

# Always Monsters



A Tale by  
Byron Gramby

"No people come into possession  
of a culture without having paid a heavy  
price for it."

~James Baldwin

A B C D E F G H I J K  
A B C D E F G H I J K

L M N O P Q R S T U V  
L M N O P Q R S T U V

W X Y Z  
W X Y Z



Latron was sitting sadly, stirring,  
thinking about his day at school.



When all of a sudden a  
"KNOCK KNOCK"  
at the door.

Puzzled,  
Latron reached for the door...



All of a sudden-



-he was whisked away  
to another world!



Into the belly  
of the  
beast!



Latron found himself in what appeared to be a school.



A creature  
appeared  
and said,

"Are you lost, boy?

I can tell you aren't from here. I can show you the way home."



"Thanks mister,  
I'm just trying  
to find my way,"  
said Latron.



"HEY, BOY!

What are you  
doing outside during  
school hours?"

All of a sudden,  
another  
monster appeared!



"It's not  
my fault!  
I'm lost,"  
said Latron.

"You sure are, boy.  
Consider this strike one,"  
belched the monster.

"I don't much like this bizarre place, mister,"  
groaned Latron.





"Well boy, you sure are well spoken  
for a human.

This here is the land of Monsters,"

said the purple monster.

"This would be  
your school."



Latron walked  
into the classroom

and realized no one looked  
quite like him...



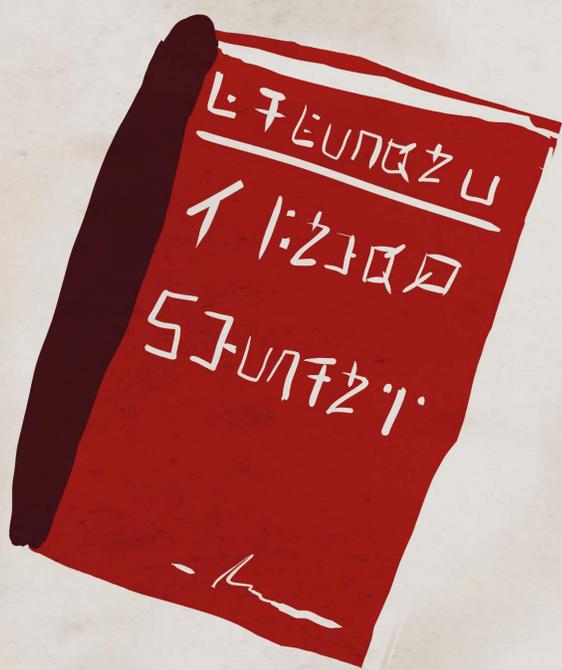
Monsters of all shapes, sizes, and colors.

The monsters laughed at Latron





The books didn't make any sense.



The books weren't made for him.

Latron discarded the book.



Disappointed, feeling  
shame in himself  
he left the school.





"Can't do it huh?"  
asked the purple monster.

"Yea huh, I could in time.  
I just can't make sense of  
your bizarre language,"

replied Latron.

The giant green monster appeared once more!

"Strike three, BOY!"

"You failed to be in school,  
you drop out,  
now you roam the streets."

"We don't need thugs here,"  
roared the monster.



"How can I be a part of something  
that wants no part of me?"

asked Latron.



"Off to jail with you!"

**FWISH!!**





"Latron..."

"Latron?"

"Baby boy, where are you?"



Latron woke up in his  
grandmother's arms.

"I had the worst dream!  
I felt so alone, like I didn't belong.  
They sent me to jail and...there were  
monsters."





"Baby boy, there are always monsters,  
but it's up to us to be smarter,  
and stronger, and more loving so that  
they can't make us doubt ourselves."

"We have to know,  
and love ourselves  
before we can chase away  
the monsters at our door."



"Always...monsters?"