

MARVEL ZOMBIES HALLOWEEN

Written by Fred Van Lente / © 2012 Marvel

ONE

Panel 1: CLOSE UP: The top of a zombie's head gets BLOWN OFF.

1. SFX (BIG): **TOOOM**

Panel 2: PULL BACK: As that zombie falls to the ground, two more on either side of it are similarly decapitated by a high-caliber round.

2. SFX: **TOOOM**

3. SFX: **TOOOM**

Panel 3: PULL BACK: The trio of zombies drop, adding to the RING OF CORPSES piled almost waist-high in the front lawn of a suburban house.

4. SFX: **whud whuddd**

Panel 4: AERIAL SHOT: We now see the lawn of that house, and the ring surrounding it. The house is a big old New England colonial mansion -- the kind haunted houses are regularly made of:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:The_Haunted_Mansion.jpg

(Note the greenhouse/solarium on one side. That's important.)

Alessandro, keep in mind in the world of *Marvel Zombies*, that the undead eat EVERYTHING LIVING -- including trees and grass, so there won't be any of that around the house. At best, a bunch of depressing, stunted trees, limbs stripped of leaves and bark.

NO COPY

Panel 5: Inside the cupola -- that's that round thing with the weathervane at top -- MOM, a lithe, Linda Hamilton type, about 42, with a pony tail of curly brown hair, peers through the sight of a massive .50 caliber sniper rifle, the BARRET M107:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZdmc-iRARs&feature=related> and

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvBiH8U5OuY&feature=related>

5. PETER (DOWN): Mom?

6. PETER (DOWN): **Mom?**

TWO

Panel 1: ANGLE DOWN: PETER, 7, Son of Mom, looks up apprehensively from the bottom of the stairs leading to the (off-panel) cupola hatch.

1. PETER: I think there's something in the walls.

Panel 2: Mom descends the stairs and switches guns to a COMBAT SHOTGUN. She makes Peter stand behind her while she goes over to one of the walls.

<http://www.gizmag.com/aa-12-combat-shotgun-frag-12-automatic/11393/picture/74152/>

2. MOM: Weren't you watching the monitors?

3. PETER: I **was!**

Panel 3: Angle on cheap green (light enhancement) monitors on one side of the room. On one a zombie has been caught in a BEAR TRAP, flailing his arms uselessly, moaning.

4. ZOMBIE (j): *Rrrrrnnnnhhhhhhh*

5. PETER (OFF): Nothing got through! I woulda seen it!

Panel 4: Mom places her ear against the wall, skeptical.

6. MOM: Well. This is an old house.

7. MOM: I'm sure all you heard was **settling**--

Panel 5: Smash zoom -- Mom's eyes go wide as she hears:

8. SFX: ***skkrrtchh skkkkttcchhh***

THREE

Panel 1: BIG PANEL - Mom fires the shotgun at the wall as Peter covers his ears. An enormous HOLE and an accompanying cloud of sheetrock is blown out of it.

1. MOM: **BACK!**
2. SFX: **WHOOMM**

Panel 2: Shoot through the hole as a trepiditious Mom reaches inside the wall...

3. MOM: Come **out** where I can **see** you, you dirty mothe--
4. PETER (OFF): Mom! **Bad word!**
5. MOM: Wait...

Panel 3: EXTREME CU - small panel - Mom's smile.

6. MOM: Well, **hello** there...

Panel 4: BIG PANEL - From the hole Mom removes a cute and utterly terrified BLACK KITTEN, no more than a couple months old.

7. MOM: How long have you been **stuck** back there?
8. KITTEN: *Mrrrrrrreeeww?*
9. MOM: My God. I can **feel** every **bone** beneath the fur...

Panel 5: Peter's delighted face as he picks up the kitten, nuzzles it to his face.

10. PETER: We -- we better **feed** him then ... and keep him safe. Right, Mom?
11. KITTEN: *Ppppprrrrrrrrrrrr*
12. PETER: I'll name him Blackie!

Panel 6: Mom smiles a weary but honest smile.

13. MOM: Original.

FOUR

Panel 1: Tight on a Marvel Calendar with MAN-THING as October's image. Peter has crossed out all the days but the last four.

