

Where Halloween Lives - The Lost Neighborhood

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. DETROIT NORTH-EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Tracking overhead through the middle class streets. Trees are bursting with 3D Fall colors streaming and whirling down at us. Magically beautiful.

Suddenly we catch up with LATHEN RHODES, 10, chubby and funny looking, as he makes it around a corner on a beat up bike.

He's pedaling as though life as he knows it could end if he fails.

He's got flowers, a soda and a bag of cookies.

At the next street he cuts across the corner lot, going right through KIDS raking the lawn.

SMACK into a large pile of leaves. Scattering them.

LITTLE KID
Up yours, Lathen.

LATHEN
Sorry, guys. Emergency.

Lathen hits the street right in front of an SUV.

MR. WARD, 40-50, Afro-American businessman SLAMS on his brakes.

MR. WARD
Holy... Lathen, you idiot. I almost....

Lathen keeps going, not even slowing down.

LATHEN
Sorry, Mr. Ward.

EXT. DETROIT NORTH-EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Again multicolored trees line the street. Breathtaking.

A white passenger van is at the bottom of the cul-de-sac. It's full of boxes of personal teen belongings and clothes.

MAB SUZUKI, 16, an Asian American princess, walks out of the empty house with arms full of her stuff, heading to the van.

Next door BEAMER DeMATTA, 16, solidly dreamy, *Varsity Wrestling* on his jersey, is washing his dad's black four door Cadillac Deville in the driveway.

An older service truck is at the curb. With a faded "What's DeMatta Plumbing" printed on the side.

Beamer stops to watch Mab bend into the van. She's so hot.

But Mab hurries inside the house before Beamer can say a word.

On the other side of Beamer's house is WILLIE WARD, 12, a stick of a kid, in dreadlocks, shooting hoops. He's all decked out in a Detroit Pistons jersey and baggy pants.

It's just that Willie sucks at basketball, CLANGING every shot. Loudly on a cracked rim. But looks good doing it.

DOMINO, Willie's Australian Shepherd, BARKs, chasing and bringing the ball back to Willie.

Suddenly, the basketball careens off the rim and bounces fast toward the Caddy. Heading for the front door.

Domino goes after it.

Beamer sees it and catches it at the last second.

He ends up knocking over his bucket of soapy water into the empty flower bed.

BEAMER

You suck, Willie.

Mab comes back out and quickly goes back into the house, glancing at the boys to bust...

... Beamer watching her.

Willie picks up the basketball.

WILLIE

So you haven't talked to her yet.

BEAMER

What have I done to deserve this?
Who moves their family across town
to Melvindale halfway through the
school year?

WILLIE

Apparently, your girlfriend's dad.
(calling to Mab)
Hey, Mab. Last day in the cul-de-
sac, and still lookin' good, girl.

MAB
Hey, Willie. Thanks.

Mab goes back into the house, ignoring Beamer again.

Beamer glances up into a small tree where UZI (SUSIE) DeMatta, 8, sits reading a science book. Big, toothless, Cheshire grin.

UZI
Don't look at me. You sent the biggest loser in our cul-de-sac to do the most important thing in your sorry teenage love life. And now you're frustrated?

BEAMER
Shut up.

UZI
I take it back. You're the loser.

BEAMER
Dad said to stay here with you, twerp. And wash his Caddy. Lathen volunteered to go for the flowers.

WILLIE
Relax, it's in the bag. Flowers always do the trick for my pop. Twice a week. Just go over there and keep her from leaving before Lathen gets back.

BEAMER
Let her come over here.

WILLIE
Just take off your jersey, flex all that meat. Show her you're the monster of the mat. I'd take that to the carpet every time.

UZI
Yeah, with Domino?

WILLIE
I got women, Uzi.

UZI
Right. Willie, you're so bony I think they got your dead twin in Beamer's biology class.

WILLIE
What do you know?

UZI
Everything.

WILLIE
Egghead. Just take off the jersey,
Beam. Show Mab what she'll be missin'.

UZI
A half naked loser.

Beamer takes the basketball and nearly knocks Uzi out of the tree with it.

Domino goes after the ball.

EXT. VACANT LOT - DAY

Lathen cuts through the lot.

But at the end he doesn't try to stop and the bike sails overhead toward the rooftops below.

EXT. CUL-DE-SAC - DAY

Suddenly, Lathen comes zooming out from between the houses, nearly DUMPING THE BIKE as he turns toward Beamer's house.

Barreling down on the Caddy. He's got the flowers in one hand, the soda and the bag of cookies in the other.

The basketball BOUNCES in his way.

He's having troubles. He tries to stop but nothing happens.

LATHEN
Look out, my chain came off.

Even Domino stops to watch the stupid spectacle.

Beamer sees that Lathen will crash right into the Caddy.

So Beamer tackles the bike and Lathen, all three landing SPLAT in the muddy flower bed.

WILLIE
Way to go, Lathen.

UZI
Told you he'd ruin everything.
Pay up.

WILLIE

What do you mean? He's here.

Domino jumps on top of Lathen's back.

LATHEN

Get off me, Domino.

Beamer rolls Lathen off his chest.

The flowers are crushed all over his face. And now his jersey is muddy from the garden.

BEAMER

(spitting out petals)

Ah, Lathen.

LATHEN

Sorry, Beamer.

Beamer uses his sweatshirt to wipe away the soda and flowers, streaking his face with more mud.

Lathen examines the crushed cookies.

LATHEN

I can't do anything right.

Mr. Ward pulls his SUV under the basket next door. Stops to look at the kids before driving into the garage.

MR. WARD (O.S.)

Wilber. Dinner.

WILLIE

Right there, Pop.

MR. WARD (O.S.)

Now. Here, boy.

Domino takes off toward Willie's house.

MRS. DeMATTA, 40-50's, comes out of the garage, her face done up as a witch, but no costume yet. She walks around the Caddy to find Beamer and Lathen.

MRS. DEMATTA

Quit fooling around, and finish the car, Beamer. I swear. You kids. Let's go, dinner's on.

(calls next door)

Mab darling, will you be joining the kids for games and pumpkin carving?

Mab stops with a bag in her arms. Checks her watch.

MAB

Not this year, Mrs. DeMatta. I'm almost out. And the movers are done at our new house. But Mom and Dad said they'd be just a few minutes late tonight because I'm still using the van. So, we'll see you then.

MRS. DEMATTA

Okay, dear.
(glares at Beamer)
Why didn't you offer to help her with your truck?

BEAMER

I did. She wouldn't let me. And dad told me to wash his car.

MRS. DEMATTA

Well. I don't blame her after the childish way you've been acting.

BEAMER

I'm not the one moving across town.

MRS. DEMATTA

She's moving to Melvindale, not to Tokyo. Now into the garage. Take off that jersey. How do you get so dirty all the time? Why can't you stay neat and clean like Willie?

Mrs. DeMatta goes into the garage.

WILLIE

See, all women hear the Will Call.

UZI

Delusional.

MRS. DEMATTA (O.S.)

Come on, Susie. Out of that tree. I want you all finished carving before we go. Move it. Right now.

BEAMER

If I have to baby-sit twerps, I'm not playing board games and carving stupid pumpkins with them.

MRS. DEMATTA (O.S.)
 Yes you are. And now you're carving
 one for Mab, too. For mocking family
 tradition. Get started.

BEAMER
 Ah, Mom. Like I'm not haunted enough.

Willie and Lathen SNICKER. Beamer whirls on them.

BEAMER
 You two got something to add?

WILLIE/LATHEN
 No.

From the garage of the house on the other side of Mab's, a
 scary fat clown, MRS. RHOADS, 40-50, comes out to the drive.

MRS. RHOADS
 Lathen. I've been calling your phone
 for half an hour. Dinner's on the
 table. Get your butt over here. And
 my cookies better not be open.

Lathen hides the crushed bag of cookies behind him.

LATHEN
 They're not open.

BEAMER
 Don't forget this.

Beamer picks up the bike. Lathen takes it, hanging his head.

LATHEN
 Sorry, Beamer. Guess I'll go get
 yelled at... again.

BEAMER
 Forget it.

UZI
 Help me down, Lathen.

LATHEN
 No. I'll only mess it up.

UZI
 Willie?

Willie runs back to his place. CLANGING one last shot.

WILLIE
 (calling back)
 I ain't no stepladder.

MRS. DEMATTA (O.S.)
 Help her down, Beamer.

BEAMER
 She climbs up all by herself.

Beamer heads over to the tree.

BEAMER
 Jump, twerp.

UZI
 Make me.

Beamer shakes the tree and Uzi falls out with a THUD on the ground.

UZI
 You donkey.

MRS. DEMATTA (O.S.)
 Are you helping your sister?

BEAMER
 Yes, Mom. Uzi's down.

MRS. DEMATTA (O.S.)
 Thank you, darling. Now get in here.

INT. BEAMER'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Beamer, Willie, Lathen and Uzi sit at a table carving their own faces on the pumpkins. In Beamer's case, his and Mab's.

WILLIE
 You two won't be sittin' around arguin' all night, will you?

BEAMER
 What's it to you?

WILLIE
 'Cause I'm gonna watch me some slash-n-dash films. And I don't need any unnecessary screamin' goin' on in the background, makin' my heart jump out my nostrils.

UZI

No, we're *not* watching scary movies. This night is freaky enough as it is, without you jerks running around pretending to be mutilated.

WILLIE

You can pretend to be Mary Poppins on Grandma's TV. I called the scream on the big screen.

BEAMER

Watch what you want, or play your dumb games. I don't care. Just shut up, so I can talk to Mab.

LATHEN

If you ask me, what this cul-de-sac needed was one less girl.

UZI

Can't you guys see leaving here is tearing Mab to pieces?

THUMP. Beamer hits her in the head with a piece of pumpkin.

WILLIE

If you ask me, now you'll have an excuse to be out at night.

LATHEN

Isn't it romantic.

SPLAT. Beamer gets Lathen good with the gooey pumpkin guts.

LATHEN

Look at me, Evil Pumpkin Guts Man. Wwwwwoooooo, I'm gonna eat you.

GRANDMA DeMATTA, 70's, stops at the door.

GRANDMA

Lathen. That's disgusting.

LATHEN

But....

GRANDMA

I'll miss that young lady around here... I'm sure glad I didn't make her mad.

UZI

Me, too.

GRANDMA

What an insensitive, sorrowful...
and, ah Susie, what's a good word?

UZI

Stupid.

GRANDMA

Yes, stupid thing to do.

BEAMER

I get it, Grandma.

GRANDMA

Then do something about it. Or you'll
regret it for the rest of your life.

EXT. A DETROIT NORTH-EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

A nearly full moon hovers over Beamer's cul-de-sac home now decorated with the pumpkins that oddly resemble each kid.

But Mab's house next door is dark. A "SOLD" sign out front.

The white passenger van idles out front. In the back of the van are Willie's and Lathen's PARENTS. While Mab's PARENTS sit in front. All dressed for a neighborhood Halloween Party.

Mrs. DeMatta stands waiting by the open sliding van door. Now cleverly dressed as a witch.

MR. DeMATTA, 40-50's, is dressed as a warlock, staring down all five children and Domino.

MR. DEMATTA

Leaving you in charge for the first
time on the night before Halloween
concerns us. Greatly.

(grabs Beamer in a sudden
headlock)

So, don't make me pop your eyeballs
out across the sidewalk, boy.

BEAMER

No worries, Dad. Get off.

MR. DEMATTA

(lets Beamer go)
Repeat after me. Respect.

ALL

Respect.

MR. DEMATTA
Responsibility.

ALL
Responsibility.

MR. DEMATTA
Or retribution.

ALL
Or retribution.

In the garage is the black Cadillac. Mr. DeMatta uses a remote to CLOSE the garage, putting the key in his pocket.

MR. DEMATTA
Great. As you see, I speak for all of your parents. If you are not here playing games or something when we return at midnight, if anything should happen to our cars or homes... you'll all be handing out candy with us... until you go away to college. Am I still making myself perfectly clear?

The kids all look at their parents nodding their costumed heads in agreement from inside the van.

ALL
Yes, sir.

MR. DEMATTA
Now, Mother --

GRANDMA
-- Will you just leave already, Dick.
(grabs Beamer's ear)
My little Beam-a-lot wouldn't dream of waking his grandma. Would you?

BEAMER
Oow, oow, oow... of course not, Grandma. Have a scary time, Dad. And don't worry. We'll be right here waiting for you when you get back at midnight.

Mr. DeMatta gives Beamer an awkward hug. And the remote.

Mr. and Mrs. DeMatta get in the van and it drives away.

MRS. DEMATTA
 (out the window)
 Now Beamer, you be nice to Mab.

BEAMER
 You kids have fun, Mom. No worries.

The van makes its way out of the cul-de-sac.

Beamer turns to find Mab already on her way to the house.

LATHEN
 Jeeze, why are parents so paranoid?

GRANDMA
 Because they were kids once, too.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The kids gather around the TV.

UZI
 Give me the remote.

WILLIE
 I'm not watching the news. I want
 a scary movie.

LATHEN
 Come on, let's see what's happening
 out there. The city could be crazy.

Uzi clicks on the News.

ON TV

JACKIE, 40's, a FEMALE NEWSCASTER turns to the camera.

JACKIE
 This special skeleton news report
 in from Ted Kenny. Ted?

EXT. SOUTH DETROIT - NIGHT

Downtown Detroit City skyline in the background.

A SCARECROW, swaying in the breeze on a post, reigns over a
 WILD PUMPKIN PATCH in the middle of an otherwise vacant field
 in a spooky undeveloped area not far from River Rouge.

An edgy TED KENNY, field reporter, steps into CAMERA wearing
 a skeleton costume. A BAT flutters 3D overhead, startling
 Ten before it zooms away.

TED

Well, okay then, Jackie. It's all quiet now, out here on the southern Detroit front. As history shows, the origins of Halloween began when the ancient Celts believed that real spirits and ghosts roamed their dark countrysides on Halloween night. So they began wearing masks and odd costumes to avoid being recognized as humans. But this night, of all unearthly times, marks the beginning of this year's All Hallows Eve weekend. The time of the wandering dead. A night often marred by hooligans and foolish pranksters. More significant this year perhaps because this is the first blue moon to shine on Halloween during a leap year... since 1906.

Suddenly, the scarecrow's arm lands on Ted's shoulder and the scarecrow leans 3D into CAMERA... with a knowing smile.

Ted looks at it, spooked, then back to camera.

TED

All I can say is, if you don't believe in eerie things having creepy feasts, stay out of Lost Neighborhoods... listen to your parents. And don't cause trouble or pull pranks if you do find yourself in one. This is Ted Kenny with your live skeleton news, wishing you and yours a spooky, safe Halloween. Now back to the studio.

INT. DEMATTA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Uzi turns off the TV. There's a stack of board games. She has on fluffy pink bunny slippers. Lathen and Willie look out the front window.

LATHEN

Why call it a blue moon? It doesn't even look remotely blue.

UZI

It's tomorrow. And once in a blue moon is just a way of saying not very often. Because it's the second full moon in a single month and only happens every two and a half years.

LATHEN
Fine, but isn't leap year a
learning game?

WILLIE
Apparently not.

UZI
No, dummy, a leap year is a year
with one extra day inserted into
February.

LATHEN
But wouldn't it be cool if it were
really blue. And everyone leaped.

WILLIE
Try holding your breath.

UZI
It just makes this year an unusual
Halloween.

WILLIE
Or about as unusual as Lathen
changing his underwear.

UZI
Gross.

LATHEN
I changed them twice this week.

UZI
GROSS!

Angry VOICES come from out front of the house.

LATHEN
Listen.

WILLIE
It's witches and goblins.

UZI
Shut up. It's worse.

LATHEN
It's Mab and Beamer.

