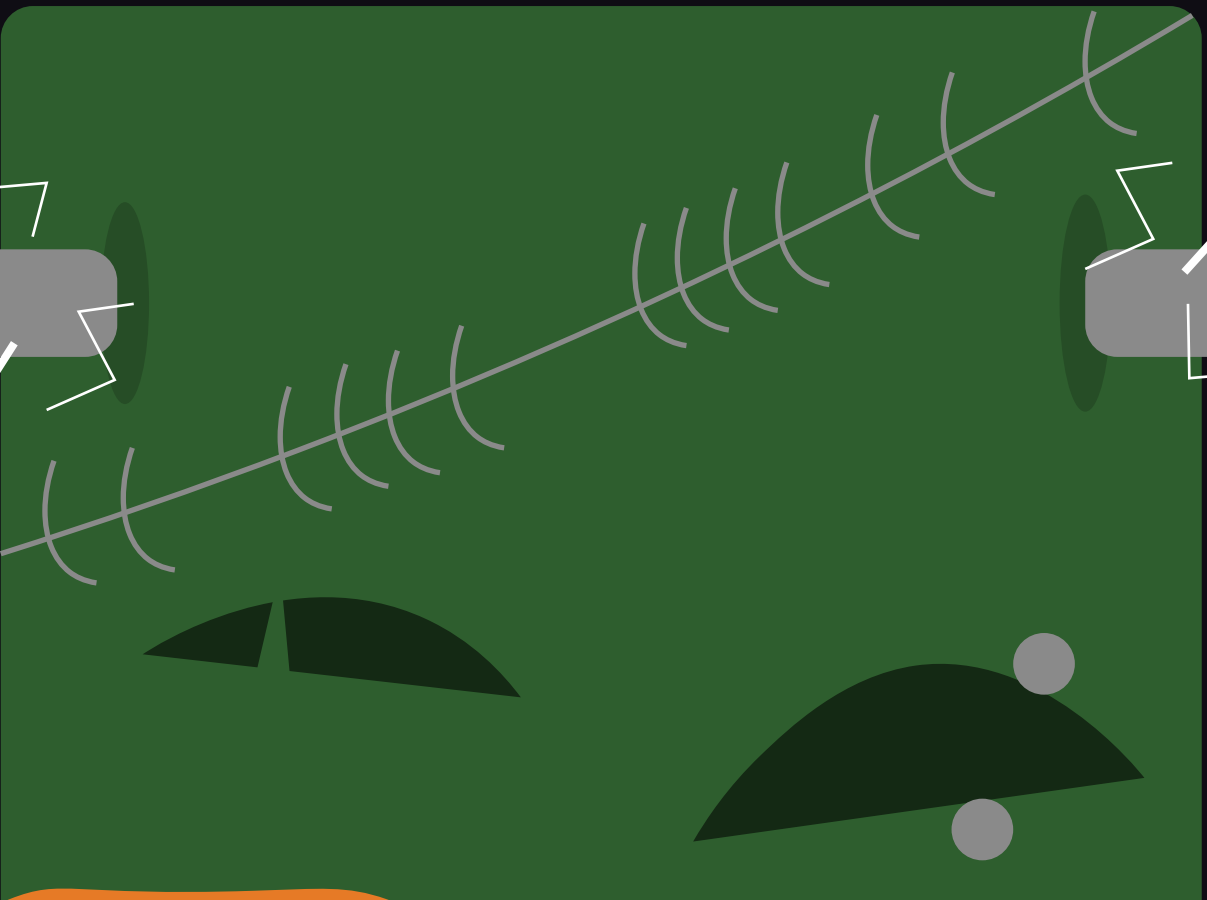


voice

AUK® STUDENT MAGAZINE



FALL 2022 | VOL.19 | Issue 2

For The Students, By The Students



Nuha Alsahli, Editor in Chief:

“While the start of October signals the beginning of spooky season, it is more importantly Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast Cancer Awareness month is an annual campaign to raise awareness on the impact of breast cancer, its detection, and treatment. Spreading awareness is the key to early detection, better health-seeking behavior, and reducing stigma around the disease.”



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What's Your Favorite Scary Movie?





Nuha Alsahli, Editor in Chief:

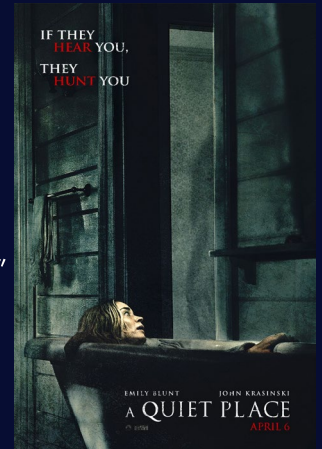


"A gripping, terrifying, and intense movie. The Call has an edge over other thrillers due to its mind-blowing time travel concept. It is the perfect movie to leave you screaming at your screen."



Omar Al-Yousef, Co-Editor:

"This movie will surely keep you at the edge of your seat the whole time!"



Taibah Al-Husain, Graphic Designer:

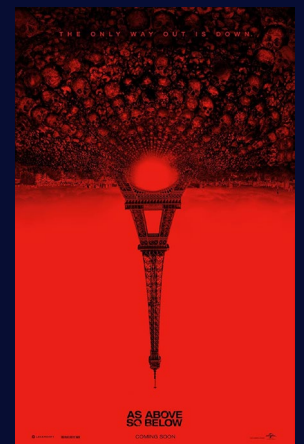


"Nope digs into the horrors of human nature and the need for us to make a spectacle out of tragedy. Great characters, great visuals, and great sound design."

Ahmed Al-Yousef, Reporter:



"One of the best found footage movies I have ever seen. Good characters where they are forced to relive their own ideas of hell, surprisingly engaging and intriguing."

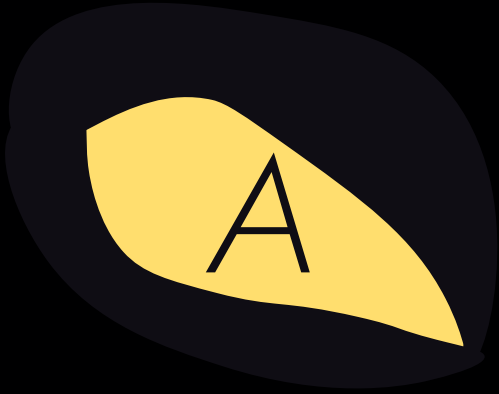


Safeia Mubarak, Reporter:

"Addressing realistic and common fears while managing to stay unique is something this movie does well. It also keeps me grounded in the knowledge that as much as I'd like to live in the woods on my own, I probably shouldn't."



THE



TO



OF



WITCHES

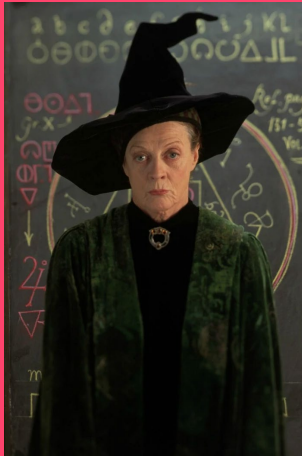
Witches in Fiction

By Safeia Mubarak

Throughout our lives, we have been told stories about Witches, who they are, and how they came to be. We've been told that there are good Witches and bad Witches and some that sit in the middle grey area. However, there are some things about Witches most people can agree on: The fact that certain Witches are, without a doubt, adored; then there are some, while evil, we all love regardless; and there are some Witches who remind us of simpler times.

