(Name of Project)

by (Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by (Names of Subsequent Writers, in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by (Current Writer, date)

Name (of company, if applicable) Address Phone Number

#### INT. FAMILY ROOM. NIGHT

A family of four gathers around a large screen television tuned to "Biggest Loser- Couples". The light from the screen illuminates their faces.

Maryann (42) sits on the couch and is doing leg lifts. Her husband George (48) is tipped back snoring lightly Potato chip crumbs are on his shirt.

On another chair is Josh (13) who is furiously texting away on his cell phone. His sister Tina (9) is doing homework at the kitchen table. No one is speaking.

It is October 31st, Halloween. The neighborhood is overrun with pint sized Power Rangers and Hannah Montana's. The Costello family are Jehovah Witnesses and do not participate in the holiday fun nor does anyone come to the door begging for sticky sweet candy.

A news bulletin comes on the television.

# ANNOUNCER (ON TV)

We interrupt this program to bring you this important message. The Department of Homeland Security has just confirmed that the counties of Montgomery, Bucks and Chester are currently under attack by unknown persons. That is all we know right now. We urge everyone to remain calm and stay in their homes for further information.

(MORE)

ANNOUNCER (ON TV) (CONT'D)

I repeat, Montgomery, Bucks and Chester county residents are urged to lock their doors and stay tuned for further instructions.

The Costello family all stand up. Josh quickly texts is best friend Brian who lives 4 houses away.

JOSH (TEXTING)

Dude, WTF? Did u c TV?

BRIAN (TEXTING)

IDK, what is going on?

JOSH

Some shit about us under attack?

BRIAN

Rents aren't home yet, at some party. I m alone here.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Folks, we have just been informed that the previous message about the 3 counties being under attack was inaccurate. It was just a hoax. Sorry for the interruption, and, um, now we go back to the "Biggest Loser" where the final weigh-in is underway.

Tina goes back to her homework.

George flips on his side and continues snoring.

Maryann gets up and starts doing jumping jacks.

No one is speaking

Josh has his mouth agape, looking at his family.

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

JOSH (TEXTING)

Dude. Now saying all a hoax. Meet me at the Birch.

BRIAN (TEXTING)

10 - 4

EXT.- BACKYARD

Josh sneaks out the back door and jogs 2 blocks over to a large dead tree. He picks up a piece of plywood and disappears underneath to the earth below. Brian (14) is already there lighting the way with a large flashlight.

BRIAN

Josh this is really freakin' me out. I just got a text from someone that said, "it's true, don't believe what you hear". I can't tell who sent it, I can't trace it.

Josh pulls his phone from his pocket and flips the lid open.

JOSH

I just got the same message too. Should we ignore it?

The candlelight flickers across their faces and reveals the fear in their faces.

BRIAN

Let's go see old man Simon. He'll know what to do.

#### EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD-NIGHT

Josh and Brian half jog their way through winding neighborhood streets and stop in front of a shuttered, weather-beaten white cottage. All of the lights are on and the front door is open.

#### BRIAN

Ok what's up? Old man Simon never goes anywhere or let's anyone in. This is too weird...

The boys cautiously enter the house. The television is blaring. The announcer is replaying the hoax story. There is no sign of the old man.

CUT TO:

FAR WALL WHERE THE WORD "TRUE" IS WRITTEN IN BLOOD

Just then the phone rings. Both boys scream and run out of the house and down the street.

JOSH

(panting out of breath) Dude we have to tell someone. Who do we tell? What do we tell them? What about Sgt. Gene at the police station? He isn't going to believe us!

#### BRIAN

So what do we know? It's Halloween, a fake news story, text messages to us and we can't find old man Simon but he left a message in blood? Yeah, really believable. Let's go to my house.

#### EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD-NIGHT

Both boys enter the Costello house. The family is still in their same positions only they are all asleep. The television is blaring an infomercial for the Tony Little Gazelle machine.

CUT TO:

OUTSIDE IN THE STREET. NO TRICK OR TREATERS AROUND. VERY OUIET.

Both boys' cell phones chirp an incoming text message.

BRIAN

Mine says to go see Mrs. Lillian on 3rd Street. Crazy Lillian the Psycho Psychic? No way!

JOSH

Yep. Same message here. Who the hell is doing this?

FADE TO:

FULL MOON OUTSIDE WITH A DARK CLOUD PASSING OVER

EXT. KITCHEN- NIGHT

A woman is seated at the kitchen table with her back to the audience. She lays out a series of tarot cards and silently smokes a cigarette. Smoke curls into the air.

The woman picks up a cell phone and taps a series of keystrokes and puts the phone down. She turns her head to the side and smiles a sinister grin. This is Mrs. Lillian the Psychic.

The woman lifts her head up, almost as if sniffing the air. She gathers the cards into a hasty pile and stands up.

Her doorbell rings. DONG DONG DONG.

MRS. LILLIAN

Hello boys. What can I do for you tonight? Shouldn't you be out grubbing for chocolate candies and what not? Do your parents know you are on this side of town?

JOSH

(stammering) uh, um, Mrs. Psyc--, I mean Lillian. Can we talk to you about something? Can we come in?