1. PETER (OFF): It's ... October twenty-seventh.
2. PETER (OFF): Five months ... ten days to Dad's birthday.

Panel 2: WIDE ANGLE - They're in the aforementioned GREENHOUSE where Mom grows the food they eat -- she's currently cutting and trimming carrots, tomatoes -- and PUMPKINS, of course. Peter sits on the floor, holding the calendar. Leave room for back-and-forth dialogue.

3. MOM: Good. That sounds right to me.
4. MOM: You're doing great with numbers and reading, Peter.
5. PETER: H-A-L-L-O-W-E-E-N.
6. PETER: What's that, Mom? It's in the square for the thirty-first.
7. MOM: That's a holiday.
8. PETER: What's--
9. MOM: It's like, a day everyone can celebrate, together.
10. PETER: Like Dad's birthday?
11. MOM: Like that, but for **everyone**.
12. PETER: What do you do on Halloween?

Panel 3: Angle outside the greenhouse, where a $\frac{3}{4}$ -decayed zombie staggers about the lawn.

13. MOM (inside gh): Well... back, before the **plague**, people dressed up and pretended to be somebody else to scare each other.
14. MOM (inside gh): They went from door to door asking for candy. "Trick or Treat," we called it.

Panel 4: Small inset: The zombie's foot steps toward a circular landmine. Ref: <http://thoughtleadershipleverage.com/2011/11/what-are-the-landmines-you-need-to-look-out-for/>

15. PETER (OFF): You did it, Mom? Dad too?

Panel 5: The zombie EXPLODES with the landmine in a shower of bones and gore.

16. MOM (OFF): When I was **your** age, sure...
17. MOM (OFF): I don't think they practiced it where your father came from, but when he got **here**...
18. SFX: **BOOOOOM**

FIVE

Panel 1: Mom picks Blackie out by the scruff of his neck from an empty flowerpot.

1. MOM: Oh! Hello.
2. MOM: Peter, you're going to have to be **careful** with Blackie.
3. MOM: Kittens like to squeeze into anywhere they'll **fit**. You have to make sure he doesn't disappear on you or you'll be hunting for him **everywhere**.

Panel 2: Peter holds up a length of green ribbon so Blackie can bat at it.

4. PETER: Mom, can I ask you a question?
5. MOM (OFF): You just did.
6. PETER: Can we celebrate Halloween?
7. MOM (OFF): Oh, I don't know about that.
8. PETER: Why not?

Panel 3: Mom works at a planter with a trowel.

9. MOM: Holidays are for a whole **community**, and there's just us. It's a distraction, from trying to stay alive.
10. PETER (OFF): Are you saying if Dad was still here, we'd do it?
11. MOM: Not necessarily.
12. MOM: But Dad isn't with us because w-- because **I** got distracted.

Panel 4: Mom turns toward us -- large panel, but tight on her -- not quite yelling, but clearly agitated.

13. MOM: I... can't let that happen again. We've got to keep our **focus** on staying **alive**.

Panel 5: Peter holds up Blackie.

14. PETER: But now we have Blackie! Now there are **three** of us again!
15. MOM (OFF): The **number** of us isn't really the **point**--

Panel 6: Same shot: Peter holds Blackie close to him -- they both look at us with their wide, childlike eyes.

16. PETER: But it'd be **fun** to be somebody **else** for a day.
17. MOM (OFF): You're telling me. But we don't have that luxury.
18. PETER: Aw, Mom. **C'mon**. If we don't get to have any fun...

Panel 7: Mom considers these words with a haunted look.

19. PETER (off): ...what are we staying alive **for?**

SIX

Panel 1: The "Halloween" is circled on the calendar -- Oct 31 symbolized with a black cat arching his back.

1. MOM (OFF): Look what I found in the basement of this place -- hold still!

Panel 2: Peter stands in the center of the living room, not looking terribly thrilled to be wearing a kid's WOLVERINE costume:

http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0023AWSHS/ref=asc_df_B0023AWSHS2100687?smid=A1UGGL17E0UZT3&tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=asn&creative=395105&creativeASIN=B0023AWSHS&hvpos=1o1&hvexid=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=1897713671970145780&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=

Blackie plays with the box at Peter's feet.

