Zoom for the Holidays

by Stephanie Buckley

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DEDICATION

To Chris who does a devil of a job being my husband, to my favorite mess-makers, Caitlin and Bridget, and to my parents, the real Mr. and Mrs. Claus!

STORY OF THE PLAY

Wondering what Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas look like during a pandemic? Three one act plays will show you how monsters, turkey and angry elves will ZOOM FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

In THE SPINE-CHILLING ASSOCIATION OF REPUGNANT EVIL, a group of "terrifying" monsters must meet via Zoom to figure out how to scare humanity during an already frightening pandemic. However, Devil is having a devil of a time getting people to take their responsibilities seriously: Werewolf is a sheep in wolf's clothing, Witch has bad blood with Vampire, and the other members may be ghosting the important meeting. The teleconference reveals that monsters and humans share many of the same compulsions, insecurities and foibles.

Despite the obstacles presented by Covid-19, seven high school seniors use Zoom to continue an annual Thanksgiving tradition in THE RITUAL. The ceremony, which they established as 7th graders, is supposed to be a way for the friends to reconnect each year—no matter what happens. Although they find a way to hold their friendship ritual during a pandemic, the teens wonder if their tradition can continue in a world plagued by tragedy, loss and change.

Just as many nations, states, and schools have formed committees to outline post-quarantine re-openings, Santa must formulate a plan via Zoom in THE NORTH POLE REOPENING COMMITTEE. However, in order to reopen the North Pole, Santa, a technology-challenged traditionalist, must now consider the concerns of the Commissioner of Public Health, the Elf workers' union, and a Public Relations company. Will all of these opinions help save Christmas or completely destroy it?

The Spine-Chilling Association of Repugnant Evil

by Stephanie Buckley

CHARACTERS

*__DEVIL:__ President of SCARE, the Spine-Chilling Association of Repugnant Evil.

*__WEREWOLF:__ Vice President of SCARE.

__WITCH:__ Treasurer of SCARE.

*__VAMPIRE:__ Member of SCARE.

*__GHOST:__ Member of SCARE.

*__MUMMY:__ Member of SCARE.

__BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN:__ The wife of the Frankenstein, SCARE Secretary.

*Characters' genders are flexible. The actors and director may select preferred pronouns.

__TIME:__ October 2020.

__PLACE:__ A teleconference meeting of the monstrous members of SCARE, the Spine-Chilling Association of Repugnant Evil.

The Spine-Chilling Association of Repugnant Evil

(AT RISE: DEVIL sits alone in a teleconference. The name "Devil" is indicated in the corner of the screen. Behind him/her/them is a sign with the acronym, SCARE. DEVIL appears agitated and looks at his/her/their watch. SFX: A sound indicates someone wants to join the teleconference.)

DEVIL: *(As he/she/they clicks.)* Finally!

(WEREWOLF appears in a new box with the name "Werewolf" indicated in the corner.)

WEREWOLF: *(Looking at notes.)* I know. I'm late. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. *(Looking up.)* Where is everybody?

DEVIL: *(With barely concealed resentment.)* Not here. You are the first to arrive.

WEREWOLF: Oh, well. Don't take it personally. *(Thinking of an excuse.)* You know…. It's October—a busy time of year for monsters.

DEVIL: *(Angry.)* I'm the Devil. I know October is a busy time for monsters. That's why this meeting is so important.

WEREWOLF: Hey. Don't get mad at me. I completely agree. That's why I joined the Spine-Chilling Association of Repugnant Evil.

DEVIL: Well, if everyone in SCARE agrees that this meeting is important, then where is everybody? *(SFX: A sound indicates someone wants to join the teleconference.)* Okay, here we go.

(DEVIL clicks, and WITCH appears in a new box with the name "Witch" indicated in the corner.)

WEREWOLF: Hey, Witch!

WITCH: Hey, guys! Where is everybody?

DEVIL: That's what we were just discussing.

WITCH: *(To WEREWOLF.)* Maybe it's time to talk to Devil about what we discussed last week.

DEVIL: Last week? You had a meeting without me?

WEREWOLF: *(To WITCH.)* I don't know. I'm not sure that this is the time.

DEVIL: The time for what?!?!

WITCH: *(To WEREWOLF.)* Come on! It's just us. Who knows if the others are even coming?

DEVIL: What are you two talking about?

WEREWOLF: Devil, you and I have been friends for a long time. Right?

DEVIL: Yeah…. So?

WEREWOLF: And when you ran for President of SCARE, you had my full support.

DEVIL: Okay. What's your point?

(WEREWOLF struggles to find the words so WITCH takes up the mantle.)

WITCH: What Werewolf is trying to say is that some of the members do not appreciate your leadership style.

DEVIL: *(Shocked.)* What?

WITCH: They think that you are angry and controlling.

DEVIL: Who thinks that?

WITCH: It's not important who said it, but as Treasurer *(Indicating herself.)* and Vice President *(Indicating WEREWOLF.)* of SCARE, it is our responsibility to listen to our members.

DEVIL: But that's ridiculous. *(Thinking.)* You guys don't think I'm angry and controlling.

WITCH: *(As WEREWOLF avoids eye contact with the DEVIL.)* Well…

DEVIL: Werewolf?

WEREWOLF: Remember when you had the big fight with God because you wanted to be more powerful than him and he cast you into hell?

DEVIL: That was a long time ago, Werewolf. I went to therapy. I've grown.

WITCH: *(Reassuring.)* Of course you have. Listen, this pandemic has been hard on us, and it is totally understandable to fall back on old, destructive behaviors. *(The DEVIL sulks.)* Take me, for instance. I totally started stress eating again. I won't even step on a scale, and I'm terrified to go back to Weight Witchers.

DEVIL: Really?

(WITCH nods.)

WEREWOLF: Sometimes I'm so overwhelmed that I have trouble waking up in the morning.

WITCH: *(Concerned.)* Werewolf, you didn't tell me that.

WEREWOLF: *(To WITCH.)* Yeah, well I always have trouble this time of year. I think it has to do with the changing of the seasons….

WITCH: You know, I was going through that. Have you tried putting the alarm clock across the room?

WEREWOLF: No. Does that help?

WITCH: It helped me. I forced me out of bed.

WEREWOLF: Great idea.

WITCH: You could also sleep with the blinds open, and your bedroom will be filled with darkness when you wake up.

WEREWOLF: *(Encouraged.)* I'll open the blinds tonight.

WITCH: Have you tried magnesium?

WEREWOLF: No, I haven't, but—

DEVIL: *(Interrupting.)* Can we get back to *me*?

WITCH: All Werewolf and I want to say is that we are completely in your corner, but you might have more success with these meetings if you calm down and allow other members to contribute.

DEVIL: *(Confused.)* What do you mean?

WEREWOLF: Well, if the conversation does not follow the order of the agenda that you emailed to us, you just let it go.

DEVIL: Let it go? It makes no sense to deviate from the agenda. The conversations will be off-topic and unproductive.

WEREWOLF: Perhaps. But some side conversations may be good for morale, and who knows, it may generate some great ideas that support the goals of the association.

(DEVIL scoffs.)

WITCH: And perhaps you could open up the meetings to the greater monster community. *(DEVIL rolls his eyes.)* Maybe invite non-SCARE members to sit in on a meeting.

(DEVIL does not respond. WEREWOLF and WITCH exchange a look of frustration.)

WEREWOLF: Maybe just focus on being calm and patient.

DEVIL: I can do that.

End of Freeview

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