



# **WHAT DOES TRICK OR TREAT MEAN ?**

Written by  
Michael Godby

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4th Draft

[banaszak@beastinn.com](mailto:banaszak@beastinn.com)

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**FADE IN**

**EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT**

A group of three boys, HUGH (10), CHARLEY(9) and CHRIS (9), gather at a corner in a small rural town. They stand in the light of a full moon, dressed as commandos.

Across the street, a bus stop sits at the corner under a street light. Beyond that, a cemetery.

Charley stares at the cemetery gates and fidgets nervously.

CHRIS  
What's your problem? Scared?

CHARLEY  
No. Are you?

CHRIS  
I think you're scared.  
(sing-song tone)  
Charley's scared. Charley's scared.

CHARLEY  
I am not.

HUGH  
Knock it off.

CHRIS  
Where is she?

HUGH  
Hang on. She'll be here and she's bringing some friends.

CHRIS  
What's her name again?

HUGH  
Roberta. Her gamer tag is Bobbibabe-13. We buddy-up on Playstation. She's unstoppable in Call of Duty.

A county shuttle bus arrives. It stops at the stop sign at the corner.

After a beat, it pulls away. LEXINGTON, a girl their own age stands alone. She is dressed in a hand-crafted gray dress and sports a long, braided pony tail.

CHARLEY

Is that her?

HUGH

I'm not sure. We never exchanged pictures.

Hugh waves at Lexington and she approaches.

HUGH

Are you Bobbi?

She brightens up with a smile.

LEXINGTON

Sure.

HUGH

I'm Hugh. Nice to meet you. This is Charley and Chris. I thought you were bringing friends.

LEXINGTON

All my friends are busy tonight.

HUGH

We're dressed as commandos. What are you supposed to be.

LEXINGTON

I'm a ghost. Why?

CHARLEY

Not much of a costume. You could have at least put a sheet over your head.

Hugh scowls at Charley.

HUGH

Are you ready to trick-or-treat?

LEXINGTON

What does trick-or-treat mean?

CHRIS

You know, when you go door-to-door and ask for candy.

LEXINGTON

You beg for food?

CHRIS

No, just candy. And if they don't give you any, you play a trick on them, like throw eggs and stuff at their house. You never did trick-or-treating before?

LEXINGTON

No. My parents were strict. It's just as well. I can't eat candy. You can have mine. I'll just do the tricks.

HUGH

(points down the road)  
Let's start with that neighborhood.

They march down the sidewalk and start their candy quest.

**EXT. FRONT YARD - HOUSE - NEIGHBORHOOD**

The four approach an extravagantly decorated house. Ghosts, spiders, skeletons and flashing lights line the front walk.

Charlie keeps his distance as he passes each ornament.

They proceed to --

**EXT. - FRONT STOOP**

Hugh rings the doorbell. A VAMPIRE QUEEN answers the door.

ALL FOUR KIDS

(in unison)

Trick or treat.

VAMPIRE QUEEN

(creepy tone)

Who dares ring my doorbell? Hmmm?

She examines the children.

VAMPIRE QUEEN (cont'd)

I see soldiers. Very nice.

(to Lexington)

What might you be?

LEXINGTON

I'm a ghost, Ma'am.

VAMPIRE QUEEN

I don't know you. Where're you from?

LEXINGTON

Nearby.

VAMPIRE QUEEN

I see. A nice effort on your costume.

She produces a large candy tray from behind the front door.

VAMPIRE QUEEN (cont'd)

Here's your treat.

Each thank the lady as they select a candy bar.

VAMPIRE QUEEN (cont'd)

Now run along and no tricks.

HUGH

Nice decorations.

VAMPIRE QUEEN

(out of character)

Thank you, Hugh. Happy Halloween.

**EXT. DIRT ROAD - NEIGHBORHOOD**

They exit the yard, regroup in the roadway.

LEXINGTON

Who wants my candy?

CHRIS

I do.

She hand him the candy bar. He drops it into his bag.

