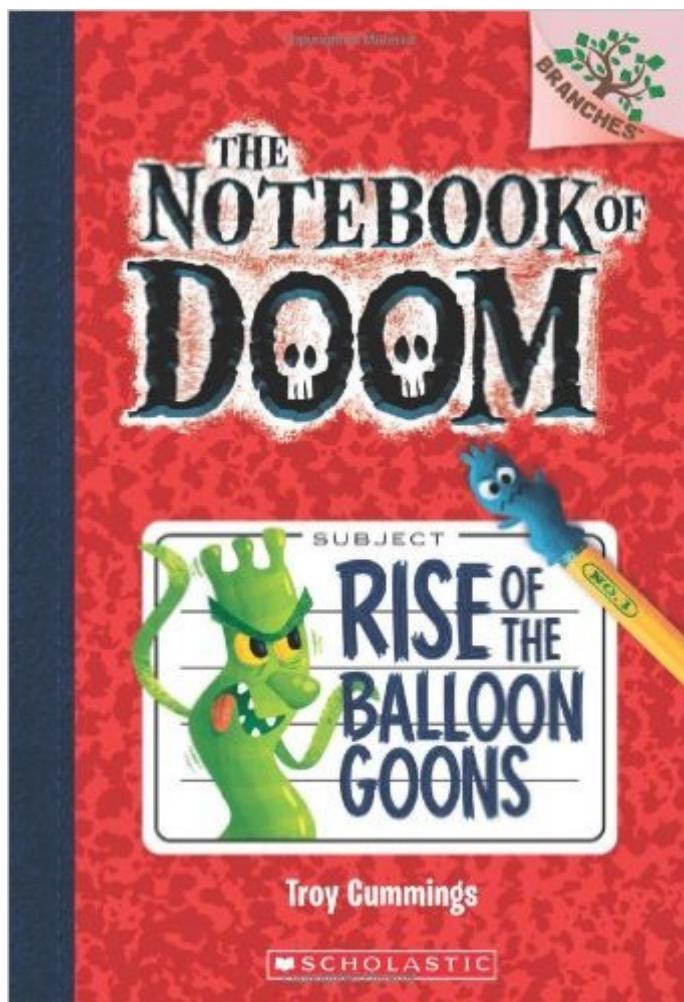


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# Rise Of The Balloon Goons: A Branches Book (The Notebook Of Doom #1)



## **Synopsis**

Monsters + Humor + Fun = THE NOTEBOOK OF DOOM! This series is part of Scholastic's early chapter book line called Branches, which is aimed at newly independent readers. With easy-to-read text, high-interest content, fast-paced plots, and illustrations on every page, these books will boost reading confidence and stamina. Branches books help readers grow! Alexander has just moved to a new town where he is about to uncover all sorts of monsters! He finds an old notebook with the word "DOOM" inscribed on the front cover. The Notebook of Doom, which Alexander now holds, contains top secret information about monsters! In this first book, Alexander goes up against spooky balloon goons--unique and twisted arm-waving balloon guys! This book is full of humor, engaging black-and-white illustrations, and of course . . . monsters!

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 490L (What's this?)

Series: The Notebook of Doom (Book 1)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Inc. (June 25, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545493234

ISBN-13: 978-0545493239

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 5.2 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (123 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,891 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men #53 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Spine-Chilling Horror #53 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Chapter Books

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

My 8 year old grandson is a good reader but not much interested in reading on his own. I took him to the library last week to pick out a book (which he didn't want to get) in order to continue the reading I've been requiring him to do over the summer. He saw this book sitting out and chose it. He started reading the book in the car going home, and continued reading for 40 minutes while we did

errands. That night, a while before bed, he picked it up and read again until bedtime, then begged me to let him stay up to finish the book. I told him he could read it again when he woke up, which he did, first thing in the morning - and continued reading until he had finished the entire book. I've never seen him so engrossed in reading, and it was wonderful to see, so I certainly plan on getting the other books in the series that are due to come out soon.

Finally! An early chapter book worth talking about! With the popularity of scary themes and mysteries, this book is perfect to introduce a youngster into the world of reading. I read this with my 5 year old daughter and she loved it. She went back through the book, page by page after we read it, looking at the pictures and talking about what happened in the story. Alexander is the new kid in town and he is noticing a lot of strange things happening. The balloon goons you see in front of car dealerships start appearing everywhere. Car tires are mysteriously going flat all over town. But that's nothing compared to the mysterious notebook he finds, or the unexpected birthday guests. The plot is a full, complete story that is simplified for early readers. There isn't any skimping when it comes to buildup and character development. The characters are fun and each one plays their role in the story quite well. There is humor, mystery, suspense, and friendship in this little chapter book. I am SO glad that this is going to be a series because I know at least one little girl that can't wait to read the next one!

I wish Troy Cummings had written this book back when my sons were elementary school age because they would have loved it. If your kids are fans of Dav Pilkey's Captain Underpants, as mine were, they would definitely enjoy this volume which has similar wacky humor (fewer potty jokes, more monster jokes, and all pretty funny jokes, especially if you're a 9 year old...though this 49 year old enjoyed them too). Troy's drawings complements the story perfectly; I enjoyed the art as much as the tale. For me, the icing on the cake is the last page with the description of the talented author-illustrator. I'm still chuckling over that.

I have been trying to introduce my son to longer "chapter books." Tried some classics, etc - however he kept losing interest. This book wound up doing the trick. Great mix of illustration and writing. Story was well paced for a kid and we ended it with him begging for the second in the series. On another note, the language is great for a young mind. No middle school type name calling or anything I thought was inappropriate for my son. Great job Mr. Cummings! You found the sweet spot!

My daughter is 7 and was obsessed with the Wimpy Kid series. It was her first series of chapter books (she's in first grade) and I am trying to find her something else so she stops re-reading these books. Notebook of Doom has done the trick. She is now on book 5. :)

I'm an elementary READ 180 teacher, working with 4th and 5th grade struggling readers. We introduced this series to our classroom library back in the fall, and it was a WINNER!!! Our students talk about these books, convince one another to read them, fight over them, and beg for more! They have even petitioned our PTO to bring in the author, Troy Cummings, for next year's author visit. We recently got an order of the latest book in the series, and the kids were grabbing the books out of the box like they were candy! I LOVE how much my kiddos LOVE THESE BOOKS!

I ordered these books for my son for Christmas. They arrived well packaged and undamaged. Fast shipping which was nice. He loves these books! I have not read them but our son read one to my husband and he said they were really fun books. Our son is 9 and hates to read! He is an excellent reader but would rather play video games all day if we would let him. For him to ask for the whole set and to see him re-reading the ones from school tells me they must be pretty awesome books.

This is a great series to bridge the gap from beginning readers to chapter books. The chapters are short and have illustrations on each page. My 7 year old son devoured this book and has since read the rest of the series. He reads them over and over again and thanks me for these books. He can't wait until January when #9 comes out.

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