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Opening extract from

The Odd Squad: King Karl

Written by

Michael Fry

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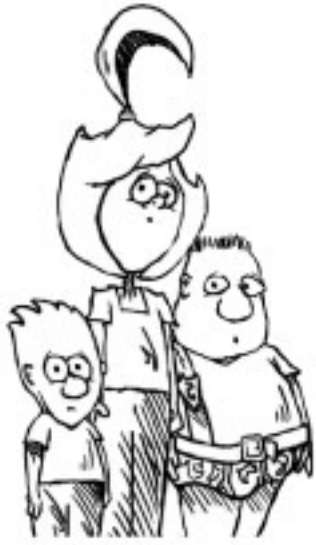
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CAST LIST



NICK, MOLLY and **KARL** are
The Odd Squad!



ROY is a mutant troll bully.

BECKY is Nick's girlfriend (in an alternate universe).



Nick lives with his **MUM, MEMAW** (that's his grandmother) and his dog **JANICE**.





Then there's



MR DUPREE the school janitor

and

DR DANIELS the school counsellor,



and a couple of other kids at school: **SIMONE**

and **ALICE**.





Those are the important guys, there are plenty more in the book . . .

NOTE FROM NICK ON FOOD

Hello to all my UK readers!
I'm told you don't have Jell-O Meat or Tater Tots at school over there.
On the one hand you're lucky. On the other, you are super *un*lucky.
Jell-O Meat is the grossest thing on the planet. I mean, it's DISGUSTING. It's kind of like corned beef in a meat jelly.
Yeah, I know.
Tater Tots, however . . . they're crunchy little mounds of potato-ey goodness.
Mmmm.
Oh, and Hot Dots are awesome candy (which you call sweets)!



CHAPTER 1

'That's stupid,' Molly said into my earpiece. 'They should be called Robosquids.'

'They're Squidbots!' I said. 'Because that's what they're called in *NanoNerd #83:* 'Time Waits for No Squid'. Now, do you want to play or not?'

'I *want* to find out what Karl is up to, but he's taking a nap, and this is only slightly less boring. So we just blast the Robosquids?'



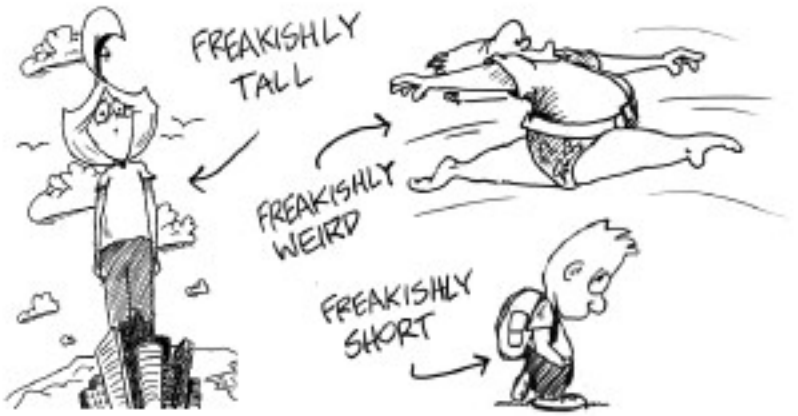
NanoNerd: Squidpocalypse is a simple online game. All you have to do is blast squidbots before they blast you. I play with people from all over the world.

And Molly.



'I told you this was a stupid game,' said Molly.

Molly's a friend. Sort of. We're both in Safety Patrol with Karl at Emily Dickinson Middle School (EMDS for short). It should be called the Freak Patrol.



Our guidance counsellor, Dr Daniels, made us all join Safety Patrol because she said we had 'peer allergies' and needed to fit in. At first, we thought it was lame. We did stuff like try to make sure sixth-graders didn't drown in the water fountains.



But it got better. We helped some kids and actually became sort of heroes for a few weeks. Now it's pretty cool. Well, not that cool. Okay, it's still pretty lame. But we do get out of lessons a lot.

And there's the snacks.



The beret Karl wears has a nannycam that broadcasts to a private website. We call it the Beret-Cam. He started out wearing it for undercover Safety Patrol stuff, but now he wears it all the time. Molly and I watch the feed on my phone. That's how we learned Karl got an invitation to join MLEZ.

MLEZ used to be Emily (they sound the same). Emily is this made-up thing kids at EDMS have used for years to explain the mysteries of middle school.



Like it's the ghost of Emily Dickinson, or something. But it's not.

Emily became real when it became MLEZ: the name on Karl's invitation. That's when we figured out that MLEZ was Emily, and she or he or it had been secretly helping Safety Patrol behind the scenes.