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**81 Minute Books Presents**

***Revenge of Halloween***

***Preview***

**Written by Ron Knight**

“The veil between humans and spirits is thinnest on Halloween.”

### **Part 1**

*Based on true events...*

*Rose Water, Ohio*

*Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

“Hello I’m Emily Margo of *Action Nine News*. A new law is being proposed to change Halloween to the last Saturday of October rather than always on the thirty-first. I interviewed Mayor Timothy Larson to discuss this controversial decision.”

Emily Margo: “Mayor, why change the day of Halloween to a Saturday, rather than keeping Halloween on the thirty-first?”

Mayor Larson: “Well Emily, Halloween is a fun night for the whole family, but not so much when Halloween falls on a Monday, like it does this year.”

Emily Margo: “Explain what you mean by not being fun?”

Mayor Larson: “With Halloween falling on a Monday, parents have to race home from work and get the kids ready for trick ‘r treating after they spent a long day at school. Also the kids have school the next day and parents have to work the next day.”

Emily Margo: “Certainly that can’t be the only reason to change the day of Halloween.”

Mayor Larson: “The town of Rose Water is known for its exciting festivities like the Zombie Main Street Festival, Halloween Craft Fair and the Vampire Chili Cook-Off. It would be a lot more fun to have those events on a Saturday, rather than a Monday.”

Emily Margo: “I think most people think this can be a slippery slope. If you change the date of Halloween, what else will you change?”

Mayor Larson: “What do you mean?”

Emily Margo: “There are rumors that you’ll actually be changing the calendar to get rid of Friday the thirteenth. Instead the thirteenth would always fall on a Monday, Wednesday, or Saturday. Is that true?”

Mayor Larson: “We’re certainly looking into that. People are superstitious which causes major problems when Friday the thirteenth arrives.”

Emily Margo: “Is it also true that a new local law will allow teens and even young children to change the day of their birthday if they don’t like it?”

Mayor Larson: “Yes, that’s true. It just seems to make more sense to pick a day to celebrate your birthday that’s more to your liking, rather than suffering for the rest of your life.”

Emily Margo: “Back to Halloween. Are people protesting the change to celebrating Halloween tomorrow, on a Saturday, rather than on Monday which is the thirty-first and the real Halloween?”

Mayor Larson: “The younger generation have been complaining, but the adults are completely okay with moving Halloween.”

Emily Margo: “And it’s true that adults are voting for you, not the kids, so that’s the reason you’re moving Halloween? To please your voters, rather than keeping a longstanding tradition?”

Mayor Larson: “This interview is over.” *Mayor Larson walked away.*

Emily Margo: “Well that certainly hit a nerve with the mayor. The only question is, ‘how will the younger generation react to moving Halloween to a different day?’ Should be an interesting weekend...I’m Emily Margo of *Action Nine News*.”

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*Drayer Farm...32 years ago.*

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1990, a tornado ripped through the Drayer farm in Ohio like a freight train. Tom lived there with his father and mother, along with his pet rooster with feathers that turned jet black a day before the tornado hit.

Tom’s mother blamed Rooster for their terrible fate. His mother swung the tomahawk, cutting right through Rooster’s neck, jetting blood on Tom’s face.

Tom fell to his knees, still gripping Rooster’s blood-soaked body. He began moaning and shaking his head back and forth. “Uhhhh...uhhhh...uhhhh...uhhhh...uhhhh...”

His mother screamed, “Shut up! Stop making that noise!”

Tom moaned even louder. “Uhhhh...uhhhh...uhhhh...”

His mother swung the bloody tomahawk into Tom's neck, causing a gusher of blood to spill from the boy, still holding the headless Rooster in his arms.

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Years before all this occurred, Tom's father gave him a small wooden box full of blackish-green Obsidian. Tom examined it with excitement. "Is it gemstone or crystal?"

"Neither," his father said with a proud smile. "It's volcanic glass."

Tom melted down the Obsidian, shaped it into blades and attached the volcanic glass to a black paddle. Once the glass cooled, it became stronger than steel.

Pleased with his new weapon, Tom held Obsidian with both hands, deciding it needed a symbol of a rooster. Tom used his hand, tracing his fingers and thumb with green paint.

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Now that Tom Drayer is a demon, he didn't want to come back wearing those bloody, dirty clothes. Instead he dressed in a black long-sleeved shirt, black slacks and black shoes.

It looked a bit strange for a young boy to wear such an outfit, but then again, it's a bit strange for a dead boy to come back as a demonic ghost.

Now all Tom Drayer had to do was wait to be summoned.

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*Rose Water Elementary School*

*Friday Afternoon, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

Ms. Hevel glared at her second-grade students. All were placed in her class because they showed special mental abilities. Each day the students were only permitted to wear jeans and a red shirt so that they all looked the same.

Also they were instructed to wear white masks. None of them were permitted to be more special than the other.

Other classrooms were decorated with cardboard spiders, paper ghosts and pumpkins made from orange construction paper. However, this *special* class wasn't allowed to be creative.

Ms. Hevel: "Sit in a circle...NOW!"

She waited until the second graders sat down, forming a perfect circle on the floor. Ms. Hevel then placed a box of red crayons and sheets of white paper in the middle of the children.

Ms. Hevel: "I want you to draw a Halloween picture, using only a red crayon." She paused, forming a grin. "Also in your picture, display why you feel Halloween should be tomorrow, rather than on Monday which is the actual day of Halloween."

The nine children looked up at their teacher, eyes glaring through the white mask. Together they responded, "Yes, Ms. Hevel..."

Each of the nine students drew a different picture with their red crayon, but all of them had the same two characters in their drawing.

Young Tom Drayer...and Rooster.

*To be continued...*

*You have completed 9 minutes of this book.*