EXT. DEMATTA HOME - NIGHT

Mab marches to Beamer's hand-me-down truck.

MAB

Just give me your keys. I'll drive myself home.

BEAMER

No, you're staying here until we work this out.

MAB

There's nothing to work out. I moved away. I'm now an inconvenience to the great and powerful Beamer DeMatta.

BEAMER

But why can't you just finish the year out here?

MAB

You know why. Mom wants me to go to private school. And we've already waited a year for the right house.

BEAMER

Come on, Mab, talk to her, make her be reasonable.

MAB

Reasonable? You've treated me like a second class citizen for the past two weeks. Why should I stay?

BEAMER

Because... I... this sucks.

Mab storms to Beamer's truck.

MAB

Oh, grow up.

BEAMER

Come on, you're supposed to help me with the kids.

MAB

Just give me the keys.

Beamer takes out his keys and hands them to Mab.

She goes around and gets in the truck. And tries to START it. But it won't start.

Beamer comes around to have a look. Mab slides over and Beamer gets in.

INT. DEMATTA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Willie, Lathen and Uzi are still at the window watching Mab and Beamer.

Uzi holds out her hand to Willie.

UZI
Told you she wouldn't be playing
Halloween games with us. Pay up.

WILLIE
I'll owe you.

UZI
You already owe me ten dollars.

WILLIE
Then stop betting me or I'll pay
you later.

UZI
I know where you live.

WILLIE
Shut up. I'll sic Domino on you.

Domino jumps on the couch and licks Uzi's face.

UZI
I'm petrified.

LATHEN
Both of you shut up. I think
they're kissing.

UZI
Gross.

WILLIE
They're not kissing. Duck.

They duck out of the window.

Beamer storms in, grabbing up his cell phone.

BEAMER
Out of the window, you punks.
Let's go, grab your coats.

WILLIE
Whaddup?

BEAMER
We're taking Mab home.

LATHEN
I ain't riding in the back of your
service truck.

BEAMER
We're taking the Caddy.

UZI
Uh-uh. I'm not going out on a
night like this.

WILLIE
Me neither.

BEAMER
What are you talking about?
Everybody's going. Move it.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Beamer comes in and goes through a drawer.

UZI
This isn't a smart idea, Beamer.
Think it over. What about Grandma?

BEAMER
We'll be back before she knows we
left. Put some shoes on.

UZI
What about all the stuff Dad said?

BEAMER
Look, will you forget all that. My
truck won't start and I can't leave
you kids here. Mab wants to go
home. And Dad only said to be
here when they got back. He didn't
say we couldn't leave.

Beamer holds up a set of the Caddy's keys.

INT. GRANDMA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Grandma is asleep. Beamer watches. Turns off the TV.

EXT. SOUTH DETROIT - FREEWAY RAMP - NIGHT

The Caddy exits down the ramp. Detroit City looms overhead.
The Detroit River glistens to the east.

INT. CADILLAC - NIGHT

The Caddy passes by the same Scarecrow seen on TV.

It still hangs on the post watching over the wild pumpkin patch in the middle of the otherwise vacant field.

WILLIE

Because it's a blue moon on a leap year they had a news guy standing right out there all boned out blabbin' the bad news.

UZI

He looked a lot like Willie.

LATHEN

Yeah, right by that scarecrow. See him out there? In the pumpkin.... Look, it moved.

UZI

I saw it. It's head turned this way.

LATHEN

Like he's watching us.

BEAMER

Bones. Moving scarecrows. And blue moons. Forget about it. You can't believe the stuff they put on TV. It'll make you dumb.

MAB

Look what TV did for Beamer. Maybe it moved from the wind, Susie. He doesn't know.

UZI/LATHEN/WILLIE

Yeah.

BEAMER

Yeah well, if that scarecrow can move, let 'em chase us down and eat us. I double dare it.

EXT. SOUTH DETROIT - PUMPKIN PATCH - NIGHT

Jumping from his post Scarecrow suddenly comes to life.

UZI/LATHEN/WILLIE (O.S.)

Us!

MAB (O.S.)

Why do you say stuff like that in front of the kids? I can't believe what an ass you've turned into. What did I ever see in you?

BEAMER (O.S.)

Apparently, a ride home.

Scarecrow removes a straw hat and blows on it. BLIP!

THE CADDY PASSES THROUGH A VORTEX OF PUMPKIN ORANGE LIGHT.

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

Beamer suddenly pulls the Caddy over. And SKIDS to a stop.

BEAMER

Everybody out.

WILLIE

Forget you, man.

BEAMER

Take your dog and get out, Willie.

WILLIE

Man, we in South Detroit. The river is right over there. I can smell it.

LATHEN

Maybe even that scarecrow.

UZI

I'm not getting out.

BEAMER

Give me five minutes with Mab.

MAB

Don't get out. I don't want to talk to you for five seconds.

BEAMER

Everybody out. Or I start hitting.

Willie, Domino, Lathen and Uzi get out.

UZI

What a bully.

SLAMS the door.

EXT. SOUTH DETROIT - NIGHT

The kids turn from the Caddy to face the bleakest spot on River Rouge. Heavy brush. Wispy fog. The moon glistens off the water.

Lathen has a drink and a bag of chips. Uzi has a flashlight. Domino goes off into the brush.

WILLIE

Domino. Dang, dog. Stay here,
don't move.

Willie goes after Domino.

Lathen tries the door. It's locked.

Uzi's flashlight shoots out into the fog.

They kneel down next to the Caddy.

UZI

Don't touch me.

LATHEN

Then turn off that light.

Suddenly, a SCREAM comes from across the river.

Uzi stands up and points her flashlight. It only throws light against the fog.

LATHEN

What are you doing?

UZI

Trying to see them.

LATHEN

Sit down. Turn that off. Or
they'll see us.

Lathen pulls Uzi back down.

UZI

Ssshhh... you dummy. I think some
idiot's out here.

LATHEN

Yeah, us. Let's grab Willie and get.

DEVIL DOG - THROUGH UNDERBRUSH

A DOG-LIKE CREATURE creeps unseen toward Lathen and Uzi.
Blood drips from rows of gnarled teeth.

It BURPS UP a cell-phone.

EXT. FRONT OF CADILLAC - NIGHT

Lathen takes out his phone.

LATHEN
I'm calling 911.

UZI
And tell them what? That we stole
my dad's car. And we're hiding down
by the bleakest spot on River Rouge
while people are screaming. So come
and get us and put us in jail?

LATHEN
Shut up, I got to pee like a T-Rex.

Running FOOTSTEPS charge at them from off to their right.

LATHEN
What's that?

Domino suddenly STICKS HIS NOSE into Lathen's bag of chips.

Uzi grabs onto Lathen's arm.

UZI/LATHEN
AAAAAHHHHHHH!

Willie, panicked, runs out of the dark.

Lathen and Uzi look at each other. Push each other away.

LATHEN
Your dog scared the snot out of us.

WILLIE
You heard that screaming, too?

UZI
We're dumb not deaf.

WILLIE
Don't be trippin'. Get in the car.

LATHEN
He's got it locked.

Willie grabs up the flashlight. Shines it into the car.

WILLIE

Man, open up this door, Beamer.

Domino turns and GROWLS at the dark. Spooked, Willie points the light. Lathen throws his drink.

BULLFROG (O.S.)

Ribbit.

UZI

Just a dumb bullfrog.

DEVIL DOG - MUCH CLOSER TO THE KIDS

It reaches over, grabs the bullfrog and eats it.

THE KIDS

Uzi takes the flashlight back.

WILLIE

Tell your brother to open the door.

UZI

Open up Beamer, or we call Dad.

INT. CADILLAC FRONT SEAT - NIGHT

Mab pushes Beamer's hand away. Beamer cracks the window.

WILLIE

Something's out here, man.

BEAMER

Yeah, you guys. Now back off. And turn off that light.

UZI/LATHEN

Let us in the car!

BEAMER

Two minutes.

DEVIL DOG

picks up Lathen's Big Gulp. DRAINS it dry. SHAKES the ice.

THE KIDS

and Domino turn to face the NOISE.

UZI/LATHEN/WILLIE
Let us in the car!

INT. CADILLAC - NIGHT

Mab unlocks the door.

The kids pile in the back.

Lathen SLAMS the door shut.

UZI
We heard screaming.

WILLIE
This ain't cool, man. Let's get.

EXT. CADDY - NIGHT

Domino's worried eyes shift to follow scary SOUNDS.

BEAMER (O.S.)
It's probably just three dumb kids
and your smelly dog.

WILLIE (O.S.)
Hey, Domino's not....

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

Willie realizes Domino's not in the car.

Lathen opens the door.

WILLIE
Here, boy. Domino? Here, boy.

Domino jumps in Willie's lap. Licks his mouth.

WILLIE
Thought he got you.

LATHEN
Get a kennel. Before he gets us all.

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

Beamer drives.

Mab tries not to cry, SNIFFS.

Uzi rolls her eyes. Lathen GIGGLES.

Beamer reaches back and SMACKS them.

Something TAPS on the backdoor window. Lathen wipes away condensation.

Nothing but the moon.

BEAMER

There's only dust bunnies under your bed, Lathen. They won't eat you.

Something TAPS on the back window. Uzi wipes a spot.

Devil Dog is up against the glass, all gnarled teeth and bloodshot eyeballs with Uzi's flashlight.

It leaps away.

EXT. DARK ROAD - NIGHT

Beamer makes a left turn.

UZI (O.S.)

I'm telling you, something was on the trunk with my flashlight.

BEAMER (O.S.)

You want to go back and find it?

UZI/WILLIE/LATHEN (O.S.)

NOOOOO!

Domino BARKS o.s. in agreement.

INT. CADILLAC - NIGHT

The Caddy passes spooky turn of the century homes.

MAB

Stop it, Beam. If the kids want to believe in scary things, let them.

UZI/LATHEN/WILLIE

Yeah.

BEAMER

Spare me the kid trauma.

EXT. MAB'S NEW MELVINDALE HOME - NIGHT

Beamer parks in the driveway of the spooky restored home.

The kids pile out, clinging to Beamer.

WILLIE

I need a drink of water.

UZI

Me, too.

LATHEN

This place is spooky.

BEAMER

Cut it out, guys. There's nothing to be scared of in Melvindale. Not a window got soaped. Nothing moves. This whole neighborhood is dead.

The kids look around and listen. Not even CRICKETS.

WILLIE

Better it, than us, let's go.

MAB

Just get the Caddy home. Tell our parents I took a cab.

WILLIE

Hold on. I really need a drink.

Willie goes over and drinks from the hose. Uzi joins him.

UZI

You're getting water on my shoes.

A grandfather clock ominously STRIKES inside the door.

MAB

Please. Go, Beam, it's ten already.

Beamer tries to kiss Mab. She pushes him away.

The kids watch. Beamer glares at them.

The kids turn around. Their faces drop.

WILLIE/UZI/LATHEN

Beamer.

Frustrated, Beamer whirls around. Nearly dropping Mab.

The kids point to the Caddy disappearing around the corner.

Beamer runs out into the street.

BEAMER

Hey, I'll kick your....

But the Caddy is gone.

BEAMER
(to the kids)
How the...? Who took it?

UZI/LATHEN/WILLIE
We didn't see anyone.

MAB
This is all my fault. I should've
taken a cab.

BEAMER
No it's not. It's this stupid
Melvindale. Dad's gonna kill us.

WILLIE/LATHEN
Us?

UZI
I can't believe you left it running.

BEAMER
This isn't my fault.

LATHEN
Well, it's definitely not mine. I
didn't want to drive here and I
don't want to be standing here now.

WILLIE
Oh, maaaaan. Domino's in the car.

BEAMER
I'm gonna break their heads when I
catch them.

UZI
Catch them? Beamer, we're on foot.
They took his dog. We're miles
from home. We got two hours to
fix it or --

LATHEN
-- we are soooo screwed.

INT. SUZUKI HOME - NIGHT

Beamer is on the phone. He checks the cash in his wallet.

BEAMER
Just tell the driver we'll triple
the rate if he gets here in....

There's a sudden SCREECHING of tires out front. Mab and Willie come in and look out the window.

WILLIE

What the...?

MAB

He's here.

BEAMER

Money talks and losers walk.

WILLIE

Yeah, but spooky taxi drivers fly.

EXT. SUZUKI HOME/STREET - NIGHT

HABIB, a spooky taxi driver, 40-50's, stands waiting with the doors open. The taxi is so shiny yellow it glows.

The boys sprint down the driveway and hop in the taxi.

BEAMER

Shotgun.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

Beamer settles in the front seat with Habib.

BEAMER

Mister, we got a jacked Caddy and a dog-napped pooch to find. So we're cruising the neighborhood. Capisce?

HABIB

For triple the set rate. Habib flap his wings while cruising.

Habib happily puts on his Tigers hat and pulls away. But a FLOPITY-FLOPITY-FLOPITY comes from all four tires.

EXT. TAXI - NIGHT

Habib bounds out. He examines the nails in his back and front flat tires with a burning rage.

He gives the boys a steely accusing look.

Beamer leans out the window. Confused.

BEAMER

Yo, Habib, what's the holdup?

HABIB
 What's the holdup? You want to
 know what Habib's holdup is?

Habib reaches in his cab. He pulls out a baseball bat and
 marches around the front of the cab.

HABIB
 I'll show you the holdup.

BEAMER
 Whoa, buddy, what's your problem?

Habib yanks the front passenger door open -- grabs Beamer and
 pulls him out.

HABIB
 You vandals are my problem.

Habib smashes the bat down. Beamer spreads his legs. The
 bat missing him by an inch.

Habib raises the bat again.

HABIB
 You think you can treat Habib like
 it's some funny game? And vandal
 his cab? No one makes fun of Habib.
 I teach you.

Beamer covers up. Willie pulls Beamer out of the way just in
 time. CLUNK. The bat pounds the ground.

UZI
 Mister, we didn't touch your cab.

Habib turns his murderous face on Uzi.

Lathen and Uzi fight each other to get out of the cab first.

LATHEN
 Leave him alone. He's obviously crazy.

HABIB
 Crazy? This is not crazy. You cannot
 take money from Habib without Habib
 killing you. That would be crazy.

Habib pulls the bat apart, SHING. Revealing a long blade.

HABIB
 I'll part you out like a pig.

The kids start backpedaling toward Mab's house.

BEAMER

Alright, okay, fun's over. There's a colossal mistake here. We gotta go.

Habib reaches in the cab and pulls out a shotgun.

HABIB

You want to ride shotgun? Nobody gets away from Habib. I'll show you how vandals ride shotgun in my cab.

BEAMER

RUUUNNNN!

The kids run up the drive and to the back of the house.

EXT. SUZUKI BACKYARD - NIGHT

The kids dash in.

Beamer points at the shed, and goes inside.

The others look at each other - finally deciding to follow. Beamer closes the door.

WILLIE (O.S.)

This is demented.

BEAMER (O.S.)

Look. We won't find the Caddy or Domino and get home in time on foot.

WILLIE (O.S.)

Let go of my bike.

The shed ROCKS back and forth, until the door opens.

Each kid exits with a bike more little-girlish than the last.

First Beamer. Then Willie. Then Uzi.

And finally Lathen on the smallest most girlish bike of them all. With tassels, even training wheels, a shiny bell and a pink basket. RING-RING.

Mab comes out the backdoor.

MAB

What's going on? That cab driver is pounding at the front door.

BEAMER

He's gone crazy. Come get on.

MAB
Why? Come back inside. We'll....

Just then Habib enters the backyard with his shotgun.

BEAMER
Move it.

Mab jumps on Beamer's back and off they go. The other kids are already moving.

EXT. DARK ALLEY - NIGHT

Down the dark alley they pedal away.