CHRIS

Ms. Guibord didn't know what you were dressed up as. Told ya. You need a better costume.

HUGH

Knock it off.

Lexington looks at a nearby house. There is laundry hanging in the back yard.

LEXINGTON

Wait here. I'll be right back.

She leaves and hastily returns with a sheer white sheet draped over her head.

LEXINGTON

How's my costume?

CHARLEY

Did you just steal that?

LEXINGTON

Do you care?

CHRIS

How do you see?

LEXINGTON

I can see through this okay.

(to Charley)

Is this scary enough for you?

CHARLEY

Yeah.

CHRIS

You look more like a ghost.

**EXT. DIRT ROAD - NEIGHBORHOOD - LATER**

Charley looks ahead. He becomes nervous.

They walk toward a path in front of an old, run down house, set in a seriously unkept yard full of gnarled, bare trees.

CHARLEY

Let's cross the street.

CHRIS

Are you scared of Old Man Woodmann?

CHARLEY

No. Are you?

CHRIS

(nervously)

Ummm, I don't think he has any candy.

LEXINGTON

What's there to be afraid of?

HUGH

He's pretty creepy.

LEXINGTON

I'm sure he's harmless. Come on, I'll show you.

**EXT. OLD MAN WOODMANN'S FRONT PORCH**

At the top of a short flight of steps, the three boys stop. Lexington continues on to the front door. She knocks with the big, cast iron knocker that hangs on it.

The porch light turns on, the door opens. OLD MAN WOODMANN (70) appears. Slim with sinewy hands. He has long, gray hair and a white beard. He wears a dirty wife beater and high-water pants that are shredded at the cuffs.

LEXINGTON

Trick or treat.

OLD MAN WOODMANN

Get out of here!

LEXINGTON

Where's the candy?

He pulls a baseball bat from behind the door.

OLD MAN WOODMANN

I got your candy right here!

They scream and run. He chases them. A bloodhound runs from the open door with a non-stop bark.

Lexington separates from the boys. She runs to the back yard. The dog follows her.

**EXT. FRONT PATH**

The boys sprint down the path. The old man chases them halfway to the road.

They hear the dog BARK and GROWL. It releases a YELP.

LEXINGTON (O.S.)

Hey old man, I'm back here pulling up your garden.

Old Man Woodmann breaks off his pursuit of the boys.

The three boys stop and watch the old man disappear into the dark of the back yard.

They see the dog emerge from the shadows. It WHIMPERS as it hurries back into the house, head down, tail between its legs.

They hear Lexington SCREAM (O.S.)

Moments later, Lexington sprints into the light. The sheet flows around her as she streaks across the yard.

Soon after, Old Man Woodmann appears in hot pursuit.

She stops, reaches down and picks up a rock. She hurls a fastball, nails the old man in the forehead. He staggers and drops the bat. He holds his bleeding head.

He stumbles into the house. The porch light goes dark.

**EXT. DIRT ROAD**

Lexington rejoins the boys.

HUGH  
Are you alright? That was quite a  
scream? You scared us.

LEXINGTON  
I'm fine. He just surprised me,  
that's all. So... He didn't give us  
any candy. Time for the trick. I know  
just what to do.

She struts toward the house, picks up the baseball bat and flings it through an upstairs window. The glass SHATTERS.

The porch light comes back on.

She sprints back to the road.

HUGH  
Let's get outta here!

They run like the wind.

**EXT. SAME ROAD - A FEW HOUSES AWAY**

The four stop and catch their breath.

HUGH  
That was crazy! You're supposed to  
throw eggs.

LEXINGTON  
I don't care. Anyway, it's getting  
late. I need to get back.

HUGH  
Okay. We'll walk with you back to  
your bus stop.



**EXT. SIDEWALK - TOWN - LATER**

The four arrive across from the bus stop.

LEXINGTON  
I had lots of fun. Thank you for  
inviting me.

HUGH  
When will I see you again?

LEXINGTON  
Halloween.

