

# GRAPHIC ARCHIVES

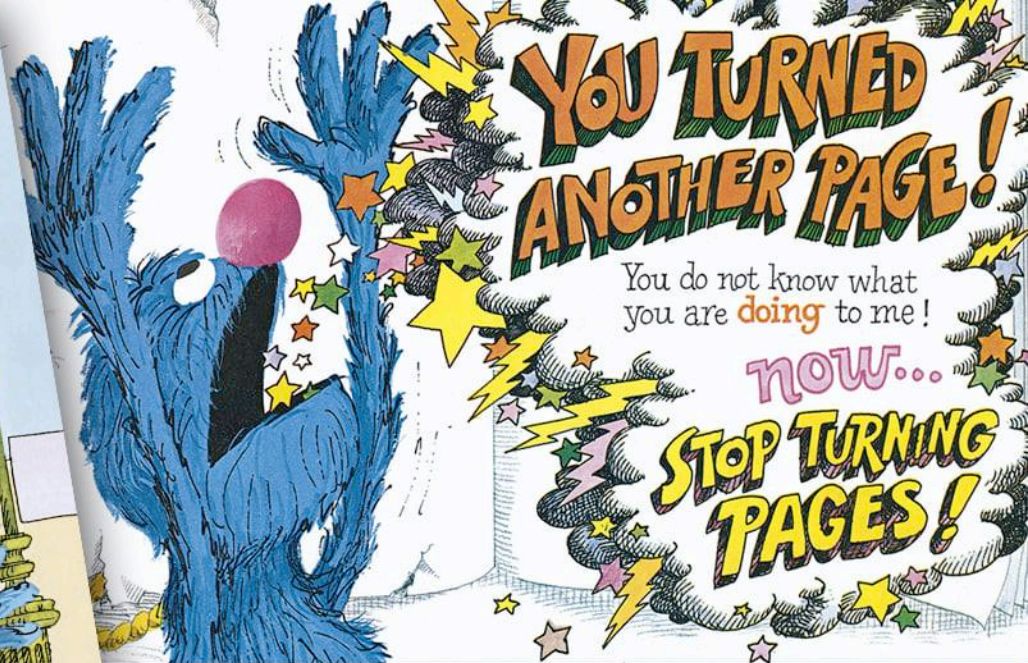
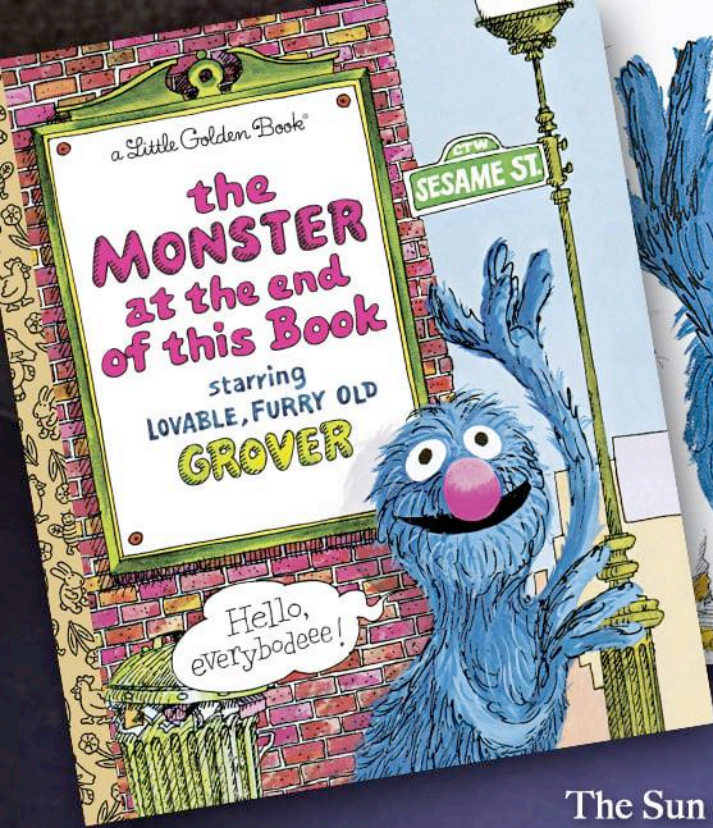
THE MAGAZINE OCTOBER 2021











The Sun could not penetrate the fog lifting through the spirits of the earth on that October morning in 1970 as my father drove me to school. Kindergarten! So much to learn and so little time as it seems like yesterday I pulled out the Sesame Street book from the shelf to read *"The Monster at the End of This Book."* I was afraid to turn the pages, but somehow found the courage. After all, how can a book be so terrifying? Each page seemed more stressful than before as Grover begged and pleaded for me **NOT TO TURN THE PAGE!**

Those familiar with the Little Golden Book know the ending as one of the most clever stories read by millions of children worldwide. As for me, it was utter disappointment! Anger entered my mind as I felt I had been tricked! My imagination was spinning throughout the reading as I overcame so much courage in my fear of turning another page to see some beast-like creature with horns or tentacles or something that was going to scare me from ever turning another page!

I needed to draw something I had in mind that would be scary and bring some closure to how deceived I had been! The Monster on the previous page is my therapeutic response to my inner angst as I was expecting something more horrific as an ending.

It is only natural for children to be drawn to "The Dark Side" of life filled with all types of fantasy, monsters and other creepy things that spark the imagination. Reality, reasoning, and maturation of the mind are still protected by a bubble of childhood innocence in which there are endless possibilities and so much to discover...even monsters!

This issue is devoted to "The Dark Side" as it relates to creativity and imagination.

