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My Name is Gus Gastos and I have a Monster in My Room!



Oishi
Peso-Smart Kids Series

Words by May Tobias Papa
Art by Beth Parrocha Doctolero



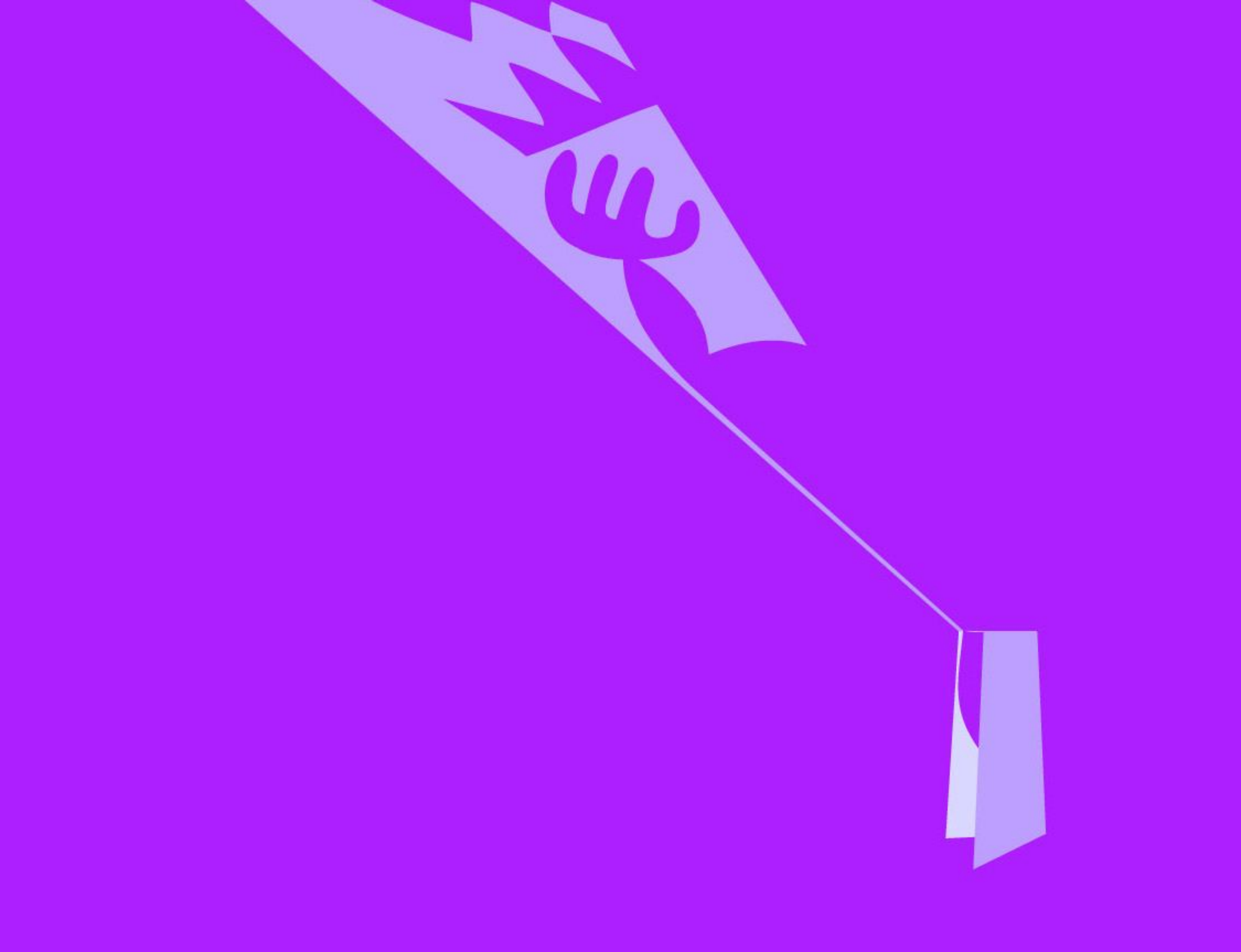
My Name is Gus Gastos and I have a Monster in My Room!

