

Natasha Krause Writing Sample

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"OFFICE HALLOWEEN"

INT. OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM

The room is cheaply and spookily decorated. A banner reads, "HAPPY HALLOWEEN". Employees are dressed in costumes sipping on punch or unwrapping candy. SUE, their boss, stands in front of the costumed group.

SUE

It's time for the costume contest! As you all know, you're all winners in my eyes, but I'm excited see what you've put together!

Everyone cheers.

SUE

Now who's going first?

CINDY

TADA!

Cindy seems to be dressed in normal clothing- a grey sweatshirt, skinny jeans, black tennis shoes and hair pulled back in a casual bun. Everyone looks at each other.

CINDY

I'm dressed as Sue!

SUE

Oh, wow! Thanks, Cindy. That's clever! Dressing up as "the boss". Now who's going next?

LAWRENCE

(dressed as an elaborate angel)
How about me!

SUE

Wow, Lawrence! The detail! That's definitely a contender for first place!

CINDY

Wait, wait, wait, what? My costume is clearly the best one. Here look--

Cindy takes out an office desk phone.

CINDY

(a nasally, dumb voice)

Hello, yes, it's me Sue on the phone with a client. Everyone can work late tonight!"

SUE

(awkward)

Cindy! Wow, you're really dedicated to the character! Extra points for the slight roast of the old "head honcho"... ha.

JAMIA

(dressed as She-Hulk)

Okay, my turn!

SUE

She-Hulk! Now, that's a superhero you don't see everyday! Wait... what's that smell?

CINDY

(with a mouthful of sandwich)

Oh, it's just me Sue-- here in the corner-- eating my stinky tuna sandwich! Smelling the place up for the rest of you!

SUE

Geez. I didn't know it was that smelly.

CINDY

Yeah right! I bet you also "didn't know" someone noticed you wear the same stupid outfit everyday!

Everyone gasps.

CINDY

(a nasally, dumb voice and pulls out a prop for each thing mentioned)

"Look, it's me, SUE. I won't say thank you after you hold open the door for me and I eat my Sweetgreens at my desk like a little vegan gremlin!"

CINDY

(cont.)

"I'm just going to roll around in my squeaky desk chair and show pictures of my newborn grandson and look, here's my dog I bring everywhere!"

LAWRENCE

Isn't that a service dog?

CINDY

Nobody. Wants. Your DOG here!

JAMIA

I'm so uncomfortable right now.

CINDY

OH COME ON GUYS! It's Halloween! Come on, it's just a little fun. Now let's all say it--

Cindy tries to start a chant

CINDY

"We hate Sue! We hate sue! We hate sue!"

Awkward silence.

CINDY

(sighs)

Okay, nevermind. Look, I'm Gary.

She slaps a mustache on her face.

EVERYONE

Oh yeah, fuck that guy!

Blackout.

"RASPBERRY ROSE CROISSANT"

INT. TRENDY CAFE

BARISTA KYLA stands behind the counter wiping down the espresso machine. MARC, a trendy young man, walks in and pauses in front of the counter, staring at the menu.

BARISTA KYLA

Hi, welcome to Alfred Coffee. How may I help you today?

MARC

Hiiii. Hmm. I've never been here before. What do people usually get?

BARISTA KYLA

I recommend the Raspberry Rose croissant.

MARC

Oh! That's cute. I'm in more of a lunch-y mood. Do you have anything savory--

BARISTA KYLA

(seriously)
It's our best seller.

MARC

Hmm. Yeah, that does sound fun, but I don't know about the "rose" flavor.

BARISTA KYLA

(seriously)
Trust me.

MARC

Okkkay can I sample it first?

BARISTA

(friendly)
Sure thing!

Barista Kyla swiftly pulls up a sample tray with pieces of Raspberry Rose croissant already cut up.

MARC

Huh! It is good! But what about that basil scone--

BARISTA KYLA
(seriously)
What if I gave you it for free.

MARC
I'm sorry?

BARISTA KYLA
(seriously)
Is it a matter of price?

MARC
No?

BARISTA KYLA
(friendly)
Great! That'll be \$4.75 for the
Raspberry Rose croissant. Can I get
started on a drink for you?

MARC
I'm sorry. Actually, I don't want to
buy--

Barista Kyla pulls up the sleeve of her shirt and there is a
branded pentagram on her forearm. Marc is disgusted.

MARC
Oh god! Is that a pentagram?

