

# TRICK OR TREAT

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Shelly was in the hospital last fall. She had a miscarriage at the end of her first trimester. The day that she went home was Halloween. Even some of the nurses on the ward had their "witch" costumes on.

That first night home for Shelly was meant to be a quiet evening but all she heard was children's voices shouting "trick or treat" until she could not bear it anymore. Tony suggested that the whole family should go down to the basement with a candle and left the rest of the house dark. It worked and soon the children began to ignore their house.

However, Shelly became obsessed with the phrase "trick or treat". She complained to Tony that initially she took the pregnancy as a treat from God but the treat had turned out to be a nasty trick. She subsequently fell into a deep depression which, according to her doctor, is quite common after a miscarriage. The depression lasted until she was told about her present pregnancy. She then became both happy and worried. Happy because she might have another child. Worried because this might lead to another miscarriage.

I went to see Shelly at the hospital the following day. She looked a lot better.

"They gave me a different needle last night and I slept throughout the night without waking up!"

"Without waking up at night what a blessing! How easy for us to take things for granted" I mumbled to myself.

"Do you remember Tony telling you my problem with Halloween?" She looked at me intensely.

"Why? Of course." I nodded.

"I feel as if I had lived through Halloween night and now I can welcome my All Saints' Day." She continued.

"I am glad that the spell of Halloween has finally left you. But you still have to take good care of yourself in the coming months." I tried to cool her excitement.

"I spent a lot of time thinking last night. I was reading the story of Joseph of the Old Testament. Something he said to his brothers really touched me." She bent forward to get her Bible.

"Here it is in the last chapter of Genesis. Joseph said to his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." You see, Joseph went through a lot of sufferings in his life. At the end, he claimed that these were all treats. There are no tricks with God."

She smiled as she was pointing at the Bible.

"I think you have just scared all the witches away with your smile." I was deeply impressed by her overflowing joy.

"Yes, I am convinced that God will turn all the tricks of my life into treats." She held the Bible tightly with her hands.

All Saints' Day had indeed arrived for Shelly.

