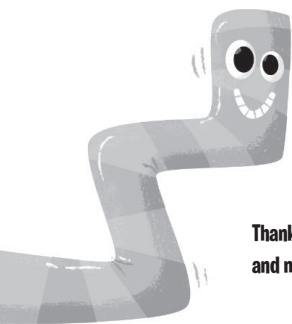


THE  
**NOTEBOOK OF**  
**DOOM**

**RISE OF THE**  
**BALLOON GOONS**

by Troy Cummings

 **BRANCHES™**   
SCHOLASTIC INC.



## To Penny and Harvey: Stay out of trouble.

Thank you, Katie Carella and Liz Herzog, for taking my ideas  
and making them better.

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Summary: Alexander has just moved into Stermont, but the elementary school is being torn down, his new classroom is located in the hospital morgue, a notebook he finds is full of information about monsters—and everywhere he turns there are spooky balloon men determined to attack him.

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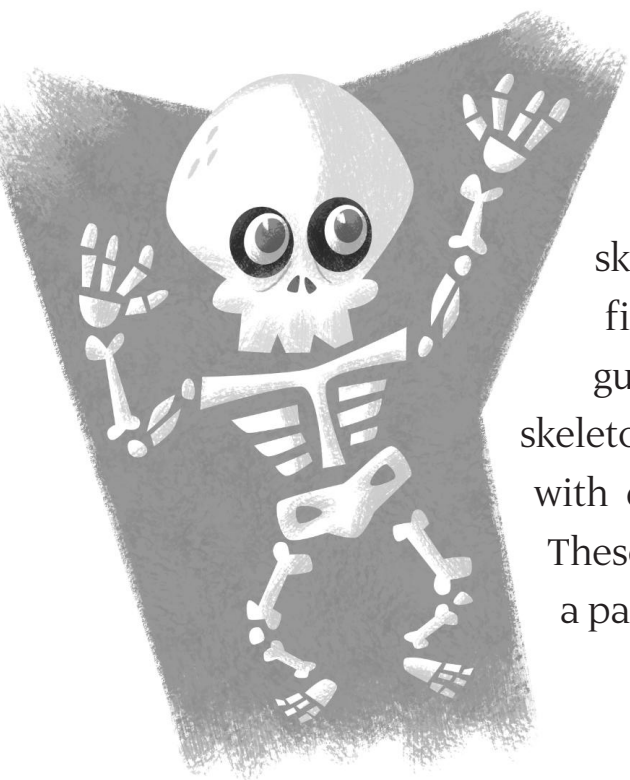
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## STERMONT



Once there was a pile of bones.



Actually, the bones weren't in a pile. They made up a small skeleton, which was filled with squishy guts. On top of that skeleton sat a huge skull with deep eye sockets. These eye sockets held a pair of googly eyes.

The whole thing would have been really gross, except it was covered in a layer of skin and had a mop of curly hair on top. This mop-haired, bug-eyed, gut-filled bag of bones was named Alexander Bopp. And he was scared to death.



Alexander was scared of:

1. spending his first night in a new house;
2. going to a new school in a new town; and
3. having to make new friends.

Alexander rolled over on his air mattress and looked out the window. The moon lit up a row of rooftops, behind which stood a water tower that said STERMONT. Alexander's new home.

