



**The Nightmare Before Halloween**

**By Mattie Barrett-wilt**

# ***CHAPTER 1***

“Ahhhhhh! Mom’s a zombie! She’s going to eat our brains!”

“Ugh, Mom why is Jeffrey so annoying? And Jeffrey it is just a Halloween costume,” Jessica complained.

“Jessica you’ll need to get used to your brother’s annoyingness, you’re going trick or treating with him whether you like it or not.”

“But mom, he’s four and I’m twelve. I can go by myself and so can he,” Jessica stated.

“Yeah mom I’m old enough to go by myself!” Jeffery exclaimed.

“Yes see mom Jeffrey is old enough, and I don’t want to go with him; I want to go with my best friend Melanie.”

“I take that back. I’m onwy fouw. I’m too young to go by myself,” Jeffrey said while sucking his thumb.

Ding Dong! “Oh! It must be Melanie. I invited her over to work on our Halloween costumes.” As soon as Jessica opened the door, Jeffrey ran upstairs to the mirror in his bedroom to see how he looked. After that he ran into the bathroom and put gel in his hair to make it look like Elvis hair. Then he ran back into his room and put on a really nice tuxedo and slid down stairs on the railing. Unfortunately for him he got down just in time for Melanie to leave. Jeffrey was really upset. In fact he was so upset that he burst into tears, zoomed up to his room, flopped onto his bed, but bounced off and smacked his arm on the floor. Jessica and Mom heard a thud so they ran to his room to see what was going on. They were really surprised at what had happened to Jeffrey. Mom

almost had a panic attack. When Mom was better they ran (literally ran) to the hospital.

## ***CHAPTER 2***

When they got to the hospital they went right over to the doctor. Everyone went to a room to look at Jeffrey's arm. After a long time of waiting the doctor finally said, "Well it looks like... um Jeffrey is it? Is going to need surgery. Apparently he has a piece of wood stuck in his arm. From the looks of it, maybe a piece of floor or something. Did he do anything dangerous lately?"

"I don't think so, the reason we brought him here is because we heard a thud up in his room, he was crying, we saw blood on the floor next to him and he was grasping his arm. Jeffrey probably fell on a loose floor board," Mom explained.

"It looks like I will need to bring in a surgeon. He will probably operate tomorrow."

While the doctor was putting a bandage on Jeffrey's arm Jessica was texting on her phone, so she was not paying attention at all. "Jessica what are you doing? Can't you see your brother is in pain?"

"Uh huh," Jessica said while staring at her phone.

"Jessica, pay attention to your brother!" Mom yelled.

"But Mom," Jessica moaned. "Jeffrey is totally fine. All that's wrong is that that he has a floor board in his arm, it's gushing blood, he's in terrible pain, and he is going to need surgery. How can you not call that fine?" Jessica said while still looking at her phone.

"Jessica Schmulp, look at me when I'm talking to you!" Mom yelled. Just as Mom said that, Jeffrey started to cry.

“Aww Jeffrey just be calm.... and suck it up!” Jessica yelled.

“Jessica, don’t yell at your brother.”

Just then the door opened and another doctor came and said, “Hello you must be Ms. Uhh... Ms. Schmulp?”

“You can just call me Mom.”

“Okay then, Mom, my name is Mr. Ronald and I will be operating on let’s see... Jeffrey’s arm. Wow that looks really bad,” The doctor said.

“Well that’s reassuring,” Jessica said sarcastically.

“Well excuse me, but I’m just doing my job, would you like to do it?” Mr. Ronald was starting to get mad.

“I would but I don’t have a doctors degree, and I bet you don’t either.”

Just as Mr. Ronald started to speak Mom stepped in and said, “Would you kids stop messing around and get on with looking at Jeffrey’s arm.”

“Why do you have to be so bossy Mom?”

“Because that’s my job.”

“Whatever. I’m going to the hospital cafeteria. Okay? Thanks. Bye.” As Jessica walked off she saw a girl from school, and she was one of the mean bossy girly girls. Her name is Samantha, she always has two of her “friends” around her, Heather and Mackenzie. All they ever wear is pink sparkly dresses, high heels, pink and red lipstick, and pretty pink sparkly hoop earrings. “Please don’t come over here. Please don’t come

over here. And she's coming over here," Jessica mumbled to herself.

"Oh, hi Jessica, fancy seeing you here," Samantha said.

"Yeah fancy seeing you here," Heather and Mackenzie copied.

"What are you doing here?" Jessica questioned.

"I work here. Now if you'll excuse me I have to get back to my job. But before I do I should ask you the same thing."

"I'm here because of my annoying little brother. Apparently he has part of a floor board in his arm," Jessica said.

