

Special edition

October 2020

the Lasso

Your student newspaper since 1914



In this edition:

Quarantine Halloween:
Things to do for an in-
home hullabaloo (4)

Freaky flicks you
wouldn't think to pick (5)

Spooky season shifts
to accommodate
COVID-19 changes (6)

Candy crush: the sweet
treats you need for your
Halloween night (10)

The Lasso

Your student newspaper since 1914



THE LASSO STAFF

Adviser | **Joseph Alderman**

Editor-in-chief | **Amber Gaudet**

Managing editor | **Katelyn Cusimano**

Page editor | **Anissa Clark**

Graphic designer | **Drexiel Desquitado**

Photographer | **Sarah Pham**

Staff writers | **Sabrina Gomez**

Gakenia Njenga

Laura Pearson

Deanna West

CONTENTS

COVID creeps: Ideas for a quarantined Halloween in	3
Unusual Halloween flicks worth the watch	4
Campus Halloween events change amid pandemic	5
Staff picks: Best Halloween movies	6-7
History of the Day of the Dead	8
Candy Crush: Guide to the best Halloween candy	9
Goatman's Bridge: The lore behind the legend	10
"The Haunting of Bly Manor" review	11

COVID creeps Ideas for a quarantined Halloween night in *by Laura Pearson*

Since this year people can not go out and participate in the normal Halloween activities, here are some ideas to celebrate COVID-19 in style.

“You’ve been booted”

This activity is a great way to celebrate Halloween with your friends, without actually getting together. I used to do this when I was younger with my friends, and I think now is the perfect time to bring it back. It is similar to ding-dong ditching but, instead, you leave a festive gift on their doorstep before you run away. With your gift, you leave a note that says, “You’ve been booted,” and now your friend has to go and “boo” someone, too. It is a great way to get in the Halloween spirit and spread some love to your friends.

Pumpkin decorating

Pumpkin decorating is a classic Halloween activity that is perfect to do under your own roof. Maybe this year, try challenging yourself to make an intricate design. If you are not into taking out the pumpkin guts for carving (like me), you can always paint your pumpkin. If you want some competition, send your finished product to your friends and vote on whose pumpkin is the best.

Bake some sweet treats

Everyone loves to have sweet treats on Halloween, so why not make them yourself? Look up some new recipes for festive desserts, or if you want something more simple, make some cookies and decorate them. I always enjoyed decorating the cookies my mom made when I was younger, and they are pretty tasty, no matter how good or bad you make them look.

Homemade scavenger hunt

If you are someone who likes to go out and adventure, then try a scavenger hunt around town. You or your friends can make a list of things to look for, and you can walk or drive around town to hunt for the items or places. You can make it a competition against your friends, or you can have some time to yourself and drive around alone, too. Make it even more of a challenge by not using GPS!

Homemade decorations

If you’re a crafty person and enjoy decorating, you can make your decorations yourself instead of buying them. This allows you to be creative with your festive decor, and you can create whatever your heart desires. Once you have made all of your decorations, you can decorate your place however spooky or cute you want it to be.



Carving a jack-o'-lantern is a great way to celebrate Halloween at home this year.

Virtual game night

Everyone enjoys having fun with their friends, so do it safely and play some games together online. Play some scary video games or get together on Zoom and play games like Halloween Pictionary or Charades. If you want to get creative, make up your own games to play.

Movie marathon

Sometimes lounging around is the best way to go, so make a list of horror movies for a scary movie marathon. Make some popcorn and grab your blankets and pillows to hide behind for the jump scares. If you want to watch movies with your friends, have a Netflix party. I love horror movies, so this is definitely something I will do to get in the spirit.

Haunted gingerbread house

I always enjoy making gingerbread houses during the winter holidays, so why not make one for Halloween, too? Grab a gingerbread house kit and make your own creepy haunted house. If there is a haunted house in the movie you are watching, you can even try replicating it to the best of your abilities. Then, you will have a great snack to enjoy after you are done.

