

English synopsis *The Monsters of Dunderly*

(Norwegian title *Monstrene i Dunderly*)

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Meet the monsters! The main characters in *The Monsters of Dunderly*:

Moy: Moy is the smallest of the monsters. She hasn't learnt very many words yet, she mainly uses goo, gah and wah. Yet she manages to communicate a lot with her large expressive eye. Moy likes to explore the world around her with all of her senses.

Modika: Modika is a rocker, curious, brave and sometimes a bit cheeky. She wakes up every morning with a YES! and wonders what's in store for her today. Modika knows what she wants, but she also likes to make sure others are having a good time too. She likes to decorate her long flowing hair with colourful beads and flowers.

Bulder: Bulder is a newcomer to Dunderly, he arrives in a package from the post office. Bulder likes speed, spinning and races; and doesn't understand the idea of sitting still, which is so unbelievably boring. He always finds fun things to do: pranks, games and general messing around.

Buster: Buster is a giant among the monsters in Dunderly and keeps them safe and secure. He's the one who reads bedtime stories for the others and who comforts them when they're sad. He's full of words of wisdom, even if they're sometimes not so easy to understand. Buster can usually be found in the kitchen where he makes waffles and other good things to eat.

Samantha: Samantha likes being in her workshop best of all. Here she invents all kinds of practical solutions to problems both large and small, like an automatic tin opener or a jet-powered water ski. Samantha is a mathematician and engineer and likes everything to work (more or less) as it should in Dunderly.

Lex: Lexington, or Lex for short, is a little bit careful and shy. He is happiest with a book between his paws. Often he'll search for answers in the nearest encyclopaedia and he is always happy to share his knowledge with the other monsters.

Other characters in *The Monsters of Dunderly*:

Johnny Human: a puppet used as a decoy whenever humans find their way to Dunderly.

Flakey: a hip-hop snowman monster, who calls himself The Abominable Snowman.

Mons the postman: A kind human who delivers the mail to Dunderly (see also: Mons Monster).

Pompidoo: a toilet monster who lives in the (unused) outside toilet of Dunderly and who is afraid of the dark.

Turbo: A living monster-ball who likes nothing more than being thrown around a monsterball court.

Mons Monster: Mons the human postman wears a monster costume so he can live amongst the other monsters.

Fabian Nevesen: Uncle of Mons the postman and leader of the feared Monster Patrol.

Dave: a large, mean and unintelligent man who works for the Monster Patrol as a monster catcher.

HALF PAGE SUMMARY: The Monsters of Dunderly

Bulder is given a warm welcome when he arrives in a package addressed to Dunderly – a secret place where monsters can play and be themselves, free from people and the dangerous “Monster Patrol”. But the next day a second package arrives containing yet another new monster: Mons Monster.

Bulder is suspicious of the newcomer, but the others think he is just being jealous. When Bulder’s investigation of the newcomer reveals that he is, in fact, the human postman who delivers packages to Dunderly in disguise, he banishes him, from their mountain top home without listening to what he has to say. When the other monsters find out what has happened they are upset with Bulder, rather than grateful.

Shunned by the very monsters who gave him such a warm welcome Bulder heads off on his own to make things right and seeks out the postman who, it turns out, is also the nephew of the leader of the Monster Patrol. Bulder’s actions have put the other monsters in danger – but Mons wants to help! Back in Dunderly Bulder, Mons and the others work together to fend off the mean leader of the Monster Patrol and his monster-catching helper.

It turns out well for the monsters, who make their first human friend. Although Mons decides to keep working as a postman, he promises to come back and visit often for more fun and ludibunder*!

*“ludibunder” is a word the monsters use to describe anything that is fun and noisy!

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER SYNOPSIS: *The Monsters of Dunderly*

High up in the mountains (Langt til fjells)

High up in the mountains and far away from people . . . is Dunderly! The reader is introduced to Dunderly a place where monsters live.

Inside Dunderly (Inn i Dunderly)

The reader enters a secret trapdoor in the entrance to the workshop and slides into the messy living room. They are taken on a tour of Dunderly and introduced to the monsters, who are sleeping. But now, they're waking up.

Morning in Dunderly (Morgen i Dunderly)

Modika hears the lift bell ringing and wakes the other monsters. Samantha is the first out, she has to go and prepare Johnny Human, a puppet they use as a decoy whenever humans find their way to Dunderly. The big monster, Buster, is mock-annoyed when Modika encourages the baby of the bunch, Moy, to wake him up by tickling him, but when he realizes that the post has arrived, he jumps into action.

The post arrives (Posten kommer)

Modika, Samantha, and Flakey (a hip-hop snowman monster, who calls himself The Abominable Snowman) are the first to reach the lift. When Buster arrives he has to wave them away from the edge – it's not safe for them to be seen or discovered. Modika peeks over the edge anyway, and it's lucky she does because she's able to warn the others that a human is *coming up* in the lift, along with the post. Action stations! They all run back to the cabin. Buster brings up the rear, rolling Flakey over the snow to cover up their footprints. Buster leaves Flakey the door to the cabin with instructions to stand still, and dives down the trapdoor.

