

IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT,

the cold autumn air sent chills through Erin's chest. She checked the address on her phone and questioned how this could be the correct address. Instead of helping her, Erin's uber driver asked her to close the door so they could go to their next pickup. All alone, Erin walked up to the front door. The lifeless structure looked as if no one had lived in it for years.

She knocks. "Hello?" Erin cried out. "That stupid driver must've taken me to the wrong address" rolling her eyes before glancing back down at her phone.

Suddenly, Erin shrieked as the door began to shatter in front of her very eyes. Gripped with fear, she began backing away, nearly falling to the ground, to stay out of reach from the axe as it tore through the door. An ominous figure stepped through the door frame,

"You've got nowhere to run, and nowhere to hide"

growled the ominous masked figure. The malevolent tone sent shivers down her spine, as the killer raised his axe high above his head. His next victim, Erin Salston, was trapped beneath his blade.

Erin, the unsuspecting heiress, had embarked on a perilous journey, lured by a mysterious modeling opportunity in the English countryside. The man on the phone had promised her an unbelievable paycheck if she were to come out and do a campaign shoot for some up-and-coming fashion brand. Usually, Erin only shoots for well known, A-list clients, letting her ego get the best of her. But something about the voice on the phone was unusually alluring. Leaving Erin with no choice but to go.

Before leaving for her trip, she had mentioned to her friend Eden of her whereabouts, knowing that she might be hard to reach for the next few days. Eden and Erin had become close ever since Eden's sister, Lilith, had her public spiral a few years earlier. Lilith had become increasingly entangled with the occult and the public had taken notice. She was shamed out of the spotlight after being spotted with her problematic billionaire boyfriend, Ethan Husk. All the negative media towards Lilith caused a rift between the sisters. Eden's career had been reinvigorated, after her return to screens with the B23 film project "*The Lost Girls*". Eden turned to Erin for companionship after the disappearance of her sister. She needed someone to confide in and found solace in talking to the effervescent, Erin Salston.









Days later, with no word from Erin, a haunting call sent Eden on a quest to uncover the truth about Erin's vanishing. The caller provided a cryptic message "come to the house down Salston Road, where the grass meets the trees and the girl gets her bones." She tried to ask questions, but the call quickly ended. The ominous message left Eden with no other choice but to follow. Part of her wanted to believe that this was all a misunderstanding; that she was overreacting, and that maybe this was Lilith's chaotic way of reaching out to her.

Sure enough, Eden found a "Salston Road" out in the British countryside. The air around the house weighed heavily on Eden. She glanced down at her phone to turn on the flashlight, noticing her phone no longer received any signal. Looking at the battered old farmhouse, Eden couldn't help but wonder why she had been told to come to the battered old shack. She knew it was for Erin, but she saw no signs of life for miles around. Where could her friend be? She headed out back towards the woods to search for where the ominous caller had told her to go. As she descended further into the overgrown yard, she tripped, but was unable to see what had tripped her in the moonless night. She turned on her flashlight to discover she was standing in the middle of a gruesome scene. She saw hands reaching out from a tattered black trash bag, bloodied and lifeless. Her heart raced as she leaned forward, recognizing Erin's heart ring, the one she had bought while shopping together at the Paradise store in New York. Panic set in, dread gnawing at Eden's core. Had Lilith's sinister curse become reality, or had one of Erin's obsessed fans taken their obsessions too far?

As Eden stood in shock, mourning the loss of her friend, her attention was

directed to the light on the back porch turning on. Eden hurried towards the woods, hiding behind a tree. Footsteps crept nearer. In the green tinged porch light, a shadow loomed across the trees, its sinister intent undeniable. Eden held her breath, her limbs quivering as the figure advanced forward. It paused, just on the edge of the forest, scanning for any signs of movement. After what felt like an eternity, the figure shifted focus, instead marching over to a small wooden shed across the yard. Eden knew this was her chance to go hide and try to make a phone call for help.

With a deep breath, Eden began to swiftly move towards the house. Quietly maneuvering through the forest as to not snap any twigs or scruff her brand new red De Luca boots. She sprinted towards the old farmhouse, taking a second to see the emerging shadowy figure from the shed. Eden hurried towards the door, hoping she hadn't been spotted by the ominous figure. Once inside, she paused, taking a moment to make out the dark shapes she was seeing in the disastrous old house. She noticed a couch with an ornate mirror hung above it. It had a metallic gold frame that glistened through the dark dingy home. Eden walked over and admired it, then began adjusting her hair in the mirror, and noticed a smudge in her eyeshadow. Soon after, she noticed the sinister figure's reflection looking through the window. She gasped, only being able to see the figure's bloodied skull mask in the reflection. Screaming, she raced towards the stairs, hoping he hadn't seen where she went.

