

ISSUE 32

FALL

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ADVENTURIST™

THE COTTAGES OFFICIAL
ADVENTURE GUIDE

LIVE ADVENTUROUSLY



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FROM ADVENTURIST

October has a way of changing the pace.

The air finally cools, porches become part of the evening again, and The Cottages starts to feel a little different after dark. Fall has officially arrived, which means there is plenty waiting for you this month if you are willing to go looking for it.

Our famous Spooky Porch Contest returns, and we expect to see some serious competition. Whether your cottage turns into a haunted house or you keep things a little more subtle, this is your chance to make your porch part of the season. Ghoul's Night Out is also back, giving us another excuse to gather after dark and enjoy one of our favorite months of the year.

October is also when we start looking a little farther down the trail. Renewal offers go live on October 14, giving current residents the first opportunity to make The Cottages part of their next chapter. Keep an eye out for your offer and everything that comes with it.

There is another story continuing this month, too.

September introduced our first original Adventurist fiction serial and a new arrival named August. He came to The Cottages with one box, an empty room, and every intention of keeping his head down. One unexpected night at the lake changed that just enough. Now the season has moved forward.

October finds August more settled into the life forming around him. The room is no longer empty, the people he met are becoming harder to call strangers, and a Halloween Bash may reveal that someone in the group has been keeping a little secret.

You will have to keep reading for that one.

That is the thing about October. There is always something hiding around the corner, and sometimes the best part is not knowing exactly what you are going to find.

So decorate the porch. Stay out a little later. Say yes when someone asks you to go.

There is still plenty of season left to find.

—ADVENTURIST





OCTOBER EVENTS

#LiveAdventurously

PUMPKIN PATCH – OCTOBER 7TH ALL DAY

Start the Halloween season off right with a pumpkin for your porch! We will have a variety of pumpkins set up at the clubhouse for you to choose from as well as paint and carving tools to make it your own!

HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT – OCTOBER 13TH AT 7 P.M.

Nachos, candy, and a spooky movie under the stars with the cool fall breeze. What a night! Keep an eye out for our Instagram stories to vote on what movie we watch!

REVERSE TRICK OR TREAT – OCTOBER 22ND AT 3 P.M.

It's like trick or treating, but we'll come to you! Keep an ear out for a knock on your door because we will be on the other side with candy!

ADVENTURIST 
GHOU'L'S NIGHT OUT

– OCTOBER 28TH AT 7 P.M.

Food, drinks, Halloween trivia, and a \$100 prize on the line at The Cottages Halloween party! This after hours event will be the best way to kick off the Halloween weekend!





THE ADVENTURISTS



Ghoul's Night Out

There was something different in the air today. A crispness that seemed to catch hold, and it no longer felt like you were wrapped in a blanket. The leaves had begun to turn, their green fading to yellow and reds. It wouldn't be too long before the trees began to show bareness and their skeleton. It's been two months since I moved in. September had come and gone, and now we were deep in midterms. As I walked before the sky darkened, the October sky blessed me with a sunset that I hadn't seen before. Maybe I am just finally noticing the world around me.

"Will you stop staring off into the distance?" Mara said.

"I'm enjoying my gazing," I replied.

"Yes, but I was telling you about that boy that was flirting with me."

"And the verdict is?" I asked. "Also, you never told me who it was."

Mara now looked towards the cottage next to us as we walked. From the angle, I could see the grin spread.

"I like him." She answered but still keeping her gaze, and then I noticed it shift to a particular cottage.

"Wait, do I live with this person?"

"I never said that." Her eyes darted to the ground.

"Are you going to talk to him at the Halloween Bash?" I asked with a nudge.

"Are you even going, August?"

"Yes, Luca basically said I didn't have a choice. He apparently even picked a costume." I said, putting my hands up.

"That does sound like him." She said as we stopped at my door.

"Yes, which is why you should talk to him at the bash."

"Thanks, August, for walking with me."

"I will take that as a yes."

Mara laughed, walking away as I entered the house. The room felt more alive now. My bed frame and the rest of the basic furniture had arrived weeks ago. Books had started collecting on the desk, along with a coffee cup I kept forgetting to take downstairs. Luca had somehow left one of his sweatshirts over the back of my chair.

It was far from the box I had started with. I dropped my bag beside the desk and looked toward the sweatshirt. Mara had been staring toward our cottage long enough that I knew whoever she liked probably lived here. There were only so many options. I smiled to myself and the front door opened downstairs.

"August!" Luca shouted.

I leaned toward the hallway. "What?"

"Come here."

I made my way downstairs and found Luca standing in the living room with a plastic bag in his hands. He pulled something black from it and tossed it toward me.

I caught it against my chest.

