

I HATE HALLOWEEN

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I am so grateful to my family for helping me complete this story, which has been percolating in our dinner table discussions for over a year. My children were enormously helpful in generating costume ideas and helping me photograph Soda Pop, which was not as difficult as you might expect.


Lastly, I must thank Soda Pop the cat, who is such an inspiration to me as he slinks around our home. I am sure this won't be the last we hear from him.

Dedicated to all who love Halloween--it happens to be my favorite holiday!

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I am Soda Pop, a spooky black cat living in Inclement, Iowa.
The title on the cover of this book says
I Hate Halloween. It is not entirely true.
There are lots of things I like about
Halloween.

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A black cat with glowing green eyes is shown in mid-air, jumping over a bowl of candy corn. The cat's tail is curved upwards, and its body is arched. The background is a solid green color. The bowl of candy corn is at the bottom of the frame, and the background below it is a dark purple with yellow stars and crescent moons.

For instance, the candy corn.
I LOVE candy corn. I bet I
I could jump right up there....

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I LOVE rolling in piles of autumn leaves as well.

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And creeping around the cemetery at night is always good for some spooooooky fun!

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Then there are the Jack-O-Lanterns.
I just look GOOD with Jack-O-Lanterns.

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*But at my house,
there is a DARK SIDE
to Halloween.
A terrifying ritual I am
forced to go through
year after year.
I have to.....*

WEAR COSTUMES!!!

EEEEEEEEEEK!!!



Here I am as a devil. At least, I think I'm a devil. My Mom sometimes misses the mark. Do you see the evil in my eyes?

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How about a witch costume? What do you think? Well, I'll tell you what I think! Cats are NOT witches. Black cats are friends of witches. But, as you can see, my Mom never listens.

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Okay, this costume is ridiculous.
A cat-ghost. Yeah. Real Funny.
And she didn't even sew eye holes
into it.



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Fairy Princess? Here I am as a Fairy Princess? This is just wrong. Wrong wrong wrong! And I hate the crown. Seriously. Hate. It.

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Okay, now I'm a skeleton. Which is weird because that is a HUMAN skeleton painted on my costume. And there is no way I'm putting that mask on. NO WAY.



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So, who can figure out what is wrong with this picture? I'm a black cat, dressed up as a.....BLACK CAT. Need I say more?

And here I am as a vampire. This one might actually capture my true nature the best. But, I'm not making that face because I'm *happy*, let me tell you.



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A black cat with bright yellow eyes is perched on the back of a dark, ornate chair. The chair has intricate carvings and a large, dark ribbon bow tied around its backrest. To the right of the cat, a large orange pumpkin is visible. The background is a warm, slightly blurred indoor setting.

So, do you see now? Do you understand? It's very simple, really. I hate Halloween because--and pet owners, this is important--cats are NOT meant to wear costumes! (Mom, are you listening?)

The End.

Oh, and be kind to your cat.

That is all.

Until NEXT Halloween.