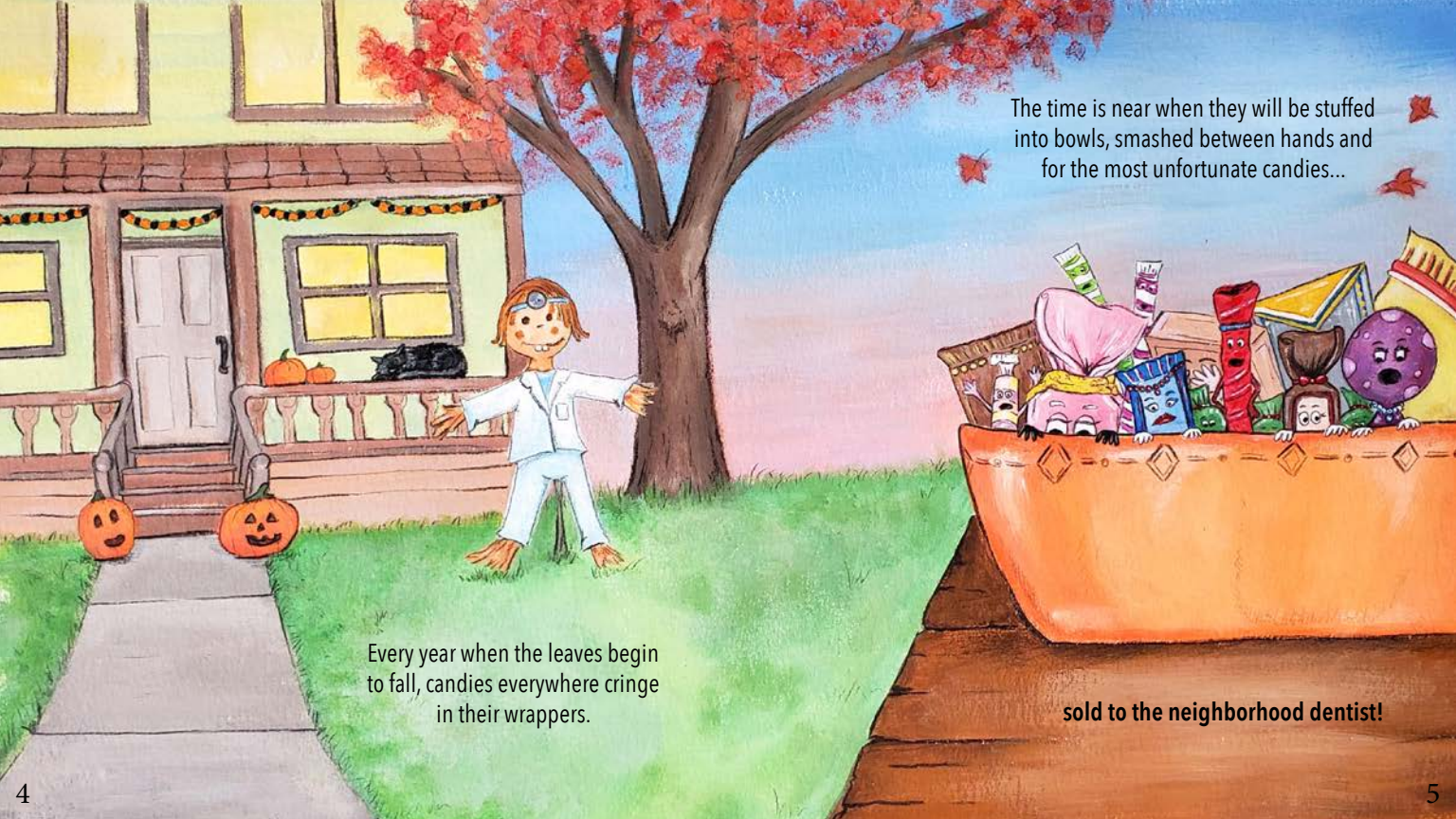




**Trick and Treat:
The year the of the candy rebellion**

By Ellen Elizabeth Portilla



The time is near when they will be stuffed into bowls, smashed between hands and for the most unfortunate candies...

Every year when the leaves begin to fall, candies everywhere cringe in their wrappers.

sold to the neighborhood dentist!

"Not this year!" Taf announces to the gathered candy. He smooths his snazzy pink wrapping, "This is the year of the candy rebellion!" He revels in the cheering from the overworked candy.

"But if we rebel, what will people hand out this year?"

"Who cares as long as it's not us!"

