

## Halloween Horror Story

Treatment by Robert Sarkanen

*A young girl comes home after trick-or-treating on Halloween only to find herself and her mother terrorized by her father who has turned into a zombie. Will they make it through the night?*

An old woman, Mrs. CARMODY, is dozing off in her living room when the doorbell rings. She heads to the door, looking out the peephole. Outside, young boys in Halloween costumes are standing, "Trick or Treat!". Carmody yells at them to get the hell off her property. As she turns back inside, the familiar sound of eggs breaking against the door is heard. She heads back to the door and opens it only to find a young girl, ALICE, picking up the broken eggs. She's dressed up as Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz. Even the surly Mrs. Carmody can't help but warm to her. She asks Alice if she knows any of the songs from the film and asks her to sing for her. Alice reluctantly sings "Over the Rainbow", eerily dispassionate and beautiful. Carmody strokes her face, compliments her beauty and offers her to come inside for some hot chocolate. Then Alice' friend, SUSIE, the Cowardly lion, shows up and calls for her. Alice politely declines Mrs. Carmody's offer.

Alice and Susie walk and talk, Susie asks why Alice didn't stay with Mrs. Carmody. Alice asks if Susie believes in monsters. Susie doesn't, but Alice knows there are because she's seen them. "They look just like people but if you know what they can do, you can see them for what they really are". Susie responds that even if Carmody was a monster, she'd still rather stay with her than to go back to her mom.

Suddenly Susie's mom pulls up in a car next to them, calling for her. Alice P.O.V. as she for a split-second sees Susie's mom as a pale, white-eyed ghoul, a zombie, sitting behind the wheel. Alice blinks and suddenly Susie's mom looks normal again. Susie turns to her and remarks "There is no such thing as monsters, just people who forget they're not". Susie gets into the SUV and they drive off. Alice walks home alone to her house on the top of the hill as it begins to rain. In the distance, a dark figure follows.

At home, only Alice's mother ANGELA is sitting by the kitchen table with a bottle of wine, half-finished, a lit cigarette and a cellphone against her ear, visibly concerned. She just gets the answering machine of RAYMOND. She starts leaving the message "God damn it Ray, where the hell are you? If I find out you've even been near -". She's suddenly interrupted by Alice coming home. There are packed suitcases ready by the door. Her mother is overwhelmed with relief, hugs her and repeats how she was so worried about her. Alice asks where her dad is, Angela responds that something very serious happened and that they have to move tonight. She tells Alice to go to her room and get her things packed.

Alice passes through the living room, a mess. Broken shards of a vase on the floor. Angela warns her about it. A broken family photo on the floor. Some empty whiskey bottles in the trash. The squalor of the TV still on in the living room, horror movie night. Alice heads into her room, collecting her stuffed toys.

Suddenly a loud BANG against the front door. A groaning outside. Angela looks scared stiff and reaches for a kitchen knife. Another bang. Alice runs up to her mom, scared. Another bang. The door knob being turned from the outside slowly. Angela runs up quickly to the deadbolt to make sure it's locked. A dark figure passes outside the window by the door. Suddenly a fist slams through the plate glass, reaching for

the deadbolt. A pale, bloodied hand covered in sores. Angela slashes it with the knife, a loud inhuman roar of pain echoes out, green puss spews and the hand disappears.

Angela yells at Alice to stay back. Alice looks on in horror and shock. A beat. The sound of the garage door opening. Angela runs around to the garage. It's empty, the door wide open. Alice waits in the doorway to the kitchen. Angela cautiously moves into the dark space when the dark figure lunges at her, knocking the knife out of her hands. Angela backs up and closes the kitchen door. A hand bursts through it, reaching after her. We see it's the husband on the pictures, Raymond, now a white-eyed zombie covered in blood. He groans after her as he starts to tear through the door. Angela holds the door shut, yelling at Alice to run back to her room. Raymond grabs Angela and bites her in the neck, blood sprays everywhere. Angela falls back as Raymond bursts through the door entirely, grabbing Angela by her hair and dragging her inside the house after Alice. Angela screams, begging Raymond not to touch her. Raymond stops and starts pounding Angela with his fists, biting and tearing at her body, blood everywhere, until Angela stops moving.

Alice just watched her mother die. She screams out "Daddy!" and Raymond spots her. She runs, slamming every door after her, Raymond runs after, kicking them all in. He's a fast zombie, frothing at the mouth, groaning and yelling like an animal. He turns over furniture on his way, trashing the place. Alice runs into her room, slams the door shut and locks it and crawls under the bed, among her stuffed animals and toys, tears flow down her cheeks.

Footsteps approach the door from the outside. Heavy, labored breathing. Suddenly the door is torn entirely off its hinges and Raymond is inside. Alice tries to quiet herself as his feet steps close to the bed. Blood and drool drip on the floor from him. She sees the doorway and hesitates for a second, then she runs for it. Time slows down, all sounds turn distant and muted. Raymond turns and grabs her and slams her down on the floor. A flurry of hands all over her body, tearing open her clothes. Nails scraping against her bare skin. Her ribcage is ripped open, entrails torn out. Raymond's hands reach inside her and with a short sharp pull snatches out her still beating young heart, looking at it.

Close on Alice, lifeless on the floor, eyes glazed over. Back in real time. No blood. No pieces of little girl flesh strewn about. Just her, the squalor of the TV and the thrusting grunts of Raymond, sweaty, on top of her. Between her legs. He's not a zombie anymore. She's not dead yet.

In the living room, *Night of the Living Dead* is on the upturned TV. Angela is still alive, on the floor, crying.

THE END

**ALICE WAKEFIELD**, 12 years old, average young American girl raised in high-end subdivisions all her life, isolated and sheltered from other people. She's moved around all her life with her family, rising from middle- to upperclass within years of her birth. She's a decent student, but teachers have complained of her attendance record and commitment in class. She feels like she's been stuck ever since the sexual abuse started five years ago, every day is the same and blends together. Shy and introverted, Alice has very few friends and she's reluctant to be honest with the few she has out of fear of her father. Rather than outright blaming her dad or herself, she invents fictional scenarios where her father has turned into a monster of some sort, attacking her. But only like pretends, like in the movies with syrup and food coloring for blood. Then he returns to being a loving father in her eyes.

**ANGELA WAKEFIELD**, 36 years old. A marketing executive who has since her marriage with Raymond passed him on the career ladder and settled down while Raymond continues to travel around on the job. Hence why she hadn't noticed until now the abuse. The long business trips have taken their toll on their marriage, with Angela feeling increasingly alienated from Raymond, to the point where she feels maybe she never knew him to begin with. High school sweethearts, they married after college and stayed together initially out of love, later out of convenience and as Angela became pregnant, Alice took priority. She discovered her husband's secret on the night the movie starts, having gone through his computer finding child pornography, some pictures of Alice even.

**RAYMOND WAKEFIELD**, 37 years old. A dedicated salesman who has since the birth of Alice felt increasingly left out of Angela's affections and grown jealous. He's in complete denial of his drinking problem, the same problem his parents used to have, but he drinks because that is his mental image of manhood. Raymond came from a broken home and an equally abusive childhood, he now seeks appreciation and dominance once more in the relationship and constantly fights with Angela about how to raise Alice. He insists she's better off on the road with him. Perhaps out of this came his inclination toward younger girls and Alice in particular, to reestablish his failing manhood and overcome his inferiority complex by asserting complete control over someone defenseless.