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Opening extract from

The Almost Fearless Hamilton Squidlegger

Written & Illustrated by

Timothy Basil Ering

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During the hours when the sun shares its light, Hamilton is a daring do-*er* and a dream-come-truer. Why, he's the rippingest, roaringest Squidlegger in the scrintalberry swamp!

"Dad! Dad! Watch, Dad!" Hamilton calls out. "My mighty shield can block the flames of a fire-breathing frackensnapper!"



"Amazing, Hamilton! Your strength and speed are stupendous," says Dad.

"And my sword can dodge the claws of a skelecragon!"

"What courage you have! It takes one brave Squidlegger to tickle the foot of a bracklesneed!"



One might say Hamilton Squidlegger is fearless. Well, not quite. He's *almost* fearless. . . .



A double-decker grasshopper worm-cake, with snake-belly frosting! It was Hamilton's absolute favorite treat.

"I made this especially for you, Hamilton," said his father. "You can eat it *all* for breakfast tomorrow, under one condition: Tonight, you must *stay in your own mud*."

"Anything! Anything for that delicious cake!" Hamilton exclaimed.

But when steel-gray rain clouds darkened the swamp and the BOOM of thunder shook the scrintalberries, Hamilton had doubts.