

STORIES FOR A SUMMER BEACH PARTY

Genre/Themes: Horror-Comedy-Fantasy (Anthology)

Logline: Partiers around a campfire hear an anthology of four tales that range from ghoulishly slapstick to disturbingly agoraphobic to shamelessly macabre, and finish up with one of thought-provoking but inspiring redemption.



Synopsis: (with script page reference)

1 It's Summertime, a crackling campfire at night, and a multigenerational beach party! With kids aged seven to seventy-seven expecting to be entertained, everyone crowds around to be spooked, enthralled or both.

The first story is called "Toaster!":

8 Sweet old EVEY and DAN make breakfast in their run-down bungalow. They especially enjoy a good piece of toast, made in their trusty 25-year-old toaster - which they've affectionately nicknamed "Ruthie".

9 But trying to clean old Ruthie is a chore for Evey, so Dan paints it and it looks as good as new. But when they next make toast, the heat of the toaster makes a chemical reaction in the paint so it stinks up the house!

Reluctantly, Dan and Evey have to throw out their old workhorse.

12 However, the toaster has more life in it, and soon a college student buys it from a pawn shop and takes it home to a loft where he lives with two other students. But at the first toasted bagel, again the terrible smell arises and the students lob the toaster into a dumpster. Good riddance!

14 As years pass, the stink-raising toaster is sold and re-sold, lost and re-found, for instance at a flea market. It even goes international - appearing malevolently in Jamaica, Italy, China, and the Middle East.

15 Even as the toaster is dumped in a donation box, it makes it onto TV, where it's reported on widely. Meanwhile, the student who bought it at the pawn shop is determined to spread the legend of the "killer toaster".

Finally, the toaster ends up in a dump and is crushed by a tractor. It seems to be done for... but still, a light flickers and a hum sounds!

16 Soon, it ends up in a posh house with lots of other antiques, with a family of four. When they try to cook frozen waffles, the terrible chemical smell rises again, and everyone has to flee the home. Afterward, their wise old Grampa explains that if you're throwing out a dangerous appliance you should cut off the electrical cord!

Off comes the cord, and the toaster ends up in a lake.

17 However, eventually it washes ashore and is re-discovered...

By the original senior-citizen owners!

Except they've learned their lesson, and now when they make toast with their beloved "Ruthie", they wear scuba-diving face masks!

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