

THE

MONSTER

HYPOTHESIS

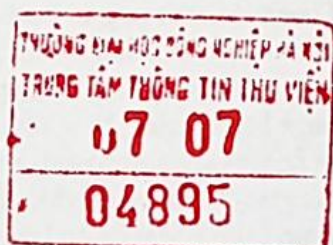
ROMILY BERNARD



GIFT OF THE ASIA FOUNDATION
NOT FOR RE-SALE

QUÀ TẶNG CỦA QUỸ CHÂU Á
KHÔNG ĐƯỢC BÁN LẠI

THE
MONSTER
HYPOTHESIS



ROMILY BERNARD

Disney • HYPERION
LOS ANGELES NEW YORK

Text copyright © 2019 by Romily Bernard

All rights reserved. Published by Disney • Hyperion, an imprint of Disney Book Group. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without written permission from the publisher. For information address Disney • Hyperion, 125 West End Avenue, New York, New York 10023.

First Edition, December 2019

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

FAC-020093-19298

Printed in the United States of America

This book is set in 11.5 point Palatino/Monotype and KG Fall For You/Fontspring.

Designed by Mary Claire Cruz

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Bernard, Romily, author.

Title: The monster hypothesis / by Romily Bernard.

Description: First edition. • Los Angeles ; New York : Disney Hyperion, 2019.

• Summary: While her famous-scientist parents are away, sixth-grader Kick Winter lives with her grandmother, a psychic, in Bohring, home to 453 people, 2,053 alligators, and one curse.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019002972 • ISBN 9781368028554 (hardcover)

Subjects: • CYAC: Middle schools—Fiction. • Schools—Fiction. • Psychics—Fiction. • Grandmothers—Fiction. • Blessing and cursing—Fiction.

Classification: LCC PZ7.B4551354 Mon 2019 • DDC [Fic]—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2019002972>

Reinforced binding

Visit www.DisneyBooks.com



Logo Applies to Text Stock Only

*For my mom, who knew Kick was amazing
from the very beginning*

GRANDMA MISSOURI'S PREDICTION



“This will end badly.”

It started with an explosion. Not a huge explosion, mind you, but one certainly large enough to send bits of floorboards everywhere. Some went down in flames. Some went up in smoke. The rest landed in Kick Winter's hair.

Not that she noticed.

“Should've reread those directions,” she muttered, knowing full well that she hadn't read them in the first place.

Another bit of floorboard fizzled out, plunging into the ragged hole and sending the black cat, Butler, flying for cover. Kick coughed, waved smoke away from her face, and wondered if all burgeoning scientists had such unfortunate setbacks. She wasn't sure, and she chalked this one up to yet another example of school never teaching her anything she really needed to know.

Then again, setbacks might be the least of her problems,

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It's weird to see *The Monster Hypothesis* with only my name on it because, goodness knows, I didn't get here on my own. I'm beyond grateful to everyone who helped me—and there were so many people.

So *very* many.

In no particular order, huge thanks to my parents (as always) for being so supportive. You saw Kick years ago and knew she was special. Thank you for encouraging me to stick with her.

Similarly, thank you to Wonder Agent, Sarah Davies, who *also* saw Kick years ago and believed in her.

But Kick wouldn't even be, well, *Kick* without my long-suffering editors, Tracey Keevan and Esther Cahuaranga. Thank you for helping me make her everything she needed to be. It's a better book because of you. I'm a better writer because of you.

Special thanks also to Maggie Coughlin for . . . everything. You put me back together when I was trying my best to spin apart. I'm incredibly lucky to have you in my life. Incredibly.

More special thanks to Tae Keller for your fantastic insights. I will forever be your biggest fangirl.

All the thank-yous to Natalie Richards and Pintip Dunn for your early reads . . . and later reads . . . and then *later* reads. Thank you for seeing me at my rawest and letting me make mistakes.

And, of course, thanks to Mark Rober for experiment permissions and inspiration. I watched your YouTube channel for ages before daring to follow along.

But "following along" wouldn't have even been possible without Jennifer Zitt, teacher/science consultant extraordinaire. Thank you for helping me pull everything together. I'm quite sure I sounded ridiculous during our calls. I apologize.

Above all, though, I want to thank my beta readers—some of whom would prefer not to be named even though I would shout their brilliance from the rooftops—you are extraordinary women and I am forever grateful you read for me. Special, *special* thanks to Athena Higgins and Gina Hill for last-minute reads and honest insights. What a hairy weekend. Thank you. Without y'all I would *never* have pulled it off.

**THE HUNDRED YEARS IS UP . . .
AND THE BOHRING TOWN CURSE IS BACK:**

*One, two, monsters coming for you
Three, four, they're outside your door
Five, six, first it smells like Styx
Seven, eight, hear the growls of fate
Nine, ten, see the monsters again!*



ISBN 978-136802855-4



51699

9 781368 028554

TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC CÔNG NGHỆ
TRUNG TÂM THÔNG TIN



Mã sách: 070 895