

BOOKRAPT



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***Hello, World!* by Paul Beavis**

Publisher: Gecko Press

RRP \$19.99

The glorious sunset on the cover encourages readers to pick up this picture book and examine its colourful pages.

Mr and Mrs Mo are an older couple who have been adopted by an energetic little monster. While the Mo's are busy painting their house, the monster becomes bored without a playmate. He rummages in an attic filled with old outdoor gear and decides to go and explore the world.

Loaded up with gear, the monster starts out without even waiting for Mrs Mo to make him a sandwich. His journey takes him over fields, across a bridge, around corners and between tall cliffs, until he becomes quite lost. Although Mrs Mo has been keeping an eye on him, she allows her small friend to still be in charge of his own adventure.

The text and illustrations complement each other well. The young monster's impetuous nature is shown by his haphazard packing and his eagerness to set off without hindrance. The stylised countryside is a riot of colour and shapes that beg to be explored. Yet, when it all becomes a bit overwhelming, reassurance is nearby.

Paul Beavis's first publication, *Mrs Mo's Monster*, won the 2015 Russell Clark award for best illustration in the LIANZA children's book awards. This latest escapade is an excellent companion book that radiates warmth and humour.

Author / illustrator's profile:

<http://tinyurl.com/lmfzy69>

Mrs Mo's monster on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/mrsmosmonster>

**Reviewed by children's book author,
Jean Bennett**