Eden stopped at the base of the stairs, noticing a faint red glow coming from upstairs. She listened to hear if anyone was approaching, but heard nothing more than the crickets outside. As she approached the eerie red glow, she peeked down both directions of the

hallway. To her right, Eden saw a room with no door. As she peered into the room, it seemed to grow darker and darker, growing so dark that the shadows began to chew away at the crackling wallpaper. Turning to her left, Eden grew closer to the source of the red glow. It flickered through the crack in the door, just barely able to compete with the carnivorous shadows of the night. She glanced down at her phone again, the SOS signal displayed in the corner taunting her to make a decision. She began towards her right, a nauseous feeling coming over her just a few steps in, causing her body to ache as she stood motionless in the hallway. Her eyes began to gloss over until her attention was snapped back by the creaking of the door behind her. The door inched open, allowing the red glow to grow even stronger.

Eden began approaching the door, slipping her head through the crack in the door to see a blood red candle flickering on the floor. The candle did little to illuminate the rest of the room, leaving it to float alone in an abyss of blackness. As she focused her eyes into the corner of the room, she noticed a figure, whose dark shimmering fabric made it look as if they were floating along with the flickering candle. The forbidding figure quietly whispered

“come in.”

Eden whimpered out,
“Who are you?”

The candle extinguished, and a ball of fire materialized, shoving Eden into the room and slamming the door behind her. Panic surged through Eden as she tried to escape the room, but her clamoring at the door handle offered her no solace.

A seductive voice emerged

“Hello my little apple, it’s been awhile”

Eden exclaimed, immediately knowing her sister’s voice “I know what you’ve done, I saw what you did to Erin! How could you do such a thing?”

“She got in the way!” Fired Liliith.

“If she hadn’t gotten too close, she wouldn’t have gotten the bite! All she had to do was play into my plans, and aid me in your alliance, but she wouldn’t agree. So of course, she had to go!”

“What did Erin have to do with any of this?” cried Eden.

Erin was keeping Eden away from Liliith, luring her away to a life of success and excess. Instead of agreeing to the plans she had replied “wtvr psycho” to over text!

“She’ll never know you the way I do!” shouted Liliith. “You’re mine Eden! No one else can have you, and, no one else deserves us!” she continued.

“You’ve pushed me away Eden, getting new friends and a new life, but no more!” she yelled, now staring directly into Eden’s eyes.

“Join me in sacrifice, Eden. I know what’s best for us. Together, we can unleash an evil unlike any other into the world!

“OMG you’ve actually gone insane! I can’t believe how far you’ve fallen.” cried Eden.

Liliith tries to convince Eden, but to no avail. The girls scream at each other Liliith shouting,

“The Skullclad killer comes, and tonight he comes for you!”, causing the house to begin to shake.

Moments before Liliith lays her hands on her, they hear a large crash downstairs, with loud thumping footsteps following after. Eden turns back to Liliith, who is now no longer there, only



catching the last bit of light before the candle extinguished. The scent of the extinguished candle permeating Eden's nose. The footsteps were quickly approaching towards her, growing louder and louder. Suddenly, they stop, sounding as if they had stopped right on the other side of the door. Eden paused, unsure what to do. Should she fight? Maybe she could defend herself with her phone or something in the room! Or would it be wise to just run away?

Suddenly the door flew to the ground as the figure stomped through, causing Eden to shriek. The masked figure locks his eyes directly into hers. She screams, fleeing into another room and locking the door behind her. Eden realizes she's trapped in an eerie bathroom with only a flimsy shower curtain rod as a feeble defense. She considers a daring escape through the window, a dangerous ten-foot drop onto the ground below. With little time to decide, her heart raced as she heard the menacing figure begin to bang away at the door, now making his way closer. She leaps through the window, tearing her skirt and spraining her ankle upon landing, but not abandoning her De Luca boots.

The pursuit continued, the relentless figure following behind Eden into the road. She ran as quickly as she could, finally removing her boots. Her blistered feet couldn't withstand anymore. She ran until a distant pair of headlights pierced through the murky darkness. She stood in the road, drained, waving her boots in desperation, hoping to escape the nightmarish ordeal.