Freaky flicks

Off-the-wall Halloween movies worth the watch *by Sabrina Gomez*

With spooky season here and COVID-19 canceling most of our plans this year, a movie binge is still something we can enjoy. In the spirit of Halloween, here are some movies you may not think of but are definitely worth checking out this season.

Suspiria (2018)

Starring Dakota Johnson, this horror film takes place in the 1970s in Berlin. Johnson plays a dancer, Susie Bannion, who auditions for a prestigious dance company with a mysterious past. After landing the role as lead dancer, the previous dancer accuses the dance company of witchcraft. Although the film is quite long, this remake of a classic 1977 horror movie is sure to spook horror fans.

Get Out (2017)

In any relationship, meeting the parents is an important milestone but for Chris, he's about to find himself in the most terrifying predicament. In this psychological thriller, Daniel Kaluuya makes an outstanding performance as Chris, boyfriend to Rose. Assuming their interracial relationship would be an issue, Chris begins to pick up on her family's odd behaviors. As the weekend unfolds, more and more creepy things occur that lead Chris to an unsettling truth.

Hereditary (2018)

Getting to know your family history can be fun and interesting. However, for the Graham family, it is probably best not to know about your family ancestry. When their grandmother passes, her daughter Annie undergoes a series of disturbing events. Even more so, as Annie uncovers the truth behind her family's ancestry, she discovers that escaping her family's fate is difficult when it's inherited.

Donnie Darko (2001)

Disturbed teenager Donnie, played by Jake Gyllenhaal, stars in this science-fiction psychological thriller where he is visited by a haunting bunny named Frank. In their talks, Frank delivers news to Donnie that the world is to end in 28 days. During one of his sleepwalking episodes, Donnie returns home to find a jet engine that has crashed into his bedroom.

The Craft (1996)

New student Sarah, who possesses telekinetic gifts, befriends a group of three girls who claim to be witches. Sarah's gifts appeal to the three, who have been searching for a fourth witch to complete their group. As the three rise in their power, Sarah begins to withdraw when she sees the others abuse their power. However, Sarah discovers that deserting your coven is not that easy.

The Haunting of Hill House (2018)

If you're looking for a series to binge, look no further than "The Haunting of Hill House." This eerie supernatural drama follows a family that is burdened with grief and trauma after moving into a famous haunted house. Years after the trials of trying to escape the pain from living in the house, the children, now adults, find out that the past still haunts them. In order to overcome their fears, they must face the ghosts of their past - literally.