Habib runs into the alley behind them with the shotgun.

He TRANSFORMS into a GOBLIN with wings and flies into the night.

EXT. ANOTHER ALLEY - NIGHT

The kids make a left then a right down another back alley.

Beamer is slowed down by Mab climbing over him to sit on the handle bars. She turns and kisses him.

MAB
I'm so sorry.

BEAMER
Me, too. I....

Suddenly, Habib SWOOPS out of the night and grabs Mab off the handle bars.

HABIB
Gottcha.

MAB
Beamer!

They hold hands until finally Habib is able to pull Mab away.

BEAMER
Mab!

Making Beamer CRASH the bike.

From up in the dark sky....

MAB (O.S.)
Watch your hands, buddy. Beamer,
help me. We're flying.

HABIB (O.S.)
See vandal, I show you how you'll
repay Habib in spare parts.

BEAMER
Spare parts? But....

Mab's SCREAM fades off into the night.

EXT. DARK ALLEY - NIGHT

Finally, the kids come to a stop. Exhausted.

Beamer catches up with them. He's freaked out.

Lathen gets off the bike with the training wheels. His legs
are wobbly.

UZI
You get the feeling we're not in
Hockey Town anymore?

LATHEN
Then where are we?

WILLIE
And where's Mab?

BEAMER
He got her.

WILLIE
What? Who?

BEAMER
Habib. He swooped out of the sky.

LATHEN
Swooped? I don't like the sound of
that.

UZI
I miss my bunny slippers.

WILLIE
Wait, that spooky cab driver flies?

BEAMER
I'm telling you, he had wings, and
his face was... man, what have I
done?

UZI/WILLIE
We told you.

LATHEN

Yeah, let's go home before I pee my pants.

BEAMER

We gotta find Mab and the Caddy first. Look, I don't know what's happening, or why, but there's lights up there. I bet it's a gas station. We'll get some sodas. Rest up. And switch bikes. Come on. We got to hurry.

Beamer pedals away. He looks back and stops.

Uzi, Lathen and Willie haven't moved. They're not so sure.

Beamer pedals back to them.

BEAMER

Guys, move your butts. He could come back for the rest of us.

Uzi, Willie and Lathen look at each other.

WILLIE

Man, Beam's right. If we find the Caddy we find Domino.

UZI

But how do we find Mab?

BEAMER

We'll find her. Come on. Habib said something about spare parts. Someone at the station might know.

EXT. LIQUOR STORE/GAS STATION - NIGHT

The kids pedal fast out of the street, and up to the door.

Lathen's got to go bad. He drops the bike and runs in.

Two identical looking gang members, GHOSTS, materialize out of thin-air and walk in after Lathen.

Getting off their bikes, the other kids don't even notice.

INT. LIQUOR STORE/GAS STATION - NIGHT

GORDO, 20's, a store clerk looks up, revealing that he's just a SKELETON in a Red Wings jersey.

He reaches under the counter when the kids enter.

Lathen exits the bathroom and starts loading up on munchies.

LATHEN

Hey, did you guys know that Halloween candy sales average about two billion dollars annually in the US, alone?

He doesn't notice that Beamer, Willie and Uzi are frozen stiff at the counter with fear.

LATHEN

And chocolate candy bars top the list as the most popular candy for trick-or-treaters... with Snickers number one? It's all Mom hands out.

He turns his back on the Ghosts hovering with wool ski masks, as they reach around him for candy bars.

LATHEN

It's no wonder Halloween is the second most commercially successful holiday...

Lathen walks right up to the counter not realizing that Gordo is holding a spray can of Ghost Repellent pointed at the stunned kids in an eerie dead Mexican standoff.

LATHEN

... with Christmas being... you guys aren't getting anything?
(stops, looks around)
What's going on?

GORDO

You ghosts ain't ripping me off.

BEAMER

Wait. We're not with --

The Ghosts dissipate as they make a run for it.

GORDO

-- You will be.

Freaked, the kids run for it, scurrying past Lathen.

UZI/WILLIE/BEAMER

GHOST!

Lathen throws money over his head as he follows the boys out.

EXT. LIQUOR STORE/GAS STATION - NIGHT

The kids run outside. Sliding to a surprised stop in the parking lot.

The Caddy pulls up, driven by NOBODY.

BEAMER	WILLIE
Dad's Caddy.	Domino.

Domino sits in the back with his mouth taped and his eyes covered by a gang related bandana. WHIMPERING.

The Ghosts materialize inside. And the Cadillac speeds away.

Domino manages to pull down the bandana blindfold and looks out the back window with big sad doggy eyes.

Willie turns around to find Gordo trying to spray everyone with the can of Ghost Repellent.

But Beamer's got Gordo by the bony wrist in a full-on fight for the can.

SPRAYING in the air -- POPPING overhead neon.

A FORD CONVERTIBLE

ZOOMS into the station. It SWERVES avoiding the Ghost Repellent. FISHTAILING.

Just missing the cowering Uzi.

And PLOWS into the building. BURSTING into flames.

A moment as the horror from the CARNAGE drifts away.

Then out of the mayhem rolls the DRIVER'S HEAD, 40-50's.

It lands at their feet. Ghastly.

Only it's not technically dead.

Uzi and Willie SCREAM.

Uzi faints into Beamer's arms.

HEAD

Yo, fill 'er up, Gordo. And I'll take a pack of Kools.
 (looks at Beamer)
 Way to go, schmucko. Do you know how many Halloweens it took to put that body together?

Chewed food falls out of Lathen's gaping mouth. He drops all his munchies.

LATHEN

Did...did...did that head just --

Beamer points the spray at Gordo.

BEAMER

-- Uzi, wake up... grab a bike.
 (kicks Willie)
 Come on... move it, Willie. On a
 bike, Lathen. Now. Uzi, wake up!

UZI

(wakes up, looks around)
 Shoot, I'm still here.

Then Uzi frantically pushes Willie away from the bike she arrived on.

And Lathen beats Willie to the other.

Sticking Willie with the little girl training wheel bike.

Beamer pushes Gordo as Gordo grabs Beamer.

Beamer tries to spray him, but the can of Ghost Repellent is empty. So he CLUNKS Gordo on the skull to make him let go.

GORDO

You can't destroy my place. And
 leave this loser's body parts about.

HEAD

Hey, you ain't no poster boy for
 eternal health, you bag of bones.

BEAMER

Yeah, we didn't do this. You did.

Beamer pushes Gordo to the ground next to the Head.

GORDO

Me? I got you on tape destroying the
 place, you lying punk.

The other kids pedal off after the Caddy.

But Willie still struggles with the training wheels.

The Head and Gordo look at each other.

HEAD

So, how about them smokes, Gordo?

Gordo smacks the Head in frustration.

The Head rolls over and latches onto a training wheel support with its teeth. Chomping a ride with Willie.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Beamer, Uzi and Lathen pedal hard, chasing after the Caddy.

Which turns a corner into a dark neighborhood just ahead.

The three kids turn the corner where the Caddy did at the end of the block.

But Willie, lagging behind, looks down to find the Head looking up at him.

WILLIE

Guys, wait up. There's a... I got a.... Guys?

BEAMER (O.S.)

Come on, Willie, just pedal.

Willie tries to kick the Head off the training wheel support. But it grabs a hold of his baggy pant leg.

WILLIE

Aaaahhh... Get off me, get off me.

Willie kicks his leg out. The Head flies up and lands in the handlebar basket. RING-RING.

Willie's speechless. He's trying to scream. But nothing's coming out. His eyes are as bright as lit pumpkins.

HEAD

Wow, talk about your headwind. What a trip.

Willie jumps off. Trying to run away.

The bike passes him and continues around the corner into the dark neighborhood. Like it's got a mind of its own.

Willie stops. He looks around. He's alone in the dark.

WILLIE

Beeaaaammmeerrr...

BEAMER (O.S.)
Come on, Wiiiillliiiiie.

EXT. SPOOKY NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Beamer, Lathen and Uzi find themselves standing beside the tall hedges of a CREEPY OLD HOUSE on a street filled with toilet paper dangling from every tree. A lot of it.

The bike with the training wheels rolls up beside them.

The Head looks up from the basket into the trees.

HEAD
Kind of magical ain't it, kids.

The kids are startled to find the head with them again.

UZI
Now that's not natural.

Willie runs up and hides behind the hedges. He peeks out at the bike. Pointing at the head.

WILLIE
You see it? You see it? You see that freaky thing?

BEAMER
We see it, Willie.

The kids move away from the Head and further up the driveway.

The Head follows the kids up the drive with the bike.

Just then, Habib flies beside Gordo as they march up the street with torches, looking for the kids.

GORDO
Sell the rest of them punk kids off for spare parts to fix up my place, is what I ought to do. So keep your mitts off.

HABIB
No. Doc cheated Habib. Said girl had broken heart. So, I catch boyfriend vandal to fix it.

The kids hide behind the hedges with Willie.

Willie moves further up the drive trying to get away from the Head.

The other kids follow Willie toward the creepy old house.
But the Head just keeps following them.

BEAMER
(to the kids)
When he says spare parts, are we --

HEAD
(interjecting)
-- Oh yeah, sounds to me like Habib
sold your Mab to the Mad Scientist.

BEAMER
Mad Scientist?

HEAD
You might say he's an old fashioned
matchmaker of a different sort.
Works out of the Inner City. Know
what I mean?

BEAMER
I hope not.

HEAD
He fixes what's wrong with people.
Mends things. Gives them new starts.
Did a bang up job on me. Except for
a weak liver. Can't drink and drive
to save my life.

LATHEN
You mean, like Doctor Frankenstein?

HEAD
Well, you don't have to get nasty
about it. But yeah. And we only
get you live ones around here this
time of year. So we gotta grab
body parts while the part grabbin'
is good.

EXT. CREEPY OLD HOUSE - NIGHT

A hulking figure STOMPS out onto the veranda.

TROLL
Who's out here?

WILLIE
Man. I better go straighten this
mess out before we all end up being
some dead fool's spare parts.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE/VERANDA - NIGHT

Willie climbs the overly tall steps. And walks along the veranda that extends around the house. It CREAKS ominously under his feet.

WILLIE
Hello? Ah, sir, we're in a bind.

Louder STOMPING comes from the hulking figure.

Willie freezes.

TROLL
Dragon dung?

WILLIE
This just ain't right.

It's a MONSTROUS TROLL, STOMPING OUT a lit paper bag with his gigantic bare feet. He turns to find the kids running.

TROLL
Hooligans, huh. I'll show you.

The Troll charges at Willie.

WILLIE
AAAAHHHHHH!

Willie's forced to dive over the bushes, onto the lawn.

The Troll heads around the veranda to catch him.

EXT. SPOOKY STREET - NIGHT

Beamer, Uzi and Lathen are on the bikes pedaling away.

The bike with the training wheels is moving by itself.

Willie catches up with it. The Head looks him over.

HEAD
Jump on, sailor. I'll give ya a lift.

WILLIE
Drop dead.

HEAD
Nice. Look, you can't outrun that Troll. You need my help.

Willie looks back. The Troll is gaining fast.

WILLIE
You got that right.

Willie grabs the Head by the hair.

HEAD
Whaddup?

WILLIE
You.

HEAD
Wooooooooo....

Willie throws the Head backwards and up into the toilet paper hanging from the trees.

The Troll slams on its BRAKES in the middle of the street.

The Head drops down out of the papered trees, its teeth biting onto a stream of toilet paper... and swings right toward the Troll's head.

The Head flapping his ears trying to change its flight plan.

HEAD
Noooooooooooo!

BONK! The Head collides with the Troll's head, knocking the Troll on his butt.

Willie jumps on the bike with the training wheels while it's still moving. And pedals after the other kids.

The Head plops into the Trolls lap. They look at each other.

HEAD
Ah man, my head is killing me.

The Troll slaps the Head like a beach ball and it soars back into the air.

EXT. CROSSROADS - NIGHT

Willie pedals around the corner with all his might.

UZI/LATHEN
Look.

BEAMER
Willie. What --

Willie zooms past them, RING-RING.

WILLIE

-- Keep moving.

All at once a swarm of lit CARVED PUMPKINS magically fly out of the dark behind Willie.

The kids are out in the open.

The pumpkins knock against them, SWARMING like killer bees, trying to push them over.

All they can do is huddle down as they pedal away.

But one particularly EVIL PUMPKIN sticks onto Beamer's bike and BLOWS FLAMES.

Willie, Uzi and Lathen make it through the crossroads and pedal away safely into the darkness.

Beamer, however, is forced to hop off his bike to clear away the Evil Pumpkin.

A ROARING TWENTIES HEARSE materializes out of the mist behind Beamer.

Beamer holds the Evil Pumpkin away.

But it, too, seems to have a nasty mind of its own.

In trying to put it out, Beamer is forced to BEAT it.

Accidentally CRACKING it.

He looks around for help. The kids are gone.

There's nothing but scary burning pumpkins inching closer.

He turns to run and BANGS into the hearse.

BEAMER

Where'd the...?

A VAMPIRE KID, 10, in a black cape, sporting fangs, opens a hearse side window.

BEAMER

Holy crud. Kid, this dumb pumpkin.
Can you help me put it out?

VAMPIRE KID

Put it out? Mummy, Mummy. The
mean boy is smashing my pumpkin.

MUMMY (O.S.)

How many times must I tell teenagers
about the evil curses brought on by
smashing pumpkins?

MUMMY whirls out of the hearse. She's wrapped in mildew
white and is three thousand years old if she's a day.

Beamer's speechless. He looks around.

The other Swarming Pumpkins are menacing closer.

MUMMY

How dare you smash a pumpkin in
front of an innocent vampire.

VAMPIRE KID

Yeah, I'm a kid. I'm traumatized.
How will I ever light my pumpkin?

BEAMER

Look, this rotten pumpkin was
attacking me.

The Mummy covers the Vampire Kid's pointy ears.

MUMMY

There are painful places for boys
like you.

The Mummy suddenly beats on Beamer -- grabbing and dragging
him to the opening hearse backdoor.

Beamer is completely at a loss.

The Vampire Kid SUMMONS his Evil Pumpkin to the window.

BEAMER

Look, let me explain all this. I --

MUMMY

-- You need to explain this to the
Pumpkin Authorities.

Beamer's dad's Caddy ZOOMS by, headed north with the two gang
member Ghosts.

Domino is now the hood ornament. He doesn't like it one bit.

GHOSTS

(wicked echoing LAUGHTER)
Beamer's a pumpkin beater.

Beamer fights back. But there's nothing he can do to keep this Mummy from dragging him by his feet.

Except SCRAPE his fingers across the pavement.

Into the hearse they go. And the backdoor SLAMS closed.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The other three kids make it back to Beamer's bike.

WILLIE/LATHEN/UZI
BEEEAAMEEEEEERRR.

Willie jumps on Beamer's bike.

EXT. BACK OF HEARSE - NIGHT

Beamer's at the back window. His hands against the glass. A frightened, doomed look on his face. A sad wave good-bye.

INT. HEARSE - NIGHT

Beamer turns from the window and picks up a burning candle beside him, trying to see.

Mummy is already on her tomb-phone. She drives over a rickety bridge. Further into an even a darker neighborhood.

MUMMY
That's right. I caught Beamer
DeMatta smashing a pumpkin.

BEAMER
No, no, no. Look... Mummy, I only
cracked it a little. Besides, it's
just a pumpkin.

Mummy SLAMS on the brakes -- turning on Beamer -- eyes aglow.

MUMMY
Just a pumpkin? A carved pumpkin
has as much individual personality
as any ratty teenager has to offer.

The evil smile on the Vampire Kid's face shows his fangs.

VAMPIRE KID
Can we eat him now, Mummy?

MUMMY
Let's show young DeMatta what happens
to boys who smash our sacred pumpkins.