2. MOM (OFF): Here...

3. MOM (OFF): Ha! Perfect! What do you think?

4. PETER: ***This*** was for a ***hero?***

5. PETER (SMALL): You couldn't find a Spider-Man?

Panel 3: Small panel -- Mom beams with pride.

6. MOM: Not everyone would agree.

7. MOM: But he was always ***my*** hero.

8. MOM: Small and fierce.

9. MOM: Just like you.

Panel 4: Wide angle - living room - Mom's decorated it with Jack o'Lanterns from the garden, orange-and-black streamers, the drawing of a ghost or two. More back-and-forth.

10. MOM: I also found streamers ... other decorations...

11. MOM: I even carved some jack o'lanterns from the greenhouse...

12. MOM: ...and a real, live black cat. That's the best...

13. MOM: ***What?***

14. PETER: What?

15. MOM: Out with it. I can tell by your face. ***Something's*** wrong...

Panel 5: Peter, disappointed.

16. PETER: It's just...

17. PETER: You said there'd be ***candy***...

MORE

SIX, CON'D

Panel 6: Mom straps on the sniper rifle from Page One and prepares to leave.

18. MOM: >*sigh*<

19. MOM: Right. Forgot that.

20. MOM: I should be able to scavenge some in the **Sam's** two streets over.

21. MOM: I'll be **right back** -- save some bobbing apples for **me**, okay?

Panel 7: Peter looks around for Blackie. Can't find him.

22. PETER: Okay. 'Bye, Mom.

23. PETER: Blackie, let's go play until...

SEVEN

Panel 1: Shoot from outside: Through the dropped square of glass, we see Peter's eye as he looks out and sees:

1. PETER (SMALL TYPE, BIG BALLOON): No

Panel 2: Reverse angle: Blackie has gotten out -- he's sitting on the ground amidst dead zombies, staring wide-eyed at us.

NO COPY

Panel 3: Peter (still in his Wolverine outfit throughout) puts one foot on the door outside to get Blackie to come back in; the kitten drops into a crouch.

2. PETER (SMALL TYPE, BIG BALLOON): Blackie

3. PETER (SMALL TYPE, BIG BALLOON): Come here, boy

Panel 4: The kitten bounds away from him -- and Peter chases after him in childlike instinct, both nearly missing an embedded landmine. He's holding a burlap sack to catch him with.

4. PETER (SMALL TYPE, BIG BALLOON): No

5. PETER (SMALL TYPE, BIG BALLOON): Wait

Panel 5: The door closes and LOCKS behind Peter as he goes!

6. SFX: ***klikkk***

EIGHT

Panel 1: ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE - A blasted, post-apocalyptic suburb full of dead lawns and ramshackle one-story track houses.

NO COPY

Panel 2: Peter walks down the middle of the street holding the sack and wearing a Wolverine costume, he looks like the world's most depressing trick-or-treater.

1. PETER (SMALL TYPE, BIG BALLOON): Here here here here here

Panel 3: Reverse angle -- at the end of a cul-de-sac is a seemingly brand new house, reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright's "Falling Water" (without the trees and water): <http://www.fallingwater.org/>

And here's the thing...

NO COPY

Panel 4: Small panel - ...the LIGHTS are on inside!

NO COPY

Panel 5: CU - Peter is scared, but he doesn't know what other options he has.

NO COPY

Panel 6: Peter's hand reaches up and knocks on the strange door.

2. SFX: **nok nok nok**

NINE

Panel 1: BIG PANEL: A CREEPY OLD MAN in an old Victorian suit with a red goatee opens the door and looms menacingly down on Peter.

1. CREEPY OLD MAN: What is it? What do you want?
2. CREEPY OLD MAN: And why are you dressed so foolishly?
3. PETER: I'm -- It's Halloween.
4. CREEPY OLD MAN: What? No it isn't, you witless child.
5. CREEPY OLD MAN: The date is clearly **Thirtieth** October.
6. CREEPY OLD MAN: You're a day **off**.

Panel 2: CU - Peter is, as one might suspect, rather intimidated by our Creepy Old Man.

