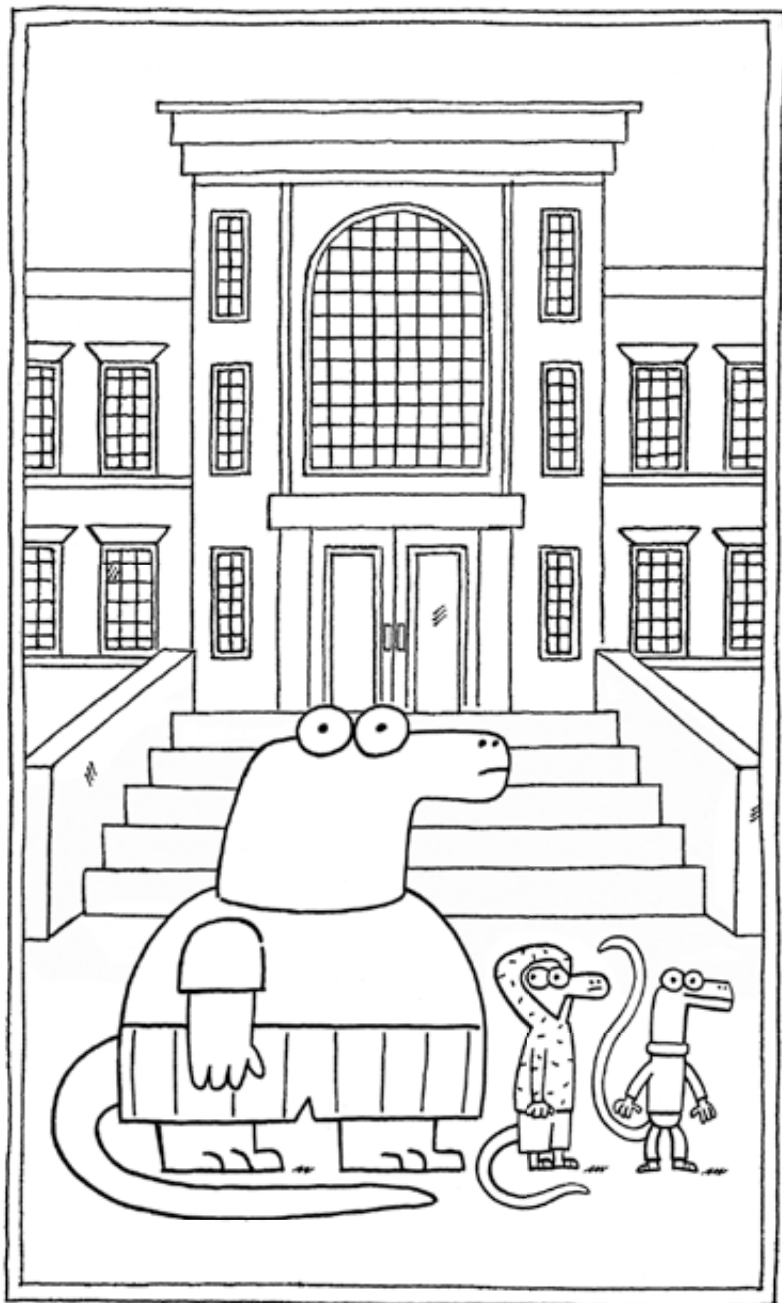


CHRONICLES  
OF A  
LIZARD  
NOBODY





**CHRONICLES OF A  
LIZARD  
NOBODY**

**PATRICK  
NESS**

**ILLUSTRATED BY  
TIM MILLER**



WALKER  
BOOKS

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places and incidents are either the product of the author's imagination or, if real, used fictitiously. All statements, activities, stunts, descriptions, information and material of any other kind contained herein are included for entertainment purposes only and should not be relied on for accuracy or replicated as they may result in injury.

First published 2024 by Walker Books Ltd  
87 Vauxhall Walk, London SE11 5HJ

2 4 6 8 10 9 7 5 3 1

Text © 2024 Patrick Ness  
Illustrations © 2024 Tim Miller

The right of Patrick Ness and Tim Miller to be identified as author and illustrator respectively of this work has been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988

This book has been typeset in Source Serif Pro

Printed and bound by CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon CR0 4YY

