Nick had always been scared of the dark. Just the idea that something could be lurking in the darkness, something he could not see, frightened him. He always had to sleep with a lamp on, as a nightlight was not enough light to reassure him. However, one night, as he was lying in bed trying to get to sleep, a voice suddenly broke the silence. “Hey little human, what’re you doing sleeping with the light on~?” A deep male voice spoke, coming from underneath the bed. Nick’s eyes quickly opened up wide and he sat up in bed, startled, his heart racing. “W-Who said that?” Nick asked with fear as he looked on all sides of his bed frightfully. “Don’t be afraid little one, I’m just a friend, paying you a visit.” The voice spoke, a bit of gentleness to its tone. “Are you scared? If you turn off that lamp of yours, I can ease your fears~” The voice continued, as Nick gulped. “U-Um, no thank you sir, I’m fine with the lamp on, thanks…” He said. The voice underneath the bed sighed. “Well, suit yourself. If you change your mind though, I’ll be here.” The voice says. There was no way Nick could sleep now though, knowing that there was…something…lurking underneath his bed.

About a year passed, and Nick never stopped sleeping with the lamp in his room on at night. The voice returned several times, mostly just making polite conversation whenever Nick couldn’t sleep, but also at times urging Nick to turn off his lamp, or at least replacing it with a small nightlight. Even with Nick growing a little more comfortable with his occasional visitor, who claimed to not have a name, Nick still didn’t have the courage to turn off that lamp, knowing that if he did, whatever was under his bed would be able to get him. “I’m not going to hurt you. All I want to do is hug and hold my little friend close.” The voice under the bed insisted, but Nick still would not turn off the lamp. Because no matter how kind that voice seemed, Nick still feared it was a beast only looking to eat him up. One night, however, after once again asking for the lamp to be turned off, the voice decided that enough was enough. “I do not understand why you are still afraid. You think that lamp is the thing that keeps me from getting ahold of you? I’m afraid it’s not.” The voice said as Nick looked to the edge of the bed. “What are you talking about…?” Nick asked, before gasping as he feels his bed shake softly. “All this time, I wanted you to turn the lamp off, so that I could hug you without you seeing my monstrous appearance. But I’m tired of waiting. I’m going to take away that fear of yours.” The voice spoke.

Nick gasped out, quickly sitting up as suddenly, these large scaly, purple tentacles started to come up the sides of the bed. Nick yelped, trying to inch back up against the wall, away from them as they slither close and start to wrap around his body. The tentacles felt soft, smooth, and squishy, but Nick could not focus on that. He was scared. At the foot of the bed, a big shape began to rise up, finally revealing the body of the monster that’s been hiding under Nick’s bed all this time. He had anthromorphic torso, and his entire body had purple scales, with lighter purple circles lining down his tentacles as well as down his arms. His head resembled a dragon or lizard, being reptilian with four horns, two big and two small between. Finally, the monster sported a big rotund belly, which softly jiggled as the huge monster settled, the tentacles starting to pull Nick close. “N-No please! Stop! L-Lemme go!” Nick cried out fearfully as he weakly thrashed in the strong loops. Suddenly though, the monster’s arms grabbed Nick from the tentacles and pulled him close into a big hug, the monster softly shushing Nick. “Shhhhh…Everything’s okay Nick. It’s like I said, I’m not here to hurt you.” The monster said gently, looking down at Nick with a soft smile on his scaly face.

