

# How our monsters made us



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Feature Writer

Whether my childhood fears disappeared, evolved into new fears, or stayed with me, they've all shaped who I am today. Having fears of letting people down, getting hurt and even one as simple as getting stung by a bee as a kid kept me out of trouble and led me to figure out what interested me.

As a child, one of biggest fears was the movie *Coraline*. This stop-motion film is about a girl who finds another world similar to her own and has to escape her "other mother" from turning her eyes into buttons. Being my sister's favorite movie, I had to confront it everyday for months on end. Watching the other mother in 3D turn into a giant spider at the end took its toll on my four year old brain. I began to avoid watching the movie and I feared that she would come for me

next.

My fear didn't stay with me forever and over time it began to dissipate, but even so it still affects me, and I believe this childhood fear is what sparked my current fear of spiders.

It's not only me who has had a childhood fear evolve or even continue to have a hold on me for the foreseeable future.

Marissa Williams, 9, had a huge fear of clowns as a child. She became afraid of them during the killer clown phase that happened when she was about eight or nine years old. With no exposure to clowns other than seeing people portray them as insane and murderous, Williams quickly began to feel terror when faced with one. Luckily this fear didn't last and she has overcome it for the most part.

"I'm not as scared anymore, but I still find them slightly creepy," said Williams.

Another student who's fear lessened, but didn't fully go away is Mary Worshek, 10. Her fear of storms as a kid stemmed from her going camping a lot as a child. Hearing unrelenting storms

around her when camping made her fearful of the wind and lightning. After a few years, Worshek became desensitized to hearing storms, but her fear resurfaced after going on grander adventures through harsher storms. Worshek said one storm was particularly bad, as it was full of hail and forced her to sit in one spot for an hour as she waited for it to pass.

Worshek said, "Now that I've been on really big adventures, where I've gone through really bad thunderstorms, I've started to get nervous around them," she continued on to say, "I wouldn't say I fear it as much as I'm a lot more aware of it."

Not everyone's childhood fear stuck with them, and one example is Nolan Deacy, 11, who was afraid of the show *Scooby Doo* as a kid. When he was four years old, he sat in his parents bed watching *Scooby Doo* and found himself petrified. Later that night, he had a bad dream that he was trapped in the back of the mystery machine, and eventually died in this dream. This caused his fear

to form, sticking with him for years throughout his childhood. Even though he would come to grow out of it, his fear of *Scooby Doo* would remain a significant memory in his life.

One person who continues to carry her fear with her is Sophia Kolb, 11. Since she was a little girl, she has been scared that a bat would be in her shower. Even though this fear has never come true for Kolb, it's still present enough to make her peak into her shower

before closing the bathroom door each time she enters the room.

No matter what your childhood fear was as a child, and whether you continue to experience it or not, they will always have a place in your memory. No matter how trivial or pointless they seem, fears are what shape the person we turn out to be.

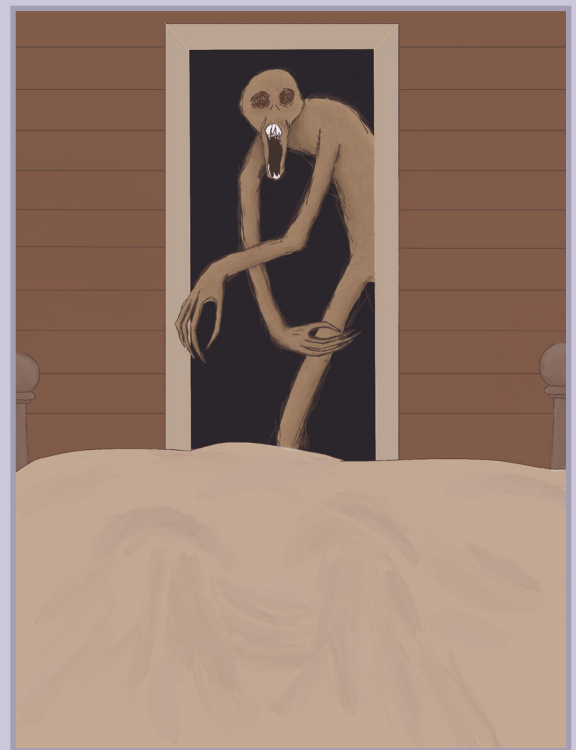


ILLUSTRATION BY LIBERTY STUART

*A monster is lurking in a child's bedroom doorway. It represents the irrational fears we have as children.*