October is the time of year when I feel those spirits around me and become more productive as a result. Enjoy this issue of my GRAPHIC ARCHIVES and I will see you on *"The Dark Side!"*

(Insert Vincent Price Laughter for effect!)

Love, Wishes,  
and Happy Halloween!





# GRAPHIC ARCHIVES

THE MAGAZINE • OCTOBER 2021

## The Rundown



### 5 Halloween Pop-Up Cards

A few card designs to share the season of Halloween.



### 10 The Spirits of Halloween



Another fun project filled with history, trivia, ghost stories and fun for Halloween spirits!



### 14 Halloween Decor

My Haunted House!



One of my carved pumpkins based on the one seen in the first scene of Tim Burton's "Sleepy Hollow."

Cover: A photo taken from one of my many Halloween home decorations. This is typically the first creepy image you see entering my home!

Inset: "The Monster that should've been at the end"

An illustration from childhood in response to the Sesame Street children's book. "The Monster at the End of this Book."

22: Collective Memories

A few memories from the past to share during the Halloween season.

26: Seasonal Favorites

From Literature, short stories, compilations, Music, Audio tapes/cd's and magazines...there is a plethora of seasonal favorites I often enjoy this time of year.

Back Cover: Another home decoration photo of one of my ghouls hanging around.



### 18 Bats!

A study of Bats in Nature, how they are beneficial and some common myths.



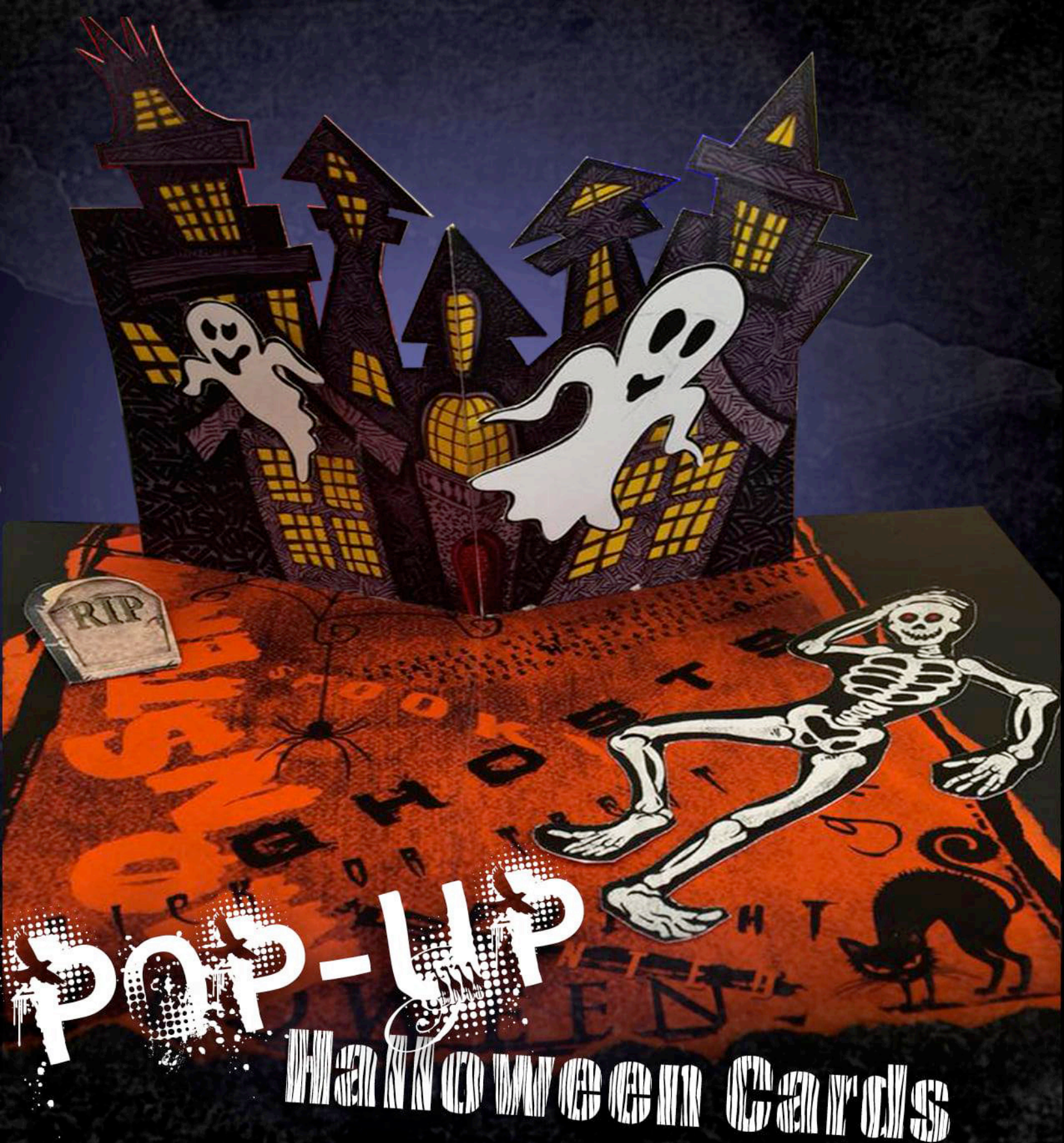
### 20 Trick or Treat

A few Halloween recipes from "The Spirits of Halloween."



### 24 Favorite Halloween Movies





At some point I became fascinated with Pop-Up design. In an effort to better understand the craft and skill involved, I decided to create one for myself. Even the most basic and simple ones are a challenge for me as I try to wrap my head around how to unfold the solutions to such unique design skills. My Halloween Cards became a traditional event to create a new one each year for family and friends.