They leap on him. Trying to bite him and suck his blood.

Desperate, Beamer grabs the Evil Pumpkin. Forcing his way beyond the Mummy's reach. Tumbling out the driver's door.

EXT. HEARSE - NIGHT

Beamer still has the Evil Pumpkin as he picks himself up. The Mummy and the Vampire Kid follow Beamer out.

BEAMER

Please, lady... Mummy. All right, back off. Or I'm gonna slam-dunk this creepy gourd and dropkick it into a pumpkin pie. I mean it....

Beamer stops. He turns, letting the Evil Pumpkin go.

Because an ANGRY DETROIT MOB of hungry ZOMBIES gathers out of the dark. They have torches, flanked by the Swarming Pumpkins.

They're led by the Troll holding the Head by the hair.

TROLL

See, that's him. That's one of them who dumped dragon dung on my porch and lit it on fire. Smell my feet.

The Mob takes a step back.

HEAD

No, thank you.

TROLL

Him and his hooligan friends. Been TPin' the whole neighborhood.

BEAMER

Not true... all we....

Just then Habib and Gordo push through the crowd. Gordo grabs Beamer's right arm.

GORDO

Alright, punk. Your parts are gonna pay for all the damage you caused me.

Habib grabs Beamer's left arm. They start pulling.

HABIB

He's my vandal. He mocked my taxi trade first.

HEAD

Well, whoever ends up with him, I'm buying. So hurry. Divide him up. I ain't gettin' any taller.

BEAMER

Let go or I'll --

The Troll seizes Beamer by the back of his clothing and lifts him up. Shakes him hard.

TROLL

-- You'll what? Run off screaming into the night again?

The mob parts way for Scarecrow and Devil Dog to step up to a thick black book that APPEARS before the mob.

It hovers in the air with "Pumpkin Authorities" embossed in glowing orange letters.

The Troll puts Beamer down out of respect, and backs away with Habib and Gordo. They are very disappointed.

SCARECROW

It has been brought to my attention, The Minister of Pumpkin Authorities, that you and the kids you're supposed to be baby-sitting have dishonored our sacred of all sacred entities in The Lost Neighborhood of Detroit. This young Vampire's Carved Pumpkin.

(opens the book)

Therefore, since you double dared us to chase after you and eat you ... and we're all so veeery hungry.

MOB

Starving.

SCARECROW

I sentence you all to... let me search. How do pranksters taste their best?

The two Ghosts park the Caddy behind Beamer.

They get out to hover above the mob.

Making faces at Beamer.

Domino has his nose wrapped with a bandana in the Caddy window.

The other three kids are rudely pushed, one at a time, from the dark to stand behind Beamer. They take this all in.

Beamer sees them. He spreads his arms out, inching them back toward the Caddy.

WILLIE

Are those real live zombies?

BEAMER

No, those are real dead zombies.

LATHEN

But zombies eat kids like us.
Don't they?

UZI

Do we really need to remind them?

The ground suddenly shakes and ERUPTS before them. A giant HOT CAULDRON, with a BUBBLING STEW, emerges from the fires.

The mob CHEERS with zombie delight.

SCARECROW

Oh yes, here's our sign.

BEAMER

RUUUUUN FOR THE CADDY!

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

The kids jump in the Caddy. Beamer spins it around, BURNING RUBBER. The other kids and Domino hold on for dear life.

Beamer SPEEDS through the angry mob who throws rotten vegetables at them and chases them up the smokey street.

Until the Caddy's taillights disappear into the night.

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

Beamer can hardly see past the dense smoke. Headlights are useless.

But Domino licks Willie silly. And the kids are all excited.

LATHEN

I can't believe we just did that.
We got the Caddy. We got Domino.

UZI

Beamer, we've got to slow down.

BEAMER

I'll slow down when we get Mab back
from that Mad Scientist and we're
all pulling into our own cul-de-sac.

EXT. DEAD END STREET - NIGHT

The Caddy rushes out of the smoke.

A sudden panic on all their faces.

Beamer SLAMS on the brakes. It's too late.

The Caddy SKIDS and SMASHES into an ancient ivy-covered stone
wall. CRRRRRUNCH!

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

All of them, including Domino, are piled in the front seat,
with their faces against the glass.

EXT. DEAD END STREET - NIGHT

The kids stagger out of the Caddy, frantically looking at the
damage to the Caddy's front end.

Domino barks up at a sign. The kids look up to read:
"DEAD END, STUPID."

Beamer gets on his hands and knees and checks the damage.
He's in too much shock to speak.

WILLIE

Of all the dumb luck.

UZI

We were so close to being out of here
I could feel my bunny slippers.

LATHEN

We'll be grounded for eternity.

The kids all look at Beamer just standing there.

WILLIE

Beam?

LATHEN

Is he... in shock?

UZI

(shaking Beamer)
What do we do now? Beam?

BEAMER

(snaps out of it)

We find Mab. Pop the trunk and grab the crowbar, Willie. The bumper and fender are pinning the wheel. Dad's --

LATHEN

-- gonna have a cow. The grill is messed up. The radiator is leaking. Look at that hood. I can't believe this is happening to me. Oh, why did I ever get into this car?

Uzi reaches in the door and POPS the trunk with the lever.

BEAMER

Will you shut up, Lathen. Our parents will freak worse if we go home without Mab. Think about it. There's no insurance for replacing children eaten by zombies.

LATHEN

But we don't know where she is.

BEAMER

You heard Habib. She's in the Inner City. With some Mad Scientist. How many can there be?

LATHEN

We talking out here, or back home?

BEAMER

Don't make me hurt you, Lathen.

Willie opens the trunk and looks under a set of new golf clubs and finds the crowbar. He gives it to Beamer.

Beamer uses the crowbar and tries his best to bend back the bumper and fender. It moves a little but not enough.

WILLIE

Let me try.

After a few GRUNTS and GROANS he gives up.

UZI

Stand back. Time for girl power. Let's see, the angle of the bend... minus the distance from the tire... equals... the weakest spot... here.

Uzi suddenly BEATS on it like a maniac, but no good.

She gives up and goes and sits on the curb with the others.

They all look at Lathen. Waiting.

LATHEN
Honestly, do I look mechanically
inclined to you?

WILLIE
What do we do now?

Beamer gets up and looks around. Nowhere to go but up.

BEAMER
We'll have to leave it. Grab
Domino, come on.

The others turn to face the smoke. Beyond the smoke the mob
fills the night with a MONSTROUS CHANT.

MOB (O.S.)
BREW 'EM, STEW 'EM, CHOP 'EM UP AND
CHEW 'EM.

Domino starts to GROWL at the approaching CHANT.

WILLIE
Come here, Domino.

Beamer uses the Caddy to jump on the wall.

BEAMER
You first, Lathen.

Lathen climbs up on the Caddy then the ivy. In Beamer's
enthusiasm, Lathen flips over.

LATHEN
Beameeeeer... WWWOOOOOO!

EXT. SPOOKY GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

Lathen FLOPS painfully on his back below the wall. He sits
up and looks around.

LATHEN
Great gobs of gopher guts.

WILLIE (O.S.)
What's over there, man?

EXT. DEAD END STREET - NIGHT

Willie, Uzi and Beamer turn to face the CHANTING mob flanked by the Swarming Pumpkins.

LATHEN (O.S.)

A spooky graveyard.

The mob steps out of the smoke wielding knives and forks. Then the hot cauldron is pushed forward.

WILLIE

Domino come back here, boy.

But Domino just looks back at Willie, BARKS, then starts GROWLING viciously at the mob. Showing his teeth.

The mob takes a step back.

WILLIE

No, Domino, don't.

Willie tries to go after Domino, but Uzi and Beamer grab him.

UZI/BEAMER

He's saving us, Willie.

EXT. HOARY GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

Uzi, Willie and finally Beamer come tumbling down.

Suddenly, Domino's BARKING ends with a SCARED WHIMPER.

Willie tries to climb back over. But Beamer grabs him and carries him, kicking and SCREAMING, after Lathen and Uzi.

EXT. HOARY GRAVEYARD - GOOSE POND - NIGHT

They run through the tombstones, along a murky pond.

BEAMER

This way.

They turn. TORCHES fill the night this way.

BEAMER

That way.

They turn. And TORCHES fill the night that way, too.

UZI

We'll have to cross the pond.

EXT. GOOSE POND - NIGHT

The kids wade into the water toward a giant fountain. THE FOUNTAIN OF ALL HALLOWS.

TORCHES converging behind them.

BEAMER

To the fountain.

EXT. FOUNTAIN OF ALL HALLOWS - NIGHT

They jump into the base of the towering fountain.

The fountain turns a bright glowing green.

Illuminating a lifelike carved DEMON and GARGOYLE assaulting each other.

In the distance the Caddy chugs along the service road.

BEAMER

Look. The Caddy. It's running.

EXT. GRAVEYARD SERVICE DRIVE - NIGHT

At the very north end of the graveyard the dented Caddy drives out of huge closing gates.

Downtown Detroit looms in the distance.

Domino's BARKING echoes back to them.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - FOUNTAIN OF ALL HALLOWS - NIGHT

Beamer climbs up the fountain to get a better look.

WILLIE

Domino? Here Domino. Listen, it's Domino. He's still alive.

BEAMER

Over there, beyond those gates, the city. We still have a shot if Domino and the Caddy stay together. We just need to find the Inner City.

LATHEN

Yeah, but where are we?

Beamer looks before him. He uses his jersey to clean a crusty bronze plaque on the side of the fountain.

BEAMER

(reads)

1906. The Fountain of All Hallows.
He who enters The Lost Neighborhood
of Detroit is doomed unless he stays
in these green waters forever.

Lathen leans on the Gargoyle. Its eyes move and squint.

LATHEN

So, we're safe here? That's a
relief. Because all this running
is chafing my butt.

UZI

What part of forever did you miss?

EXT. GRAVEYARD - POND SHORELINE - NIGHT

The mob, flanked by the Swarming Pumpkins, has caught up with
the kids.

INTERCUT: FOUNTAIN OF ALL HALLOWS/POND SHORELINE - NIGHT

Beamer climbs up further on the fountain, waving.

BEAMER

Stop. Look, we realize you are just
nice community-minded zombies. And
trolls. And whatever you are. But
we're only here to find our dad's
stolen Caddy. Get my girlfriend
back. And retrieve Willie's dog.
We mean you no harm.

HABIB

What about nails in my tires?

MOB

YEAH.

TROLL

And lit dragon dung on my porch.

MOB

YEAH.

GORDO

You trashed and burned my store.

HEAD

And caused me to crash and lose all
my body parts in the fire.

MOB

YEAH.

MUMMY

That one cracked this sacred pumpkin.

MOB

NOOOOOO.

VAMPIRE KID

(holds up Evil Pumpkin)

Yeah, we're eternally traumatized.

The cauldron is pushed forward as Scarecrow appears with Devil Dog at his feet.

SCARECROW

What do you have to say for yourself
that will keep us from eating you all
now?

The kids look at each other. They don't have a clue.

BEAMER

Ahhh... we didn't do it?

MUMMY

Damned liar, I saw him beat that
pumpkin.

TROLL

Look, there's our answer. Slime
from the Fountain of All Hallows.
They're doomed.

Beamer looks down. Sure enough, they're covered in slime.

Then the lifelike carved Demon and Gargoyle do come to life.
And stop grabbing each other and start grabbing at them.

MOB

Let's stew 'em.

Led by Scarecrow, the mob begins to surround the pond.

Beamer jumps down onto the Demon's back making it let go of
Uzi and rides it until he's bucked off into the pond.

Willie pokes the Gargoyle in the eye, making it let go of
Lathen.

Lathen and Willie jump out of the fountain and back into the
pond.

The kids splash across the pond. Uzi's having trouble, so Beamer picks her up and carries her.

Just before the mob converges around them, they make it back amongst the tombs, heading north to the gates.

Keeping just a few yards ahead of the mob.

EXT. CORKTOWN - MAGNIFICENT MOLDED GATES - NIGHT

The kids sprint to the locked iron gates and climb. Written on the face of the gate is CORKTOWN. Just avoiding the mob's grasp as they climb to the top.

But the last one up is Lathen because a Zombie has a grip on his leg and starts pulling him down.

LATHEN
Hey guys, grab me.

Beamer and Willie reach and grab Lathen's arms.

Lathen's pants drop around his knees revealing a FLORESCENT BLUE SPEEDO swimsuit. Gross, glowing on his big fat butt.

The whole mob backs away, horrified.

LATHEN
Thanks.

WILLIE
Now that's a blue moon.

Lathen struggles to pull up his pants.

LATHEN
What? It's all I had clean.

BEAMER
Whatever, it worked, keep climbing.

EXT. CORKTOWN - MAGNIFICENT GATE - NIGHT

Dark houses, decaying bridges and overgrown rotting trees. With the lights of downtown looming above.

A rickety flatbed full of evil pumpkin faces BACKFIRES. It's driven by an INVISIBLE MAN dressed in prison stripes.

The angry mob SWARMS at the gates below and climbs.

BEAMER
Jump. On three. One, two...

Willie, Uzi and Lathen jump. Beamer jumps last.

EXT. PUMPKIN-FILLED RICKETY FLATBED - NIGHT

The kids tumble onto the pumpkins. SQUASHING them.

The truck heads past a dilapidated stone bridge.

Behind them, the mob is OUTRAGED over the squashed pumpkins.

The hot cauldron is hoisted up.

MOB
BREW 'EM, STEW 'EM, CHOP 'EM UP AND
CHEW 'EM.

The gates open and the mob spills out into the road.

EXT. A DILAPIDATED STONE BRIDGE - NIGHT

In the shadow of which the kids....

BEAMER
Jump again.

... leap off and roll to a stop.

A TITTING emanates from under the bridge. Beamer picks up a jagged, sword-size dead stick.

The kids turn to find the mob gathering the broken pumpkins. Morosely piecing them back together.

Scarecrow, riding atop the cauldron, is pushed to the front. Devil Dog GROWLING at his feet.

BEAMER
Look. Please, just let us go home.

SCARECROW
By all means. Pass under the bridge.

TROLL
Yeah, we triple dare ya.

Willie looks over his shoulder toward the TITTING.

WILLIE
Man, you suck at babysitting.

BEAMER
(brandishes the stick)
That's it, back off.
(MORE)

BEAMER (cont'd)

We've had enough. Nobody eats us.
We want the Caddy. Domino safe.
And if you hurt one hair on Mab's
body we are kicking some serious
zombie butt.

(pushes the kids)

Come on. We're out of here.

UZI/LATHEN/WILLIE

We're not going in there.

BEAMER

Don't look back. Unless you got a
better idea.

(over his shoulder)

And we mean it. Some serious butt.

Scarecrow holds back Devil Dog and stops the mob.

So like this, the kids defiantly march under the bridge.

EXT. THE DARK UNDER THE STONE BRIDGE - NIGHT

The kids slowly lose their bravado the further they march
because the TITTING increases.

Beamer leads them with the jagged stick, faster and faster.

The TITTING is soon joined in by LITTLE VOICES whispering
unintelligible creepy things that grow louder and clearer.

Until their names are CLEARLY SPOKEN and they're sprinting.
What seemed to be a short distance turns into a run through
maddening darkness. Leading toward a soft light.

And into an unexpected collision with a MATTED sticky
substance. Engulfing them in stringy yuck.

They twirl around, fighting to get free. Uzi freezes.

UZI

Up there. What's that?

LATHEN

It ain't....

WILLIE

It can't be.

BEAMER

It's a giant --

ALL
-- SPIDER!

A woman-size WHITE CRAB SPIDER with a beautiful human face drops into the dim light, stuffed into an eight-legged pink-ribbed corset. As sexy as she is creepy.