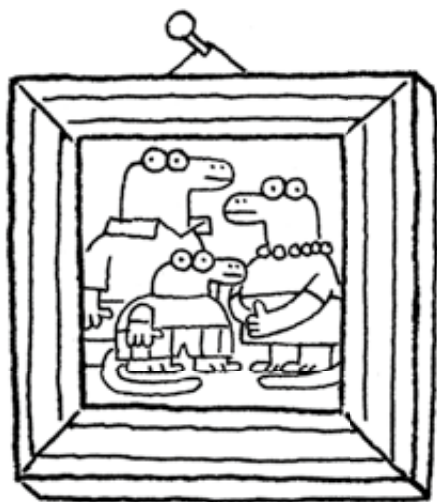
All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, transmitted or stored in an information retrieval system in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, taping and recording, without prior written permission from the publisher.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data:  
a catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-5295-1795-8

[www.walker.co.uk](http://www.walker.co.uk)





For Shamim and Hanan,  
Beloved friends, film-makers,  
mothers to godsons

# 1

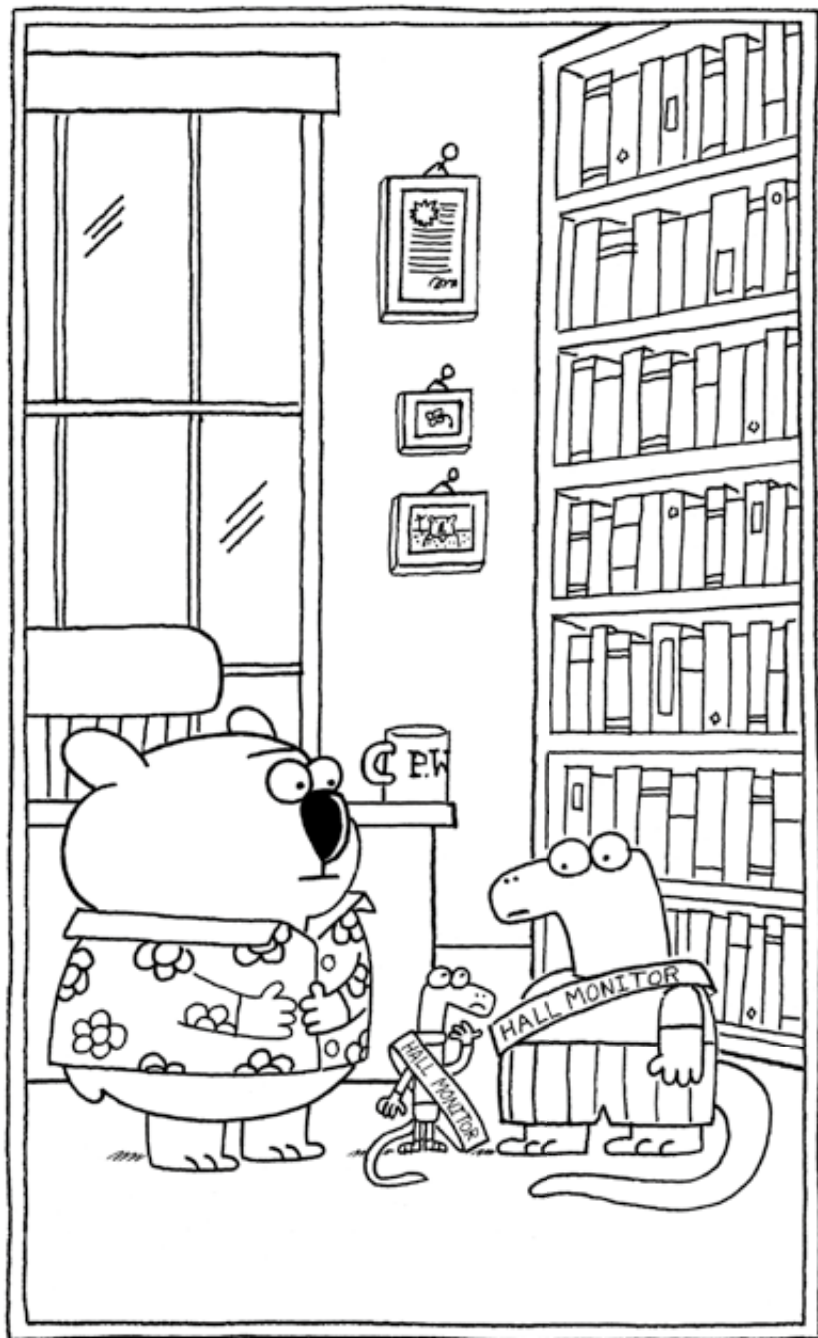
## HALL MONITORS

“I’m making you both Hall Monitors,” Principal Wombat said, though she quickly added, “This isn’t because you’re monitor lizards.”

Zeke couldn’t help himself. “But all the other Hall Monitors have been—”

“Coincidence,” Principal Wombat interrupted. “You’ll make sure other students aren’t in the hallways when they shouldn’t be. Which is why we *coincidentally* call it monitoring.” She looked slightly flustered, but what did it matter if a Principal was flustered? What sort of kid was going to point this out?

