

The October Project

written by

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EXT. MAIN ROAD - DAY BEFORE HALLOWEEN- MIDDAY

FINN, a young woman in her early 20s, is walking down the road, carrying bags from a mystic shop, TOIL N'TROUBLE. She's wearing a big coat, with all black clothes and converse. Her face is blank and there is a sense of urgency . Two boys walk by. One boy, MARK, is holding an iron and a branches and twigs. PAUL is holding a bunch of wooden sticks.

MARK

Here, do y'have anything for the bonfire?

PAUL

I've an iron!

MARK

(shoving him)

I'm not talking to you.

Finn ignores them and walks past them. They turn and watch her leave.

MARK (CONT'D)

(mimicking)

*I've an iron!*

(normal voice)

Can you be normal for a second?

Paul and Mark keep walking down the road, bickering. Mark walks ahead while Paul picks up a twig.

Finn walks down the road back towards her estate.

EXT. ESTATE - DAY

Finn is carrying both bags on one arm while grabbing her keys. She stops at the tree outside her front garden.

SADHBH

STOP! DON'T MOVE!

Finn drops her keys and looks to her left. Her neighbor, SADHBH, 20s, is standing half-way out her door, looking down at Finn's feet.

At the base of the tree, there is a little fairy fort, with a giant, carved pumpkin sat next to it.

SADHBH (CONT'D)

Don't disturb the fairies. Not today.

Sadhbh is dressed in gym clothes, is messing with her evil eye necklace as she walks to her car.

FINN

I wouldn't. I still know well enough.

Sadhbh looks at her with pity and then down at Finn's bag.

SADHBH

Obviously not.

She hesitates at the car door. Finn stares at her, eyes burning in her skull.

SADHBH (CONT'D)

Just.. know your limit.

Finn blinks. Sadhbh gets in her car. Finn drops her bags and stops towards the tree. Sadhbh starts her car and reverses out-

SPLAT!

The front windshield is covered in pumpkin guts and little seeds. Finn picks up her bags and turns to her front door. Sadhbh stands half-way out the car.

SADHBH (CONT'D)

Are you for fucking real. We don't all have to still be miserable like you. You fucking freak.

Finn stares at Sadhbh. A blank look on her face. Her posture sags with the weight of the bags. She looks down.

There is a little pumpkin with an unlit candle beside her door. She forcefully kicks it, caving it in.

INT. FINN'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

The bed is unmade, with piles of washing on the end. The blackout curtains are drawn. Finn sits beside her bed, rearranging two blue candles in a makeshift altar on the floor. It is the cleanest part of the room.

Finn grabs a notebook labelled 'Creative writing' and an identical evil eye necklace to Sadhbh. She places it on the altar, opens her notebook and writes a spell.

FINN

Evil eye both strong and fearful,  
break the engine on Sadhbh's...  
vehicle?

The candles flicker as a gust of air hits Finn's face. She smiles and changes the candles from blue to black. She lights the candles, and flips through the notebook to find the next spell.

It is a photocopy of a spell, the ink is darker and the page is yellow. Attached to the spell is a picture of MAEVE, 20s, and Finn. There's also a prayer card from Maeve's funeral.

She reads the instructions.

**Magic is specific, do not speak what you cannot undo. One time use only. No refunds.**

**To contact customer service, use an Ouija board or any supernatural communication device.**

**Ingredients:**

- Two Black candles
- Item belonging to the deceased.
- Complete. Focus.

**Resurrection Spell**

They shall return, with mind, body and soul.

Finn hesitates and checks her phone. The clock reads **30TH October 2024 23:58.**

She huffs and rearranges the altar and-

FINN (CONT'D)

Oh shit, the ring!

Finn jumps up and digs through her drawer. She pulls out a silver claddagh ring. Gently, she places it on the altar.

**31st October 2024**

**00:00.**

FINN (CONT'D)

They shall return-

**BZZ! BZZ!**

Finn checks her phone, a text from the work group chat.

*Hi everyone! in the spirit of Halloween, we decided to extend our store closing by one more day! We will be open until November 1st!*

*Happy Halloween!*

FINN (CONT'D)  
(reading out loud)  
return..uh..spirit..one more day.

Finn feels a gust of air hit her face.

FINN (CONT'D)  
Oh, shit.

Finn closes her window. There are no lights on in the houses surrounded her. Strange. She turns back to the altar.

FINN (CONT'D)  
What the fu-

The black candles are burned down to the bottom.

Finn sits on her bed, staring into space.

MOIRA (O.S.)  
Finn, the electricity's gone. Do we have any candles.