HUGH  
Why Halloween?

LEXINGTON  
I'm not who you think I am. I'm a  
real ghost, silly. I caught a fever  
over a hundred years ago.

She nods toward the cemetery.

LEXINGTON (cont'd)  
I got a marker in there. My name's  
Lexington Hubert. You're welcome to  
sit for a spell sometime.

She takes off the sheet and hands it to Charley.

LEXINGTON (cont'd)  
You can return this if you want.

She disappears into a wisp of a white cloud. It drifts  
across the street in spite of the absence of wind. It stops  
at the bus stop.

She reappears and waves to the boys. They stand and stare  
with wide-open eyes in disbelief.

**BUS STOP**

The county shuttle bus arrives and stops in front of her.

The door opens. The BUS DRIVER (40), male, portly, frowns at  
her impatiently.

She stares back.

BUS DRIVER  
Well? Are you getting on?

Lexington looks up at the moon.

LEXINGTON  
(to herself)  
I still have some time.

She climbs onto the bus and up the steps.

**INT. BUS**

She gazes around the small, empty bus. She makes eye contact with the driver.

BUS DRIVER  
Three dollar fare, ma'am.

LEXINGTON  
Three dollars! You're a thief!

BUS DRIVER  
I don't set the fare, ma'am.

LEXINGTON  
What if I don't have it?

BUS DRIVER  
Then you have to get off.

LEXINGTON  
Trick or treat.

BUS DRIVER  
What the heck does that mean?

LEXINGTON  
You have to give me candy.

BUS DRIVER  
Have you been smokin' something funny?

LEXINGTON  
Funny? Like opium?

BUS DRIVER  
Yeah. Somethin'. Look, I don't have any candy.

LEXINGTON  
Then I get to play a trick.  
(with a defiant nod)  
I ride free of charge.

She takes a step down the isle.

BUS DRIVER

Bull shit!

The bus driver shifts the bus into PARK, unfastens his seatbelt and bolts out of his seat. He grabs her.

She snaps around, lowers her shoulder and shoves herself into him. She pushes him off balance and back for a step.

He loses his footing and tumbles backward down the steps.

**EXT. BUS STOP**

The driver rolls out the bus, somersaults across the sidewalk and into the grass. With a considerable, clumsy effort, he scrambles back to his feet.

He rushes the door.

It closes in his face. He pounds on it.

BUS DRIVER

Hey! Open this door!

**INT. BUS**

As the sound of continuous BANGS and BUS DRIVER PROTESTS fills the air, Lexington plops down into the driver's seat. She examines the various controls.

LEXINGTON

(to herself)

I think this drives like a tractor.

She looks down at the pedals, revs the engine for a beat.

She grabs a hold of the shift lever.

LEXINGTON (cont'd)

When I got on, this was in this position.

She moves the lever. The bus starts to move.

The tone of the driver's BANGS and YELLS shifts from angry to desperate.

BUS DRIVER

Hey! Stop this bus right now!

The bus accelerates, pulls away from the curb. The driver runs along side. After a short distance and increase in speed, he gives up.

She watches him scream and gesture in the mirror.

LEXINGTON  
(under her breath)  
Don't worry, I'll bring it back.

The bus swerves off the road. With a CRASH, it plows through a row of mailboxes and over a group of steel garbage cans.

Debris flies about. A garbage can lid cracks the windshield.

She releases a broad grin.

LEXINGTON (cont'd)  
Maybe not in one piece.

The bus swerves back onto the road, crosses the middle line and into the path of an oncoming car.

With a BLARING horn, the oncoming car veers off the road. It bounds across a manicured lawn, leaving ruts and divots. It rams into a old sedan parked in a driveway. Airbags deploy.

Lexington glances back at the wreck and smiles.

LEXINGTON (cont'd)  
(giggles)  
This is going to be the best  
Halloween... ever!

She smiles into the camera.

LEXINGTON (cont'd)  
Happy Halloween.

**FADE OUT**

**THE END**