“You look flustered,” said Daniel. Zeke elbowed him in the side. “Ow!”



“It’s all pretty easy,” Principal Wombat continued, as if Daniel hadn’t said anything. “If you see someone out of class when you’re monitoring, you ask them for their hall pass. If they have one, all is well. If they don’t, you send them to me. Any questions?”

“I have a question,” Daniel said. “Is it true you can use your butt as armour?”

“Yes,” said Principal Wombat. “It’s a wombat thing. Anything else?”

“What if they don’t have a hall pass and they don’t want to go see you?” Zeke asked.

“Then you take down their name, and you tell me they didn’t want to go.”

Zeke thought about this. “This isn’t going to make us very popular.”

“But you’ll be serving the school.” Principal Wombat smiled. “And you’ll be making me happy.”

“Well, I mean, that’s a nice thing,” Zeke said, “but I can’t help but think it’s still something

to do with us being monitor lizards, me and Daniel.”

Daniel nodded in agreement, then said, “Getting back to the butt. Is it made of steel? Like a tank?”

Principal Wombat shook her head. “Just bone. If we’re under threat, we go head-first into a hole in the ground, and our backside protects us from predators.”

“Cool,” Daniel said, appreciatively.

“Because Alicia is a monitor lizard, too,” Zeke said, referring to the only other Hall Monitor currently in school.

“Another coincidence. Besides, I thought you’d be happy to be Hall Monitors with your friend.”

“Just because we’re lizards doesn’t mean we’re automatically friends.”

Principal Wombat looked surprised. “You’re not friends with Alicia?”

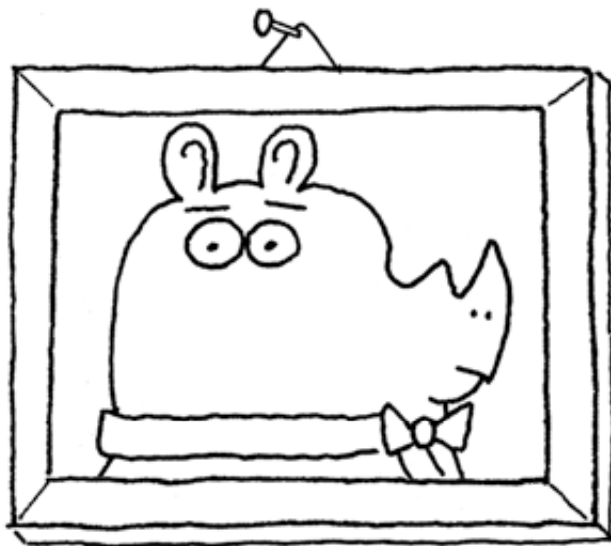
“Of course we’re friends with Alicia,” Zeke said, “but not just because she’s another lizard.”

“Oh, good,” Principal Wombat said, relieved. “I do like my students to get along. Now, you’ll perform your duties in the morning after first bell and before and after lunch. You’ll get special permission to be late to your own classrooms! And” – she looked really excited now – “you get sashes!”

She held out two red sashes. Daniel and Zeke just stared at them. She tossed them across the desk with her furry, stumpy arms, basically throwing them over Zeke and Daniel’s heads. The one for Daniel came all the way down to his knees, but Zeke’s barely went past his shoulders.

Zeke fingered the plastic material and noticed it was slightly stained.

Daniel looked up at Principal Wombat. “Can we get butt armour instead?”



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Patrick Ness is the award-winning and bestselling author of the Chaos Walking trilogy, which inspired a major film. He is also the author of critically acclaimed novels *A Monster Calls*, *More Than This*, *Release*, *The Rest of Us Just Live Here*, *And the Ocean Was Our Sky* and *Burn*. He has won every major prize in children's fiction, including the Carnegie Medal twice, and he won an Olivier Award for the stage production of *A Monster Calls*. He has also written the screenplay for the film version of *A Monster Calls* and *Class*, the BBC Doctor Who drama. 📷 @PatrickNessBooks



## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Tim Miller is the author-illustrator of *Moo Moo in a Tutu*, *What's Cooking*, *Moo Moo?*, *Tiny Kitty*, *Big City* and *Izzy Paints*. He is also the illustrator of *Horse Meets Dog* by Elliott Kalan, *Snappy the Alligator (Did Not Ask to Be in This Book)* and *Snappy the Alligator And His Best Friend Forever! (Probably)* by Julie Falatko, *Margarash* by Mark Riddle, and the middle-grade series *Hamstersaurus Rex* by Tom O'Donnell. He lives in New Jersey with his wife and three rescue cats.