BARISTA KYLA
Do you want the Raspberry Rose
Croissant now?

MARC
Okay. Yeah, I think I'm gonna leave.

BARISTA KYLA
You can't leave.

Marc starts to head towards the doorway.

MARC
Uhhh.... Yes I can.

BARISTA KYLA
If you leave, I'm going to get an
abortion.

MARC
What?

BARISTA KYLA

If you leave, I'm going to kill the fetus inside of me. And I'm at a place in my life where I want and have the means to take care of it.

MARC

Welll I mean... it's your body, your choice, right?

BARISTA KYLA

No, Marc. This time the choice is yours. You either take the Rose Raspberry croissant or kill my eight and a half month fetus growing inside me.

Barista Kyla steps out from behind the counter with a huge pregnant belly and a knife.

MARC

How... how did you know my name?! This is some kind of sick joke, right?!

Barista Kyla lifts up her shirt and without looking, starts to etch the words "Hail Satan" on her bare belly with the barista sharpie.

BARISTA KYLA

This is the only time in history it will ever truly be a man's choice to determine what a woman does with her body.

MARC

What did I do to deserve this?!

BARISTA KYLA

(demon voice)

Take the Raspberry Rose Croissant!

Dramatic string music starts to play in the background. The stage lights go from darker to lighter in a fast sequence. Marc looks at his two hands confused. An ASSORTMENT OF DEMONS come out and lyrically dance around the stage.

MARC

(SCREAMING)

FINE!!!!!!

Suddenly, the music stops and the stage goes dark. The lights

come back up to reveal Marc has the raspberry rose croissant in his hand. He takes a bite and blood comes out of his mouth as he says--

MARC

Do you take apple pay?

Blackout.

"THE PROPOSAL"

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT

A couple sits at a candle lit table. They look like they probably live in Los Feliz. It is very romantic.

DANA

This fettuccine is divine!

TAYLOR

That's not the only thing that's
"divine" at this table.

Dana laughs and twirls her pasta. Taylor grabs her hand.

TAYLOR

Dana, I have something really
important to tell you.

Dana drops her fork. She's been waiting for this moment.

DANA

(trying to play it cool)

Yes, Taylor?

TAYLOR

Dana, since our first conversation, I
knew you would be someone special in
my life. You are sharp as a tack, and
beautiful beyond words. Dana, YOU are
the one person in this whole world
that I feel like I can be my true self
with.

DANA

(holding back happy tears)

I feel the same way about you.

TAYLOR

And baby... I feel like it's time to
take our relationship to the next
step... You are the woman of my
dreams, my everything... and I'm a
flat earther.

DANA

Wait.

TAYLOR

(excited)

The world is flat and we're in a dome
and--

DANA

(impatiently laughs)

But babe. What were you actually going
to tell me?

TAYLOR

(confused)

What do you mean? OH, you mean how
does it actually work? Well, it's
pretty easy to understand. Our "globe"
is a flat disc. And on the rim of that
disc, is an ice wall called the
"Arctic circle."

DANA

You made a reservation at Le Petite
Fromage, the place where we had our
first date, to tell me this?

TAYLOR

I knew you'd understand how special
this was to me! Man, when I found out
that the ice wall was to prevent
people from climbing over and falling
off the flat earth, I felt like I
could see for the first time. You know
what I mean?

DANA

(angry)

I thought you were going to ask me to
marry you.

TAYLOR

Oh my god. I'm so sorry, that
definitely was not my intention! I
mean, yeah. Maybe in the future? Of
course! I definitely see you in my
life long term but there's still
things we need to talk about. Like our
flat earth.

DANA

Taylor, what does that have to do with
anything?!

TAYLOR

Ummm... You're acting like you've never heard me talk about our disc shaped simulation of a world.

DANA

I thought that was a JOKE. I thought you were some hipster who's obsessed with being ironic and sometimes says endearingly, awkward shit!

TAYLOR

Whoa... Dana... I think you're overreacting.

DANA

Overreacting?! I just spent \$65 at DryBar getting my hair done because I thought I was getting ENGAGED tonight and INSTEAD, I found out my boyfriend is a PSYCHO.

TAYLOR

You know what's ACTUALLY psycho? Those bitch ass cowards that can't WAKE UP to the truth. Dana, Dana, Dana. This information has been out for the last 500 YEARS. I thought you were smarter than this!

A fancy camera flash goes off.

DANA

Did you hire a PHOTOGRAPHER?

