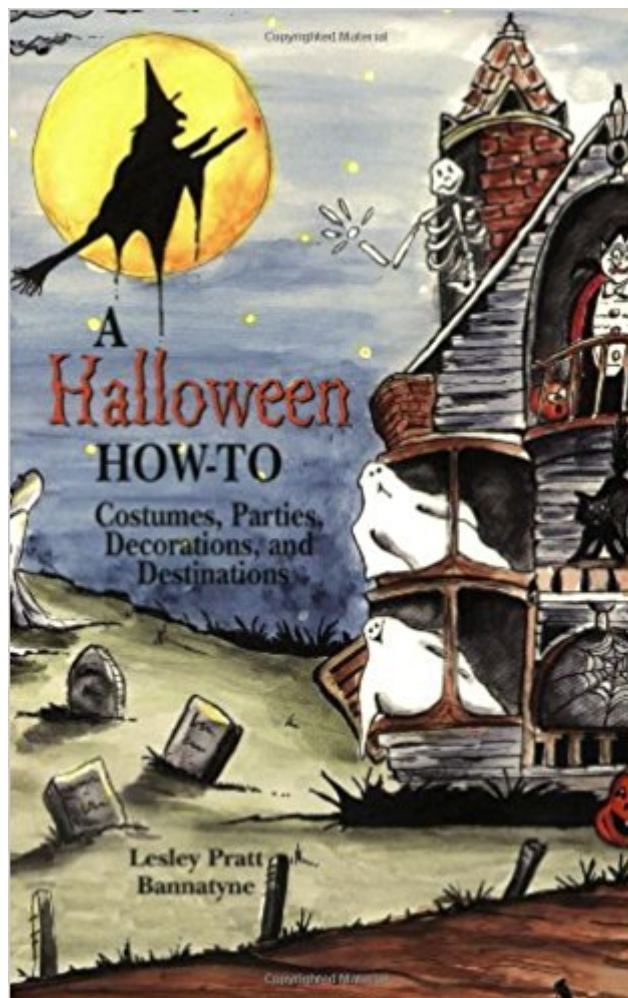




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Halloween How-To, A: Costumes, Parties, Decorations, And Destinations



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Synopsis

A must-have for everybody who loves costumes, parties, and ghouls. There are recipes, music and movie tips, instructions for costumes, decorating tips, themes for parties, and even travel tips for some of the best haunted houses, pumpkin patches, parades, and ghost tours in the country.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In this entertaining romp, Bannatyne discusses Halloween trends past and present, dissecting such fun topics as costumes, recipes, movies, parties, myths and expeditions (Salem or bust!). She even closes with an up-to-the-minute chapter on "what's next" in Halloween observance. (According to the author, disguising yourself as a pillowcase ghost is so very last year, but you can't go wrong with classic monsters such as vampires and witches.) One of the most fascinating chapters addresses some of the myths about Halloween. Bannatyne claims, for example, that the razor-blades-in-apples-scare is merely an urban legend with no basis in fact. Who knew? Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

From a sociological history of Halloween and its contemporary traditions to a guide to the ideal sound effects to make your party creepy (think Wagner's Ride of the Valkyries), this how-to offers everything anyone would ever want to know about All Hallows Eve. Bannatyne takes us through decorating houses, yards, and ourselves; planning a killer Halloween party; embarking on must-see Halloween pilgrimages (don't miss the Punkin Chuckin' Contest in Morton, Illinois); and preparing

Halloween cuisine ("beyond blood punch"). Bannatyne's anecdotes and lifelong obsession with Halloween give the book a readable quality in spite of the lengthy lists and detailed how-to information. This will be a useful reference for both the growing population of adults who revel in Halloween and folks who seek to make the trick-or-treat experience a little more harrowing for unsuspecting children in costume. If nothing else, those who follow this book carefully are sure to win every Halloween contest they enter, whether dressed as an out-of-work superhero or a giant post-it note. John GreenCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

I bought this book a number of years ago and forgot to write a review! So, here it goes: This is really a fantastic book to have if you are planning on throwing a brilliant Halloween Party, making your own props, or turning your house into a Haunt for the neighborhood trick-or-treaters. It is extremely well written and I find that every time I pick it up to look for some ideas around Halloween time, I find myself reading the whole thing again! It is such a great source of inspiration and every time I read it, I get super excited and motivated to improve on last years Halloween. I am really glad to own a copy of this book and I highly recommend it to other Halloween lovers.