Nick nervously looked up to the big monster holding the human close in his arms, up against his squishy, scaly, chubby chest. “Y-You’re…you’re really not…?” Nick asked the big monster, who softly shook his head. “No, I never wanted to hurt you. All I wanted to do is hug my little friend close.” The monster released a soft purring noise as he held Nick close, giving him a soft squeeze in his hug. “It feels so good to finally hold you like this.” The monster sighed happily, a hand softly rubbing up and down Nick’s back. Nick gulped and silently lied there in the monster’s hug. Soon though, the monster gently lifted Nick away from him, frowning slightly. “You’re still nervous. Well…I suppose I shouldn’t be surprised. I’m still a monster, after all.” He said, a bit of sadness in his tone. “W-Well I…” Nick said nervously, before the monster smiled softly and lowered Nick down, wrapping him back up in his tentacles. “Don’t worry. I promised to take away all that fear of yours. I’ll do just that. But first, your fear will have to increase for a short bit.” The monster says as Nick looked up at him with nervous confusion. “I-Increase…?” He said before noticing a line appearing along the monster’s round belly, before both sides of the line split, revealing a grinning mouth with sharp-looking teeth…  
 “Ahhh!” Nick cried out seeing the large mouth appearing on the monster’s belly, the monsters hand coming down to gently rub Nick’s head to gently rub in an attempt to calm him down. “It’s okay, Nick! He’s friendly…” the monster said, seeming a bit nervous himself as the maw began to laugh in a voice deeper yet more boisterous than the monster’s own. “Hahahahaha, finally! I’ve been waiting to have you for a long time!” the maw grinned, opening up and a large tongue coming out, slithering forward and slowly licking up Nick’s face. “Tasty~! Hehehehe~” the maw rumbled as Nick thrashed fearfully. The monster sighed and patted his belly. “Alright, hurry it up, I don’t want to prolong this.” He told his belly. “Don’t rush me! I like to play with my food!” the belly mouth argued back before suddenly planting a big kiss on Nick’s face, the ‘lips’ of the maw pressing right up to Nick’s face, squishing it with some the monster’s belly fat. The monster sighed and rolled his eyes a bit as the belly maw kept smooching over Nick’s face, before suddenly releasing the kiss and releasing a massive belch of a purplish gas right into Nick’s face, “UURP! Hahahaha!” the belly maw began to laugh out loud, seeming to be extremely amused as Nick groaned, beginning to feel sleepiness overcome him, feeling too tired to struggle anymore.

The belly mouth grinned widely seeing Nick lie there in the tentacles, overcome by sleepiness, but not losing consciousness yet. “You done playing now?” the monster asked his belly with an unamused tone. “Yeah yeah, just feed him to me!” the belly maw said, before slowly opening wide. The monster sighed and used his tentacles to move Nick slowly and carefully into the open maw. However, when Nick was about halfway in, the maw closed and began to noisily suck and slurp the rest of Nick up, making light chomping noises despite not actually piercing Nick with any of its teeth. Finally, the maw slurped in Nick’s feet and licked the human all around happily, rumbling at Nick’s flavor, before saying “I have a magic trick!” to the monster, while still holding Nick inside. It opened wide, showing Nick lying in there half-conscious and covered in slimy saliva. “Now you see him…” The maw said before closing and seeming to swallow, despite the maw seeming to take up the whole belly, with no place for Nick to be swallowed to. However, when the maw opened up again, Nick was nowhere to be seen. “…Now you don’t! Hahahahaha!” The maw laughed out loud at its own joke, before releasing a belch even bigger than before, “UUUURP!” causing the monster to sigh and roll his eyes his eyes. “Very funny.” Deep inside the monster’s body, Nick landed down into a fleshy room, much more spacious than should be possible, gurgling and groaning noises heard everywhere. With a soft groan, Nick finally lost consciousness.

The next morning, Nick slowly opened his eyes, finding himself lying back in bed, the morning sunlight shining through his window. He slowly sat up, stretching a bit, before remembering what had happened. Was it all just a dream? Nick slowly climbed out of bed, standing up on his feet before he heard a familiar voice coming from under his bed. “Did you have a good sleep?” the monster asked, though looking down, Nick couldn’t see the monster past the darkness. “Um…yeah…” Nick said, realizing he doesn’t feel scared of the monster anymore. He remembers everything, even being eaten, but…it didn’t scare him anymore. “I told you I would get rid of your fear.” The monster said. “But…if you want me to leave and never come back, I understand.” He continued. Nick frowned a bit and looked thoughtfully down at the darkness under his bed. “No…No, you can stay, mister monster.” Nick decided. “Really?” The monster asked in surprise, causing Nick to smile a bit. “Yeah…I guess it’s not so bad, having a monster under the bed, at least when it’s you.” He said. The monster chuckled. “Well, thank you. Perhaps I can hug you again tonight.” He said to which Nick nodded. “Sure.” He said, finding that he was kind of looking forward to it. “You don’t have a name right? Well since you’re the monster under my bed, how about I call you MUB?” Nick asked. “MUB…” the monster said thoughtfully. “I like that.”