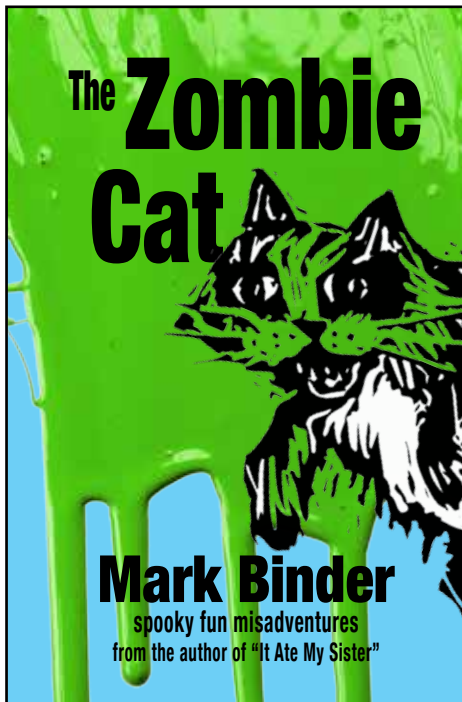


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Mark Binder is the author of more than 20 books and audio books, including **It Ate My Sister**, **The Bed Time Story Book**, and **It was a dark and stormy night...** An internationally renowned storyteller, he tours the world and performs for diverse audiences, sharing truths, telling lies and transmitting joy.

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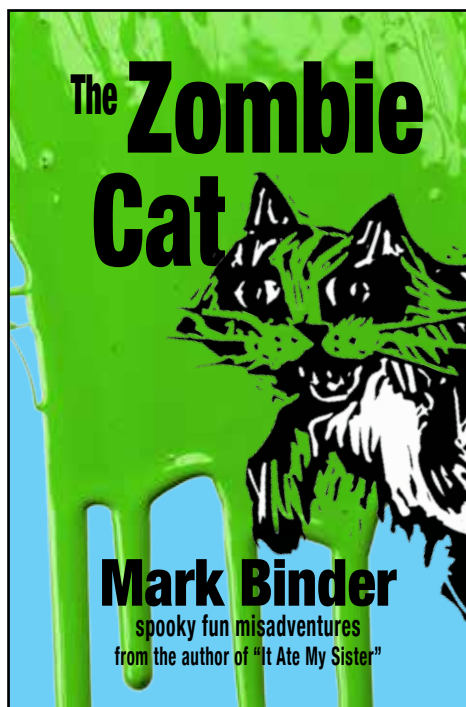
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A few brief words from Mark Binder



Like much of my work, **The Zombie Cat** began as a spoken-word story. It was initially outlined on a piece of scrap paper and then performed/improvised live at a summer camp. My intention was to creep out—and gross out—the campers.

For adults, the fun of zombies is that you're allowed to kill them because they're already dead. But as a somewhat responsible parent, I can't do that in a children's story. So I came up with Crusty/Mr. Cuddles. The first telling was awesome, but the audio recording got deleted in a cell phone crash. As did the second recording.

When I finally wrote the story down it had transformed into something longer and more intricate, and became the kick-off piece for the entire collection.

I tried to design this book for two groups: people who like to read, and people who don't like to read. There are a huge number of young people for whom reading is an assigned chore. **The Zombie Cat** isn't that. It's why we're claiming that it counts as two books toward a reading log—the "Rewind" section is a collection of linked stories and "The Stink Bomb War" is a stand-alone novel/chapter book in its own right. My publisher is also experimenting with a dyslexia font edition to reach even deeper into the ranks of non-readers.

I'm not quite sure what adults will make of this book, which is why we advise reading it with a sense of humor. Don't take it too seriously, let it bring out the kid in you, and please have fun. Thanks for reading.

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