



Little Monster joins the carnival

A story written by Valérie Cros and illustrated by Clotilde Perrin.



Standing at the window of his castle, Little Monster is waiting with excitement. Suddenly, he can hear the sound of music and laughter. "It's them! It's the children!" Little Monster exclaims.

That's right, today is the day of the carnival. The carnival is the only time that Little Monster can play with the children from the village without scaring them.

A happy group of children in costumes walks by, shouting and laughing. There are fairies, elves, a pirate... and even a little girl dressed up as a vampire with long teeth.



Little Monster comes down from the castle's tower to join them. He introduces himself politely.

“My name is Little Monster. Can I play with you?”

The children reply, “Sure! Your costume is great!”

“Thanks,” says Little Monster, but he’s not wearing a costume! Little Monster doesn’t tell them that...

Little Monster goes with the children through the colourful streets of the village.

Together, they yell, “We want sweets! Sweets for the carnival!”

The villagers have packets of goodies that they hand out, laughing.

Little Monster is having so much fun that he roars a few times, but his roar is quite loud and a little bit frightening. The villagers are scared stiff when he goes “ROOAR!”.

ROOAR!





The day is already over. It's time to split up the sweets they've collected together.

Then the children say goodbye. "What a fun carnival," they giggle as they head home.

Little Monster is alone again. He feels sad as he walks back to the castle.

On the way, he brushes against a shrub, and a thorn rips a hole in his coat pocket.

Little Monster doesn't notice, but his sweets fall out one by one, tracing a path under the moon.

The castle door slams hard behind Little Monster.
Knock, knock, knock! Someone is knocking on the door...
Oh, it's the little girl from before, disguised as a vampire.
"My name is Julie. Do you live here?" she asks.
"Yes, I do. How did you find my house?" Little Monster replies.
"I followed your trail of sweets. You dropped them on your way home," explains Julie.
Little Monster is delighted and says, "Come inside! Do you want to play?"
"Let's play hide-and-seek," she answers. "Your castle is enormous, and there are hiding spots everywhere."





Right away, they begin a wild game of hide-and-seek.

Next, Little Monster shows Julie his magnificent collection of pebbles.

Finally, they eat some sweets.

“Can I have the sour ones?” asks Julie. “I really love the sour ones.”

Little Monster finds that odd, but he replies, “Sure!”

Little Monster himself likes all types of sweets.

It's beginning to get very late. "Would you like me to walk you home?" asks Little Monster.

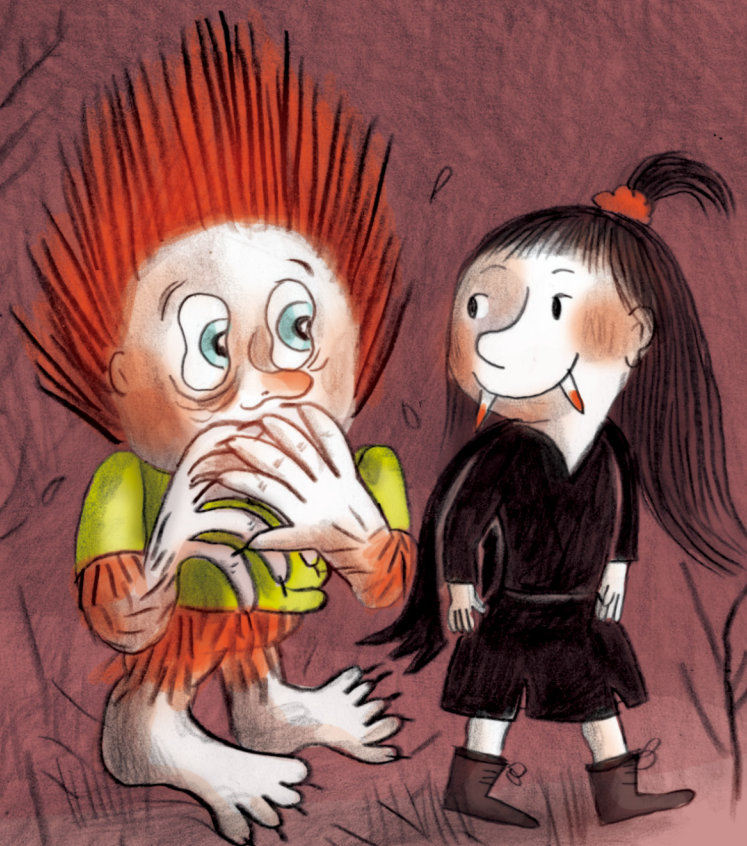
"Okay," replies Julie.