7. PETER: Oh? I -- I sure I was right.
8. CREEPY OLD MAN (OFF): Well you're not. You were wrong.
9. CREEPY OLD MAN (OFF): It's All Hallow's **Eve's** Eve.

Panel 3: CU - scowling Creepy Old Man.

10. CREEPY OLD MAN: Which is a completely **ridiculous** idea for a holiday, if you ask me.
11. CREEPY OLD MAN: I much prefer what they call it in Detroit.
12. CREEPY OLD MAN: "*Devil's Night.*"

Panel 4: Peter tries to keep the old man from closing the door on him.

13. CREEPY OLD MAN: Come back **tomorrow** with your tricking and your treating. And then -- I can **help** you.
14. PETER: But I'm not -- I'm looking for a cat.
15. CREEPY OLD MAN: A **cat?**
16. PETER: A **kitten**. His name is Blackie.

Panel 5: Creepy Old Man leans in and yells at us.

17. CREEPY OLD MAN: If you had any brains at all, you'd be more worried about yourself!

Panel 6: The door gets slammed in Peter's face.

18. CREEPY OLD MAN: Don't you know what **happens** on these streets at **night?**
19. SFX: **SLAMM**

TEN

Panel 1: A dejected Peter descends the steps.

NO COPY

Panel 2: Thinking of something else he turns back, toward the house.

1. PETER: Wait. Mister...
2. PETER: How long have you been out here?
3. PETER: Aren't you afraid of the...

Panel 3: Reverse angle - Where the house was is now a VACANT LOT surrounded by a chain-like fence.

NO COPY

Panel 4: CU - Peter is (understandably) FREAKED OUT.

4. PETER: ...

Panel 5: A black blur suddenly dashes past in front of him, heading to another house!

5. PETER: ***Blackie!***

Panel 6: Peter pounces and runs after the short little black paws leaping off-panel.

6. PETER: You scared the heck out of me, you little...

ELEVEN

Panel 1: BIG PANEL - Too late, Peter realizes what he's holding in his hands is a snarling, red-eyed, partially decayed ZOMBIE BLACK SQUIRREL!

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_squirrel

1. ZOMBIE SQUIRREL: *HSSSSSSSSSS!!*

Panel 2: The squirrel sinks its jaws into Peter's hand and rips out a chunk -- fortunately, he just takes out cloth and stuffing from the costume's phony muscles!

2. PETER: *AAAAAAAAAAHHHH!*

Panel 3: ZOMBIE KAROLINA DEAN (from the Runaways) swoops down and grabs Peter, swooping him into the air! http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karolina_Dean

3. KAROLINA (Z) Screaming meat.

Panel 4: Karolina opens her mouth for the kill.

4. KAROLINA (Z): My *fave*.

TWELVE

Panel 1: Suddenly, ZOMBIE DARKHAWK appears, blasting Karolina, causing him to drop Peter.

1. ZOMBIE DARKHAWK (Z): Hey! Chillax, Karolina!
2. ZOMBIE DARKHAWK: Save some for the rest of the gang!
3. SFX: **SHRAKKK**
4. ZOMBIE KAROLINA: Oh. Em. **Gee.**
5. ZOMBIE KAROLINA: **What** is your **damage**, Dorkhawk?

Panel 2: Peter drops to the ground below!

6. PETER: *Whooooaaaa---*

Panel 3: Down below, in the basketball court outside an old high school, ZOMBIE METTLE (from *Avengers Academy*) smashes through the walls of an old WPA-era HIGH SCHOOL. [http://marvel.com/universe/Mettle_\(Ken_Mack\)](http://marvel.com/universe/Mettle_(Ken_Mack))

7. ZOMBIE METTLE (Z, [notes](#)): *Mine **eyes** have seen the **glory** of the **gutting of the school***
8. ZOMBIE METTLE (Z, [notes](#)): *We have **eaten** all the teachers we have **broken every rule***
9. SFX: **WHAM BAM MAAM**

Panel 4: ZOMBIE ALEX POWER of *Power Pack* and *FF* fame uses his Zero-G power effect (a glowing black outline -- see ref) to lift up a rusty DUMP TRUCK and SMASH it against the side of the building, caving in a wall. Reference gallery:

http://www.comicvine.com/alex-power/29-21198/all-images/108-200991/alex_power_ff_5/105-1883878/

10. ZOMBIE ALEX (Z, [notes](#)): *We'll **broil** the super'tendent and **puree** the principal*
11. ZOMBIE ALEX (Z, [notes](#)): *The **youth** is marching **oooouuuu!***
12. SFX: **KKRRSSSHHHH**

Panel 5: ZOMBIE SQUIRREL GIRL, her arms and shoulders covered with slavering black zombie squirrels, looks on approvingly -- but does a double-take as she sees something dropping from the sky!