Inspired by Robert Sabuda and Matthew Reinhart with their pop-up design illustrations, I began watching tutorials online to understand the variety of techniques in which folded cards would open to display a 3-dimensional scene. As with any craft, I began with simple designs to build upon basic principles. Having since collected many pop-up books and other resources, it amazes me how unique and popular these have become in recent years.

As a 3D Computer animation artist, one would think it would be an easy skill to learn, but it has become a challenge in which I struggle as the process is both inspiring and frustrating to bring simple flat surface illustrations to life through complex designs that unfold into some spacial arrangement. The struggle is the discovery, as with any artform because you search for solutions to bring an idea to realization. Ultimately, that becomes a source of confidence in knowing how to acheive goals in which turning corners or unfolding a card design brings about a sense of accomplishment.





Those Halloween cards I've created through the years began to inspire me in other areas as well. The creative solutions I found had an impact on my 3D computer animation with designing through spacial relationships. One craft unfolds into another as ideas soon begin to flow with new creative solutions. That becomes the magic when the mind discovers new possibilities and the imagination has no boundaries to what can be created. At least, that is how I see the creative process in an ongoing search for new discoveries and solutions.

I was creating pop-up designs in my 3D animation work as if it were something subliminal in my mind without fully understanding what I was creating. The results were an extension of self-discovery and the cornerstone foundation of building new ideas leading to more possibilities and solutions...which continue to encourage growth.

For me, it's really not all that psychological nor introspective as much as it is just fun to create a Halloween card! I can't wait to share...as soon as I can create a new one! Happy Halloween!



# SCAVENGER HAUNT

A PLAY BY CHRIS BALLARD

“Scavenger Haunt” was my ambitious effort to put my writing skills in context to a theatrical production. Having seen numerous plays over the years, I had become inspired with live performance theatre. By coincidence, I came across a very old English Literature book that contained a manuscript for a play. That became my incentive to break free of having to rely upon descriptive storytelling and begin to think about how actors could tell a story through actions and spoken narrative.

My synopsis was rather simple...two teenage kids with very little in common go into a haunted house to find the prize treasure from various clues. During their search, they gain more respect for each other as they work together to discover the most valuable aspect of the game is their collaboration to work through their differences.

As I began to write, the story began to flow as I added more details in searching within myself to resolve solutions to complex storytelling ideas. The process seemed more intimate as an insight into human interaction. I was having fun with the basic script as the story seemed to be writing itself throughout. The creative mode often flows when ideas are as much a surprise to the writer as to the reader.

I was also considering realistic production costs for set design, the number of actors and effects. Those elements from plays I had seen would help drive the fundamental limitations of a theatrical performance. Not only was I writing the story, I would visualize how it could be simplified for theatre. I considered stage sets needed for the scenes as that forced a new discipline to limit story ideas and keep production costs to a minimum.



The play was written in just over a week as I made time and was having a blast with the results. I think it was a story I was begging myself to write for many years, yet had never put forth the effort. Each day brought something new as I would consider options for solutions to intertwine those progressive details. In the end, it was a Scavenger Haunt within my own search through creativity.

The play was more monumental than I would realize at the time. All I wanted to do was write a story that could become a dramatic theatrical production. As Shakespeare would say, "The Play is The Thing," and that means so much more to me as I took myself through the process and began to understand how "The Thing" is working through creative solutions to resolve problems.

As an only child, I often fantasized about others' reactions in simulated circumstances. In other words, I would pretend to be in realistic situations in which I could control the actions and words of others. My fantasies never worked out in reality and that became my incentive to write stories to compensate through the creative control of imagination. Live and learn from a world that perceives you so differently than you see yourself. That was an element of the story that I wanted to illustrate to an audience. Strip away the labels and the surface structures of others to discover something unique and amazing within.

The story takes you through character development between Kate and Chip as they are on a scavenger hunt through a haunted house to find clues that is an annual event sponsored by their high school. As they make their way through the evening, they both discover more about themselves and understand more about each other. That becomes the true treasure in the end in my opinion.

The story is one of my favorites as it was written from such an inspirational point in my life as I was searching within my own self. I gained confidence in my abilities and discovered a new passion for writing. It led to more writings as I continued to challenge myself to utilize as much with written words as much as my artistic exploration. The next thing I knew...I was writing a full novel!

"Scavenger Haunt" was a search within the story as much as a search within the self. The scene when Kate and Chip discover the mummy in the sarcophagus gives me chills when I go back and read it again. The dialogue between them seemed to come from another dimension through the portal gate of my own mind. I was probably craving Fried Chicken as well, but you will need to read the script to understand how the creative mind works within realistic circumstances. Meanwhile, Happy Hunting for your inner soul!

**"SCAVENGER HAUNT"** A Play by Chris Ballard:

<https://graphicasyllumweb.shutterfly.com/pictures/2517>



# THE SPIRITS OF HALLOWEEN



A compilation of Halloween's vast history, fun trivia, haunting stories, food for seasonal celebrations and other entertaining aspects that bring *"The Spirits of Halloween"* back to life each year. From ancient Celt beginnings through cultural changes to the modern era, many of the spirits continue to live on through tradition.





The truth is that I knew so little about Halloween traditions going into this project as it was more of a curiosity rather than anything else. What do they say about curiosity? Superstitions have much to do with Halloween traditions as Celts in ancient history marked October 31st or “Samhain” as the death of the old year and the beginning of a new one. They celebrated their harvests to the Sun God, Baal and also performed charms and spells to appease the Lord of the Dead.

Cultures changed and religion became an influence upon old traditions as new ones began to develop. “All Hallows Eve” became shortened to “Halloween” through the years as those European cultures made their way to America. The melting pot of the many differences turned ignorance into one of our nation’s greatest gifts after mass hysteria resulted in political rhetoric during the Salem Witch Trials.

