



# shine POTIONS

## Melody Moonlight's Monster Loving Magic

By M.M. Twinkle

Melody Moonlight was the kind of girl that often drew looks of bewilderment and or, condemnation, for she was always smiling at everything, and when I say everything, I mean *everything*. So whether she happened upon a tree that was rich with summer green or that very same tree struck stark by the winds of winter, Melody would stop and smile at it, and in the same loving way, as if one season was no different than the other! Of course to most everyone around her, Melody Moonlight's behavior was nothing short of mad, for it was all too obvious that a summer tree flush with leaves was quite beautiful whereas a leafless tree twisting in the dead of winter was not! And yet the girl seemed unable or even worse, unwilling, to judge the differences between the two and that meant she was likely out of her mind, or quite possibly, that she had no mind at all! Ultimately then, because she was such an enigma, Melody was left to her own devices, for all agreed that there was no way to teach a girl of such senseless-sensibility to properly judge between the things it was ok to smile at, like rainbows, sunsets and summer and all those things it was *not* ok to smile at, like broken hearts, train-wrecks and winter.

Once then, upon a dark and stormy Halloween night, the kind of night where winter blows in early and shoves autumn aside, Melody made her way to the center of town where a large festival was taking place. There she encountered thousands of people all clad in costumes: some looked scary, some looked funny, some looked heroic and a few looked, well, rather crazy. Yet true to form, as Melody did wander around, she smiled at every person in every costume, and always in the most loving of ways.

Now it so happened that on that very same dark and stormy Halloween night, a very clever and very *real* monster (you know, the kind that likes to hide under the bed or in the closet) secretly attended the party, and this very real and very clever monster hid himself in the costume of a beautiful angel for his plan was to frighten as many of the





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festival-goers as he could by tricking them into thinking he was one thing and then suddenly revealing himself to be another! Which is exactly what he did, moving through the festivities, luring person after person into his angelic presence and then ripping off his mask, revealing his true, evil nature, and shouting *BOO!* at which point the person before him would either scream and run or faint dead-away! Well, that is until he came upon Melody Moonlight. And though the monster had fully expected her loving smile whilst he remained cloaked as an angel, it was when he tore off his mask and revealed his true self that he got the biggest surprise of his life - *another smile*. Oh yes, Melody continued to look at him in the very same way, as if there were absolutely no difference between the angel he was pretending to be and the monster he truly was...

What happened next was absolutely mind-boggling to all those frightened-folk who happened to see it, for in the moment that the monster saw Melody's loving smile, he also connected with that which was behind the smile, an unthinkable, unconditional Love that all but melted his frozen heart and brought him humbly to his knees. "How is it possible," he asked the little girl as tears welled up in his eyes, "that you can smile at a monster like me?"

Melody took a step forward and put her hand gently upon his cheek, "This I cannot answer, for no answer will suffice. But if you search your heart, if you look deep within, you will find the answer for yourself, and all of the stars in the sky will celebrate with you. That I promise."

And with that, fluffy flakes of snow began to fall all around them and the monster did shiver in the cold. Melody took off her jacket and placed it around him. "It looks like it's going to be an early winter." She said brightly. "Shall we head indoors and start a fire? I'll make something nice and warm for you to drink, something to thaw your toes!" And with a wide, beaming smile, Melody Moonlight took the monster by his hand and led him away. And as they made their way home, the last leaves of autumn crunched merrily beneath their feet.