it, happy.

Sid and Rebecca run behind.

INT. PUMPKIN - DAY

ANGEL (O.C.)

(sotto)

This one goes inside, this one goes
inside...

Sprawled on her back, Mom BREATHES, as the kids and Dad hold her down, consoling.

DAD

In and out. In and out. It's okay.
"Inside" is not as bad as it sounds.

The worms wince and pant, reacting to Angel's banging.

Mom's belly looks slightly bloated. Dad notices.

DAD

Is this gas? I mean gas - gas, not
our Gas... I mean not an egg with
another Gas in it...

ZEKE

Hehehe. They thought Mom was
passing gas when Gas' egg came out.

Zeke laughs. Mom rolls her eyes.

Gas stares, bitter realization registers.

GAS

It's true, isn't it? That explains
my name.

Dad diverts his eyes. Mom throws Dad and Zeke a reprimanding look.

Gas spins towards Zeke with an angry GRUNT. Huffs and puffs, ready to hit him.

Dad sprouts between them.

DAD

Guys, guys. We ain't got time for
this.

Gas pulls himself together.

GAS

Sorry, I guess. Dad, maybe we
should start thinking how to--

DAD
 --Thinking again? We have no
 brains.

The children's voices are heard inside the pumpkin.

ANGEL (O.C.)
 On the table, perhaps.

Worms trade glances - their fear grows by the minute.

GAS
 Dad, start working on a hole for us
 to get out.

Panicking, Dad obeys, nibbling on a pumpkin, working through
 it fast.

Gas glances at the seeds. Stuffs his mouth with them.

MOM
 Gas, these may kill you, stop.

Gas disregards. Starts swallowing. When--

BAM

INT. ANGEL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The pumpkin hits the table.

Angel places it in the middle.

The room is dim and ghostly, overly decorated for Halloween.

A bird cage, with an old SQUAWKY, the parrot, stands in a
 corner.

Squawky squawks. Angel hisses him down.

Sid and Rebecca follow, hands full of candy. Angel snatches
 some, decorates around the pumpkin.

Her eyes widen as a tip of Dad's head emerges out.

ANGEL
 Oh, look. What can it be?

Squawky squawks, no less excited.

As Dad's head completely forms out, Sid grabs it with his two
 fingers and pulls Dad out.

SID

Whoa, it's a worm. Stupid warm. I know, let's fry it. They did in that movie...

Angel catches his hand and presses on it until Sid releases Dad. Angel pushes Sid aside.

ANGEL

It's mine.

Her attention switches to Dad.

ANGEL

Look at him. He'll be perfect for my collection.

INT. PUMPKIN - DAY

The worms gape at Dad being pulled out of the pumpkin.

Petrifying silence, then... Gas mans up. Heads out.

GAS

The only way to survive is to stick together.

Excited, Zeke follows.

ZEKE

Let's show them the snakes!

INT. ANGEL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kids watch the worms one by one glide out.

The worms writhe and wriggle.

SID

Oh, look, the stupid worms are dancing. Break-dancing. Never seen anything that stupid.

Angel frowns. Sid squirms under Angel's glare.

Angel baby-talks to the worms.

ANGEL

Wait till you meet Robin, my lizard. She's lovely. Let me bring her.

She runs out of the room.

Sid squints. Forming an evil idea.

He walks up to Squawky. Opens the cage. Squawky produces the happiest squawk and shoots towards the worms.

Angel appears with a glass container filled with soil.

ANGEL

Noooo...

Angel drops the container which breaks. Robin, the green lizard, appears. Sneaks away.

Fast, Gas spews up the seeds.

Squawky lands on a table, pauses, deciding which worm to grab first. Dark orange pumpkin seeds appeal to him and he goes for one.

Angel leaps towards the table, just in time - Squawky is about to start on Gas. She grabs Squawky by the neck.

ANGEL

You really getting on my nerves.
 (to Gas, in baby-talk)
 Oh, look at you, you're scared
 aren't you? Oh, look... I'll call
 you Isolda.

Sid gets away from her immediately. Squawky gawks at her.

Angel's eyes glimmer with suspicion. Sid winces with fear.

SID

Mom, mom, mother. Angel's scaring
 me. Mom.

MOTHER (O.S.)

Play nice, Okay.

TABLE

Zeke laughs.

ZEKE

Isolda, a girl name. I'll call you
 Isolda too.

Gas jerks towards Zeke. Butts him right in the stomach with his head.

GAS

Try it once. Just once.

BACK TO CHILDREN

Angel watches the worms' grapple.

ANGEL

What do you know, Isolda, you're
just like me. A born fighter.

Excited, she accidentally loosens grip of Squawky who slides his head out, pecking on the table immediately, hot in pursuit of Gas.

Gas scuds aside. The next peck will definitely get him.

Angel's hand dashes for Squawky. She seizes him right on time.