Most Loved:

Minerva McGonagall: Harry Potter Franchise.



https://static.wikia.nocookie.net/petstarplanet-ultimate-fanon/images/3/35/Minerva_McGonagall.jpg/revision/latest?cb=20181019115729

Mrs. McGonagall is a loved witch and professor, adored by all "Potterheads" alike. She is known to be a strict but inspiring professor who also happens to be an Animagus (she is capable of turning into a cat). She was given her name by her mother to honor Minerva's great grandmother who was an exceptional witch in her time. She followed in her mother's footsteps by playing Quidditch, but due to an accident which gave Minerva a concussion and some broken ribs, she had to stop playing. Minerva is often seen as a fair, encouraging, and powerful witch.

Sypha Belnades: Castlevania franchise, Netflix animated series.



[https://castlevania.fandom.com/wiki/Sypha_Belnades_\(animated_series\)](https://castlevania.fandom.com/wiki/Sypha_Belnades_(animated_series))

She is the granddaughter of an Elder Speaker; the Speakers are a group of nomadic scholars. Along with that title, she is a witch who can control the elements. Sypha is an idealist who always aims to fight for what is right as is shown when she often attempts to guide her companions to help those in need. She's playful, adventurous and enjoys learning new things which suits her nomadic lifestyle well.

Yennefer of Vengerberg: The Witcher franchise, Netflix series



Yennefer was born with a curved spine and partial facial paralysis which unfortunately led to her mistreatment. She was bought from her parents by a witch known as Tissaia who takes her to "Aretuza," which is known as a school for witches and there, Tissaia mentors her. This results in Yennefer becoming one of the most powerful witches. Yennefer proves herself in almost every encounter. She often leads whichever side she is on to victory. Proving that she is more than some pawn that can be bought, sold, and used.

[https://castlevania.fandom.com/wiki/Sypha_Belnades_\(animated_series\)](https://castlevania.fandom.com/wiki/Sypha_Belnades_(animated_series))



Most Evil:

Agatha Harkness: The Marvel Cinematic Universe



https://marvel.fandom.com/wiki/Agatha_Harkness_%28Earth-199999%29

Agatha is a Witch from Salem where the Salem Witch trials took place. She was part of a coven and was caught having stolen knowledge of dark magic which was forbidden by her coven. They attempted to prosecute her, but she killed them all by absorbing their power. Agatha has a relatable dark sense of humor; she is driven by a thirst for more knowledge and power. She envies the Scarlet Witch because of her unlimited power. Agatha is a powerful Witch in her own right, who will do whatever it takes to get her way.

Bellatrix Lestrange: Harry Potter franchise.



<https://www.harrypotterfanzone.com/pictures/bellatrix-lestrange-order-of-the-phoenix-portrait-3/>

Bellatrix was a pureblood Witch and the eldest of three girls. She went to school at Hogwarts and was sorted into Slytherin. Bellatrix was sadistic and her answer to most problems was violence. She defined herself as "The Dark Lord's most loyal servant." Bellatrix was an intelligent Witch who often had no problem taking charge. She cared for very few people, and she was willing to protect them fiercely, so long as they did not displease her.

Other Mother: Coraline.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/coraline-photo-other-mother--763993524267769215/>

Other Mother, or Beldam which means Witch; is an evil creature who is supposed to be a Fey (having supernatural powers of clairvoyance). She attempts to lure sad or bored children into her realm by impersonating the children's mother and offering them everything they desire within reason. She is skilled at cooking, sewing and other traditional skills mothers would have. Once she has lured the children, she replaces their eyes with buttons and eats their flesh to keep herself strong.

Most Nostalgic:

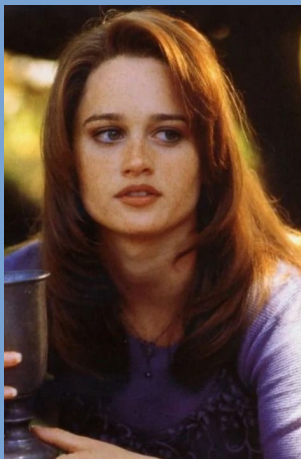
Kiki: Kiki's delivery service.



Kiki is a 13-year-old Witch who must leave home for a year to train, as is customary for all Witches. She flies off on her broomstick with excitement and an idealistic view on how her journey will be, only to find out that things aren't as magical as she thought they would be. The hustle and bustle of the real world along with the rush and rudeness of some leave Kiki uncertain of herself. She decides to start a delivery business to support herself. Along the way she learns about love, friendship and how to help others, which helps her achieve her goal in becoming a fully fledged Witch.

https://ghibli.fandom.com/wiki/Kiki%27s_Delivery_Service

Sarah Bailey: The Craft.



Sarah has just moved to a new state where she befriends three girls who practice Witchcraft. After joining the trio, the group begins to develop magic abilities and over time Sarah begins to see her friends' powers affecting them negatively. Realizing she is the strongest out of the four of them she removes their powers in hopes to prevent them from causing anyone harm. Sarah is kind-hearted and caring. She always steps in to help those in need and if you want a Witch to admire, it would be her.

https://thecraft.fandom.com/wiki/Sarah_Bailey

The Halliwell Sisters: Charmed.



The Halliwell Sisters inherit their grandmother's manor, and they decide to move in. After a short time, they begin to experience strange things. Realizing they come from a long line of Witches the sisters realize they have powers. Prue, the oldest sister is capable of telekinesis. Piper, the middle sister can freeze time. And Phoebe, the youngest sister can see into the future through visions. They decide to fight demons, warlocks and any other villains who cross their path in an attempt to protect the innocent.

[https://charmed.fandom.com/wiki/Charmed_\(TV_series\)](https://charmed.fandom.com/wiki/Charmed_(TV_series))



The Salem Witch Trials: What really happened and why?

By Safiea Mubarak

The Salem witch trials took place in colonial Massachusetts from 1692 to 1693. While it was only one year, many consider this to be the darkest time in the state's history as paranoia and mass hysteria led to the unjust prosecution of over 200 people and the death of 20 people.

What happened:

There was an ongoing war between France and the English in the American colonies. Due to the influx of refugees, a huge strain was put on Salem's resources. This caused many people to be on edge and led to many arguments and problems. The Puritans blamed all this infighting on the Devil.

This is around the same time Salem had its first ordained minister, Samuel Parris. The minister's daughter and niece both became ill and began having "fits" in which they would throw things, scream, utter odd words, and twist their bodies into strange positions. The local physician referred to the supernatural as a cause for these symptoms. Soon after that, another little girl began to experience the same thing.

The girls were pressured into telling authorities how this happened to them and so they gave three names. Tituba, the Parris' Indian slave, Sarah Good, a homeless woman, and Sarah Osborne, an elderly woman. Upon interrogating these women for several days, Miss Good and Miss Osborne insisted they were innocent, but Tituba confessed; saying that the devil came to her, and he demanded she does his bidding. She explained that there are more Witches within Salem's community looking to destroy the Puritans.