TAYLOR

(whispering through a smile)
Jesus, Dana! Yes! I thought tonight would be something to remember. Can you at least smile? I can't get my money back.

DANA

No, Taylor, I can't just SMILE. So wait-- YOU think that our world is actually flat? Like a pancake? So then what's underneath us?

TAYLOR

Rocks.

DANA

And the sun and the moon?

TAYLOR

Spheres that measure about 32 miles across and illuminate the earth in 24-hour cycles.

DANA

What about lunar eclipses?

TAYLOR

Anti-moon

DANA

Anti-moon?

TAYLOR

Yes, the anti-moon is a satellite--

MOM and DAD turn around from a nearby table.

MOM & DAD

(air quotes)

That passes between the "sun" and the "moon"!

DANA

Mom and Dad? What are you doing here?

MOM

Oh, honey! We wouldn't miss this moment for the world! When Taylor first reached out to us via e-mail, I thought he was asking for your hand in marriage too!

DAD

But then, he started sending us these really interesting YouTube playlists and everything kind of started to make sense!

DANA

AHHHHHHHH!

Dana flips their table. A waiter comes out with a cake that's shaped like the flat earth with a sparkler on top.

WAITER

I'll come back.

Black out.

"BABY COP"

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

A shady looking SUSPECT sits at a small table, hands cuffed in their lap with a dingy light overhead. BABY COP enters wearing a blue cop shirt with a badge and a diaper. Baby Cop is holding a folder of papers and a coffee (he rolls his R's, L's and W's).

BABY COP

(baby voice)

Well, well, well. Who do we have here?

Baby Copy takes a sip of their coffee and looks at the folder-- milk starts to gurgle out of his mouth like spit up.

SUSPECT

Wow, that's disgusting.

BABY COP

DISGUSTING?!! The only disgusting thing here is you, you nasty perpetrator.

SUSPECT

Isn't it "innocent" until proven guilty?

BABY COP

First of all, DON'T try to tell me the law-- I AM the law! Secondly, I'll be asking the questions here! Now...

Baby Cop points the light in the Suspect's face.

BABY COP

We all know you did it. There's lots of evidence to lock you up for life.

SUSPECT

Oh, I'm already hip to your ways, man. I've heard of you on the block. You're the dirtiest cop in all of Los Angeles.

BABY COP

If by dirty, you mean BEST-- then I'll take it. I know my reputation around here.

Baby Cop pulls a bib out of their pocket, wipes his mouth and attaches the bib to his neck while saying...

BABY COP

They didn't think a baby could get the job done. And now look at me. I'm the strongest and most results driven officer on the force.

Baby Cop takes out a blanket a puts it to his face, covering his mouth.

BABY COP

(muffled)

Domestic assault, armed robbery and two homicides in one night? That's just wrong.

SUSPECT

I'm sorry I can't hear you because...

BABY COP

(incoherent mumbling)

If you do the crime, you do the time.

SUSPECT

Is that a blanket?

BABY COP

(starts to tear up and moves the blanket)

It's comforting!

SUSPECT

Okay, sorry geez!

BABY COP

Now where was I....

Baby Cop pulls a paper out of the folder and slides it over to the Suspect. It's a crayon drawing.

BABY COP

Did you have to kill the old lady AND her dog?

SUSPECT

Hey, man. You can't pin this on me. That's a drawing.

BABY COP

A DRAWING?!? Oh brother. You're lucky I don't have my gun on me or I'd pistol whip your dumbass. That's an ARTISTIC DEPICTION as told by THREE witnesses that night!

Baby Cop puts up four fingers.

BABY COP

That's what you get when you pull up on a Seven Eleven during rush hour. If you're gonna be a criminal, at least be a smart one.

Baby Cop pulls out another piece of paper from the folder and slides it to the Suspect.

BABY COP

But I'll bargain with you. How about you sign right here and we can save ourselves the time and get this done with quickly.

Baby cop throws a fat crayon at the suspect.

SUSPECT

I'm not signing shit with this.

BABY COP

What if I told you you didn't have a choice? Hmmm? What if I told you, if you didn't sign it, you little brother Robbie would be going to prison tonight instead of you?

SUSPECT

(nervously)

Robbie? What does he have to do with this?

BABY COP

Let's just say... we've had our eyes on him for a while and it's our word against his weak alibi.

Baby Cop pops a pacifier in his mouth, motions a throat slitting and flicks off the suspect.