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I'm afraid I've created a monster.
IT's in my room and IT's all over the place!





It's all my fault, really.
I buy all sorts of things all the time, without giving them much thought.
So -- unplanned, unused, and unwanted, the stuff in my room just piled up.





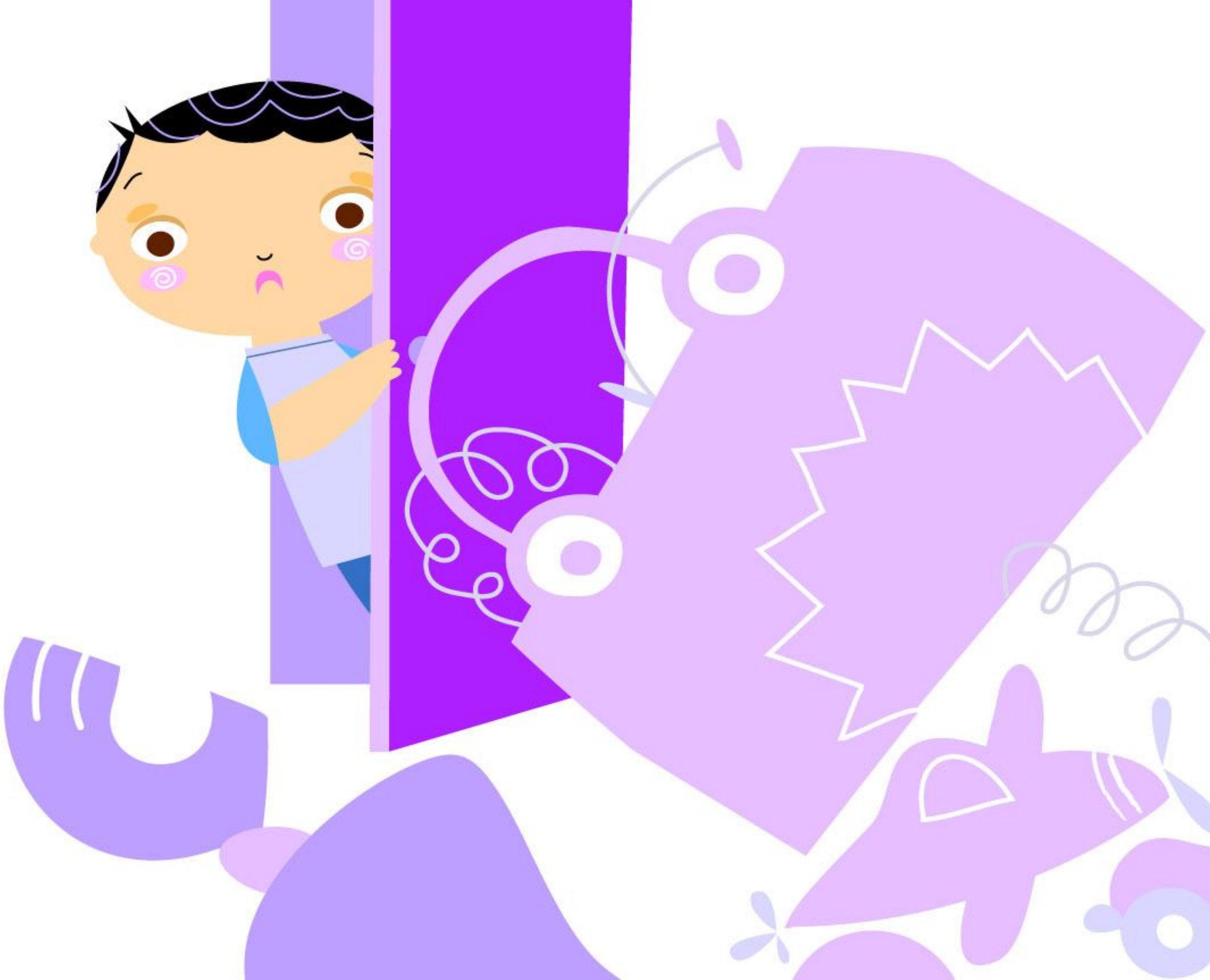




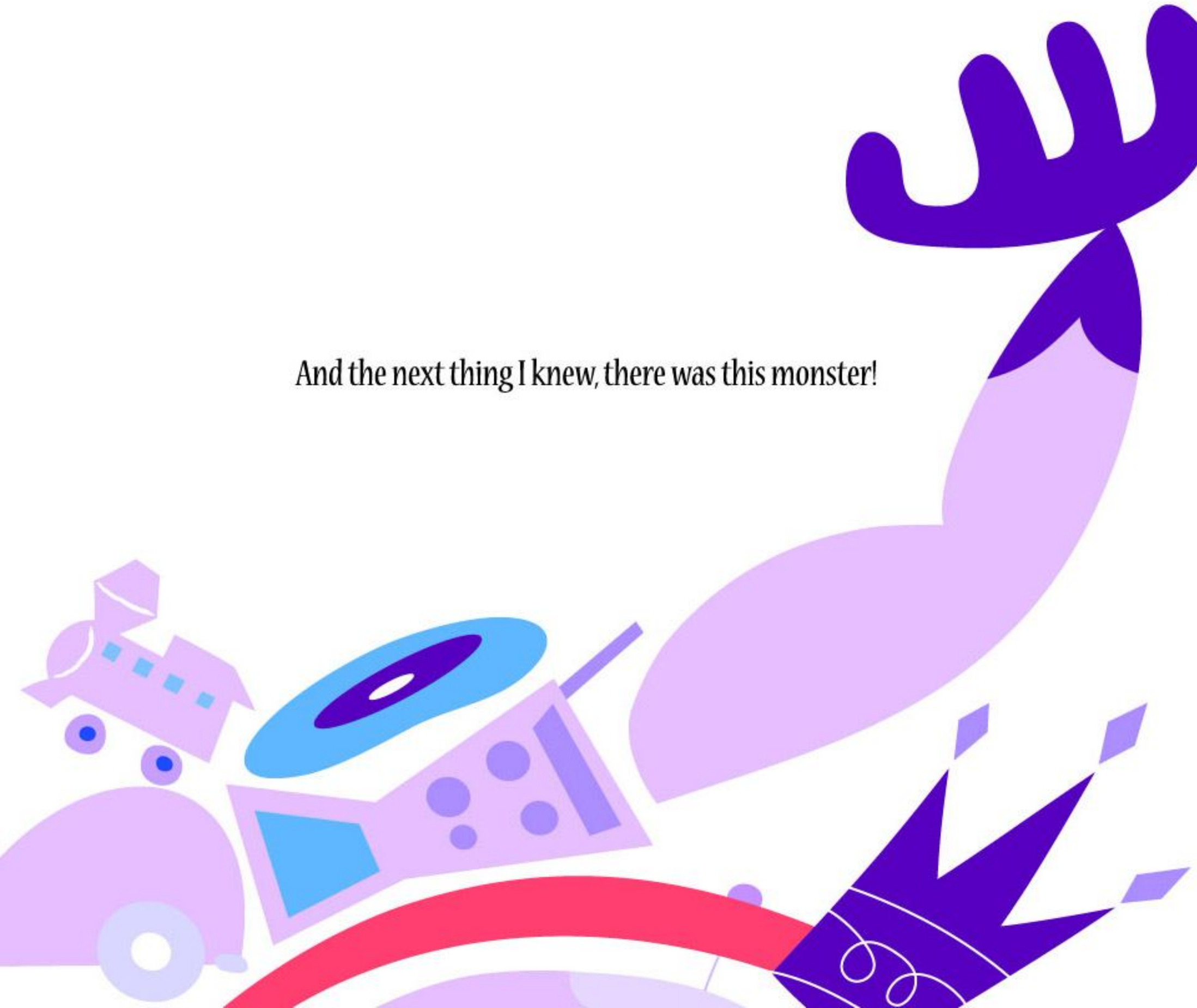








And the next thing I knew, there was this monster!