Friday the 13th: 13%

Halloween: 33%

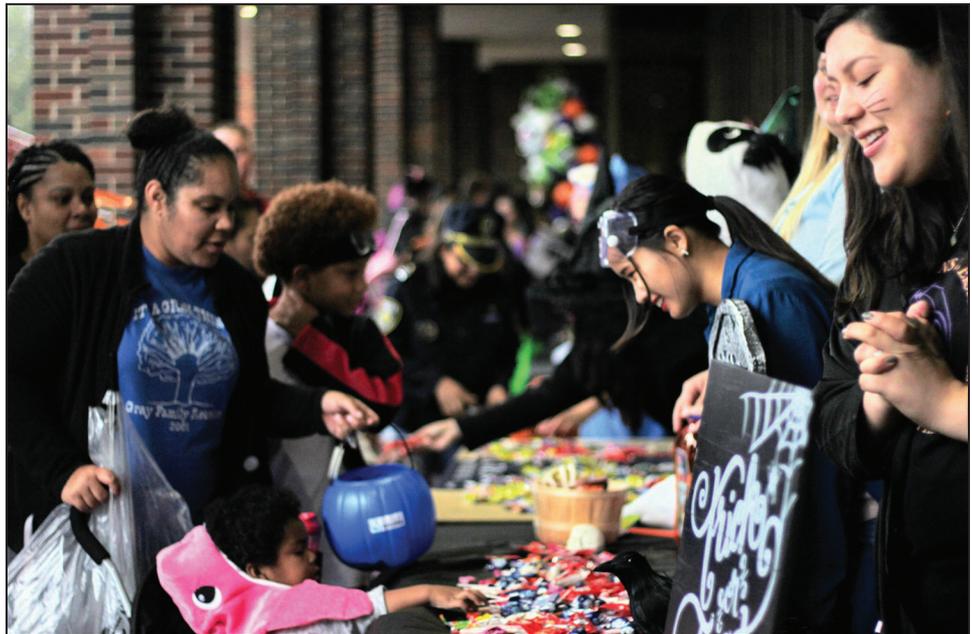
The Conjuring: 67%

We asked Lasso readers the best horror franchise of all time. The winner is sure to conjure a scare for anyone watching this Halloween.

PIONEER HALLOWEEN DURING A PANDEMIC

How holiday campus events are changing amid COVID-19 *by Gakenia Njenga*

To keep TWU students, staff and faculty safe this Halloween season, the university is limiting large gatherings and excessive contact between individuals. TWU administrators announced the cancellation of this year's Boo at the U event Sept. 29 due to the ongoing pandemic. The decision to cancel the event was difficult, but the right choice, David Sweeten, director of the Student Union, said. "It's one of the great event traditions here at TWU, and it has been very popular with the Denton community as well," Sweeten said. "It always draws a large crowd and, due to the high number of volunteers required to run the event, we felt the best option this year was to provide alternative types of programs."



The event has been replaced with alternative activities for students the week of Halloween starting Oct. 26 called Pioneer Fright Week. During this week, the Union plans to offer students something new each day, including treat bags, fall beverages and a haunted-mansion-themed photo corner, and the building will be given balloon decorations to "give it a spooky twist." An online costume contest will also be set in place for students, staff, faculty and TWU alumni.

Sweeten said it is important to the Union staff and faculty that they still provide holiday-themed events for students despite the limitations created by the pandemic.

"We prioritize programs and want to offer a wide variety of opportunities for students to feel connected to TWU," Sweeten said. "Under the circumstances, though, we've had to be a little more creative and offer different types of events."

The Resident Hall Association has also limited its Halloween activities this year to a non-contact door decorating contest Oct. 12 and a 24-hour movie marathon Oct. 30-31. RHA's publicity coordinator Jordan Moseley said the movie marathon is allowing a maximum capacity of 50 people per night for safety measures.

"The seating will be measured to maintain a six feet distance and everything will be sanitized before and after the event," Moseley said. "We want to ensure that the residents feel safe and protected while having fun. Safety is our top priority."

Moseley said that hosting the marathon was a "no brainer," as the RHA wanted to keep the tradition and still provide the full residential experience with the circumstances they have been given.

TWU's annual Boo at the U was canceled this year amid concerns about COVID-19.

"Our students may not get to celebrate the holidays through traditional methods [this year], but we want to be able to give them the opportunity to enjoy these holiday events through our festivities," Moseley said.

Meanwhile, many of Denton's annual Halloween events have been canceled, like this year's Day of the Dead Festival, but a few still remain. The Golden Triangle Mall will be hosting The Great Pumpkin Adventure throughout the month of October, where attendees can participate in multiple activities like cookie decorating and bone digging. Denton businesses and organizations will also host non-contact events like the Family Halloween Box via Zoom and the Bloodbath Drive-In for locals to attend.

TWU's Dallas and Houston campuses currently do not have any scheduled plans for Halloween, but students studying in Dallas and Houston will have options for Halloween-themed outings, as both cities will have many opportunities for residents to celebrate the holiday.

Dallas businesses will have in-person events like The Sweet Tooth Hotel's family-friendly Halloween installation, which will invite participants to wear their costumes and prepare for surprises. Non-contact celebrations like the Drive-Boo Halloween and virtual celebrations like Ghoul's Night Out will also be available for locals to attend.

