SHELLEY'S PLACE

"TRY, PIE, AGAIN"

by Paige Alena

PAIGE ALENA

1. INT. SHELLEY'S PLACE - DAY

A small town diner for monsters. Mid-century decor with a distinct Halloween flare. SHELLEY writes on a chalkboard next to the kitchen window. She writes "TODAY'S SPECIAL: PICKLE AND PEANUT BUTTER PIE." PERCY approaches the counter.

PERCY
What's the special today, Shelley?

SHELLEY
Pickle and peanut butter pie!

PERCY
Pickle and peanut butter pie?

SHELLEY
It's a bit of a mouthful.

PERCY
I'll say.

SHELLEY
It's Frankie's family recipe. She's taken years to perfect it.

FRANKIE appears from behind the kitchen window. Frankie is a patchwork monster puppet (a fuzzy Frankenstein, if you will) in a chef's hat and apron.

FRANKIE
I finally got the recipe just right last night! The secret is to double the pickle!

PERCY
You sure people will like it?

SHELLEY
I wasn't sure either, until I tried it.

FRANKIE
Try a slice! Fresh out of the oven.

FRANKIE slides a shockingly green slice of pie across the counter. PERCY hesitates, but takes a bite. His face lights up.

FRANKIE
Wow, that's good!

PAIGE ALENA

SHELLEY
I told you! I think it'll be a hit with our customers.

PERCY
We're opening soon. Have you seen Vickie?

SHELLEY
She must have forgotten to set her alarm again.

VICKIE, a petite monster puppet, bursts through the front door wearing sweatbands on her forehead and wrists.

VICKIE
Eight minutes! That's a new record!

SHELLEY
Vickie? Did you run here?

VICKIE
I've been running laps around the diner all morning!

PERCY
Why would you do that?

VICKIE
I'm training!

An alarm beeps on VICKIE's watch. She starts to do jumping jacks.

SHELLEY
What are you training for?

VICKIE
The Banshee Ball team in town is holding tryouts tomorrow, and I have to get in shape!

SHELLEY
Banshee Ball? I've never heard of it!

VICKIE
Oh, it's a great game. There's running, and jumping, and throwing, and catching, and-

Another alarm beeps. VICKIE starts doing push-ups.

PERCY

PAIGE ALENA

I didn't know you played any sports.

VICKIE
(Pausing in between push-ups)
I don't! But there's a first! Time! For! Everything!

Another alarm beeps. VICKIE collapses.

SHELLEY
Maybe you should take a break.

FRANKIE
Take a break? She just got to work!

SHELLEY
We don't have any customers, yet. Why not sit down and have a slice of Frankie's pickle and peanut butter pie?

VICKIE
Pickle and peanut butter pie?

FRANKIE
Don't knock it until you try it!

VICKIE
Sorry, Frankie, I'm on a strict diet until tryouts. Spinach and sardine smoothies for me!

PERCY
That, I won't try.

SHELLEY
I don't blame you.

SHELLEY flips the sign on the door from "CLOSED" to "OPEN." PERCY knocks the jukebox with his elbow a la The Fonz. JUDE, a talking jukebox, open his eyes.

JUDE
Alright, alright, I'm up!

PERCY
Would you play us a song, Jude?

JUDE
Anything for you, Percy!

PAIGE ALENA

As JUDE's song plays, customers pour into the diner. Some are puppets, some are people with "monster" qualities. SHELLEY and PERCY pass out menus. VICKIE jogs through the dining room with a glass of juice. She spills the juice on MAYOR BORIS, but doesn't notice. SHELLEY rushes to clean off BORIS' tie.

SHELLEY
I'm so sorry, Mr. Mayor.

BORIS
Someone should be! What's gotten into Vickie this morning?

SHELLEY
She's trying out for the Banshee Ball team.

BORIS
Why would she do a thing like that?

SHELLEY
She wants to try something new!

BORIS
But she's never played a sport before! What if she's terrible at it?

SHELLEY
She'll never know until she tries!

BORIS
Hmph. Well, tell her to be more careful when serving customers.

SHELLEY
I will, Mr. Mayor. What can I get you for breakfast? We have a new special, you know.

BORIS
No, thank you.

SHELLEY
I haven't even told you what it is.

BORIS
I don't want it!

SHELLEY
Aren't you curious?

PAIGE ALENA

FRANKIE
(from the kitchen window)
One pickle and peanut butter pie, coming up!

BORIS
I'll pass, thank you.

SHELLEY
I know it sounds strange, but it's really good.

BORIS
I'll have my usual.

SHELLEY
You order your usual every day. Don't you want something new?

BORIS
If I didn't order it every day, it wouldn't be my usual, would it?

SHELLEY
Okay, one olive and onion omelette, heavy on the olives, with a tomato juice on the side.

SHELLEY turns and VICKIE crashes into her, spilling a slice of pickle and peanut butter pie all over her apron.

VICKIE
Oops, sorry!

SHELLEY
Beat your record, Vickie?

VICKIE
Seven minutes! Wahoo!

VICKIE runs away.

BORIS
Tell you what, Shelley, if Vickie makes the team, I'll try your pie!

SHELLEY
You will?

BORIS

PAIGE ALENA

I'm so sure she won't make the team, I'll shake on it!

SHELLEY
You've got a deal, Mr. Mayor.

SHELLEY and BORIS shake hands. VICKIE has secretly overheard the conversation. She hangs her head in defeat.

2. INT. SHELLEY'S PLACE - NIGHT

SHELLEY, PERCY, and FRANKIE clean up at the end of their shift.

FRANKIE
Two dozen pies! We sold two dozen pies!

SHELLEY
That's great, Frankie!

