

An October Midnight Feast

A short story by Jack Matthews

“What is an old man to do on halloween,” said Ghouge.

“With my business-partner Moriarty scared as a frogspawn I sure can’t hold a feast with my friends. Moriarty is my best friend, and he is scared of things.”

Ghouge was an old man, an old, cold, sold man. He made a deal with the devil when he started his wood polishing business. Him and his friend Moriarty usually polish wooden furniture, though at Halloween spooky furniture arrives at the door of *‘Ghouge’s and Moriarty’s and Son’s Wood Furniture Polishing Business (since 1873)’*.

At the Small Tim household, all the Small Tims were carving pumpkins for the autumn holidays.

“We’re so hungry, yet we waste all our money on pumpkins?” said Timmy Tim (Small Tim #3).

“Be quiet and keep carving,” said the Timmaster. The Timmaster was also an old man, he had taken control of the Small Tims ever since the Timtaker had died of autumn coldness. The Timmaster had only taken control of them for four days. All the tims were tired from all of the pumpkin carving.

Back at the Ghouge shop, someone comes hurriedly running in to the door.

“Ghouge! I have good news and I have bad news,” said George.

“Tell me the Bad news first.”

“The bad news is that Moriarty is dead.”

“Oh! My God! I use the lord’s name in vain at this terrible news!”

“Do you want the good news now?”

“Anything to alleviate my sorrow!”

“Well, the october tree is almost full grown, now. Many pumpkins and bats are flying about October Square!”

“You fool! You know october is Moriarty’s worst nightmare!”

“Was...”

Ghouge was prepared to fill his shot glass with his stock of wooden furniture polish, until a blinding light appeared before him.

“Who are you, now? Are you God? Am I dying?” yelled the Ghouge.

“I am the ghoul of next october, I am a premonition that is here to show you what will happen next october.”

The ghoul was shining a faint blue that filled the room with indescribable light. Ghouge prepared to gather his response.

“What are you here for... why me?”

“I will show you.”

The ghoul opened a door in the air, a door that they both soon stepped through afterwards.

“Where are we now?” asked Ghouge.

“This is what next october will be like”

October future was a merry october, Ghouge and all of his shareholders were having an october feast of celebrations and twiglets. To Ghouge’s surprise, Moriarty was a humble guest.

“How so, my good friend Moriarty is dead!” exclaimed Ghouge.

Ghouge continued, “Not only that, but he is scared of october!”

The ghoul turned to him to say, “He isn’t dead, Ghouge, he is merely practising the merryness of halloween.”

“Then show me!”

The ghoul proceeded to fabricate another door, which led to the past rather than the future. They both stepped through the door.

The ghoul began to say to Ghouge, “When Moriarty disappeared for the first time, he wasn’t dying. He was practising how to be a new man.”

They both saw before them a Moriarty who was changing into a Timmaster.

“You see, Ghouge,” the ghoul spoke, “He was taking a step back to look at the bigger picture.”

“I don’t understand.”

“He had killed the tim-taker and had *taken* his place!”

“Oh, wow. Oh, wow!”

“He made the tims carve the pumpkins so he could build the nerve to handle them himself!”

There was a twinkle in Ghouge’s eye, “It all makes sense to me, now!”

The ghoul opened the final door, back to the present. Ghouge looked disappointed.

“Well what are we to do now,” Ghouge had a tear in his eye.

“Enjoy this october, of course!”

Ghouge was flabbergasted, then him and the ghoul began to cheer. “Hooray!” they both said.

Ghouge faced George in the face and told him, “You know, George, I heard the bad news and it was awful; however, it’s october. We should enjoy the october that we live in right now and be merry with all of our family and friends.”

“Well I’m glad you think that!”

They all had a big october feast and ate all of the food. Everyone was merry and singing october songs. This is a reminder to you, yes... you! Dear reader, this october, be merrier than ever! Find the part of october that warms your heart and be merry this october! Hooray! We will all celebrate this october as a big october family, today!

Outside it was still cold, not a soul in sight, until timmy tim ran out of the pumpkin shop and yelled, “Happy October, and to all Happiness! Hooray!”

The end.