"What is this?"

"Your costume."

I held up a black cape.

"No."



THE ADVENTURISTS

"You haven't even seen the rest."

"I've seen enough."

"You said you were coming."

"I said I was coming. I never agreed to whatever this is."

Luca reached back into the bag and pulled out a pair of plastic fangs. I stared at him.

"You want me to be a vampire?"

"A tasteful vampire."

"What makes it tasteful?"

"The shirt."

He pointed toward another bag on the couch.

I looked inside and found a white button-down shirt.

"You bought me clothes?"

"You can pay me back."

"That makes this worse."

Luca laughed as he walked toward the kitchen. "You'll survive."

I followed him.

"What are you going as?"

He opened the refrigerator. "Pirate."

"Of course."

"What does that mean?"

"It means I somehow knew that before you told me."

He closed the refrigerator and looked at me for a second.

"You've gotten meaner."

"I just know you better."

The words left my mouth before I thought about them. Luca smiled, but this time neither of us made a joke.

Halloween came faster than I expected. By the time the Bash started, the property barely looked like the same place I had moved into. Lights had been strung around the event area, music carried across the cottages, and costumes seemed to get more ridiculous the closer we got.

Luca had somehow committed completely to being a pirate. Mara arrived dressed as a witch, though she insisted it was not because she lacked imagination.

"It's a classic," she said.

"It's a hat," Eli replied.

"You're wearing a football jersey."

"I'm an injured quarterback."

"You're not injured."

Eli lifted one leg slightly. "Emotionally."

June shook her head. "I almost stayed home."

"You say that every time," Mara said.

"And one day I will mean it."

I adjusted the cape around my shoulders.

Mara looked at me. "You actually wore it."

"I lost a battle."



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"You look good."

"Thanks."

Her eyes immediately moved past me. There it was again, and I followed them. Luca stood a few feet away talking with Eli. I looked back at Mara, and she caught me.

"No."

"I didn't say anything."

"Your face did."

"August."

"I'm just enjoying my gazing."

She narrowed her eyes at me. I walked away before she could hit me. For the next hour, I did something I had not expected to do. I enjoyed myself. Not tolerated it. Not waited for enough time to pass so leaving would seem reasonable. I actually enjoyed it.

We wandered through the crowd and judged costumes we had no right to judge. Eli entered a contest he had not prepared for. June disappeared for ten minutes and returned with enough candy to concern everyone. At some point, I realized I had lost Mara as I looked around. She stood near the edge of the crowd with Luca, and they were talking. Nothing dramatic. Luca said something, and Mara laughed, brushing a strand of hair away from her face.

Then Luca looked past her toward me. He raised his eyebrows, and I looked away immediately.

"Subtle," June said beside me.

I nearly jumped.

"How long have you been standing there?"

"Long enough."

"You do that too quietly."

"You were distracted."

I glanced back toward Luca and Mara as June followed my eyes.

"Oh."

"You knew?"

"I suspected."

"Why did nobody tell me?"

"You've known Mara for a month."

"That feels irrelevant."

June laughed and handed me a piece of candy.

"Leave them alone."

"I was planning to."

That lasted maybe five minutes as Eli appeared beside us.

"Where's Luca?"

June pointed toward the crowd without looking. Eli followed her hand.

"Oh."

"Don't," June said.

"I wasn't going to do anything."

"That sentence has never been followed by something good."

Eli smiled.

I grabbed the back of his jersey before he could move.



THE ADVENTURIST

“Absolutely not.”

He looked at me.

“You too?”

“Yes.”

He sighed dramatically. “This group has become hostile.”

I let go of him.

Across the event, Mara was still talking to Luca. I should not have cared. A few months ago, I wouldn’t have. These people were supposed to be temporary. Friends I happened to make because we lived near each other. People who would eventually scatter when school ended and life moved on.

That was how things worked. People left. But standing there, watching Mara laugh while Eli complained beside me and June stole another piece of candy from his pocket, I realized I wanted this to work. Whatever this was. I wanted Mara to get the boy. I wanted Eli to keep making stupid arguments that made no sense and for June to keep pretending she hated all of us. The thought settled strangely in my chest.

“You okay?” June asked.

I looked at her.

“Yeah.”

“You disappeared again.”

I looked back toward the crowd. “Just thinking.”

“That usually seems dangerous for you.” she said and I smiled.

“Probably.”

Later that night, the music had quieted and people began drifting back toward their cottages. Luca and I walked home together. He still had the pirate hat on and I still had the stupid cape. Neither of us mentioned Mara and I waited until we reached the front door.

“So.”

Luca stopped.

“No.”

“I didn’t say anything.”

“You were about to.”

“I was going to ask if you had a nice evening.”