*“Religious extremism and an unjustified process of authority from a society that was ignorant of the discovery of truth led to a more solid procedure of legal actions giving way to the thought process that one shall be innocent until proven guilty.”*

The Spirits have much to do with history, culture and traditions as the annual observance of Halloween has become the second most commercial holiday with businesses in that it is estimated Americans spend about \$6 billion dollars each year in costumes, decorations, and candy sales. It truly is the Nightmare before Christmas!





Do you know the difference between a 'Gargoyle' and a 'Grotesque?' Neither did I before beginning my research to include the many aspects that have become woven into our social fabric of Halloween traditions. A Grotesque is simply a horrific beast-like statue to ward off evil. A Gargoyle is the same, yet designed for the soul purpose of draining water from rooftops and other structures. Both types can be traced back to ancient Egypt, but there is a popular legend from the Middle Ages to suggest the gargoyle's intention is to drain the blessings of rainwater upon the mystical dragon whose fiery breath continues even after death.





As the most iconic symbol of Halloween, the Jack 'O Lantern is given credit to an old Irish myth in which Jack made a deal with the Devil as to not take his soul. Jack was turned away from Heaven and the Devil kept his promise not to take his soul, so Jack was given a 'turnip' and coals to forever light his way upon the earth. Pumpkins became a more popular fall harvesting 'fruit' that worked its way into the traditional flavor of the story's origin as the pumpkin production value has risen to \$193 million in US dollars as of 2020.

So much more interesting history, fun facts, creepy stories, trivia, tricks, treats and games in my ambitious effort to capture "The Spirits of Halloween." Be sure to visit my website account online for more:

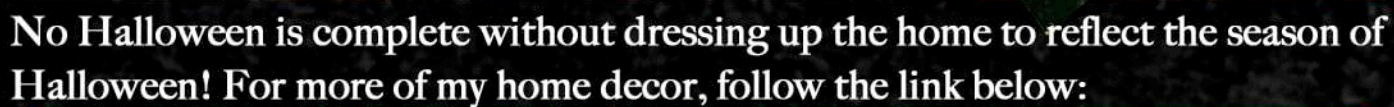
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# HALLOWEEN DECOR





# GRAPHIC ARCHIVES





My favorite Halloween prop as this witch has been handed down for generations.



My Nutcracker statue becomes an image from "The Scream" during Halloween.



The Pirate Captain and his Skeleton Crew emerge along my fireplace.





Mr. Bones Skeleton is often a memorial in my living room.



Dining Room



Kitchen Countertop



# BATS



It was just a few mornings ago I was considering writing this article when I walked outside and noticed something in the air with erratic movement in the sky overhead before the break of dawn. It was a Bat! I observed how it glided through the air and then a sudden break to the right...then to the left and continued to soar through the air. I can only imagine it was catching mosquitoes in mid-air. I decided to do some research and discovered they eat their weight in mosquitoes and other small insects each day! That's a lot of mosquitoes...even for a small bat.

My research became overwhelming and there simply isn't enough space to write an article about Bats, their history, and the many wonders and misconceptions they have been given in our culture. Without doubt, they have an impact as mammals that have taken flight through evolution and now mystify scientists with so many unique qualities that are debated and yet to be explained.

Bats defy much that seems normal for mammals...as they are not birds, nor rodents or insects, but of the only mammal species that can fly. More than 1400 species exist in the world and have scientists baffled with how unique they are with respect to age and immunity to disease. Much research has gone into discovering how well bats have evolved and adapted to their longevity of life, immunization to many diseases, and flight.

The fact many species spend most of their life upside down is even a question that many debate. Some believe it is to help them to fly from falling while others think it has more to do with blood rushing to their membranes. Either way, it's just weird.

Bats are remarkable and extraordinary creatures with nocturnal senses that can only capture the imagination as a shadow of pulp fiction that scares society into thinking they are a force of evil-flying entities with a taste for human blood.





Bats just may contain the answers to many questions as we are faced with a worldwide pandemic. Although it has not been confirmed, it is presumed bats were carriers of the Covid-19 virus that found its way into humans. Scientists have been researching bats to understand their immunization to disease.

Telemirs are long-term cell cycles that have something to do with a feverish defense against viral activity. Bats have a high defense system to fight virus while human-based infections are simply reactive to the internal system. In other words, humans react to a viral condition whereas bats have the ability to stop disease before it takes root in its system. Virus do not affect the health of bats and scientists are researching to discover the secret to their immunization.

Another question to be answered is their longevity of life. Bats are reported to live 30-40 years, which is extensive due to most mammals their size live only a few short years. Scientific research has shown bats telemir cell construction differ little from youth to adult aging. A bats heartrate can be 1006 beats per minute as their body temperature is constantly fighting viral activity. Although bats carry viral diseases, they are immune through a working-defense against infection, which helps to sustain their life longevity.

Vampire bats exist only in Central and South America and are the only species of bats in which their food source is blood from cattle and livestock. After returning to their den to feed their young, those who were successful share their blood regurgitations with those that were not as fortunate. It is an expectation to reciprocate the favor and those who become selfish never receive favors again.

Bats are amazing and we have much to learn from them. Call them demonic creatures or miracles of evolution as they are part of our lives whether we are aware or not.

The recent "Bat Superpowers" on PBS Nova uncovers extensive information about bats and how research is helping to understand them. Also be sure to watch "Bats!" from the Original Production of GPB's Georgia Outdoors!



