

THE MAGIC CANDY

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FADE IN:

EXT STREET - NIGHT

SUPER: HALLOWEEN

The street is deserted. The flicker of fading candles in carved pumpkins the only remnants of Halloween.

INT. BUDD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME NIGHT

MABLE, 51, and BUDD, 53, are cleaning up. Budd wears a hearing aid.

Remnants of Halloween costumes and children's games strewn about the room.

Seated at the table sorting through bags of candy is LINDA, 9, wearing a Wonder Woman costume.

A blood curdling SCREAM is HEARD o.c. Budd doesn't hear it. Mable jabs Budd in the arm.

MABLE

Turn your hearing aid on!

BUDD

(Looks up)

What...?

MABLE

(points to ear)

Your hearing aid. Turn it on! And tell Bobby to turn that tv down!

Budd turns the hearing aid on.

BUDD

What was it you were saying?

MABLE

Bobby's watching one of those horror movies again. He keeps it so loud I can't half think!

BUDD

I don't hear anything?

MABLE

I don't see why you even bother to wear one! You never turn it on!

BUDD
I can hear you just fine without
it, thank you.

Budd leaves the room.

MABLE
(sarcastic)
Sure you can.

A doorbell RINGS o.c.

MABLE
(checks her watch)
Some parents, I tell you. At this
hour?

INT. BUDD'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Mable opens the door. Two uniformed LAPD cops, JAMES, 30,
and ALICE, 28.

JAMES
Police, Ma'am. Neighbors gave us
your name. Are you Mrs Johnson?

MABLE
Mable Johnson, yes...?
(shouts to Budd)
BUDD...IT'S THE POLICE!
(to James)
Something wrong, officer?

ALICE
We're following up on a complaint.

MABLE
Complaint? Against who?

Budd comes to the door.

BUDD
I'm Budd Johnson. What's this
about, officers...?

MABLE
She said something about
a complaint...?

ALICE
May we come in?

Budd is cautious. He inspects their badges closely.

BUDD
 (hesitantly)
 Well....yes, I suppose so.

INT. BUDD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

James and Alice enter.

MABLE
 Linda, honey, run along to bed.
 Grandma has to meet with these
 gentlemen. Your candy will still be
 there in the morning.

ALICE
 Actually, it's better that she
 stay. This might concern her. Are
 there other children in the house?

BUDD
 My grandson Bobby...

ALICE
 We'll need to talk with him too.

MABLE
 (shouting)
 BOBBY...COME HERE, PLEASE!
 (to James)
 What's this all about?

JAMES
 It has to do with candy.

BUDD
 Candy?

Wearing a Superman costume, BOBBY, 10, enters the room,
 drops down on the couch.

JAMES
 We got a complaint about children
 in the neighborhood who got sick
 eating Halloween candy.

MABLE
 Oh my heavens! Poor darlings. I
 hope it's not too serious?

JAMES
 Serious enough to put 'em in the
 hospital! Kids said it tasted so
 bitter they spit it out!

MABLE

As you can see on the table, we go through every single bag they bring back -- just to be sure it's safe for them to eat. You can't be too careful these days. Lots of crazy people out there!

ALICE

Yes. Well...you see the children who got sick all said the candy came from your house.

BUDD

(shocked)

Our house? Everyone on this block gave out candy as far as I know?

MABLE

I buy the same candy assortment from the same store every Halloween!

BUDD

What makes them think it was candy from us?

JAMES

According to everyone we spoke to, your house was the only one handing out candy wrapped in pink ribbons.

MABLE

Pink ribbons? We didn't give out any candy in pink ribbons...?

BOBBY

Yes you did, grandma. We put the Magic candy in with the rest 'cause it was too bitter like they said.

LINDA

It sure was. Like licorice. But nothing magic happened like they promised it would.

MABLE

And where did you get this candy?

BOBBY

From the Internet. Only cost a dollar fifty.

BUDD

(incredulous)

The Internet? Bobby you spent your allowance to buy candy on the Internet?

BOBBY

Because it was Magic candy, grandpa. At least it was suppose to be. But nothing magic happened when we ate it.

ALICE

And neither one of you got sick?

LINDA

No. Just a bitter taste - like licorice. I hate licorice!

BOBBY

That's why we put it in the bowel with the rest of the candy.

JAMES

You keep saying no magic ever happened. What magic?

BOBBY

The Internet said we had to put our hand on the Bible and keep our eyes closed when we ate it. That's when the magic was suppose to happen.

ALICE

(mocking)

What was the magic supposed to do? Turn you invisible? Or let you fly around like Superman?

BOBBY

It didn't say. Just that we'd know what it was once the magic happened.

LINDA

But it never did.

MABLE

(laughing)

Like buying Holy water and expecting miracles...when it's just water from the faucet.

JAMES

(offended)

You don't believe in miracles, Mrs Johnson?

MABLE

If I believed in miracles, I'd believe in Magic candy!

BUDD

There should be a law against selling fake stuff to children.