Now--- with Salem's community on edge, hysteria spread, and many were accused. As time went on, a special department was established for Witchcraft related matters. Over time, matters became worse as people began accusing others of Witchcraft with the sole evidence that they "had a dream this person was a Witch", and so that person was prosecuted. A respected minister, minister Mather attempted to convince the court to deny any accusations of this sort, but he was ignored. Mather's plea was followed by a plea from Mather's son who was Harvard's President at the time "it is better that ten Witches escape, rather than one innocent person be condemned."

By this time many people, mostly women, were in prison or were murdered. The Governor at this time, Governor Phipps ended the arrests once his wife was questioned for practicing witchcraft. He then released everyone who was arrested for Witchcraft, and so began the attempts to heal the damage done to the Salem community. Many court officials admitted that the trials were unlawful and attempted to mend the wounds caused to the families of those falsely accused of Witchcraft by awarding them money.

families of those falsely accused of Witchcraft by awarding them money. The general court ordered a day of fasting and soul-searching for the tragedy that was the trials. All the official documents are now housed in the Salem Witch Museum in hopes of preserving the history of the trials and the hard lesson this town had to learn about the consequences of mass hysteria.

Tituba's confession:

Evidence concluded by Historians shows that Tituba had never practiced magic a day in her life. It was the misconceptions pushed onto Indians by Puritans that enabled Tituba's confession to be taken as fact and used as evidence.

Many Historians today believe that Tituba did not practice Witchcraft. She only confessed because she was in prison for several days, and because she knew she would be freed if she accused others of practicing Witchcraft. Along with these facts, Tituba came from a different background and culture which the Puritans associated with demonic power. Tituba's background coupled with the fact that her confession was all the authorities needed to launch an official investigation made her confession essential to the events that followed. Had Tituba not confessed the trials might have gone differently, there might not have been trials at all.

What was really happening:

A study published in science in 1976 by psychologist Linnda Caporael calling the cause for the supernatural symptoms that had befallen the girls to be caused by a fungus ergot. This fungus can be found in rye and wheat. Toxicologists conclude that consuming food affected by ergot can cause muscle spasms, vomiting, hallucinations, and delusions. Experts also say that this fungus thrives in warm, damp climates such as the climate of Salem Massachusetts.

The Cutest Beast

By Safeia Mubarak

I remember it all like it was yesterday, the worst day of my life. The day my sister Ophelia left. She came home from the town meeting and immediately began packing our things, only the most essential of items. She told me we had to leave.

"Talía, we must leave, get Hugo."

"Why? Where are we going?"

"Please just do as you're told. There isn't much time."

I picked up our cat, little Hugo and stood there as Ophelia frantically packed our things, suddenly there was yelling outside.

"Ophelia come out here at once!"

"We know you're in there!"

"Just hand over the Satan spawn and all of this will be over!"

The mob of people outside our home yelled. Ophelia ignored them and reached out to me. "Talía take my hand and whatever happens do not let go and keep a tight grip on Hugo, do you understand?"

I nodded my head, I hadn't the slightest clue what was going on, but I would do whatever Ophelia asked of me. She was the only family I had after all; well, her and Hugo.

Right before our door was swung opened, Ophelia and I slipped out of the back window. We ran into the woods with such speed, I did not know my feet could move so fast; granted Ophelia was pulling me.

I looked back to see members of the church chasing after us.

"There they are!"

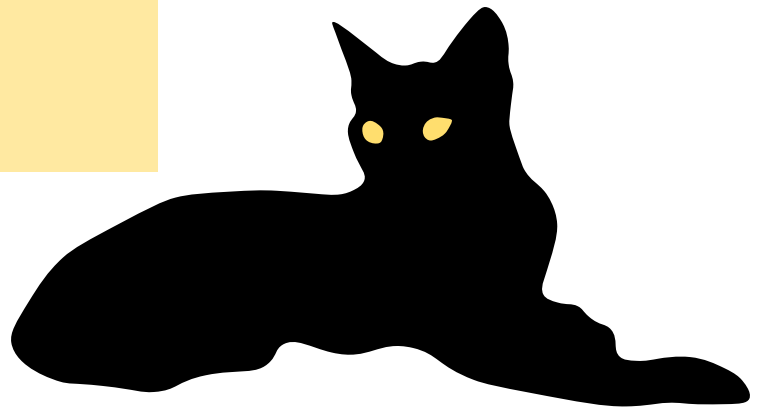
"After them!"

We ran for some time, but then we didn't seem to hear anyone behind us; so, we stopped to catch our breathes.

"Are you ok?"

"I am. Ophelia why are the towns people after us?"





"Pope Gregory has gone mad. He demanded we hand over Hugo because he is one of the few black cats in town. Pope Gregory has declared that all cats, especially black cats, are in league with the devil and thus should be exterminated."

"That's silly, Hugo would never hurt anyone."

All at once, we heard footsteps from all around us, and they were getting closer. We seemed to be completely surrounded. What I failed to realize at the time was that Ophelia purposely brought us to this exact location. We were at this beautiful hollowed out tree. Ophelia stuffed me inside, kissed me on the forehead and said:

"Stay here please. I love you."

She then ran straight into our pursuers... on purpose! I had always known Ophelia to have courage, but this was simply insane. I watched her get dragged away and I was so scared I could not move. I was frozen in my place.

It felt like forever since it had become silent around me. I mustered up the strength to force myself to move and so I did. I snuck back into town and was hiding as I spectated what happened next. They had created a huge fire pit in the middle of town square, right outside of the church and Pope Gregory was addressing the town while Ophelia was being held by two men beside him.

"You see what the devil does?! He has taken our sweet, helpless, darling Ophelia and turned her into one of his followers. She has hidden that cat from us as to allow Satan and his followers to harm us."

"Cats are innocent pets. They are not the devil's minions!"

Ophelia yelled out into the crowd hoping someone would see reason, see past this fear mongering insanity.

"Your mind has been warped Ophelia. You have been tricked by Lucifer himself."

Pope Gregory then picked up two cats and tossed them into the fire pit and a loud bunch cheered, while most looked on in horror. Hugo began stirring in my arms and before I could hold onto him properly, he lunged out of my arms and ran for the Pope.

I ran after him and as Ophelia spotted me, she had broken free and began fighting off the two men that were holding her. I ran over to her and began throwing rocks at the two men, I hit one of them on the head rendering him unconscious and Ophelia dealt with the other.

While I was helping Ophelia, Hugo was on his own little mission. He lunged at the Pope and began clawing his eyes out.

"You beast! Spawn of Satan begone!"

Pope Gregory attempted to pull Hugo off of him.

Ophelia grabbed my hand, and we ran into the church. I yelled for Hugo, and he came running after us. We went up into the attic and Ophelia began barricading the door, she told me to hide and so I did, I hid in a closet.

A mob of people began banging on the door and eventually the barricaded door was rendered useless. Ophelia was cornered and in one final act of courage, she yelled out at the mob"

"A plague on you all. A thousand plagues I curse onto you."

And then she turned around and jumped out the window. Ophelia would go out on her own terms.

