



You're special, smart and curious,  
 and we want you to remember that forever.  
 Sometimes it's not a special occasion but just  
 a special person who inspires you to give.  
 That's why we're giving you this little book  
 where you'll find your very own story.  
 Happy reading!

Amari,  
 You're the best baby girl a mommy and daddy could have.  
 Always remember, you can't wear a crown with your  
 head down. Love you, mamas!



# DIARY OF AMARI

AN ORIGINAL

Itzel

PRODUCTION

## STARRING

BABY	.....	Amari
MOMMY	.....	Ellie
DADDY	.....	Adrian

INSPIRED BY <sup>mostly</sup> TRUE EVENTS





5

SECONDS

LATER...

# Dear Diary,

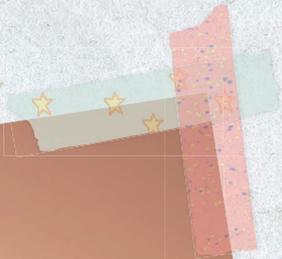
**It's a girl!** An adorable one, too. She eats and sleeps whenever she can, but she mainly spends her time exploring and figuring out her new world. She really **never stops!** I call her **Mommy**. That's her in blue. She does her best to keep those around her moving as well, and she still hasn't given up on the one I call **Daddy**. He's there in the red shirt, and he's learning more every day!

**That's me** right there in the middle. They call me Amari, and sometimes other names, like *Your Turn*. I get that one when I leak onto my back or when I'm wide awake and it's dark out. I'm a sucker for things like milk, my fingers, and **especially** Mommy and Daddy. Luckily, I was born to get their **attention**, so I do it all the time. Even if Daddy is in the shower or Mommy is eating — if I want them, I get them. They're always so happy to answer, they almost never go by Ellie and Adrian anymore, which were their names **BC - Before Child**. They snap right into being Mommy and Daddy. I love it when they snap! It happens a lot.

How cute are they though? Such a perfect family **portrait**. Mommy is great at holding me, and her **catching reflexes** are coming along nicely. And Daddy? Well, he's getting used to this kind of thing, which is good, because there's plenty more where that came from! They deserve to remember all the sights, smells, **late nights and close calls** of spending time with **me**, so I'll keep track of all the fun we have together right here. And one day, they'll look back on it **all** and laugh. Or cry. Or fall asleep. It's usually one of those three.

**Let's get ready to stumble!**

Amari



AND  
THE STORY  
BEGINS...





## Dear Diary,

What did Mommy and Daddy do for fun before **I** came along?! They're so happy and excited by everything I do. I lifted my head last week and Daddy started clapping, and just yesterday when I pulled Mommy's hair, she smiled so much I could see **ALL** of her teeth! But this morning was my **biggest** performance so far. It all started with a trip to the changing table...



When Mommy opened my diaper, I aimed right at her face and peed. She was very **impressed** – she opened her eyes wide and her jaw dropped. So, not wasting a single drop I also got some on her shirt, my onesie and the floor – I really **MADE IT RAIN!** All this was so much fun that when she lifted my legs to dry me off, I just couldn't hold it in. My bum burped and suddenly, my excitement came pouring out of me into my **fresh**, new



diaper and up onto my back. There was **a lot** of it too, as I had been building it up for **3**, maybe **4** – or was it **9?** – days, and Mommy wanted Daddy to see it as well.

When he saw what I'd brought to the table, he covered his mouth. I couldn't see his smile, so I decided that this wasn't the end of **ROUND NUMBER 2**. And it worked! The encore had them dancing around and singing loudly! I also started wiggling and even splashed my feet



in the puddles. It was a real **LOTTA-POO-LOOZA!**

So now I know how to make diaper changes more ~~new~~ exciting. I'm sorry it took me so long to figure it out. It won't be easy to top today, but I'll sure try! **The sky's the limit ...** well, in my case, the ceiling fan.

