The MONSTER in My Basement

Written by Dave Preston
Illustrated by Heather Lynn Harris
The Monster in My Basement

A City of Light Imprint
I found a monster in my basement, oh what a big surprise!
His hair was red and matted.
Yellow were his eyes.
He looked so **sad** and **lonely**. I wondered what to do.
He said, "I’d like a bite to eat. How about you?"
I wondered what he wanted: fruit or tuna fish?

Chicken or a hot dog or ice cream in a dish?
How about spaghetti?
or sweet potato pie?
Then he drooled and looked me straight in the eye!
I began to...

**Shake** a little bit,
**shake** a little bit,
**shake, shake, shake, shake, shake**...

I wondered—had I made a big mistake?
He said his name was, 

HOWARD.
I said my name was DAVE.
He said, “I’m really hungry.

Would you like to see my cave?”
I tried to answer, “No, sir,” but I found it hard to talk.

So he grabbed my hand and we began to walk.
We strolled out through the courtyard and down the merry lane.
He told me he was starving. I tried to feel his pain.
We stopped to buy some napkins, some pepper and some tea.

Oh, what would you do if you were me?
I began to...
Shake a little bit,
shake a little bit,
shake, shake, shake, shake, shake,
shake, shake...

I wondered—had I made a big mistake?
We came around the corner and there was Howard’s mom.

“Who’d you bring for dinner?” she asked so sweet and calm.
I gathered all my courage and said, "My name is DAVE."
Then she grabbed my arm and pulled me into her cave.
Howard set the table. His mother poured the tea.

She asked me quite politely if I had a family.

I answered, “Yes, I do ma’am, who someday you should meet.”
Then she smiled and said, “It’s almost time to eat!”
I began to... 
Shake a little bit, shake a little bit, 
shake, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake... 

I wondered—had I made a big mistake?
Howard put his bib on, and a grin spread through his face.

My heart was thumping loudly as we bowed our heads for grace.
Just then I heard the doorbell and what to my surprise,

Bing-Bong
Stood a man with two dozen pizza pies!
We sat and ate our pizza, which I must say was quite great.
I stayed to help with dishes, 'til I noticed it was late.

I turned and said, “I’m sorry,” as they finished up their tea.
“But for a while I thought your dinner would be ME!”
They began to... **Laugh** a little bit, **laugh** a little bit, **ha**, **ha**, **ha**, **ha**, **ha**, **ha**, **ha**...

It seems that I had made a **BIG** mistake!
THE END

Scan the code below to listen to the song, and turn the page to read the lyrics and music!

Or visit www.HowardTheMonster.com to listen!
Howard

Words & Music by Dave Preston

I found a monster in my basement oh what a big surprise His
wondered what he wanted fruit or tuna fish

hair was red and matted - Yellow were his eyes He looked so sad and lonely I
chicken or a hot dog or ice-cream in a dish or how about spaghetti or

wondered what to do He said I'd like a bite to eat how about you! I
sweet potato pie? Then he drooled and looked me straight in the

eye I began to | Shake a little bit Shake a little bit Shake Shake Shake Shake Shake

Shake a little bit Shake a little bit Shake Shake Shake Shake Shake Shake a little bit

Shake Shake Shake Shake Shake | I wondered had I made a big mistake!
MEET THE
Author

Whenever Dave Preston enters a school or a childcare center to sing his songs, you’re likely to hear a swelling chorus of, “Mr. Dave is here! Mr. Dave is here!” This singer-songwriter from Western New York has been delighting children of all ages with his original songs, such as *Papa’s Car, The Lobster Dance, Munchkin Express* and *The Boo Boo Song* for more than ten years. “The Monster in My Basement” is based on his original song *Howard*. Mostly retired now, Dave still visits with children’s groups occasionally with his daughter, who has followed in her dad’s footsteps. Dave lives in Brockport, New York, with his wife, Debbie. They have three children and four grandchildren.

MEET THE
Illustrator

Heather Lynn Harris began creating art at the scary-young age of five and has pursued art and monsters ever since. Educated at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, California, she made her publishing debut as the illustrator of *The Swing* and has seen “monstrous” success ever since, including winning a 2018 Silver Moonbeam Award for her third picture book *Five Hungry Mice*. She has five published picture books, two of which she authored and illustrated. The *Monster in My Basement* is her latest. She lives in Orchard Park, New York, with her husband and their three monsters, one of whom lives in her basement!
There's a monster in Dave's basement! His name is Howard and he's very hungry.

Howard invites Dave to dinner. But will Dave eat dinner or BE dinner?

The thought makes Dave shake a little bit, shake a little bit, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake.

Has Dave made a big mistake?