Houston businesses will be hosting many more in-person events such as Boo on the Boardwalk, Scream Fest and Zoo Boo in addition to virtual celebrations.

Lasso Staff Spooks

Our favorite films for a frightful night in



“My favorite Halloween movie is BEETLEJUICE. I love how fun and ridiculous it is for a movie about death. Ghosts are one of my favorite Halloween monsters, and it has some really good ghost shenanigans. It also reminds me of my dad because it’s one of his favorite movies. I think it’s just a fun romp through the Underworld, and it embodies everything I love about Halloween.”

Anissa Clark, Page Editor

“I would have to say that my favorite Halloween movie depends on my mood. I really love THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS, because who doesn’t love a good, spooky sing-along? When I’m not feeling sing-y, CARRIE is always a go-to. We love a good mental breakdown.”



Katelyn Cusimano, Managing Editor



“During the Halloween season, my favorite movie to watch is TWITCHES. It is about two sisters that were adopted and reunited at the age of 21 and use their magic power to protect their kingdom from the forces of darkness. I enjoy watching this movie because it shows how strong the sister bond they have, and it reminds me of what my older sister and I have, too.”

Drexel Desquitado, Graphic Designer

“I love everything about Halloween, especially the creepy flicks, so it’s really hard to pick just one favorite! A few I always return to are HALLOWEEN (obviously), A NIGHTMARE ON ELM ST., CARRIE, BEETLEJUICE, THE CRAFT, THE GRUDGE AND THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (’03 remake).”



Amber Gaudet, Editor-in-Chief



“The Halloween season fills me with joy, so when it comes to choosing a favorite movie, I can’t pick just one. Alluding to my name and because my birthday falls on Day of the Dead, I personally adore all things witches. *THE CRAFT*, *PRACTICAL MAGIC* and *CARRIE* are perhaps my top choices.”

Sabrina Gomez, Reporter

“Nothing beats *TWITCHES* when it comes to Halloween movies. It is so masterfully made and includes one of the most innovative and riveting movie plots of all time—twin witches. It’s genius! Not only is *TWITCHES* packed with nostalgia and features the best set of celebrity twins in Hollywood, it also harbors the absolute catchiest and most encouraging chant ever assigned to a movie’s main character’s, ‘Go twitches! Go twitches!’”



Gakenia Njenga, Reporter



“My favorite movie to watch on Halloween is *IT*, because in my opinion, it is not that scary but it still has the Halloween feel to it. It has a good plot that keeps me entertained, and it isn’t just jump scares the entire movie. *IT* still keeps me on edge, but it does not have me hiding behind my blanket in fear of something jumping out.”

Laura Pearson, Reporter

“*MONSTERS, INC.* isn’t technically a Halloween movie, but it involves monsters and I wasn’t allowed to watch super spooky movies growing up as a kid. The plot is unique and turned every child’s nightmare into a funny and dynamic group of friendly creatures. It flips the script and considers the fact that the monsters under our beds might be scared of us.”



Sarah Pham, Photographer

DAY OF THE DEAD isn't another Halloween - it's a sacred celebration

by Sabrina Gomez

Mexican writer Octavio Paz once said, “At least death is not hidden away: he looks at it face to face, with impatience, disdain or irony.”

Dia de Los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a three-day celebration observed Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 in Mexico and other parts of Latin America. The event is celebrated mostly in Mexico but also in areas with Latino populations, and is even the central theme in Disney’s “Coco.”

For some, Day of the Dead is usually associated with sugar-skulls and themes of death; some even confuse it with Halloween. But it’s much more than that — it is sacred. It is a day where people can honor their loved ones who have passed. Unlike Halloween, Day of the Dead is not intended to be scary, but rather an uplifting period of celebration. November 1 is known as “Dia de Los Inocentes,” celebrating the day of the children, while Nov. 2 is All Saints Day.