That's all for now – I'm pretty wiped,  
**Amari**





## Dear Diary,



This body of mine continues to surprise me! There I was, wondering how I would **EVER** see what the tops of tables, boxes, and other things around our home looked like when the answer was in my mouth this whole time. **FEET!** As tasty as these ~~leg~~ leg-hands are to suck on, they're even better to **stand** on! This is just like when I thought my spit-up was meant to mark where I've been, when its real purpose is clearly for finger painting on the go.

Now I'm head over heels with my new perspective. I simply use my arm-feet to hold onto the coffee table or Mommy's legs or the toilet seat and **voilà**, I can see what's hiding above. It's incredible what I see when I'm up high, like their cell phones and cups that make **A LOT** of noise when I sweep them to the floor. So now I'm hooked: I get high first thing in the morning, at the park, and sometimes even at the store.



It does get me hungry like nothing else, though! Probably because of the workout that it is. And not just for me, but for Mommy and Daddy, too. They're jumping up and running toward me all the time now. And while they seem happy to see me standing tall, they show it from **WAY** too close and keep interrupting me. Such a **BUZZKILL**.

Another annoying thing is that they're now moving everything away from me, right to the other side of the table. Funny thing though: I'm starting to learn that

my feet can **move**, and I can shimmy closer to things I want while standing up, too. Next time Daddy is ~~sleep~~ **not watching**, I'll see where my feet can take me after I get up and stand up.

I won't give up the fight,  
**Amari**





## DEAR DIARY,

It's **OFFICIAL**: of all the things I put in my mouth, food takes the cake. I've sucked on sock puppets, licked lots of blocks, and munched my way through mountains of books, but, in the end, food comes out as **number one**.

Actually, it makes it to some pretty stinky **number twos** as well. And not only is it the tastiest activity, but it stacks up against some of the funnest ones, too. Just yesterday, I balanced three carrots on top of each other before knocking them to the floor!



For a while now, Mommy and Daddy have been sweet enough to let me savor all the fun, but today, I decided to let them enjoy it with me.

**APPLESAUCE** was on the menu, and since it's one of my favorite colors, I finger-painted it all over my face. When Mommy came in for a better look, I spread the **awesome sauce** on her face, too. And she really liked **them apples!** She jumped up to show Daddy how good she looked, and he ~~laughed~~ laughed, so I figured he wanted some as well. I put some on the spoon



and flung it across the table, right onto his shirt! He opened his mouth but didn't say anything. I'd left him **speechless!**

So I was quick to repeat it **again** and **again** until Mommy grabbed the spoon out of my hands. Unfortunately, there was no sauce left for her to fling; I had already put all of it **EVERYWHERE** – the table, the floor, the walls, and all over the two of them, of course. Daddy was so proud, I swear I saw

**A TEAR** in his eye! I love spicing things up and making them happy, but all that flinging and painting really made me **HUNGRY!**

I'll be back for seconds tomorrow,

**Amari**





**DEAR DIARY,**

The stars are shining bright; it's a quiet, **peaceful** night.

I've been fed and bathed and dressed, and now it's time to get some

**REST.** Mommy will tuck me in, kiss me sweetly and then she will begin...

**TO SING.** 🎵🎵

I cling to my blankie, I cling on for dear life! I'm **TERRIFIED** of that farmer's wife! And what I am doing up in a treetop!? Catch me, Daddy, don't let me **DROP!** Oh God, how I fear these stories and rhymes! Well, I guess they can be pleasant **sometimes.** But at night, when it's dark, I dread that horrible shark! Little fish, swim away! Swim **FASTER,** I say! Now I'm all **shaken, rattled, afraid!** I scream and I panic, I feel so betrayed! Oh, the tricks



Mommy and Daddy have tried: **talking** and **rocking** me while I cried. They've paced around, rubbed my back, and they've given me a midnight snack. It looks like I'm about to close my eyes... **surprise!** I can't just simply fall asleep; I won't lie here and count some sheep. A man bumped his head when he went to bed. Will that be my fate? I'll just have to wait... Wait and see...

