



## Halloween

*Curtis Richards*

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# Halloween

*Curtis Richards*

**Halloween** Curtis Richards

Based on the screenplay by John Carpenter and Debra Hill.

Tricked by his cunning ... Treated to his savagery ... Annie, Linda and Laurie ... fresh, pretty, ready to be taken ... stalked by a sadistic power who has returned to claim new victims, on this ... the most frightening night of the year.

## Halloween Details

Date : Published by Bantam Books (first published October 1979)

ISBN : 9780553132267

Author : Curtis Richards

Format : Mass Market Paperback 168 pages

Genre : Horror, Holiday, Halloween, Fiction, Thriller, Media Tie In, Movies

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## From Reader Review Halloween for online ebook

☆?♥☆ Unsolved Mystery ☆♥?☆ says

### - My Description -

Halloween - The time of year for the giving of candy and fear of ghosts.

Halloween 1963 - Young Michael Myers brutally stabs his older sister with a large kitchen knife.

He is sent to an insane asylum where he sits for 15 years till one night, Halloween 1978.

Michael returns to Haddonfield.

He's come home for unfinished business.

He's come home to kill.

### - My Review -

For anyone who has watched and loved the movie, Halloween, you'll love this book.

It gives deeper insight to the background of Samhain, The origin of Halloween.

Samhain was an old Celtic festival.

Through Samhain, the birth of hatred was born.

Also, delves deeper into Micheal's background and family life.

This book was a tad bit different than the movie.

It added to the movie. It gave a different perspective, like I discovered it for the first time.

I recommend reading this in October. I read this in October and it was perfect. =)

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## Gianfranco Mancini says

Movie novelizations/tie-ins usually suck, but this was very good. Almost as good as John Carpenter's cult movie. Almost.

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## Alejandro says

As good as the movie!!!

*This is the novelization by Curtis Richards based on the original screenplay done for the film by John Carpenter & Debra Hill.*

### **IF YOU KNEW BY HEART THE FILM...IS IT WORTHY TO READ THE NOVEL?**

Quick answer... **YES!!!**

*...but those are movies. You can always turn the television off if you get too scared. You can't turn off real life.*

I had already watched the film several times in the past, but since I was able to get a copy of it like four years ago, I set a "tradition" to watch the film *Halloween* each October 31st at night. So, I was uncertain of how much I would enjoy to read the novel since I knew quite well how the story went, however, the novel adds several additional information not presented on the film that it made, just for that, quite worthy to read the book, and also, while I knew how was the story, the narrative style was so engaging that I enjoyed a lot the reading experience. So, I am truly glad of having decided to read the novelization.

I think that besides the obvious title of the film that makes it a perfect choice to watch on Halloween's night, a key element of the story is that while it's highly unlikely that you will meet a vampire, zombie or another kind of paranormal monster on Halloween, it's dangerously disturbing the chance of meeting a serial killer. Even, when the story "injects" to Michael Myers with certain degree of paranormal endurance, at the very end, he is a serial killer and sadly that's something that anybody can find in real life.

### **WITHOUT SPOILERS...WHAT CAN YOU FIND NEW ON THE NOVEL?**

The novel starts with a prologue showing an ancient ritual related to the roots of the festivities tied to Samhain.

Moreover, you will find quite extended presentation of the childhood of Michael Myers, even commenting about incidents in his family way before of his birth, but also his life on the psychiatric hospital when he was still a child. Quite revealing, insightful and great to strength even more the image of the character.

Even a chat between Dr. Sam Loomis and Sheriff Brackett related to the past family of Michael Myers that you will find the same of valuable to read.

And it seems that Michael Myers, at least during the day, when he is around Haddonfield, he is wearing a mask different that the one that everybody remembers. It's described that he is like having the lips painted on red and around the eyes, painted with purple. My best guess, is that his attempt to reproduce his clown mask when he was a child. (Dang those creepy clowns, again!)

*...it's Halloween. I guess everybody's entitled to a good scare.*

### **MY ONLY COMPLAIN ABOUT THE MOVIE...IS IT FIXED ON THE NOVEL?**

Quick answer... No.

