

MALLORY GOODE

written by

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FADE-IN:

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

In the distance atop a hill, the ruins of an 18th Century church are silhouetted by the moonlight. Trees become forest until - a clearing littered with cars and tents. All is peaceful 'cept for a rowdy group gathered around a campfire, their shadows dance outward.

Between flickers we see they are wearing horror masks: FRANKENSTEIN has an arm around DRACULA, WOLF-MAN throws an empty beer can on the fire and HOWLS at the moon. Evil Clowns are big this year, amongst others.

A BALDING-MAN (60s) strides up to the group donning a RED DRESSING-GOWN, matching RED SLIPPERS and an irritated and equally red face.

BALDING-MAN
For Christ's SAKE! Do you realise
you are the only ones still up on
this entire campsite?

Masked faces turn in unison and for a moment the group is silenced. Then, without moving lips -

WOLF-MAN
That's not true mate, you're
still up.

The group erupts with laughter. Thoroughly defeated, Balding-Man retreats to his tent mumbling as he goes.

BALDING-MAN
Frickin' kids.

FRANKENSTEIN
(to Wolf-Man)
That Mr. Wolf, deserves a beer.
I'm Johnny by the way, and this
little vamp here is Sue.

Frankenstein and Dracula raise their masks to reveal JOHNNY and SUE (both 18 and fit). Johnny uses the moment to plant a kiss on Sue.

SUE
Hi ya.

WOLF-MAN
Simon.

SIMON (17) raises his mask enough to return a wink and a cheeky grin. Johnny throws a BEER-CAN, Simon misses the catch.

Johnny pulls his mask back down to address the group.

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JOHNNY
Ladies and Gentlemen...

Johnny surveys the members of the group.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
...or whatever. It's been
emotional but I think it might be
time to shhh it down, and anyway
this Hallowe'en party needs to
end with a bang.

Johnny leans on Sue, she elbows him back in place.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
A bedtime story? Anyone?

Simon opens his beer can, it sprays everywhere.

SIMON
(loudly and FAO Balding-Man)
How about the one where the Wolf
kicks Lil' Riding Hood's ass?

From the opposite side of the fire a group member leans into
the light wearing a BUTCHERED PIG MASK (PIG).

PIG
I got one.

Pig's voice is unexpectedly deep and immediately commands
attention; the mood changes in an instant. Johnny looks over
to Simon who, after taking a swig of beer, shrugs.

PIG (CONT'D)
You know the story of
Mallory Goode?

SUE
A ghost story? Yay, that'll help
us sleep.

PIG
See that?

Pig points. Masked faces track a line from his finger to the
church ruins in the distance.

Sue and Simon whisper to each another -

SUE
He with you?

SIMON
Nuh-uh.

SUE
Thought you'd brought your
Dad along?

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Johnny is looking at Pig, trying to size him up.

JOHNNY
It's a church.

PIG
It's what's left of the village
that was here, this place was
rife with Witches -

Sue sniggers. Pig shoots her a look, she pulls her mask down apologetically. Johnny puts a protective arm around her.

Pig stands, he's much taller than expected.

PIG (CONT'D)
Look it up, just a few hundred
years back.

JOHNNY
Mallory Goode? She was a Witch?

PIG
She worked as a maid for a
wealthy family a few miles that-
a-way. Story goes that their son
fell for her and they ran away
together.

SUE
Aww.

PIG
Family couldn't let that happen
though, they convinced everyone
that little Mallory must have
used
(beat)
wickedness, to lure their
son away.

SIMON
Wicked.

Simon gets the same look that Pig gave Sue.

PIG
Witchcraft. The family hired some
men to find her. You see back
then you offered enough money to
someone to find you a Witch,
they'd find you a Witch. And they
found them right here, in that
church.
(beat)
It was the day of their
wedding...

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SUE
No.

SIMON
Convenient.

PIG
The boy tried to stop it but
these were men of Law. Dragged
him out, bolted the windows and
doors, and set that church
alight, poor Mallory still
inside.

SUE
No!

SIMON
Yeah!

PIG
They held the boy back, he
couldn't do nothing but listen to
Mallory scream. Had to watch as
his bride climbed the bell tower
to avoid the furnace below.
Nowhere left to go, she looked
down and saw only vengeance in
the boy's eyes. Story goes, as
her wedding dress caught fire she
smiled then...

Pig sits back down with an overly dramatic sigh.

PIG (CONT'D)
...the whole thing collapsed in
on itself.

Silence; the group are lost for words. Some are left looking
over at the church, others gazing deep into the embers of the
dying campfire.

SUE
That's... romantic.

JOHNNY/SIMON
Romantic?

SIMON
I've gotta take a slash.

Simon stands, he's wobbly.

SUE
You know, the bit where she
smiled at the end.

PIG
 No it's not...
 (beat)
 ...not the end I mean. You see -

Johnny's attention is suddenly diverted by movement behind Simon, something is rapidly approaching the group from the darkness.

Johnny pulls his mask up for a better look. Sue notices and looks in the same direction. The approaching figure appears to be wearing a dress.

 SIMON
 Okay, let me guess
 (loudly; mockingly)
 the Ghost of Mallory Goode
 still roams -

 JOHNNY
 (cutting in)
 - HOLY SHIT!

Sue Screams.

Simon's chest suddenly EXPLODES, he is propelled violently forwards landing face down on the campfire.

The group is stunned, then panic hits.

The figure stands just two feet behind where Simon was, smoke rises from a SHOTGUN held at hip-high. CLICK-CLACK, the gun is reloaded.

 BALDING-MAN
 Red Frickin' Riding Hood?

FADE OUT.