


### YUMMY MUMMIES

These jalapeño poppers are perfect for a post-trick-or-treating snack. Find the recipe on page 149.

# On my desk THIS MONTH



It's October, and my thoughts turn to Halloween... and zombies. I am a huge fan of AMC's *The Walking Dead*, a TV show about a group of survivors in a postapocalyptic society populated by the undead. It allows me this luxury: For an hour I can enter a world that's a whole lot worse than the real one (these days that means sneering politicians, ugly public discourse and me before my morning coffee). My favorite character is Carol, a gray-haired (yes!) badass zombie slayer. Some 18 million people watch the show, which may help explain why Halloween is America's hands-down favorite holiday. October 31 is the only night of the year when we can safely act out what truly scares us. To celebrate, WD created 11 pages of frightfully fun pumpkins, decorations and food (page 15). No zombies, but you can get your fill by tuning in to the new season of *The Walking Dead* on October 23. Happy Halloween!

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### THIS MONTH'S READ

I couldn't put down Ann Patchett's terrific new novel, *Commonwealth*, the story of a messy but loving stepfamily (\$27.99; amazon.com).

### WISE MOVE

Looking for a quick costume? A felt mask does the trick (\$11.99 for 7; amazon.com).

### WRITE TO US

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