"Yeah likely story. I bet you just don't want to admit that you also work here." After that Samantha, Heather and Mackenzie sashayed away.

"I really hate them," Jessica mumbled.

## **CHAPTER 3**

As Jessica kept walking to the cafeteria she realized how disgusting the food must be, so she walked all the way back down the long hallway to the door of the room Jeffrey was in. When she got there Jeffrey was in the middle of going to the bathroom but unfortunately for Jessica she didn't know that, so she walked right in and got a very unpleasant surprise. When Jeffrey realized Jessica was there he screamed, "MOOOOM!"

"Jeffrey be quiet we're still in a hospital you know," Mom said.

"Ms. Schmulp was that you!"

"Um... Mr. Ronald... How nice to see you."

"Was that you yelling?"

"Uh...no that must have been the room next to ours."

"Okay, I would believe that except there isn't a room next to this one! Do you think I would believe a lame story like that?!"

"Um...uh..."

"Well do you?!"

"Would you be happier if I said no?"

"Ms. Schmulp you need to leave this room right now!"

"Wow that is one mad doctor," Jessica whispered to Jeffrey and gave him a friendly nudge. Suddenly Jessica and Jeffrey started to laugh their heads off. Mom and Mr. Ronald just stared at them speechless like they were insane.

“Why are you laughing so hard?” Mom and Mr. Ronald said simultaneously.

“We’re laughing because seeing you guys yell at each other is hilarious. I have never seen a doctor get so mad at a parent before and I don’t think Jeffrey has either,” Jessica said while wiping tears from her eyes.



## **CHAPTER 4**

Later a nurse came in dressed as a vampire and no one noticed so when everyone turned around they got kind of freaked out. Especially because it was getting dark outside. When the “vampire” left Jeffrey started to cry.

“Why are you crying again? You’re so annoying Jeffrey,” Jessica said.

“Jessica pipe down! Jeffrey why are you crying?” Mom said.

“I’m cwying because I just realized that if I am still in the hospital on Halloween I won’t be able to go twick or tweating,” Jeffrey said sniffing. Thinking about all of the candy made him even more upset.

While Mom was talking to Mr. Ronald Jessica was making funny faces and trying to cheer Jeffrey up. When Mom and Mr. Ronald were done talking they told Jeffrey that he may need to stay in the hospital, but there is an 85% chance he won’t be in there for Halloween. Jeffrey was so happy that he started to jump up and down on the bed yelling “Yay! Yay!” He ignored the pain in his arm. Mr. Ronald yelled at Jeffrey to stop jumping on the bed but not soon enough just as he started to talk Jeffrey fell off the bed and shoved the wood even further into his arm.

“Jeffrey you should know not to jump on the bed,” Mom said angrily. “Haven’t you heard the story of the monkeys and what happened to them all?”

“Now that you made your injury worse, there might be an 85% chance you *will* stay in the hospital for Halloween,” Jessica said. Now for the third time Jeffrey started to cry.

“Ugh, Jeffrey you’re crying for the third time today. Why are you so annoying?”

“Jessica be nice to your brother, it doesn’t matter if he cries. He’s only four!” Mom shrieked. Just then she realized what she had said.

“You don’t care if I get hurt?” Jeffrey started to cry harder and harder.

“No I didn’t mean it like that. I meant that you’re four so you can cry as much as you want.”

“Are you calling me a crybaby?”

“Ugh Jeffrey it doesn’t matter,” Jessica said annoyed.

“What! I don’t matter?”

“That’s not what I meant although I don’t really think you matter,” Jessica mumbled. “All of this complaining is driving me crazy. I’m leaving. And Mom stop trying to cheer up Jeffrey,” Jessica stated while she walked out the door.

## **CHAPTER 5**

When Jessica walked out into the hallway she saw lots of things like zombies, vampires, and other monsters. She was about to rush back into the room but then she realized that it was almost Halloween. Jessica started to walk further down the hallway to see what a hospital is like at night. She saw people bringing food to rooms and she was glad that she didn't go to the cafeteria. "It looks like some "vampires" are carrying dead bodies. It was really creepy, but of course there are going to be people carrying dead bodies it's a hospital. Well actually... No! I shouldn't think of that; it's Halloween they're probably just dressed up as vampires." Jessica said to herself. "Ahhhhhhh." Someone or something had tapped Jessica's shoulder.

"Oh, I'm sorry little girl, I was just wondering if you were okay. You were just standing there staring at a wall," A nurse said.

