

A TOUCH OF GREEN

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CHARACTERS

ANGIE	A very serious young lady of eight years who has very nearly mastered the lost art of potion making.
BLAKE	A neighborhood boy of the same age.
TERRI	A neighborhood girl of the same age.

SETTING

Out in front of Angie's house on Halloween.

SCENE

(Angie, a little girl who would not like to be called that, is peering into a large pumpkin, her face scrunched like she's not seeing what she expected. She picks up a branch, and uses it to stir something inside the gourd, then looks again. Still not satisfied. She roots through a bag of candy, pulls out a candy bar and unwraps it. She takes a bite, and we think she is just hungry, but then after two chews, she looks up in critical evaluation, nods, and tosses the rest of the bar into the pumpkin. She stirs. Just then, Blake and Terri walk up.)

BLAKE

Hey, Angie!

ANGIE

Hi, Blake. Hey, Terri.

TERRI

We're gonna go trick or treating. Wanna come?

ANGIE

Nah. I already went.

BLAKE

So? So did we. We're gonna go around again.

TERRI

Mrs. Watkins at 413 is giving out full-size bars.

ANGIE

I know, but her stuff's no good.

BLAKE

No good?

ANGIE

Yeah. Ruined the whole thing. This is my second try. Can you hand me that shaker?

TERRI

(Looking at a few cannisters on the ground.)

This one?

ANGIE

No, the big one.

(Terri hands it over.)

TERRI

What's in it?

ANGIE

I don't think you wanna know.

BLAKE

Sure we do. What is it?

ANGIE

Goose liver. But powdered.

TERRI
Cool!

BLAKE
Gross!

(Terri and Blake look at each other.)

TERRI
Gross?!

BLAKE
Cool?!

TERRI AND BLAKE

(Turning back to Angie...)

So anyway...

TERRI

Where'd you get it?

ANGIE

From my mom. She was gonna chuck it, but I took it and dried it out. Thought it might be useful.

BLAKE

For what??

ANGIE

You never know. But turns out it is.

(Angie shakes some powder into the pumpkin, looks critically, gives the pumpkin a gentle kick, then puts in another shake. She gives it an appraising look, then nods in satisfaction.)

TERRI

So whatcha making?

ANGIE

I don't think you wanna know.

BLAKE

Sure we do. What is it?

ANGIE

It's a potion.

TERRI

We could guess that. What's it for?

ANGIE

It's for astral remote activation for stimulating regrowth in a stunted élan vital. So, you know, just something for fun.

BLAKE

Astral... what?

ANGIE

It'll take the soul from one creature, and uses it as a blueprint to make another one grow.

TERRI AND BLAKE

Whoa.

BLAKE

Can I try?

ANGIE

No. And besides, it's not quite ready yet. Close, but...

TERRI

How can you tell?

ANGIE

See how it's all kinda murky blue? It needs to be green. At least I think it does.

TERRI

Why green?

ANGIE

Cuz green is the color of envy.

BLAKE

So what?

(Angie gives Blake and Terri an appraising look, then decides they're actually interested.)

ANGIE

So this kind of stuff works based on similarity. You take the person it's gonna work on, and you figure out what elements will gravitate it toward them. Like since you like computer games and cinnamon, if I were making this for you I might dissolve those fireball candies in it, and stir it with a Play Station remote.

BLAKE

You'd ruin the remote!

(Angie shrugs.)

TERRI

What about me?

ANGIE

You? Hmm. What do you like...

BLAKE

Terri's totally into Joey Hanover. You should stir the potion with him.

TERRI

(Said about halfway through the prior line.)

I am not!!

ANGIE

I think for you I'd probably put in a bunch of marigolds, and maybe—

TERRI
I LOVE marigolds! That'd totally work!

ANGIE
And maybe some carrots.

TERRI?
Carrots?

ANGIE
Don't you like carrots?

TERRI
I mean, they're okay, but...

ANGIE
You have carrots for lunch every day at school.

TERRI
Huh. Yeah, I guess I do.

ANGIE
But now I need something green. What's green around here?

BLAKE
I bet we could find a frog around here somewhere.

TERRI
Ewww! You can't kill a frog!

ANGIE
Actually...

TERRI
No!!

ANGIE
What? Oh, no. I wouldn't hurt it. But maybe we could use the frog at the end. If we pour the potion over it, it might activate the green-ness.

TERRI
You're sure it won't hurt him?

ANGIE

(She thinks for a moment, then says...)

Positive.

(Terri sighs in relief, and then turns to start looking for a frog. Angie and Blake share a look, and Angie makes an “I don’t actually have the faintest idea whether it would hurt the frog” look. She stops a moment before Terri turns back.)