Brian and Josh stare into the face of the psychic and push past her into the house. The door closes behind them.

BRIAN

Could I have a glass of water? I am awfully thirsty?

MRS. LILLIAN

Of course Brian. Sit right here. I'll be right back and we will talk.

Mrs. Lillian leaves the room to get two glasses of water. She returns and hands the water to the boys.

MRS. LILLIAN (CONT'D)

So what brings you boys here tonight? Something spookin' you two?

CONTINUED: (2)

The boys exchange a glance between them and nod at each other. Brian steps forward.

BRIAN

Why are you sending us text messages about the attacks? Why are you doing this?

JOSH

Brian!! What are you doing?

BRIAN

Mrs. Lillian, we know you know the truth. What is going on? You obviously want us to know the truth so spill it old woman!

FADE OUT.

INT. BARN - DAY

Brian and Josh wake up and find themselves in a barn. It is daytime by Brian's wrist watch but it is pitch black in the barn. The air is cold and damp since the barn is buried beneath ground level. Distant voices can be heard off screen.

BRIAN

Dude my head hurts! Where the hell are we? What happened?

JOSH

I don't know but I don't feel so goo..

(vomit noises) Josh runs to the corner of the room to throw up.

BRIAN

Shh.. I hear something. Follow me.

JOSH

(hand to his mouth) Um hmmm.

Josh walks down a narrow path to a set of stairs. He descends down the stairs and the voices off screen become louder. The boys can hear a series of electronic beeping and more voices. They shrink back into the shadows.

JOSH (CONT'D)

(whispering) What the hell is this? Let's get down but get close.

BRIAN

Right behind you bro.

They creep along the floor until they find a nook in the wall that gives them a view into the room. They press themselves into the nook and settle in.

The room is brightly lit and has several dozen television screens. A computer terminal sits beneath each screen. A computer operator sits at each set up and they are all tapping on the keyboards. In the middle of the operation an old woman lays in a hospital bed, chain smoking and watching all of the screens intently. A group of men are in the corner whispering and talking into small cell phones.

OLD WOMAN

Cue the announcer. It is time for another message.

A woman dressed in a suit with coiffed hair appears in the room. She sits behind a large desk. CONTINUED: (2)

ANNOUNCER

Hi again folks. Just want to make sure everyone has heard the news that there is no cause for panic. Our earlier reports about attacks in the area were just a hoax. All is well in our community. Time and temperature coming up...

The announcer keeps her frozen smile in place until the camera clicks off.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

How was that ma?

OLD WOMAN

Great Rita. You did it great.

Josh and Brian are staring at each other thinking the same thing. The woman who was just speaking was the woman on television given the news report? Was she just a fake? What was going on? No words were exchanged.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

Were the gasses released? Show me the camera shots!!

A pan of the camera shots. All the cameras show people slumped over lawns, living room furniture and in the streets. No cars are driving, there is no life movement.

Josh and Brian look at each other shocked.

JOSH

(whispering) My mom and dad! We gotta get out of here Brian. We have to get help.

CONTINUED: (3)

BRIAN

But we have to hear more, find out what is happening.

They focus back on the activities in the room. They watch as the old woman gets out of the bed and goes over to a picture of a young man. She reaches out to caress the face in the picture.

OLD WOMAN

This is all for you Matt. All for you. I am going to make them pay for what happened. You were so young, your whole life ahead of you and they cut you down. Cut you down! They ruined our lives but we will have the last laugh my sweet. Yes we will. Put phase 3 in place. Let the games begin. Goodnight community.

Brian and Josh jump out and bolt up the stairs and manage to get out into the daylight. The sun blinds them momentarily and they fail to see the oncoming car, they are standing in the middle of a two lane highway...

SCREECH! METAL SMACKING FLESH! TIRES BRAKING, SMOKING.

A blue Mazda comes to a stop and the driver side door is flung open. The driver drops to her knees and looks up to the sky.

WOMAN

Noooooo! God!!!! Where did they come from??? Oh my God someone help us, please call for help.

### CONTINUED: (4)

Josh and Brian have both been hit by the oncoming car. They lay at twisted angles from each other on the dirt road. The sound of a siren can be heard in the distance.

### INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The Costello and Smythe family surround the two hospital beds where Josh and Brian are both in a drug induced coma. Each have swelling on the brain and have suffered multiple bone breaks and fractures.

The mood is somber and the only sounds are the beeping of the life support machines. Someone turns on the television to the noon news.

#### ANNOUNCER

And there you have it folks. largest live action play to ever be played out in Pennsylvania history. Created and Directed by the infamous Marilyn Stoudt, commanding the operation from her eternal hospital bed. The staged play was carried out on Halloween and included most of the residents of Montgomery, Bucks and Chester counties. There were fake reports of enemy attacks, and gassing episodes. Never has anything of this magnitude been carried out since War of the Worlds. What a hoot! Hopefully everyone knew it was just a hoax. Wink, wink. Goodnight and sleep tight!

The blipping sounds of the life support machines speed up ever so slightly before settling into the regular beep beep pattern again.

FADE OUT.