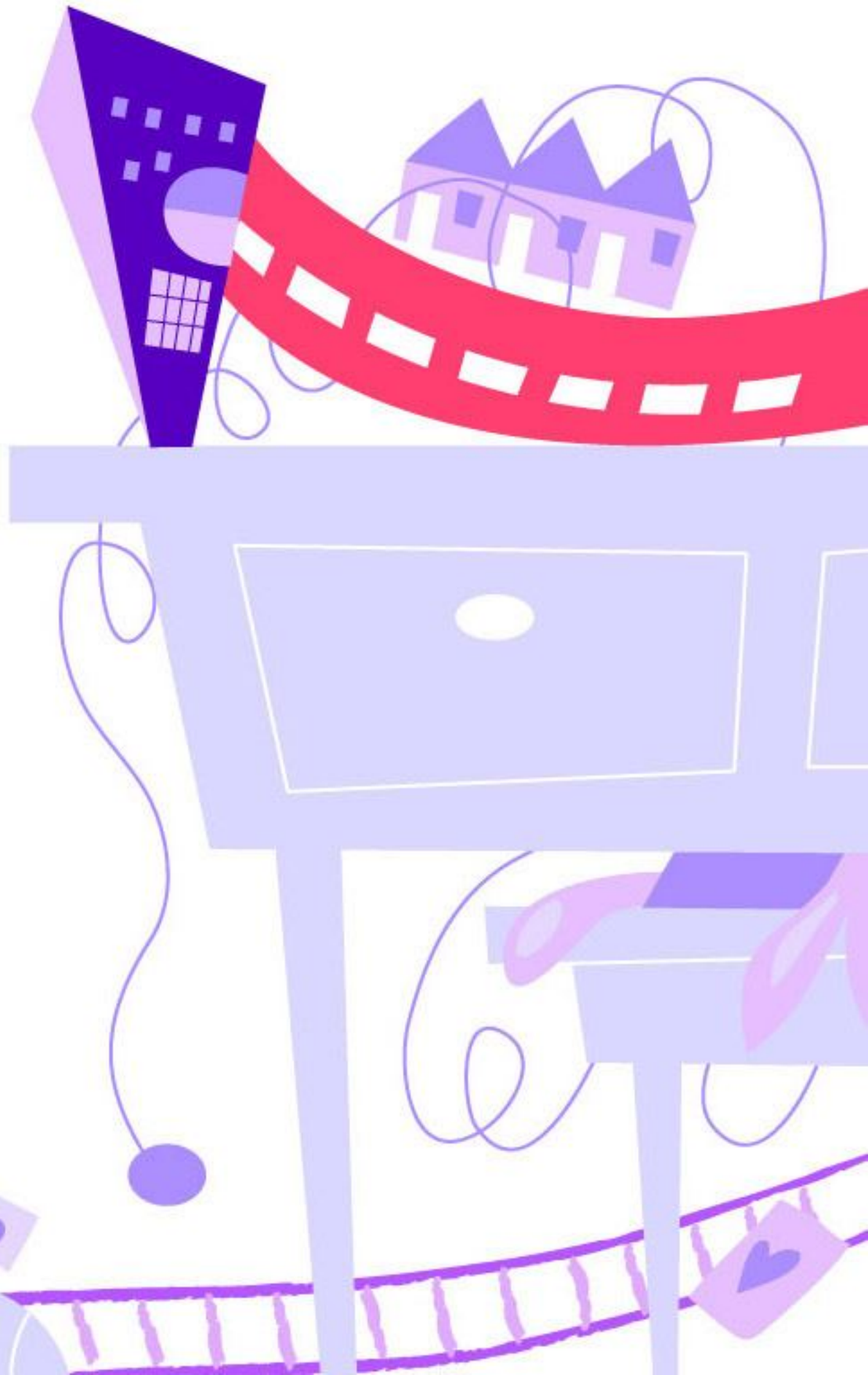


It answers with an angry CRASH and BLAG when I accidentally step on IT.
Even if I went around IT, it's so hard to avoid IT,
because IT's sprawled all over the floor.



IT also likes to sit on MY chair.
IT even puts its feet up on MY table.





I have to wrestle with IT for at least a couple of hours -- EVERY night -- just so I can sleep on my bed!