Dia de Los Muertos first originated as an Aztec celebration of death, which dates back 3000 years to when the Aztecs and Nahuas lived in what is now central Mexico. It was a month-long ritual that celebrated the death of one’s ancestors. Upon Spanish colonization, many of the Spanish influences and Catholic beliefs began to blend into the Aztec culture, but there were spiritual clashes between the Spanish and indigenous people on integrating new religious practices without abandoning their own.

One of the compromises during this spiritual conquest became the Day of the Dead. Original practices were allowed to be kept as long as new integration of Catholicism would be included. Today’s Day of the Dead arises from a blending of Aztec and Catholic beliefs.

During the celebration of Day of the Dead, one can expect bright yellow Cempasúchils, known as marigolds, which are meant to elicit the sun and guide the souls of the dead. Decorated altars or shrines known as “ofrendas” are built with photos of loved ones that are accompanied by their favorite food, special tokens and sometimes even beer! People dress up in festive costumes, paint faces of sugar skulls and make visits to their loved ones’ graves.

While around the world funerals are the usual way to part from the dead, in Latin American culture, saying goodbye is practiced by celebrating deceased loved ones. For example, Mexico has the “Santa Muerte,” a female saint that is said to protect and heal the afterlife.

Unlike European beliefs, the relationship between life and death differs in many Latin and Indigenous cultures. For the Aztecs, the relationship between life and death is seen as an integral part of life.

When a person died, it was said that the person would travel to the Land of the Dead. After a rigorous journey, which consisted of nine levels, the person’s soul would reach “Mictlan,” known as the final resting place. To aid their ancestors, the Nahua people would provide food, water, and other necessities in their journey through



Denton’s Day of the Dead festival 2019. Photo by Sarah Pham.

the afterlife.

Graduate student Paola Alonso said dealing with death can be uncomfortable especially in the U.S.

“In the U.S. we have such a hard time accepting death because we don’t associate with it,” Alonso said.

Alonso said she certainly plans on celebrating Day of the Dead this year.

“I think the Day of the Dead is a very personal thing for me as a first-generation student,” Alonso said. “It makes me feel more connected to my family and culture.”

Denton local Lizbeth Acosta also anticipates celebrating Day of the Dead this October. For Acosta, Day of the Dead is a time to not only connect to her roots but also to continue a cultural tradition.

“I adore celebrating such a vibrant part of my beautiful heritage,” Acosta said. “In my opinion, a person’s legacy has no cut-off and their life continues to live through me. Mexican households are built on stories and passing down the narrative of how families are where they are because of the decisions made by our ancestors.”

Every year, Day of the Dead is a time for friends and relatives to gather and remember their dead. It is a tradition that allows those who have left us an opportunity to honor them. It is a day to remember how connected we are to our ancestors on the other side.

“I can feel that connection and sense of pride and hope one day someone will tell my story of how I contributed to that journey,” Alonso said.

CANDY CRUSH

Settling the debate about the most binge-worthy Halloween treats (*Hint: Candy corn didn't make the cut*) by Gakenia Njenga

There are just so many kinds of Halloween candy, it couldn't be possible to even begin to choose just one...right?

Wrong.

Well, almost wrong. Here is a list of the three best Halloween candies in two candy categories: sugars and chocolates.

Sugars



3. Dots

Who doesn't love a good gumdrop? Especially one as chewy, nostalgic and delicious as Dots! Not only are Dots a Halloween classic, but they are probably one of the only candies you see almost primarily during Halloween, meaning they were made for this holiday. Their destiny is to be praised during the spooky season, which isn't hard when they're so darn delicious!

2. Airheads

Airheads are like if saltwater taffy were nominated for an episode of "What Not To Wear" and were given a tasteful (and tasty) makeover. They're like saltwater taffy's cooler older cousin. They're tart and sweet, and that texture just cannot be beat. The way an Airhead melts in your mouth almost too soon as you're chewing it leaves you wanting more and, before you know it, your back molar is screaming for help — but it's easy to ignore when you're eating something as addicting as an Airhead.