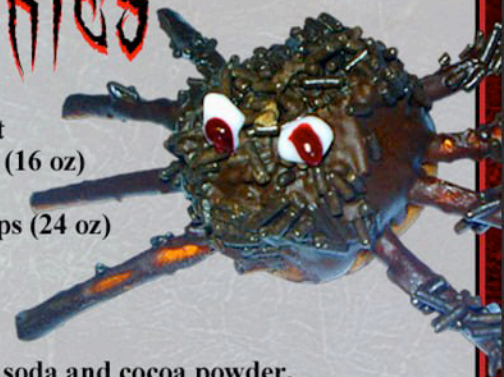
[gpb.org/television/show/georgia-outdoors/extras/bats](http://gpb.org/television/show/georgia-outdoors/extras/bats)



# HALLOWEEN treats

## TARANTULA COOKIES

2 cups flour  
1/2 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/8 tsp baking soda  
2 tbsp cocoa powder  
10 tbsp butter  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 egg  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
1 bag pretzel sticks (16 oz)  
2 tbsp vegetable oil  
1 bag chocolate chips (24 oz)  
chocolate sprinkles  
red m&m's



Combine flour, baking powder, salt, baking soda and cocoa powder. In a large bowl, beat together the butter and 2 sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg and vanilla, gradually beat in the flour mixture for a smooth dough. Roll out a tablespoon-size ball of dough and place it on an ungreased cookie sheet. Press 4 pretzel sticks into each side of the dough ball. Repeat with remaining dough. Bake at 350° until cookies start to brown around the edges (7-10 minutes). Place a rack over a sheet of wax paper or foil. Use a spatula to transfer cookies. Once cookies are transferred to the racks, let cool completely. In a double boiler (or microwave), melt the chocolate chips with oil. Stir to combine. Pour the melted chocolate over each cookie to coat. Cover with chocolate sprinkles. Press 2 red candies or m&m's into each spider for eyes.

## MUMMY DOGS

1 package refrigerated breadsticks (11 ounces)  
10 hot dogs  
prepared mustard

Separate dough; roll 10 pieces into a 24-inch rope.

Wrap dough rope around each hot dog, leaving 2 inches of the hot dog uncovered at the top for the mummy head.

Place mummies 1 inch apart on a greased baking sheet.

Place remaining breadsticks on another baking sheet.

Bake at 350° for 18-20 minutes.

Once baked, add dots of mustard for eyes.

## I SCREAM SUNDAES

2 large egg whites • 1 cup sugar (superfine grain) • 1/3 cup flour • 2 Tbsp cocoa powder  
Salt • 2 1/2 Tbsp butter • 2 Tbsp heavy cream • 1/2 tsp vanilla extract • 2 ounces melted chocolate  
Mini candy-coated chocolates, for hats • Green Mint Chocolate Chip ice cream

**Make the cookies** with an electric mixer beating the egg whites and sugar for 30 seconds.

Add flour, cocoa, and salt; Beat to combine. Mix in butter, cream and vanilla. Beat 30 seconds.

Cut out stencils with 1 circle, 2 3/4 inches in diameter, and one half circle, 4 1/2 inches diameter.

Using stencils spread dough on a baking sheet lined with a nonstick baking mat to make 3 circles and 3 half circles. Bake until cookies are beginning to set, rotating sheet halfway through (7 min).

**Shape cones**, Remove half circles one at a time with a spatula while still hot.

With straight sides of cookies facing up, bring edges together to form cones, holding until set. Let cool. Continue baking and shaping cones, working in batches.

**Make Sundaes**. Dip cones in melted chocolate to coat 1/4 inch of rims. Place cones on top of whole circles, press one candy onto band of each hat. Freeze until set (10-20 minutes). Scoop ice cream into bowls. Top with hats. Scream as you serve immediately!





# GUACA-MOLDY EYEBALLS

- 10 large eggs
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 2 Tbsp smooth taco sauce  
(without chunks)
- 2 tsp chili powder
- 1 large avocado
- 2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
- Kosher salt and pepper
- 4 medium pimiento-stuffed olives, sliced



Place the eggs in a large saucepan, add enough cold water to a level 2 inches above submerged eggs and bring to a boil. Remove from heat, cover the saucepan and let stand 12 minutes.

In a small bowl, whisk together the sour cream, taco sauce and chili powder. Place in a pastry bag fitted with a fine writing tip.

In another bowl, mash the avocado with the lemon juice and 1/4 tsp each salt and pepper.

Transfer to a resealable plastic bag and cut off the tip to create a 1/2 inch opening.

Drain the eggs and return them to the saucepan. Gently shake the saucepan to crack the eggs all over.

Run under cold water to cool, then peel the eggs. Cut the eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks and save for another use.

Using the sour cream mixture, pipe thin squiggly lines on each egg white half so they resemble bloodshot eyes.

Pipe the avocado mixture into each white and place a slice of olive on tip.

# PUMPKIN BREAD

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 eggs
- 1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves

- Optional:
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
  - 1/2 cup raisins



In a large mixing bowl, combine the sugar, pumpkin, oil, water and eggs.

Combine the dry ingredients; gradually add to pumpkin mixture and mix well.

Stir in nuts and raisins (optional)

Pour into a greased 9 x 5 x 3 loaf pan. Bake at 350° for 65-70 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.

Cool in pan for 10 minutes before removing to a wire rack.

# CANDY APPLES

Find more Halloween Treats, follow the link to my website and download "The Spirits of Halloween"

[graphicasyllumweb.com](http://graphicasyllumweb.com)





# COLLECTIVE MEMORIES

Halloween traditions have changed throughout the years and most have no idea about it's history. I must admit I knew very little growing up as it just seemed to have more to do with dressing up in a costume and walking through the neighborhood to get candy. It was the only time I saw those who lived in my subdivision. The candy was a perk, but meeting those strangers living in such close proximity was more of a treat for me.