In the mornings, IT blocks out the sunlight from my window.
I can't tell night from day.
I can only tell the time when the alarm goes off because --




MR
MAGICIAN
NNNN

THE MONSTER ATE MY CLOCK!



GGGGGGGG!!!



IT ate my swimming goggles. For a week I looked, but I couldn't find them.
So Mommy had to buy me a new pair. She wasn't too happy about it.
(I got an earful from her.)

That's the last straw, Mommy said. She told me to put an end to THE MONSTER.



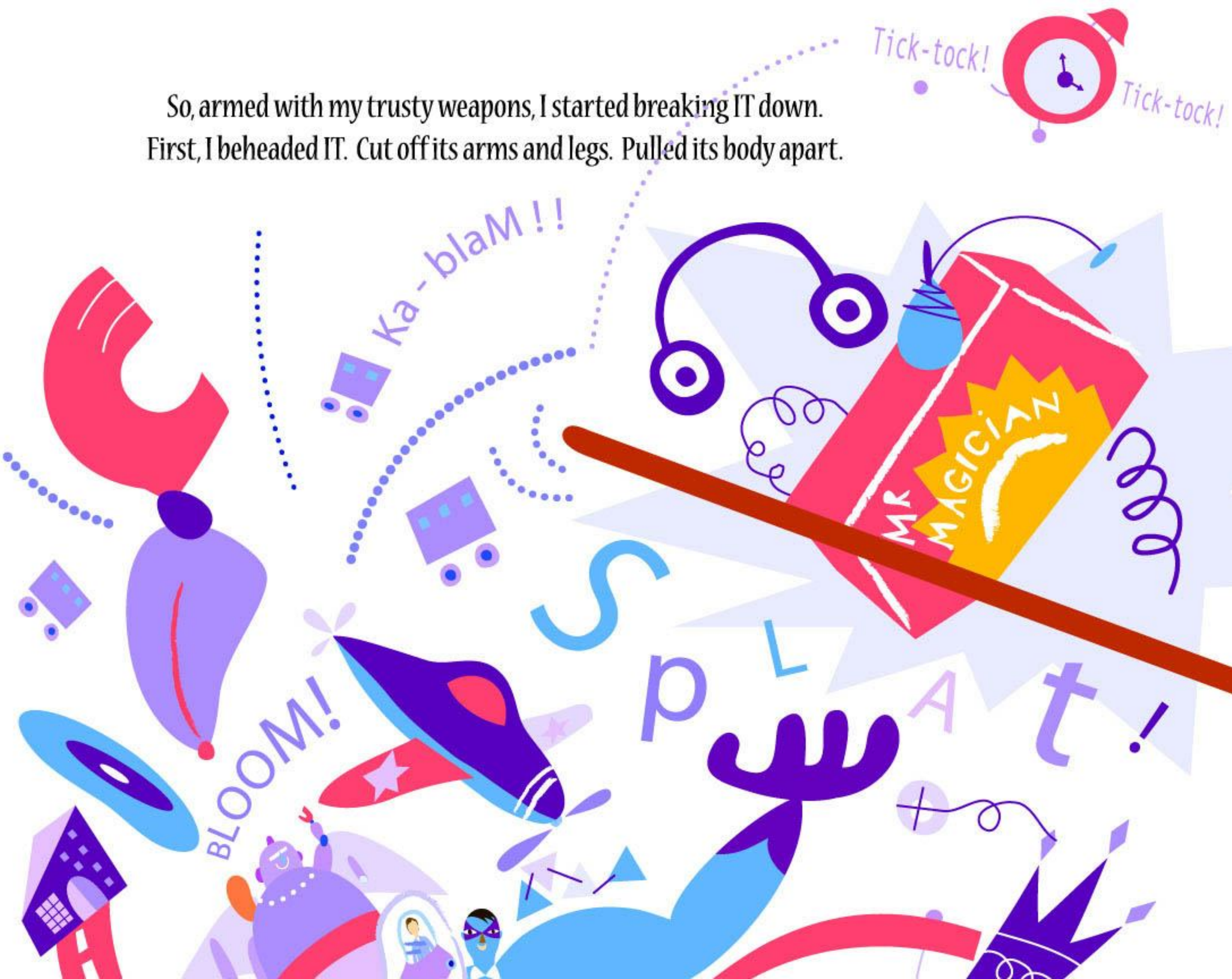
So what happened was, I did nothing after school for the next five days
except to deal with the Monster.
First, I tried stuffing IT into the closet with all my might, but IT was just too big.
No matter how I pushed, heaved, and shoved.