“Go inside, August.”

I laughed and opened the door. Behind us, someone shouted across the parking lot. Music still played somewhere farther down the property. The October air had finally turned cold enough that I could feel it against my hands. Luca went inside. I stayed outside for another second. The trees were darker now, their leaves shifting beneath the lights. Soon they would be bare. The season would change again whether any of us were ready for it or not.

Two months ago, I had arrived wondering how quickly I could leave. Tonight I found myself wondering how long this could last.

*Make sure to check next month's issue
for the next adventure*

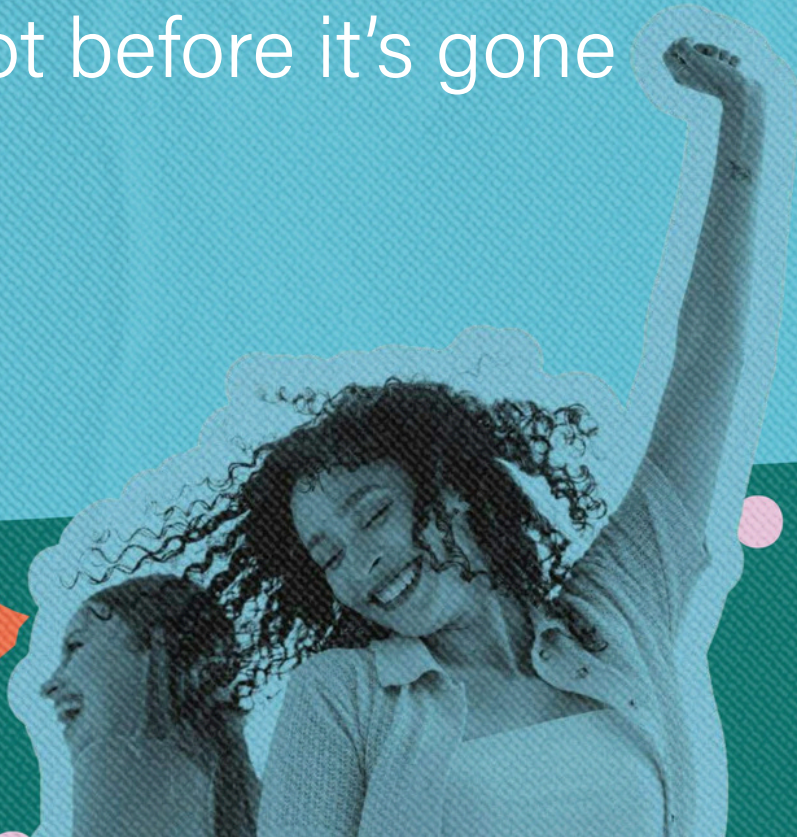
RenewalPalaza

**Renewal Season
Is Here**

Offers are live

October 14th

Secure your spot before it's gone





SPOOKY SEASON

October has arrived at The Cottages, and spooky season is the perfect time to get out, have fun, and make memories with your favorite people! Whether you're decorating your porch for our Spooky Porch Contest, joining us for Adventurist Ghouls Night Out, or checking out other Halloween events happening around Hattiesburg, there's always something to look forward to. Gather your roommates for a scary movie marathon, dress up for a Halloween party, or spend a cozy night hanging out at home after a busy day of classes.

College is about more than just classes and studying—it's about the people you meet, the experiences you share, and the memories you make along the way. At The Cottages, you have a place to come home to, relax with friends, and make your space your own. This October, get out, get involved, and enjoy everything spooky season has to offer. And if you're looking for your next home, don't let your spot disappear like a ghost—come see what The Cottages has to offer and find your place before it's gone!

Things to do:

1. Decorate and enter your cottage for our annual spooky porch contest. Fair warning: competition is fierce, but have fun with it
2. Check out what's happening here in Hattiesburg or simply walk through the Lucky Rabbit for their spooky Halloween displays.
3. Make sure to attend Adventurist Ghouls Night Out on October 28th. Costumes encouraged
4. Check out Zoo Boo at the Hattiesburg Zoo
5. Have a safe and Fun Halloween on October 31st



COFFEE WITH MAINTENANCE

As the temps cool make sure to keep your AC or heat on “Auto” to help keep your house comfortable. Also be aware that the first time you turn on the heat, you may smell some dust burning off the coils. This is normal, but if you see any smoke please reach out to us.

ON THE HORIZON

October is coming and going and soon the Holidays are approaching, but first we have some gathering moments to get to. On the horizon we have several project happening and friendsgiving in the works. We can't wait to see what the rest of the fall season has in store.



HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO ADD FOR OUR NEXT
ISSUE? LET US KNOW AT COH@CREIMAIL.COM



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