

MONSTER DIARIES

THE CYCLOPS AND THE
WORST PARTY EVER



A large, stylized illustration of a cyclops eye occupies the left side of the cover. The eye is drawn with thick black outlines and has several small circles around it, suggesting movement or a wide field of vision. The title 'MONSTER DIARIES' is written in a bold, black, hand-drawn font across the top right, with the letters slightly slanted.

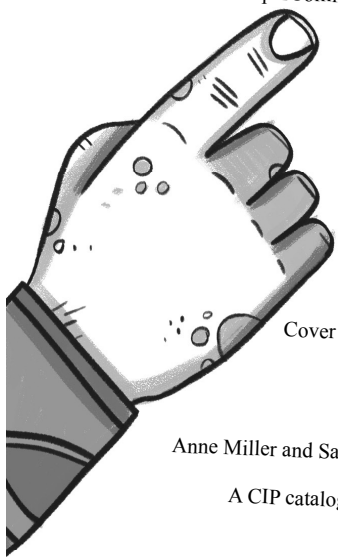
MONSTER DIARIES

THE CYCLOPS AND THE
WORST PARTY EVER

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ILLUSTRATED BY SAM CALDWELL



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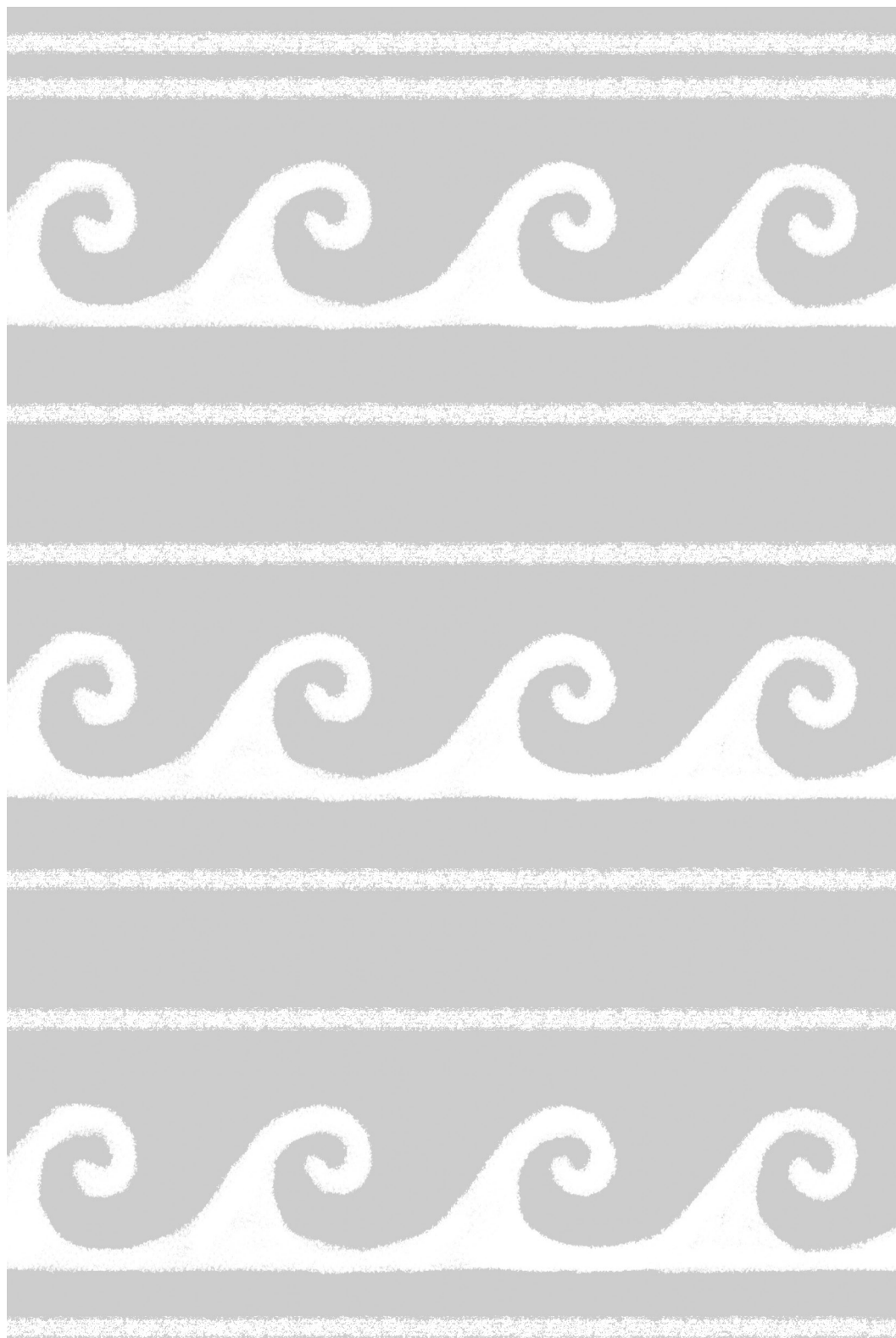
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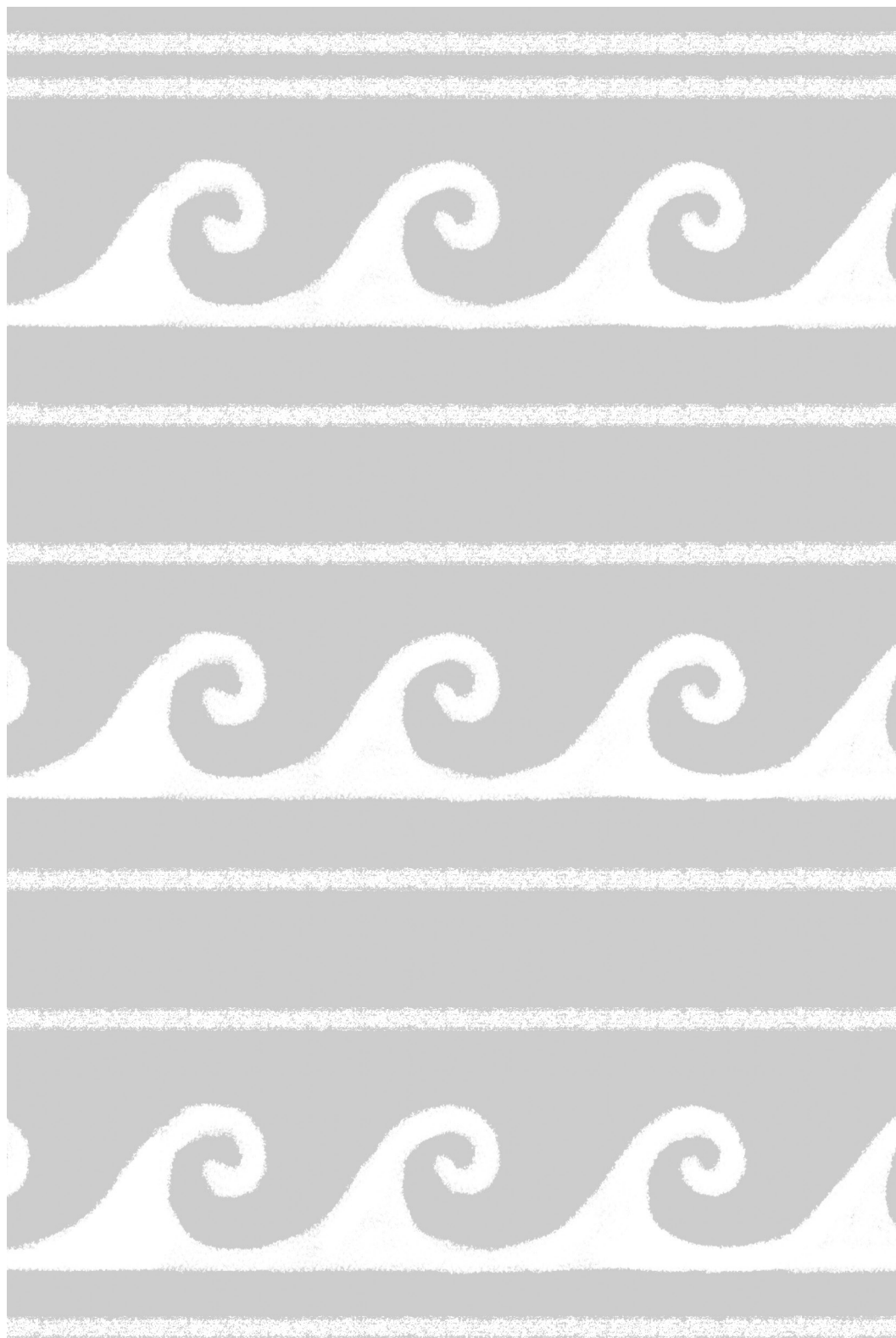
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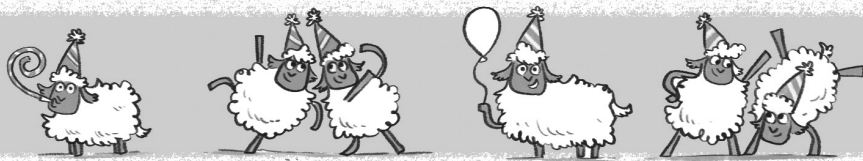
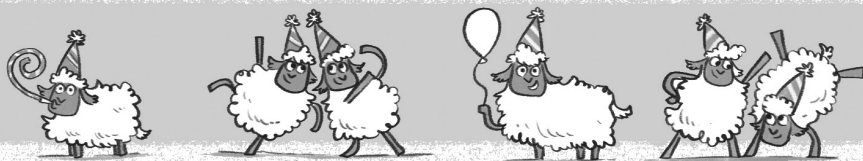
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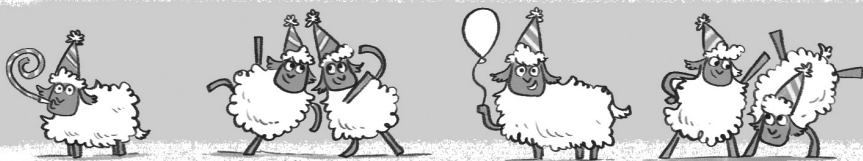


