

INT. SUZY'S BEDROOM - DAY

SUZY, 4, a sweet bundle of energy, struts around in a homemade witch costume. She stops and stares into the mirror. Suzy's face rests in her hands.

SUZY

What am I forgetting?

TOBY, 15, a slender mouse, shades, and a backward baseball cap, and DOBY, 7, his pesky, chubby, kid brother, a chunk of cheese dangling from his mouth, pop out of the closet.

TOBY AND DOBY

Hey, Suzy.

Suzy spins around. The two mice startle, freak out, and scurry back into the closet.

SUZY

Oops, that's what I forgot.

Suzy pulls off her mask, runs to the closet, gets down on her knees and calls out to the mice.

SUZY

Toby, Doby, it's me. I forgot to tell you about Halloween, didn't I?

One by one, the mice poke their heads out of their hole and stare up at the little girl.

TOBY

Suzy?

SUZY

Yup, it's me.

AUNT OLIVE, 60's, gray-hair, dressed in a nurse's uniform and smile, pokes her head inside the closet.

AUNT OLIVE

What's going on in here?

Suzy and the two mice come out from the closet.

SUZY

I forgot to tell them about Halloween.

DOBY

She scared our pants off.

TOBY

Don't be silly Doby. We don't wear pants.

DOBY

Oh, yeah.

Aunt Olive holds a shopping bag full of goodies. Doby spies them and starts to lick his lips.

DOBY

Is that candy?

AUNT OLIVE

Never you mind what's in my bag, Doby Mouse. Come along children.

INT. AUNT OLIVE'S ROOM - DAY

Aunt Olive PLOPS onto her bed and pats the space beside her.

AUNT OLIVE

Everybody up.

Suzy climbs onto the bed. Toby and Doby scurry up the bedspread. The three friends sit and wait for Aunt Olive to speak.

AUNT OLIVE (CONT'D)

Well, I guess I forgot too. Never occurred to me to teach Toby and Doby about Halloween. But, I guess maybe we should because ---

Aunt Olive looks around, then whispers.

AUNT OLIVE (CONT'D)

There sure can be a lot of dangers out there.

TOBY AND DOBY

Dangers?

Suzy leans in behind them.

SUZY

BOO!

Toby and Doby jump, run up Aunt Olive's arm and leap into the brim of her cap. Aunt Olive's cap begins to tremble. Suzy rolls on the bed and laughs.

AUNT OLIVE

Suzy, run and get me the "H" encyclopedia, please.

Suzy hops off the bed and runs for the door.

Toby and Doby peek out over the brim of Aunt Olive's cap.

DOBY

What's an encyclo, encyclo ---

TOBY

Encyclopedia.

AUNT OLIVE

Great job, Toby. That's a big word for a little mouse.

DOBY

Aw, shucks. I almost had it.

The two mice climb down onto Aunt Olive's lap. Aunt Olive tousles the top of Doby's head.

AUNT OLIVE

You did well, Doby. Keep trying and one day you will.

Suzy comes back toting a huge book.

SUZY

Boy, this book sure is heavy, Aunt Olive. There must be a lot of stuff inside.

AUNT OLIVE

There sure is. When you open an encyclopedia, you open the door to the whole world.

SUZY

The whole world?

AUNT OLIVE

Sit down children, and I will tell you all about encyclopedias --- and Halloween.

Toby and Doby settle down on Aunt Olive's lap to listen. Aunt Olive opens the book and begins to turn the pages. She spells Halloween out loud as she looks it up.

AUNT OLIVE (CONT'D)

H-A-L-L-O-W-E-E-N, Halloween, here it is. Encyclopedias are full of maps and beautiful pictures from all over the world. Anything you ever want to know, you can find on their pages.

Toby listens, eyes wide, his ears twitch. Suzy, lies on her belly, her face rests in her hands, she stares at the pictures Aunt Olive shows them.

Doby begins to fidget, wiggle and sniff the air. He spies Aunt Olive's bag and eyeballs it.

AUNT OLIVE (CONT'D)

Doby Mouse. Don't you even think about getting in my bag.

DOBY

But, it smells so good.

AUNT OLIVE

Still, you can't go getting into people's things without their permission.

Doby hangs his little head and shuffles his foot.

DOBY

I know.

Aunt Olive glances through the pages.

AUNT OLIVE

There is a lot about Halloween that isn't for the weak or faint of heart.