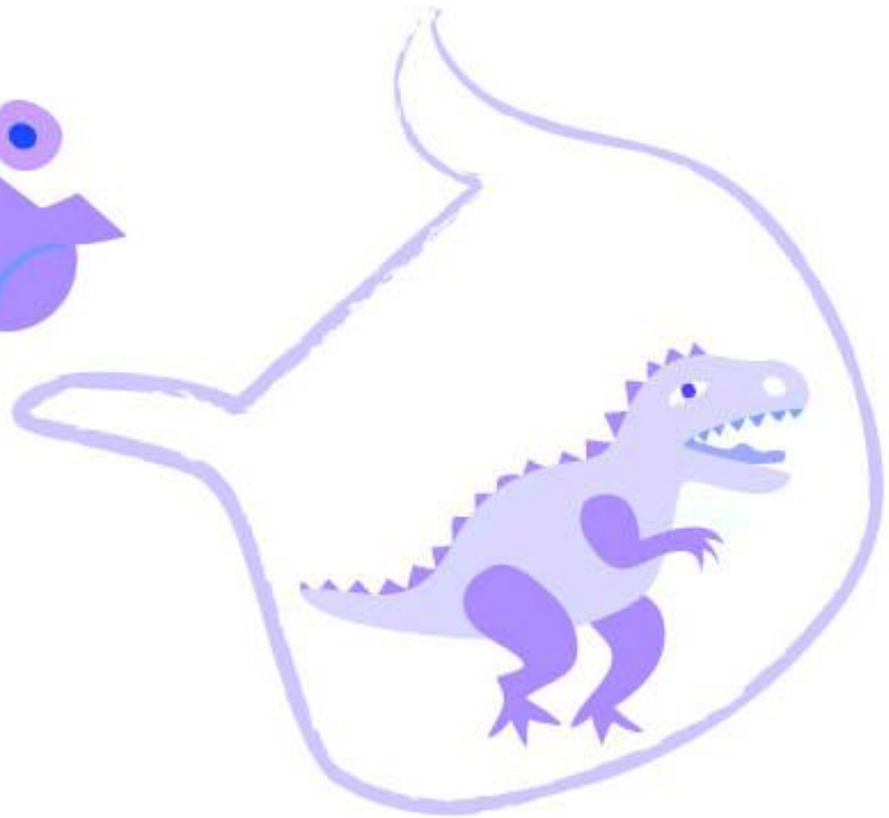


I had to resort to more drastic measures.

So, armed with my trusty weapons, I started breaking IT down.
First, I beheaded IT. Cut off its arms and legs. Pulled its body apart.







And then made neat, little packages of its body.





Then Mommy helped me get rid of IT.

