By Jane O'Connor Illustrated by Marilyn Mets

For Ted — J.O'C.

To my favorite Splat Master . . . Nicky — M.M.



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Summary: A young boy, bothered by his size, thinks that the super squirt gun he buys will transform him from "Squirt" into "Splat Master."

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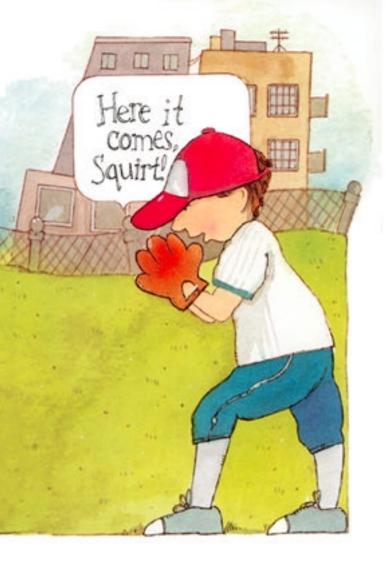
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I am short for my age. And I am kind of a wimp. My brother calls me Squirt.





But I do not want to be Squirt anymore. I have a plan. I take my money from my piggy bank.





I go to the toy store.

I see a new Mega-Star Spaceship. It glows in the dark. And it flies. But that is not for me. I see Crazy World. It is the best video game. It is in 3-D. But that is not for me.

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Then I see it the Drencher 1000. There are three tanks and a hose. It squirts water lots of water. This is for me!





I give all my money.



And I go home.

13

Now I am not Squirt. I am the Splat Master!

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Splat! I save good guys.



Splat! I get bad guys. This is fun! I start splatting everybody. I splat my mom.

I splat my dad.



I splat my brother.



Then I run—fast!



Who else can I splat? I see a kid. SPLAT!

He turns around. Uh-oh! He has a Drencher 1000, too!



He splats me back. I run away.



OOPS!

I fall and skin my leg.

I try not to cry.

But I do.

What a wimp!

I am not the Splat Master.

I am still just Squirt.

- "I did not mean to hurt you," the kid tells me.
- "My sister calls me PeeWee. But my real name is Donny. I like that better." Donny and I become buddies. We only splat each other if we both say yes. We shake on it.



Now we splat cars . . .

the grass . . .



and only sometimes each other. Then he is Water Man. And I am the Splat Master.





The rest of the time I am Tim.



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