TERRI

I just thought of something. In Harry Potter, when you want to make a potion that has to do with someone, you get something that belongs to them. Like a hair or something.

ANGIE

Yeah, that would be ideal, but I can’t. The person I’m making this for lives way far away from here.

TERRI

Oh.

BLAKE

Then why are you going to all this effort?

ANGIE

Well, I think the subject is—

BLAKE

The subject?

ANGIE

That’s how you talk about the person who’s gonna be affected. You call them the *subject*. You have to learn the right words for this stuff. Anyway, I think the subject got hurt when he was really young, and it stunted the growth of his soul.

TERRI

Like if his parents gave him coffee when he was little?

BLAKE

That’s for how tall you get, stupid!

TERRI

You're stupid. You think that grapes are made from—

ANGIE

Anyway, I think he had a lot of emotional trauma as a kid...

TERRI

I bet his parents gave him coffee.

ANGIE

Actually, I think it's because his parents gave him everything except acceptance, but anyway, now he's doing a lot of bad stuff and hurting people because he's so empty.

BLAKE

Because he only has half a soul.

ANGIE

Exactly. So I figured that if maybe I sacrificed all my Halloween candy...

(Blake and Terri look aghast.)

You have to sacrifice something important if you want to make a potion that works. Anyway, so I thought if I sacrificed my Halloween candy, and used some other magical ingredients, that I could help him regrow the part of his soul that's missing.

BLAKE

Based on the thing you give the potion to?

ANGIE

Right.

BLAKE

Wow.

TERRI

Yeah. Wow.

ANGIE

So I just need something that'll turn the potion green.

BLAKE

I thought we were gonna pour it on a frog.

ANGIE

That'll be great, but it'll be even better if the potion is green too.

TERRI

I got a bunch of green Pixie Stix. Do you think that would work?

ANGIE

Maybe. Could I have them?

TERRI

Sure! Definitely sounds like a good cause.

(Terri hands them over.)

BLAKE

I got a couple green apple lollipops!

(Blake hands them over. Angie stirs them in and they all peer into the pumpkin.)

TERRI

It's working!!

ANGIE

Now we just need a frog.

BLAKE

I bet I can find one!

(Blake rushes off.)

TERRI

It's so cool that you know all this stuff. Did your mom teach you this?

ANGIE

Nah. It just kinda comes to me.

TERRI

That's so cool. I wish I knew how to make potions. Although maybe not, because I don't think I'd wanna sacrifice all my candy.

ANGIE

Me either, but this is really important.

TERRI

So how will you know if it works?

ANGIE

I won't know for sure, at least not for a while. But hopefully he'll start changing the way he acts, and that's how we'll know.

TERRI

Oh, wait. So he's an actor?

ANGIE

No. I mean the way he behaves. Like he'll start to care about people, and think about how other people feel and stuff. That's the problem with having only half a soul – you can't stop focusing on what you don't have. And no matter what you get, you find that it never fills up the part of yourself that's missing.

TERRI

Wow. That's really sad.

ANGIE

Yep. I can't imagine feeling so empty all the time. That's why I thought I'd try to help.

(Blake enters again.)

BLAKE

I *told* you I could catch one! I'm real good at catching frogs! Jacob says that *he's* the best, but I can—

TERRI

Just hand over the frog, Blake.

BLAKE

Here.

(Blake and Terri hold the frog still on the ground.)

ANGIE

No, hold him over this bucket.

(Angie hands them a bucket, and Blake and Terri take it and hold the frog over it. While this is happening...)

BLAKE

Wait. If you have a bucket, why were you making the potion in a pumpkin?

(Angie starts to pour the potion out over the frog and into the bucket when she reaches the word "because" in the next line.)

ANGIE

That's part of what will connect the potion to him. Green for envy, and the pumpkin because he kind of looks like—

(The frog starts actively trying to get away.)

Whoa! Whoa!

(Terri and Blake hold the frog more carefully, and Angie finishes pouring the contents out. Chunks of wet candy eventually all plop out of the pumpkin and into and around the bucket.)

BLAKE

Man, Angie. That's a fortune in candy. I hope this works.

ANGIE

Me too.

TERRI

Me three.

(The kids let go of the frog and stand up to stare at the bucket and puddle.)

Wait. Did you say it will use the frog's soul as the basis for making the other one grow?

ANGIE

Yeah.

TERRI

So the person will sort of become a frog?

ANGIE

Maybe. But trust me, it'd be an improvement.

BLAKE

Still seems like a longshot for all that candy.

ANGIE

It is, I guess, but if it even has just a tiny *chance* of working...

(They're all silent for a moment, then in unison...)

ALL

Totally worth it.

(Lights out.)