But on the way, Little Monster is sad. They had so much fun together! His heart sinks as he thinks to himself, "I won't see Julie again until the next carnival. That's a whole year! I think we'd be such good friends... but only if I tell her the truth – that this is not a costume..."

So he plucks up his courage and tells her, "You know, I'm... a real little monster."

"Really?" Julie smiles. "Oh, look. We've arrived at my home."

There in front of them is an old manor...



HA!

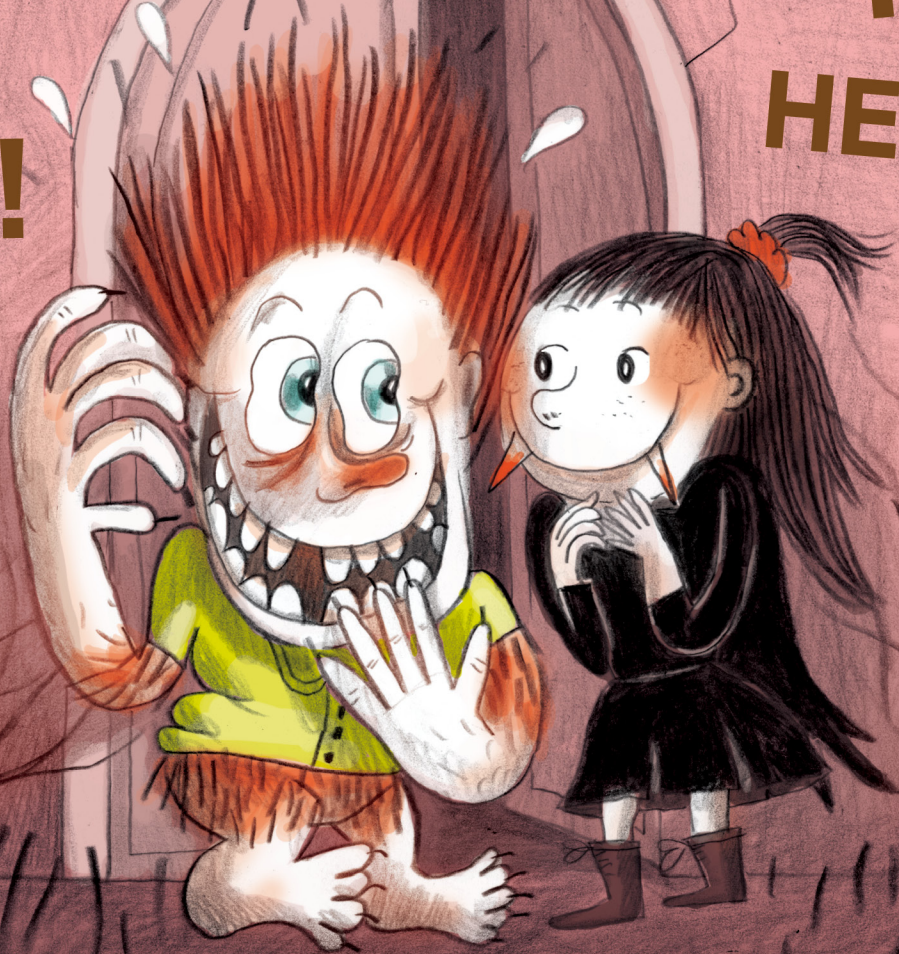
HA!

HA!

HEE!

HEE!

HEE!



Little Monster is astonished and also a little bit scared.

He asks, "Umm... Are you sure that you live here?"

Julie replies with a laugh, "Of course I am. We vampires live in old manors."

Little Monster bursts out laughing. Now he understands why Julie prefers sour sweets. She's a real vampire!

Julie asks, "So, are we friends?"

"Yes, now and always!" Little Monster replies.

Julie says, "Why don't you come to my place tomorrow? I'll show you my collection of bird feathers."

THE END