

The
MONSTER
in My
Basement

Written by
Dave Preston

Illustrated by
Heather Lynn Harris



The
MONSTER
in My
Basement



A City of Light Imprint





Groan!



I found a **monster**
in my **basement**,
oh what a **big surprise!**





His hair was red and matted.



Yellow were his eyes.

He looked so **sad** and **lonely**.
I wondered what to do.



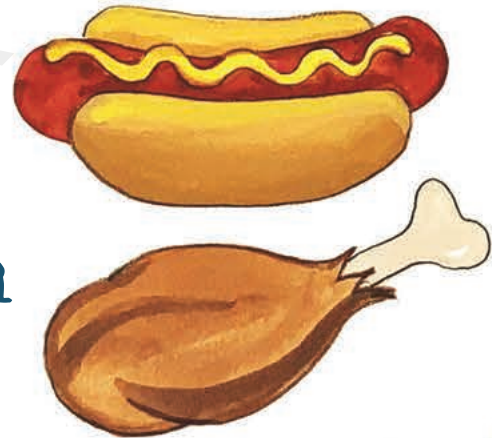


He said,
“I’d like a bite to eat.
How about you?”

I wondered what
he wanted: **fruit**
or tuna **fish**?



Chicken
or a **hot dog**
or **ice cream** in
a dish?