"Oh yeah I'm okay, I was just thinking about um nothing, shouldn't you be getting back to your job. Yeah okay bye," When Jessica was walking down the long creepy hallway she noticed things, creepy things: vampires, zombies, werewolves, witches, bats, and blood on the walls. As she walked further and further things got creepier and creepier. She realized that this far surpassed what a hospital would do to decorate for Halloween. Soon Jessica found herself running, looking around wildly. Then she stopped; everything was normal - no monsters, no bats, and no blood. Everything creepy was gone, there weren't even people there, and nothing, absolutely nothing was moving. It was as if time had stopped. Jessica slowly closed her eyes.

## **CHAPTER 6**

“Jessica, time to get up! You have school today!”

Jessica didn't remember falling asleep. She didn't even remember going home. “Wait, am I still wearing my clothes? No. Good, that means we did come home last night,” Jessica whispered to herself. Suddenly, she heard her mom's footsteps stomping up the stairs to her room.

“Jessica Schmulp, come downstairs right now or you will be late for school!”

“Oh no! My mom is coming and I've just been sitting here in bed doing nothing,” Jessica thought as she rushed out of bed. While she was getting dressed she noticed something was missing from her room, but she couldn't quite put her finger on it. Just then Jessica's mom came in.

“Oh good you're dressed.”

“Hey Mom, can we go see Timmy at the hospital again today?”

“Uh, sure.”

Jessica thought something didn't feel right. She had accidentally said the name of Melanie's little brother, but her mom didn't notice. Her mom doesn't seem to know her son's name, and her room isn't the same. She thought she would check further. “Mom do you know why Timmy is in the hospital?”

“Of course! Hang on a sec I need to uh, go to the bathroom.”

While Mom was walking to the bathroom Jessica followed. She heard her mom talking to herself, “Why is Timmy in the

hospital? Why is Timmy in the hospital? To be her mom I need to know why, and I think she is starting to get suspicious of me. Maybe Timmy is not his name, maybe Timmy is not my son, and she might be tricking me!" Jessica realized that the door had started to open, so she ran over to get her lunch box and started to pack up her back pack to make it look like she had been getting ready to go to school the whole time.

"Mom, do you know why Timmy is in the hospital? You still have not answered me."

"Yes I do know why Timmy is in the hospital... He uh hurt his arm?"

"Okay... yeah um I need to go to school bye." Jessica was still rather suspicious after what she had heard.

"Do you want me to drive you?"

"No the school is only like one block away."

"...Yeah I know it's just that... it is cold outside," Mom said nervously.

"Mom, it's spring. I'm wearing a t-shirt, shorts, and sandals, so bye." She knew that this was not her mother, but did not yet have a plan what to do, other than be careful.

## ***CHAPTER 7***

At school Jessica and Melanie met at the playground (as usual). They talked and talked and talked (as usual). The last thing they talked about before home room was that they both noticed something was weird about their moms. Melanie and Jessica are like twins. They like the same things. They only have a mom and they hated their little brothers Timmy and Jeffrey.

“Melanie, this morning I was thinking about going trick or treating with you, your brother, and Jeffrey, who is in the hospital. I first asked if we were going to go see Timmy in the hospital instead of saying Jeffrey because I was just waking up. My mom acted like Timmy is her son’s name, so I thought that it was weird that mom didn’t even know who her son is.”

“That is weird... Something strange is going on because the exact same thing happened to me and Timmy is also in the hospital.”

“That is strange...Why is he in the hospital?”

“Because he hurt his leg.”

“What happened to his leg?”

“Well, he was playing in his room, and me and my mom heard him crying so we ran down the hallway to his room. When we got there his was behind his bed and we guessed that he fell.”

“If he only fell off his bed, then why is Timmy in the hospital?”

“We noticed that he had a nail stuck in his leg so we rushed him over to the hospital,” Melanie explained.

“What hospital did Jeffrey go to?” Melanie asked.

“The St. James hospital.”

“Really? That’s the one we took Jeffrey to.”

“That’s weird.”

“Yeah it is... Oh! I forgot to say that you shouldn’t go there at night it gets really creepy around Halloween.” After Jessica said that they both got very curious about what the hospital might be like tonight. So during every class Jessica and Melanie passed notes, during recess they talked, during every bit of free time they made their plan, and by the time school was over their plan was ready.

## ***CHAPTER 8***

Later that night at about midnight Jessica made sure that everyone was asleep, got dressed in all black, met Melanie in the driveway, and then they snuck away to their destination. When they got there, Melanie broke the glass because the doors were locked, and they climbed in through the window. Melanie went first and Jessica followed soon after.

They walked through the deep dark hallways. Sometimes they saw they saw bodies on the floor and blood on the walls. Suddenly, someone or something grabbed them and everything went black.