### **NO!! That's not for me!**

Mommy and Daddy want to get some shut-eye, but I **WILL FUSS** and **SQUIRM** and **CRY** so I don't die before I wake, or fall off a wall and have my

skull break. I will stay up as long as I can, then wake up a lot — that is the plan! And so, for my sanity's sake, I'll spend all my nights alive and **AWAKE.**

But for now... Good night, shadows. Good night, moonlight. Good night, bugs in my bed — **please** don't bite. Good night, squeaky chairs that give me nightmares. Good night, muffled screams.

**Sweet dreams** (whatever that means),  
**Amari**





## Dear Diary,

I've dabbled in **many roles** in my time – soil sommelier, wall artist, food critic – but I think I've found my true calling: **TREASURE HUNTER**. In the days I spent staring up at the Great Nothing, I could never have dreamed of the hidden gems littering our home. But then I flipped off ~~the ceiling~~ my back and that upside-down life. Soon after, I came



unstuck from the floor. And now that I'm **unstuckable**, I'm **unstoppable** – ready to explore any corner in search of riches.



I've wandered among the wonders of **THE GREAT INDOORS** crawling down low along the dusty Shoe Trail and climbing to the heights of Mommy and Daddy's Bed. There, I kicked and bounced between the sheets, and nearly toppled off once or twice – but that's just **HOW I ROLL**. I've scooted through avalanches of diapers and stumbled upon books, feasting on their papery wisdom.



I've wriggled with cable snakes — and even bitten a few back! — and picked the rarest of flowers from the highest of shelves. **Danger** lurks inside every drawer and cabinet, but still the booty calls to me. I've been to Hall and back more times than I can count, and it's all been leading me to the biggest stash of them all...

And today it'll be **MINE!** I can feel it in my diaper. There was a battle of clinking glasses and rumbling voices last night. Daddy has been recovering on the summit of Mount Armchair all morning, and Mommy is gathering the spoils of

their victory, adding them to the Treasure Bag that I'll soon dive into. I can't wait to reach the bottom of that barrel! All I need to do is squirm past the graveyard of lost toys under the table and wait until Mommy turns her back on me. OK, I'm making my move. Feet are **READY.** Legs are **STEADY. Bottom's up.**

It's time to get trashed,  
**Amari**





## Dear Diary,

There are few things I enjoy more in my life than a nice, relaxing **SNOOZE** **CRUISE**. There's a lot of rushing around with Mommy and Daddy, so it's always a welcome change of pace when we hit the neighborhood in my **slowrider**. Don't get me wrong, I do love my crib, but with a comfy seat and built-in toys, every walk I get to go on is a real joyride. I take in the sights, enjoy some fresh air, and fall into a sweet, sidewalk-strolling **SIESTA**.



As long as we don't run into any cheek-pinching, head-patting, **PERSONAL-SPACE INVADERS**, that is. I might still have a soft spot, but they must be pretty thickeheaded to think I enjoy this. I'm not public property. And I don't mean to get kissed and yell, but hey, at least treat me to some **milk** first.



Because even with all their petting and poking, there's nothing **WORSE** than when they pucker up and peck me on the cheek! I'm already at the bottom of the



pecking order, and I don't know where those lips have been! Can't these puckering people peck on someone their own size? For starters, I've got a couple of **BIGGER** cheeks they can plant their next one on...

And these mouths don't just ~~peck~~ pucker up my day, they also say things that make no sense whatsoever. **Why** do they think they can baby better than me? They're **adults**, they should probably get their own ~~peck~~ shtick together before telling me how to act. I'll decide for myself when to sleep and how much to eat,

thank you very much! It's nice to know that **Daddy** is with me on this one. The other day, I heard him tell **Mommy** that these slobbering **SMOOCHERS** should go and peck themselves.