Once the commotion ended, I was found by a church cleaning lady; Marie, and she adopted me and Hugo, thankfully she did not believe the insanity the Pope was spouting. Many cats were sadly exterminated and eventually the witch hunts spread throughout Europe and most people who owned a cat were prosecuted for witchcraft. Thankfully Mama Marie kept us well hidden and safe.

Now here we are 52 years later, and the plague is here. Did you know cats eat rats? I remember seeing Hugo a few times chasing them out of the house. I wonder if my sister truly was a witch as Pope Gregory thought, or if there is a more reality-based explanation for this. I suppose we will never know.

(Loosely based on a true story)



Spooky History



Arabian Nights and the Horrors of Kuwaiti Myths

By Ahmed Al-Yousef

Cultures around the world are rich with folklore, old wives' tales, and bedtime stories spanning from legends, jokes, rites, and horror stories. Our grandparents and parents share those stories to either educate us of our traditions or to scare us off to bed with nightmares that would live in our memory for decades. Kuwait has its fair share of those terrifying and scary tales. So, keep the lights on, and of course hide under your blankets since that is guaranteed protection from any evil.

The Tantal

You're outside with your little brother late at night playing way past your bedtime, past the time where your mother told you come back home. But you don't care what time it is and you're having fun! As you and your brother pass by an old alley trying to find the lost football that he kicked way too far, you begin to hear HEAVY footsteps echo in the darkness ahead of the alley alongside the sound of something scraping, reminiscent of a wooden stick dragging against a cobbled street. your brother stops in the middle of the alley, the ball at the edge of his foot, frozen and his mouth aghast. You start getting nervous and shout for him to be quick and bring the ball, but he doesn't move. you begin to get scared and the feeling that evil is approaching is causing your stomach to knot. As you see a very tall, almost reaching an impossible height, man with disheveled hair and tattered overflowing black ropes emerges from the inky darkness ahead of your brother. Holding a wooden cane taller than himself, the man with eyes so wide and haunting approaches. You build up the courage to grab your brother and run back home safely, now forever wary and scared of the Tantal that snatches the children who roam late at night.

According to Nawaf-Al Hmeli, who created this amazing oil canvas, and various personal accounts from my own parents, the story was told to children by the grandparents to keep them away from wandering out late at night, to ensure their safety.



"Tantal" By Nawaf-Alhmeli

<https://www.deviantart.com/nawaf-alhmeli/art/Tantal-122598015>

Hmarat Algayla

I think this story makes me uneasy the most out of all. Hmarat Algayla is described as a half woman-half donkey creature. -yea I know, a bit disturbing. - She would await in the shadows cascaded by the buildings, creeping alongside their walls with her long goat-like neck, wearing a ripped-up abaya that she wore before she became the creature she is now, hunting children and feeding on them. Sounds similar to the Tantal right? well the catch here is that she only hunts during Noon time. when the sun is scorching hot.

The elders back then had created the story to stop children from wandering around when the sun blazed through the skies, so the children wouldn't get a heatstroke, nor get in any trouble.




"Hmarat Algayla" By Nawaf-Alhmeli

<https://www.deviantart.com/nawaf-alhmeli/art/Hmarat-Algayla-122595547>




Nora Al Daqaqa

Still with us and alive? Good, this story might be the scariest one I've heard as of today. You decide for yourself if it's real or not, though I implore you to keep an open mind. This is the infamous story that deals with a Jinn wedding.




On a Friday in 1977, Nora Al Daqaqa and her band had received a call from a woman requesting them to perform at her wedding ceremony. Nora and her band agreed, and that's when this mysterious and haunting story started. The experience had made Nora retire from performing and she never sang again.


During the performance, Nora and her band were slowly getting scared and a bit anxious as the people who were dancing never got tired. The house was packed with many adults and children too, and it was difficult to move due to how crowded it was. Nora remembers telling one of her band members earlier before the wedding had officially started not to worry about one of the people she exchanged greetings with, as her band member described her cheek as "very rough" and "it burned hot, and was prickly, like a needle through skin." Although this was strange, they continued with the ceremony.




During one of the song performances, the band members including Nora were frightened at the sight they saw. The women who were joyfully dancing around had strangely hairy hands, and their legs were revealed to be those of lambs. The group was intensely horrified as any of us would be. Nora reassured the group by saying "Calm down and don't worry. We are almost done. Do not raise suspicion because we do not know what they will do to us." As this performance full of worry continued, the bride and groom entered the room to sit side by side on their assigned chairs. No more than five minutes after the couple had sat down, the lights went out.



It was pitch black. The room filled with pure darkness and silence for a couple seconds. Then, the clattering of hurried footsteps and the screaming of the band members erupted as they made it out of the house, running for their lives, and leaving their belongings behind. The Jinn were around, and they didn't want to trifle with them, no one wants to. Moments after escaping what we can only imagine is true horror and absolute dread, Nora looks back to the house to find it fully abandoned, like a mask being pulled open to reveal the face behind, a ghost house so empty and dark. Lucky for them a man from a distance was running to them as he had heard lots of screams and shouting. Surprised by their explanation of what had occurred, the man expressed to them that "that house has been abandoned for many years, and no one resides there. The family had abandoned decades ago." Immediately, Nora Al Daqaqa retired from the singing world.



What a story right? Whether you believe it to be true or you believe it is yet another folklore created by people to scare each other, it is safe to say this story has taken Kuwait by storm, and succeeded to make everyone's blood run cold. This October, I encourage you to keep the Halloween spirit alive by sharing scary stories and myths that are essential parts of our culture and have played significant roles in our childhood.



The Notorious Number 13

By Ahmed Al-Yousef

Imagine yourself in a dark mist-filled room, a singular chair sits ominously in the center, so perfectly still and yet so imperfect. You feel a bit uneasy. Suddenly a black kitten brushes against your ankle, startling you. Where did the cat come from? The mist ahead of you parts away near the chair, and to the ladder floating above it. Written all over it is the number 13, with various inks that you wish you wouldn't know the source of. As you walk around you start hearing the crunches of broken glass under your shoe, getting close it reveals no face, not even you. Just the endless void reflecting on itself. How is it reflecting? You ask yourself these questions and as you come back into the real world, you can't shake that feeling of being uneasy around one certain aspect within the room. The Number 13.

Seen as a source of bad luck and jinxes, the number 13 strikes fear for some people in the western world. But why is that? What's so scary about such number? Well, its deeper than you might think. From superstition with zodiac signs to numerologists discussing that 13 is not a "complete" number, and to the establishing of "The Thirteen Club" where they had a very peculiar and interesting way of testing the limits of the harbinger of bad luck! And of course, we can't forget about our beloved horror movies that love to use the number 13 as a plot narrative or a marketing strategy which, to be fair, has always worked.

Similarly, Japanese culture fears the number 9 due to sounding very similar to the word for torture, death, and suffering...lovely. Though historians do not really know why we don't trust this number, it can't seem to shake its bad reputation. Even the Vikings had a fear of it to a certain degree, and the ancient romans as well and even to this day, a lot of new buildings don't include the 13th floor and skip to the 14th! It's interesting and a bit spooky.