Let me explain, my only complain about the movie is that while Laurie Strode is starting to freak out during the day due encountering several times with Michael Myers, and it's noticeable (and understandable) that she is quite nervous about it, suddenly she is not believing to young Tommy, at night, when he tells her that he is

watching "The Bogeyman" out there. It happens in the movie, and just the same in the book. It's not logical!!! Dang! If she was suspecting that some mysterious shadowy man was kinda stalking her, why the heck she doesn't give a dang about the comments of young Tommy?

Oh, the own inner logic of slasher stuff! ;) You have to accept it as it comes.

But, nevertheless, the *Halloween* novelization is a horror book that I highly recommend, not matter if you have already watched the cult film or not.

***But you can't kill the bogeyman.***

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### **Rebecca McNutt says**

I think the 1970's film was better, but this book was really amazing, too. It was well-written and descriptive and very gripping and suspenseful.

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### **Michael says**

Überraschend solide geschriebenes Buch zum Film, bei dem ich sogar etwas lernen konnte:  
Die Taktik, bei den Slasher-Szenen die Augen zuzuhalten oder mal eben etwas aus der Küche zu holen, funktionieren anders als beim Film beim Buch nicht.  
Wenn vom Bösen besessene Kinder groß werden... Anders als March in BAD SEED lässt Richards keinen Zweifel daran, warum Michael Myers "böse" ist - und mit Psychologie hat das nichts zu tun. Gibt es eigentlich das Genre "Kinderhorror"? Mir fielen auf Schlag etliche Titel ein.  
Fazit: 3,5 Sterne.

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### **BRNTerri says**

**PUB. INFO:** Bantam, 10/1979

**GENRE:** Horror

**SETTING:** Illinois, USA 1978

**NOVEL @ WIKIPEDIA:** [link](#)

**MOVIE TRAILER:** [Link](#)

**MY GRADE:** A++

**THINGS NOT IN THE FILM:** This book was actually released a year *after* the film. Not sure why. I love the film but the book's *so much better!* It's only 166 pages but boy is it packed with extras. It's more graphic sexually and the murders are more gory, especially the murder of his sister. The best part is that we get to learn a little about Michael and Audrey Myers' life before and during the fifteen years he was away at Smith's Grove Sanitarium for the murder of his seventeen-year old sister, Judith, when he was six years old. We learn his thoughts before and during her murder and what he did immediately afterward, before his parents

came home to find him standing outside.

I'm going to mention things in the book that *weren't in the movie*. We meet Michael's mother's mother at the beginning of chapter one. It's Halloween and he shows her his Halloween clown costume that he got from Woolworth. I love his granny. She's sassy. She was offended by his cheap store-bought non scary costume and even referred to Michael once as 'Mister Woolworth Clown Costume'. She began to reminisce to him and his mother Edith about what Halloween was like when she was a child. She said if it was a tame Halloween only your chickens would get beheaded, or as Michael said, unheaded.

We learn that Michael had started wetting the bed after not doing so for three years. He'd been getting into fights at school and with his sister. He'd been having violent dreams and scariest of all, he'd been hearing voices that were telling him to say he hates people. Later in the book Loomis and Sheriff Brackett were discussing how Michael's great-grandfather Nordstrom (his mother's father's father) had heard voices too and had even murdered two people at a harvest dance in the 1890's and was hanged for it.

Shortly before murdering his sister, he goes trick or treating at his own house on Peecher Street with other kids from the neighborhood. His sister jokingly asked the kids what they'd do if she didn't give them candy and Michael said he'd kill her. She said, '*Was that you Michael Myers?!*' and he said, '*I'm not Michael Myers. I'm a clown*'. Every time I've read that line it's caused me to laugh out loud, for some reason.

Soon after that Judith's boyfriend Danny comes over. Michael is spying on them through the window. They're kissing downstairs then later upstairs in her bedroom. Michael can hear the sounds they're making through the open windows and '*the sounds filled him with a murderous hatred*.' He doesn't understand why they're making those sounds. While he's standing outside listening to them we learn of a recurring dream he's been having. In the dream two people who look like Judy and Danny are dancing around a fire outside with other people. He's jealous as he watches them dance and voices are telling him to kill the lovers.