Not many stopped for candy at my parents house. I guess that probably had something to do with the dead body with an axe in it's backside laying prominently at the driveway entrance. Ketchup would be scattered all around for embellishment. That was just as well because I got all the candy my parents would buy that didn't go to other kids!

Always fascinated with horror and the macabre, I typically pull out my Halloween decor along with my favorite books and movies to celebrate another year's efforts to harvest and prepare for Winter. The death of nature becomes a cyclical change of seasons in which the Fall becomes the time of year that is as much a reflection of the past and a rebirth of creativity for the future. Autumn always reenergizes my soul with the burst of warm-colored landscapes along with the many sporting events that occur this time of year, and the glorification of haunting elements from the dark side of life.



October has always been a season of many activities and that has not changed since childhood. Sports were always in full swing as so many collide with the final stretch of baseball while football begins...and of course, basketball was just on the horizon. Active in all sports growing up life was hectic, yet ambitious with pursuits that were as much a change in uniforms as much as the weather.

It often seemed to be the time of year that sparked new ideas of creativity as well. It's only natural to think that Mother Nature has an influence on the change of seasons within the mind as much as other aspects of living. Colors become brilliant before falling and fading upon the earth in which new things will grow in the Spring. I believe our brains follow a similar cyclical pattern throughout the year and for me, the Fall season appears to discard old ideas and welcome new ones to harvest for the future.

It is also a time for celebration and to encourage others as much as our own. What better way to do this than have a Halloween party! I enjoy decorating for Halloween and spending time catching up with friends. Fond memories from the past as much as excitement for future ambitions are often themes I notice this time of year. A holiday that shares as much excitement with adults as much as children, I have noticed in recent years Halloween parties with friends, working colleagues and neighbors seem more relevant than children trick-or-treating.

The past number of years I often see kids that pile up in large vans and very few bother to wear a costume. The van stops only at those houses in the neighborhood that look most promising for owners handing out candy. As I stated at the top of this article... Halloween traditions have changed throughout the years and most have no idea about it's history. It seems to be more of an entitlement for free candy than an effort to earn it through creativity.

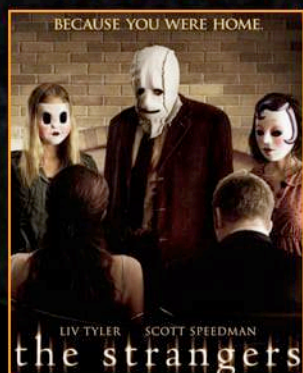
Kids are not even remotely interested in anything other than how much candy they can get from you. As a child, I enjoyed the interaction with neighbors more than the candy. It seemed to be more of a social tradition than what it has become today. We've lost the essence of tradition with our kids knowing it's an entitlement more than a reward.

I have just enough room for one more tale from "The Dark Side." My divorce lasted more than two years in a bitter battle to divide assets as I knew they would be divided equally from the start. As my lawyer explained the "cost of marriage" is a division of property gained through legal entitlements shared during that time. So when it came to holiday assets, it was a choice between Halloween or Christmas decorations. My ex-wife chose Christmas. I kept all our Halloween decorations we had obtained.

Soon afterwards, my parents wanted to get rid of all their holiday decorations as they took up space in their limited storage, so I added much more to my collection. At some point I decided to make use of all the stuff I had for Halloween and realized my house was truly haunted with more than I needed. A blessing or a curse? In any event, have a Happy Halloween and enjoy this season of change!



# FAVORITE HALLOWEEN MOVIES

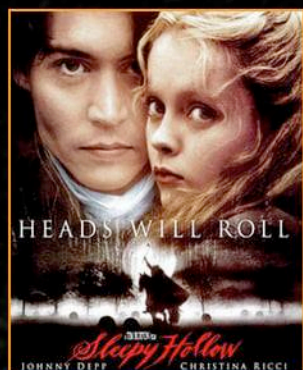


## The Strangers

A horror movie that makes me uncomfortable with those elements of isolation and random violence. Not recommended for those who scare easy as this movie moves through dramatic scenes that build from a psychological disappointment in a relationship to unexpected circumstances in which a couple is just trying to survive. Human nature is the real question and that is what becomes most disturbing.

## Dark Shadows

Based on a television series, the movie was released in 2012 with a poor box office review and open (although it did extremely well in foreign markets.) It has become one of my favorite movies to watch during the Halloween season as it provides a comical aspect of the generational gap as the vampire must adjust to a modern age. Other aspects such as family are key to the story and it's just a fun film.

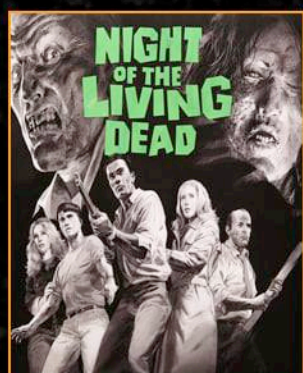


## Sleepy Hollow

A literary classic that finally made it's way to the silver screen with action, drama, horror, love, and everything needed for a good film. It's a must-see for me during October as it goes beyond the original story to offer some resolution in the end.

## The Nightmare Before Christmas

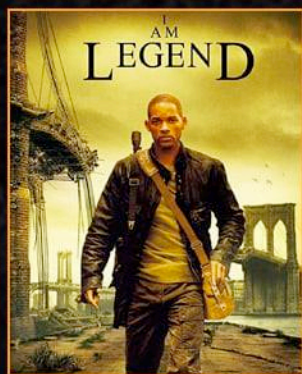
Such a fan of Tim Burton and this movie is the perfect animated classic for Halloween! The element that draws me into the story is there is all good intentions for Jack, the Pumpkin King to take over another holiday with a few "embellishments." Things don't turn out as expected, but it's more about how Tim Burton created the story and gained the support of Disney that helped make this a signature aspiration of any artist with such ambition.