13. ZOMBIE SQUIRREL GIRL: Best.
14. ZSG: Mischief Night.
15. ZSG: **Ever.**
16. ZSG: Hey...

THIRTEEN

Panel 1: ANGLE UP: SQUIRREL GIRL'S POV: Peter is plummeting down toward them!

1. SQUIRREL GIRL (DOWN, Z): Alex! Mettle! Look!
2. SQUIRREL GIRL (DOWN, Z): Manna from Heaven!

Panel 2: LARGE PANEL - WIDE ANGLE - Alex entraps Peter in the black-and-white zero gravity power effect (see Alex Power reference, link prev. page) to arrest his descent, as Darkhawk and Karolina swoop down to join them.

3. ALEX: Well, well, well... what do we have here? **Wolverette?**
Heh heh heh heh heh
4. PETER: C'mon, you guys -- lemme go!
5. KAROLINA: No fair! I saw him first!

Panel 3: Peter kicks and squirms but Alex has him fast. The other super-teens gather 'round.

6. ALEX: Let you go? Why would we do that?
7. METTLE: You're the first warm sack of organs we've seen in ages!
8. PETER: All I want -- I want to find my cat. Have you seen him?
9. PETER: His name is Blackie!

Panel 4: The super-teens have a huge laugh at this.

10. SFX: **HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA**
11. SQUIRREL GIRL: Oh-- oh is he serious?
12. METTLE: He wants his pussy cat!

Panel 5: Peter yells at the super-teens.

13. PETER: **Shut up!** You guys are **bad** and **stupid** and that's why you're **dead!**
14. PETER: You don't have any **parents** and **no one** loves you and you're hungry **all the time!**
15. PETER: So you shouldn't be laughing at **me** just because I care about something other than **myself!**

Panel 6: Alex tells the other super-teens to grab a hold one of Peter's limbs as he screams in protest.

16. ALEX: Well -- that put us in our place, huh guys?
17. ALEX: Each one of you -- grab a limb.
18. PETER: **NNOOOO --NOOOO!!!**
19. ALEX: When I let go of my zero-g field...
20. ALEX: **...make a wish.**

FOURTEEN

Panel 1: BIG PANEL as a huge HOLE is blown in the chest of Alex Power -- blowing out his guts and rib cage and everything.

1. SFX: ***TOOOOOM***

Panel 2: REVERSE ANGLE - MOM is in the schoolyard, holding the smoking sniper rifle.

2. MOM: Here, baby.

3. MOM: Come to Mama.

Panel 3: Peter stabs Darkhawk through the eyeslit of his helmet with one of his plastic Wolverine claws.

4. DARKHAWK: ***Rraahhhh!! My eye!***

5. SFX: ***POKE***

Panel 4: Mom scoops up Peter in her arms as she sprints away from the rapidly approaching superteens.

6. PETER: I'm sorry mama I know I shouldn't have gone out you were right I shoulda watched Blackie closer I'm sorry he's gone and

7. MOM: Later.

Panel 5: Mom runs headlong to one of the undamaged walls of the high school.

8. MOM: You know what to do, right?

9. PETER: Hold my breath?

FIFTEEN

Panel 1: Mom, clutching Peter, PHASES THROUGH the rows of lockers on the other side of the wall! Hey, this lady has super powers!

1. MOM: Good boy.

Panel 2: BIG PANEL - ANGLE DOWN - But the floor is covered by BLACK ZOMBIE SQUIRRELS, entrapping mom and Peter in a corner!

2. SFX: **Hssssssssssss**

3. PETER: *Ahhhhhhhhh!!*

4. MOM: Damn it...

Panel 3: The super teens zip around the corner, Karolina and Darkhawk flying.