After Danny leaves he goes into Judy's room and stabs her over thirty times while she's sitting at her vanity, brushing her hair, naked except for bikini underwear that have red hearts on them. He stabs her in her wrist, hand, breasts, arms, legs, groin and throat. He goes into the kitchen, eats a cookie, drinks milk out of the bottle, then goes outside and that's when his parents show up and find him holding the knife.

Earlier that day he told his grandmother, in response to her suggesting he disguise his face with white clown makeup, that he wasn't going to play any pranks, and was just going to ask for candy and in response she told him to have an '*innocent, Woolworth kind of Halloween*.' Oooh, it was anything but!

In the book, the nurse who's in the station wagon with Dr. Loomis is named Marion Treadwell. In sequel's her last name is Chambers.

Loomis is remembering all the times at the sanitarium over the past fifteen years where Michael got revenge on other kid's for some slight but was never seen doing it. One kid got food poisoning after playing a joke on Michael by loosening the salt shaker top so the salt would pour out when you went to use it, one boy was scalded in the shower after repeatedly turning the TV volume down when Michael kept turning it up, a nurse fell down the stairs and fractured her pelvis days after an argument with Michael, a boy who forgot to return a game to Michael got a mysterious rash and had to be hospitalized, and worst of all, Michael suggested one year that they be allowed to have a Halloween party, of all things. A girl was bobbing for apples when the lights went out. Soon after when the lights came back on the girl was laying there, almost dead, from someone, *Michael*, trying to drown her. Loomis looked over at Michael, who smiled at him, but his costume was dry and Loomis had no proof Michael did anything to the girl.

When Laurie's walking home from school with Annie and Lynda (it's spelled Linda in the book) and goes inside, her red-haired mother is there, making candied apples and they have a short conversation about evilness. This is right before Laurie goes into her room and sees Michael staring at her from the clothes line. In the film, she walks through the front door and is shown walking straight into her bedroom.

Laurie's father is Chester Strode. Film credits say his name is Morgan though it's never spoken in the film.

In the book, several people who see Michael are close enough to tell he may be wearing a mask, but they aren't sure. In the film, most aren't close enough to him to wonder if it's a mask until they're being murdered by him.

When Loomis and Sheriff Brackett (Annie's father) go into Michael's old house and find the dead dog, they say his intestines are hanging out.

Shortly before Annie's killed, she's at Lindsey's, brushing her own hair. Michael's watching through the window and is staring at her 'large' breasts and becomes sexually aroused. *'The sex between his legs throbbed in an unpleasant way.'*

Annie asks Lindsey why their laundry room is in a separate building outside. Lindsey tells her that her mother wanted it outside because of the noise they both make. That's not mentioned at all in the movie.

Toward the end when Laurie goes to Lindsey's looking for Bob and Lynda and find Annie's dead body in bed with Judith's tomb stone, her stomach had been cut open up to her throat and her intestines were out.

**MY THOUGHTS:** I've always been a fan of the film and got a copy of the book in May 2009 from a friend. The book is so great. Unfortunately it's so expensive that most fans of the film will probably never get to read it. I don't know if the added stuff that I've mentioned was in the original screenplay or not or if Curtis came up with it on his own. Either way, I'm glad it was in the book and not the film. It makes reading the book so much more exciting.

Below are the two covers. The first two are the covers. The last photo is the back cover of both versions. My copy has the middle cover. It was reissued in 1982 and had the cover in the middle.

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### **Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

I have had this book a million and one years and I love it so much! I love the old Halloween movies like you wouldn't believe. Watched them over and over as a kid and still to this day. I enjoyed the book a great deal, there are a few little tidbits added to the book that are not in the movie. I loved how you get the thoughts of Laurie and some other characters in the book that's not JUST in the movie!

