

Haunted House: A Ninjago Dragon's Rising Halloween Fanfic

By Lucia B. Johnson

"Okay, there's got to be at least three hundred in there," said Frak, looking at the jar of candy corn.

"I'm not so sure about that," I admitted, studying the jar. "The typical amount of candy corn that can fit in a quart-size jar is two hundred and seventeen."

"Really? I didn't know that," he replied, studying the candy corn jar and trying to spin it around to look at the other side, only to be stopped by the muncie running the stall.

"Euphrasia, how do *you* know that?" Sora asked, dressed as a dragon with mechanical wings and shiny horns in place of her typical cat ears and headphones.

"I studied Halloween extensively," I admitted sheepishly, fingering my fluffy cosplay lemur tail (I was dressed up as Tangle the lemur from the IDW comics and no one had noticed :(

The Crossroads Halloween Carnival bustled all around us, with shrieks and witchy cackles, ghostly murmurs, and regular chatter from all the other attendees.

"I'm gonna guess two hundred and thirty," declared Frak, who was wearing a pirate costume.

"Hm," said Sora, turning to Kai. "Oh, wise candy lord, do you think that's close enough?"

"Shut up," he muttered. "This is painful enough. Stop making it worse." As a result of a lost bet, he was wearing a bright red gummy bear costume.

"I think that's the best answer you're going to get out of him," said Lloyd, who looked like he hadn't slept all night. He hadn't. Apparently, he'd been putting up protection wards against possession, muttering something about ghosts, museums, and sand.

"THEY'RE AFTER US!" Wyldfyre screamed. She skidded to a stop right next to us, the horns for her teifling costume askew, Arin and Riyu following closely behind.

"What!? What did you do!? Where's the body!?" exclaimed Kai. *Bodies? That's crazy, I thought. Wyldfyre would never-*

"What body?" asked Wyldfyre. "I already burned it." *WAIT WHAT. SHE ACTUALLY DID IT!?*

"There's no body! No one's dead!" Arin exclaimed. "But we may have-"

"AGH! IMPOSTER!" Lloyd pulled out his sword at Arin, who was wearing a green ninja costume. He even had a ratty hood that he claimed actually belonged to Lloyd, which he was wearing for "authenticity." It smelled horrible.

"WHOA WHOA WHOA!" we all yelled, with Riyu growling protectively.

"That's Arin!" I exclaimed.

"Oh. Yeah. Sorry. I forgot," apologized Lloyd, sheathing his sword. "Nice costume though."

"Thanks! Your zombie costume is pretty cool too," said Arin.

"What zombie costume?"

"Okay, guys, let's get back on topic. Wyldfyre, Arin, Riyu, what did you do?" demanded Kai.

"Well, *Wyldfyre* kind of infuriated a few people-"

"An entire mob! I'm very proud of myself," boasted Wyldfyre. Riyu and Arin both looked to the sky with the obvious question, "Why me?" in their eyes.

"Wait. What do you mean you infuriated *an entire mob*?" asked Sora.

"That one," said Wyldfyre, pointing to the stampeding crowd of people running straight for us with pitchforks I sincerely hoped were the cosplay kind. "Seriously woman, do you see any other ones around?"

"Um, we should probably run," I said. "Preferably the other way."

"That's the kids who set fire to Lobbo's cape! GET BACK HERE!" screamed someone from the mob.

"No thank you!" Arin yelled over his shoulder as we darted away into the crowd. Riyu took to the sky, unable to forge a way through the crowd.

"Kids! Slow down!" yelled Kai, who was struggling to keep up in his gummy bear costume.

"And get ripped apart by the angry mob!? No thanks!" Wyldfyre yelled back.

When I looked back, I couldn't even see Kai or Lloyd behind us anymore. But I *could* see the enraged mob. Those pitchforks really made them stand out in a crowd.

"What did you *do*!?" I demanded.

"Set fire to some stuff, created anarchy, the usual," she replied mildly.

"What do you mean the-"

"Guys! Let's hide in there!" yelled Arin, pointing towards a decrepit building. There was almost no one in front of it, and I briefly wondered why.

But when the mob resorted to *throwing* their pitchforks, we decided the time for debate was over and ran inside.

"Quick! Shut the door!" exclaimed Frak.

I quickly turned around to do so, but instead witnessed the door swinging shut.

"Ummm, that's definitely not ominous," I said. *Nope. That's VERY ominous*, I swallowed, my mouth feeling dry.

"You must've knocked your tail against it or something," said Sora.

"Y-yeah. You're right," I replied, eyes not leaving the door.