**XOX-NO,**  
**Amari**





## Dear Diary,

I got my finger pinched in another drawer today – why do bad things like this happen? And there's so much more that I don't understand, like: **why is my head so heavy? what's the meaning of sleep? And how did I even get here?** All this mental and physical strain is exhausting! Even my own clothes have been wearing on me lately. Sometimes the only thing that keeps me going through it all is the welcoming water of my evening bath. Lying in the warm **BUBBLES** is the perfect way to put my mind and body at ease.

Tonight's bath started no differently, but then I wondered: Why is my heavy head always left high and dry? I just had to **TAKE THE PLUNGE** and dunk it under the water. And that's when it hit me. It came over me like a wave. I used to live and float in water **ALL THE TIME!** Those were the days before I'd ~~found~~ met Mommy. Back then, I wasn't even sure if she really existed. I'd always sensed that she was all around me, but how could that possibly be? I always believed in her, and I've always known she's watching over me.



Sure enough, she was watching over me when the splashback was over, and I remembered how much I used to like **KICKING** and twisting and punching in the water! Next thing I knew, we were all dripping wet. Mommy joined me in the splashing too, and Daddy was even sporting a soapy white **BUBBLE-BEARD!**



I still don't know how I got here, but believing in Mommy continues to be rewarding. And **who knows?** Maybe tonight, I'll see the point of sleep. I'd better call on Mommy again so I can drift off to the sound of her voice.

Just like the good old days,

**Amari**





## DEAR DIARY,

Once upon a time lived two aliens called **GA** and **GOO**. They were curious and smart, but often told what **NOT** to do. But one day those stubborn blobs snuck away and turned some knobs and **zoomed through space** till Earth came into view. Now when it came to planets, Ga and Goo were good at choosing; of all galactic races, they knew the human one was losing. See, they

wanted to help humanity and they saw some hope when they found me, so they **BEAMED ME UP** and cried, "Let's take this baby cruising!"

Their ship was full of **BULGING BUTTONS** and levers big and small, and they told me, "Go ahead! You can pound and yank them all!" So I beeped and tugged with joy — I was deep inside a blipping toy! I felt so happy, it almost made me want to bawl! After all, my home is **FULL of toys** Mommy and Daddy won't let me touch, like machines that rotate, flash or vibrate,



and squeak and leak and such. But it's always, "Amari, put that back!" and, "How on Earth did you find that!?" or, "Let's be safe and smart," but all these rules can be **TOO MUCH!** When I told Ga and Goo, they said, "Do we have news for you?! You don't know the half of what your parents get up to! We've seen Mommy sleep in an unsafe place; Daddy stuffs un-smart food into his face. You have to **EXPLORE YOUR WORLD** – it's exciting, huge, and new!"

Before long, I began to yawn and wonder when this game would end, then two giant space blobs entered, saying, "Ga and Goo, no! Not again! Tiny Earthlings are **NOT**

toys, they make a mess and too much noise!" When they shipped me home, it was like our trip didn't even happen ... but then I hear my parents talking, saying things like **"Ga Ga Goo!"** and I know they've been on that play-ship – this proves my story's true! So, like those space-babies say: I'll probe new things every day! And when Mommy and Daddy take toys away, there's only one thing I can do... I'll play with **THEM.**

And push their buttons, too.

**Amari**





## Dear Diary,

It's not easy being a baby. I can't walk, I can't sleep - I can't even ~~sleep~~ burp without help! Luckily, Mommy and Daddy are there for me day and night, but they don't always know what I'm trying to say. I've been teaching them, and they finally get that **dede** is "train" and that **yaya** means "Hey, I'm gonna need a new diaper." Took them long enough, though!



Their listening skills were driving me **CRAZY** again today. It all started when we got into their big toy, which I am not a fan of. It's either too hot or too cold, it smells funny, and I have to sit in **the strappy**. Also, my toys make me smile or drool, but this toy usually makes at least one of them cry!