**The gory little figure turned and stepped over the fallen furniture and scattered clothing and walked down the stairs and into the kitchen. Suddenly he realized he was hungry. He reached into a bowl on the kitchen counter and stuffed a cookie into his mouth, then opened the refrigerator door and removed a bottle of milk. He emptied half of it into his mouth directly from the bottle and wiped his mouth with his bloody sleeve, leaving a streak of red and white across his cheek.**

**He opened the side door and went outside, still carrying the butcher knife. He stepped out onto the lawn and stood there for a minute indecisively.**

**At that moment a dark sedan pulled up to the curb. The assassin made not attempt to flee, but stood on the lawn waiting for the occupants of the car to get out. After a moment both front doors opened and a man and woman emerged. They took two or three paces toward the house, then saw him and stopped, staring at the figure in the bloodstained clown costume with a blood-clotted butcher knife in his hand.**

**The man reached out and removed the mask from the boy's face.**

**"Michael . . .?"**

The story goes on to tell about Michael being in the Smith Grove Sanitarium and his time with Dr. Loomis until his escape years later.

and now Micheal is back in Haddonfield and he's outside of Laurie's class room.

**As her mind wandered dreamily over these solemn questions, she noticed a station wagon parked on the street. Behind the wheel, gazing into her classroom, gazing it seemed directly at her, was a man. At least she thought it was a man. He was dressed as far as she could make out in dark khaki mechanics overalls. His hair was black, but his face seemed preternaturally white, almost powdered. In fact, the more she looked at the face, with its red lips and sunken purple eyes, she wondered if he weren't wearing a mask. He'd better be, because if that's his own face, that guy is in trouble. Wow, if he's looking at me, then I'm in trouble!**

Moving along and it's after school and Laurie is walking home with her friends when they run into Micheal in the car again. It's a little tense but nothing really happens until later when they all get to meet Micheal on Halloween night!

Laurie is baby sitting for Tommy Doyle and her friend is across the street babysitting as well until she pawns the little girl off on Laurie so she can be with her boyfriend. Doesn't really turn out good!

**Behind the curtain Tommy happened to look out the window at that moment. He saw a huge dark figure with a white grotesque face carrying a limp body of a girl out of the Wallaces' garage. Tommy felt a surge of fear like none he'd ever known. "The bogeyman!" he cried, trying to charge out of the curtain but tangling himself in it.**

Then a bunch of stuff happens, Dr. Loomis shows up, Michael gets shot after being stabbed and he still gets away! I love Micheal =)

**Laurie's nails dug into his shoulder as she stared like a soldier in shell shock at the empty place on the lawn. "It was the bogeyman, wasn't it?" she murmured.**

**"As a matter of fact, " Loomis replied, "it was."**

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## **MY BLOG: Melissa Martin's Reading List**

### **Ana says**

Halloween is almost upon us!

This, my dear friends, is the ultimate Halloween book. It's literally called Halloween. I'm sure you've all heard of the movie (if not, shame on you). Curtis Richards' story gives us insight into Michael's psyche. This novelization is far more graphic than its on-screen version. It's more detailed. I enjoyed the book, just not to the extent that I enjoyed the movie.

***"It was the bogeyman, wasn't it?" she murmured.***

***"As a matter of fact, it was."***

Just a little tidbit. Do you know how many erotic Michael Myers stories there are on Archive Of Our Own? A LOT. Apparently, girls are into this scary serial killer guy, which was a surprise to me, to say the least.

You learn something new every day.

Anywho, if you're into slasher-thrillers with good plot, read this novelization!

Here are my Top 5 favorite scary books of all time.

1. Ghost Story by Peter Straub
2. The Crow by James O'Barr (almost as good as the movie)
3. The Silence of the Lambs by Thomas Harris

4. American Psycho by Bret Easton Ellis
5. Dracula by Bram Stoker

What are your picks?

Trick or treat, my fellow ghouls. Have a safe and happy Halloween.

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### **Jack Tripper says**

(Cover of the first Bantam mass-market printing from 1979. I don't normally read novelizations, but this one supposedly adds a lot of depth and backstory to Michael Myers. Too bad it's nearly impossible to find in decent condition for less than \$100, which is crazy.)

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### **Sharon says**

I'm a big fan of the John Carpenter film so I was expecting a fairly straightforward movie tie-in, given that this book was written after the film.