Looking them over. Poking them with a hairy leg. Eyes smoldering with an evil spidery pleasure.

SPIDER
Huuummm... which one eats their vegetables? Like a goood child?

Finally, Lathen raises his finger. The others look at him.

LATHEN
So. I like 'em.

SPIDER
Oh, goody.

The Spider pounces. Lathen can only cover and SCREAM.

INT. SPIDER BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Beamer, Willie and Uzi are all wrapped up in a web. Willie is upside down.

Their eyes peeking out of the dark between the sticky strands of spider web.

Beamer is using the stick to cut through the webbing. It's not working fast enough.

Lathen is stuck spread-eagle in a splendidly decorated spider bed. Trembling.

While the Spider slowly rolls on panty-hose. Pruning herself, making herself look sexy in a broken mirror.

SPIDER
Happy Halloween to me. Oh, how I just love Halloween Feast. Don't you? Oh, reeeelax my chubby young escort. You'll be much too terrified to feel a thing. First I'll shoot you up with my spectacular numbing venom. Just enough to stupefy you. Don't want you any more brain-dead than you already are.

LATHEN
I'm not brain dead at all.

SPIDER

Would a clever child volunteer to escort a spider who eats her mates to the Halloween Feast? I think not. I'll test a drop of blood from this arm. Next I'll sample a pint from that leg.

And then, I'll suck just a tiny more from that bulbous butt to make sure you're as tasty as you look. Don't want you dying on me, though. Yet. Not until we dance the night away. While we stew what's left of your friends tonight at Scarecrow's.
(suddenly greedy)
After I sell off their spare parts.

Beamer puts the jagged stick in Willie's hand.

BEAMER

Ah, excuse me.

The Spider looks, then pounces on Beamer. Up close. Brushing back his hair. Smiling wantonly.

SPIDER

Aren't you the brave one. What then?

Willie gets the stick to Uzi without the Spider seeing.

BEAMER

Ah, Ms. Spider, that is, I was only wondering. Just where is this Inner City the others keep talking about?

SPIDER

The Inner City? Well, I suppose if I tell you, you'll escape and save your pretty little girlfriend.
(big spidery LAUGH)
No one has ever escaped from me. So, if you must know, the Inner City dwells in the bowels of the old Detroit Salt Mine.

The Spider crawls back to Lathen. Looking suddenly back at the other kids.

Almost catching Uzi cutting web away from Beamer's wrists.

But Uzi stops just in time, hiding what she's doing.

Then an evil spidery grin, seeing herself in the mirror.

SPIDER

I look quite stuuuunning. Don't
you think?

The Spider opens her mouth, venom glistening off her fangs.

Lathen cowers. There's nothing he can do to save himself.

But as the Spider pounces to sink its venom into Lathen,
Beamer jabs the jagged stick into the Spider's underbelly.

The Spider lets out an overly dramatic SPIDERY-SCREAM.

Then something steamy and gooey SPLASHES out of the Spider
and SPLATTERS all over the kids before it drops, dangling.
The kids look at Beamer, dripping in spidery goo.

BEAMER

Think again, Charlotte.

EXT. PUTRID SMELLING BLIND ALLEY - NIGHT

The kids triumphantly sprint out of the dark from under the
bridge, shedding cobwebs and spidery goo.

Lathen throws a sudden bear hug on Beamer.

LATHEN

Thank you. Thank you.

BEAMER

Get off me, Lathen. Look.

At the mouth of a blind alley sits the Caddy with a flat tire
caused by the bent fender.

Willie checks inside. No Domino.

Beamer pops the trunk. Lathen stops him.

LATHEN

I got this one.

Lathen opens the trunk lid and looks inside.

Uzi turns to face the alley.

UZI

Oh cheese, what's that smell?

Holding their noses pinched, Beamer, Willie and Uzi step into
the alley. There are HUNDREDS of MUTATED BLACK CATS.

The alley is also full of BUBBLING cesspools, overflowing grimy dumpsters and stinky garbage cans.

There are no other visible entrances or exits.

And high-rise buildings loom above.

WILLIE

Domino? Here, boy. Domino?

A WHIMPERING comes from off in a corner. It's Domino on a dumpster staying as far away from the cats as possible.

WILLIE

Domino! Come here, Domino.

Domino covers his eyes. He's not going anywhere.

BEAMER

Hold on, I don't like this. We'll back the Caddy down.

Beamer checks to see if the keys are in the Caddy. They are.

BEAMER

What do you know about the Detroit Salt Mine, Uzi?

UZI

Just that they started digging it in 1906. And it runs about eleven-hundred feet down. Under almost the entire city and more.

BEAMER

1906. The Fountain of All Hallows had that same year on it.

LATHEN

And that reporter on TV said things about ancient Celts, creatures, Lost Neighborhoods, blue moons and leap years.

WILLIE

Yeah, not on Halloween since 1906.

UZI

Lost Neighborhood? That's Corktown. It was written on that gate. They tore out homes in 1911 to build the Central Depot. Do you think when they dug under those twenty blocks it had something to do with creating this?

BEAMER

All I know is we have to get down there somehow to find Mab because that Spider said the Inner City was in the guts of it.

LATHEN

Yeah, but isn't the Mad Scientist down there, too?

UZI

And doesn't he want our body parts?

A cell phone starts RINGING. Everyone turns to face Lathen.

BEAMER

Lathen? What are you --

LATHEN

It's not my phone. Mine's wet.

Beamer gets up and leans inside the Caddy's open window.

He searches for the RINGING. Finally he finds his CELL PHONE stuffed down in the driver's seat.

Beamer faces the other kids who are on their feet. The phone continues to RING. He holds it up.

BEAMER

What's DeMatta Plumbing.

LATHEN

Answer it.

WILLIE

No, don't answer it.

UZI

We gotta answer it. Or Dad will call Grandma.

INTERCUT: PUTRID BLIND ALLEY/NEIGHBORHOOD BAR - NIGHT

Mr. DeMatta is in a drab bar turned into a haunted mansion. The place is packed with costumed adults in getting drunk.

BEAMER

Dad. How's it going?

MR. DEMATTA

Hey Beamer, just checking in. How's Grandma?

BEAMER

You know, took her plate away.
She was sleeping like a baby.
Sounds like you kids are having
a scary time.

MR. DEMATTA

Yeah, you know this crowd. The
scary part is gettin' back home.

BEAMER

Don't I know.

MR. DEMATTA

We won't be late, so make sure
everything is cleaned up. How
are the kids? Are you still
playing games?

BEAMER

The Caddy's fine.

MR. DEMATTA

What? Caddy? I didn't hear you.

Uzi, Willie and Lathen glare at Beamer.

BEAMER

I said have fun out catting. The
kids are right here... playing.

MR. DEMATTA

Good. Hold on for Mrs. Susuki.

Beamer holds the phone away. Thinking hard.

MRS. SUSUKI dressed as the Queen of England takes the
phone from Mr. DeMatta.

MRS. SUSUKI

Hello, Beamer. Happy Halloween.

BEAMER

Mrs. Suzuki. Happy Halloween to you.

MRS. SUZUKI

May I speak to my little princess?
She's not answering her phone.

BEAMER

No, Mab's not able to come to the
phone right now. She's... ah...
she's in the little goblin's room.
I think her phone's in her purse.

MRS. SUZUKI
Is everything okay? Mab has been quite upset.

BEAMER
Don't worry. We're keeping the zombies at bay. And Mab and I just have growing pains. Kid's stuff.
(looks at the kids)
We'll work it all out before the night is through. I promise.

MRS. SUZUKI
It'll be okay, Beamer. You'll see. Have Mab call me.

BEAMER
I will.

MRS. SUZUKI
Melvindale isn't in some other weird dimension, you know. We're right across town.

BEAMER
If only that were true.

MRS. SUZUKI
What was that?

BEAMER
I said, that's a wish come true. You have a scary time, Mrs. Suzuki. I'll pass the message along. See you when you all get back.

Beamer hangs up. Takes the tire iron from Lathen.

BEAMER
If we're lucky.

Willie gets the tire and jack out of the trunk.

UZI
You think they bought it?

BEAMER
For now.

LATHEN
How do we get out of this mess?

Beamer squats down by the front tire with the spare and jack.

Lathen tries to help but steps on Beamer's hand.

BEAMER

Go sit down, Lathen. We'll just
have to figure it out as we go.

Beamer jacks up the Caddy. Uzi hits Lathen when he walks by.
Lathen hits her back.

LATHEN

When was the last time you were
beaten up by a fat kid?

BEAMER

Cut it out you guys.

The other kids all grab wood boxes.

Beamer starts morosely taking off lug nuts, becoming more
heartsick with every one he removes.

Lathen gets bored, opens a garbage can and quickly closes it.

LATHEN

Barf-o-rama.
(stands up)
Jumping zombies. They're back.

EXT. TOP OF DILAPIDATED STONE BRIDGE - NIGHT

The mob gathers at the edge and begins to climb down.

EXT. PUTRID SMELLING BLIND ALLEY - NIGHT

Beamer pulls off the flat and THROWS ON the spare. Rushing
to tighten the lugs. Grabbing up the last two lug nuts.

And jumps into the Caddy. The other kids jump in with him.

Beamer tries the ignition. It TURNS OVER once but little
else. The windows won't even go back up.

BEAMER

It's dead.

WILLIE

So are we if we don't move it.

The mob is nearly on the Caddy. Blocking any escape from the
blind alley.

The kids are forced to jump out and wade through the cats.

The cats watch them with hungry eyes, LICKING their chops.

LATHEN
Trapped like rats.

Willie is making his way over to Domino.

Domino sets himself to jump into Willie's arms.

UZI
Anybody superstitious?

The growing mob swarms past the Caddy.

Uzi stops to read a SIGN above a MINIATURE IRON DOOR partly hidden behind a dumpster.

UZI
Look, the Inner City.

BEAMER
That's it. Open it.

UZI
But it also says, 'Do not enter.
Special orders will upset you'.

BEAMER
Try it, Uzi. Now.

UZI
Are you sure?

WILLIE/LATHEN
Hurry up, open it!

Uzi tries the miniature door.

It opens easily enough. But followed by a LARGE OMINOUS GROAN that seems to rise from the belly of the city.

The mob is joined by Scarecrow and they march forward.

UZI
It's a dark staircase leading down
to someplace hot.

The mob wades through the cats, stopping before the kids.

Willie is almost close enough to Domino.

But the cats stop him by swinging claws at him, led by one really mean BLACK CAT with great big sharp claws.

SCARECROW

Slice the others amongst you if
you must.

(to Devil Dog)

But I want you to share the spider
killer with me, boy... at my place
for Halloween Feast.

Devil Dog looks at the kids and GROWLS. Then charges them,
CHOMPING his gnarled teeth.

WILLIE

Jump, Domino!

Domino jumps with all his might.

But suddenly, SWOOPING out of the night is Ghost #1 and he
grabs Domino in mid-air and flies him over the mob.

The other kids break for the miniature door.

BEAMER

Move it, Willie.

Willie fights through the cats to catch up with them.

The mean Black Cat jumps on his back. Trying to bite his
neck.

WILLIE

Ahhhhh! Get it off, get it off.

Beamer picks up a garbage can lid and WHACKS the Black Cat.

The Black Cat lands on Devil Dog. And they start RIPPING
into each other.

Causing the mob to swarm around them to get at the kids.

INT. MINIATURE DOOR - DARK STAIRCASE - NIGHT

The kids fight to squeeze into the miniature door. Closing
it, just before the rest of the mob can catch them.

And tumble eleven-hundred feet down the dark staircase like
deranged Alice in Wonderlands.

KIDS

WOOOOOO! OUCH... OUCH... OH MAN!

PITCH BLACK as they descend.

INT. BOILER ROOM - NIGHT

At the bottom of the steps they pile into a salt wall. Lit only by the flames from a mammoth BOILER.

LATHEN/WILLIE

Get off me.

They help each other up. And look around.

BEAMER

Rock Salt. We're --

UZI

-- in the Detroit Salt Mines.

WILLIE

The Inner City.

LATHEN

Look.

ELECTRICAL BOLTS SPARK throwing light glistening across ROCK SALT. Revealing a room of archaic tubes and antiquated electrical machinery.

Oddly, a B&W Film FLICKERS on the back salt wall.

It's Mab and Beamer as Frankenstein's Monster and his Bride dancing in a spooky, lightening filled, romantic castle.

An intelligent VOICE ascends from the SPARKS and EXPLOSIONS.

MAD SCIENTIST (O.S.)

Terrific. My specially-ordered spare body parts. Just in time.

The kids look at each other. As advertised on the miniature door, they're very upset.

They turn to go back up the steps.

But an EIGHT FOOT MAN-THING with four arms places gigantic hands on their heads and twists them like human corkscrews.

EIGHT FOOT MAN THING

This way.

He shoves them into the slimy, steaming boiler room.

The MAD SCIENTIST, 40-50, in a bloody smock and surgical mask waits at a table covered in stained sheets.

Under the sheets is Mab in a beautiful Bride of Frankenstein dress.

But she's not dead or even all attached.

She is an eerie shade of green. And her streaked gray hair jets straight out.

Video cables attached from her brain to the projector are apparently causing the romantic visions on the wall.

MAB

Help me, Beamer. They've done something weird to me. I can't get our song out of my head.

BEAMER

Mab. What kind of messed up --

MAD SCIENTIST

-- whose legs do you want, dear?

Beamer moves to Mab's side. He takes her hand. It's not attached.

Freaked, he lets it go.

Beamer grabs the Mad Scientist by his lapels.

BEAMER

You freak. What have you done?

MAD SCIENTIST

Welcome to the Inner City. I paid handsomely for the rights to make Mab the perfect bride for you, Mr. DeMatta. No matter where she lives.

(holds up a contract)

Just leave us the spare parts. Sign here. And I'll even mend her broken heart.

The Eight Foot Man-Thing grabs Beamer and pins him against a slimy wall. Shoving the pen and contract against his chest.

EIGHT FOOT MAN THING

No touching the Mad Scientist while he works. But he's free for lunch.

The Eight Foot Man-Thing lets go of Beamer.

He then grabs Uzi, Willie and Lathen. He picks them all up and puts them into a rusty basket.

It's wired to an archaic electrical machine.

The Mad Scientist reaches for an oversized lever.

MAD SCIENTIST

This will just stun them a little
bit. Knocks down on the screaming.
Can't have the Inner City Council
complaining about me transforming
people again, can we.

The kids SCREAM their heads off.

The Mad Scientist pulls down on the lever and Willie, Lathen
and Uzi start to pulse with a shocking glow.

Beamer jumps onto the Mad Scientist. Accidentally pushing
him into the SPARKING transformer.

And all Hell breaks out as BOLTS of ELECTRICITY SHOOT
everywhere. Stopping the kids from being fried.

BURSTING and EXPLODING.

The Eight Foot Man-Thing goes for Beamer.

Smoldering, the three kids jump down from the rusty basket.

Pushing the Eight Foot Man-Thing against the Mad Scientist.

ELECTROCUTING them both.

The kids grab up Beamer. But Beamer fights them.

WILLIE

Beam, don't.

BEAMER

We can't just leave Mab down here.

Beamer pulls free to get back to Mab. Creating an odd, yet
tender moment between friends and partial lovers.

BEAMER

Mab. You're perfect just the way
you... were.

Her HANDS grab his throat, nearly popping his eyes out.

BEAMER

Mab, let go.

MAB

I'm not controlling this. I swear.

Beamer suddenly finds her pumping heart in his hands.
Juggling it.

His eyes pleading for the kids' help.

He drops her heart on the floor.

Then unintentionally stomps on it. Before slipping and
falling on his butt.

Uzi and Lathen pull the hands free.

Unfortunately, the hands then latch onto their faces.