FINN  
(distracted)  
Yeah..

A beat.

MOIRA (O.S.)  
What happened to my pumpkin?

EXT. HALLOWEEN SHOP- LUNCHTIME

Finn is sitting on the ground, outside work, BROOM AND GLOOM, drinking a can of Monster. She's wearing a black polo shirt, a lanyard with her name over an orange pumpkin, black jeans and converse. She looks pissed. Her co-workers, Sadhbh and CIARA, 20s, are walking into the shop, chatting with each other. They are both wearing the same uniform as Finn.

SADHBH

Gis a go of your vape, I couldn't charge mine. Did your electricity go out?

CIARA

No we were grand, how long was it out for?

SADHBH

Don't know but I woke up this morning and my phone wasn't charged, which was so annoying cause I literally spent the whole day yesterday cleaning my car cause-

Sadhbh stares at Finn.

SADHBH (CONT'D)

Some weirdo threw a pumpkin at it and now it won't start.

CIARA

Maybe it was Peter, he was asking me to give him my old runners for the bonfire and I was like ew no, the whole field will smell like feet and-

Their voices fade as they enter the shop. Finn swigs the last of her can and throws it back at the door. She turns around to grab her phone.

EXT. PLAYGROUND SWINGS- LUNCHTIME

Finn is sitting on the swing, slowing going back and forth. She takes one last swig of her can and throws it away from her. She twists the swing around to face the church. She takes a second to stare at it. She rolls her eyes and quickly spins back around.

VOICE

(far away)

NEMO!!!

Finn's eyes shoot up. Her eyes widen.

VOICE (CONT'D)

TURN AROUND!!

Finn takes off her lanyard around her neck and flips it to the back. There's a sticker of a clownfish labelled 'Finn'. No one else calls her Nemo except..

MAEVE

(louder)

I know you can hear me, I seen your head move... FINN!

EXT. CHURCH CARPARK - DAY

Maeve and Finn stare at each other. Finn's eyes are searching every inch of Maeve. Her shoes are covered in muck and grass. There's a hole in her jeans on her left knee and her nails are caked with soft dirt.

Maeve spins. She looks fed up with Finn's silence. Something catches her eye.

MAEVE

Are you wearing mascara?

Finn returns to the present. Like no time has passed at all between them.

FINN

(annoyed)

Yeah, why?

MAEVE

Since when? the most you wear is tinted moisturiser. You can't share mascara, it's mank-

FINN

-Well, I'm able to make changes without you, I don't need your permission. And it's not your mascara, I bought it.

MAEVE

-you're wearing my ring as well, what aren't you wearing that isn't mine.

FINN

It's not your mascara..the ring, yes, it's yours but you left it in my room and-and it's not like you'd need it anyways you're-

The sound of the church bell rings. One, loud ring. Maeve looks confused. She looks up at the church. The air is sucked out of her.

The ringing is building.

And building.

Building.

MAEVE  
(slowly)  
How did I get here?

Maeve has a far away look in her face.

MAEVE (CONT'D)  
(sadly)  
Nemo.. what did you do.

**Magic is specific, do not speak what you cannot undo.**

EXT. MAIN ROAD - EVENING

Maeve has a sad look in her face and is walking with a limp on her left leg. Finn is deep in thought.

MAEVE  
I forgot you live so fucking far.  
My leg is killing me.

Finn is holding her backpack close to her chest.

MAEVE (CONT'D)  
You haven't explained what  
happened. Did you dig up my grave  
and then give up? because I crawled  
out of my grave...my grave.

Maeve looks at Finn, expecting a response.

FINN  
(at the same time)  
Maybe you're a figment of my  
imagination? Because on the  
bus, no one tried to sit  
beside me even though you  
were holding my bag. So maybe  
it was floating and people  
were afraid to move it-

MAEVE (CONT'D)  
(at the same time)  
I say most people don't sit  
with you. Are you listening  
to me?

EXT. ESTATE - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

FINN

-I'll check my notebook, maybe there's an explanation I missed. It never said anything about an expiration on it so maybe-

Maeve puts her left arm to stop Finn walking with a crack of her shoulder.

MAEVE

FINN!

They both stop.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

(dejected)

I am after crawling out of a very shallow grave. I am covered in muck and shite, my nails are green and my leg-

She reaches down and pushes her knee back in place.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

-is very sore. So, when we get to your house and find...your spellbook..you're fixing this.

She gestures to herself. Maeve starts walking ahead of Finn.

There is a silence between them.

FINN

(confused)

Wait, you said you crawled out of your grave?

