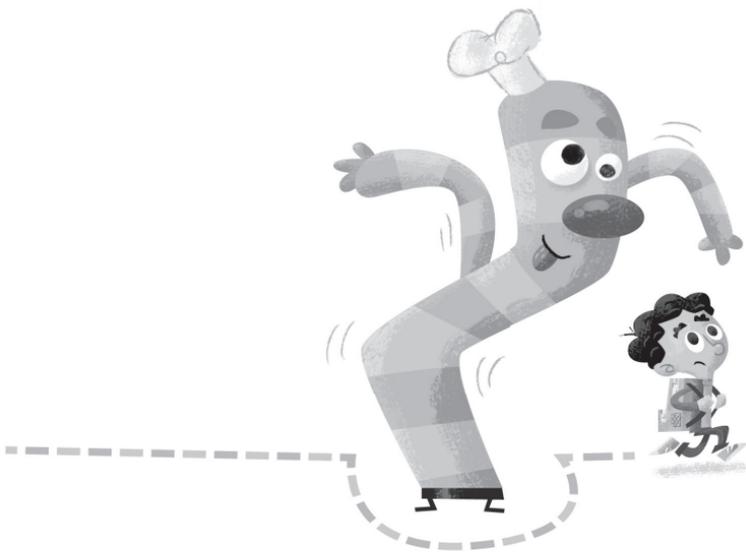




# THE NOTEBOOK OF DOOM



Troy Cummings



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

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

by Troy Cummings

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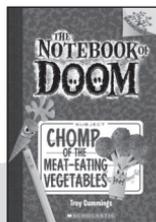
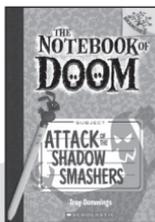
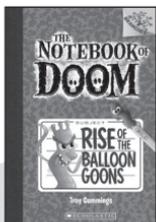
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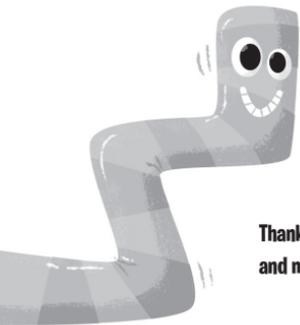
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## To Penny and Harvey: Stay out of trouble.

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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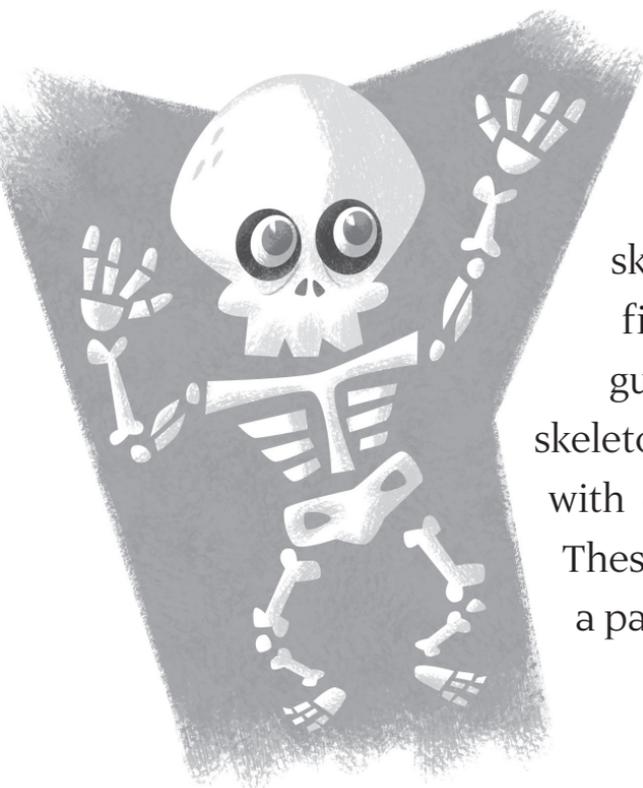
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## STERMONT



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.



FRIGHT  
AND EARLY

**A**lexander's dad drove slowly down Main Street. "I'll look on this side, and you look on that side. This town must have a breakfast place."

Alexander looked out his window. They passed a park, a bank, a comic-book shop . . . and then someone dancing like crazy on the sidewalk. Wait, it wasn't a person. It was one of those bendy balloon guys that businesses put out to attract customers. It was yellow, and it was

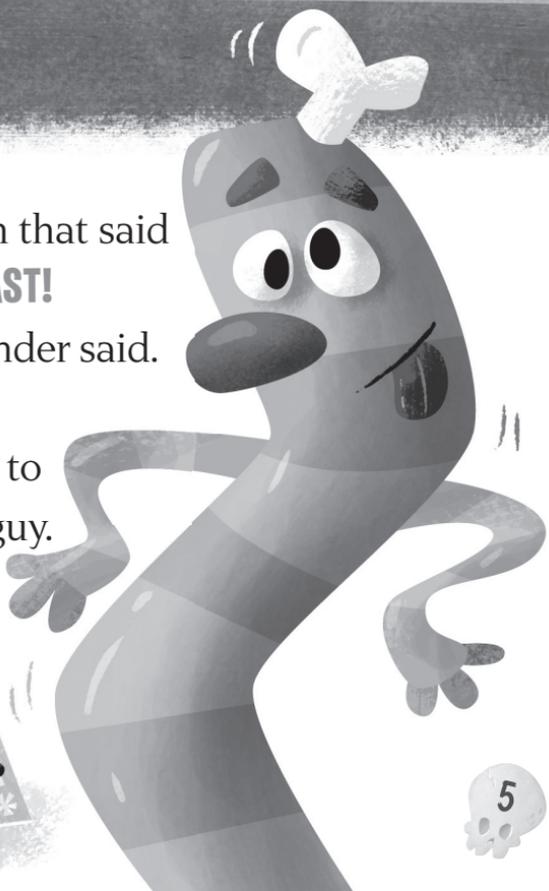
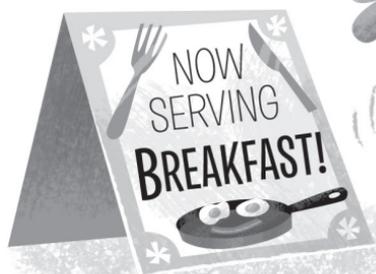


wiggling beside a sign that said  
**NOW SERVING BREAKFAST!**

“Hey, Dad,” Alexander said.

“Here’s a place.”

They parked next to  
the dancing balloon guy.



# SMACK!



“Whoa!” Alexander jumped in his seat. The balloon guy had flopped right onto the windshield. It snapped back up and continued to dance.

Alexander’s dad shook his head. “You’re jumpy today, Al. That’s just a big bag of air.”

“I know,” said Alexander, uncovering his eyes.

“In fact,” said his dad, “we should be happy to see this goony-balloony. Otherwise we might have missed this diner.” He made a dopey face and wiggled his fingers

at the balloon figure. “Thanks, balloon goon!”

Alexander smiled. Then he walked the long way around the balloon and into the diner.