(cynical)

'Touch the Bible and close your eyes.' Jesus, how stupid can you get? Kids will believe anything now days! Like what happened with Slender Man...

BOBBY

(surprised)

You know about Slender Man, grandpa?

MABLE

(sternly)

I know one thing, young man - we'd better not ever find you on that website!!!

LINDA

What's Slender Man?

MABLE

He's real skinny 'cause he didn't eat his vegetables!

LINDA

Bobby doesn't eat his vegetables and he's a fatty!

BOBBY

And you always stink 'cause you never bathe. So there! Ha! Ha! Ha!

LINDA

Do not.

BOBBY

Do.

MABLE
That's enough, you two!!!

ALICE
(to Mable)
You have any of this so-called
Magic candy left?

Mable gets a large plastic bowel from the table, shows it to James and Alice.

INSERT:

A near-empty bowel with a few Tootsie Rolls.

BACK TO SCENE

MABLE
Just some Tootsie Rolls.
(to Bobby)
How many pieces did you two put in there?

BOBBY
I dunno. We just emptied the whole bag after we tried it.

JAMES
The whole bag? You have any left?

LINDA
I don't. Maybe he does?

MABLE
Bobby?

Bobby hesitates for a beat. Then he reaches in his pocket, pulls out a small round object wrapped in gold foil and tied with an elaborate pink ribbon.

Alice pulls out a plastic bag, motions for Bobby to drop it in the bag, then seals it.

ALICE
The way it's wrapped, you'd think it was a collectors item.

INT. BUDD'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

James and Alice walk to the door. James hands Budd his card.

JAMES

We'll have it tested. But if it turns out to be contaminated, they'll have to bring your grandkids in for questioning. I can't speak for the parents of kids who got sick. But if I were you, I'd be thinking about getting a lawyer. Good night all.

INT. BUDD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

As the cops leave, Mable returns to her cleaning.

MABLE

(to Budd)

Budd, your turn to put the kids to bed. I need me a drink!

Budd ushers Linda and Bobby out of the room.

Mable goes to the liquor cabinet, takes out a half-empty fifth of Chivas Regal, drops down on the couch and takes several long sips.

DISSOLVE:

INT. BUDD'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Budd is snoring. The half-empty fifth of whiskey is on Mable's nightstand. Mable sits up in bed, slips on a robe, grabs the bottle and tip toes quietly out of the room.

INT. BUDD'S HOUSE - BOBBY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby is sleeping. Mable enters, begins to go through his pants pockets. Nothing. Tries another pair. Nothing.

From a third pair of pants she pulls out the small round object wrapped in gold foil and pink ribbon.

INT. BUDD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mable enters the living room. She takes the Bible from the bookshelf, puts it on the table next to the bottle of whiskey.

She hesitates, takes several sips of whiskey to build up her nerve.

Mable unties the pink ribbon and removes the gold foil wrapper from around the candy.

She hesitates. Takes several more sips of whiskey.

Finally, she places her hand on the Bible. She closes her eyes and begins to chew the candy. She grimaces at the bitter taste of the candy, but continues chewing.

Momentarily she opens her eyes.

A BRIGHT LIGHT suddenly fills the room.

A mass of dirt and dust begins to swirl around Mable with an ever increasing intensity.

Mable tries to get up but she can't move.

MABLE
(screaming)
BUDD!!! BUDD!! HELP ME!!! HELP...

INT. BUDD'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Budd is snoring.

INT. BUDD'S HOUSE - BOBBY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby is sleeping soundly.

INT. BUDD'S HOUSE - LINDA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Linda is sleeping soundly

INT. BUDD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The swirling mass is blinding in it's ever increasing intensity. Everything about Mable is slowly beginning to lose human definition and morphs into...

DISSOLVE:

INT. BUDD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NEXT MORNING

The living room has been trashed. Mounds of dirt, papers, books, and candy are scattered around the room.

Family photographs on the walls are tilted askew. Lamps, decorative objects and knickknacks lie broken and shattered on the floor. Window curtains hang torn and shredded.

Dressed for work, Budd enters the living room. He stops, confused and disoriented at what he sees, not sure if it's a joke, or he isn't dreaming.

At the table, Mable has now turned into an unrecognizable lifeless, featureless statue of SALT.

Budd adjusts the volume on his hearing aid. He reaches out and touches Mable's arm.

BUDD

Mable...?

But his touch causes her arm to disintegrate into a pile of salt.

BUDD (CONT'D)

(grief-stricken)

Oh no! Mable, what..? No! No...

Budd recoils in such shock and dispirited grief at Mable's unexplained demise, that he collapses on the floor dead.

Next to him is the empty candy wrapper with the pink ribbon. The inscription printed on the inside of the gold foil wrapper reads:

'WARNING! If eaten properly, this candy has magic qualities that only true believers will experience. Not suitable for Atheists or disobedient children. The manufacturer assumes no liability for any sickness or fatal reactions that may occur with improper consumption --'

THE END