"Is everyone okay?" asked Arin. We all muttered Yeah and quickly noticed several voices missing from the lineup.

"We must have lost Lloyd and Kai in the crowd," said Frak. "Riyu too."

"They're probably getting ripped apart by that angry mob as we speak," said Wyldfyre. We all looked at her, eyes wide open. "Relax! I'm kidding!" *I now see why Kai accused her of murder.*

"Can we please not joke about stuff like that? This place is already giving off too many creepy vibes," said Frak. I glanced around.

There were cobwebs all over the place, and when I looked at the floor, there was a dried smear of red. I swallowed and closed my eyes, taking a deep breath. That's when I noticed the eerie howling, a stark contrast to the mob's angry shouts earlier. My eyes snapped open.

"I-I don't think we should be in here," I whispered, hands clammy.

"Yeah, let's go back outside with the bloodthirsty mob," Wyldfyre muttered sarcastically. Arin tried to look out the window to see if the mob was still there, but when he pulled back the curtain, it only revealed a bunch of wooden boards haphazardly nailed in.

"That is very concerning," said Frak, looking just as terrified as I was.

"Okay, guys, calm down. We're obviously in the haunted house. We passed by it earlier, remember?" said Sora. "There's a back door to an alleyway somewhere. Let's go find that."

I took a deep breath and nodded along with everyone else, remembering I had researched haunted houses. They weren't real, just designed to *feel* like it.

Frak was pushed to the front of the group, with Arin and Sora behind him, and Wyldfyre and I were last. *Oh great. If something comes up behind us, we die first*, I shuddered.

"Why'm I in front?" complained Frak as we walked further into the haunted house. A cold mist covered the floor, and eerie lights were blinking in the darkest corners of the room, like eyes.

"Because you're too cute to die," said Sora. "Monsters would feel bad about killing you."

"You-you think I'm cute?"

Something crashed somewhere in the house, echoing all around us. We jumped, and Frak shrieked. *First Spinjitzu Master he's shrill*, I winced, along with everyone else.

"W-what do you think that was?" asked Arin.

"That sounded like a stake being pounded into place for a vampire," I whispered.

Everyone turned to me.

"Sorry," I muttered sheepishly. "I ramble when I'm scared."

"You're scared? Well, I'm not," snorted Wyldfyre. Something rattled, and she shrieked.

"Not scared, huh?" asked Sora, raising an eyebrow.

"Go to the spectral lands," snapped Wyldfyre, who was currently hiding behind me.

"Okay, okay, let's just calm down a little bit," said Arin. "So far, we've just heard noises. That doesn't actually mean there's something out there."

Something eerily green flashed in the darkness ahead of us.

"THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE!" I screamed. Then I clapped my hands over my mouth. Too late. Pandemonium was unleashed.

"Eep!" Frak jumped into Sora's arms. She yelped and immediately dropped him on Arin's foot, and who shrieked, and then Wyldfyre just started screaming Dragon. Soon, almost all of us were screaming, because that green shape in the darkness got *closer*.

"Guys! Shut up!" Sora shouted. Frak and Wyldfyre stopped screaming. "Thank you. It's obviously a projector. See?" Her hands glowed pink as she checked for tech. Her eyes widened. "Um. . . it must be pretty primitive tech. Strings or something."

"I don't think strings can do that," said Frak. The green figure muttered something.

"It's real!" screamed Wyldfyre, who proceeded to resume shrieking in Dragon.

"It's probably a ghoul from the spectral lands come to possess us and wreak havoc upon our loved ones!" I exclaimed. Sora and Arin glared at me. "S-sorry," I whispered. "I'm nervous."

"Maybe you don't have to be. It could be a nice ghost," suggested Arin.

"It can't be a ghost! They don't exist!" shrieked Sora desperately.

"No, they definitely exist. There's about a hundred scrolls to back it up in the library," I said. I'd read every single one, and kind of regretted it.

"That's it. I'm throwing my shoe at whatever it is," muttered Sora.

"But what if it's a nice ghost?" exclaimed Arin.

"My ears hurt and I'm tired of the screaming. I can't really find the heart to care," Sora said, proceeding to take off her shoe. "DID YOU HEAR THAT GHOSTIE!? GET LOST!!" She then threw the shoe, and there was a distinct *smack!* and "ow!"

"Now you've made it mad!" Frak exclaimed.

"You mean the ethereal ghost that the shoe should've passed right through?" I said.

"Yeah-waitamminute," Frak stopped. We all looked at each other and then at the green shape in the darkness.

"You," Lloyd finally stepped into the light, arms crossed. "Are in so much trouble."