## Night of the Living Dead

I bought a horror compilation dvd just a few years ago that had many classic films. This was one I had never seen previously and it just took me by surprise. Knowing this was the original zombie film that has inspired so many, it was more true to life than the living dead. One of my favorites to watch during the season.





## I am Legend

Based on the original film from 1964, "The Last Man on Earth," Will Smith's heroic character is inspiring in another world of isolation, at least other than all the zombies that appear at night. I must admit I was on edge all throughout this movie version as if I were the last man on Earth and had become isolated from others. That scares me more than zombies, but a well-made remake to a classic horror film.

## The People Under the Stairs

Based on a television series, the movie was released in 2012 with a poor box office review and open (although it did extremely well in foreign markets.) It has become one of my favorite movies to watch during the Halloween season as it provides a comical aspect of the generational gap as the vampire must adjust to a modern age. Other aspects such as family are key to the story and it's just a fun film.



## Young Frankenstein

A brilliant horror/comedy film created by Mel Brooks and Gene Wilder that pokes fun of horror with an all-star cast of characters. Released in 1974, the movie is still one of my favorites during this time of year and offers a humorous contrast to more serious horror genre films.

## The Ninth Gate

Johnny Depp seems to be one of my favorite actors for so many films and this one caught my interest as he plays the role of a book collector in search of a Satanic book written that is believed to summon the Devil. Directed, Produced, and Co-Written by Roman Polanski and premiering in Spain, the movie was criticized and not a commercial success in North America...although it earned \$58 million on a \$38 million dollar budget.



## The Shining

The Halloween Season just never seems complete without the classic Jack Nicholson going mad from Cabin Fever...or is it something else? I love the older classic horror films as the emphasis was more on cinematography through acting, lighting, and composition detail. Modern films have become more reliant on computer visualization and there is something lost within human emotional significance.



# SEASONAL FAVORITES



Let me bring those skeletons out of the closet this time of year...along with the monster masks, ghosts, ghouls, witches and anything else that feeds my inner darkness of imagination. More haunting to me is the quicksand of time where there is no rest for the wicked creative forces that spin it's webs into the mind of a madman.

Poetic as it may seem, I am inspired by my seasonal favorites during this time of year as if searching for the light within the darkness. Here are a few of my favorites from novels, childrens books, music, magazines, audio recordings, music and other entertaining sources.

Alan Parsons first album was based on the writings of Edgar Allen Poe. **"Tales of Mystery and Imagination"**

is one of my seasonal favorites and sets the mood through music and literature together that is a collaboration of Poe's written works and Parsons gift for music production. The Alan Parsons Project was born from his need to create music from a Producer's viewpoint that would be based upon a theme.

I often go back and read much of Edgar Allan Poe's works as a result. I found it interesting that he was the first writer to earn a living solely as an author and is given credit for his innovations with suspense and mystery with a new genre of detective novels.

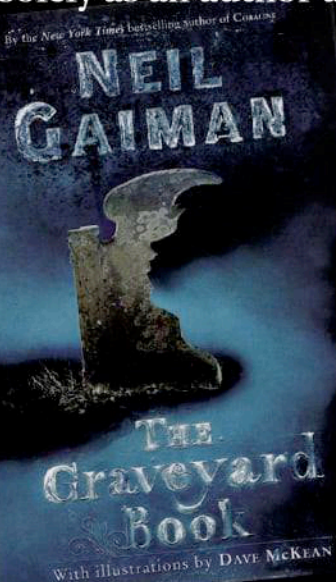
Neil Gaiman's **"The Graveyard Book"** is just one of many of my favorites he has written. Both he and artist Dave McKean have created so much incredible works throughout their careers that inspire me. Gaiman has made his mark upon the silver screen as well with **"Stardust"** and **"Coraline."**

Those are two must-see movies if you haven't already. In addition, Dave McKeen made his film director debut with **"MirrorMask,"** which is another one of my seasonal favorites.