Willie pulls a hot wire from the cage and BURNS Mab's hands
off their faces. Dropping them back on Mab.

The Mad Scientist and the Eight Foot Man-Thing free
themselves from being electrocuted, but stagger around.

MAD SCIENTIST

No need to run, Mr. Dematto. We
did all this for the both of you.
Because you'll never find a greener
bride who'll love you to pieces the
way that Miss. Suzuki does. With
these other kids' limbs it'll seem
like she never moved away.

Willie grabs Beamer and pulls him to an open hole in the wall
at the opposite side of the room. It's a ventilation shaft.

WILLIE

Smell. Fresh air. Freedom.

Beamer still doesn't want to leave. He turns back.

MAB

Run Beamer, don't let them do this.

Suddenly, from the steps, a mob of Zombies fills the archway
with torches, being held back by the SPARKING flames.

LATHEN

Zombies.

UZI

Grab her, Beamer.

BEAMER

How?

Beamer tries to unstrap Mab, fumbling with the buckles.

The Zombies inch along the wall, avoiding the sparks.

UZI
Hurry, Beamer, hurry.

But Beamer can't get her unstrapped.

MAB
Go. Leave me. Save the kids.

BEAMER
(tears in his eyes)
I'll fix this, Mab... somehow.

The Zombies rush toward them. But Beamer grabs up the kids and dives into the windy ventilation shaft.

Mab's eyes fill with tears as Beamer and Mab's romantic moment on screen SPUTTERS to a heart-wrenching end.

INT. DARK WINDY VENTILATION SHAFT - NIGHT

The kids plummet into nothingness.

ALL FOUR KIDS
Aaahhhhhh.....

EXT. SPOOKY OVERGROWN APPLE ORCHARD - NIGHT

Out they tumble some five thousand feet away. Under the gnarled apple orchard branches at the base of a hill.

ALL FOUR KIDS
Aaahhhhhh.....

Into a heap of slimy, smelly kids.

EXT. DOWNTOWN DETROIT CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT

Loud explosions BOOM overhead as one building after another goes dark.

Plunging Detroit City quickly into blackness.

All apparently caused from the POWER SURGES taking place at the other end of the ventilation shaft.

EXT. SPOOKY OVERGROWN APPLE ORCHARD - NIGHT

The kids sit there watching the city plunge into darkness. A moment of calmness. Peaceful even.

BEAMER
I think we lost them.

LATHEN

Finally.

WILLIE

But we've plunged Motown into the
Dark Ages.

BEAMER

And Mab...?

UZI

(eyes well up)

We just left her down there.

Beamer puts his arm around her.

BEAMER

Hey, Susie. Mab knew we had to go.

WILLIE

Those wires comin' out of her head
and that movie. Hands flying
about. Man, this hood is wacked.

The kids all plop back. They're drained.

UZI

What we need is a real plan to get
us all out of here, Beam. Mab, too.

WILLIE

Or hell is gonna manifest in my
bedroom, bros.

BEAMER

(gets an idea)

Okay, I think I've got one. By us
heading northeast through The Lost
Neighborhood, once part of Corktown,
we've somehow passed under the city
through the salt mine and that
ventilation shaft. See? We left
the Caddy where the buildings began.

(draws in the dirt)

If we entered The Lost Neighborhood
here, where we first saw that scarecrow,
southwest by the river, and drove west
to here, to Mab's in Melvindale, then,
according to those buildings, it would
figure that we're here, halfway home.

UZI

Just northeast of the city. Almost to where Hamtramck should be.

BEAMER

Right. So our way out might be the same distance from the Inner City just northeast of Grosse Pointe Woods, not far from where we live.

WILLIE

So we're in the middle? For real? You said they only destroyed twenty blocks of Corktown. We've run miles.

BEAMER

What do you think, Uzi?

UZI

Well, they relocated some of those homes across the city. Maybe that's why we're still in it. But we have to find Domino, piece Mab back together, and take back the Caddy.

LATHEN

This isn't math class, braino. None of this has to add up. Mab's down there and she's a freak. Domino could be anywhere. And we're up here running around like lost Halloween Lunchables without a safe bus ticket.

BEAMER

Shut up, Lathen. We're not lost. Those ghostly punks who have Domino and the Caddy seem to be consistently drawing us north. And every other creature we've met is still back there following us.

LATHEN

So?

BEAMER

We'll see Mab again. If all holds true. They're up to something.

WILLIE

You mean, they're playing games with their food?

BEAMER

And they still want our body parts.
So that Mad Scientist will be back.

UZI

But why do that to Mab?

BEAMER

I don't know. We're in The Lost
Neighborhood. And Lathen, shut up.

LATHEN

I didn't say nothin'.

Beamer stands up to look in the distance.

BEAMER

Look. Up there. Under the moonlight.

WILLIE

Now that's gotta be haunted.

The moon peeks out of the parting clouds, revealing a rickety
inn, high up on a hill to the north.

LATHEN

Convenient, too. I'm starving.
(sees something yummy)
Oh look, apples.
(bites and spits it out)
Yuck, bugs!

The others look at each other. LAUGH.

Until a WICKED CACKLING comes from off in the dark.

BEAMER

Sssshhh. Keep your eyes peeled
for witches.

LATHEN

Wi...!

Beamer puts his hand over Lathen's mouth.

He points to a hand written SIGN that reads: BEWARE, WITCH
HUNTING GROUND.

EXT. WITCH HUNTING GROUND - NIGHT

Halfway up the hill, another WICKED CACKLE comes from
directly overhead.

The kids search the air.

 WILLIE
You smell that?

 UZI
Lathen.

 LATHEN
It ain't me.

 BEAMER
RUN!

The kids take off up the hill. Lathen lags behind.

The other kids turn as Lathen SCREAMS.

BERTHA, a monstrously fat, ugly witch has Lathen by the nape of the neck and is lifting him into the air on her broom.

Surrounded by a SWARM of bats.

 LATHEN
Help me, help me, please somebody
help me.

 BEAMER
We'll find you, Lathen.

 BERTHA
Never. There's no surviving Bertha's
Kiddie Butcher Shop. I'll even mill
his bones into whole skeleton bread.

Her WITCHY-CAKLE fades away into the night as Bertha flies up and over a sign reading "Grossly Pointless Woods."

All the bats follow her.

EXT. HAUNTED INN'S MOON PARLOR - NIGHT

They make it up to the haunted inn and hide.

 WILLIE
What are we gonna do now?

Wicked VOICES float out from the broken bay window.

 BEAMER
Listen... Is that...?

They look through the broken glass...

INT. HAUNTED INN'S MOON PARLOR - NIGHT

... and find the two Ghosts who stole the Caddy.

The place is crammed with stolen goods. But no Domino.

EXT. HAUNTED INN'S MOON PARLOR - NIGHT

Just inside the broken window are a pile of TVs. The Ghosts break a few while using golf clubs to sword fight.

WILLIE

Domino must be in there somewhere.

BEAMER

Look, they're ruining Dad's clubs.

Willie pulls Uzi to her feet.

WILLIE

Come on. Let's check the other windows for Domino.

Beamer doesn't follow. Willie turns back when Uzi tugs.

WILLIE

It ain't worth it, Beam.

BEAMER

I got to at least try.

WILLIE

Man, we'll meet you out front.

INT. HAUNTED INN'S MOON PARLOR - NIGHT

The Ghosts finally drop the clubs and chase each other out.

Beamer climbs in the bay window.

He grabs the golf clubs and sticks them into the golf bag.

He turns to leave but the window vanishes before him.

He's forced to go even further into the house.

Behind him, Scarecrow appears on all the TVs, watching.

Then Devil Dog MATERIALIZES inside the room. He's been clawed.

Smells where Beamer stood and starts to hunt him.

INTERCUT: BEAMER AND DEVIL DOG IN OTHER ROOMS - NIGHT

This place is spooky. Cold drafts, cobwebs, CREAKING NOISES.

Beamer sneaks across a hall and enters the dining room.

Devil Dog sniffs the floor. Bares his teeth and follows.

In the parlor room Beamer comes across what looks like an OIL PAINTED BOARD GAME MAP on the wall above a fireplace.

BEAMER

Is this a real map? Wait, this
looks like some kind of board game?

He breaks a lamp on the mantle and uses the glass to cut out the board game map from its frame.

Devil Dog appears at the door. GROWLS.

Beamer turns to find Devil Dog charging him.

It leaps.

Beamer uses the golf bag to push it into the fireplace.

Devil Dog BOUNCES out, HACKING up a cloud of soot.

INT. HAUNTED INN'S FOYER - NIGHT

Sprinting, Beamer's inches from the front door, when the Ghosts find him and grab at the golf bag.

Devil Dog appears from a hall, covered in soot, and charges.

Beamer has to literally pry the golf bag out of the Ghosts' dead fingers. At the last second, Beamer frees himself...

EXT. HAUNTED INN - NIGHT

... and SLAMS the door in Devil Dog's face. BAM! Devil Dog hits the door inside. Beamer holds the door shut.

A sign stuck in the dirt reads: "The Dead For Breakfast Inn."

Willie and Uzi are waiting very impatiently.

Beamer catches up with the kids at the edge of the woods. He pulls out the board game from the golf bag.

UZI

You found a... is that a board game?

BEAMER

A painted one. I can't read it but I think it shows that witch's place where Lathen may be and a way out.

WILLIE

(points at the board)
We heard Domino barking in there.

BEAMER

And Mab would be back here.

UZI

And the Caddy could be anywhere.

WILLIE

Man, we're all over the board.

BEAMER

Uzi, can you read this?

UZI

Ethay Ostlay Eighborhoodnay. The Lost Neighborhood. It's Pig Latin. See, Ifway ouyay ownway isthay megaay ouyay ustmay ebay eadday. If you own this game you must be dead. The Game of Halloween.

WILLIE

What does it say about borrowing it?

UZI

Ethay eadday allshay evernay eavelay. The dead shall never leave. Beamer, is Mab dead?

BEAMER

I don't know, Uzi, I don't know.

The two Ghosts suddenly materialize right behind them.

Ghost #1 pulls out an oversized Denny's-like menu:
"Scarecrow's Burned At The Stake House."

The kids' pictures are on the menu. All done up as dinner dishes. Sick, yet tasty looking.

GHOST #1

Hey, punks. Read Halloween Feast's dinner menu? Stewed kids. And roasted Australian Shepherd dog pie. Oh, look.

(MORE)

GHOST #1 (cont'd)
 The blue moon special. Little
 girls are eaten
 for free.

Inside the Inn, the mob starts CHANTING that old Zombie
 standard...

MOB
 STEW 'EM, BREW 'EM, CHOP 'EM UP AND
 CHEW 'EM.

WILLIE
 What do we do now?

BEAMER
 Don't panic. I'll handle this.

GHOST #1
 Yo bro, can you handle a hot watch?

BEAMER
 I gave that to Mab.

The Ghosts fly around LAUGHING.

Beamer grabs the wristwatch. It hot-potatoes off both the
 other kids' hands. Then back to Beamer. Beamer blows on it.

Then the Haunted Inn's door opens with a painfully slow CREAK.

A mob of ZOMBIE CHEFS and WAITERS march out wielding and
 KEEPING BEAT with cooking and serving utensils.

MOB
 BREW 'EM, STEW 'EM, CHOP 'EM UP AND
 CHEW 'EM.

WILLIE
 Can we panic now?

BEAMER
 Into the woods. Find Domino.
 Follow the moon to the other side
 where the game board shows a road.

UZI
 What about you?

Beamer pulls out a wedge golf club.

BEAMER
 I'm about to wedgy some zombie butts.
 Go Willie, get Uzi out of here.

Willie has to pull Uzi into the woods.

WILLIE
Come on. Domino. Here, boy.

As Willie and Uzi fade into the woods... Beamer swings the wedge club.

The Zombies fend themselves with their cooking utensils, like some weird ninth-hole gladiator scene.

GHOST #1
Come on, let's go find that dog.

The Ghosts fly off over the woods.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Heavy BREATHING. Uzi rounds a bend in the path and finds another wider path.

UZI
This way, Willie.

She heads up the wider path.

But Willie misses the path and keeps on running down another.

EXT. FURTHER INTO THE WOODS - NIGHT

Uzi stops to catch her breath. Then it happens.

WEREWOLF (O.S.)
Hooooooooooooowwwlll.

UZI
Oh, my God. That can't be....
(finds she's alone)
Willie? WILLIE!

EXT. MARSH IN WOODS - NIGHT

Willie bursts out of the woods. Spinning, looking for Uzi.

WILLIE
Uzi. UZI! DOMINO! Where is...

WEREWOLF (O.S.)
Hooooooooooooowwwlll.

He takes one more step and falls face first into a mucky marsh. SPLAT.

Pulls himself out.

His front covered in an ugly mud mask. His dreads on end.

WILLIE

Man, ain't this a wet-willie.

EXT. EDGE OF WOODS - NIGHT

Beamer is stuck in a patch of tangled thorns by his ear.

Inches away from being out of the woods, as Zombie Chefs search for him.

Beyond the woods, across a road is a house with the Caddy ROUGHLY IDLING outside.

Just before the Zombies find Beamer... and close, comes....

WEREWOLF (O.S.)

Hooooooooooooowwwlll.

The Zombies all stop, look toward the howling then run away.

BEAMER

(whispers to himself)

Lucky Beamer, saved from starving zombies by a hungry werewolf.

EXT. BACKYARD OF HOUSE ACROSS THE ROAD - NIGHT

Inside the house a RANSACKING takes place.

Willie jumps out of the woods. And rolls face to face with petrified Domino roped to a stake.

But Willie's face is still caked into a ghoulish mud mask from his fall in the woods. His dreads still stand on end.

So, when Willie tries to hug Domino. The poor dog bites him.

WILLIE

Ssshhh... Domino, it's me, Willie.
Ouch, you're gonna get us....

Willie discovers their reflection in the patio window.

WILLIE

Who the....

Just then, the Ghosts come out of the house. Bored to death.

GHOST #2

Come on, this place is a dump.

GHOST #1
Hey, you can't take that dog.

WILLIE
Hell I can't? Run, Domino, run.

Domino runs off into the woods. While Willie grabs up rocks.

WILLIE
Don't you ever touch my dog again.

Willie heaves the rocks in a flurry at the Ghosts. Missing by a bigger mile each time. BREAKING WINDOWS behind them.

The Ghosts just LAUGH at Willie.

Willie stops, winded. Extremely frustrated at missing.

GHOST #2
Is this what you're trying to do?

The Ghosts throw rocks back at Willie. HITTING HIM.

WILLIE
Ouch... Ouch... Ouch... Ouch!

... as Willie sprints to the back of the yard and into the woods after Domino.

GHOST #1
Let's take the Caddy.

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

Driving, Beamer is double checking the board game map, when his phone RINGS.

Beamer looks at it, thinking before answering it.

BEAMER
(whispering)
Hello? Oh hi, Mrs. Suzuki. No, I'm keeping my voice down because the kids all fell asleep. Yeah, Mab too. All the moving, I guess. Yeah, she's got her head in my lap. I think she tried. Check your messages. Okay. You're welcome. See you in a little while.

He hangs up and looks up at the moon, then back at the woods.

BEAMER

Where are you kids?
 (holds up the board)
 I found the way out.

HEAD (O.S.)

Congratulations. Loooooser.

A wash of cigarette smoke engulfs Beamer. CHOKING, Beamer looks down in his lap to find the Driver's Head. It's smoking.

HEAD

Hey, you're right, pretty comfy.

Beamer picks the Head up by its hair.

BEAMER

What're you doing in here?

HEAD

Smoking, cruising, staining the leather. You know, waitin' for my fresh spare parts. So listen, Beam. You look about my ideal size. I could use some muscle around here. What do you say?