SUSPECT

Fine! I'll sign your damn paper!

The Suspect hurriedly signs the paper. They throw down their pen and put their head in their hands. The Suspect looks back up, sniffs the air and says...

SUSPECT

Oh god, what's that smell?

Baby Cop feels the back bottom of their diaper and looks in the front.

BABY COP

Time for me to get my diapee changed.
All in a night's work for Baby Cop.

Baby Cop walks out the door confidently, and before it closes we hear...

BABY COP

Okay, who's turn is it tonight? I made
a big tou tou!

Black out.

"A NEW TRADITION"

INT. LIVING ROOM

A suburban family's living room. Two comfy La-Z-Boy couches, a Pier 1 coffee table and fam pics abound. NANCY and TIM are in their 60's and dressed warmly for the Minnesotan winter. NATALIE and JON are obviously fresh off the plane from Cali.

NANCY

It's so good to see you two! I hope the flight from LA wasn't too bad!

TIM

You two look great! Natalie, you've really made my son the happiest man in the world.

NANCY

Better put a ring on it quick before she changes her mind!

They all politely laugh.

JON

Mom... Dad... we have something we want to show you.

Natalie pulls out her left hand, showing them a gigantic red Ring Pop.

NATALIE & JON

SURPRISE!

TIM

Is that a candy?

JON

No, it's an engagement ring!

NATALIE

Yeah, "dad". We're getting married.

NANCY

Are you two being silly?

JON

Natalie and I were talking about how you want us to get married--

NATALIE

But we have careers and life aspirations--

JON

So we decided to start an annual Christmas prank tradition!

NANCY

How fun.

NATALIE

It's cherry!

She gleefully starts to suck on it.

JON

But Dad. Mom. Seriously.

NATALIE

You've always been there for us.

JON

No more jokes. We both thank you so much. You've supported me through some of my most difficult phases and it's really important to me that I pay you back for everything.

NATALIE

We been saving up for months and are so excited to share this with you. We bought you a house!

JON

(snickering)

There's just one problem. We're not sure.. if you'll... fit.

Natalie and Jon pull out a doll house that has two creepy Tim and Nancy figurines taped to it.

NANCY

Those dolls are.... cute.

TIM

Well, I'm glad you entertain yourselves. I guess we'll help you unload your things from the car.

JON

No need, Dad-ums. We've brought all our luggage in.

NATALIE

Just keep your voices down. The little one is sleeping.

Natalie pulls out a baby car seat holder and lifts a swaddled bundle into her arms.

TIM

Okay, I see where this is going. Another prank.

JON

(earnestly)

Dadders, a baby isn't something to "prank" about. We just wanted to make the announcement on our own terms.

NATALIE

It takes us hours to get him back to sleep, but I think we've gotten into a good schedule.

JON

We named him after you, Daddy-whumpins. You're the most important man in my life.

NATALIE

(whispering)

Do you want to hold him?

TIM

(sigh)

Alright, sure. I'll hold him.

Tim puts out his arms to receive the baby. Natalie takes the bundle and dumps out 4 sirloin steaks on his lap.

NATALIE & JON

SURPRISE!

JON

We really pwned you on that one, daddio!

NATALIE

Dang, your parents really looked like

huge bitches that time!

Jon and Natalie fist bump.

NANCY

Taking it a little far with that
"bitches" comment.

NATALIE

We can't even have babies!

NATALIE & JON

SURPRISE!

NANCY

Okay, that's not a funny prank.

NATALIE

It's not a prank! My womb's as barren
as Joshua Tree!

JON

We've been raw doggin' it since before
we were even officially dating and no
babies!

NATALIE

After all that reckless sex, we
thought there would be at least one
accident!

JON

But don't worry-- we tested and we're
alllll good. I even snipped my tubes
just in case!

TIM

Alright! We get it! Stop pressuring
you guys into getting hitched. Fine.

Tim's phone starts to ring. Tim starts to reach for it and
then Jon quickly grabs it and answers the call. Nancy's
appalled.

NANCY

Oh, Jonathan!!

Jon holds his nose and makes a nasally, "loser" voice.

JON

Why hello there! It's Mr. Baddy Daddy.

Is your refrigerator running?

Jon's hand drops from his face.

JON

Thank you.

He hangs up the phone.

JON

That was the doctor. They said your cancer has spread to a stage 4.

NANCY

And you're written out of the will!

TIM & NANCY

Surprise!

Blackout.