THE ALAN PARSONS PROJECT

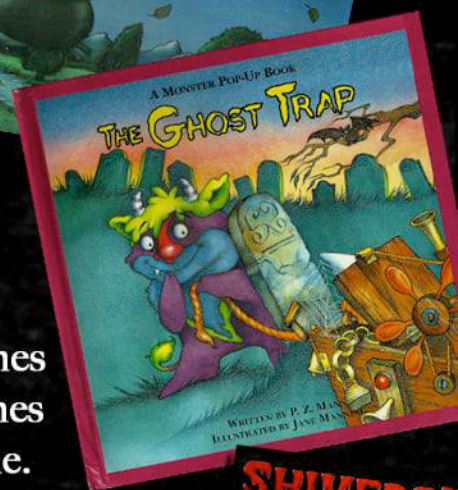
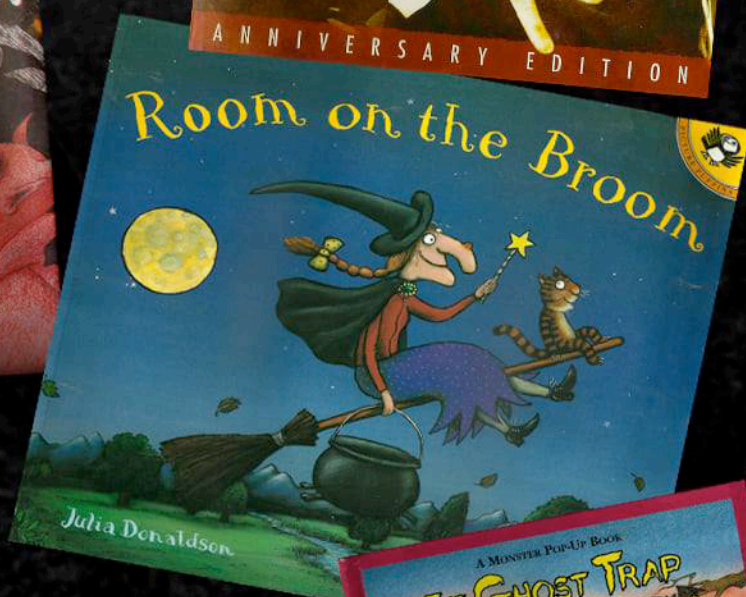
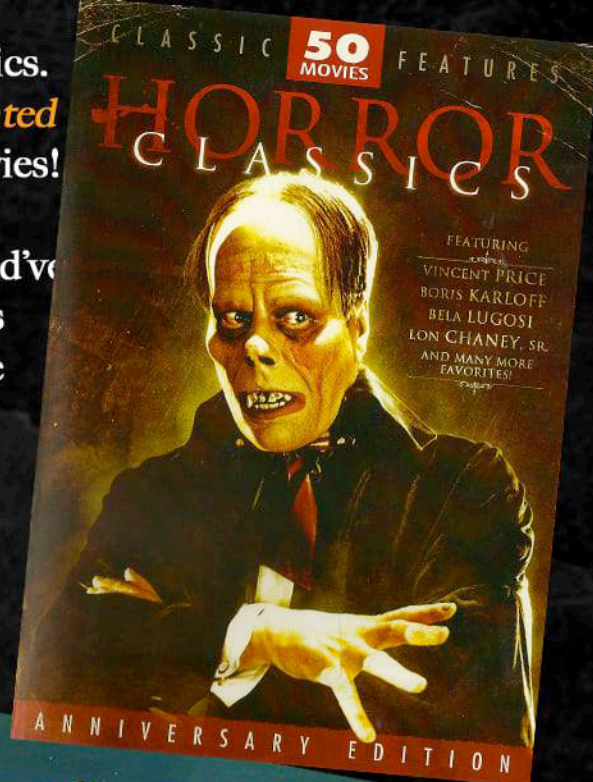
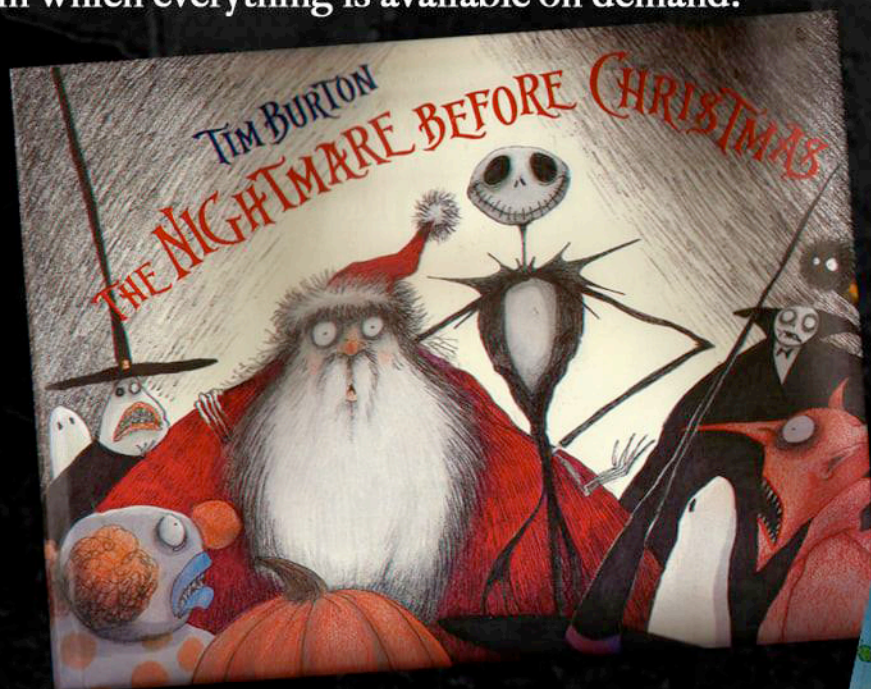


The Penguin English Library  
EDGAR ALLAN POE  
SELECTED WRITINGS





"Horror Classics" is a dvd compilation of 50 original classics. "Night of the Living Dead," "Nosferatu," "House on Haunted Hill," and others that were the true pioneers of horror movies! Can you believe I only spent \$5 dollars for this collection? It was in the cheap bin at a bookstore and I probably would've spent \$100 dollars for it. It just proves how much value has been lost through history...or perhaps it's a new digital age in which everything is available on demand.



I enjoy having a collection of the physical items along with an appreciation for it's packaging. That probably has something to do with my interests in art and design as I feel a closer connection to those who spent so much time and effort in it's creation. Childrens books are my favorite. *Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas"* in its' original form is priceless! I have many childrens books and have written quite a few myself and that becomes inspiring to look through many of my favorites. Halloween magazines with decorations, recipes, and crafts are always there to motivate me. Comic magazines such as "Creepy," and "Eerie" amongst others are a large part of my collection. Audio stories such as the "Shivers" series, along with many others help to spark my imagination.

I surround myself with all things Halloween during October as there is so much from the dark side that brings an inner light to my creative aspirations. Halloween truly is a rebirth of the soul and spirit and wishing everone a Happy "All Hallows' Eve!"