5. KAROLINA: Nice job, Squirrel Girl. You're not as useless as you look. And sound.

6. KAROLINA: And **act**.

7. SQUIRREL GIRL: Th-thanks, Karolina!

8. SQUIRREL GIRL: D-do you think maybe I c-can **eat** with you now?

9. KAROLINA: *Pffff.*

10. KAROLINA: As **if**.

Panel 4: Angle on the clock on one wall, above a smashed trophy case. It ticks toward midnight...

11. SFX: **tk**

Panel 5: Kitty SHOOTS Mettle with a pistol (she has Peter in one arm so she can't use the rifle), but it deflects harmlessly off him.

12. SFX: **BAMM**

13. MOM: Just -- take me -- let him go.

14. MOM: How can you eat **all** of us? You won't have any food left!

15. METTLE: I'm not sure if you can tell just by **looking** at us, lady...

16. METTLE: ...but **long-term planning** ain't our **strong suit**.

Panel 6: Tighter in on the clock, as the hands both point at 12.

17. SFX: **tk**

SIXTEEN

Panel 1: A dark shadow falls between the rows of lockers of the high school as it steps around the corner of the hallway.

1. SFX: **HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA**

Panel 2: Darkhawk and Karolina pause and turn toward this phantom.

2. DARKHAWK: Hey! Hey, come out here!

3. KAROLINA: Who to the eff are you?

Panel 3: Same shot as Panel 1: The dark figure of the Creepy Old Man steps towards us.

4. CREEPY OLD MAN: ["Pleased to meet you."](#)

5. CREEPY OLD MAN: "Hope you guess my name.

6. CREEPY OLD MAN: "What's **puzzling** you

7. CREEPY OLD MAN: "Is the **nature** of my game."

Panel 4: Page-width panel: Shoot from behind, with Creepy Old Man in center. Mettle advances menacingly from the left side of the panel; Darkhawk from the right. Be mindful of dialogue.

8. METTLE: Naw, what's puzzling me is how far I can ram this fist up your **small intestine**...

9. METTLE: ...before I **yank** it out and **swallow** the slimy tripe.

10. CREEPY OLD MAN: **Children.**

11. CREEPY OLD MAN: It's a pity, really.

12. CREEPY OLD MAN: So few elders left to teach you the old ways.

13. CREEPY OLD MAN: The **true** ways.

14. DARKHAWK: The old ways are gone and forgotten, man.

15. DARKHAWK: That's **why** they're **old**.

Panel 5: CU - Creepy Old Man grinning.

16. CREEPY OLD MAN: Tch.

SEVENTEEN

Panel 1: Zombie Darkhawk SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTS, to Karolina's horror!

1. SFX: **FWOMMP**
2. DARKHAWK: *GAAHHHHHHHH!!!*
3. KAROLINA: *Double-U*
4. KAROLINA: *Tee*
5. KARLONIA: **EFF!!**

Panel 2: The Creepy Old Man looks at Karolina with his glowing eyes, and she is the next victim of shooting into flames.

6. CREEPY OLD MAN: I have seen many threats to the **human animal** come and go in my years...
7. CREEPY OLD MAN: ...and though you remain among the most **efficient**...
8. CREEPY OLD MAN: ...you are also the least **imaginative**.
9. SFX: **FWOOOOOOSH**

Panel 3: Mettle is the next victim; the COM transforms, becoming a RED BLUR...

10. CREEPY OLD MAN: A mindless "**Other,**" not bound to any nationality or faith or sexuality or skin color...
11. CREEPY OLD MAN: ...politically **acceptable**, because your hostility is so **perfect**.
12. METTLE: **YAAHHH! BURNING -- ON THE INSIDE --
NNOOOOOO!**
13. METTLE: **IIII CANN FEEEL ITT--**
14. METTLE: **I CAN FEEL MY HEART BOILING--**

Panel 4: BIG PANEL - COM transforms in his TRUE FORM of MEPHISTO to set Squirrel Girl and all her companion zombie animals afire!

