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## A Purr-plexing Halloween

Dana Hardy

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## A Purr-plexing Halloween

*Dana Hardy*

'Twas Halloween night and all down the street  
Ran children in search of some tricks and some treats.  
Leaves of crimson fell down for a long winter rest  
As the wind whistled through the Pacific Northwest.  
The pumpkins were picked from the patch with great care,  
soon to be carved with faces that scare.  
The knives were displayed, and the scoopers laid out,  
But as I made the first cut, I heard a *Meow!*  
I leaped from my seat and surveyed the house,  
But not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.  
I felt compelled to keep searching but returned to my pumpkin  
instead.  
I figured the sound must have been in my head.  
But just as I sat, I heard an unmistakable purr!  
I whipped around in my chair as fast as a blur.  
I looked high and low for the source of the sound,  
But hard as I looked no cat could be found.  
When I went back to my carving, the cat mewed again!  
It was then that I realized, it had come from within.  
Bewildered I looked at the round orange gourd;  
A matter like this could simply not be ignored!  
My hands trembled as I carved out a loop 'round the top  
And prayed that my knife would not bring the meows to a stop.  
Like a surgeon I maneuvered my blade with precision,  
Scarcely daring to breathe as I made each incision.  
Finally finished, I set my tool down with a thud,  
Hoping to God my pumpkin was not filled with whiskers and blood.  
Though I dreaded the scene, the suspense was too much to stand,  
So I took hold of the prickly green stem with my hand.  
I lifted off the wobbly round piece I had cut  
And as I peered inside I felt my heart stop and drop to my gut.  
For nestled safely inside like a bundle of mittens,

Was a litter of no less than six little kittens.  
The little cats were sticky with pumpkin guts and seeds,  
But appeared perfectly healthy, and happy to be freed!  
I scooped them out and cleaned them up, then set them down to roam  
And wondered, is it a trick or a treat to have six kittens in my home?  
As they pounced and played on the carpet, one meowed and looked  
straight at me  
As if to say, '*goodnight to all, and to all a Happy Halloween!*'