

PERRY THE PRETENTIOUS PUMPKIN

By Krystle Henninger

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SYNOPSIS: A young witch attempts to practice magic by making her pumpkin move. Instead of making it move, she accidentally makes it speak. Turns out, the pumpkin she is trying to put a spell on has a bit of an attitude and is quite pretentious.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 MAN, 1 WOMAN)

MELODY (f)A student pursuing magic.

PERRY (m).....A very pretentious pumpkin.

PROPERTIES LIST

- Pumpkin
- Book of magic spells (suggested)
- Container of Nutmeg
- Marker/Sharpie

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

If the play is being staged, (not for forensics competition) the person playing the pumpkin is a voice over. Perry should be the most pretentious pumpkin ever. Think of the most pretentious person you know and multiply that by ten.

Original Production: October 1st, 2011. Nashville Sideshow Fringe Festival.

MELODY: Krystle Henninger

PERRY: Ricardo Puerta

AT RISE:

PERRY sits on a table as MELODY paces around with her book of spells.

MELODY: (*Focusing very intently on the pumpkin.*) Move. Move! Come on, you can do it. MOVE! This is pointless. Why do I even try? I'm yelling at a pumpkin. That's even more pointless. What if I try a different tactic? Hey, wanna mosey on over here? All you have to do is lift yourself off of the table and float on over here. I could buy you a drink. I'm sure they have some kind of pumpkin spice latte in the coffee shop. I haven't quite mastered how to make one with magic yet. Oh, wait. Wouldn't that be cannibalism? But I mean, is it really cannibalism if it's squash drink to squash? And I'm still talking to the pumpkin. I could name you. Maybe then it wouldn't be so weird. Like Wilson, from Castaway. Except, "Wilson" is too pretentious for a pumpkin...

PERRY: I like pretentious.

MELODY: (*Not hearing PERRY.*) Although, one of my friends did that one year for Halloween.

PERRY: Wilson it is then.

MELODY: Did you just...speak?

PERRY: Why, yes. Yes, I did.

MELODY: Okay. That doesn't need to happen again. I'm losing my mind.

PERRY: Assuming you had one in the first place.

MELODY: Okay. You seriously can't be talking to me. You're a pumpkin.

PERRY: You're talking to me.

MELODY: Because I'm a human.

PERRY: A human who studies magic. I'm a living organism, too. I have thoughts.

MELODY: But you're not supposed to be able to express them. Unless you're a Jack-O-Lantern for Halloween, or, you know, rotting...or something like that. Then you can be expressive. But not in speech.

PERRY: Do you talk to your dog?

MELODY: Yeah...

PERRY: You obviously talk to yourself.

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MELODY: Yeah...and your point is?

PERRY: What's so odd about talking to a pumpkin then?

MELODY: I don't have a problem talking to a pumpkin. The problem is the pumpkin talking back to me. *(Pause.)* Wait. I can't make you move, but I can make you speak. What if I'm just using the wrong spell?

PERRY: It's possible. But it's more likely that you're going insane.

MELODY: I will cut you open and tear out your guts. I've done it to several pumpkins before and I'm not afraid of you.

PERRY: Hostile. Hmmmmm.

MELODY: What does that mean?

PERRY: What? Hostile? I believe the definition is...

MELODY: I know what hostile means. *Hmmmmm.* What do you mean by that?

PERRY: You're interesting. That's all.

MELODY: Great. So now I'm being evaluated by a pumpkin.

PERRY: I have a name you know. Perry. I still don't think it's pretentious enough. Now, I liked Wilson. Winston's even better.

MELODY: You're a pumpkin. You don't have any grounds to be pretentious.

PERRY: I used to have grounds. And then some pumpkin farmer picked me off of the vine and put me on a truck bed to be sold to some small child. But instead, you chose me.

MELODY: *(Sarcastically.)* It was fate.

PERRY: Now who's being pretentious?

MELODY: What do you want from me?

PERRY: I never said I wanted anything.

MELODY: Then please stop torturing me.

PERRY: I don't understand how I'm torturing you, but the way I see it...if I could see...you have a couple options. You can either use your magic to get me to shut up, or you could give me a face so I could see the way it is.

MELODY: You want me to turn you into a Jack-O-Lantern?

BY KRYSTLE HENNINGER

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