## **CHAPTER 9**

“Ohhh,” Jessica moaned.

She tried to get up but the straps were holding her down on the table. Jessica started to thrash around but she could not get up to see what was going on.

“Relax little girl it will all be over soon.”

“Wha! Who was that?” Jessica asked nervously.

“You shouldn’t be asking who, you should be asking what.” Melanie had woken up and had a better view of what was going on.

“Oh, Melanie you’re awake. What do you mean I should be asking what?” Jessica wondered.

“I mean that is not a person that’s... Um.. Actually I’m not sure what that is. It looks kind of like a vampire werewolf thingy,” Melanie stated.

“R... Really?” Jessica sounded scared.

“Why are you acting so scared Jessica?” Melanie asked.

“Well I don’t know, MAYBE IT’S BECAUSE THERE IS A GIANT VAMPIRE WEREWOLF RIGHT IN FRONT OF US AND WE’RE STRAPPED DOWN ON A TABLE!!!!” Jessica screamed.

“Wait where did it go?” Melanie was also starting to get freaked out now.

“It doesn’t matter where it went. This is our chance to leave before it comes back!” Jessica yelled.

## **CHAPTER 10**

“Hurry! Hurry! Find something sharp!” Jessica commanded.

“Why do I need to hurry?” Melanie wondered.

“Because the vampire werewolf might be back any minute.”

“Who could be back?” The vampire werewolf’s voice slithered as he glided through the doorway.

“Uh Oh,” Melanie and Jessica said in unison.

“Why are you two so scared? Are you afraid of hospitals?”

“Now I am,” Melanie whispered to Jessica.

“Oh, don’t worry I’m just going to take out your brain and heart,” the vampire werewolf said sweetly.

While he was busy Jessica knocked out the vampire werewolf by throwing a glass jar at his head with her feet. She got a piece of glass from the broken jar and started to cut through the straps. When she finished with her hands she went down to her feet. When she was finally done she went over to Melanie and cut her straps. Jessica had to go fast because the vampire werewolf could wake up any minute. When he started to wake up Jessica had just finished so they ran out the doorway to the deep dark tunnel.

## ***CHAPTER II***

Melanie and Jessica were running with the vampire werewolf on their tails. He started running faster and faster, then suddenly he pounced. Luckily just missing Jessica and Melanie, but Jessica was sure that the vampire werewolf wouldn't miss next time.

"Help! Somebody Help!" Jessica screamed.

"Jessica be quiet, there might be more of them," Melanie whispered.

As they were running Jessica came upon a door. She could see light through a crack, so she thought it was an exit.

"Um...Jessica why are staring at a wall? The vampire werewolf is catching up to us, and I think there are more of them," Melanie said confused.

"What are you talking about, can't you see the door?"

"What door?" Melanie asked.

"It... doesn't matter. Let's go before he catches up to us," Jessica was also getting confused now.

Eventually they got to the end of the tunnel. Melanie thought it was weird that they came out in front of what they thought was Melanie's house. They couldn't quite tell because it was orange instead of blue, but Jessica and Melanie walked inside anyway. When they got inside, everything was a different color and on the opposite side of the house, the weirdest thing was that her mom was not there, only a dad and her little brother Timmy wasn't there, but she had a little sister. Melanie asked her and said it was Tiffany.

“I’m going to go over to my house and see if it was weird there also,” Jessica said.

While Jessica was walking over to her house she realized that it must be on the other side of Melanie’s house because everything is opposite of what it used to be. At her house the door was locked so she rang the door bell. Some weird guy that looked like he was about forty years old opened the door. Jessica was about to leave, but she realized that it must be her dad. She walked inside and it was the same as Melanie’s house, everything was the opposite color and on the other side of the house. She saw her dad and some other little girl that must be her little sister. Jessica asked her little sister her name and she said it was Jennifer. Jessica always wanted a little sister, but she was still freaked out.

Later that night Jessica stayed up late thinking about what happened at the hospital, but she eventually fell asleep.

## ***CHAPTER 12***

In the morning when Jessica woke up she got dressed ate breakfast and went to school like every normal morning. When she got to school she and Melanie met at the playground. They didn't talk much, and if they did talk it was about homework. Yesterday they would think that it was weird because they were not talking very much and they usually talk a lot. But now it was normal. For some reason they couldn't remember anything. It was like someone had put a spell on to make it so they forgot about the hospital. They thought that having a little sister and just a dad was normal, they thought that their houses were normal and they thought that the hospital across the street was just a hospital. But they knew something was wrong and they knew that there was something that they forgot, yet they just could not remember.

**TO BE CONTINUED...**