Taf growls at the interruption but realizes they're right. Without someone to take their place they'll end up the suckers yet again.

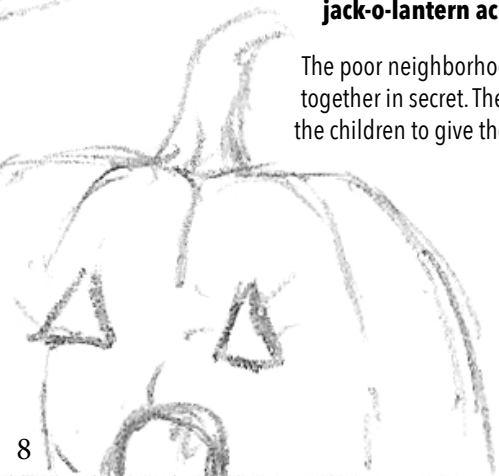
"What if we did the tricking this year, instead of being the treats?" Suggests Red.

"I like it!" Taf smirks, "But who to trick?"



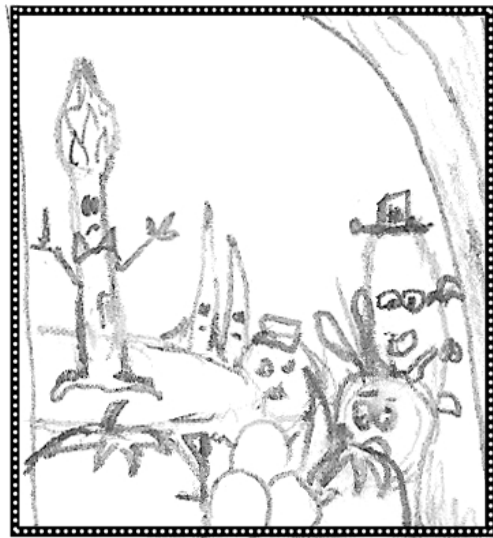
**Meanwhile, in an abandoned
jack-o-lantern across the street...**

The poor neighborhood vegetables gather together in secret. They're desperate to get the children to give them a chance this year.



"We can't take another year of being called yucky, Pary. We need a new plan!" the veggies cry to their leader.

"Maybe they'll try us if we use perfume again?"



Pary gathers himself up, "We've tried dips, dressing, dyes and perfume. Nothing seems to trick these picky kids!" Pary slumps, "They just won't give us a chance." His pep talk didn't go as planned, and the veggie's hopes wither away.

"I've got a plan!" A pea crashes through the crowd,
"Let's ask the candy for help!"

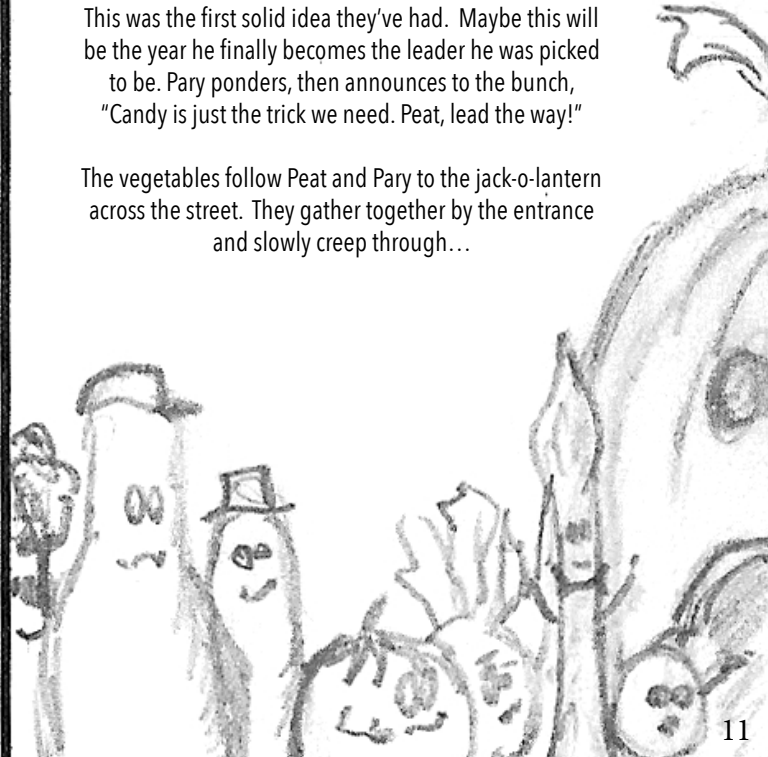


The veggies gasp at Peat.