WEREWOLF (O.S.)

Hooooowwwlllll.

HEAD

You'll never find them with that beast running around. And that Mab, she could use a hand... and a foot. So, I promise whatever happens next, I won't let your spare parts go to waste. Cross your heart. When I get it.

The Head smiles warmly.

BEAMER

Thanks for the pep-talk, coach.
 You're all head. See ya.

Beamer tosses the Head out like passing a basketball and it CLANGS into a mailbox. The flag goes up.

HEAD (O.S.)

Woooo... ouch. Ingrate.

EXT. MAZE OF CORKTOWN STREETS - NIGHT

Beamer's further into The Lost Neighborhood.

He passes weird street names like: "Peggy's Leg Lane", "Dumb Luck Pass", and "Grossly Pointless Avenue".

And shops like: "The To Die From Soda Slop" and "Missing Person's Furnishings and Entombments".

And "Drive Through Taxidermy Burgers. We Stuff You While You Wait".

EXT. MASSIVE HUMAN-LIKE HOLLOW MAPLE TREE - NIGHT

Uzi, scared to death, climbs out on a limb.

Looking frantically around for something.

Not aware that the branches behind her HAVE COME TO LIFE.

UZI

Finally, climbing a tree pays off.

Suddenly, a branch grabs her around the waist and stuffs her headfirst into a mouth-like rotted hole that starts DIGESTING her.

While two big nostril-like knotholes flair.

Uzi SCREAMS from inside.

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

Beamer slows down to take a look at Uzi's legs and feet kicking up a storm.

EXT. MASSIVE HUMAN-LIKE HOLLOW MAPLE TREE - NIGHT

Beamer gets out. Looks around for something. Finds it and reaches down, grabbing a fist full of dirt.

Beamer waits, then times a throw that makes the Maple abruptly SNEEZE.

And it grossly UP-CHUCKS Uzi's sappy body into Beamer's arms.

UZI

It's eating me. It's eating me.

The hungry tree SUCKS WIND and WHIMPERS.

BEAMER

You're out, Uzi, you're out.

But the Maple quickly grabs Beamer with its branches and pulls them both back.

Beamer seizes a handful of DRIED LEAVES and yanks.

The Maple "YELPS." Letting go.

Leaving Beamer to stagger back out of the Maple's reach.

Uzi's eyelids are stuck one open and one half-shut with demented terror, her hair a sticky tangled rats nest.

She suddenly pulls away and climbs into the Caddy.

UZI

Get in the car, Beam, quick.

BEAMER

You shouldn't be climbing --

UZI

-- I'll stay out of trees I can't climb out of. Just get in the car.

BEAMER

What's the matter with you?

WEREWOLF (O.S.)

Hooooooooowwwwwlllll.

UZI

That.

Beamer turns to find himself trapped between the Maple Tree and the WEREWOLF.

BEAMER

Open the sunroof, Susie.

Uzi does.

Beamer backs just out of the Maple's reach as the Werewolf attacks.

Beamer drops to his back, kicking his feet up, springing the Werewolf over top.

And into the waiting branches of the Maple Tree.

The Werewolf gets half-stuffed "HOOOOWWLING" inside the GIANT ROTTED HOLE.

Beamer runs and jumps into the sunroof and drives off.

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

Uzi throws a hug on Beamer.

BEAMER
Ah, Uz. Get off me. Get off.

UZI
I can't. I'm stuck.

EXT. BERTHA'S KIDDIE BUTCHER SHOP - NIGHT

Hundreds of bats swarm overhead. A pile of rusty old bikes. A sign with a kid on a bike reads: 'Meals On Wheels.'

Beamer folds up the game board map while he and Uzi examine the weird dried meat hanging in the window.

BEAMER
You thinking what I'm thinking?

UZI
Let's hope we're not too late.

INT. BERTHA'S SITTING ROOM - THROUGH WINDOW - NIGHT

Lathen is tied and gagged to a possessed ARM CHAIR in a frightening lavish room.

He's being force-fed large CRUNCHY bugs through a hand-crank meat-grinder and funnel which is oddly enough being filled and turned by the arms of the possessed Arm Chair.

While the monstrously fat, ugly witch, Bertha does a sweaty dinner dance on the tiniest of feet.

She takes a break to catch her breath. Then she gulps a bloody brew, and bites into a crunchy sandwich.

BERTHA
Yummy, a knuckle sandwich.
(Long WITCH-CAKLE)

Beamer and Uzi's eyes are wide with disbelief in the window.

BERTHA
Oh, come on, honey child. Give old
Bertha that baby boy smile. You
know, happy meat makes happy meals.

She turns to adjust her hat in the cracked mirror. She spies the two other kids watching in the window.

BERTHA

I know. A little music to supple
you. Oh yum, stuffed chubby boy.

She waddles into the lounge and mashes a piano bench.
CRACKING her hairy knuckles before a kidney-shaped piano.

Lathen is horrified, trying to WARN Beamer and Uzi.

Because the hot cauldron with a BUBBLING stew the mob had in
the street is ominously rising right behind them.

INT. LOUNGE ROOM - NIGHT

The PIANO MUSIC SHAKES the building. Then Bertha SINGS.
Really badly, to the tune of "My Favorite Things." Vases POP
and candles BLOW out.

BERTHA

Pickles on knuckles and crackers on elbows
Crunchy colon tidbits and oozing stubbed toes
Perhaps just a sniffle of wet billowy snot

Windows CRACK.

INT. BACK ROOM - NIGHT

A windowpane in the door CRACKS and DROPS OUT. Beamer
reaches in and unlocks the door. It CREAKS open.

BERTHA (O.S.)

These are things I feast on a lot
(big singing CACKLE)

INT. SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

Beamer and Uzi move into the room.

BERTHA (O.S.)

Breaded boned legs and burnt peppered spleens
Roasted swollen tonsils and other sordid beings
With just a pinch from my left thigh hair

They have to sneak past the archway revealing Bertha sitting.
PLAYING and SINGING her big, fat heart out.

BERTHA (O.S.)

These are the things I cook with flair
(big singing CACKLE)

Lathen tries to warn them. It's too late.

Bertha catches them untying Lathen. And gets them all in a
headlock. Just POUNDING butts like bongos.

BERTHA

If you think you can sneak around
saving Bertha's food. You've got
another song coming.

Beamer accidentally shoves his hand right into her mouth.
She chomps down.

BEAMER

Aaaahhhh...

Uzi smacks her with a smoking skull ashtray. She opens her
mouth in pain and Beamer pulls his hand out.

BERTHA

Honey child, you've been marinated
in slimy aftermath. I'm gonna have
to light your meaty butt on fire.
And eat you as a flaming Shish ke-
Beamer DeMatta.

She trips backwards over a possessed walking FOOT STOOL.

Pinning them all in the possessed Arm Chair. The live arms
holding the kids down.

Knocking the grinder to the ground.

BERTHA

Now look what you've done.

The Arm Chair SLAPS them a couple of times to shut them up.

A pause - as the kids take this new turn of events in.

Then Bertha SQUEEZES out a great big flagrant WITCHY-FART.

With purple flames and SPARKS. Permanently flashing their
shadows on the wall.

BEAMER

Whoa, lady, who died in you?

BERTHA

All I want is to show you boys a
little downwind cooking. And pick
a chubby bone or two of this one.
Yummy.

She pinches Lathen's love handles.

LATHEN
 (spitting out bug parts)
 That's it. I'm on a diet. Everything
 wants to eat the chubby kid first.

KIDS
 You're crushing us.

A sudden terrible painful look on her face. She FARTS again.
 Their hair stands on end -- scorched a little.

BERTHA
 Oops, sorry, I think I might've --

KIDS
 -- Aaaahhhh... get off us.

BERTHA
 I know, one of you stays. And the
 others can go. Because you're
 upsetting my tummy terribly. Oh-oh --

BEAMER
 -- Wait, I'll stay. Now get off us.

INT. BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Bertha hovers. CACKLING, RUBBING her fat hands. The kids
 look confused as Beamer pushes them to the door.

BEAMER
 Sssshhhh. Meet me by the Caddy.
 If I'm not there in five minutes,
 use the board game map to find
 Willie and Mab and get Uzi home.
 The board will tell you how.

LATHEN
 But, Beam....

BEAMER
 I'm counting on you, Lathen, to do
 the most important thing.

Uzi hugs Beamer. So does Lathen.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The head of the table is full of gruesome human condiments.

Like a dish of Black-Eye Olives. A basket of Sour-
 Cauliflower-Ear-Tips. A bottle of Bloody-Hot-Tabasco.

A jar of Zesty-Dimwit-Mustard-Brains. And a can of Absolutely-Not-Kosher-Pickled-Finger Warts.

With difficulty, Beamer gets Bertha snug under the table. Then adjusts her hat while he thinks of a way out.

BERTHA

Why thank you, meaty young man.
You're so sweet. I hope.

ZAP, she readies a human size fondue platter with her wand. There's a great big knife. And an even bigger fork.

Beamer straps an oversized bib around her vulgar hairy neck.

It has Beamer's roasting naked human body on it.

BERTHA

Young Scarecrow wants me to stew you all for The Lost Neighborhood Halloween Feast. But the board game led you to Bertha's Kiddy Butcher Shop first and not to his Burned At The Stake House. Which clearly means to me, I must eat one of you, all by myself.

BEAMER

Game led us...? Just a minute, I ah...
I forgot to... ah... wash my feet.

BERTHA

Well, there's nothing like a polite nibble alone with your edible ones. After all, you are who you eat.

INT. SITTING ROOM/BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Beamer goes out and closes the door on her. He catches the Arm Chair under the knob. Its arms and hands flail about.

Beamer's relieved to be out of there.

Until he turns around and finds Lathen and Uzi still struggling with the backdoor.

BEAMER

What are you guys --

UZI

-- That smelly witch lied to us.

They react to the HOLLERING coming from within. Then Bertha SMASHES through the wall, wielding a massive cleaver.

BERTHA

If I can't eat one of you now. I
will chop you all up and stew you
for our Halloween Feast at midnight.

She grabs up a broom and ZOOMS about, CHOPPING at them.

BOYS

Aaaahhhhh!

The kids run like their heads are already chopped off. The
Arm Chair and Foot Stool chase them about.

Finally, at the last second, they sidestep a violent surge.

And Bertha accidentally bangs into the armchair. VIOLENTLY
SMASHING through the exit door.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Bertha CRASHES with a THUD into the BUBBLING hot cauldron.

The kids run out and freeze at the sight of her magic wand.

BERTHA

I'll hang you all in my window to dry.

She raises the wand and Beamer pulls her hat over her eyes.

The kids run away like endangered species.

Just avoiding errant LIGHTNING BOLTS from Bertha's wand.

EXT. STREET OUT FRONT OF KIDDIE BUTCHER SHOP - NIGHT

The kids skid to a stop. No Caddy.

The Arm Chair and Foot Stool stop behind them.

So, down the road they run with Bertha's possessed furniture
chasing after them.

EXT. HAUNTED STREET - NIGHT

Lathen and Uzi stand over the broken furniture. KICKING the
stuffing out of them.

Beamer's reading the game board map. He checks Mab's watch.

BEAMER

Enough.

The Caddy suddenly SKIDS to a stop beside them. The kids
cover up - it could be anything driving.

A window ROLLS down. It's Willie and Domino.

WILLIE
Hurry, get in.

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

The kids pile in. Domino has his head in Willie's lap.

The kids and Domino have unintentional alterations to their looks because of all the sticky, muddy, slimy, stinky, smoky and gassy experiences thrust upon them.

So that they too look like they are Halloween creatures.

The kids look at each other, wearing their warrior paint with pride... and all HIGH-FIVE.

Beamer opens the Game Board Map so the kids can all see.

UZI/LATHEN
What about Mab?

BEAMER
Take a look at the game. That witch said they're all playing. And see, all the roads do lead to right here.

WILLIE
So, no matter which way we ran?

BEAMER
We'd still be right here.

UZI
Arecrowscay'say Urnedbay Atway
Ethay Akestay Ousehay. Scarecrow's
Burned At The Stake House.

BEAMER
All this time... we haven't been
running away from *being* dinner.

UZI
We've been running to... *be* dinner.

WILLIE
So?

BEAMER
It's a game I think we can win.

LATHEN

Yeah but they... that dog thing,
those zombies, that spider, that
stinking witch....

UZI

... That tree, that werewolf....

WILLIE

Yeah, they were all gonna eat us if
they could.

BEAMER

Right. Or sell our body parts.
But because we got away, we're
still right here where they want
us to be. What does it say there,
Uzi? At the fork in the road.

UZI

Isthay ayway outway... eforebay
idnightmay. This way out before
midnight.

WILLIE/LATHEN

The way out?

BEAMER

My guess is that they know we have
this game board.

UZI

Made sure we did, by letting you
search that spooky Inn.

BEAMER

Right. And they'll try to stop us
and force us to turn left here to
Scarecrow's before midnight.

WILLIE

So they can eat us at there annual
Halloween kid-eating hoedown.

LATHEN

But how will they make us?

UZI

By using Mab and the way out as bait.

BEAMER

Right again. But this hood doesn't know it messed with the wrong cul-de-sac. Because we've got our own Trick-Or-Treat game plans.

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

Willie makes a left and immediately pulls to a halt at a sign reading: "THIS WAY OUT... BEFORE MIDNIGHT."

BEAMER

See? The sign. Just like the board. This is the only way out.

LATHEN

I hope I don't screw this up.

BEAMER

If anyone can do this one, Lathen. You can. Don't worry. Whatever happens next, happens.

UZI

But I don't know how to drive. I'm only eight years old.

Willie climbs in back and lets Uzi behind the wheel.

Uzi has a golf club attached to her right leg by the other kids' belts so that she can reach the pedals.

Beamer slides the golf bag under Uzi while Willie lifts her up, so she can see out the windshield.

BEAMER

Susie, this is just like driving your old Barbie Corvette. Just keep the Caddy pointed straight. Press that pedal when we say stop. And that one when we say go. Get ready, Willie.

WILLIE

But I can't hit a ghost to save my life. Trust me, bro... I tried.

BEAMER

Willie, forget about style and just make it close. Come on, you guys. We can do this. We've got to do this. To save ourselves and Mab.

LATHEN

Here they come.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Suddenly, an angry Detroit mob of Zombies flanked by Swarming Pumpkins marches up the street. Most of them have torches.

Joining them is Bertha in the middle of hundreds of swarming Bats, Mummy, and the Black Cat.

The Vampire Kid holds the cracked Evil Pumpkin on a stick.

Pushing to the front of the mob is the Troll with the Driver's Head. They're joined by the two Ghosts.

Then Gordo the skeleton clerk shows up. And a sticky, half furless Werewolf steps out of the mob.

Finally, the smoldering Mad Scientist shows up with Mab now sewn back together on a clean gurney, being pushed by the smoldering Eight-Foot Man Thing.

Mab looks frightened. She's not there willingly.

Materializing before them all are Scarecrow and Devil Dog.

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

Beamer kisses Mab's watch. Looks at Uzi.

BEAMER

It's time. Don't leave us behind.
Ready, Domino?

DOMINO

Woof.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The Troll steps up.

TROLL

They're marked by the Fountain of
All Hallows. So let's just eat
them already.

MOB

Yeeeeaaaahhh!

The mob charges around the gurney toward the Caddy.

Scarecrow holds up his hands stopping them.

SCARECROW

Not yet.

Beamer opens the sunroof and climbs out onto the hood.

MAB

Beamer, run. It's a trap.

BEAMER

We know, Mab, don't worry, you're coming with us.

(waving the game board)

The rest of you creatures, listen up. Anything getting in our way is a ghoulish hood-ornament. We know our way out and we're going home.

