

# Barack-O-Lantern

Based on a True Story

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Christopher Canole  
6110 Camino de la Costa  
La Jolla, CA 92037  
(858) 459-4735  
ccanole@ucsd.edu

EXT. PANNIKIN COFFEE HOUSE -- MORNING -- OCTOBER 30

Coffeehouse employees carve Jack-O'-Lanterns in the likeness of Barack Obama and John McCain.

CHRIS, former 60's radical, wearing a "Yes We Can" t-shirt, carrying Obama's biography *Dreams From My Father* with a comic book version tucked inside, climbs the stairs.

BARRY, more gray hair than Chris, wearing a McCain/Palin button on his jacket, sits alone on the right side of the porch, and raises his right hand, fingers spread wide.

BARRY

Five more days.

CHRIS

Till the Bush nightmare ends?

BARRY

And your HOPE dreams too.

Chris pauses to confront Barry over the upcoming election, then holds his tongue, and opens the door.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Can't you see through Obama's mask?

Chris mumbles to himself.

CHRIS

You'll never wake-up.

EXT. PANNIKIN COFFEE HOUSE -- HALLOWEEN

Chris walks up the stairs between the Obama and McCain pumpkins, and waves to the Left-Side porch patrons who mirror the Democratic Party; young, old, and racially diverse.

He glances at the right-side porch gang of Republicans in costume with McCain/Palin campaign buttons. One in Darth Vader black and a rubber Dick Cheney head. Barry's far right chair is empty.

TERRY, sporting a pirate eye patch, one elephant and one donkey ear, stands in the doorway between the two coffee camps and greets Chris.

TERRY

Hey, Chris, somebody famous is in line waiting for you.

CHRIS

Made up your mind who you're voting for yet?

TERRY  
Still on the fence.

CHRIS  
What're you waiting for?

TERRY  
An October surprise.

CHRIS  
It's Halloween. What could happen  
in one day?

Terry steps aside to let Chris see...

INT. PANNIKIN COFFEE HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

BARACK Obama, decked out in Chicago mafia style wide-lapel pinstripes suit with black-and-white wingtip shoes stands at the counter passing money in front of his larger than life Halloween mask trying to see out of the tiny eye holes.

CHRIS  
You're holding a Lincoln, Mr. Obama.

Chris stares at a campaign button on Barack's lapel depicting McCain in a comic book hero characterization. He pulls out a "Vote" button and offers it to Barack.

Barack turns his head left and right to focus on the offer.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Having trouble seeing what's in front  
of your face?

The smiling rubber mask Barack nods, points to his McCain button, and then to the door.

The Barista hands Chris his change.

Chris puts the coins in a "Change for Change" Obama campaign tip bucket on the counter.

Chris carries his and Barack's coffee in one hand while guiding the costume candidate out the door.

Barack veers to the Republican side.

Chris steers him to the stairs.

The Darth Cheney Republican pipes in.

DARTH CHENEY  
Barry should be here to see our lefty  
leading the blind man.

Chris guides Barack to a large table in the middle of the outdoor seating by the entrance.

A CHICANO waiter, brings Barack and Chris their pastries.

CHICANO

Can I serve you any other way?

Chris hands him a "Vote" button.

EXT. PANNIKIN COFFEE HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Two Halloween costumed customers; Sarah PALIN and John MCCAIN in POW stripped pajamas, shackled together with plastic chains, walk past Chris and Barack.

Palin in blood stained Miss Alaska pageant sash and gown, with hunter's vest and belt of dead ducks walks ahead of McCain wearing a plumber's tool-belt and pipe wrench, looking like he plans on using it as a weapon.

PALIN

Don't touch me with those filthy hands.

MCCAIN

The Plumber's belt and slime was your idea.

PALIN

We need more than you in old prison rags to get votes at the costume ball.

MCCAIN

I liked you better as a witch or a cheerleader.

PALIN

If we win, you'll get both.

Chris witnesses all walks of life costumed customers walk up to Barack to shake his gloved hand.

Students file out from under the "World Language Institute" sign across the street wearing their homeland traditional attire for the holiday, gather around Barack like a mini-United Nations, and greet him in all tongues.

At first the Barack avoids physical contact leaning away from the multiethnic fans.

Four teenagers as Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, John and Bobby Kennedy form a rubber headed Mt. Rushmore behind Barack, posing for a Marilyn Monroe with her cell phone camera.

A young girl in GOLDDILOCKS costume runs up to sit with Barack. She looks at his rubber gloves, then the Chicano waiter bussing tables.

GOLDDILOCKS  
Are you a doctor, or a dishwasher?

Barack takes off his gloves to shake her outstretched hand.

Goldilocks eagerly accepts the age spotted white hand.

Her MOTHER exits the front door wearing a McCain/Palin button, sees her daughter with the mixed raced Black candidate, rushes down the stairs, and grabs her daughter.

MOTHER  
Come away from the strange man.

GOLDDILOCKS  
Next time I'm gonna be President.

Chris looks down at his comic book, then at the McCain button obviously created by the same cartoonist. He glances up to see a tuft of white hair at the collar of the Barack mask.

The identity of Barack hits him. He leans over to Barack and whispers.

CHRIS  
I know who you are.

Barack ignores Chris.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
I gave you that button as a joke  
Barry.

A car plastered with Obama/Biden stickers pulls up to the curb and HONKS at Barack. The campaign workers jump out and surround Obama.

Chris backs away to let the Barack-for-a-day soak up more admiration.

He leaves the coffeehouse passing the newspaper boxes declaring the upcoming election "Too Close to Call", and "Will Bradley Factor Unmask At Polls?"

EXT. PANNIKIN COFFEE HOUSE -- ELECTION DAY

Chris walks up to a newspaper box, puts in two quarters, and takes out a paper headlined "Who Is The Real Vote For Change?"

Chris passes between the Barack-O'-Lantern still looking fresh, and the McCain Jack-O'-Lantern collapsed and burned out.

Chris, with an "I Voted" sticker on his Obama cartoon button, greets Barry back in his seat wearing a voting sticker.

CHRIS

Hi Barack.

Barry flinches but does not look up from reading his newspaper to greet Chris

Chris taps Barry on the shoulder.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Where's your McCain button?

BARRY

Gave it to a trick-or-treater.

CHRIS

Guess we canceled each other's vote again this year.

Barry shuffles his stuff and GRUNTS.

BARRY

I got up this morning. Looked in the mirror. And saw who should be President.

CHRIS

Were you still in costume?

Barry stares into his empty coffee mug.

Chris looks down at Barry's black and white wingtips.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

You're still walking in his shoes.

BARRY

Bout time I change my look.

Chris takes Barry's empty mug.

CHRIS

Time for a refill. How do you take it?

BARRY

Black today.

THE END