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mephisto_\(comics\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mephisto_(comics))

15. MEPHISTO: By **The Fallen**.
16. MEPHISTO: How you **bore** me.

EIGHTEEN

Panel 1: Mephisto points at Mom, who cowers back against the lockers, clutching Peter.

1. MEPHISTO: ***Katherine Pryde.***
2. MOM: Stay -- stay away from him --
3. MOM: I know -- you only spared us -- to claim him --

Panel 2: Mephisto comes near Peter, grinning.

4. MEPHISTO: There are so few souls ***left*** on this world, I can hardly be blamed for ***preserving*** those whom I still might ***corrupt...***
5. MEPHISTO: ...particularly ***this*** night, my own ***feast*** day, for countless millennia of ***All Hallows' Eves.***
6. MOM: I'll never -- I'll never let you have him!

Panel 3: Mephisto grins.

7. MEPHISTO: So ***all mothers*** say.
8. MEPHISTO: And ***countless*** are the women's souls I've ***acquired*** in their misguided efforts to make the words ***stick.***

Panel 4: Mephisto draws himself up, clutching his cloak around him.

9. MEPHISTO: Remember this day, Peter Rasputin Pryde --
10. MEPHISTO: -- or should I say ***Piotr***, after your blessed metal ***colossus*** of a father--
11. MEPHISTO: --and when I ***next*** come to you, and make you an offer to our ***mutual*** benefit...

Panel 5: Same shot: Mephisto disappears in a cloud of red smoke and brimstone.

13. MEPHISTO: ...you will have ***sympathy*** for what I did for you and your mother this night.

NINETEEN

Panel 1: Establishing shot of Kitty & Peter's house.

1. KITTY: Whew.
2. KITTY: That's one way to spend an evening.

Panel 2: Peter gets weepy as he and Mom enter the living room.

3. PETER: >snrffl<
4. KITTY: Hey, hey, hey, brave little guy!
5. KITTY: What's the problem? We **made** it -- like I always tell you, we'll **make** it.
6. PETER: But why? Why does it matter...
7. PETER: ...if in the end, I'll just go with **him**.

Panel 3: Kitty crouches down by Peter, holds him by the shoulders.

8. KITTY: Hey, now. Listen to me.
9. KITTY: Nothing's predetermined, okay? **Nothing**.
10. KITTY: Especially not **him**. You've got choices.

Panel 4: Kitty pulls the Wolverine mask off Peter so she can dry his tears.

11. PETER: Did **Dad** end up with him?
12. KITTY: Dad? Are you kidding?
13. KITTY: He walked right past Old Man Scratch like he wasn't even there.

Panel 5: Angle on photo on the wall -- COLOSSUS and KITTY PRYDE in their X-Men outfits, posing together in front of the X-Men School.

14. KITTY (OFF): Your father was the best and the most noble person I ever knew.
15. KITTY (OFF): And up until the very end he believed things would get better. That there was end to this plague, and humanity would make its way back.

Panel 6: Kitty wipes away Peter's tears with a tissue.

16. PETER: Do ... you believe that?
17. KITTY: I...
18. KITTY: I believe this is **Halloween**.

TWENTY

Panel 1: CU - Kitty smiles.

1. KITTY: Where the dead are with us in ***spirit***. Not just in ***rotting flesh*** like they are every other day.
2. KITTY: That means your father's ***here***.
3. KITTY: Can you feel him?
4. KITTY: And so I ***believe***.

Panel 2: Kitty nods at a jack o'lantern across the room.

5. KITTY: I stumbled across a ***present*** for you when I was on my back here, discovered you were gone.
6. KITTY: Why didn't you go take a look.

Panel 3: Peter peers inside the pumpkin, and his face lights up.

7. PETER: Oh -- Mom! Mom! Thank you!

Panel 4: Peter hugs his mother.

8. KITTY: Sure. Anything, kid.
9. KITTY: I couldn't find any candy at Sam's, though. Sorry.
10. PETER: I don't care.

Panel 5: BIGGEST PANEL ON PAGE: ANGLE DOWN: Curled up and sleeping INSIDE the jack is Blackie the Kitten!

11. PETER (OFF): I have everything I need.
12. BLURB: *HAPPY HALLOWEEN from*
13. CREDITS