SUZY

What does that mean?

AUNT OLIVE

Halloween use to be a religious day celebrated by the Celts, people from Ireland. On All Hallow's Eve, the Celts would pray and make sacrifices to their Gods for a good harvest. They believed that on All Hallow's Eve, the spirit world opened up. If they didn't make God happy, God would bring sickness and poor crops to them.

SUZY

God wouldn't do that, would he?

AUNT OLIVE

No, but back then people didn't know about God the way we do now.

TOBY

I guess they needed encyclopedias too.

AUNT OLIVE

Yes, Toby, they would have been helpful. Unfortunately, they hadn't been written yet.

Aunt Olive takes up her tape measure and begins measuring the boys.

AUNT OLIVE.

In the 1800's, the Irish immigrants brought their Halloween traditions to America.

Aunt Olive writes down some measurements and begins to measure and cut some black, brown and tan material.

AUNT OLIVE

Some of these traditions include trick-or-treating, bonfires, costume parties, "haunted houses" and carving jack-o'-lanterns.

The children sit wide-eyed and listen, as Aunt Olive spins Halloween tales.

TOBY

Tell us about ghosts. How they rise from the dead and float around at night.

SUZY

I want to hear about witches, cauldrons, black cats, pointy hats, and brooms.

AUNT OLIVE

How about the bogeyman who hides under children's beds and in their closets.

Suzy, Toby, and Doby scurry under the covers and shake.

AUNT OLIVE

(Chuckling)

I'm kidding.

DOBY

I'm never going to sleep again.

TOBY

Bogeymen aren't real Doby. They are just scary Halloween stories. Isn't that right, Aunt Olive?

AUNT OLIVE

Exactly, just characters in a story. There is nothing to be afraid of.

(MORE)

AUNT OLIVE (CONT'D)
 They are just part of what makes
 Halloween, Halloween.

Aunt Olive spins tales of Halloween as she sews. The children sit, glued on her every word.

AUNT OLIVE
 Trick or treat---

MONTAGE - Suzy, Toby, and Doby act out Aunt Olive's words.

AUNT OLIVE (CONT'D)
 Back in those days people went from door
 to door praying for lost souls in
 exchange for food. It was called
 "souling."

Suzy, Toby, and Doby don old Celtic clothing and go from door to door.

AUNT OLIVE (CONT'D)
 Today, children go door to door asking
 for treats like cookies and candy.

Doby licks his lips.

AUNT OLIVE (CONT'D)
 Tricking---

Suzy, Toby, and Doby run through the streets. They throw eggs, smash pumpkins, and wrap houses and trees in toilet paper.

AUNT OLIVE (CONT'D)
 Then, there's Jack O'Lantern, a real man,
 kicked out of the Devil's home. The Devil
 however, took pity on him, giving him one
 burning ember so he wouldn't be left out
 in the dark.

Suzy, Toby, and Doby hide behind some trees and watch "Jack" roam through the woods. He holds high the hollow turnip, lit by the ember to light his way.

END MONTAGE

AUNT OLIVE
 Doby. Doby. Where in the Devil has that
 little imp run off to this time?

Aunt Olive looks. Her shopping bag moves toward the edge of the bed. She reaches over and grabs the handle. The bag stops for a second, then moves again, and stops.

AUNT OLIVE (CONT'D)

Doby Mouse come out of my bag this instance.

A lump creeps toward the opening. Doby, face covered with chocolate, peeks out. Aunt Olive, Suzy, and Toby look angry. Doby GULPS and crawls out of the bag.

TOBY

You are in big trouble, mister.

Doby hangs his head.

AUNT OLIVE

Doby, I am very disappointed in you. You know better than to get into other people's things.

DOBY

I'm sorry.

Suzy grabs his little paws and looks at his gooey cheeks.

SUZY

Look at you. What a mess!

AUNT OLIVE

Suzy, please go and clean him up.

Suzy nods and drags Doby out of the room.

AUNT OLIVE

Come here Toby, let's see if this fits.

Aunt Olive attaches three long, shiny black whiskers to the sides of Toby's nose. She holds the suit. Toby climbs in. She ties the back and pins on his long tail.

AUNT OLIVE (CONT'D)

There, you are now a black cat.

Aunt Olive holds up her hand mirror. Toby looks at himself and smiles.

