

# Nobby

*A Journey to Self-Acceptance*

**By  
Erin Williams**



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# Introduction

Following a retreat, we gave all the participants an assignment:

*Your experience of life is your relationship with God – your understanding of who God is; and who you are. In light of this, write a letter to your yet-unborn children bringing these Truths to life – simply and practically.*

Please enjoy this story written by Erin Williams.

## From Erin

I was contemplating this while idly looking out the window and realizing that Jerry, Sandy and Judy's Halloween card with the Jack o' lanterns was in my line of sight – and this is the result.

## About the Author

Erin Williams is a Lay Carmelite, a Lieutenant in the United States Navy and a member of the StillPoint community since she was ten years old. Her unique contribution to StillPoint has been to work closely with Jerry to research and rewrite some of the more complex materials in the teachings found in the *Mystical Chapters*, *Silence Speaks* and *Tree of Life Courses*. We thank her for her many contributions to this work.

Once upon a time there was a Jack o' lantern.

He was always very sad.

He was made from a little oddly shaped pumpkin that had lots of lumps and discolorations on it. He didn't have a nice smooth side for carving, so his face was lop-sided and one eye bulged out much farther than the other.

He looked at all the other Jack o' lanterns and thought that they all were so beautiful and perfect. They had wonderfully balanced features and nicely even orange color, instead of his questionable murky brownish-greenish-orange.



One day he noticed that a pumpkin without a face had joined the other Jack o' lanterns.

A girl appeared.



She began to carefully and lovingly scoop out the seeds, and carve a festive face on the blank pumpkin. Under her skilled hands it was transformed into a jolly little Jack o' lantern with a cheeky smile.

The ugly Jack o' lantern couldn't believe his eyes. He realized that he and all the other Jack o' lanterns must have been born the same way.

Someone had made him this way?

Why had she chosen this goofy little discolored pumpkin as a Jack o' lantern in the first place?

Why?

She had deliberately chosen to put one of his eyes on the strange bulge rather than on the other side where it was slightly more seemly and flat?

Why?

He looked suspiciously at the girl. She must be either very stupid or very cruel.

Or maybe - and perhaps worse - it was his fault. What if he had done something wrong to be this deformed and funny looking? Was he being punished for something?

Maybe she, the Creator, didn't love him enough to craft him as well as the others.



The little Jack o' lantern was sadder than ever.

He felt worthless and unlovable. Why did she even bother keeping him when she had all these nice Jack o' lanterns to look at?

Maybe he should just roll off the porch into a pile of leaves and be done with it all.

As the little Jack o' lantern was thinking these sad thoughts and growing more and more discouraged, time was passing and it became dark.

Now the light shining out of the other Jack o' lanterns' faces was clear and bright in the surrounding darkness. The ugly little Jack o' lantern couldn't take it anymore and cast his eyes down on the ground.

Wait.

There was a sweet clear light shining on the ground in front of him. He could see it was from his own lopsided little face smiling back up at him.

He looked quickly away and back to make sure he wasn't imagining things. But no - the same lovely light was coming from inside him as from all the other Jack o' lanterns.



The light wasn't just in the pretty ones. It was in him too! The light shining from his uneven bulgy eyes was just as clear and beautifully as through those he thought were the perfect ones.

The girl gently lifted all the Jack o' lanterns onto the porch railing so they could look out over the street. As she picked up each of them, she greeted them and called them each by name.



The ugly little Jack o' lantern was afraid she would skip him, but no; she picked him up just like the others.

She whispered, "Hello, Nobby. I smile every time I see your lopsided little smile. I know you're not quite like the others, but your mix of colors and your unique face are part of your charm. Sit right here where I've put you, little one, and let your light shine."

The little Jack o' lantern, Nobby, could hardly believe it. His little heart of pulp was about to burst with joy and love.

The girl not only loved him and accepted him as he was, she had chosen him specifically because of his lumps and funny color which made her smile.

He had always been wanted and appreciated, even when he least knew it. He found he could now appreciate the way each of the other Jack o' lanterns projected their light differently.

He sat in a deep serene peace as he shone his little light out into the dark autumn night.

# The beginning...



## My dearest little ones,

God is present in you and all around you. He shows Himself as the pretty things and the ugly things. He gives everything to you - the fun and nice things, but also the tough things. Always remember Who gave everything to you, and remember that He gave it to you out of the deepest, truest love.

Like Nobby, you might not understand God's choices, or why He made you with certain features, like Nobby's lumps. But remember always that everything that comes to you was chosen especially for you by God.



The world is like a big costume party: the point is not to love or hate or want or reject the costumes, but rather to peek behind the mask and recognize Him in all His variety of disguises.

This will allow you to let your own light shine always, my little Jack o' lanterns, no matter what darkness surrounds you. For Mommy, this has meant that she can be brave even when she's scared, and do the right thing even when it isn't the most fun thing, because she remembers Who is wearing that mask and Who is always holding on to her hand, no matter what.

I love you,

**MOM**







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