



THE
NOTEBOOK OF
DOOM

SNAP OF THE
SUPER-GOOP

by Troy Cummings

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To Edie: Some people say you were just a cat. But to me, you were a member of the family—a hairball-hacking, flea-ridden, toddler-chomping, dog-chasing member of the family. R.I.P.



Thank you, Katie Carella and Liz Herzog, for shaping, molding, and sculpting my story into something awesome. And for smoothing out the lumpy parts.

Thank you, Professor Vaglia, for grading Alexander's homework.

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THE
SALAMANDER
REPORT

It was way past bedtime when Alexander put down his pencil. He smiled at his drawing of a bug-eating, wall-climbing, tongue-flicking creature.

KNOCK-KNOCK! Alexander's dad stepped into the room.



“How is your homework going, kiddo?” he asked.

“All done,” said Alexander, holding up his report. “I hope my teacher likes it.”



“Dr. Tallow’s going to *love* it!” said his dad.

“Now, get some sleep!”

Alexander climbed into bed.

“Sleep tight, Al,” said his dad. He turned out the lights.

Alexander thought about how much fun he’d had writing his salamander paper. He had been writing similar reports ever since moving to Stermont. But these other reports were not about animals. They were about monsters.

Alexander pulled a beat-up old notebook from beneath his pillow.

Salamanders are not really fire monsters, he thought. Then he opened the notebook to read about a *real* fire monster.




FLAME-DEER

Gentle, woodland creature
THAT BREATHES FIRE!



DIET

Burnt marshmallows, overcooked
popcorn, toast the color of charcoal.



TSSSS! On rainy days, a flame-deer becomes a steam-buck.

WARNING! Don't touch the antlers! YEOWCH!

HABITAT

5 miles south of North Dakota.



FUN FACT

Flame-deer hooves shoot sparks when they scuff blacktop.



Alexander closed the notebook.

A flame-deer must have burned those pages when it battled the old S.S.M.P.! he thought.

S.S.M.P. stood for “Super Secret Monster Patrol.” The original S.S.M.P. had created the notebook to protect Stermont from monsters. The monster patrol now had three members — Alexander and his two best friends:

SUPER SECRET MONSTER PATROL

CLUB MEMBERS



The leader!



Brave and clever!



**Short but ~~sweet~~
strong**

And tomorrow, we might be adding a new member! Alexander thought. He smiled, and drifted off to sleep.