"I rolled by a sweet-smelling pumpkin and heard the candies meeting."
The veggies stew over Peat's suggestion then look to Pary.

This was the first solid idea they've had. Maybe this will be the year he finally becomes the leader he was picked to be. Pary ponders, then announces to the bunch, "Candy is just the trick we need. Peat, lead the way!"

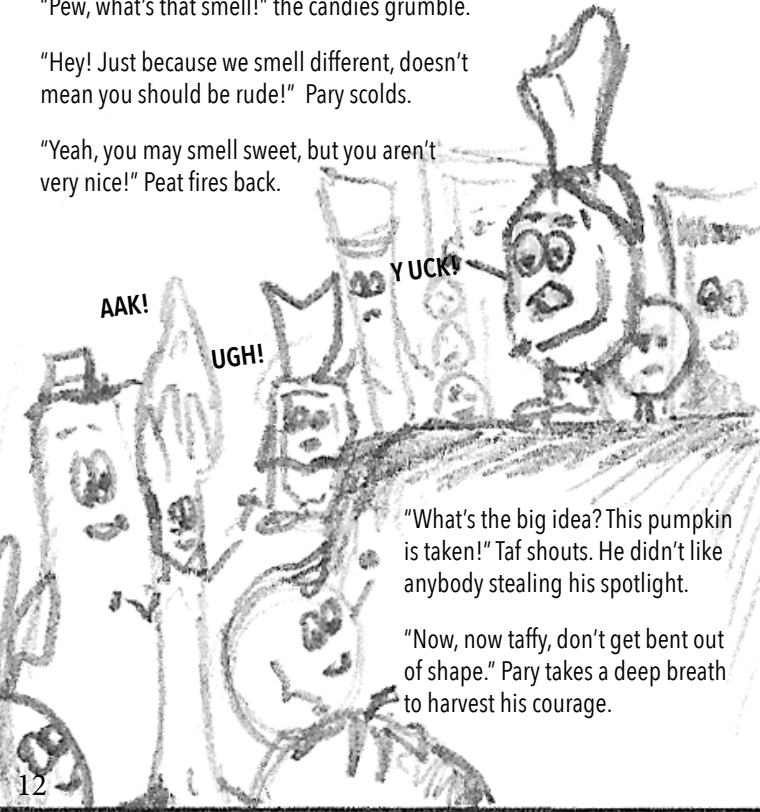
The vegetables follow Peat and Pary to the jack-o-lantern across the street. They gather together by the entrance and slowly creep through...



"Pew, what's that smell!" the candies grumble.

"Hey! Just because we smell different, doesn't mean you should be rude!" Pary scolds.

"Yeah, you may smell sweet, but you aren't very nice!" Peat fires back.



"What's the big idea? This pumpkin is taken!" Taf shouts. He didn't like anybody stealing his spotlight.

"Now, now taffy, don't get bent out of shape." Pary takes a deep breath to harvest his courage.

"We were wondering if you would help us. We are sick of being shoved aside and scoffed at just because we're different! We can't get these kids to look at us, let alone taste us!"




Pary pouts, "Please help us produce some better results!"




The crowd mumbles as an idea begins to form in Taf's mind. He rubs his sleek gloves together.

"These veggies may be the suckers we're looking for." He whispers to Red. They grin slyly at the eager veggies.

"We can help you out, my new friends. We were just discussing how we could help others this Halloween. Weren't we, candy?"



Taf winks, and the candies readily agree with their rebellious leader. Seeing his big break, Taf begins to spin the tale that will lead to the largest trick of all time!



He tells legends of wonderful parents placing them in luxurious bowls; of charming children gently holding them and of being adored every Halloween.

"That sounds delightful! We'll finally be admired by children!" The veggies cheer.

"But, how will we get the children to change their mind about us?" Pary asks not wanting to lead his pod astray.



"We'll disguise you. You'll look as tasty as we are!"
Taf bellows absorbing the adoring cheers.

"This idea sounds sweet!" Peat shouts.

Pary smiles and finally agrees, "You candies are life savers!"



"Time to transform you into tantalizing treats. Phase one, dress up!" Taf hollers and the whole bunch works together to make the vegetables look like tasty treats.

The candies sprinkle the veggies with sugar, roll some in chocolate and wrap others with ribbon so they all look absolutely delicious.

