



October 2021



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## Take the 'Spooky' Out of Halloween MY BEST TIP FOR CO-PARENTING THROUGH THE HOLIDAY

Did you know that in Sweden, people don't celebrate Halloween? When I was growing up there in the late '80s and early '90s, everything I knew about the holiday came from American television and movies. It wasn't until I moved to the U.S. in 1996 that I first experienced the magic of jack-o'-lantern carving, trick-or-treating, and hanging Halloween decorations.

Today, Halloween is one of my favorite holidays. I absolutely love it, and Hisham and I always get in on the fun. Usually, our whole family dresses up in matching Halloween costumes. We've been superheroes, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and characters from the Disney movie "Aladdin." I wanted to be the "Aladdin" villain Jafar that year because I thought it would be funny, but the kids vetoed the idea. They decided I should be Jasmine instead!

As you can tell, Hisham and I usually let the kids lead the way on our costumes and Halloween celebrations. The year Hanna wanted to dress up as Anna from the movie "Frozen," I played along and bought an Elsa costume. Halloween is more magical for them than for us, so they set the agenda to make those important memories.

Usually, that means trick-or-treating in our neighborhood until they're exhausted! Then, after they fall asleep, Hisham and I do the traditional parent thing and dig into those goody bags. Fortunately, Rami and Hanna don't like peanuts, so they don't mind when I eat their Reese's Pieces.

I'm lucky enough to have a wonderful husband who celebrates Halloween with me and our kids. But if Hisham and I were divorced or separated, I'd make sure we took the same approach to the holiday and let our kids' dreams, imaginations, and creativity lead the way.

The older our kids get, the more important holidays like Halloween become. It's important for their social lives to spend time with their friends and trick-or-treat in the neighborhoods they truly want to visit. As a parent, it can be tempting to assign ownership over every holiday so we can have as much time as possible with our children. But true success in co-parenting isn't just about what makes us happy; it's about what brings joy to our kids.



*"Fortunately, Rami and Hanna don't like peanuts, so they don't mind when I eat their Reese's Pieces."*

If you're "spooked" about how to spend this Halloween (Whose day is it? Should you split time? Who gets those Halloween memories?), I'd suggest setting your ego aside and asking your kids how they'd like to enjoy the holiday. Ask whom they'd like to trick-or-treat with, which parties they want to attend, and how you can support that.

Of course, this might lead to some awkward situations — if your children are young, they might want you and your ex to take them trick-or-treating together, for example — and there's no right or wrong way to handle those, but just remember that putting your kids first reminds them their experience is important to you. It also ensures they'll create the magical Halloween memories I didn't have as a kid!

*-Sara Khaki*

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# 2 EVENTS TO GET YOU THROUGH SCARY TIMES

*Learn About LGBTQ+ Adoption and Find Divorce Support!*



Our complimentary divorce support groups and seminars are available online! Register for these upcoming events to gain knowledge, resources, and emotional support that will help you feel empowered while you go through major life changes.

## LGBTQ+ ADOPTION (COMPLIMENTARY WEBINAR)

**When:** Thursday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m.

**Register:** [AtlantaDivorceLawGroup.com/Webinars/LGBTQ-Adoption/](https://AtlantaDivorceLawGroup.com/Webinars/LGBTQ-Adoption/)

Adoption is a long, tricky process, and it can be intimidating — especially if you're in the LGBTQ+ community. If you're feeling overwhelmed, we have good news: Our team has already helped dozens of clients like you achieve their adoption dreams and grow their families! This month, we'll share our knowledge with you in a complimentary adoption webinar. The class will include your adoption options, what to expect from the process, financial costs, unique adoption challenges for LGBTQ+ couples, and how your family can welcome a new addition. To learn all this and more, register at the link above!