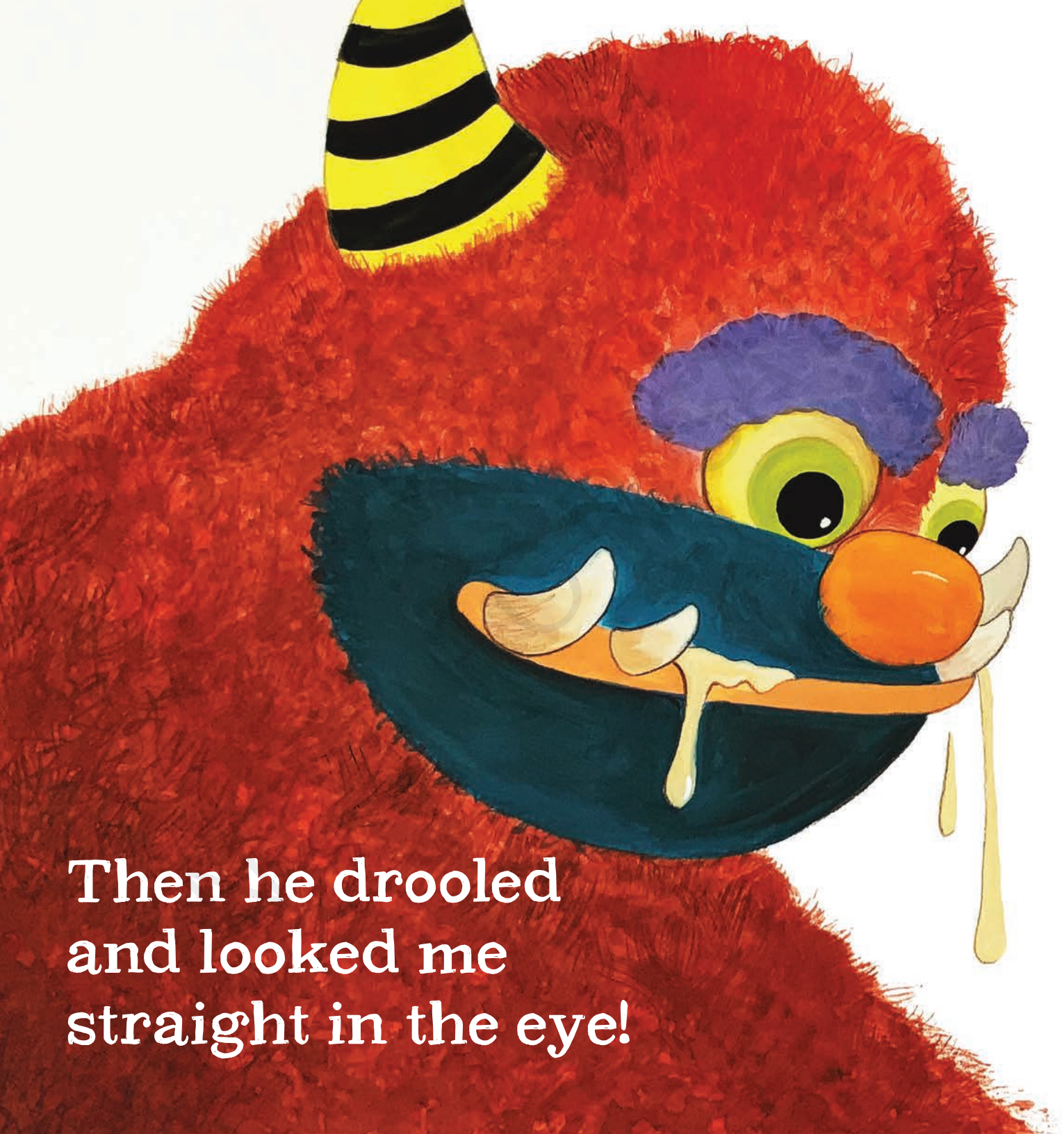


How about
spaghetti?



or sweet
potato pie?





Then he drooled
and looked me
straight in the eye!

I began to...

Shake a little bit,
shake a little bit,
shake, shake, shake,
shake, shake...

I wondered—
had I made a
big mistake?





He said his name was,

HOWARD.



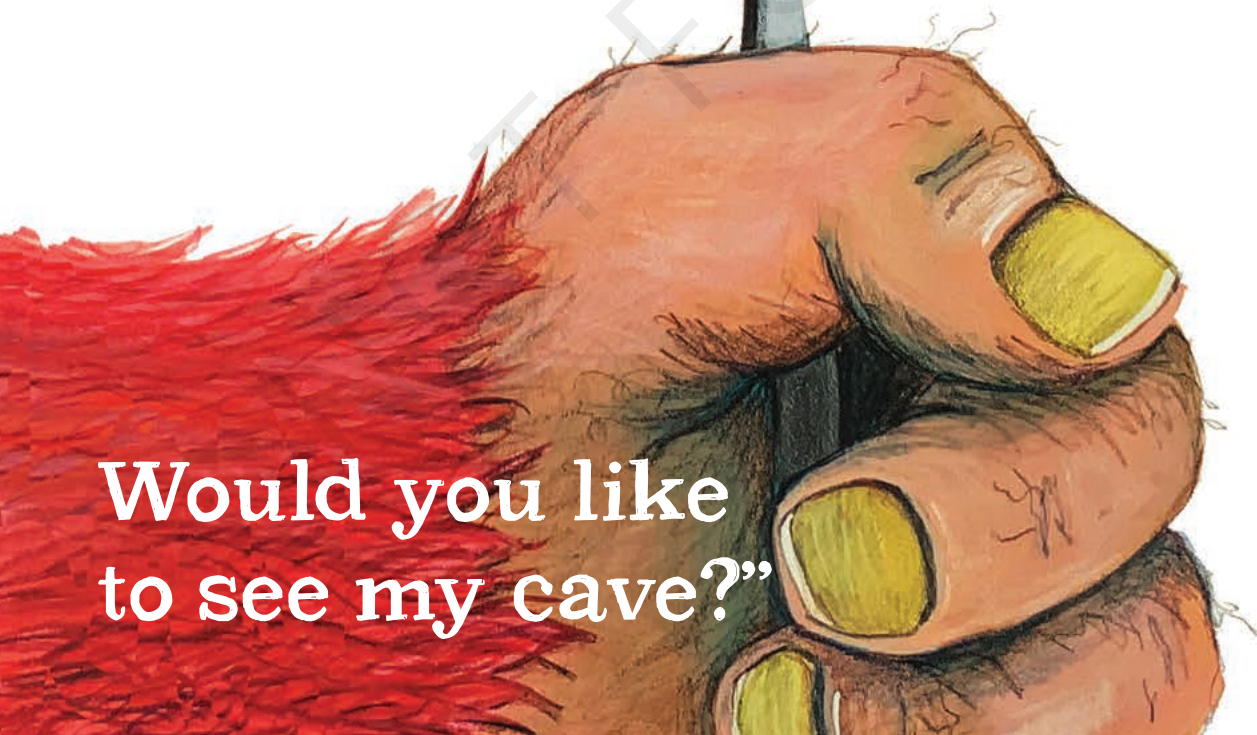
I said my name was

DAVE.