TOBY

(chuckling)

Cat's aren't that scary.

Just then Suzy and Doby come back into the room. Doby takes one look at Toby and SCREAMS.

DOBY

Oh no, Toby got ate by a cat.

TOBY

No, I didn't. I am a cat. Cool huh?

Suzy puts Doby up on the bed. Doby circles Toby with caution. He reaches out and pokes Toby in the tummy. Toby laughs. Doby laughs.

DOBY

It really is you.

Aunt Olive reaches out and takes Doby's paw.

AUNT OLIVE

Your turn.

Aunt Olive grabs some hay, a soda straw, and some brown crate paper. With scissors, she snips here, and snips there. A little tape, a couple of staples ---

Doby looks into the mirror.

DOBY

What am I?

Behind him in the mirror, Aunt Olive, Suzy, and Toby (standing on Suzy's shoulder) smile at him.

TOBY

He looks neato. What is he?

SUZY

Oh, Aunt Olive, he's just about the cutest little thing I have ever seen.

Suzy gives Aunt Olive a big hug.

SUZY

Thank you, Thank you.

DOBY

Excuse me, please. But, what am I?

AUNT OLIVE

You, my dear, sweet, little mouse are a witche's broom.

DOBY

Oh, cool.

Doby's head pokes out through the straw bristles, just enough to see himself in the mirror.

DOBY

May we go and get candy now?

AUNT OLIVE

Not yet, my little friend. Tonight.

Aunt Olive helps them out of their costumes.

INT. SUZY'S BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Doby stretches out his paws and yawns. Toby rolls over, stealing Doby's blanket. Suzy rubs at her ear as Toby's tail tickles it. Aunt Olive enters.

AUNT OLIVE

Rise and shine my little ghosts and goblins. Time to go "trick or treat" for candy.

The three little friends jump out of bed.

DOBY

Did you say candy?

Aunt Olive rubs the top of his teeny head.

AUNT OLIVE

Yes, little Doby. I said candy.

They grab their costumes. Aunt Olive helps them dress. They stand before Aunt Olive for inspection. She smiles.

AUNT OLIVE

You all look fabulous.

The children grin from ear to ear. Aunt Olive reaches into her pocket and takes out two big safety pins.

AUNT OLIVE

These are called safety pins.

She picks up Toby and pins him to the front of Suzy's costume.

AUNT OLIVE

There are a lot of scary things out on Halloween night, including REAL black cats.

She picks up Doby and pins him to Suzy's costume.

AUNT OLIVE

These safety pins will keep you safe.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Aunt Olive and the children enter the kitchen. There they see a giant GHOST.

GHOST

Ooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

Toby and Doby's eyes get big. They cover them with their little paws. Suzy runs over and gives the ghost a hug.

SUZY

You can't scare me, Mommy.

The ghost laughs.

GHOST

But, I sure scared Toby and Doby.

Toby tries to straighten up. Doby peeks through his fingers.

TOBY

Shucks, I wasn't scared. I was just pretending.

MOMMY takes off her costume and lays it over the back of the chair. She pats Toby and Doby on the tops of their heads.

AUNT OLIVE

I see you are ready to greet the trick or treaters.

MOMMY

I sure am. I've got my bowl of candy ready and waiting.

Mommy reaches over and picks up Suzy's trick or treat bucket. It looks like a big old Jack o'lantern.

SUZY

Wow, that's a big one Mommy.

MOMMY

Well, there are three of you sharing the candy this year. So, I figured I would get a bigger bucket.

Suzy and Toby smile, Doby licks his chops.

TOBY
I bet that will hold lots of candy.

DOBY
I'm getting hungry.

TOBY
You're always hungry.

Everybody laughs. The door bell rings. Mommy smiles.

MOMMY
Here come the little monsters now.

Mommy puts her ghost costume back on and heads for the front door.

MOMMY
You kids have fun. Mind, Aunt Olive.

SUZY, TOBY, DOBY
We will.

AUNT OLIVE
Remember the chant I taught you?

SUZY, TOBY, AND DOBY
Ghosts, Goblins, and Monsters go BOO.
Witches, Black Cats, and Brooms do too.

Aunt Olive takes Suzy's hand. Into the chilly, moonlit night they went, chanting to keep the bogeyman away.

SUZY, TOBY, DOBY
Ghosts, Goblins, and Monsters go BOO.
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