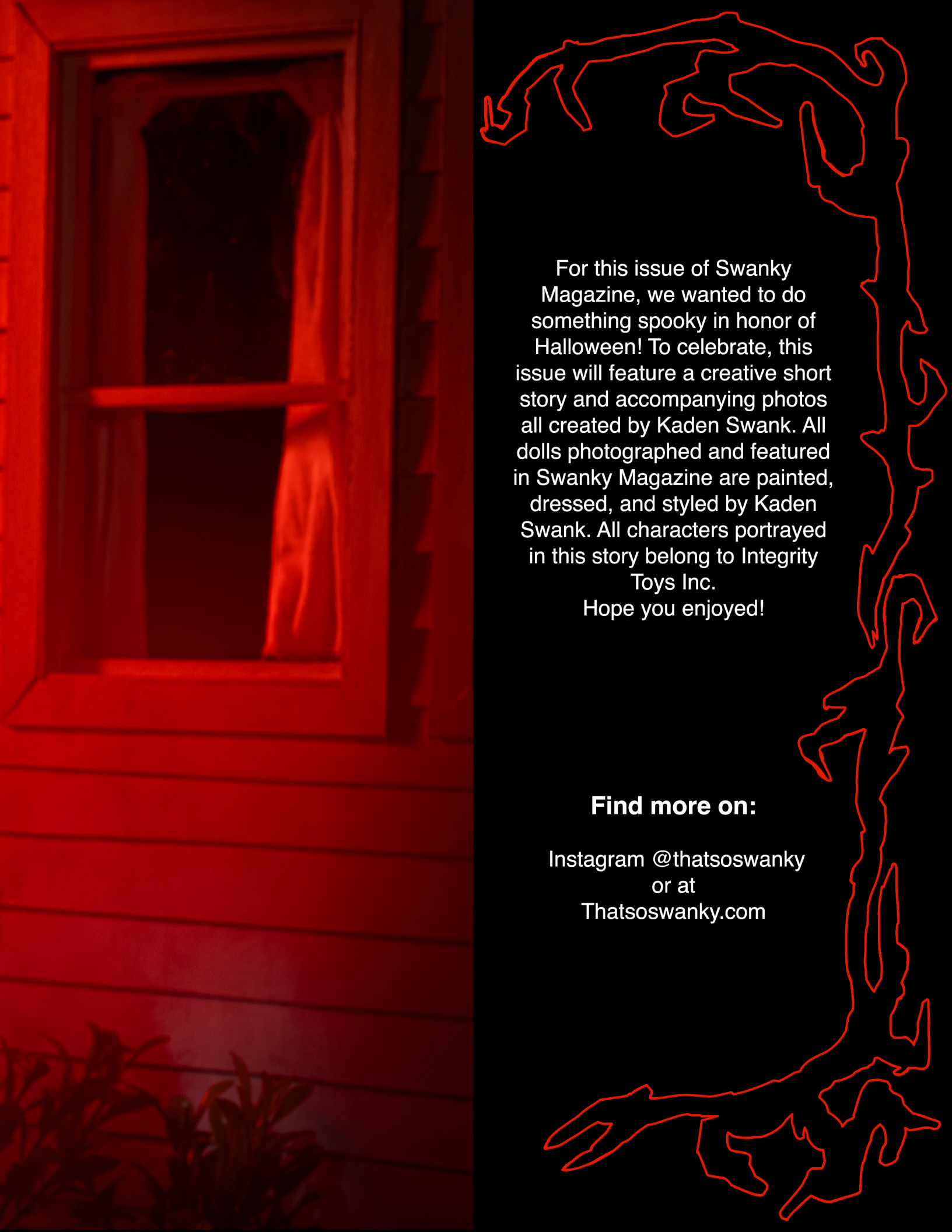
The driver stopped, offering salvation to an exhausted Eden. As they sped away from the malevolent farmhouse, all Eden could utter were the haunting words,

"My sister is back."









For this issue of Swanky Magazine, we wanted to do something spooky in honor of Halloween! To celebrate, this issue will feature a creative short story and accompanying photos all created by Kaden Swank. All dolls photographed and featured in Swanky Magazine are painted, dressed, and styled by Kaden Swank. All characters portrayed in this story belong to Integrity Toys Inc.

Hope you enjoyed!

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