



## Monster Chefs

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The horribly horrible monster king summoned his four equally horrible chefs.

"I am tired of eating only eyeballs and ketchup," roared the king.

"Find me something new to eat or you will find yourselves on my menu!"

Trembling with fear, they each set off in a different direction to look for something truly scrumptious. But what, besides eyeballs and ketchup, could a monster king possibly want to eat? A rabbit? A fish? A snake? What one finally brings back may change dinnertime in the kingdom forever.

A Neal Porter Book

## Monster Chefs Details

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## From Reader Review Monster Chefs for online ebook

### **Heather says**

This is another cute story that my kids enjoy. Not surprisingly, my son seems most interested in it. And he's particularly excited about the recipe in the back for "Eyeball Cupcakes" — no, I haven't made them. Maybe around Halloween? We'll see. The illustrations are cute, too — especially when we consider that these monsters eat eyeballs and ketchup! It's not one of my absolute favorites, but my kids like it enough for me to call it a keeper! :)

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### **Kelsey Sant says**

Monster Chefs is as an excellent book to read around Halloween. The thing that makes this book great is the adorable and creative drawings of the monsters. This would be an excellent book to have children do an art project off of where they draw their own monster and his/her favorite food. The plotline is basic, but fun. Great for younger students!

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### **Sara Grochowski says**

When the horribly horrible monster king grows tired of only eating eyeballs and ketchup, his four chefs set off to find something new to please his palate - or be eaten themselves. One by one, the chefs return home, each having been foiled by a clever rabbit, fish, or snake. As three of the chefs smother themselves in ketchup, the fourth chef returns to the kingdom with an innovative (and sweet!) surprise that saves the day! A monstrous tale filled with creativity and cupcakes, MONSTER CHEFS is sure to make monsters of all ages smile.

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### **Pamela says**

This picture book is *so long*. I guess it was co-written by the author's son, but he must have a massive attention span. I got bored reading this. The only cute thing was the recipe for eyeball cupcakes at the end, but you can find that in pretty much any kids' cookbook.

A miss.

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### **Asho says**

My four-year-old picked this book out and then ended up being a little nervous about it. He seemed amused when we read it together, but then asked a bunch of questions about monsters, and what they eat, and whether they are real, and do they eat people, etc. He asked to bring it home from the library but then we only read it again once more. My 1-year-old didn't understand it at all, of course! :-)

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### **Kelsey says**

Age: Toddler-Kindergarten

Food: Cupcakes

I feel like this book had a lot of potential but fell short on the somewhat boring illustrations and the developing (or stagnant) plot. It appears as though Anderson was trying to imitate Axe Cop (both books are co-created with child and son) but Anderson was too controlling of his child's imagination.

I do like that the monsters only eat eyeballs and ketchup. No words were truer said by a child.

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### **Erica says**

Yeah, yeah, I'm a jerk for not loving a book co-written by a five-year-old. Heard it all before.

The thing is, this starts out really well: "The king happened to be a horribly horrible monster, which made him an excellent king" Wonderful beginning!

The ending involved eyeballs so is obviously also delightful.

It's the middle that tripped my things up.

I understand why there is repetition but I would have liked different answers from the different delectables encountered and I got bored and barely even looked at those parts. This is a kid's book and I couldn't be bothered to read the middle because it bored me? Dude, that's really bad.

Personally, I would have liked the illustrations to have been darker. Not scarier but darker. There's so much white space, light colors and, to me, a horribly horrible monster king would have more gray, more shadows, more...dark all around. I also bemoaned the lack of detail; I imagined what this would have looked like had it been a Mercer Mayer book: way more fun and interesting.

It's like grown-ups are scared of pictures of monsters scaring the little children. That is what pictures of monsters ARE FOR. I swear, if the current generation grows up to be unimaginative and boring? Oh, I don't know what I'll do. Move to some other place where kids are allowed to be safely scared witless, I guess.