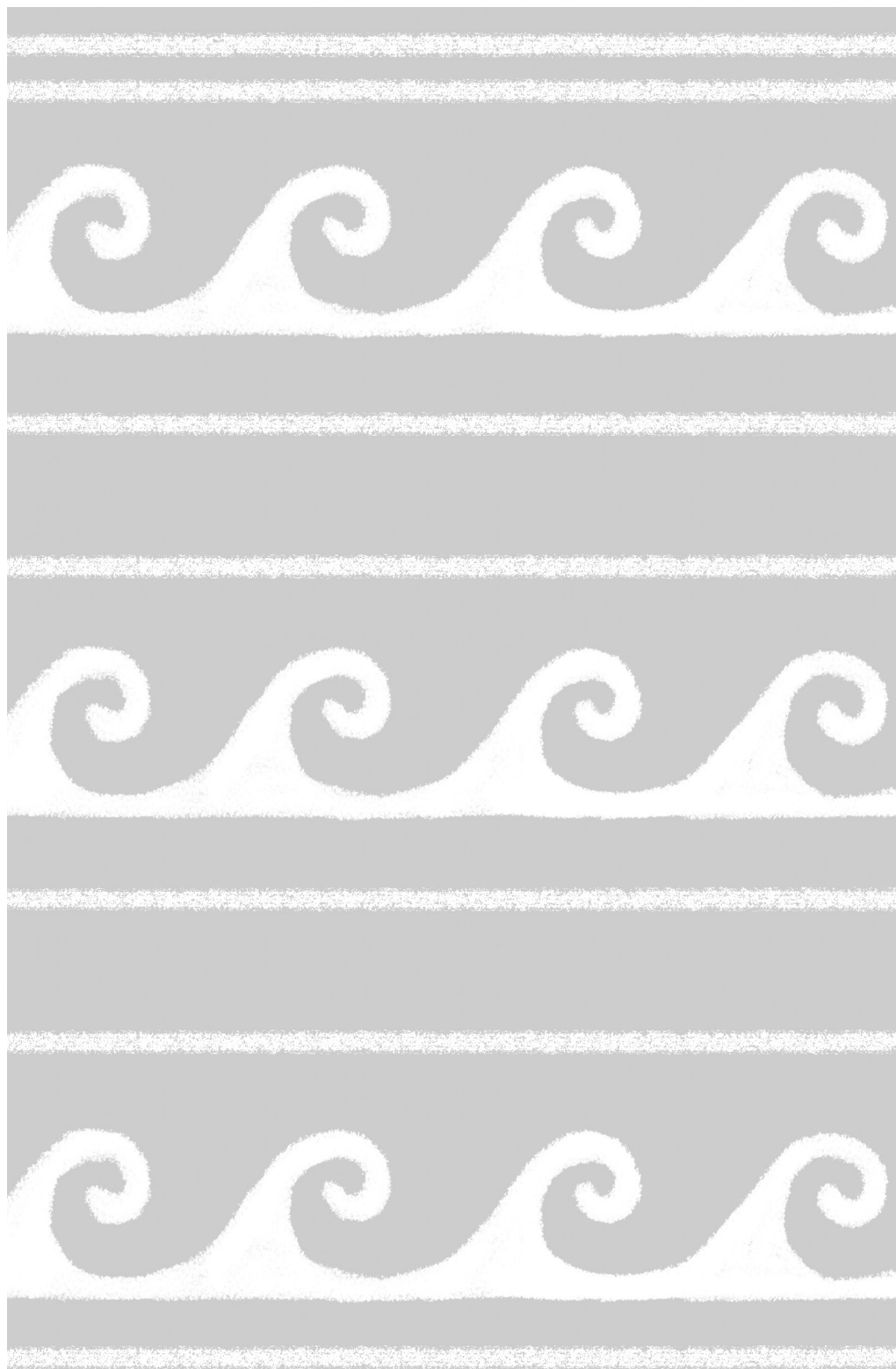
For F and L













Ahoy!

My name is ODYSSEUS, and it is a huge honour for you to meet me, isn't it? My adventures are **SO FAMOUS** that you probably know all about them already, but just in case you haven't yet had the pleasure of hearing about them, here are a few amazing facts all about **MEEEEEE**.

It all started with a big war fought between the Greeks (my side) and the Trojans (boooo!). It had been going on for

aaaages but then, **BOOM**, I won it, with just my clever old brain, a giant wooden horse and my rather excellent hair. Do you like it? I grew it myself.

When you're a **NON-STOP WINNER** like me, life tends to go your way, so I wasn't really surprised that it was me who saved the day, and I soon set sail for home. It was supposed to be a short return voyage, but would you believe that it actually took me **TEN WHOLE YEARS?!** And it wasn't because I made a mistake with the navigation (that's another thing I'm really good at), no, it was because of the

MONSTERS!

I know! Horrible monsters, with nothing better to do than try to slow down a man with a plan (me). And the **MOST** monstrous of them all was the terrifying one-eyed cyclops.