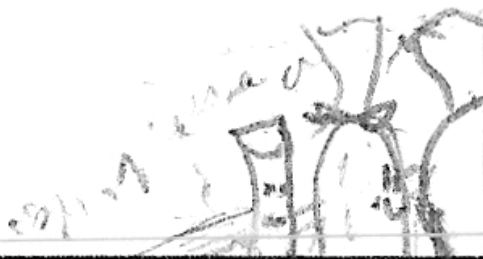


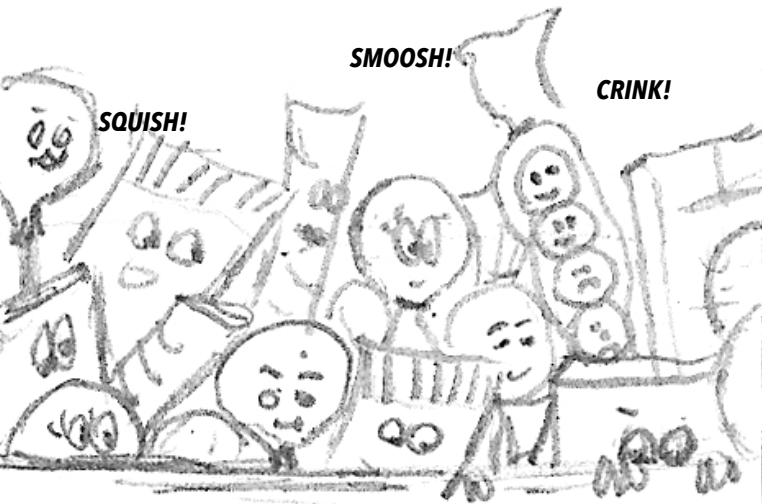
"This will be the best trick ever!
On to phase two... the switch!" Taf declares.
"We must gather all of the Halloween candy and
replace them with our costumed friends."

Pary admires his shiny wrapper and nods
approvingly at his fellow veggies. He and Taf
shout together,

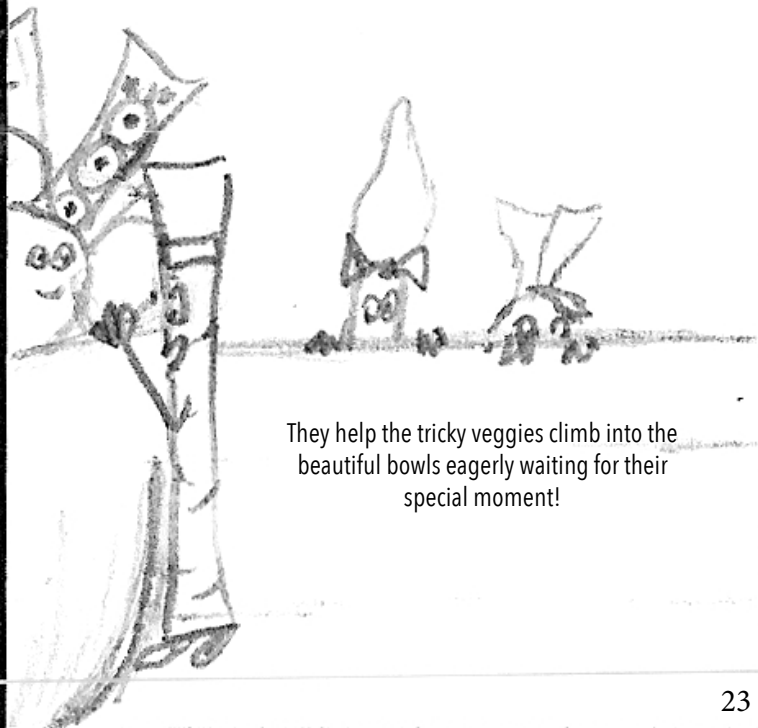
"IT'S TIME TO TRICK AND TREAT!"

The tricky veggies and candies cheer and
follow their leaders into the chilly
October night.





Silently they sneak up the porches and share their tricky plan with the over-worked candy. The candies happily join the growing rebellion.



They help the tricky veggies climb into the beautiful bowls eagerly waiting for their special moment!



Later that evening, the tricky veggies hear the ever anticipated,
"DING DONG... TRICK OR TREAT!"
Goblins and ghouls, witches and princesses pitter-patter up the dark porch.



Creeping close to the bowl, they reach their lovely hands
in and grab the shiny wrapped veggies.

"THANK YOU!" the kids holler, stuffing the tricky veggies
into their bags.

"It's time. We'll finally be tasted!"
Pary beams at his friends.



"Mmm hm hmm!"
Peat mumbles from his box.

"It's time!" Timmy smiles at his sister.

