

The Pumpkin

written by

Vaclav Urbanek
urbanekwriting@gmail.com

PAGE 1 - PANELS: 5

PANEL 1

A CLOSE-UP of a PUMPKIN. It's so close that we can only see a small bit of the pumpkin, covering the WHOLE PANEL.

NARRATION I like **carving pumpkins**.

PANEL 2

Another CLOSE-UP of the PUMPKIN. A bit more pulled back, but it still covers the WHOLE PANEL. Though now we can see a small carved part in it. Like maybe a mouth or an eye.

NARRATION It's cozy.
 And it makes me think of **my grandma** who taught me
 how to do it.

PANEL 3

Finally a PANEL where we can actually see the whole CARVED HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN. And it's a pretty nice one, too. It's laying on a kitchen table, with a KNIFE and some pumpkin bits and pieces around.

NARRATION Grandma is not with us anymore. I miss her
 sometimes. Especially on **Halloween**.
 When I get to carve some pumpkins.

PANEL 4

We are now in a different room, a dark LIVING ROOM, where a woman, the MOTHER of the LITTLE GIRL who's narrating this story, is watching TV. The TV is the only light source in this room, but we don't see it. We are looking at the woman, sitting on a couch, the images of the TV only mildly reflecting in her tired eyes and a GLASS OF WINE she is holding. Behind her we see the KITCHEN, brightly lit, with the little girl sitting at the table, admiring her pumpkin.

NARRATION I think mom misses grandma, too. Even if she
 doesn't show it.
 But she doesn't miss Halloween. Ever. And she
 doesn't like carving pumpkins.
 Not at all.

PANEL 5

REVERSE SHOT. We are now looking from the KITCHEN to the LIVING ROOM, but it's much closer to the living room and to the couch. The MOTHER is still sitting there, but her upper torso is now turned towards us/the little girl (she doesn't even be visible in this panel, but the PUMPKIN at least partially should be, as sort of a linchpin, spatially connecting all the panels together). She's still holding her glass of wine and we can now see the TV behind her, playing some sort of a variety show or any sort of program you'd like to choose.

MOTHER **Cassandra!**

PAGE 3 - PANELS: 4

PANEL 1

A sort of a PROFILE PANEL. On the LEFT SIDE, the LITTLE GIRL is standing with her head down, sad that her mother is yelling at her, again. In the MIDDLE, a TABLE with a PUMPKIN covered in a BLANKET. On the RIGHT SIDE, the MOTHER, scolding her daughter.

MOTHER Why can't you just go out and play with your friends **like a normal girl?**

Do you even **have any friends?**

You really are **just like your grandmother.**

Jesus! Like I don't have enough embarrassment in my life. Why can't **at least you** give me a break.

Fucking pumpkins.

PANEL 2

The MOTHER is TURNING AROUND, towards the KITCHEN UNIT, there is a WOODEN COOKING SPOON laying on it. In the background, we can still see the LITTLE GIRL, now worried about what her mother is about to do, and also the PUMPKIN, now with a subtle PURPLE HAZE or MIST coming from it.

PANEL 3

A CLOSE-UP on the WOODEN SPOON lying on the KITCHEN UNIT.

MOTHER (OP) Maybe I just need to get this stuff out of you **the hard way.**

PANEL 4

SIMILAR CLOSE-UP, but now the WOODEN SPOON is in the MOTHER'S RIGHT HAND.

MOTHER (OP) Maybe then you'll finally **do what I say.**

THE PUMPKIN **Will she?**
(OP)

PANEL 1

BIG PANEL! The MOTHER has turned around from the kitchen unit and towards the table. We are now looking at the back of her head and seeing what she's seeing. The LITTLE GIRL is still standing near the table, not as afraid as before but still startled. And behind her there is now a TALL CREATURE, covered in a purple blanket, now more resembling a CLOAK, and a CARVED PUMPKIN for a head, with a PURPLE HAZE coming from its mouth and eye holes. The only other things we see of the creature are LONG FINGERS peeking out of the cloak, looking like ROOTS. I could also imagine that the creature speaks in purple text balloons.

THE PUMPKIN *You have lost your way, daughter.*

PANEL 2

The next THREE PANELS are VERY SIMILAR. They are all sort of from the POV of THE PUMPKIN. In the first one, we see the MOTHER looking up at us/the Pumpkin in horror, but still holding her WINE GLASS in her LEFT HAND and the WOODEN SPOON in the RIGHT HAND (though this hand/arm is lowered down).

PANEL 3

SIMILAR PANEL. The ROOT HAND of THE PUMPKIN is REACHING TOWARDS the MOTHER who is now looking confused, but not breaking eye contact with us. Her LEFT HAND holding the WINE GLASS is LOWERING DOWN, mirroring the already lowered right hand.

PANEL 4

SIMILAR PANEL. The ROOT HAND is now on the MOTHER's shoulder. BOTH of the mother's hands/arms are now down and even though she's still holding the GLASS, the WINE is now spilling on the floor. The RIGHT HAND has dropped the WOODEN SPOON completely and the spoon is now also laying on the floor. A SINGLE TEAR is running down the mother's face. She is about to cry, but not out of fear...

THE PUMPKIN *Please, let me help you find it again.*
(OP)

MOTHER M...mom?