



# Valensteins

*Ethan Long*

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**Valensteins** Ethan Long

Something strange is in the air on this dark, cold night.

The members of Fright Club are always ready to scare, but tonight Fran K. Stein has something else on his mind. He's busy making something, and the other monsters want to know what it is.

Could it be a mask with fangs? A big pink nose? Or maybe a paper butt? No . . . it's a Valentine!

That means one thing . . . **EEEEK!!** Is Fran in love? What could be scarier than falling in love?!?

In this hilariously spooky story by Geisel Award-winning author and illustrator Ethan Long, even the scariest of monsters have true feelings.

## Valensteins Details

Date : Published December 19th 2017 by Bloomsbury (first published 2017)

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Author : Ethan Long

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# From Reader Review Valensteins for online ebook

## Laura says

**“Do you think Fran... gulp ...is in LOVE? EEEEk!”**

Valensteins by Ethan Long is a silly, sweet tale about Fran K. Stein falling in love. His friends, who we met in Fright Club, try to explain and understand the thump-thump-thump of the heart when love comes into play. I won't get *too* mushy on you. I'll let the monster gang tell you all about the fluttering eyes, paper hearts, and feelings. Feelings! EEEEK! Haha....For me, this was a fun way of trying to explain love to young readers.

This Halloween meets Valentine's Day read made me smile and laugh. Even the yucky love parts made me smile. :D You have to see Fran's sweet, shy smile.

Recommended. Check it out!

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## June says

Rounded up because I liked the effort of trying to explain what love is

"...love isn't about being mushy mushy or fluttering your eyes or kissing someone on the lips... ...and it certainly isn't about cutting out paper hearts. "Tee-hee! It looks like a paper butt." It's about something you feel in your real hear, even if it does feel a little funny sometimes."

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## Sandy says

This is cute children's book. So, what is love? Does it make your heart feel like butterflies? Does it make you feel all mushy inside? Does it mean you have to kiss someone? To the individuals at Fran's Fright Club, they think falling in love sounds terrifying and yucky yet to Fran, it feels just right.

This children's book had me laughing and smiling as I turned the pages and I thought my granddaughter would just love it. Fran is caught making a pink heart by Vladimir and Vladimir proceeds to let everyone know in the Fright Club exactly what Fran is doing. No scary noises for him tonight. Pretty soon, the whole club is in on the action, voicing their opinions as to what this actually means. Is Fran in love and what does love actually mean? Oh, my goodness this is a funny and comical book. Fran though, does not let his friends get him down as they poke fun at him. The illustrations are an added bonus and you just have to read the book a second time, it is just that good! I love it, I can't stop looking at the pages and smiling. I want to share it, I am sure everyone will enjoy it. It's not just for Valentine's Day, it's a fun read, everyday book.

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## Matt says

What do you get when you mix the monsters of Hallowe'en with the season of love? This cute little story by Ethan Long! When Fran is caught cutting out a paper heart by all of his friends, they wonder what's going on. It is only when someone discovers that Fran may be in 'love' that things get a little intense. The ghoulish gang learns about love in all its forms and wonders if Fran can be feeling all that. Wanting to isolate himself, Fran takes things into his own hands and discovers that sometimes, love just cannot be put into words. Neo liked this story, finding some of the reactions a little funny. With some great themes in a short piece, this is a wonderful book for the young reader, either to read or listen to someone else!

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## Gina says

I think this is the first children's book I have read about when one child starts getting crushes and their friends are all still at the thinking it's gross stage. It could probably be better, but it fills an empty spot and telling the story with monsters give kids who don't care about the subject matter yet a way in.

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## Hope says

My new favorite Valentine book. Would be a hilarious read aloud - I can already see the kids laughing. Totally caught me off guard. I was cracking up in the store reading it.

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## Kimberly says

Very cute. Lots of opportunity for read-aloud fun with this one, as the options for funny voices are endless.

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## Dimity Powell says

Funny Valentine's spoof with tons of heart.

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## Schizanthus says

So, I decided to read a love story to coincide with the royal wedding and naturally chose a picture book. The Fright Club members are all practising their scares, from the ghost's *Boo!* to the butterfly's *Blah!*, but Fran K. Stein is doing something weird with pink paper, scissors and glue.

Several of the Club members try to guess what Fran is making (the ghost's paper butt guess is the best one) before Bunny explains what Fran is **really** up to. It turns out that it's Valentine's Day and Fran has made a

pink paper heart, which leads Sandy the witch to wonder the scariest thing of all...

“Do you think Fran ... *gulp* ... is in LOVE?”

Bunny then tells the bewildered Fright Club members what love is, terrifying them more and more with each new piece of information. Fran is reminded what love really is when his Valentine appears. Aww! ?

The illustrations in this book are adorable! With muted colours and expressive characters I loved every picture. My favourites are those that show the horror of the Fright Club members when Bunny is explaining what love is.

This culminates in a two page illustration with the characters’ “EEEEWWW!” expressions. Sandy the witch looks decidedly nauseous and may vomit at any moment. The ghost has its eyes screwed up tightly and its tongue has escaped its mouth, looking to be mid “Blech!” The spider’s eyes are goggled. Vladimir, the werewolf, mummy and butterfly also have priceless expressions.

I’ve read this book three times over the last couple of weeks and I love it each time. In fact, if any of you are desperately searching for a Valentine’s Day present for me ? I’d love my own copy of this book. I definitely have to read Ethan Long’s other books, especially this book’s companion Fright Club.

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### **Jessica says**

So cute and really told about liking someone.

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### **LizzyBerry says**

I think this would be a hit for storytime, lots of comedy. May use for my Valentine's storytime.

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### **Joss says**

SO CUTE.

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### **Emily says**

This was super cute.

And paper hearts do look like butts.

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## Gary Anderson says

Imagine the “Monster Mash” song as a Valentine’s Day picture book, and you’ll have the general idea of Ethan Long’s *Valensteins*. It’s mostly just silly fun (with two butt jokes) about Frankenstein’s crush and his monster friends’ attempts to understand it. The final pages move beyond the silliness to a statement about how love is more than “being mushy mushy or fluttering your eyes or kissing someone on the lips.”

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## Abigail says

That monstrous crew, the Fright Club, return in this second picture-book devoted to their adventures, this time confronting the terrifying reality of... love! Fran K. Stein in making a Valentine, something his fellow monsters (and other cute members of the club) have trouble understanding. Surely love, with its mushiness and kissing, is gross? Or is it...?

Like its predecessor, *Valensteins* pairs an engagingly spooky tale with appealing, dark-toned illustrations. Young children will enjoy the silly humor, as the members of the club try to figure out what the pink heart Fran K. Stein is cutting out, is meant to be. Could it be a pink butt? The teeth of a frightening mask? The conclusion, in which our hero and his lady love are labeled "weird" for sitting and looking at the moon, had me finishing up the story with a chuckle. Recommended to anyone who read and enjoyed *Fright Club*, or who is looking for spookier Valentine's Day fare for the picture-book set.

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