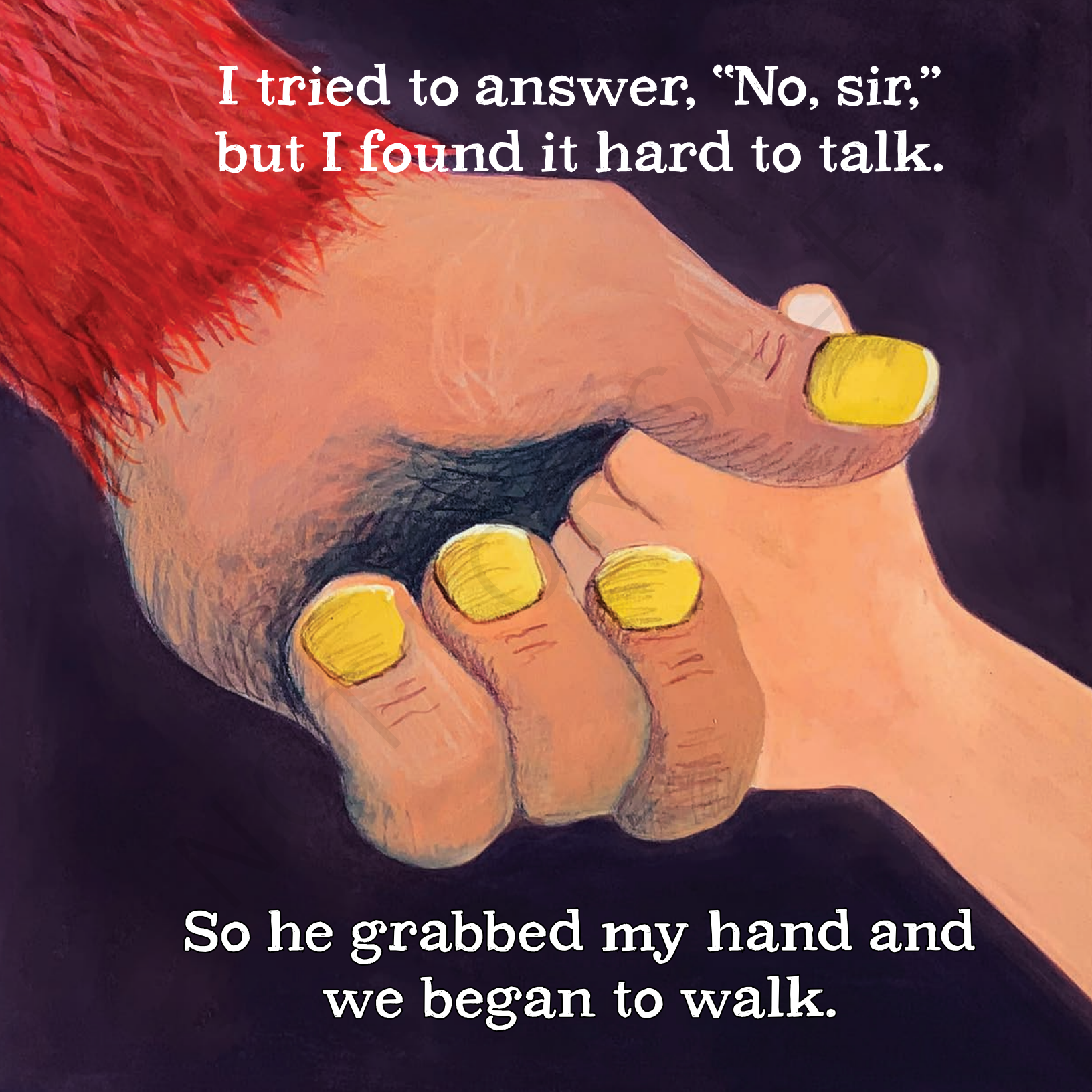
He said,
"I'm really hungry."



