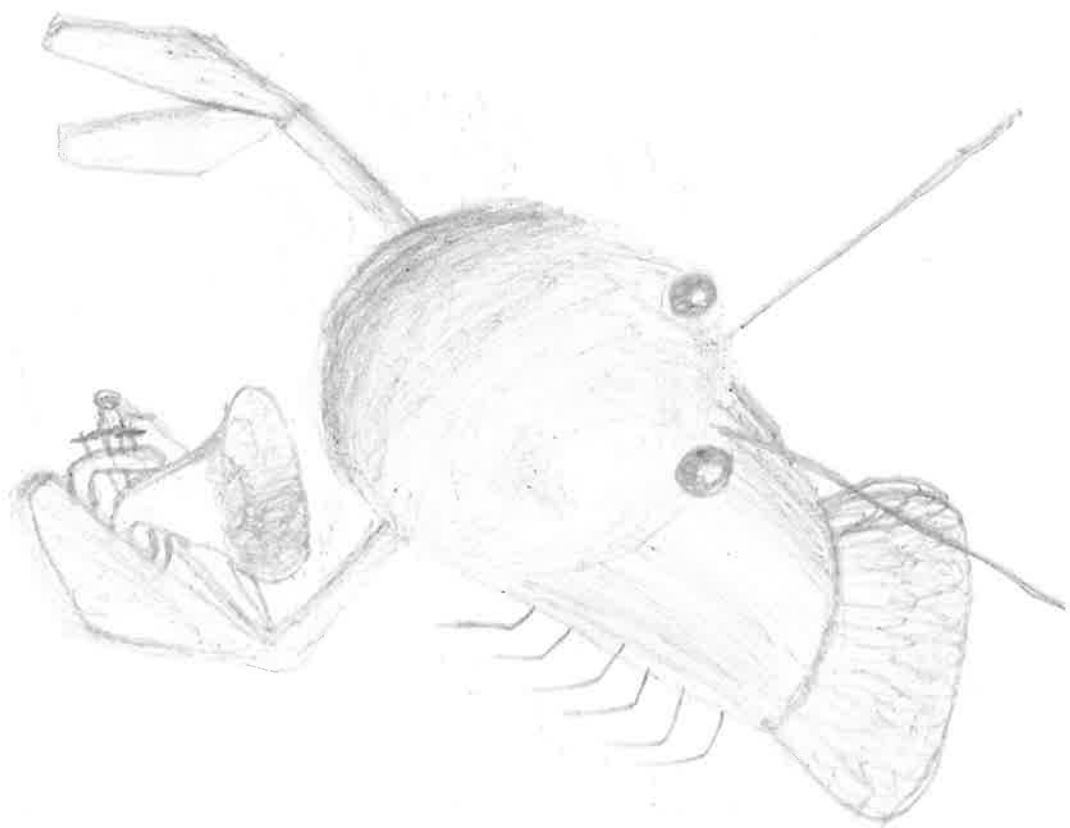


## **The Crayfish of Random Lake**

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## The Crayfish of Random Lake

Fluffy wanted to get out of the house. He was a dog, and he lived with his owner Tommy in a house on the shores of Random Lake. It was a nice house, with a good-sized yard and a dock for a boat. As soon as Tommy opened the door, Fluffy ran out. He headed straight for his napping spot under a tree near the lake. When he got there, he fell asleep.

Meanwhile, deep down at the bottom of Random Lake, a giant crayfish woke up from his long winter nap. He was very hungry. He decided to go out of the lake and catch something to eat.

When Fluffy woke up, the sun was setting. He sat up and trotted over to the door. It was closed. "Ruff, ruff!" Fluffy said, but Tommy was on the phone and didn't hear him. Then Fluffy heard a clacking noise from behind him, and when he turned, he saw a huge crayfish coming out of the lake. Fluffy ran. He did not look back. The crayfish, having lost his meal, went back into Random Lake. When Fluffy came back, the door was open and the crayfish was gone.

When Tommy woke up the next morning, he decided he would go for a sail. He went downstairs, made breakfast, fed Fluffy, and ate. As he got the boat ready, he noticed Fluffy was acting scared. He didn't worry about it though. It as a beautiful day for a sail, so he got in his boat and sailed off. He hadn't gotten very far when the boat stopped. Tommy peered over the side. A huge crayfish slowly rose out of the lake. It carried a sign in one of its claws. The sign

looked like this: "I de and 3 cows. or I will sink your boat." (There was a space in the middle of demand where an 'm' should have gone.)

Tommy was more surprised than scared by this silly monster, so he replied "I do not have three cows right now, but if you let me go, I will get some for you." The crayfish dropped the sign, and with his other claw picked up another sign. This one read "okay". The crayfish let go of the boat and sank back underwater. Tommy turned around and sailed back home. He had no intention of getting cows.

Back in the lake, the crayfish was catching fish. It did not like to eat fish, but it was hungry. After it finished eating, it crawled out of the lake into a deserted piece of land. It was full of old junk and stuff. As the crayfish wandered around, a flash of light caught its eye. It was a tuba, but the crayfish did not know that. It picked up the tuba, looked at it for a moment, then put it on its head. Then the crayfish walked back into the lake. He was so excited about his find that he forgot about wanting cows. Pretty soon he discovered that if he put water in the big end, it would squirt out the little end. And, if he blew air in the little end, a loud noise came out the big end. He did this until it got dark. The he went to sleep

Nobody has seen the crayfish since. But if you ever hear a tuba being played in the water, know that it is probably the crayfish of Random Lake, coming to demand more cows.

The end