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## Brave Little Monster

*By Ken Baker*



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BRAVE LITTLE MONSTER relates the humorous bedtime exploits of a young monster trying to go sleep while a scary little girl hides in his closet eating ice cream and a little boy colors under his bed. The wonderful illustrations by Geoffrey Hayes and fun storyline by Ken Baker make BRAVE LITTLE MONSTER a perfect bedtime story for little monsters everywhere. "Little monsters fear little girls and boys hiding in their rooms in this delightful parody of a nightly bedtime ritual.... Newcomer Baker brings humor to a situation that often has children in tears and parents unable to cope." (Kirkus Reviews) "Add this one to your collection of bedtime books. It's a humorous story that will show kids that even if there is a monster under your bed, it's probably more scared of you than you are of it!" (Hedgie Review from Hedgehog Books) "Hayes's colorful artwork is clever... Telling a tale from the monster's point of view is an enticing concept." (School Library Journal) "Baker's use of role reversal puts a unique spin on the bogeyman story line that should delight young readers." (Pittsburg Post-Gazette) Visit Ken Baker's website:

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## **Brave Little Monster** By Ken Baker Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

PreSchool-K-This story puts a spin on Mercer Mayer's *There's a Nightmare in My Closet* (Turtleback, 1968) and James Howe's *There's a Monster under My Bed* (Atheneum, 1986). Albert, a monster, is terrified of little boys and girls. He knows they lurk in his closet and under his bed, waiting to eat him up. His mother tells him that there are no such phenomena, but this does nothing to alleviate his fears. Finally, with pounding heart, Albert confronts the demons so that he can sleep. Unfortunately, this silly story lacks charm. Baker gives too many plot details that negate any element of fear (a boy playing "piggie" with the monster's toes is not scary). Hayes's colorful artwork is clever, adding details of a bone for a curtain rod and a monster portrait on the wall, but too busy, thus detracting from the story. Telling a tale from the monster's point of view is an enticing concept, but it has been done more creatively in Philippe Corentin's *Papa!* (Chronicle, 1997) and Jackie French Koller's *No Such Thing* (Boyds Mills, 1997).

*Be Astengo, Alachua County Library, Gainesville, FL*

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### **About the Author**

Ken Baker's love for children's books began during childhood, when his parents and older siblings would relate favorite stories of Peter Cottontail, Dr. Seuss, Epaminondas, Curious George, and the three bears. That love for children's books grew as Ken read and made up bedtime stories for his own children.

Geoffrey Hayes's many popular books for children include the My First I Can Read Book *Thump and Plunk, Bear by Himself, The Patrick Bear Books*, and many beginning reader adventure; about *Uncle Tooth and Otto*. He lives in San Francisco, California.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

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