



Trick or Treat: A History of Halloween

By Lisa Morton

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Trick or Treat: A History of Halloween By Lisa Morton

Every year, children and adults alike take to the streets dressed as witches, demons, animals, celebrities, and more. They carve pumpkins and play pranks, and the braver ones watch scary movies and go on ghost tours. There are parades, fireworks displays, cornfield mazes, and haunted houses—and, most important, copious amounts of bite-sized candy. The popularity of Halloween has spread around the globe to places as diverse as Russia, China, and Japan, but its association with death and the supernatural and its inevitable commercialization has made it one of our most misunderstood holidays. How did it become what it is today?

In *Trick or Treat*, Halloween aficionado Lisa Morton provides a thorough history of this spooky day. She begins by looking at how holidays like the Celtic Samhain, a Gaelic harvest festival, have blended with the British Guy Fawkes Day and the Catholic All Souls' Day to produce the modern Halloween, and she explains how the holiday was reborn in America, where costumes and trick-or-treat rituals have become new customs. Morton takes into account the influence of related but independent holidays, especially the Mexican Day of the Dead, as well as the explosion in popularity of haunted attractions and the impact of such events as 9/11 and the economic recession on the celebration today. *Trick or Treat* also examines the effect Halloween has had on popular culture through the literary works of Washington Irving and Ray Bradbury, films like *Halloween* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, and television shows such as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *The Simpsons*.

Considering the holiday in the context of its worldwide popularity for the first time, this book will be a treat for any Halloween lover.



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Editorial Review

Review

“*Trick or Treat* covers the history of Halloween from its ancient Celtic roots to its stunning growth in global popularity in the 21st century. Morton is an accomplished horror short story writer, and her ability to draw readers in quickly and keep them turning the pages shines through in her nonfiction as well. Lavishly illustrated, this solidly researched and concise work is fun to read and a great choice for readers who want to know why we seek out the scary each October.”

(Library Journal)

“If you want to know anything at all about the subject, you ought to find it in *Trick or Treat*. . . . Morton’s interesting account of Hallowe’en is at its best when it comes up to date and there are many entertaining illustrations.”

(Susan Hill The Times)

“Full of historical nuggets and strange folklore, Lisa Morton’s *Trick or Treat: A History of Halloween* is the perfect bible for all devoted disciples of the holiday.”

(Michael Dougherty, Writer & Director, Trick 'r Treat)

“With *Trick or Treat* Lisa Morton gives us a charming, creepy, insightful and thoroughly fascinating history of Halloween. It’s a delicious blend of cultural history and pop-culture savvy that is a true delight to read!”

(Jonathan Maberry, author of Flesh and Bone and Assassin’s Code)

“This is an excellent survey of the Halloween scene, informative and accessible, far more treat than trick.”

(Kim Newman, author of Nightmare Movies and Anno Dracula)

“In a modern world, increasingly filled with pop culture fads and gimmicks, Lisa Morton reveals much of the underbelly history and unknown facts regarding the biggest pop culture event in history—Halloween. Her sheer delight and well-researched enthusiasm in tackling many of the unrecognized aspects of this monstrous topic makes one wonder what we don’t know about everything else that should be as commonplace to our psyche as a bag of candy.”

(Del Howison, editor of Dark Delicacies and Book of Lists: Horror)

“[Morton] playfully sets the record straight on the origins of Halloween. . . . This book is an excellent example of the scholarship on holidays as a means of accessing many facets of history. Highly recommended.”

(Choice)

“From an authority on Hallowe’en lore comes all you need to know about this ‘misunderstood’ festival. . . . Well written and illustrated, informative and entertaining.”

(Fortean Times)

About the Author

Lisa Morton is an award-winning author and one of the world’s leading authorities on Halloween. Her work includes *The Halloween Encyclopedia* and *A Hallowe’en Anthology: Literary and Historical Writings Over*

the Centuries. She lives in Los Angeles.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angel Garcia:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time to read a book. These are reading whatever they get because their hobby is usually reading a book. How about the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, man feel need book if they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you will need this Trick or Treat: A History of Halloween.

Merry Springs:

The book Trick or Treat: A History of Halloween will bring someone to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to learn, this book very suited to you. The book Trick or Treat: A History of Halloween is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

Ernestine Biggs:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them household or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day every day to reading a publication. The book Trick or Treat: A History of Halloween it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can more easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book has high quality.

Jacquelynn Laverty:

Many people said that they feel fed up when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the particular book Trick or Treat: A History of Halloween to make your own personal reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading ability is developing when you similar to reading. Try to choose straightforward book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the sensation about book and examining especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to available a book and go through it. Beside that the reserve Trick or Treat: A History of Halloween can to be your brand new friend when you're sense alone and confuse with what must you're doing of this time.

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