

# Terrifying Beauty: Overwhelming feminine allure can indeed be a curse...

Amanda Hawkins

## TERRIFYING BEAUTY



Madam? Behold! I have created for your son the ultimate Halloween costume: a beauty so terrifying grown men will fear to tread, or to even approach. Feminine allure so powerful no man will be able to look away. You like?

Oh my lord... *is that* my William? What've you done to him? He looks... he looks like...

A real girl? Or rather, a woman? Yes, that's the general idea. Who would ever suspect that this vision of female grace could be a mere costume?

Well, yes... I'm sure you're right. But... my goodness. He looks so... *so real*. I know he's on the small side for a young man, but I still don't see how you could turn him into such a beautiful woman. *Is--is this* some sort of put-on? William, sweetheart? *Is that* really you?

He can't answer you. He's been hypnotically conditioned to respond to the name Cynthia, which I've always rather liked. As for the rest of it... do recall that you hired a special effects cosmetic *artiste* for this job. I take great pride in my work. Your son is wearing a mask made of a new silicone-latex blend that perfectly mimics human skin. I crafted it to enlarge his eyes, enhance his cheekbones and change the overall shape of his face. His hair has been colored, styled and extended with real human hair from a young actress I know who needed some fast cash. His breasts are the same material as the mask, color-matched to his own skin and secured using a surgical bonding agent--which was necessary for the strapless gown I had in mind. His entire body has been shaved, pumiced and moisturized to provide him with the proper complexion. The makeup I applied was the final touch. Et voilà!

Mother... please, don't listen to him. I don't want to be a girl...

Please, mother, don't let him do this... I don't want to be his girlfriend...

I see... Well, you've certainly gone to an awful lot of trouble. Far be it from me to second-guess the boy. He must want to win that silly costume contest awfully badly to let himself be gussied up like this. He even got himself hypnotized, did he? So he *has* to act like a girl? My goodness. *Is this* his way of coming out? ... *Is he* a transsexual?

I'm afraid that may be the case. He was quite insistent every step of the way; every aspect of this new image had to be perfect. He even speaks differently now... or he will when his throat recovers.

Well I'll be. The mother is always the last to know, isn't she? Still, the girl *is* rather pretty. I'm sure she'll win, provided he can prove he's actually wearing a costume.

Oh, I should have mentioned... Cynthia won't be going to that little neighborhood party after all. She'll be attending a soiree tonight, as my guest. She'll meet lots of faces; people in the film industry. I'm hopeful that it will open a few doors for both of us.

Really? That would be wonderful. Frankly, anything that gets the boy out of the house has my approval. I suppose he'll stay out all night... Goodness knows what shenanigans you crazy movie people get up to.

All night, yes... I shall indeed keep her entertained, you can be sure of that. I've got big plans... big plans.

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