Back to the book. It's a fun idea that tumbles into an ok story with ok pictures. Everyone who likes to feed their children happy funtime, scary-lite stories will love it.

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### **Amy Fournier says**

\*Actual rating 3.5 stars

What a fun book this one was!! I was a little worried about the whole monster thing because my daughter gets scared easily, but she really loved this one. The Monster King is not very nice and he orders this chefs to go find him something new to eat or he will eat them. I liked seeing the different things that they brought back and what The King thought about them.

Each chef goes a different direction to find something for The King. They are all on the verge of giving up when they stumble upon something. Though, when they bring it back, it is not acceptable to The King. When they think the last chef is not going to return, he finally does. He has something that will change the kingdom. It also changes The King.

The King is more than pleased with what the last chef brought back and he actually dances around. My daughter found this hilarious. She also knew that it wasn't very nice of The King to want to eat the other monster chefs because they didn't bring him back food that he wanted. This one was cute, but a little on the gruesome side for girly girls like my daughter. This book also contains a really fun recipe in the back for Eyeball Cupcakes. My daughter keeps begging to make them.

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\*An advanced copy of this book was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. I did not receive any compensation.

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### **Mary says**

This is a delightful read for young children, which, while fun, also left me with the sentiment "gross" at the end, haha. It is fun, and great for all children because of its gender neutrality, repetition, and wonderful pictures. The recipe at the end of the book makes the story come alive! It is one that I look forward to sharing with my own children someday.

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### **Kellie Fronk says**

I loved this book! I thought the words and illustrations worked well together to provide the reader with the correct mood and tone that only added to the interest level of the book. I also liked the twist at the end. I could use this book in my classroom to teach multiple things, there were many different animals and characteristics that could be studied, but also the different descriptive words that could also be studied.

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### **Samantha says**

The monster king has grown tired of the same old food and sends his 4 chefs to seek out a new dish. The chefs head in all different directions and encounter seemingly perfect dishes that all warn if you eat them, you will become them. It is the 4th chef though who brings back a pastry chef who helps the monsters discover cupcakes!

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Reads like a modern day fairytale making this a fresh read aloud for PreK-2+, especially because the monsters are less scary, more odd, and at times reminiscent of the Monsters Inc. crowd.

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### **Jennifer Strong says**

When the monster king wants his chefs to serve him something other than eyeballs and ketchup they set out to fulfill his wish. Unfortunately, three return empty handed. Their fate lies in the last chefs hands... Did he

find something new and delicious for the king to eat?

This book is probably best for kids six years old and up. Younger children might not quite understand that it's okay for monsters to eat eyeballs, but an older child would find it silly. I like the sketched illustrations and the ending was pretty cute! It even included a recipe, which I think kids would enjoy making after reading the story.

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### **Emily says**

I received a free copy of this book through the GoodReads First Reads giveaways.

My three year old son could not wait for me to read this book to him. I told him we would read it after lunch and he kept asking me every five minutes to read it to him as he was really attracted to the cover. When we finally sat down to read the story, my son was still and captivated through the whole reading. That is quite an accomplishment. The illustrations are wonderful, full of color and entertaining. The story is cute and kept the attention of my three year old. He has already requested a few encore readings. I would definitely recommend this book to any child between the ages of 3 and 7.

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### **Go says**

My kids had me read this several times and at the end of the book there is a recipe for Eyeball Cupcakes which inspired my kids to cook. It was so funny to them that the monsters only ever ate eyeballs and ketchup. The Monster King summoned his four chefs and threatened them to find him something new to eat or they would end up on the menu. When three of them were unlucky I was surprised by their blind loyalty to their King. They willingly resigned themselves to return home to be prepped, served, and eaten; in fact three of them even doused themselves in ketchup. Ridiculous Monstrosity!

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### **KC says**

A funny tale of monsters, eyeballs, ketchup and cupcakes!

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