Anyway, once we were in, Daddy made it move. That always feels nice enough. But then, almost right away, we stopped. **BORING!** I figured this was a good chance to try and make them do it. So I went



**WAAHHHHHH!** Mommy didn't get it – she shushed me instead. When we soon stopped again, I tried a bit louder. This time she responded with **zrrr singing**. Well, at least we were stopping quite a lot, so I had plenty of opportunities to try again and again. Each time, Mommy's ~~ear~~ voice got a bit louder, and Daddy started saying things like "Oh, for the love of God," but **they still. Didn't. Get it!**

At last, Daddy figured it out. I was on full volume when he said "Mother-**BEEP!** Will you **BEEP-BEEP!** move already!" **YES!** That's all I wanted – their toy to make the same "beep-beep" sound mine does! We started going again, and I happily closed my eyes and drifted off. And whaddaya know: a few minutes later, we pulled over. We were there!

Ok, enough **BEEP** –talk for now,  
**Amari**





## Dear Diary,

What a good time this afternoon was! It began with Mommy and Daddy putting on their outside clothes — the ones they don't like me wiping my mouth on. They both kept checking their watches, so there was no mistaking it: it was time for another round of **BEAT THAT CLOCK!**



Today's venue was the grocery store, and Mommy told Daddy we had to be done in one hour. That's how long my evening routine takes, and I tried my best to keep them on track.

### 47 MINUTES TO GO:

We were taking **too long** in the fruit section. Daddy was just staring at melons, not picking anything, so I began chanting him into action. I'd learned this trick the previous time in the can aisle. It worked again: he picked me up, grabbed some bananas and caught up to Mommy.





### 38 MINUTES TO GO:

Mommy was no better. She was looking at clothes — we already have clothes! I pulled at Daddy's shirt to show her this, but he just stuck me back in our cart.

### 27 MINUTES TO GO:

I made up for lost time by pulling food from the shelves into the cart. A few jars missed and hit the floor, but that finally **got them moving!**

### 11 MINUTES TO GO:

We were never going to make it at their pace, so I started yelling. We were **flying** past other shoppers now!

### 6 MINUTES TO GO:

After the frozen foods, I was afraid we were still ~~lagging~~ lagging. I wanted to win! So I cheered at the top of my lungs, and other people in line let us go ahead of them — they wanted us to beat that clock too!

**AND WE DID IT!** We won! I was so worn out from our victory that I dozed off on the way home. So, the falling asleep part of my evening routine will take extra-long tonight. Right on schedule.