We paused our travels to stop and visit his island – WHERE HARDLY ANYONE ELSE EVER CAME TO VISIT, so you’d think he’d have been REALLY PLEASED TO SEE US, but what did he do?! **HE TOOK US PRISONER! HE ATE MY CREW!** Some of them anyway. The rest of us were trapped in his cave and facing certain death – can you believe that?! That’s certainly no way to treat honoured guests – if I could leave him a review, it would definitely be **ZERO STARS**.



Luckily, I figured out a way to escape using my incredible brain, which is why I’m able to be talking to you now. If you like, I’ll tell you how I did it, since I bet you’re **DESPERATE** to know.

STEP ONE:

I lulled him to sleep. (I know – one of the oldest tricks in the book, but he didn't see it coming!)

STEP TWO:

We PLUNGED A STAKE INTO HIS ONE GINORMOUS EYE. The sounds were NOT GOOD.

SPLAT! CRUNCH!
SPLUNCH!

STEP THREE:

I waited till morning when he got up and opened the cave door to let his sheep out.

STEP FOUR:

My crew and I grabbed a sheep each and hung underneath them – sneaking past the cyclops!! (He couldn't see us AT ALL – due to Step Two.)

STEP FIVE:

We sailed away – winners AGAIN, heroes AGAIN.

So long, Monster! You'll never get the better of . . .
ODYSSEUS, the dashing **Hero-with-a-capital-H** and some truly great hair.