Would you like
to see my cave?"



I tried to answer, "No, sir,"
but I found it hard to talk.



So he grabbed my hand and
we began to walk.

We strolled out through
the courtyard and
down the merry lane.





He told me
he was starving.
I tried to feel his pain.

We stopped to buy some napkins,
some pepper and some tea.

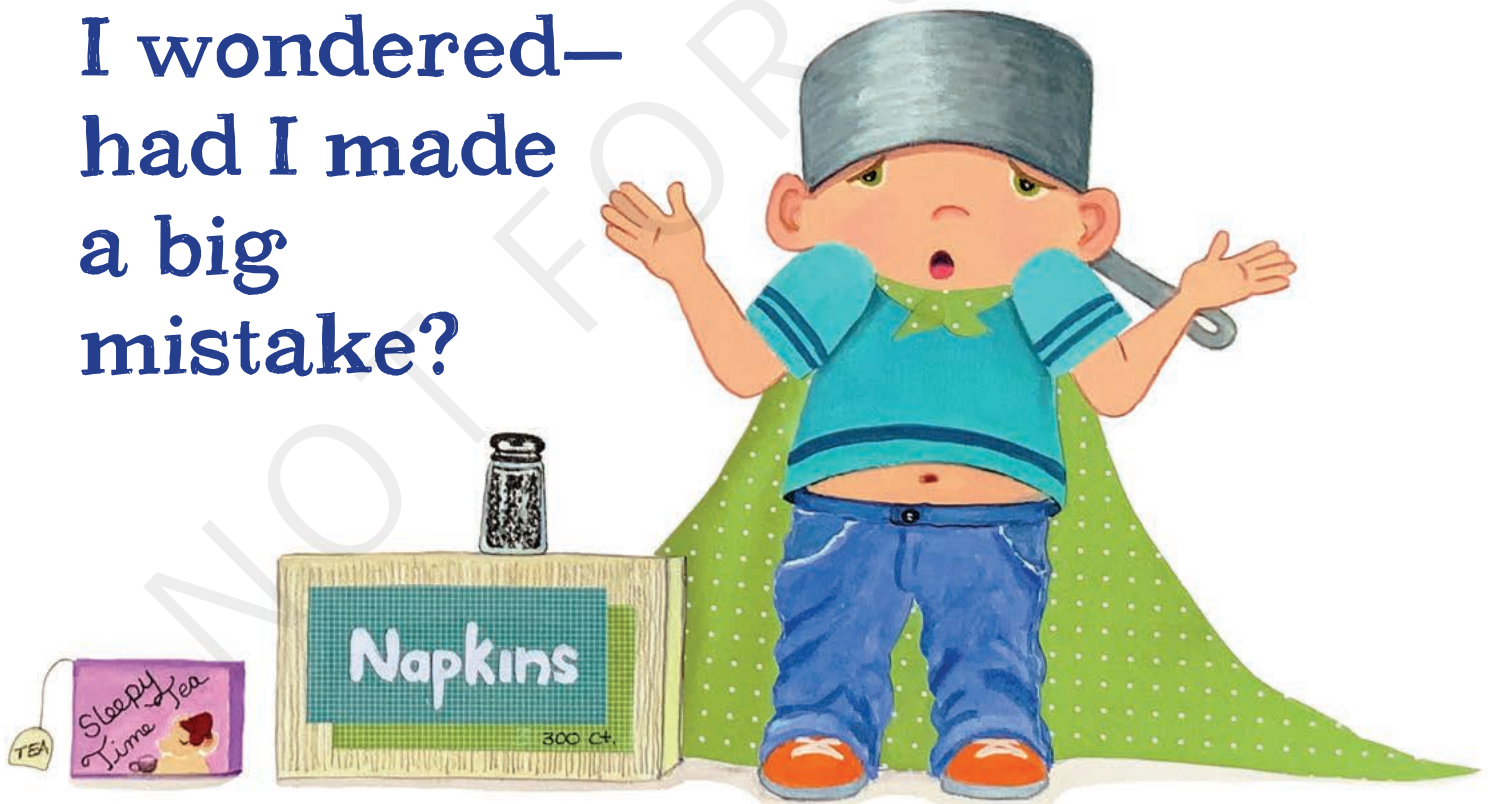



Oh, what would you do
if you were me?