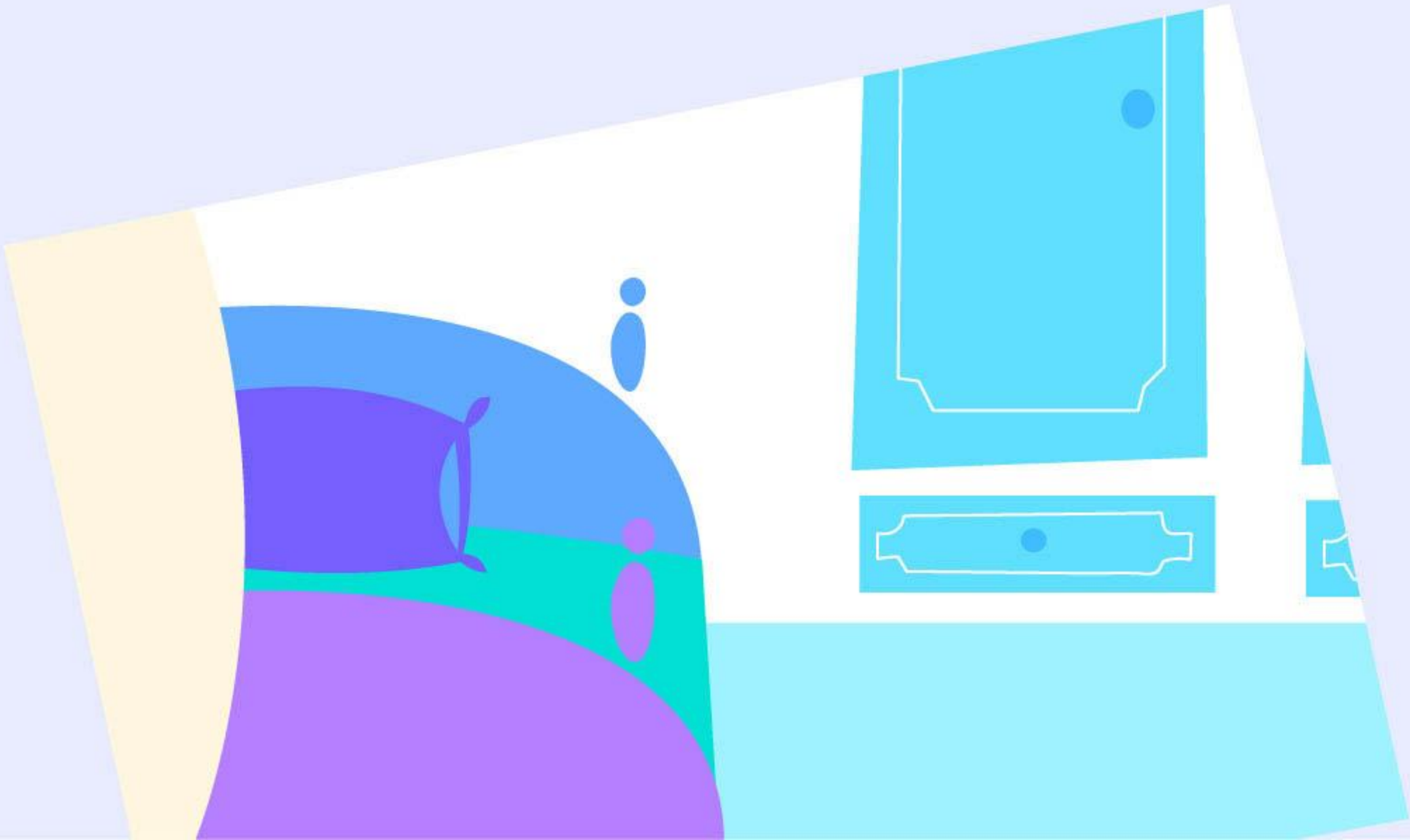


We made lots of money.



It's kinda neat not having a monster in my room. And knowing where things exactly are.

I have the whole place all to myself again. I can sit on my chair and study at my table like before.
I can sleep on my bed whenever I want, and wake up to see the sun peek through
the curtains in the morning.




Tick-tock!

There are days, though, when I feel The Monster is back,
looking over my shoulder.

So whenever that happens, I immediately put back whatever I'm thinking of buying and give it more thought.

Or I don't buy it at all.



I have to be careful.



I don't want to create another monster again.