Still the all-time champ,

**Amari**

# Dear Diary,

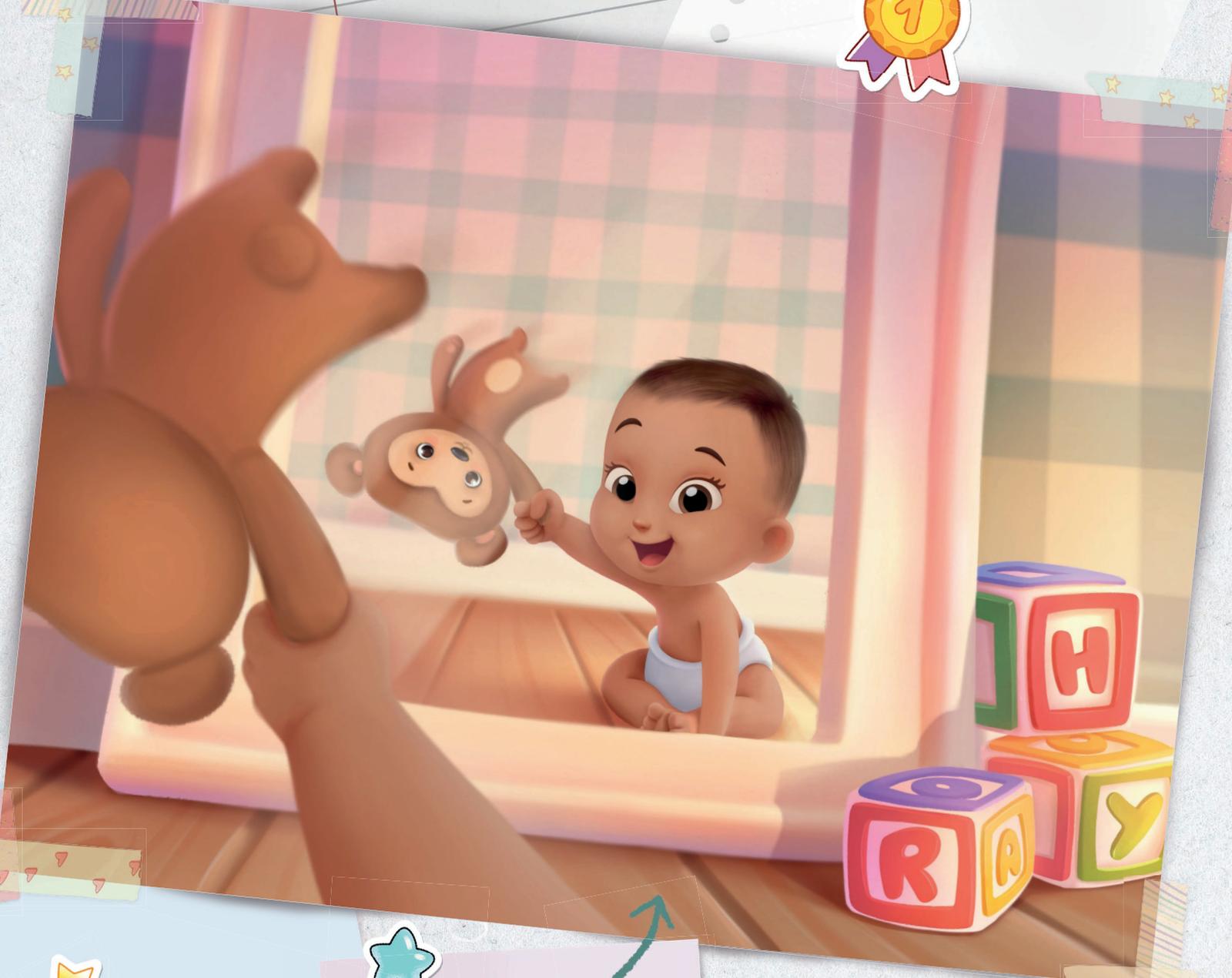
**This is it!** We've come to the end already? That really flew by!  
I'm not surprised, we had so much **FUN!**

So lately, **Mommy** and I have added some great new **games** to our repertoire, like *Scream In The Store* and **HELP! A Stranger!** We're also working on my colors and baa-baa-moos. Speaking of things that make funny noises, Daddy has shown me a lot of things we can do now too, like build impressive houses out of my blocks. He said that when I'm a bit **BIGGER**, we can build a real tree house. So maybe **tomorrow?** I'll clear my schedule.

And I'm still as terrific as ever. I've been pretty serious about my **EXPLORATION** of the Great Outside, and hardly need Mommy's and Daddy's help anymore. But they still **can't get enough of me!** They're always pulling rocks out of my mouth or making me hold their hand. It must have something to do with them getting **odder** or too older or having some **TODDLER**. I'm not sure what this toddler thing is, but I can't wait to find out what it means!

I bet it's terrific too!

Amari



ME

2 BE CONTINUED...

THE  
END?

WRITTEN BY:  
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ILLUSTRATIONS:  
JEREMY POLONEN

EVERYTHING ELSE:  
FUN, TALENTED PEOPLE!

## Dear Hooray Reader!

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Hooray Heroes bids you adieu and wishes you happy reading!  
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