I began to...

Shake a little bit,
shake a little bit,
shake, shake, shake,
shake, shake...

I wondered—
had I made
a big
mistake?





**We came around
the corner
and there was
Howard's mom.**

**“Who'd you bring
for dinner?”
she asked
so sweet and calm.**



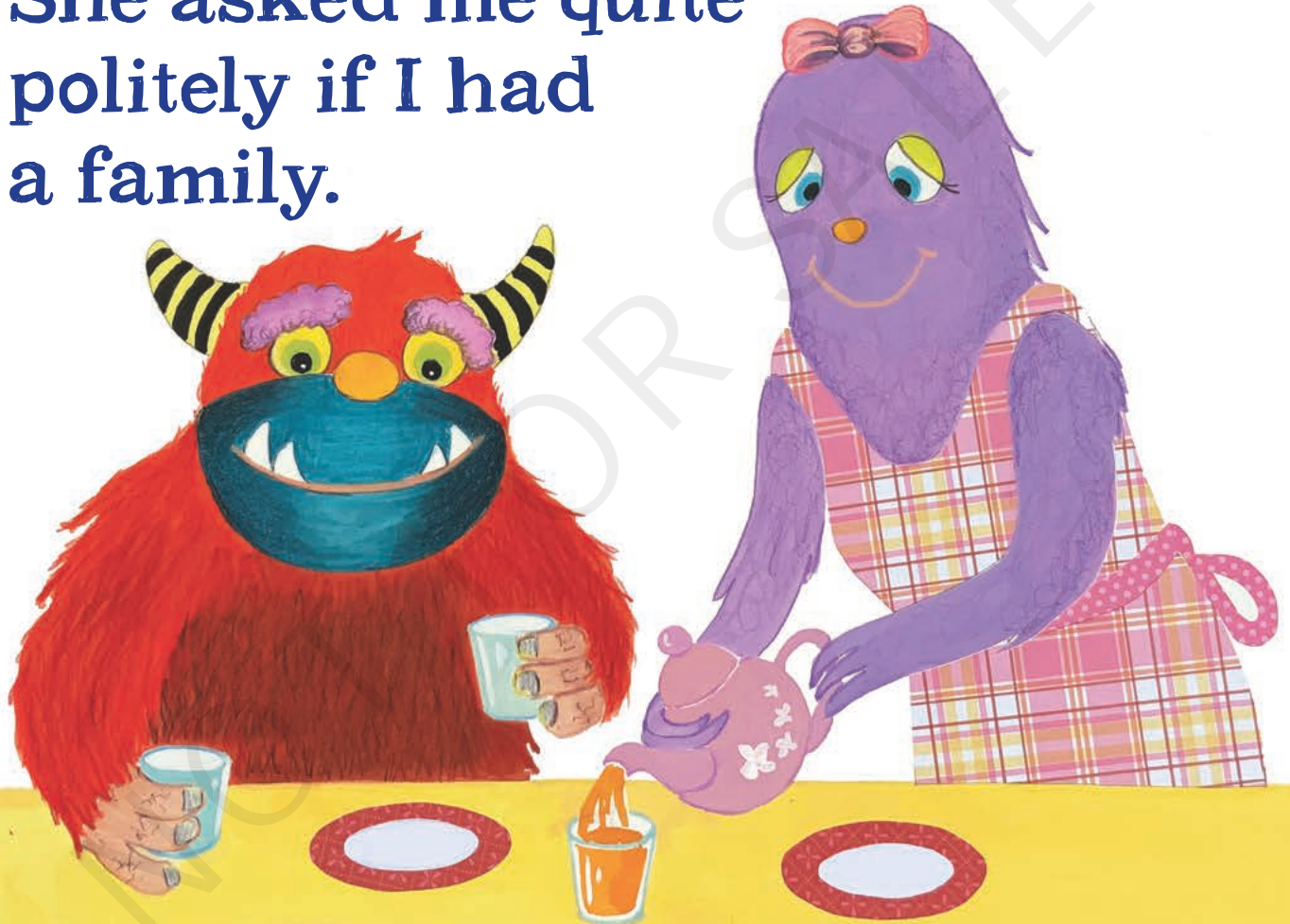
I gathered all my courage ,,
and said, "My name is **DAVE**."