PERCY
Maybe you should pull out more of your old family recipes.

FRANKIE
I've got more recipes right here! (*FRANKIE pulls out a stack of recipe cards*) There's marshmallow meatloaf, strawberry spaghetti-

PERCY
On second thought, let's stick to the pies.

SHELLEY
Hey, has anyone seen Vickie?

FRANKIE
Running laps around the diner again, I bet.

SHELLEY
Vickie? Are you still in here?

VICKIE
(muffled, off-screen)
Over here.

SHELLEY and PERCY find VICKIE face-down in a booth.

SHELLEY
Vickie? What's wrong?

PAIGE ALENA

VICKIE
I don't know if I should try out for the Banshee Ball team, after all.

SHELLEY
Why not?

VICKIE
I heard what Mayor Boris said this morning.

SHELLEY
You shouldn't listen to Mayor Boris.

VICKIE
He's right, though. I've never played a sport before. What if I'm no good?

SHELLEY
You won't be perfect at something the first time you try it.

PERCY
Yeah! I used to be terrible at piano, and guitar, and figure skating, and basket weaving, and abstract landscapes, and-

SHELLEY
Do you have a point, Percy?

PERCY
Oh, sorry. The point is, you can't get good at something until you practice at it!

VICKIE
What if I embarrass myself?

SHELLEY
There is nothing embarrassing about trying your best, Vickie. You've put a lot of work into these try-outs. I'd hate to see you give up before you even started.

PERCY
Maybe you will make the team, and maybe you won't. But you'll never know until you try!

VICKIE
I guess you're right.

SHELLEY

PAIGE ALENA

What if we practiced with you? You could show us how to play!

VICKIE
Really? You would do that for me?

PERCY
Sure!

VICKIE
Ok! Give me a minute to set up the court!

3. EXT., SHELLEY'S PLACE PATIO - NIGHT

Behind the diner is an outdoor patio space, complete with picnic benches and string lights on a trellis. VICKIE has constructed a Banshee Ball court out of makeshift nets, hoops, and an assortment of sports equipment.

VICKIE
I did my best using what we have in storage.

PERCY
So, uh, how exactly do you play?

VICKIE
It's easy! You'll pick it up as we go! Catch!

VICKIE tosses a ball at PERCY. Cue a montage of SHELLEY, PERCY, and VICKIE playing Banshee Ball. SHELLEY and PERCY struggle to keep up while VICKIE dominates. The montage concludes with SHELLEY and PERCY, exhausted, and VICKIE excitedly knocking a ball through a hoop.

VICKIE
Score! Another point for me!

PERCY
Okay, you win!

VICKIE
Are you done playing? I'm on a roll!

SHELLEY
I think that's enough practicing for tonight. You should get your rest.

VICKIE

PAIGE ALENA

Do you think I'm good enough to make the team?

PERCY
I don't know anything about Banshee Ball, but I'm pretty sure you're the best Banshee Ball player I've ever seen.

FRANKIE opens the back door holding a pie.

FRANKIE
Oh, good, you're still here! I tried a new pie recipe. I need taste testers.

PERCY
Is that pineapple and popcorn?

FRANKIE
No, it's peppermint and parsnip!

PERCY
I'll take mine to go.

PERCY collapses on a bench.

4. INT. SHELLEY'S PLACE - DAY

The diner, the next morning. SHELLEY and PERCY are serving customers, including MAYOR BORIS. SHELLEY sets an omelette and glass of tomato juice on BORIS' table.

SHELLEY
You might not want to finish your omelette today, Mr. Mayor.

BORIS
What? Why not?

SHELLEY
You'll need to leave room for a slice of pickle and peanut butter pie.

BORIS
You don't really think Vickie will make the team, do you?

SHELLEY
I know she's trying, and that's what counts.

VICKIE bursts into the diner, knocking over PERCY, who is carrying a tray of pie.

PAIGE ALENA

VICKIE
Shelley, Percy, Frankie!

SHELLEY
What? You made the team?

PERCY
I knew you could do it, Vick!

BORIS
You're kidding!

SHELLEY
Frankie, one order of peanut butter pickle pie for Mr. Mayor!

FRANKIE
Coming right up!

VICKIE
I didn't make the team!

PERCY
What?

SHELLEY
Cancel that order, Frankie! (*To Vickie*) Vick, I'm so sorry.

PERCY
I don't understand, why are you so excited?

VICKIE
Everyone I met at try outs was so nice! I even made some friends who said we could play together on weekends!

SHELLEY
That's great, Vick.

VICKIE
I didn't make the team this season, but the coach said I had great spirit, and I should try next season.

SHELLEY
I'm proud of you for trying.

VICKIE
I'm proud of myself, too. Thank you for believing in me!

PAIGE ALENA

SHELLEY, PERCY, and VICKIE embrace. BORIS is moved by the display of affection.

BORIS
Frankie? One peanut butter and pickle pie, please!

SHELLEY
But you said you'd only try it if Vickie made the team?

BORIS
If Vickie is brave enough to try something new, so am I.

FRANKIE delivers a slice of pie to BORIS' table. After a long hesitation, BORIS finally takes a bite. His face lights up.

BORIS
Say, that is pretty good!

SHELLEY
I told you! It can be fun to try something new!

BORIS
In fact, I'll take another slice to go.

PERCY
Will this be your new regular order, Mr. Mayor?

BORIS
Oh, no, nothing can beat Frankie's olive and onion omelettes!

VICKIE
Olive and onion? Yuck!

BORIS offers a forkful of omelette to VICKIE.

BORIS
Go on, try some!

VICKIE
No thanks, I've had enough "trying" for one day!

Fade out on ALL smiling together. END.

PAIGE ALENA