MAEVE

What?

Finn rushed up beside Maeve.

FINN

Tell me *exactly* what happened.

EXT. FIELD- NIGHT

An empty, moonlit field. A single headstone rests peacefully alone.

**Maeve Maine**

*Born 14th January 2000*

*Died 8th April 2024*

There is no sound except-

Thump. Thump. THUMP!!

It sounds like it's coming from...

EXT-'MAEVES GRAVE'-NIGHT

Two hands **burst** through soft dirt. They claw and break apart the soil, creating a gap large enough to push through.

Maeve appears, hacking and coughing. Dragging her weakened limbs on top of her supposed final resting place

Hacking and coughing.

Hacking and coughing.

INT. FINN'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

Maeve coughs into her hands, sending puffs of dust across the bed. Finn is sitting at her desk, computer open and surrounded by open-books.

MAEVE

And then I just-just walked around  
until I found you.

Maeve looks around the room. Something is missing.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

Wheres your Charmed poster I bought  
you?

FINN

Took it down.

MAEVE

Why?

FINN

Just did.

Finn is staring at a page, not reading it. Maeve looks at Finn. She's still staring at the page.

MAEVE

I can't believe you're working with Sadhbh. Is she still a cunt?

Finn flips the page, back to reading it.

FINN

Yes.

Finn hesitates, as if to say something.

FINN (CONT'D)

I threw a pumpkin at her car.

MAEVE

(smiling)

You're my hero.

FINN

No, no. It was wrong and-and I was angry and she was just standing there, twirling her keys in her hand like *oh look I have a car even though I fucking destroyed the first one by-*

Suddenly, Finn is hyperaware of Maeve. Her eyes shining with happiness, her mouth wide and smiling.

She must not remember. Do I get her to remember...

MAEVE

(excited)

By?

FINN

I forgot. It happened a while ago. Anyways I think I-

MAEVE

Does it have something to do with me?

Finn is flicking through her spellbook and finds the spell.

**Magic is specific, do not speak what you cannot undo. One time use only. No refunds.**

Finn closes the book.

FINN

(lying)

It says, that I can burn the item to undo the spell-

Finn pulls off the ring and places it on the table.

FINN (CONT'D)

It's in tiny lettering at the bottom, you know that's how a lot of these spells work actually-

Maeve kneels down beside her. She grabs both her hands.

MAEVE

(whispers sadly)  
What happened to me, Nemo?

Finn can't look at her.

FINN

I don't think I should say.

MAEVE

You tell me or I'll rat you out to Moira.

FINN

She won't be able to hear you.

MAEVE

Then I'll haunt you forever. And not in a Paranormal Activity way, it's gonna be like the Conjuring..

Finn smiles. Maeve tightens her grip.

FINN

It was sudden..you didn't see it coming.

Maeve closes their hands together in a fist.

MAEVE

At least, I get to see it this time. With you.

Finn...Nemo stares into her eyes. Maeve stares back. Nemo leaps into her arms.

Her oldest friend.

Her only friend.

Her dead friend.

Finn is the first to pull away, wiping under her eyes.

FINN

..I am wearing you mascara.

MAEVE

(laughing)

I knew it, you're disgusting.

Maeve shoves her away.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

Wait, where are we gonna burn it?  
If it's anything like the movies,  
I'm expecting a giant, ball of  
green fire.

FINN

Moira took my candles.

Finn turns back around to her desk, she spots the ironing board beside her desk.

FINN (CONT'D)

I know exactly where we're going.

EXT- FIELD- NIGHT

Maeve and Finn walk up to the bonfire. It's a small pile of twigs, leaves, paper and a shoelace. A girl runs up beside them and chucks another twig onto the pile.

They both stare at the...fire.

MAEVE

We should've just got a lighter,  
does Moira still smoke?

FINN

Shut up, we're here now.

MAEVE

If this doesn't work, you owe me a  
ring.

FINN

If this doesn't work, I'm stuck  
listening to you complain for the  
rest of my life.

They turn to each other.

Finn takes a deep breath.

She throws the ring into the fire, still looking at Maeve.

Nothing happens.

Nothing happens..

Maeve smiles.

MAEVE  
(acting shocked)  
Oh my god, what's that?

Finn turns her head towards the fire.

FINN  
What? What'd you see?

The fire still burns. It looks the same. Everything looks the same. Finn turns back to Maeve.

FINN (CONT'D)  
There's nothing-

Finn is alone. But she doesn't feel lonely. As she starts to wipe her tears, her eye catches something.

A small, silver ring on her left middle finger.

THE END