Then she grabbed my arm
and pulled me into
her cave.



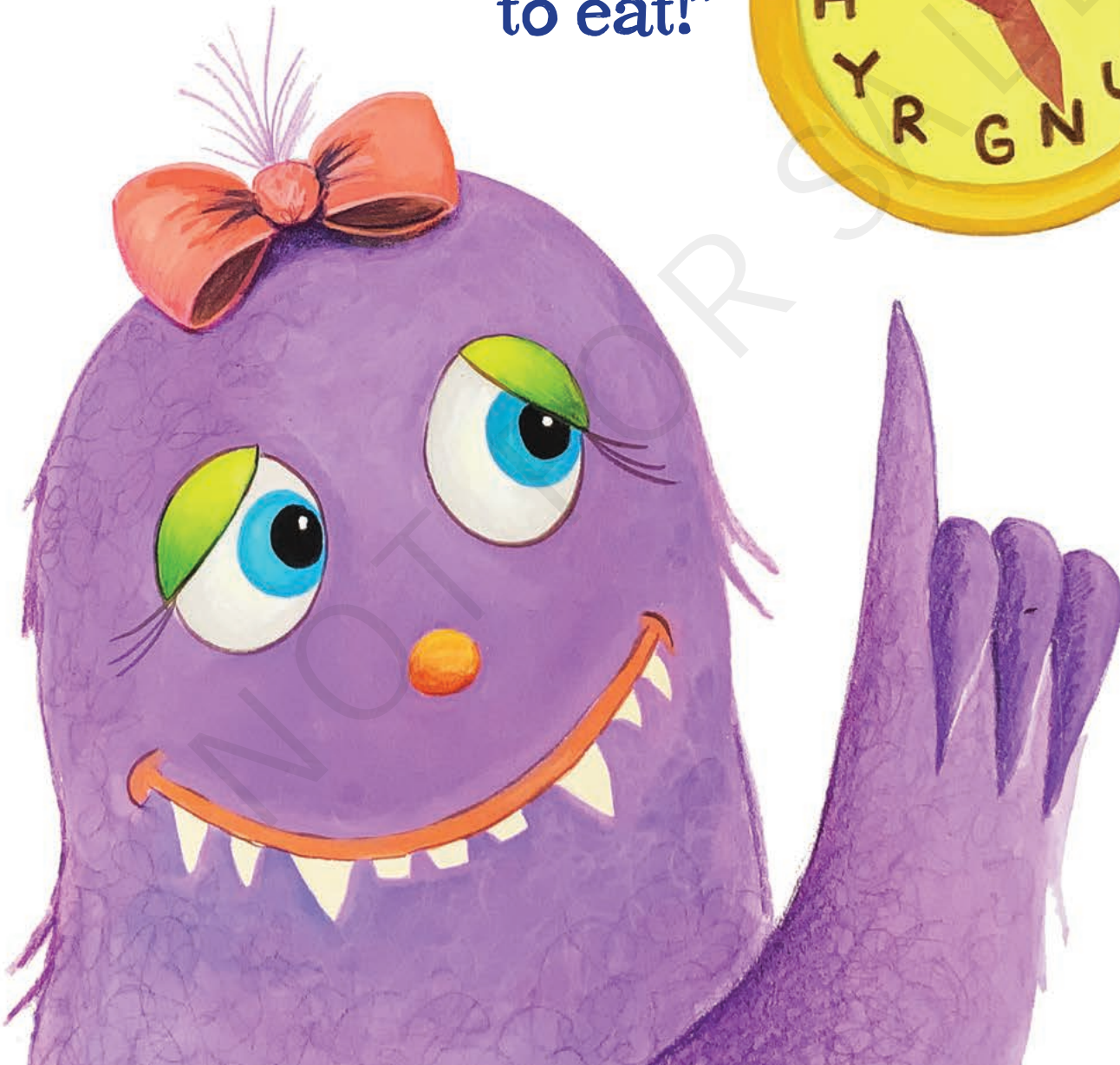
Howard set the table.
His mother poured the tea.

