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**Zombie, and Other Assorted Un-dead Types**

**By S. Joan Popek**

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The most notable feature of zombies and other dead things is that they are not very smart. Something happens to their logical thinking process in the nether world just before they rise again to terrorize their chosen hero and heroin. Speaking of heros, have you noticed that there is always one of each gender of hero/heroin-male and female-everyone else is always killed off so they can be alone. Romantic, right? And they always kiss at least once and usually during the most dangerous time, when in real life they would both be having a hard time just keeping their quivering kidneys in check. I know if a dead thing was chasing me, I'd definitely have an urgent need for the closest powder room.

But, I digress. An un-dead creature's intelligence level is obviously to be questioned. Remember Frankenstein's monster? Bulldozes right through wooden doors designed to keep an army of bloodthirsty, marauding hordes out. Then what does he do? He forgets where he's going and stops to smell a flower and smile at a sweet, little street urchin who's out panhandling for her shiftless mother. When he remembers that he's supposed to be a killer, he growls and lumbers out into the smog to find victims. Now where is the logic in that? There was a perfectly good victim standing right in front of him, easy pickings, no fuss, no muss. Did he recognize it? No. Instead he spends half the night chasing screaming peasants around cold, damp, cobbled streets and ends up going down in flames for his efforts. Duhh!

What about Zombies? They will stand and beat on a door that the hero just slammed in their faces for hours. Hello, dead things! Use the other door for Heaven's sake. (Okay, maybe not for Heaven's sake, but you get the idea.) Or why don't they use the window? But nooo, they keep pounding on that one door until it splinters and instead of turning the door knob, they thrust their arms through and growl because they can't quite reach the iron-kidney hero who just pushed the heroine out the other door so they can run away. The delay, of course, gives the hero and heroine plenty of time to get away, kiss and other assorted mushy things. Meanwhile the zombies are still trying to figure out how to turn the damned door knob.

"But they're dead!" you say. Yes and no. Why do you think we call them un-dead? They're walking aren't they? Well really sort of shuffling, but they're on two feet. And they talk or moan or groan or

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something along the guttural lines. And they always know exactly where the people they are chasing are because they always show up no matter where the hero runs with his heroine. That means they have control of their faculties, right?

Speaking of control, have you ever noticed that zombies never need to go to the bathroom? They devour entire human bodies, (using atrocious table manners, I might add) and drink gallons of human blood, but they never have to go. Why is that? Maybe kidneys of steel are a requirement to be in flick like this?

And their personal hygiene, UGGH! Matted hair, toothless mouths, grubby skin, and tattered clothes. Haven't they ever heard of Colgate®? And they don't care! They even sometimes have orgies around a bonfire and not a drop of water or a cake of soap anywhere in sight. Not even a single spray of

Binaca®! What kind of logic is that? I wouldn't think of attending an orgy without my breath mints-Ahem-er-uh-not that I've ever-ah-well anyway, back to zombies.

I think someone ought to set the movie industry straight. Un-dead creatures deserve the same treatment as any other monster. Heck, even The Blob took an occasional dip in the river. And did you ever saw Dracula in a wrinkled suit? Get with it Hollywood. Clean up your act.

Justa Rant,  
Jo

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S. Joan Popek publishing accomplishments include the EPPIE 2000 Award winner, THE ADMINISTRATOR from The Fiction Works, SOUND THE RAM'S HORN, previously from Bookmice.com and soon available from Hard Shell Word Factory, and a nonfiction, JUMP START YOUR CAREER WITH ELECTRONIC PUBLISHERS, an EPPIE 2002 Finalist, is now available at Atlantic Bridge Publishing. <http://www.sjoanpopek.com>

### **Fun & Fruity Recipes**

**By Deborah Shelton**

Sometimes the easiest way to get children to eat healthy is to let them have a hand in making their own snacks...and add whipped cream on top. Here are two fruity recipes that are fun and easy to make, and even more fun to eat.

Miniature Fruit Pizzas 1 package refrigerated sugar cookie dough 8 ounces softened cream cheese 1 cup confectioners' sugar Assorted fresh fruit, cut into bite size pieces, such as bananas, kiwis, oranges, blueberries, grapes, strawberries, pineapple, etc.

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Directions: Cut sugar cookie dough into 1-inch slices and place on ungreased cookie sheet or pizza pan. Bake as directed, or until lightly browned around the edges. Allow the cookies to cool.

Combine cream cheese and confectioners' sugar; mix well. Spread over cooled cookies. Decorate with assorted fruit. Yummy!

Strawberry Angels 1 angel food cake 6 large strawberries 1 carton whipped topping

Directions: First, cut the cake into serving-size pieces. Slice the strawberries and layer on top of the cake. Then spoon whipped topping on top of the strawberries. Serve and enjoy!

Deborah Shelton edits The Five Minute Parent email newsletter. For your free subscription, send a blank email to

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