

MONSTER MUM

怪獸媽媽

Monster Mum's baby is so adorable that she can't bear the thought of her little one suffering outside. So she decides to bring him back inside her! And so that her little one can experience the world, she brings the world inside too. Until one day, her belly is so big, it can't take any more....

Monster Mum has loved her baby since before he was born, and she is determined to protect him! But the world is full of danger: what if her little one falls into a ravine, or is swept away by the river, or loses his way in the forest? Monster Mum has a great idea: she decides to bring her baby back inside her! If her little one wants to know about the world outside, then she will bring little bits of the trees and the sea and so on inside too. Problem solved! Or is it?

Parents want to protect their children. They also want to give their children as many good experiences as they can. Taking the mother's perspective, Chiang Meng-Yun highlights in a humorous and incisive way the impact of over-parenting, and how overwhelming love can create anxiety and fear. The hope is that by the end of the story, parents and children alike will be able to find a way to embrace the world together like Monster Mum and her baby.

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Chiang Meng-Yun began her career as an illustrator after finishing her college degree in philosophy. She is proficient with several different kinds of media, and has experience with animation as well as still visual art. She has been a featured illustrator at the Bologna Children's Book Fair.



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Translated by Helen Wang

p.6-7

Even before he born
Monster Mum adored her little darling.

p.8-9

Monster Mum had never seen such a beautiful little monster.

She wanted to give her little darling the best in the world,
and to keep him safe forever.

p.10-11

But the world is full of danger.

Monster Mum worried that her little darling might roll down the hill,
or be swept away by a river,
or lose his way in the forest.

p.12-13

She worried that he might be seized by a pterodactyl,
or eaten by a wolf.

She worried that germs might make him ill...
She worried about everything!

p.14-15

"The safest place for you is back inside!"
"Whee!"
"OK!"

p.16-17

Monster Mum relaxed and got back into her stride.

p.18-19

"This is the forest, Little Darling. It's so beautiful!"
"Let me see! Let me see!"

p.20-21

Monster Mum swallowed a tree for her Little Darling.

“Oh, that’s what a tree looks like!

Mum, what else is there in the forest?”

Monster Mum didn’t answer.

She carried on walking.

p.22-23

“This is the sea, Little Darling. The cold sea water is so lovely!”

“What’s sea water? I want to drink some!”

p.24-25

Ugh! Salty!

“Mum, what else is there in the sea? I want to see for myself.”

p.26-27

“It’s far too dangerous outside for you.

It’s much safer for you to stay inside!”

Monster Mum took her Little Darling to many different places.

p.28-29

“You’ll love this, Little Darling. And this... and this...”

Everywhere they went, Monster Mum popped things in her mouth for her Little Darling.

“Mum, it’s so full in here, I can hardly breathe!”

p.30-31

Monster Mum couldn’t answer him

because her tummy was swollen.

She had the worst tummy ache ever.

p.32-33

MA... MA....

p.34-35

Wow

p.36-37

“Oh, My Little Darling!”

p.38-39

Monster Mum was so happy to see her Little Darling.

Just then, a gentle breeze blew over them.

It was so comfortable and relaxing.

p.40-41

“Mum, the world is so big, it’s like being inside a giant tummy!”

“Yes, it is! And there’s so much to see.”

“Let’s go and see it together!”