

resurrection, we see a Saviour who wants – and is able – to give life rather than take it.

Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen to him, that he would die and that he would rise again.



But why did Jesus die and rise again? And what's that got to do with us?

THIS IS THE SCARY BIT OF OUR TRUE STORY...

The Bible tells us that because of our sin, we are the walking dead. Physically alive, we eat and sleep and go to work, but inside we're spiritually dead because of the evil lurking in our hearts. Like zombies, we're not properly alive – we're missing something vital to our humanity: our connection to God. We might not even realise anything is missing, but as each one of us rejects



the God who made us, sin wraps itself around our hearts and we cause hurt and pain to others. Spiritually, we are dead and headed for destruction because of it.

But Jesus, God's Son, came to earth to bring us spiritual life. By bearing the just and rightful punishment for our sins, he took our wrongdoing to the grave and then, beating death itself, he rose up from the dead, proving he really is the giver of life. This life is offered to us too. Jesus can breathe spiritual life into us, not just for now but for eternity as well.

This isn't an entertaining ghost story for around the campfire, this is the reality of our eternal souls and it's a terrifying story until the point we accept the one who can rescue us from death.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16



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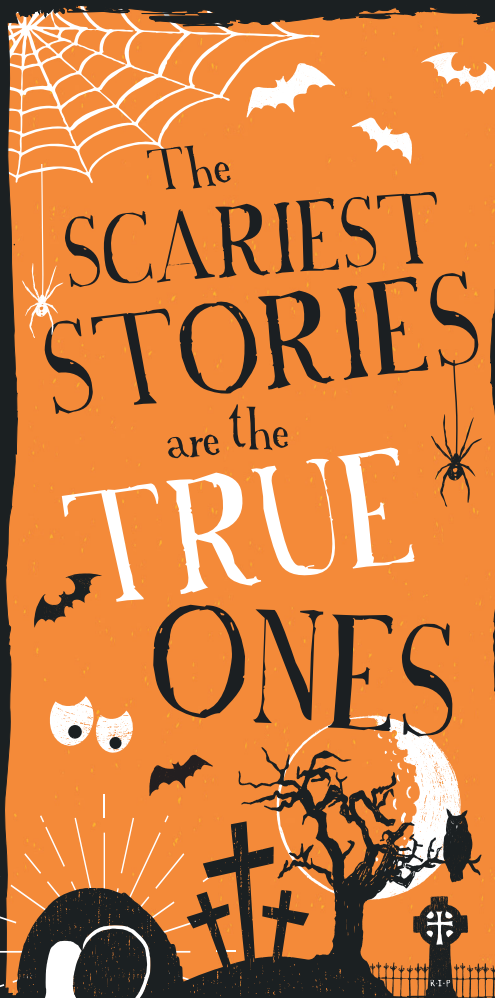
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PEOPLE LOVE A GOOD SCARE, DON'T THEY?

Halloween is a testament to how we relish something a bit creepy – decorating houses and gardens with spiderwebs and severed limbs; having pumpkin competitions.



Children enjoy putting on masks and making each other jump, while horror films trend on Netflix.

Growing up, I had a vivid imagination. I used to love listening to scary stories in the daytime. But as

the night crept in, my imagination would begin replaying the story and I would become very afraid, checking under the bed and keeping the lights on.



Stories involving aliens and monsters can be great when they're not causing nightmares but, while they can be put back on the fiction shelf, not all evil tales can. To me, the scariest of all the horror stories and movies are the ones based on actual events. Knowing the evil real people are capable of, or that such an event actually occurred is next-level terrifying.

And yet my favourite book is both true and filled with stories that would be at home in the horror section: reanimated skeletons, giants, sea-monsters, demon possession, spikes through heads; the list goes on. But surprisingly, you won't find this book next to a Stephen King novel in the library. The book I'm talking about is the Bible. Scary stuff, right?

Central to the Bible is the bloody death of Jesus Christ, followed by a hurried burial as night closes in. Then suddenly on the third day, in the dark tomb where his body should be rotting, Jesus's chest rises as he draws breath and his heart begins to beat. The executed Jesus moves, sits up and walks out of the tomb.



Zombies are all over horror films and games, but that isn't what we're talking about when we say Jesus came back from the dead. Zombies are the 'undead' – bodies reanimated by magic or viruses. Jesus isn't 'undead' but 're-alive' – resurrected to life again. Jesus wasn't a decaying corpse or a mindless creature roaming the earth once more. Fully alive, he interacted with those around him, speaking to them, eating



with them. The doctor and Bible author Luke says in Acts 1:3, 'After his suffering, he presented himself to them [his followers] and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.'



We can see the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus written down through the pages of history. His disciples were so convinced they'd seen Jesus alive again that eleven of the twelve were put to death rather than give up this belief. Would you willingly suffer death for something you know isn't true? Of course, not! And neither would the disciples.

If the zombies are coming you need to run, hide or fight – they're out to drain your life away. But in Jesus's