I was pleasantly surprised - this gives the characters so much more depth, and we find out so much more about Michael Myers and what makes him tick. We see how a curse in ancient Northern Ireland led to an evil soul doomed to walk the earth, repeating evil deeds over and over - and how it eventually ended up affecting Michael's Grandfather and then himself. We also see what happened during Michael's stay at the Sanitorium.

His psychiatrist, Sam Loomis, gets a great chunk of the story here too. As does Laurie Strode - we delve deeper into their characters and really get to know them. The plot stays faithful to the film, whole scenes are exactly the same but there's always a little extra something to ramp up the tension.

The sex and violence is pretty graphic here - there are no holds barred - but overall if you're a fan of the film, this is not just another tie-in, it's a real treat. Well worth trying to track a copy down.

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### **Andrew Cliett says**

This is far different from the film, which is why I didn't like it.

It delves into the reasoning of Michael Myers, the reason he is so creepy is because he's just there for no apparent cause. It's much more creepier to some random guy just kill 3 people (As an adult, in THIS movie, snyway) with no remorse or feeling. Loomis was a nice element in this, he was the only one actually trying to stop Michael.

The end, having Michael shot 6 times over the balcony of the Doyle house (An error Halloween II failed to correct) & Loomis looks over, only to see Michael has vanished like a ghost. Truly one of the best films of all

time. Overall, this novel was not terribly far from the movie, but I really didn't care for it.

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### **Peter Gulgowski says**

I was given a copy of this book, as it has been out of print since the 1980s. Listings for the book on Amazon are not cheap, and that makes me sad that many fans of the film will never read this novelization.

Here's my review.

What a ride! As a fan of the 1978 film, when I found out there was a novelization, I was already hooked. "Halloween" delves into the world of killer, Michael Myers who began his killing pursuit at the age of 6. The book goes where the film did not. It delves into Michael's childhood, including interactions between his family (left out of the film) and an in-depth glimpse into his head. We learn about this ancient curse that evidently has struck the Myers family, inspiring Michael's great-grandfather to kill two people. Going inside Michael's head, while interesting, took away a bit of the supernatural, boogeyman character you know from the movie. Also left out of the film, are sexual motivations of the killings, which humanize Michael even more. For any fan of the Halloween films, this novel is a fun, quick read that accurately and carefully takes you on a scare-filled ride into the world of "Halloween."

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### **Carol says**

#### **"TRICK...OR TREAT...OR DIE"**

**It's 1963.....Take a trip** to Haddonfield, Illinois for a spook-filled time of goblins and witches, scary Jack-o-lanterns and **the real bogeyman** if you dare. as 6 year old Michael Myers answers the demanding wicked voices in his head with a violent attack on **HALLOWEEN** night.

Dressed as a clown, and later referred to as "**IT**" (*sound familiar Stephen King fans?*) even after 15 years in exile at the Warren County Sanitarium, Michael returns and the **evil** is still not gone, only **darker** and more viciously savage.

My wonderful vintage copy (*see bookcover*) of **HALLOWEEN** begins with an *old* horror tale that backdrops Michaels mysterious voices from a time long ago "in a foggy vale in Northern Ireland at the dawn of the Celtic race" on the eve of Samhain <(the Druid festival of the dead).....a curse so powerful, people would bolt their doors in fear, but to no avail.....

If you remember the frightening movie, the novel will bring it all back in spades with the silly teenie-bopper conversations and an atmosphere reminiscent of the time. Great Classic Horror!

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### **André says**

No form of the written word is more maligned than the "movie tie-in" paperback novel: those hastily written

adaptations of film scripts released to coincide with a movie opening to stir up more attention and hopefully rake in extra cash. Some of these actually became quite collectible, depending on the cult nature of the film, and scarcity of the first pressing.

Halloween, based on the now iconic horror movie, was one of a number of film related horror titles Bantam books was doing at the time, most with embossed, garish covers. The exception was that author Curtis Richards ended up delivering a tight suspense novel, embellishing on the rather thin plot and creating a back-story so effective it was later used in the Halloween sequel, along with dialogue lifted right from the book.

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### **Martin says**

More like 3 1/2. Fun read, especially for the origins of the curse of Samhain and Michael Myers' life in Smith's Grove Sanitarium. Just wish the characters could have been more fleshed out.

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