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Opening extract from **Jumblebum**

Written by
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With much love to my dear friends Craig and Martene –
and especially Elsie, who has a lifetime of love ahead of her.

C.S.

With all my love to my own messy monsters, Johnny and Anna!

B.C.



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Jumblebum



Written by Chae Strathie
Illustrated by Ben Cort

 SCHOLASTIC

This is the story of Johnny McNess,
Whose room was an eye-popping,
tum-churning MESS.





There was gunk on the carpet
and junk on the bed,
And underpants draped
over Bob the dog's head!

There were beans in his trainers
and jam on his toys,
And strange creepy-crawlies
that made an odd noise.



The curtains were crumpled
and covered in scribbles,
And dripping with ketchup
and yogurty dribbles.

And if all that awfulness wasn't enough,
His sock drawer was bursting with mountains of fluff.



A full-page illustration of a young girl with short, wavy blonde hair. She has a shocked or scared expression, with wide eyes and an open mouth. Her hands are raised towards her face, with fingers spread. She is wearing a long-sleeved sweater with horizontal stripes in light blue and white, and dark blue flared pants. A large, round, brown pendant hangs from a thin chain around her neck. The background is a cluttered room with various toys and objects scattered on the floor, including a teddy bear, a robot, a clock, and other unidentifiable items. The style is a simple, colorful cartoon illustration.

“I can’t see what’s wrong,”
Johnny said with a smile.
“I think that my room
has its own special style.”



But later that night, as he snoozled and snored,
Something was stirring down there on the floor.

That something was smelly,
that something was **big**,

That something went “snuffle”
and “snort” like a pig.



For there in the corner, enjoying a feast,
Was the horribly slobbery

JUMBLEBUM BEAST!

Its body was made
out of wrinkled-up clothes,

All grubby and gross
from its head to its toes.

Its hot stinky breath
reeked of smelly old shoes,

And out of its mouth
leaked a luminous OOZE.



The beast made a sound like a rusty trombone,
And Johnny woke up with a bleary-eyed groan.



“HARRUMPH! HARROO!”

the Jumblebum howled.
Then, spotting Johnny,
it let out a growl...

