

A COVID HALLOWEEN

BY CASEY ILES

One spooky Halloween night a girl and her sister
prepare for a night of trick or treating only to find
the only thing chilling about the night was not the
cold October air of Halloween, but a pandemic
hidden by costume masks.

One frigid Halloween night little Cortland Nelson and her younger sister were getting ready for a night of trick-or-treating.

The wind was blowing, the trees were rustling, and sounds of bats were flapping in the night with only the moon and lampposts luminating the suburban streets of East Lansing, Michigan.

Cortland and her sister were getting dressed in their doctor Costumes their mom persisted on them wearing, even though previous years they would pick their own. With their little white lab coats, stethoscopes, plastic gloves, tennis shoes, surgical masks, and hand sanitizer, they were ready to head out into the night.

“Now remember what I told you,” their mom says. “No taking off your masks, and if someone gets too close, just take a few steps away, okay. If there isn’t a table of snacks and a bowl of candy, just be polite and do you remember what we say? Trick or ---treat, stay 6 feet,” Cortland and her sister joining in.

“Mommm we know, can we go already?” Cortland whines.

“Yes okay let me just get a picture of you two before you go, you look so cute in your matching costumes, my little doctors,” the mom says as she clicks the camera.

As Cortland and her sister started out the door with their plastic trick or treat bags in their hands, their mom quickly reminds them as the door is closing “okay love you both, be safe, remember what I told you,” and they head into the brisk cold fall air.

As Cortland and her sister tread on into the night, they begin trick-or-treating, going house to house. With some having yard signs reading “No trick or treaters please, have a safe & Happy Halloween,” and others leaving bags of individually wrapped candies out on a table, Cortland and her sister apply hand sanitizer after each house like their mom told them.

“There’s a lot of people in doctor costumes,” Cortland’s sister points out.

Their bags getting heavier and their arms growing more tired, Cortland and her sister decide to start making their way back home.

As the two sisters continue down the block, Cortland starts to become aware of footsteps following behind her and her sister.

Hearing the crunch of the leaves getting closer and closer, Cortland starts to become frightened. She grabs her sister’s lab coat and starts to walk faster and faster. As the steps grow closer, Cortland turns her head fretfully awaiting what she might find, and suddenly someone coughs.

Cortland and her sister dart their head towards each other and gasp.

THE END