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Frightened Friday

Michelle L. Acker
University of Central Florida

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Frightened Friday
Michelle Acker

It was Friday, October 31st just barely seven in the morning, Carla unlocked the Curriculum Material Center at the University of Central Florida. It was odd, the lights were already on, but quite dim which caused her cautious steps. She comes around the corner and goes behind the desk to where she sets down her bag, and that's when she hears a quiet hissing sound. "Hello, is anybody there?" no answer. She walks towards the back corner; it grows louder but still she does not see any movement in between the bookshelves.

As she walks slowly to the back, she makes one step forward and hears a crunch, looking down, there is a carrot. Puzzled Carla takes a step back, "What would a carrot be doing in this library?" This is when she notices... the carrot has eyes! She leaps back with a shriek! With her heart racing she runs back to the front of the room and catches her breath. She must be dreaming; this all must be part of a dream.

Carla decides to take another look around the corner and as she does, she sees a glow coming from the back of the CMC. She notices this glow is moving and that's when she sees multiple shadows dancing around. As she is staring down the room, she sees a book open on the floor and that's when she realizes the glow is coming from the book! Carla is excited, she just needs to close the book she thinks!

Cautiously she tries to come around the other side of the shelves to get a closer look at the book that's open. That's when she sees at least 100 carrots dancing around and yelling! *What the heck are they doing here?* Carla thinks. That's when she notices the book that's open is *Creepy Carrots* by Aaron Reynolds. Carla gasps.

They have escaped! She knows this is just a dream, she reaches down and pinches herself... not a dream. I have read this book many times and I know they were locked in the fence; how could they escape the book? Then she remembers its Halloween, the holiday of all things spooky! Just like that, silence in the room.

The lights are off, there is no glow anymore and everything is silent, I must be seeing things thought Carla. It's already 8:00am, the CMC is open now and students will happily be coming in to check out books. A student comes in to check out a reserved book, as she is handing over her ID a carrot drops from the ceiling, then another drops. The student didn't seem to notice. Next thing I know the room is filling with carrots, all chanting "Carlaaaaa" and I look down, my fingers and toes are carrots!

Everything goes black.

I wake up to find myself in the same fenced-in area that the carrots were in the book.

Trapped.