Do not merely approach "A Halloween How-To: Costumes, Parties, Decorations, and Destinations" expecting a mere how-to book. Yes author Lesley Pratt Bannatyne provides Halloween how-to advise. But she provides much more than that. Approach the book looking as much for Halloween how-to as ideas and inspiration. Because that is exactly what you'll get. How-to info, ideas on places to go, decorations, parties, costumes, etc., and inspirations from which to come up with your own ideas which don't appear in the book. Looking to produce your own graveyard but don't want the stones to merely say the ubiquitous RIP? Check in the book for ideas on names, and epitaphs. Names like I.M. Bones could add a bit of humor to your graveyard. Or maybe you'll go a bit literary with names of characters from famous short stories and novels. Or even movie characters. Epitaphs could be something that describe a character. One such idea given in the book is giving dates of death for Dracula, which kinda points out the vampire being resurrected in various movies. What about decorations? One idea the author provides is to make a series of lanterns out of those plastic jack-o-lantern trick-or-treat buckets, PVC piping, and a light bulb. These can then be stood up lighting the pathway to a front door. Or maybe you want to go with figures that might look a little more store bought. Well Ms. Bannatyne provides a recipe for a little something called monster mud and instructions on using it to make props. And from the basic recipe for monster mud and how you would use it to make props you can start putting together your own ideas of props to make using

monster mud. Maybe some hands coming out of the ground or a gargoyle-like creature. It's really up to you how you'll use the monster mud. Looking for places to visit during October leading up to Halloween. Not to fear, there are ideas on places to visit. However, keep in mind that on this point the book is sadly a little dated. Some things may no longer exist, some may now be smaller, and some may be bigger since this book was originally published. Yet some things will certainly still be around. In need of a simple costume cause you got invited to a costume party without having gotten enough time to get a costume together? Or maybe you don't have the money to afford an expensive costume or a rented one. Not to fear, "A Halloween How-To: Costumes, Parties, Decorations, and Destinations" gives some ideas of costumes you can easily make. Some of these costumes even won costume contests in past years. Or maybe you want to host your own Halloween party. As the title suggests, this book can help you. From ideas on party decorations to ideas on invites "A Halloween How-To: Costumes, Parties, Decorations, and Destinations" will make it a little easier to start putting a party together. In short, this book makes an excellent starting point for your Halloween planning.

An excellent overall book on Halloween & ways to celebrate it. The party tips are well-themed & not clichéd -- they're also geared towards adults, not kids. There's some unique decoration ideas here that will help make your party shine. The only problem is there are only a few photos in this book, & they're black & white so you can't see much detail. But the party suggestions are first-rate, & not the same old stuff as in other books.

This book should be on the shelf of everyone that has a love of Halloween. I started reading this book and the next thing I knew hours had zipped by. This book has a wealth of information on all things Halloween. There are sections on costumes, Halloween recipes, decorations, music, party help, the list goes on. There are very helpful listings of resources for buying Halloween items as well. I have to agree with the author's picks as well as I have bought from and dealt with many of the mentioned sources. I cannot say enough about this book, and buying it from I feel like I got a steal for the little bit I had to pay for it. Get this book, you will not be sorry!!!

If you're looking for a book heavy in text, then this is the book for you. There are a lot of great ideas that you can read about. But, if you're more of a visual person, then this may not be the book for you because there are not many photos or illustrations.

Just adding my voice to the choir of people that love this book. It's possible the book could be more fun with color photos, but it wouldn't make it *better*. The only thing I can think of that I disagreed with was the mention of "Don't Look Now" as the scariest movie of all time. Based on this, I ordered the DVD. That's time & money I'll never get back! ;-)

As a collector of Halloween books, I have bought my share of hokey, too-cutesy books and ones that aren't really practical. This is neither. I am very impressed with the content and the originality that is both practical and timely. For anyone who may want a book that encompasses a wide variety of Halloween topics from parties to history to props, I would whole heartedly recommend this book.

Great fun, and is a combination of history and an easy guide on how to create costumes (including make up tips), and simple food and such.

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