1. Jolly Ranchers

The most versatile Halloween candy out there, hands down. They come in hard candies, lollipops, gummies, jellybeans, gum, gelatin desserts and even just straight up sticks for those just really craving a giant Jolly Rancher. When it comes to candy, there's always at least one flavor that doesn't taste right. But when it comes to Jolly Rancher, there is no such thing as a bad flavor. Even the grape is magnificent, and grape flavored anything always veers more toward children's cough medicine than a sweet, rewarding treat. Most impressively, Jolly Ranchers are the standard for the flavor of "blue raspberry." How do they get a flavor that doesn't even exist in the real world so spot on? Imagine having that sort of power.

Chocolates



3. Whoppers

Call me crazy, but these bad boys are yummy. The hate that surrounds the poor Whopper is completely undeserved, and they have done nothing to receive such poor treatment all these years. While light, airy and crispy, they are also some of the most interesting Halloween candies. Name another chocolate candy that crunches as distinctly as a Whopper; that melts in your mouth as sophisticated as a Whopper. I'll wait.



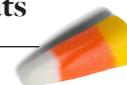
KitKat 25%

Snickers 58%

Sour Patch Kids 8%

Candy Corn 9%

Lasso readers' favorite Halloween treats



2. Twix

Caramel and chocolate sandwiched on top of a cookie? Genius! They sound like such ordinary ingredients on their own, but the Twix formula combines them so harmoniously and marvelously that just thinking about it is enough to get any mouth watering. The only bad thing about these sneaky candies is that you can never keep track of just how many fun-size bars you've had until the back of your throat is burning for water. That's how they get ya.

1. Milk Duds

Now, hear me out. Caramel and chocolate, yeah, we've all heard it before. However, a glob of hardened caramel softened when warm, that is so gracefully covered in a delicate sheet of chocolate that wonderfully hugs said glob and melts away like a light sheet of snow when eaten...what more do I need to say? It's so simple, yet so effective! The caramel is perfectly sweetened, accompanied by a layer of chocolate that knows the sugary goodness that lies below and makes the executive and marvelous decision to not be too tooth-aching to give the caramel its time to shine. Halloween is not Halloween without crossing paths with that gorgeous yellow box. Just be careful when chewing this one—you don't want to lose a filling!



Sarah Pham

Goatman's Bridge

A look at the lore behind the legendary Denton bridge that has drawn ghost hunters from around the nation *by Laura Pearson*

It's a dark chilly night, and you decide it's the perfect time to visit the infamous Goatman's Bridge that the locals told you about. When you arrive, you are greeted with red steel rods, a wooden path and trees surrounding you. You start to walk across the bridge and decide to try the old trick to summon Goatman. You walk over to a rod, knock three times when it hits midnight, and wait. A few minutes later, you hear a low growling, and turn around to find yourself looking at glowing red eyes that are staring back at you.

Old Alton Bridge, known as Goatman's Bridge, is famously known for the legendary demonic satyr that lives in the surrounding area. It was built in 1884 by King Iron Bridge Manufacturing Company, and it connects Denton and Copper Canyon. It was originally used to carry horses and then automobiles over Hickory Creek. It was in use until 2001, when traffic was relocated to a new bridge, and it is now a link that connects the Elm Fork and Pilot Knoll Hiking and Equestrian Trails.

The story behind Goatman's Bridge is about an African-American goat farmer named Oscar Washburn, who made a living by selling cheese, milk and meat. Locals began calling him "Goatman" due to his occupation. Since he worked from his home, he made a sign and put it on the bridge stating, "This way to the Goatman's," so buyers knew where to find him.