"We can finally taste our treats!"
Suzy shouts.

They each grab a tricky veggie from their
bag, unwrap it and...



"These are gross." Timmy spits.

"Mmm. Yum." Suzy says.

"I got tricked! I bet it was Mr. White, that sneaky dentist!"
Timmy groans.

Suzy opens her box and tosses more veggie treats into
her mouth, "Mine are pretty tasty. Especially these green
ones!"

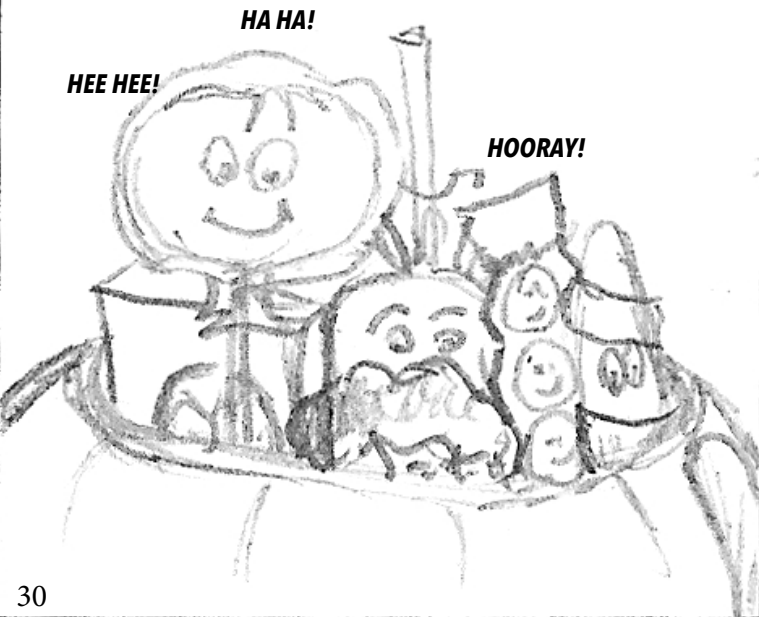
"Yuck, who eats green treats?" Timmy sneers.



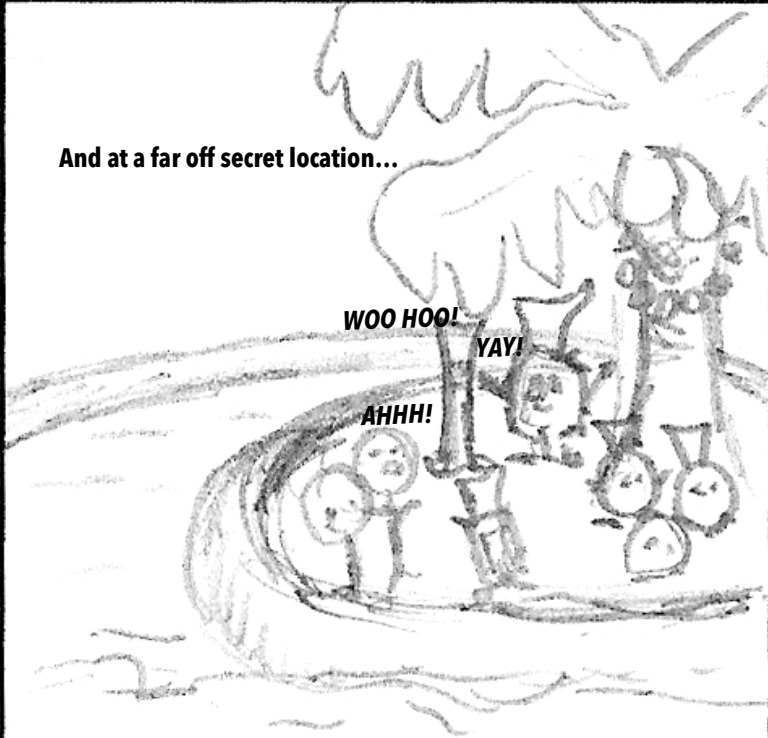
All across the neighborhood children tasted their tricky treats. Some enjoyed their treats like Suzy, thinking they're tasty. Some thought the ghoulish green candies were awesome! Others tasted them and thought they were gross, wondering who managed to trick them this year.

Meanwhile in trick or treat bags across the neighborhood...

The tricky veggies grinned and basked in the glory of being desired by *some* children. They were finally given a chance on Halloween.



And at a far off secret location...



The candies cheer joyfully and sigh with relief after finally getting their big Halloween break.



THE END

Trick or Treat?

