

box

by Pedro raul Soriano

It was a normal day, Charlotte had just returned from school, when she heard a faint knock. It was three knocks, all separated by three seconds. When she opened the door, there was no one but a small box.

“Hey Mom! Did you order something.” Charlotte said. “No, I don’t shop online, and your dad doesn’t either.” Charlotte’s mom said. “Maybe it was a mistake, I’ll bring it to the post office before I go to work.”

The next day, october 26, 5 days till halloween

At school, Charlotte noticed that Adrian, one of her classmates, was missing. “That’s weird,” Charlotte thought to herself. “Adrian never misses a day of school”

After coming home from school, Charlotte saw another box, just bigger, and with no shipment details, just like the last one.

“Why does this keep happening, i-is someone pranking me?”

The next day, october 27, 4 days till halloween

“Hey Alex, have you been pranking me, are you putting boxes in front of my house?” Charlotte asked during lunch. Alexander has been Charlotte’s friend since the 2nd grade, he was a nice guy, he liked physical activity, sports, hiking and other things. He absolutely hated being inside for more than an hour.

“Charlie, I don’t do pranks, you should know that by now, and even if I did, I wouldn’t do it with boxes, that sounds like the lamest and worst way to do it.” Alex protested.

“Hey guys!” said Michael. Michael was another friend of Charlie, he was the type of guy who would love a good prank. Halloween was his favorite time of the year, it meant he could scare off all the little kids, but he never picked on his friends.

“You guys want to go to the abandoned cemetery tomorrow night, Angie bailed on me so would it be cool if you guys came?” Michael said

box

"I can go," Alex said. "I have nothing to do tomorrow, what about you Charlie."

Charlie had already finished all her homework for the week, so she really had nothing to do, but that cemetery gave her the creeps, even on a bright day, with all the trees it still seemed dark, and all the stories...

"Fine." Charlie said. "I'll go, but you better not do anything stupid, Mike."

At the end of the school, Charlie returned home and saw another box, again, bigger than the last one, the box reached up to her waist.

The next day, october 28, 3 days till halloween

The news talked about 3 kids being missing, and all 3 were from Charlie's homeroom class, which creeped her out.

After school, Charlie met Alex and Mike, right beside the school.

"So none of you chickened out like Angie and those 3 kids who were too scared to even go to school yesterday!" Micheal said in the most serious tone possible.

"You know that there is a difference between being too scared to go to school, and going missing right?" Charlie responded.

"Not to me."

Micheal and Charlie snickered.

"Did you guys steal that from Ducktales?" Alex said.

The cemetery was pretty far away, so when they got there the sun was already setting when they got there.

"Yes," Mike said excitedly. "Perfect atmosphere."

box

The group searched the place, looking for something interesting. Charlie could tell that the cemetery was pretty old, there were graves for people who fought in World War 1.

Nothing really interesting or “scary” really showed up, until.

“Ooooooooooo... Oooooooooooooo.” “What was that?” Mike said.

The noise kept getting louder and louder.

“We should leave... Now.” Charlie said, desperately.

Suddenly BAM. A ghost jumped out behind a grave.

Charlie screamed out and punched the ghost in the stomach, the ghost fell down, whaling in pain, with Mike laughing on the ground.

“Angie!?” Charlie said.

Angie took the white blanket off of her head, with Mike still roaring with laughter.

“Oh she got you good.” Said Mike, still laughing

Charlie looked at Alex, expecting to see him also laughing, but he was looking in the other direction, with a confused face.

Charlie saw what he was looking at. It was a humanoid thing, about as tall as a second grader, wearing what seemed to be a costume, entirely made out of boxes, the legs, the arms, all with cardboard attached to a full body black suit. For a head, it just was a smaller box, with eye holes poorly cut out.

“Hey kid, where are your parents?” Alex called.

No response, the thing just stood there, lifeless, like a store mannequin.

box

The group approached the thing. The thing did not move, just stood there, staring as the group approached, but the closer they got, the less they could see it.

Suddenly, the thing vanished out of thin air, like it never existed.

“Angie, please tell me that was your little sister p-pranking us.” Mike said.

“My sister is f-four, she couldn’t have done that.” Angie replied.

The group ran out quickly out of the cemetery, going straight to Alex’s house.

“Alright, what was that, please don’t tell me that our life has turned into a cheap Disney Channel ghost show.” Alex said as soon as they reached their house.”

Charlie didn't want to believe it either, ghosts, monsters, she thought that all of that was fantasy. Charlie had never been the superstitious person, she was the kind of person that would call certain stories and conspiracies fake.

“Maybe whatever that was is connected to the missing people!” Mike blurted.

Charlie remembered the boxes that had been left outside her house maybe, those were connected to the thing, but she did not say anything, she thought the idea was too far out, it could never be true.

The next day, october 29, 2 days till halloween

Charlie could barely sleep after what happened yesterday. She turned on the tv and she could not believe her eyes and her ears.

“A 14 year-old child by the name of “Angela Pradera” has gone missing, people think that this is related to the other recent missing children, and an investigation started and saw that all 4 kids abducted go to the same school and class and are all the same age, so if you know anything, please call this number on the screen.”