Legend has it the sign ended up catching the undesired attention of the Ku Klux Klan, since it was not popular to see an African-American family doing well. On a late night in the 1930's, the Klansmen kidnapped Washburn from his home and took him to



Image courtesy of Hayden Heeden

the bridge. They tied a rope around his neck and threw him over, expecting his death. When they looked over the edge, there was an empty rope, and Washburn was gone. The angered Klansmen decided to target Washburn's family, and they burned them alive in their own home. Washburn was never seen again.

It is believed that if you knock on the bridge three times, or turn your car lights off and honk your horn three times at midnight, then you will be greeted by Goatman. There have been reports of people hearing low growling noises, or even seeing red glowing eyes from afar.

There have also been reports of satanic rituals that happen on the bridge, which makes it a popular spot for people with an interest in the paranormal. The bridge has been featured on the television show "Ghost Adventures," and has been featured on the YouTube series "Buzzfeed Unsolved: Supernatural."

There is also another story that could possibly explain the strange activity near the bridge. In the 1860s, before the bridge was built, cowboys lynched a goat-herding slave by the name of Jack Kendall from a tree close to where the bridge is now located. Kendall's head was separated from his body, and the cowboys watched his body rise from the ground. The body of Kendall ripped the head off of a goat nearby to replace his own.

Whatever the tale behind the bridge may be, it is definitely an attraction to visit during your time in Denton. If you decide to go with friends or dare to go alone, beware of the spirits that lurk there.



Goatman's Bridge 86%

Bayless-Selby House 0%

Campus Theatre 0%

Denton County Courthouse 14%

We asked Lasso readers their favorite local haunts. Their pick? Old Alton, of course.

Bly Manor Boos

The follow-up series to *The Haunting of Hill House* is here just in time for Halloween—but is it worth the watch? *by Sabrina Gomez*

Netflix's "The Haunting of Bly Manor," which released Oct. 9, is the sequel to "The Haunting of Hill House." For many viewers, the anticipation for the second season of the horror anthology has been long overdue. Not to be confused with its predecessor — "Bly Manor" is a story in itself — so don't get your hopes up.

"The Haunting of Bly Manor" tells the tragic story of a house that is haunted by trapped souls who individually are dealing with their own trauma. The story is a loose adaptation of Henry James' 1898 novella "The Turn of the Screw." Viewers might also recognize some of the cast members from the prequel.



Image courtesy of Wikipedia.

The story begins with the exchange of ghost stories on a Christmas evening among guests. The narrator (who remains anonymous) tells the story of Bly Manor. Much of the beginning of the story feels like a mystery. Bits of the narrative are pieces of a grander puzzle that don't quite make sense until halfway through. As the story progresses, it becomes clear that the house has quite a history of lost souls trapped within its gates.

Because much of the plot takes a while to build up, it isn't surprising that some viewers might find the beginning hard to follow. It isn't until the third or fourth episode that the story pulls you in. There are some similarities with "The Haunting of Hill House" — each episode tells a character's story that helps the viewer understand how all of the ghosts are connected by their grief. There is also the theme of family, and it becomes an integral part of the story.

Unlike "The Haunting of Hill House," "The Haunting of Bly Manor" is much less terrifying. With fewer jump scares, don't expect to be too frightened when watching. Despite its lack of scares, however, the story will still move viewers with its emotion-packed moments

and surprise plot twists that reveal everything is not what it seems.

The series, much like its predecessor, ends on a melancholy note. Like its beginning, the show comes full circle with the narrator, who up until now remains unnamed.

Though "The Haunting of Bly Manor" story develops slowly, its build-up makes it still worth a watch. "The Haunting of Hill House" feels more like a tragic love story with psychological trauma than it does a ghost story. But, hey — "Every ghost story has its own love story." "Bly Manor" shows us that perhaps it is not always how well a ghost story can terrify, but rather, how well it can haunt us long after the story has ended.



Image courtesy of Forbes.



"Minerva Massacre" cover design by Drexiel Desquitado