People's belief in bad luck is shockingly strong, so strong that sometimes they intentionally avoid walking under a ladder, covering mirrors while sleeping and to never shatter one under any circumstance. Of course, crossing paths with a black cat is the most famous bearer of bad luck. All of these are just small examples of what might cause misfortune, I am certain there are hundreds more out there that belong to various cultures. The superstition of this number of doom started centuries ago...

Phobia of the number 13 exists and has a name! It is called Triskaidekaphobia. Took me a couple of tries to pronounce it. You can do it I believe in you! It has been categorized and deemed valid. Additionally, there is another longer name, but we'll get to that soon.

Let's get started with one of many superstitions of the number 13 that brings evil, doom, and destruction.

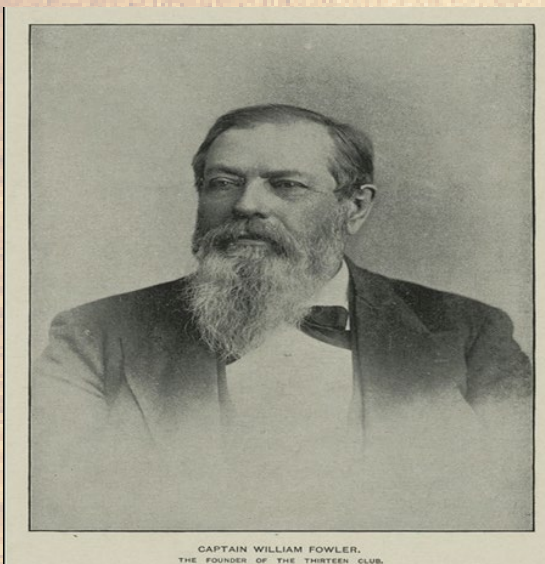
XII

According to Western numerologists, we have associated the number 12 with absolute completeness. We have got 12 months in a year, zodiac signs, 12 days of Christmas and 12 deities of Olympus. They concluded that treading beyond that number, "beyond completeness" is not a good sign and should not be done.

The Thirteen Club

Moving on to the coolest and most mysterious experiment/society that has been conducted to debunk the stigma surrounding our famous (totally not scary) number 13. "The Thirteen Club" was established by Captain William Fowler, and it started on January 13, 1881. Which fell on a Friday. See where this is going? Strap in.

13 men were intended to sit around a table shaped like a gravestone, in room 13 of Manhattan's Knickerbocker Cottage, with big platters of lobster salad surrounded by 13 crawfish. Everything in that room was perfect in atmosphere for bringing in bad luck. I mean, Fowler was trying to fight the stigma and he was bold and funny enough to do so! There were 13 candles in total, no more or no less, a 13-course meal and a large banner was hung that read "Nos Mortituri te Salutamus" which is Latin for "We who are about to die salute you."



CAPTAIN WILLIAM FOWLER,
THE FOUNDER OF THE THIRTEEN CLUB.

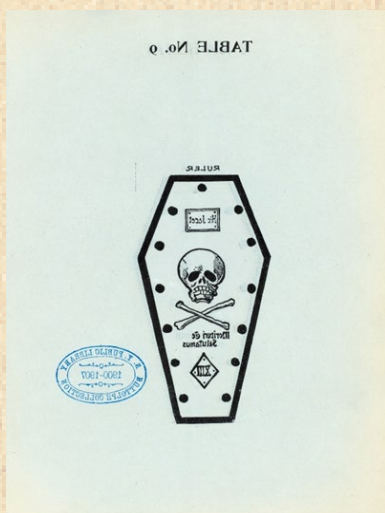
This portrait of William Fowler notes his claim to fame.

<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47df-ab85-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

William Fowler was seen as a nonsensical person, he wanted to shut down the stigma surrounding the number long before he even established The Thirteen Club. He had made it a mission to himself to accomplish many achievements in his life with the number 13 included one way or another.

He had entered P.S. 13 (school in NYC) and graduated at age 13. He had a small interest in architecture to the point where he casually built 13 public buildings of many sorts. Later, he fought in the Union Army and survived 13 battles. This man took proving a point to a whole new level. Fowler later adopted the famous number as his talisman. Maybe challenging the number like that is the reason he had survived such battles or was inspired to study architecture. Unfortunately, the deep history of Fowler is not as public or easy to come by as you'd think. During his time Fowler like many men of his time, loved social clubs and events. I want you to guess just how many social clubs he belonged to...yeah, it's 13. Clubs back then and till this day provided a great social space for creating friends and in his case, getting inspired to create his own club when he took over the Knickerbocker Cottage.

Further instructions for Thirteen Club dinner setup.



<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47db-71f5-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99#/?uuid=510d47db-71ee-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

As the Thirteen Club was established and it began to fruition with members, the main activity was the supper mentioned earlier, but there were smaller traditional occasions to start the inaugural of the evening. Walking under a ladder that hangs above the front door and eating cake that was sculpted to have a black cat sit on the top are examples of such events.



Other events would have smashing mirrors and spilling salt. You know, just your casual Friday hang out with friends, right?

Locals would call their exploits reckless in nature and an ignorance of the nature of misfortune, that they were trifling with it like children in a candy store. To some extent they were right, misfortune did occur. For instance, a fractured skull was the cause of the indoor ladder collapsing on a member, life threatening accidents due to the mirror shattering, and the list goes on...

Did you know that The Thirteen Club might inadvertently had a huge impact on the biggest bad luck charm: Friday the 13th? Due to their connections with a member of the New York City Court. Now for the other term for the phobia, *drum roll* Friggatriskaidekaphobia! Yes, this is the correct spelling!

Keep an eye out for when the next Friday the 13th occurs! See if any misfortune occurs during the harbinger of bad luck's visit to us. And, to celebrate such occasion, watch some movies that are inspired by the number itself, set yourself with a 13-course dinner and test out your luck!

'Nos Mortituri te Salutamus' .

Day of Dracula

By Ahmed Al-Yousef

"There are darkneses in life and there are lights, and you are one of the lights, the light of all lights."

Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

Halloween is approaching fast. With it comes all sorts of cultural traditions and celebrations that are unique to pivotal locations around the world. We have the very well-known Halloween Holiday in the Western culture where they celebrate by dressing up as their favorite character from movies, tv shows, and many more mediums and gather as much candy as they can. Día De Los Muertos is another very popular and well-known holiday in Mexico. Its celebrations occur to honor those who have passed away and share great and fond memories of those long gone.

One holiday I'm particularly interested in is the Day of Dracula! Which is celebrated on May 26th. It celebrates the most iconic of all monsters known to man: Count Dracula himself! His stories inspired hundreds of films and mediums across the whole world, not to mention the character's virtual immortality as a beloved Halloween character! So, obviously a character like him would earn himself a little holiday, right?

When I asked some friends of mine where they knew Dracula from, many mentioned the famous Buffy The Vampire Slayer, Castlevania, Van Helsing and many more. All of these are heavily inspired by the works of Bram Stoker and the eternal stamp of Dracula's name that lives through almost every creative outlet that includes Vampires and related stories.

