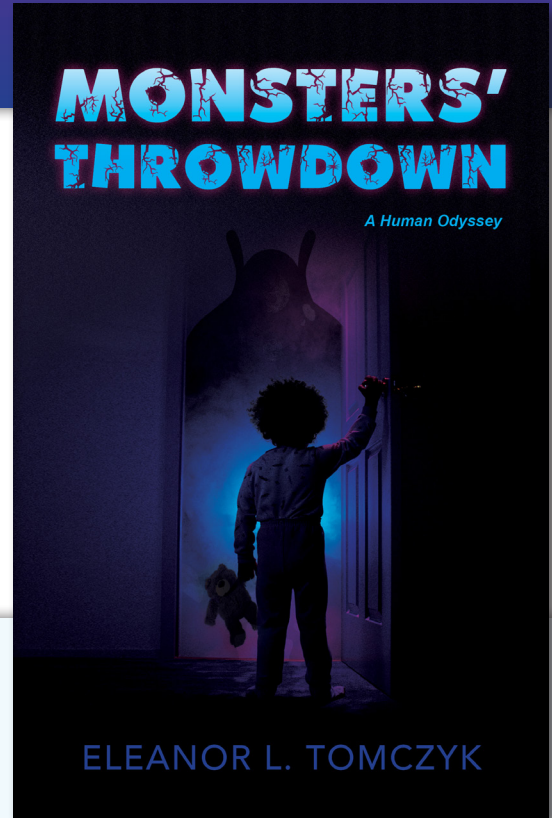


Eleanor Tomczyk

SURVIVAL TIPS ON HOW TO KICK A MONSTER'S ASS



- 1 Never let the monsters see you sweat.
- 2 Never turn your back on monsters once they show their true colors.
- 3 Learn to “whistle a happy tune” when you’re tiptoeing past a monster’s haunt to give the impression that you are unafraid—even if you’re shaking in your boots.
- 4 Don’t be afraid to match a monster bluff for bluff—it usually catches the monster by surprise because underneath, a monster is just a bully.
- 5 Learn the ways of monsters so that you don’t become like one.
- 6 Embrace a heart of love, compassion, tolerance, forgiveness, and grace: they are the antidotes for monster mayhem and hatred.



- 7 Keep a monster handbook close at hand for reference (Homer’s *Odyssey*, Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings*, the *Bible*).
- 8 Carefully check underneath all beds, in all closets, and throughout the basement of any home you occupy to make sure The Boogey Man (your inner fears) has been exorcized. Once your inner fears are conquered, you’ll have courage enough to face The Boogey’s sidekicks.
- 9 Never cozy up to monsters—they are not good friend material and they will devour you if given half the chance.
- 10 If it walks like a monster, talks like a monster, and acts like a monster—it is a monster, even if it is wrapped in a priest’s frock, an uncle’s inappropriate embrace, or a friend’s betrayal.