## HAPPILY EVER AFTER DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING (VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP)

**When:** Saturday, Oct. 23, at 10 a.m.

**Register:** [AtlantaDivorceLawGroup.com/Happily-Ever-After-Divorce-Support-Group/](https://AtlantaDivorceLawGroup.com/Happily-Ever-After-Divorce-Support-Group/)

We're heading into "spooky season," but honestly, no Halloween thriller or ghost sighting is as scary as dealing with a divorce. Fortunately, you don't have to go through the process alone. Just as you'd take a friend with you to a haunted house, you can rely on our monthly support groups here at ADLG to get you through this tough time.

Our group is full of kind, supportive people who have been through a similar scary process. You can lean on them for empathy, advice, and a peer perspective. Even better, the group is led by Kathleen Shack, the founder and CEO of Family Solutions Counseling, LLC. Think of her as your ghost tour guide! She specializes in marriage and family counseling, couples therapy, divorce coaching, and more, and she knows all about the emotional bumps in the night. She'll help you let go of the "Why?" questions haunting you, explore your feelings of anger and grief, and move forward. To sign up this month, visit the website above!

*Here at ADLG, we're not letting COVID-19 slow us down. Sign up for these virtual events to get the information and support you need without leaving home.*



## Fun for All This Fall 5 Corn Maze Safety Tips

Fall brings apple cider, pumpkin patches, fun seasonal outfits, and corn mazes. Unless you are visiting a "haunted" corn maze, you and your family probably won't be chased by a chainsaw-wielding serial killer while you try to navigate through. However, safety risks are still present. Here are five safety tips to keep the fun coming during your next corn maze experience.

### FOLLOW THE RULES.

At the entrance to each corn maze, there should be a sign stating the rules for visitors. For the safety of yourself, your children, and others, be sure to read each rule and follow along. Always accompany your kids in the corn maze — it is a maze, after all!

### WATCH FOR TRIPPING AND FIRE HAZARDS.

Keep your eyes peeled for any obstacles on the path, including holes, bumps, ruts, and corn stalks. While navigating a maze, it can be easy to forget to look down while searching for the exit. To prevent fires, you should also avoid smoking and never use matches or lighters.

### WEAR PROPER FOOTWEAR.

Ensure that you and your family all have proper footwear, preferably closed-toed shoes, while exploring the maze. You never know what kind of critters or potentially harmful hazards may appear in your path.

### EAT BEFOREHAND AND STAY HYDRATED.

Be sure to eat before setting out into the maze and don't bring any glass bottles with you, as it can be dangerous if broken. Furthermore, do not consume alcohol before or while enjoying your time at the corn maze.

### BE PREPARED.

Accidents can happen, usually at the most unexpected times! It is important to always have a first-aid kit handy. Be sure to call 911 in an emergency and let staff know what is going on.

As long as safety is the top priority this fall, fun will be had by all!

# Corn Mazes Date Back to Ancient Greece?

## A HISTORICAL LOOK AT THIS WACKY FALL TRADITION

Exploring a corn maze is a great way to get outside and enjoy the fall season with friends and family — but who came up with the idea of wandering around a corn field for fun? As it turns out, outdoor mazes are an ancient tradition, and the American corn maze of the '90s sprouted from the mazes of 17th-century European gardens. Don't believe it? Here's a quick tour of corn maze history.

### THE MINOTAUR AND THE MAZE

Have you heard of Theseus and the Minotaur? This ancient Greek legend tells the story of the hero Theseus, who ventured into an elaborate maze to kill the half-man, half-bull imprisoned there. The monstrous Minotaur was known to eat heroes, and the labyrinth was known to trap them, but Theseus managed to slay the Minotaur and find his way home with the help of a string that he unspooled as he walked.



This story isn't the first recorded example of a maze or labyrinth — according to the World History encyclopedia, “[L]abyrinths and labyrinthine symbols have been dated to the Neolithic Age in regions as diverse as modern-day Turkey, Ireland, Greece, and India, among others” — but it's perhaps the most famous ancient tale. If you've ever navigated a Halloween corn maze staffed by ghouls and ghosts, you can see the parallels!