The History of Day of Dracula

The Day of Dracula, or better known as World Dracula Day started in 2012, created by the Whitby Dracula Society. They celebrate the cultural impact and importance of Bram Stoker's Dracula that had left an impression on every gothic horror writer since the last century. An interesting fact that not many people know is that the town of Whitby is the birthplace of Dracula! Due to the town's gothic atmosphere and architecture, Stoker took heavy inspiration from the town to create the masterpiece that we know today.

The stories that derive from vampirism, vampire hunters, garlic and related items that repel them did not fully start with the creation of Dracula. These stories already existed way before



them did not fully start with the creation of Dracula. These stories already existed way before Stoker wrote the novel. The concept of vampires dates back to thousands of years ago. The Ancient Greeks and Egyptians spoke about legends of demons of undead soldiers that crave and need the blood of the living to sustain themselves.

Inspiration Through the Real World

Did you know that Dracula was based on a real historical figure? I spoke to many people about this and while few knew of the origin, most did not! For those who don't know, prepare for your blissful ignorance to be wiped away.

Count Dracula, our beloved fanged vampire was based on Prince Vlad III of Wallachia in Romania. He was an extremely cruel and horrible ruler. He earned the title of "Vlad the Impaler" due to his ways against his foes, opponents and those who challenged him behind his back. I believe it is easy to guess why that's one of his most known titles, since he did execute around 100,000 people during his reign. Soldiers would describe horrible stories about the battles he won and the victims he left behind.

An interesting fact about Stoker is that he discovered the name Dracula by chance while in the public library in Whitby Abbey. He assumed it was the Romanian word for "devil" or "demon" and drew lots of inspiration from Transylvanian folklore while adding in the historical fantasy and the aid of Irish folklore too.

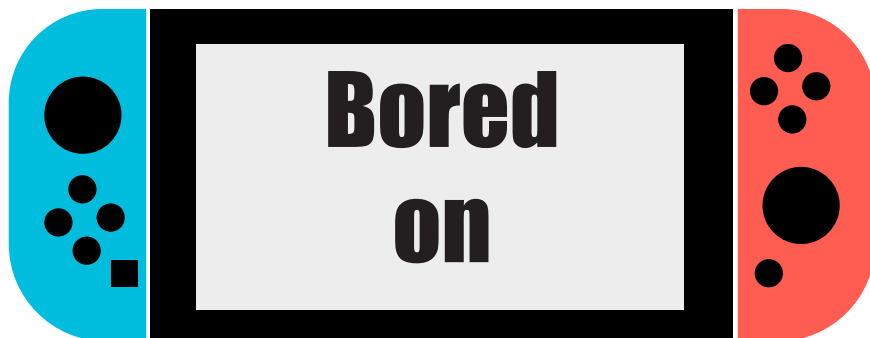
The way Stoker wrote Dracula was through diary entries, letters, and news articles. The diary entries and letters are a unique way of giving the reader a feel for what Dracula is going through, while the other side of the coin is what the town is seeing and reporting through the newspapers. It's a unique and different way of reading then a regular novel. Not to mention that these days Dracula is recognized as one of the most famous pieces of gothic fiction in history too!

How to Celebrate The Day of Dracula

I encourage anyone who loves Gothic fiction and other dark horror stories to read "Dracula"! Delve into the world created by Bram Stoker or Stephen King's "Salem's Lot." All vampire stories are welcome!

-Visit Bran Castle. Many tourists call it "Dracula's Castle" simply because Stoker drew heavy inspiration from the castle, and rumors speak of Vlad the Impaler living in the castle for a couple of months. The castle stands on an edge of a cliff and since it's a castle in Romania, it showcases true Gothic designs.

- Gather your friends for a watch party! May 26 is the Day of Dracula, so gather your friends, dress up with elegant clothing of pure goth, wear fangs and hang up some bats and spider web decorations. Most importantly, watch the classic 1922 British movie titled "Dracula" or any other creative media that has vampires! I see you Twilight fans.



10 Video Games to get you in The Spooky Spirit

By Safeia Mubarak

Dead by Daylight:

In this 1v4 multiplayer game, one player plays the role of the killer, attempting to capture and kill everyone. While the other four players play the role of survivor and attempt to start up generators to power up an electric door in order to escape the killer's arena. While starting up generators the survivors must sneak around the lurking killer and avoid getting caught. This game is great for game night and often leads to lots of screams and laughs.

Dead Space:

In this single player game, you play as Isaac Clarke who is a spacecraft engineer. When you and your crew stumble upon an ancient relic the crew begins to experience odd things, hearing voices, and seeing things. Everything changes in an instance and the ship turns into a bloodbath full of crew members turned murderous aliens. Its up to you to survive and find a way out.

Killing Floor 2:

In this six-player co-op game you get to obtain a huge variety of guns and weapons to fight off horde after horde of zombies, otherwise known as Zeds. You get to choose from ten different classes and the game offers some customization for your character. Enjoy the metal music and zombie screams as you shoot, stab, and slaughter Zeds with your friends. There is also a versus mode where you can play with up to twelve people in a 6v6 mode in which one group is the survivors and the other group is the Zeds.

Little Nightmares:

In this atmospheric adventure game, you play as a child known as Six. Your goal is to escape a vast ship full of monstrous humanoid creatures who confront you at every turn and seem to want to capture you and cook/eat you. Equipped with nothing but a lighter and your sense of logic and puzzle solving skills, you must escape. Light lanterns along the way to brighten your path as you move forward and plot your escape.



<https://store.epicgames.com/en-US/p/dead-by-daylight>



<https://www.instant-gaming.com/en/338-buy-dead-space-pc-game-origin/>



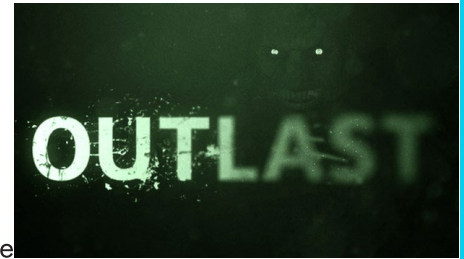
<https://store.steampowered.com/agecheck/app/232090/>



<https://www.instant-gaming.com/en/4660-buy-little-nightmares-complete-edition-switch-complete-edition-switch-game-nintendo-eshop-europe/>

Outlast:

In this first-person survival horror game, you play as Miles Upshur, an investigative journalist. Your goal is to get into Mount Massive Asylum in hopes of uncovering the truth about the Asylum. Once inside your goal is to survive the bloodshed and insanity taking place all around you. Video camera in hand you do your best to record everything and avoid death. Do your best to find enough batteries to keep your camera powered and escape in one piece.



<https://store.steampowered.com/app/238320/Outlast/>

Phasmophobia:

In this 4-player online co-op psychological horror you and your friends are paranormal investigators. Many people are reporting hauntings in their home, it is your job to investigate, document and report any hauntings you confirm within the homes you investigate. Equipped with your journal you must narrow down what kind of creature is causing the paranormal activity. Can you achieve this and escape before any of your teammates are killed?



<https://store.steampowered.com/app/739630/Phasmophobia/>

Project Zomboid:

In this open world sandbox survival game, it is your goal to survive the zombie apocalypse. Fish, fight, farm, craft, build and loot your way through hordes of zombies. While this game is still in early access and has been since late 2013 rest assured that updates are steadily being released. What sets PZ apart from other zombie survival games is the level of customization. You are free to give your survivor as many positive or negative traits as you see fit. You can make them a fast learner, an asthmatic, or even give them a weak gut. If you desired, you could get as closely to creating yourself as possible and simulate whether you would survive the zombie apocalypse or not. This game is incredibly fun with friends and offers hours upon hours of gameplay even while still being in early access.