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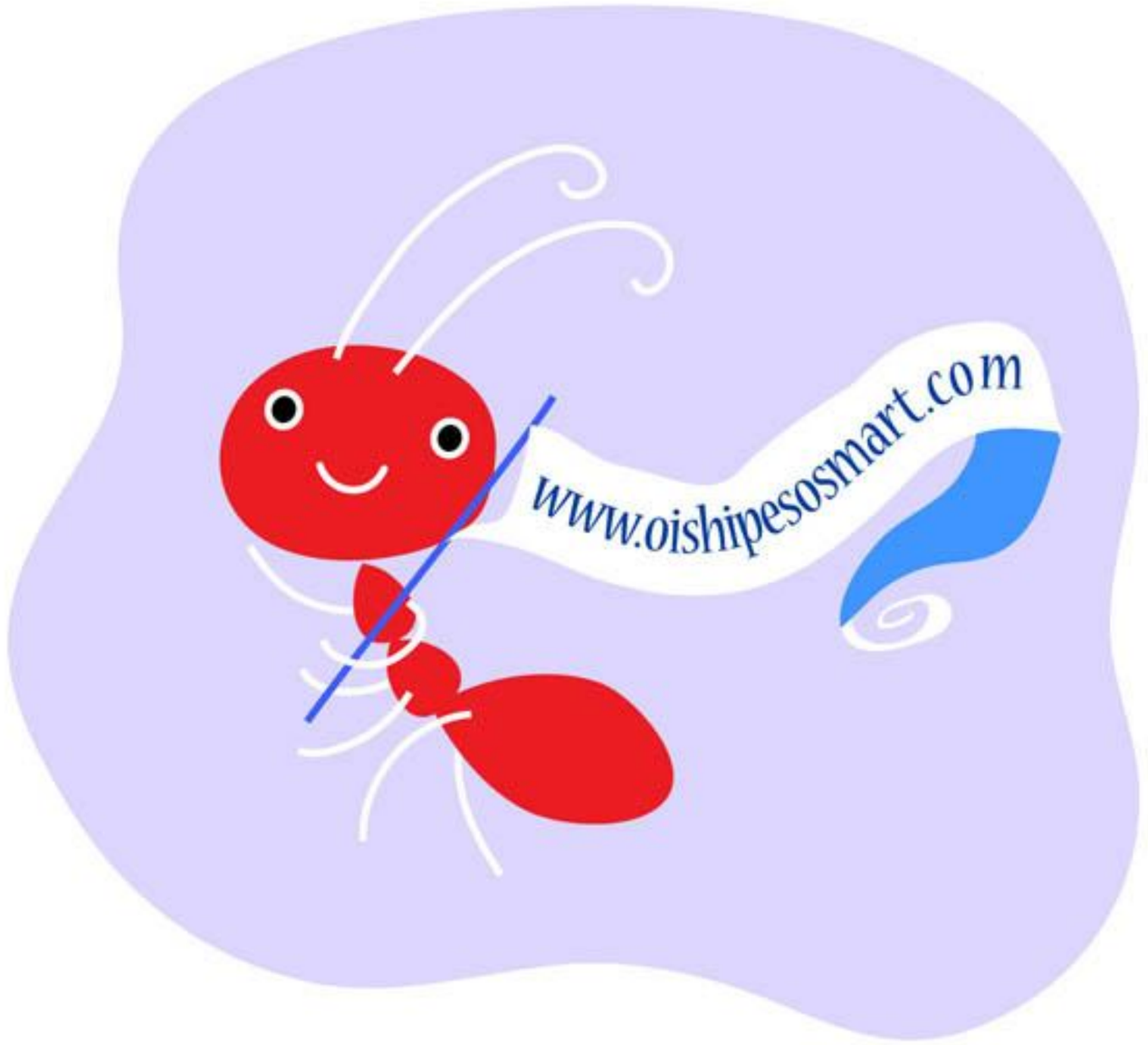
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email: feedback@oishi.com.ph
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Story by May Tobias Papa (storygirl@hotmail.com)
Illustrations by Beth Parrocha Doctolero
(www.bethparrocha.com)

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Oishi®
PESO-SMART KIDS
Series

Have you ever had to deal with a monster?
What would you do if it started taking over your cabinet,
your bed, your room--and your life?

Sometimes we buy things without giving it much thought.
And before we know it, we find out we have more things
than we could possibly need, or have use for.

In a well-known fable, the grasshopper spends idle days under the sun
while the ant works to store up food for the coming rainy days.
When the rains come, the ant's hard work pays off
while the grasshopper finds itself dying of hunger.

Oishi presents Peso-Smart Kids Series -- a series of books on financial education for kids.
It takes inspiration from the lessons taught by the diligent and wise ant.

Also available: "Once I Was Rich".

Coming Soon : "Making Paper Boats with Papa",
the third title in the Oishi Peso-Smart Kids Series.

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