ANGEL

Say goodbye, evil bird.

Her grip tightens. CRACK. Squawky's neck breaks.

His head hangs to the side. Angel's lips curl into an evil grin.

Rebecca quietly cries. Sid freezes scared, mouth agape.

TABLE

GAS

Whew! The crazy girl saved us. Look at her halo - she must really be getting into all this Halo Win mood.

DAD

Son, watch your grammar. It's Halo Wins, not Halo Win.

Gas peers at Angel. Ducks under one of the seeds and lifts it. The seed on his head resembles a halo.

BACK TO CHILDREN

Angel notices, stares.

ANGEL

She's just like me. She likes angel stuff.

She shows off her new costume to Gas. Readjusts her halo.

Sid turns around, searching for mom. Backs a few steps away from Angel.

SID

Mom. Angel just killed Squawky and is talking to worms now. She's crazy.

Mother appears. Checks on Squawky.

MOTHER

What's going on? Rebecca, what happened? Squawky is not well?

Rebecca stops crying.

REBECCA

Squawky was eating pumpkin seeds when Angel...

MOTHER

Oh, poor Squawky. He choked on the seeds. These are deadly for him.

She takes Squawky away to the kitchen.

MOTHER (O.S.)

We'll have a ceremony for him. But only after the FESTIVAL, okay.

As soon as Mother is out of sight, Angel flashes a clenched fist at Sid.

TABLE

Gas' mom gives Gas a hug.

MOM

Poor you. That bird almost got you.

DAD

Hey, Gas, take that stupid thing off your head.

He knocks the seed off of Gas' head. Gas ducks under the seed, getting it on his head again.

GAS

Dad, you don't understand. She likes this.

He dashes for Zeke and pounds him in the stomach.

GAS

Sorry Zeke. I'm doing this for us.

His mom frowns at first, then her face wises up.

MOM

I know what he's doing. We'll explain it to you all later. For now, just go with it. Please.

BACK TO CHILDREN

Angel's face cringe in awe. She claps her hands when Gas pounds Zeke in the stomach.

ANGEL

You're my hero, Isolda.

She points at Gas' mom.

ANGEL

And I'll call you Tristan.

TABLE

MOM

See, she's got us all wrong.

Mom and Gas share a happy laugh.

BACK TO CHILDREN

One by one Angel picks up the worms.

ANGEL

If you're anything like me you need your freedom.

She steps out to the backyard.

Sid and Rebecca watch her from the living room. They see her release the worms and talk to them.

SID

She's cra-zy! And evil. E-vil.

As Angel becomes very animated with the worms:

REBECCA

And angelic. Look how good she's with them. A true angel.

Sid sneers, squints at Rebecca. Steps away from her. Just in case.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Dad, Mom, Zeke an Christina dig deep into the soil.

The last one to be set free is Gas.

He rests on Angel's hand. She brings her hand close to the soil.

ANGEL

Bye, little darling. Love you.

Gas ducks under a tiny piece of leaf, lifting his head, balancing the leaf on his head.

Angel laughs. Tears in her eyes.

ANGEL

Never thought worms were smart. But you are, I know you are. And... I think I can see your eyes. You're looking at me aren't you? Yes, you do, yes, you do. Bye, little one. Bye, bye, you're free to go.

Gas digs into the soil.

Angel rises, walks back inside the house. The door squeaks shut behind her.

Gas lifts his head, looks after her.

Dad, his mouth very much at work, stumbles upon Gas.

DAD

Oh, Gas. I guess you saved us. Thank you. And... maybe some worms do have a brain. I think YOU do, the way you saved us and all... Awesome, son... Daughter... whoever you are...

Dad digs back into the soil busily. Gas rubs his brain.

GAS

Dad? Dad? Halo won. It's halo that set us free.

DAD

It's Halo Wins, not Halo Won, Gas.

GAS

I mean halo won - as in 'won Angel over'. Oh, what's the point. Dad? Dad?

Dad is busy, munching. Annoyed, he lifts his head. Again.

DAD
What now?

GAS
...Call me Isolda, Dad.

DAD
Will do... Isolda. Honey. Love you
no matter how weird... Hmm... Now
let's eat, shall we.

INT. ANGEL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Angel wanders around, her eyes on the floor. Sid sticks
closer to the kitchen. Rebecca explores the pumpkin.

ANGEL
Anyone seen Robin, the dart lizard?

SID
Huh? Dart? Dart as in 'dart frog'?

The lizard tickles Sid's foot. Angel grabs it fast by its
tail.

Sid turns pale. Slides down, down, down and falls quietly on
the floor.

Angel grins. Rebecca quietly cries.

REBECCA
Mom, I think Sid is not well.

ANGEL
Yeah, mom. Can we have a ceremony for
Sid too? I mean after the FESTIVAL?

FADE OUT.