<https://steamcommunity.com/app/108600/discussions/0/594820656460369340/?l=thai>

Ravenous Devils:

In this horror management game, you play as a married couple who move to a new town and start a business. Percival, the husband oversees running the tailor shop, he kills certain customers, takes their clothes, and repurposes them into new clothes. While Hildred, the wife is then given the corpse to turn into meat pies to sell in her pub. Talk about recycling am I right? You manage all of this by upgrading their tools and helping coordinate the two shops.



https://store.steampowered.com/app/1615290/Ravenous_Devils/

The Blackout Club:

In this first-person game 1-4 players play as teenagers who are investigating a secret within their town. The adults don't believe anything is wrong but at night they sleepwalk and act weird and have no recollection of any of it in the morning. A friend has gone missing, and so it's up to the teenagers to explore the town and do their best to keep their eyes peeled for anything out of place, the unfortunate truth, you can only see the enemy if your eyes are closed. Will you and your friends get to the bottom of this? Or will you go missing too?



https://store.steampowered.com/agecheck/app/599080/?l=danish&curator_clanid=34678286&curator_listid=46895

The Dark Pictures Anthology:

These games are a series of stand-alone cinematic horror games. Join one other friend or play alone as you experience whatever fresh new horror awaits a band of characters. Help them survive or watch on in horror as you lead them to their deaths. The choices you make will be remembered, and every action has a consequence. Keep your eyes open for clues that may help you save someone's life; or just sit back and enjoy the show.



<https://startselect.com/dk-en/the-dark-pictures-anthology-triple-pack-pc/65319>



Who Is the Face of Halloween?

By Ahmed Al-Youssef

Halloween is approaching fast and the warm feeling of watching scary movies wrapped in dozens of blankets and nuzzled in pillows is a sensation we always crave during the season. This time, we are not here to talk about the Halloween spirit nor the endless repetitive upbeat videos of dancing scary skeletons. I am going to present to you a list of who I think are the top 5 best characters in the horror movie genre! Horror movies are filled with iconic roles in all kinds of stories. we've got psycho killers, possessed dolls and children, a doomed city brought down by a higher intelligence and, more. The list goes on forever. But what makes a horror character the best? or "The face of Halloween" as I would call it. While most horror films are best remembered due to their great villains with a good plot device, the best characters can take the shape of an unforgettable performance because of the impact they leave within us after we exit the theaters. Their exploration of fear and how they deal with grief and death strikes pinpoints in our brains that makes us love them even more, either by relating to the character or just being attached to a fictional being due to the well-done writing and delivery by both actors and the team behind the cameras.

Now, this list is NOT horror movies only. Thrillers, Mysteries, and all suspenseful genres that feed off the horror aspect are included too! This list will not just feature the villains, but it will include protagonists that have a gray moral zone, or a completely morally good character that fights off evil while still having that absolute great character driven agenda.

This is completely up for debate to each reader out there. By creating such discussions with passion and sharing that with others encapsulates our freedom to criticize-and also getting scared together clutching at the blankets and screaming is fun with friends. Make them watch As Above So Below, trust me.

Be warned of HEAVY spoilers from the characters mentioned.

5. Character: Charlie Graham

Film: Hereditary (2018)

Played by: Milly Shapiro



<https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2018/06/201665/hereditary-charlie-clucking-sound-explained>

The Movie Hereditary definitely scared me when it came to perceiving the horror genre. You might be wondering why I didn't choose Annie (Toni Collete) or Peter (Alex Wolff) as this pick, as they did serve a greater purpose at the end of the film. Charlie here is merely trying her best way to find a way to grieve her grandmother who passed away. A character who only wanders way to find a way to grieve her grandmother who passed away. A character who only wanders and stares. The character doesn't say a single word other than the uneasy clucking of her tongue that sends chills down the spine. Her unfortunate end had set the tone for the whole movie and if only she knew what her cruel grandmother had planned for her. Truly a character that is so simple yet so unique and pivotal to the story.





4. Character: Kevin Wendell Crumb

Film: Split (2016)

Played by: James McAvoy



<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/318770479872129854/>

Technically, I can fill most of the list with McAvoy's character due to the sheer number of personalities this character has. Alternating from a silly lispy kid to suddenly becoming a downright savage rage machine within pure seconds is impressive. While also managing to physically bulk up suddenly and becoming a menace when his most cruel and evil personality shows up is mind-blowing to watch for the first time. I doubt anyone could forget this character after leaving the theaters.

3. Character: Regan MacNeil

Film: The Exorcist (1973)

Played by: Linda Blair



<https://www.theringer.com/2018/12/20/18150024/episode-6-regan-macneil-from-the-exorcist>

The Exorcist still haunts me until this day. This movie is so hard to watch alone due to the actress Linda Blair's astonishing performance that tops many actors to this day. Some could describe her acting as brave as the young girl is being possessed by a demon and enduring the horrors this character had to go through. Everything from the Make-up to the raspy voice. It simply shakes me to my core. The transformation scenes terrified me when I first watched this; as Blair does an amazing job by embodying the role of a girl who is panicking due to how her body is changing in abnormal ways.





2. Character: Red / Adelaide
Film: Us (2019)
Played by: Lupita Nyong'o



<https://us-2019-film.fandom.com/wiki/Red>

I can only describe this movie as a masterpiece from Jordan Peele. Lupita played the dual personality character so well that until this day, I still speculate the ending of the movie. The way Lupita shifts between Adelaide and her Tethered Red is hauntingly impressive, and when she does her raspy voice, I can feel every hair on my body stand up in chills.

1. Character: Candyman
Film: Candyman (1992)
Played by: Tony Todd



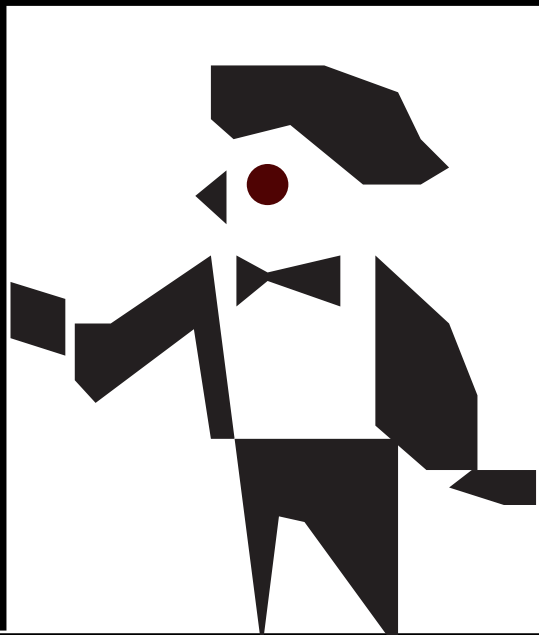
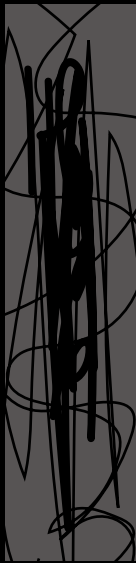
<https://www.gamespot.com/gallery/candyman-13-things-you-didnt-know-about-the-classic/2900-3400/>

If I could add the whole cast to this list, I would. The acting in this movie is top-notch. Candyman triumphs well in the horror genre for its story and atmosphere. Not to mention, Tony Todd portraying Candyman was a casting masterpiece. He brings a rather chilling performance with his booming bass voice and how he brought this legend of a story to life, perfect in every way possible. I would recommend this movie to anyone who has not seen it.