She asked me quite
politely if I had
a family.



I answered, "Yes, I do ma'am,
who someday you should meet."

Then she smiled
and said,
“It’s almost time
to eat!”



I began to...

Shake a little bit, **shake** a little bit,
shake, **shake**, **shake**, **shake**, **shake**...

I wondered—
had I made a
big mistake?



Howard put his bib on, and a grin spread through his face.

My heart was thumping loudly
as we bowed our heads
for grace.



Just then I heard the doorbell
and what to my surprise,



Bing-Bong



Stood a man with
two dozen pizza pies!



We sat and ate our pizza,
which I must say
was quite great.



I stayed to help with dishes,
'til I noticed it was late.



I turned and said, "I'm sorry,"
as they finished up their tea.

“But for a while I thought
your dinner would be

ME!”



They began to...

Laugh a little bit,

laugh a little bit,

ha, ha, ha, ha, ha...



It seems that I had made a

BIG

mistake!



THE END

Scan the code below to listen to the song,
and turn the page to read the lyrics and music!



Or visit www.HowardTheMonster.com to listen!

Howard

Words & Music by Dave Preston

D Bm Em A

I found a mon - ster in my base - ment oh what a big sur - prise His
won - dered what he want - ed fruit or tun - a fish

D Bm Em A D Bm

hair was red and mat - ted - Yel - low were his eyes He looked so sad and lone - ly I
chick - en or a hot dog or ice - cream in a dish or how a - bout spa - ghett - ti or

Em A D G 1. D A

won - dered what to do He said I'd like a bite to eat how a - bout you! I
sweet po - ta - to pie? Then he drooled and looked me straight in the

2. D Bm Em A

eye I be - gan to Shake a li - ttle bit Shake a li - ttle bit Shake Shake Shake Shake Shake

D Bm Em A D Bm

Shake a li - ttle bit Shake a li - ttle bit Shake Shake Shake Shake Shake Shake Shake Shake a li - ttle bit Shake a li - ttle bit

Em A D G D

Shake Shake Shake Shake Shake I won - dered had I made a big mis take!

MEET THE Author

Whenever Dave Preston enters a school or a childcare center to sing his songs, you're likely to hear a swelling chorus of, "Mr. Dave is here! Mr. Dave is here!" This singer-songwriter from Western New York has been delighting children of all ages with his original songs, such as *Papa's Car*, *The Lobster Dance*, *Munchkin Express* and *The Boo Boo Song* for more than ten years. "The Monster in My Basement" is based on his original song *Howard*. Mostly retired now, Dave still visits with children's groups occasionally with his daughter, who has followed in her dad's footsteps. Dave lives in Brockport, New York, with his wife, Debbie. They have three children and four grandchildren.



MEET THE Illustrator

Heather Lynn Harris began creating art at the scary-young age of five and has pursued art and monsters ever since. Educated at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, California, she made her publishing debut as the illustrator of *The Swing* and has seen "monstrous" success ever since, including

winning a 2018 Silver Moonbeam Award for her third picture book *Five Hungry Mice*. She has five published picture books, two of which she authored and illustrated. *The Monster in My Basement* is her latest. She lives in Orchard Park, New York, with her husband and their three monsters, one of whom lives in her basement!



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There's a monster
in Dave's basement!
His name is
Howard and he's
very hungry.

Howard invites
Dave to dinner.
But will Dave eat
dinner or
BE dinner?

The thought makes
Dave **shake** a little bit,
shake a little bit, **shake**,
shake, **shake**, **shake**, **shake**.

Has Dave made a big mistake?



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