LATHEN/UZI/WILLIE

Yeah.

The carved pumpkin filled flatbed BACKFIRES and CHUGS to a stop.

Driven again by the Invisible Man in prison garb.

INVISIBLE MAN

(reading from a scroll)

Teary-weary. As it's written in the annals of the Pumpkin Authorities. A bonfire will be built to cook the children and pets found in The Lost Neighborhood. All those hungry for life, light your pumpkins and gather at Scarecrow's Burned At The Stake House at the end of the game.

SCARECROW

Light 'em if you got 'em.

The whole mob CHEERS and swarms the flatbed to stick pumpkins on their torches.

MOB

BREW 'EM, STEW 'EM, CHOP 'EM UP
AND CHEW 'EM."

Bertha swirls around them with the bristles of her broom appearing to stick out of her fat butt.

BERTHA

Out of my way, Ghost. Bertha's on her way to a baby-cue.

The cauldron with the bubbling stew is hoisted into the air by the mob. It's horrifying, yet in a comical way.

BEAMER

Now!

Lathen suddenly stands up in the sunroof and drops his pants.

LATHEN

Hey, you freaks. I got your blue moon, right here.

Lathen turns and moons the mob with his florescent blue Speedo. The moonlight and torches shining off his big butt.

The mob all turn their heads in disgust.

Lathen drops back down and Willie springs up with a golf ball.

Uzi stomps on the gas, as Beamer JUMPS OFF THE HOOD and runs for Mab, leaping over the Werewolf.

The Werewolf GROWLS. Only to get BIT ON THE BUTT by Domino.

The Werewolf HOWLS in pain and runs around holding its butt, being comically chased by Domino.

The trunk opens THROWING OFF Zombies trying to grab Willie.

Willie heaves a golf ball. It POPS Bertha right on the forehead.

WILLIE

Hole in one.

Bertha drops her wand and falls off her broom and CRUSHES the pumpkin filled rickety flatbed.

A Zombie picks up Bertha's wand and turns himself into a BIG UGLY RAT. The Mean Black Cat HISSES. The Rat EATS the Cat.

The mob goes CRAZY. Dropping the boiling cauldron.

Scrambling out of the way as it SPILLS ACROSS their feet.

Zombies hop around, their feet steaming from the stew, their torches catching the straw in the rickety flatbed on fire.

Surrounding Bertha with flames.

The effort of sitting up makes Bertha FART, igniting a minor mushroom cloud.

Literally turning the Invisible Man into a visible naked man, as his prison uniform crumbles into ashes.

Leaving Bertha blackened and smoking.

The Bats drop like black-rain from the fumes.

Meanwhile, Beamer scoops Mab off the gurney into his arms... while everything else is watching the spectacle.

But PLOP... her hand falls off.

Uzi SKIDS the Caddy to a stop beside him.

UZI

Left hand.

Beamer goes back for it. Then DROPS a foot.

WILLIE

Right foot.

Beamer goes back for that. But DROPS another foot.

BEAMER

Mab, get it together.

MAB

Shut up, they're out of my control.

Mab's hands start slapping Beamer, and her feet start kicking him, none of which are attached.

BEAMER

Yeah, yeah, just get in the trunk.

Beamer throws Mab into the trunk, finally getting all her flying hands and feet in. SLAMMING it shut.

WILLIE

She's in.

LATHEN

Go, go, go.

Beamer sprints alongside the Caddy, jumps up on the gurney, and surfs it.

Slamming the Mad Scientist into the Eight Foot Man-Thing, avoiding all four arms, as they SLAP the Mad Scientist silly, and jettisons himself into midair.

Lathen and Willie catch Beamer and pull him back inside the Caddy through the sunroof.

The mob turns to find the Caddy charging them.

The Scarecrow spins and gets Willie's second golf ball in the kisser and his straw head POPS RIGHT OFF, rolling away.

WILLIE

FOUR!

The Zombies go after the head but end up KICKING IT AROUND, while the Scarecrow body fights them for it.

SCARECROW

You idiot. You moron. You zombie.
Stop them! They're ruining Halloween
Feast.

The Mummy and the Vampire Kid start pounding on the Caddy.

MUMMY

You can't do that to the....

Lathen grabs a hold of the Mummy's loose gauze, starts pulling, and spinning her around as she unravels.

Leaving her cowering in her moldy bra and underwear. The Vampire Kid is left confused by the sight.

VAMPIRE KID

Now I'm eternally confused.

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

Lathen lets go of the gauze. Willie high-fives him.

LATHEN

Man, and you guys tease me about
moldy under-things.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Devil Dog jumps in front of the Caddy, ends up being the hood ornament, and doesn't like it one bit.

Domino BARKS his APPROVAL, jumping back in the Caddy.

Gordo steps up with Ghost Repellent. The Two Ghosts right overhead.

GHOSTS

Beeeeamer's a....

Beamer opens the door and shoves the can in Gordo's eye socket. It SPRAYS the Two Ghosts above, DISSIPATING them to nothingness.

And Gordo CRUMBLES into a pile of misshapen bones.

The Troll jumps out in front of the Caddy.

TROLL
 Alright, hooligans. Hurtin' time.

But his attitude quickly changes into being the hunted...
 ...when he sees the look in Uzi's sappy, demented eyes.

UZI
 Go ahead, make my Halloween.

Uzi SLAMS ON THE BRAKES sending Devil Dog airborne, and butt first into the Troll's big mouth... knocking him down.

Devil Dog HACKS up a fur-ball, then BELCHES up the Troll's nose. SMOKE SQUEEZES out the Troll's ears as he passes out.

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

The Head appears inside the Caddy on the dashboard.

HEAD
 Game over! You'll never make it out of here before midnight. So, last chance. How about them body parts?

Beamer grabs him by the hair, ghastly.

BEAMER
 Thanks for the head start, coach?

Beamer tosses the Head out the sunroof.

Uzi hits the gas again. And off they go.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The Head flies and lands on the Scarecrow's straw body. And staggers around, feeling his new self.

HEAD
 It's a miracle.

PUFF, the straw body BURST into flames from a Zombie's torch.

HEAD
 Aaaaahhhhhhhh!

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

Uzi puts her club foot to the floor. Speeding away toward a giant fork in-between two roads. Literally.

One bent prong has a sign reading: "This way home."

The other bent prong has a sign reading: "Scarecrow's Burned At The Stake House. We Serve You Really Hot"

The Swarming Pumpkins, one after another, get smashed on the Caddy like giant bugs. BURSTING fire at the windows.

Beamer reaches out and PUNCHES The Evil Pumpkin right in the chops. Smashing him open and pulling out its flame. He blows it out.

UZI

Something's wrong with the steering.

BEAMER

Floor it. Everyone grab the wheel.

Willie leans over the seat and grabs the wheel. Now Uzi, Beamer, and Willie try to keep it from turning left.

Finally, Lathen flops on top and grabs the wheel.

BEAMER

Look out.

LATHEN

Taxi!

Habib in his shiny taxi stops right before them, trying to force them to make a left. He jumps out with his shotgun.

The Caddy SMASHES through Scarecrow's Stake House sign. And BOUNCES right at Habib and the taxi.

HABIB

I kill you!

Habib dives back inside the Taxi just before the Caddy takes off the open door, SCRAPING THE WHOLE SIDE of the taxi.

Then the Caddy zooms into tall BURNING BUSHES. Sparks and flames soar into rippling orange light in the sky.

KIDS

AAAAAHHHHHHH!

EXT. INTERSTATE 75 - NIGHT

The Caddy bounces 3D onto the interstate.

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

KICKING UP sparks.

LATHEN
We did it!

UZI
Help me!

BEAMER
Don't slow down.

The clock on the dash clicks 11:55.

WILLIE
Five minutes.

UZI
We'll never make it in time.

BEAMER
Switch with me, Uzi.

Beamer and Uzi trade places, but don't slow down.

LATHEN
This ramp. This ramp. Take it.

EXT. INTERSTATE RAMP - NIGHT

The Caddy speeds up the ramp.

BEAMER
Where are we?

LATHEN
Turn here. I got this.

Everyone looks at Lathen.

LATHEN
It's a shortcut. Trust me.

Beamer cuts across traffic and into the neighborhood we saw Lathen in earlier that day.

EXT. DEAD END STREET - NIGHT

The Caddy SCREAMS up the street making the corner where Lathen cut across. PLOWING right through the pile of leaves.

The van with all the parents crosses behind them, taking the way home Mr. Ward did in his SUV.

WILLIE (O.S.)
Our parents are just a block away.

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

Beamer keeps driving toward the vacant lot.

UZI
This is a dead end!

BEAMER
What the hell, Lathen?

LATHEN
Keep going. You got to trust me.

Beamer zooms up a drive and into the vacant lot.

EXT. VACANT LOT - NIGHT

The Caddy zooms through the lot, kicking up dirt.

LATHEN
Don't stop. Floor it. Floor it
now. Seat beeeeellllttts!

BEAMER/UZI/WILLIE
Laaaaatheeeeen.

The Caddy goes 3D AIRBORNE ABOVE THE HOUSETOPS below.

EXT. DETROIT NORTH-EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

The Caddy lands with a WRENCHING BOUNCE in the cul-de-sac street.

INT. CADDY - NIGHT

The kids bounce around. Beamer trying his best to stay on the street. Doing a donut before heading right at his house.

BEAMER
The garage.

Uzi presses the garage opener. The garage door opens.

WILLIE
Slow down.

The Caddy ZOOMS UP the drive just making it under the door. And SKIDS to an impressive stop. And the garage door CLOSES.

EXT. DETROIT NORTH-EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

The van with all the parents enters the cul-de-sac.

INT. BEAMER'S GARAGE - NIGHT

The kids are a mess. The Caddy is ruined.

The light from the van flashes in the garage window. The clock on the dash reads 11:59.

BEAMER
You did it, Lathen.

LATHEN
It's how I come home from band.

WILLIE
We're still a mess.

MAB (O.S.)
(POUNING)
Let me out of here.

BEAMER
Mab.

UZI
And she's in pieces.

The kids scramble out of the Caddy as the trunk opens. Beamer looks at Mab's watch. It CLICKS MIDNIGHT.

THE LOST NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD GAME MAP RISES OUT OF THE SUNROOF AND UNFOLDS.

An eerie DRAWING FIZZLE starts from its heart that quickly grows to a HUMONGOUS ORANGE, ENERGY SUCKING FLUSH.

WHIRLING, TWIRLING VOICES from everything they've met fills the garage. Unclear if its coming or going, taking them or joining them.

WILLIE
Oh, no.

UZI
They've followed us.

BEAMER
Hold on, they're taking us.

LATHEN
We're sooooo screeeeewed!

The kids all hold each other as the sucking flash DRAWS right through them, GROSSLY DISTORTING them and the Caddy.

Emanating a DEVOURING, JITTERING, MIND PIERCING SHOCK WAVE, as everything that was *The Game of Halloween* is drawn out of them and back into The Lost Neighborhood through the Board Game.

And just as jarringly gone... they DROP to the floor.

Mab sits up inside the trunk. Back to her old self.

The Game Board Map is gone. It's too quiet.

MAB

Beamer? Hello? Guys?

The kids sit up. They're back to normal. They scramble up to look into the trunk and find Mab is also back to normal.

Mab jumps into Beamer's arms. They hug real hard.

WILLIE

Wait. Where's Domino?

Domino suddenly jumps into the back window of the Caddy with a WOOF. Willie opens the door, and Domino jumps into his arms.

Uzi throws a big hug on Lathen.

UZI

You are sooooo awesome, Lathen.

At first Lathen's not sure what to do, but suddenly realizes hugging a girl feels pretty good. He hugs Uzi back.

LATHEN

We did it, Susie, we all did it.

EXT. GARAGE AND DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

The kids and Domino tumble out the door and freeze.

Because Mr. DeMatta is holding open the van's door for the parents.

Mab's parents wait inside to give Mab a ride.

Mrs. Rhoads sees Mab. Rushes to her.

MRS. RHOADS

Mab, you look so delicious. I could just eat you.

She gives Mab a great big hug. The kids look at Beamer.

LATHEN

Our parents are soooo weird.

The kids freeze when Mr. DeMatta closes the door of the van. And looks around. Expecting the worst.

He steps in front of Beamer, examining his face for any sign of mischief lurking there. Beamer hands over the remote.

Mr. DeMatta scrutinizes the other three kids. Real close.

MR. DEMATTA

What's that? Smells like something rotting. Mixed with maple. Something is burning. You smell that, honey?

Mrs. DeMatta comes over. The kids hold their breath.

MRS. DEMATTA

Oh look. It's *just* a smoking pumpkin.

Mrs. DeMatta picks up Mab's PUMPKIN, about to blow it out.

But Beamer takes it from her and adjusts the candle instead.

BEAMER

It's not just a pumpkin, Mom. It's the most sacred part of Halloween.

Beamer gives Mab the Pumpkin he carved for her.

MAB

Right, and our cul-de-sac tradition.

Finally... Mr. DeMatta uses the remote to open the garage.

The garage door rises slowly. The kids don't have the nerve to turn around and look. Domino covers his eyes.

Mr. DeMatta goes into the garage to check on his Caddy.

Beamer pulls out the two lug nuts. The others see them.

UZI

You didn't.

Mr. DeMatta walks maddeningly slow, all the way around the Caddy. Sure enough the lug nuts are gone. Finally:

MR. DEMATTA

Wow, look at the time. Great job, you guys. The whole neighborhood is just as we left it.

The kids all breathe a SIGH of relief. Domino BARKS.

MR. DEMATTA

You better say your good-byes and
get this young lady in the van,
son. We'll check in on Grandma.

BEAMER

Okay, Dad.

Mr. DeMatta pats his son as he goes by. Beamer's mom is so proud of him, she almost cries.

MRS. DEMATTA

You two had me scared.

MAB

It's been a real monstrous trip,
Mrs. DeMatta. But the games over
and we're all good.

MRS. DEMATTA

That's my boy.

Uzi, Willie, and Lathen pick up their carved pumpkins. They scurry away with Domino. All just happy to be back home.

Beamer turns to face the "SOLD" sign on the lawn next door.

MAB

Weird you can't walk me home anymore.

BEAMER

Yeah, but think of the drive time.

Mab turns to face Beamer. Looking him in the eyes.

MAB

Oh, so now you want to drive?

BEAMER

You remember all that?

MAB

Freaky wasn't it? Well?

Beamer takes Mab into his arms. Puts her hand on his heart.

BEAMER

You'll always be right here. No
matter how far you go. Or how
long it takes me to find you.

Mab's surprised. Then thrilled. Then kisses him.

DOMINO (O.S.)
HOOOOOOWWWWWWLLLLL.

WILLIE/UZI/LATHEN (O.S.)
Get a room.

They stop kissing and smile at each other.

BEAMER
I love you, Mab. Just the way you
are tonight.

Mab hugs him. Beamer puts her into the van, closes the door.
Waving good night to Mr. and Mrs. Suzuki.

Beamer looks around. Then up to the blue moon.

BEAMER
Once upon a blue moon... is enough.

Beamer, takes out the lug nuts and goes into the garage.

Leaving the PUMPKINS glowing.

Suddenly, running across the lawn are Bertha's broken Arm
Chair and Foot Stool. They POUND on Beamer's door.

Mr. DeMatta opens the door, looks around, then picks them up
and goes back in.

MRS. DEMATTA (O.S.)
Grandma says the kids were angels.
Where did those come from?

MR. DEMATTA (O.S.)
Beats me. But this kind of junk
makes great kindling.

MRS. DEMATTA (O.S.)
Really? I'll get a bottle of wine.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

The van makes its way through the streets. Just another Lost
Neighborhood in The Game of Halloween.

FADE OUT.

The End

UNTIL NEXT YEAR