### GARDEN ART TO GET LOST IN

Mazes formed from bushes began popping up in European gardens in the 17th century. They were a popular artistic feature of upper-class gardens in England, more for looking at than solving. One famous example is the half-mile-long Hampton Maze, which was planted in 1690 and still stands today.

### THE CORN MAZE: AN AMERICAN INVENTION

Garden mazes eventually hopped the pond to America but didn't become interactive puzzles until Don Frantz, Creative Director of the American Maze Company, came on the scene. In 1993, Frantz created the “first ever cornfield maze for private and public entertainment” to attract college kids in Pennsylvania. Today, every small-town corn maze is a descendant of his “Amazing Maize Maze.” To learn more about that wacky history, visit [AmericanMaze.com](http://AmericanMaze.com).

## What Our Clients Are Saying!

“Reaching out to an attorney to begin the divorce process is nerve-wracking and isolating. From the first consultation, my attorney at Atlanta Divorce Law Group put my mind at ease and assured me that they would take care of everything. John Davis and Whitney were incredible! They were efficient and thorough, and before I knew it, my divorce was final! I'm grateful for their work on my case and the patience they had with me during the process! I highly recommend this firm!”

—Stephanie H.

Concierge  
Partner's  
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my  
divorce  
solution

One of the most headache-inducing parts of a divorce is dividing up the household finances. Most couples have complex, highly connected estates that come with a mountain of paperwork. Finding a solution that works for everyone can take hours, weeks, or even months. Here at ADLG, we want to make every part of the divorce process easier for you, not just the legal side — which is why we've partnered with **My Divorce Solution (MDS)**.



MDS is a women-run company with an incredible product: **The MDS Financial Portrait™**. This tool helps you gather all of the documents related to your marital estate in one place. Then, it summarizes and analyzes those documents so you can clearly see the financial implications of multiple divorce scenarios. This is incredibly helpful for determining alimony, child support, the division of assets, and more!

You can choose either a Self-Certified Financial Portrait that will guide you through the process yourself with checklists and virtual support, or a Third-Party Financial Portrait, which includes one-on-one specialized guidance from MDS. As icing on the cake, MDS also offers a “Divorce 101-style course” called DivorceU. To learn more about both services, email [Karen@mydivorcesolution.com](mailto:Karen@mydivorcesolution.com) or visit [MyDivorceSolution.com](http://MyDivorceSolution.com).

# GHOSTS ACROSS AMERICA

## *3 Haunted Spots Every Ghost Believer Will Love*

October is one of the best months for travel in the U.S. With mild temperatures and gorgeous, colorful leaves everywhere, there's no better time for a cross-country road trip. Add some Halloween flair to your October vacation with these three ghostly attractions.

### **VISIT THE MOST HAUNTED TOWN IN THE U.S. — WAYNESVILLE, OHIO.**

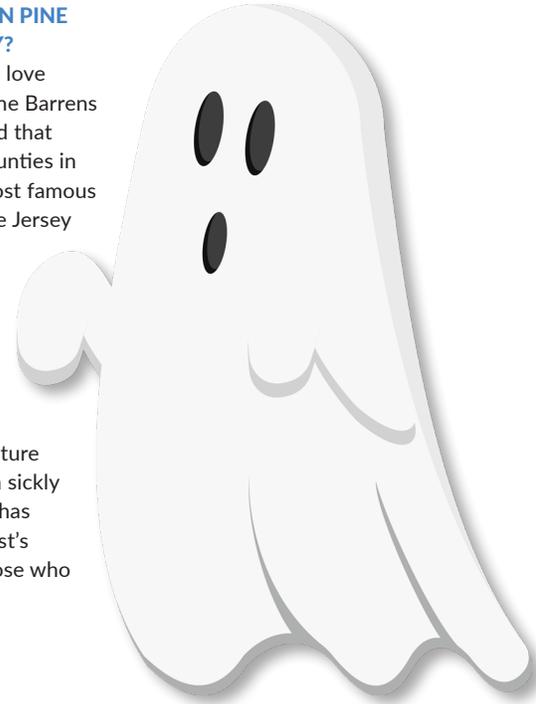
Sure, New Orleans may have a spooky past, but it doesn't compare to Waynesville. Many residents and visitors think this Ohio town is rife with ghosts. You may hear cries to "hurry up" at The Hammel House Inn, where many tunnels for the underground railroad came through, or you could see the apparition of a businessman from the 1800s who "never checked out." Other sources report hauntings at the town's historical society, Museum at the Friends Home, including a little girl who moves toys and sits on the porch. The society leans into the local fascination and hosts regular walking ghost tours and ghost hunting classes.