Well, this concludes my list of the top 5 best horror characters that embody the spirit of Halloween. These characters enrich the Halloween culture in ways that do not heavily rely on jump scares or cheap mysterious plot twists. These characters tell masterful stories that will always surprise us. I hope you enjoyed this list, and I encourage you to create your own for Halloween! Challenge your friends with who you think deserves the number 1 spot.



Horror



Museum



The Joker by Iman Chebli

Dreamy Cries by Iman Chebli



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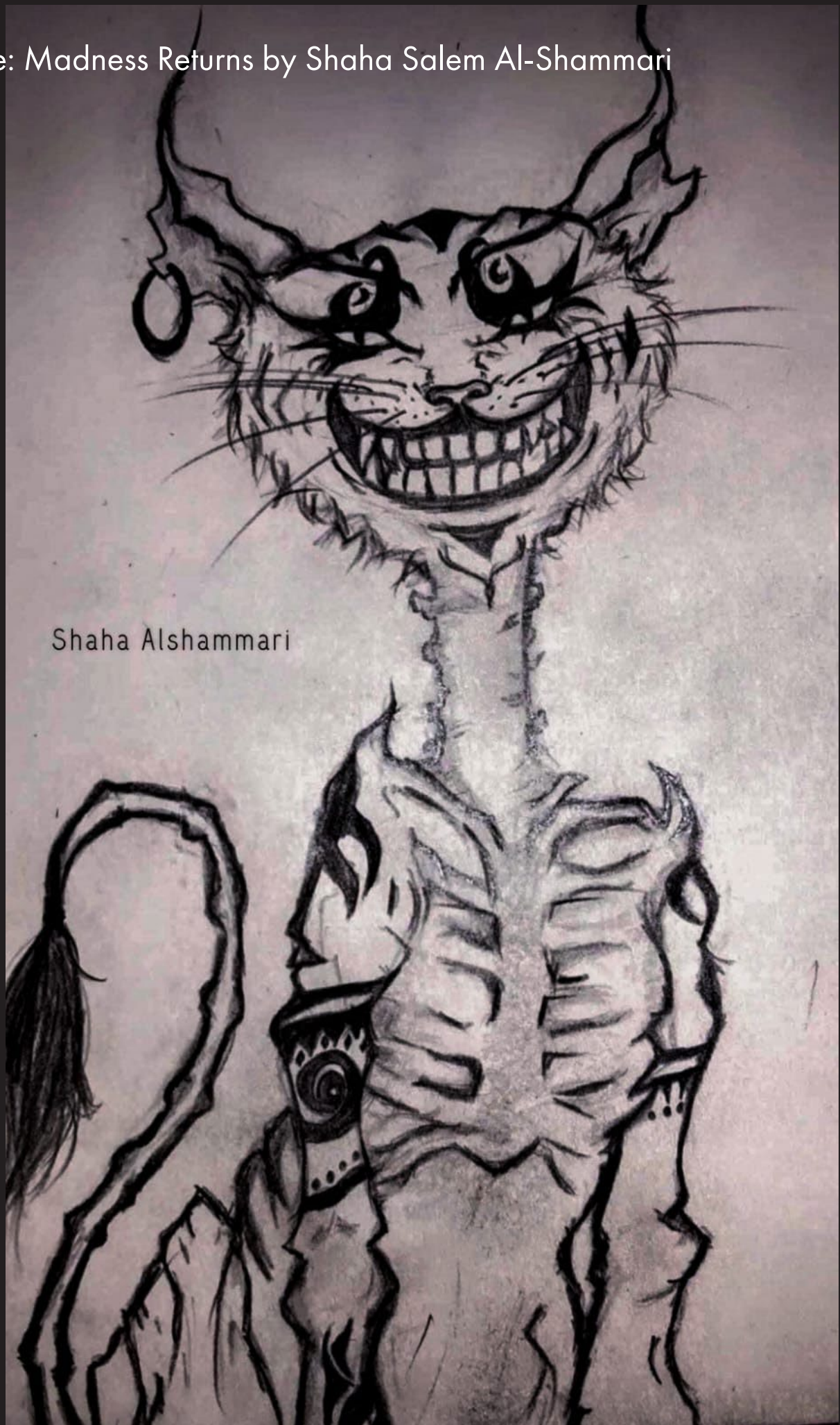
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Rainy night by Ayesha Nuruddin Rawoot


Halloween Vibe by Mohammed Faisal Alkhudhari



Alice: Madness Returns by Shaha Salem Al-Shammari







Horoscope of the Month

Scorpio (October 23rd – November 21st)

By Safeia Mubarak

Symbol: Scorpion
Element: Water
Planet: Mars, Pluto
Birthstone: Yellow topaz

Facts about Scorpio:

People associate Scorpio with death since it signifies the end of Spring and the start of autumn which signifies nature's preparations to end one cycle and begin the next. The claws of Scorpion represent the constellation of Libra.

The Babylonians named Scorpio to refer to a specific Scorpion and the meaning is "The creature with the burning sting."

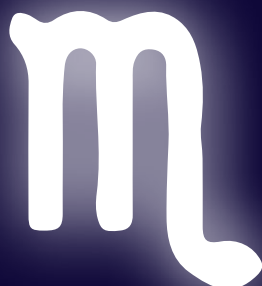
Antares is the biggest star in Scorpio's constellation, and it means "The rival of Mars."

Scorpio has two myths and while they differ for the most part, they both involve a scorpion being sent to kill a hunter named Orion.

Scorpio's constellation and Orion's are in opposition in the sky, which may have inspired the myths.

Celebrity Scorpions:

Ryan Reynolds, Julia Robert, Katy Perry,
Whoopi Goldberg, Bill Gates, Ciara.



Sagittarius (November 22nd– December 21st)



Symbol: Arrow
Element: Fire
Planet: Jupiter
Birthstone: Turquoise

Facts about Sagittarius:

Sagittarius is ruled by Jupiter which is the largest planet in our solar system.

Sagittarius is associated with Chiron and the centaurs. Sagittarius represents the change from autumn to winter. Sagittarius being associated with winter also associates it with healing and rest.

Sagittarius's name was translated in Sumerian to mean "Elder Chief."

The myth of Sagittarius is seen as either a satyr shooting an arrow or Chiron due to the constellation not showing a creature with four legs.

Chiron is more associated with Sagittarius because he was a healer and mentor, and winter is seen as a time of healing.

Celebrity Sagittarius's:

Bill Nye, Kaley Cuoco, Don Cheadle,
Zoe Kravitz, Ian Somerhalder, Taylor Swift.



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