Charlie immediately got up from her couch and called Alex

box

"Alex, turn on the TV right now, it's-" "I know, I saw, meet up at Angie's house, i'll call Mike ". Alex interrupted.

When the trio reached Angie's house, they saw two cop cars outside, with one black SUV, with two cops interrogating Angie's parents. The group stared at the house as they got closer.

A third cop appeared and stopped the group from getting closer

"I'm sorry, but you guys got to go, there is an investigation going on." The cop said.

"We are friends of Angela," Charlie said. "We think we know what happened."

The cop brought them to a man.

"This is Detective Braithwaite, he is going to ask you some questions."

The Detective asked the group about a lot of things, like if Angela has any enemies, or if they knew anyone who would do something like this, but he eventually let them go,"

The group went walking back, devastated that Angie was gone, until.

"Not them." Mike pointed.

There was the box thing again, but taller, now as tall as Charlie.

Alex, blinded with rage, grabbed a rock, squishing it. Charlie thought he was going to snap it in half.

"Hey freak!" Alex screamed. "What's your problem?!:"

Alex threw the rock and it passed right through the thing. It did not even flinch, it stood there, waiting, until it started walking.

It was slow, very slow. The group stood there, Alex putting himself in front of them

box

Charlie could hear the thing murmuring, saying something, singing something, like a nursery rhyme, until the thing raised its voice, so the group could hear it.

"You'll seeeee meeee again." The thing's voice was raspy.

Suddenly, it vanished, again.

The next day, october 30, 1 day till halloween.

Charlie was getting ready for school, but turned on the news, just in case they found Angie or something, but...

"4 police officers and a detective have gone missing. It is said that these police officers were investigating the other missing cases from last week, their families don't know where they are."

Charlie couldn't believe it, and what creeped her out was that she could see the box thing in the background of the news, now about 6ft tall, waving, like specifically for her.

"Hey Charlie." Her mom said. "I don't think going to school is a great idea, with all the kidnappings, I think you should stay home, Alex and Mike's parents are doing the same thing,"

Charlie called over Max and Charlie to assess the situation.

"So what are we going to do to Mr Box man, how are we going to stop him from kidnapping more people, because he is going to do it again." Alex said.

"How about we, I don't know, kill him with something." Mike suggested.

"Maybe there is like an amulet, or a stone tha-"

"Mike this isn't a cliché horror movie." Charlie interrupted.

"Then what do we do?" Alex said

box

“How about we try to find it, then follow it, or trap it or something.” Charlie said.

The group decided to go look for him, until.

“Look there it is.”

There was the box monster, carrying another box, it had its back turned, so it did not see the group.

Charlie could hear something calling from the box, like screams for help.

The group followed the box monster to an abandoned post office. The thing went into the back, and absorbed the box it was holding, and turned just a little bit taller, as it disappeared into thin air.

“I think I know what it's doing, the more people it absorbs, the taller it gets, so maybe what he looks like right now is just a fraction of his true form.” Charlie said.

“So we have to prevent it from absorbing more people.” Alex said.

“It is rude to sneak up on people.” The monster said, appearing out of nowhere behind them. “I'll have to put you in a box too.”

“RUN!” Mike screamed.

The trio got to escape from the monster, locking themselves in Charlie's bedroom. They saw the monster, creeping outside from the window, and eventually leaving.

“Charlie, it's not safe, mind if we sleep over?” Mike said.

“Sure, but you got to sleep on the ground”

box

The next day, October 31, Halloween Day

The group could not sleep well after narrowly escaping the box monster.

The group looked online, in books, trying to find a way to defeat the monster, but then, they heard:

BAM BAM BAM! Something banging on the front door, the group rushed to hide, as the thing broke the door down.

Charlie got a slight glimpse of the monster, it was definitely taller, but she could not make out any good details.

“Wheere aree you, it will bee fuuun to be a BOX.” The monster called out.

Charlie could hear the thing destroying the living room, her mom was at work, so she did not know what was going on.

Then the monster found the group hiding in the closet.

Charlie threw a nearby vase and threw it at the thing's head on instinct, realizing that it would faze threw it but...

The vase broke on impact and the monster backed away, letting the group escape to the front yard.

“I get it now, since it's in its true form, it's not ghostly anymore, so all we got to do is grab something to tear it to pieces!” Charlie said.

The monster barged out of the house, and Charlie finally got a good look.

box

It was 9 ft tall, with a long and very sharp blade, melted onto its right hand, with the left hand being just cardboard. The left leg was covered in plastic toys, action figures, dolls, dinosaurs, all melted onto its leg. Its face was again, a normal cardboard box with poorly cut eye and mouth holes, but the thing had human teeth, all around the right side of its mouth hole.

The monster let out a screech and went for Charlie, she dodged away, making the thing ram into the neighbor's car.

Alex and Mike were, had they absorbed? Had they run off without Charlie? But..

"Take this you paper stock!" Alex yelled as he ran into the monster, holding a chainsaw, tearing up the monster into a thousand little cardboard pieces.

A flash of light exploded, and from that came Angie, and all the other people that got absorbed.

"What happened?" Angie said. "My hed feelz like a lake lled with parranas." Angie couldn't speak well.

"Well it started out with a box..

The End. Sorry if it was too long.