### **STAY A WHILE AT HOTEL MONTE VISTA IN FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA.**

Guests at Hotel Monte Vista have often enjoyed long stays at the downtown Flagstaff, Arizona, hotel, but not everyone leaves. Constructed in 1927, the hotel is host to a number of reported ghosts. The most well-known is an elderly woman who would spend hours rocking in the chair in her room. Today, her chair can be found moving on its own. Another popular visitor is the ghost of a bellboy who knocks on doors and announces that room service has arrived — only, no one's there.

### **IS THERE A MONSTER IN PINE BARRENS, NEW JERSEY?**

This one's for those who love mysterious creatures. Pine Barrens is a mass of forested land that spreads across seven counties in New Jersey — and its most famous resident isn't human. The Jersey Devil has a long, storied history and is said to be a combination of many animals: Its body is shaped like a kangaroo with wings. It has the head of a dog but the face of a horse. The creature is believed to have had a sickly start to life in 1735 and has stayed to haunt the forest's inhabitants and even those who visit the area today.



# ADLG's October Reads for All Ages

## CELEBRATE NATIONAL BOOK MONTH IN STYLE!

Guess what — it's National Book Month! Our team here at ADLG loves to read, so we've put together a quick list of books for you and your family to check out this season. The "Adults" read is a recommendation straight from ADLG founder Sara Khaki. She just finished it this summer and couldn't resist sharing it with you.

### **FOR ADULTS: 'ELON MUSK: TESLA, SPACEX, AND THE QUEST FOR A FANTASTIC FUTURE' BY ASHLEE VANCE**

If you watch the news, then you've heard of the Tesla and SpaceX billionaire Elon Musk — but did you know that as a kid he dreamed of helping humanity inhabit other planets? In this biography, you'll discover new details of Musk's story and how he pursued his childhood goal.

"I love that he had such a big dream and bold vision, but instead of asking, 'Who am I to go after that?' he just followed his heart's purpose without hesitation," Sara says. "He may not have accomplished his dream yet, but he planted the seed, and while doing it, he changed the way we use technology forever. We can all learn from that initiative!"

### **FOR TEENS: 'GOOSEBUMPS' BOOK 1: 'WELCOME TO DEAD HOUSE' BY R. L. STEIN**

The '90s are back in style again, so why not bring back "Goosebumps," the iconic thriller series

for teens? If your children enjoy Halloween and scary stories, they'll love the first "Goosebumps" novel, "Welcome to Dead House." It tells the story of Amanda and Josh, two kids who survive spooky encounters after their family moves into a haunted house.

### **FOR KIDS: 'CURIOUS GEORGE: A HALLOWEEN BOO FEST' BY H. A. REY**

Kids not quite old enough for "Goosebumps" will love this sweet Halloween story about everyone's favorite monkey, Curious George. In it, George discovers how funny it is to make people jump by shouting "Boo!" The 12-page book was also adapted into a great kids' movie your family can watch on Amazon Prime Video.

Want more? Keep an eye on NationalBook.org for the announcement of this year's National Book Awards finalists! The list comes out every October and includes 15 of the year's best books. It's a great place to start when picking your winter must-reads.