The post must be delivered (Posten skal fram)

Modika and Samantha position the doll in the hallway to the cabin and then hide, Samantha's job is to control the puppet Johnny Human while Modika imitates a human voice. Lex, who didn't leave the safety of Dunderly when the lift bell was ringing, uses a periscope to watch the human, who has arrived, walked to the cabin and is currently peering at Flakey. The puppet is not entirely convincing, but Modika and Samantha manage to sign for the package and usher the postman out. Lex, still watching through the periscope sees that Flakey has run off, the postman also notices the snowman's absence. Once the Postman has left in the lift, Lex gives the all clear and the monsters prepare to open the package.

The Monster in the box (Monsteret i esken)

The newcomer, Bulder, bursts from the box in a blur of activity . . . he expects to be told off, but instead they give him a big group hug (a "monster mash") and Modika greets him. Her first thought is how good Bulder is at "ludibunder", a word the monsters use to describe anything that is fun and noisy! The monsters then enjoy ludibunder, followed by hide and seek. When it is Bulder's turn to seek, he discovers the other monsters hiding in a secret room, "in case humans ever get into Dunderly," explains Modika. Lex is a little put out at the attention given to the energetic newcomer, but it doesn't matter too much, because soon Bulder is off to play outside.

Outside (Utetid)

Bulder is introduced to the monster's favourite sport Monsterball, Modika is glad to have a new player, even if he does tend to hog the monster ball, a real live monster called Turbo. That night Buster has made Bulder a new bed, and Bulder's last thoughts before he sleeps are of how welcome he feels.

Monster morning (Monsternorgen)

The next day Lex goes through the papers used to fill the box Bulder came in, looking for information and news. There he reads a headline about the Monster Patrol – warning people not to hide monsters from them. Modika and Bulder go outside and play together, sledging in the newly fallen snow. Eventually, Bulder needs the bathroom, in the outside toilet he accidentally pees on Pompidoo's head. Pompidoo, a toilet monster, is afraid of the dark, and lives in the outside toilet (which is no longer in use!) It's a shaky start to the two monsters' friendship.

The new monster (Det nye monsteret)

The bell is ringing, more post, but no humans this time; it's a package with another new monster in it. Mons Monster arrives the day after Bulder, which is a bit unusual, and Bulder is put out that the newcomer distracts everyone from playing Monsterball with him. The newcomer Mons is quiet, careful and takes pictures, add to this that Modika is very friendly towards him and Bulder's suspicions are raised.

Surprise attack (Bakholdsangrep)

Bulder creeps up on the newcomer and throws snow all over his head. Buster and the others are not impressed, "that's NOT how we welcome newcomers". The others go inside for cocoa, but Bulder refuses to join them, until it gets too cold to be outside.

Oy oy, Moy (Ojoj, Moi)

He doesn't go into the cabin, but into the outside toilet where he tells Pompidoo about the new monster. When Modika comes to tell him it's bedtime she mentions Mons Monster, and so Bulder again refuses to go inside with the others. Pompidoo is glad for the company, but Bulder is still thinking about Modika and the others. Inside Mons Monster is very nervous around the others, even Lex thinks so! But Mons is kind, Modika discovers him comforting Moy in the monster's library.

When the ending isn't totally happy (Når enden ikke er helt god)

Bulder leaves Pompidoo snoring and creeps back to his own bed. But Mons' tail is sticking into his bunk and in a moment of impulse Bulder bites it, hard. But Mons doesn't react, nor does he react when Bulder bites his nose, and Mons sleeps with his eyes open. Very weird. Bulder decides to keep an eye on him.

Morning with Modika (Morgen med Modika)

The next morning Bulder wakes up early to find Mons in Samantha's workshop. Samantha is working on improvements to Johnny Human. But then more important things come up, like sledging with Modika. Lying side by side after a particularly dangerous sledging run Bulder and Modika discuss the peculiarities of the newcomer. Just then, they hear a strange laughing sound, in a voice they haven't heard before – it must be Mons.

Mons joins in (Mons blir med på leken)

Mons is laughing at Samantha who has ridden her jet-powered skis into a snowdrift. Soon Modika is laughing too, but not Bulder who instead is made even more suspicious. He throws a snowball hard at Mons, but just when Bulder thinks he's in big trouble, Mons laughs again and throws one back, sparking a big snowball fight. The fun doesn't convince Bulder, who thinks he's putting it on.

The investigation of Mons Monster (Etterforskningen av Mons Monster)

Bulder enlists Pompidoo to note all his suspicions about Mons. The first thing that warrants further enquiries is the possibility that Mons might eat other Monsters. A trembling Pompidoo suggests that Bulder check this with Lex. Lex checks online on the Monsternet, which is driven by pedal power. It turns out there is a monster found at the North Pole which eats other monsters, but there're no pictures of them. By the time Lex has thought to ask *why* Bulder wants to know about cannibal monsters, Bulder has gone.

In hiding (I skjul)

Bulder and Pompadoo regroup in the outside toilet and decide that Mons is planning to eat them all; that happy monsters taste better than unhappy ones, and that this why he's playing with them. Mons overhears Bulder warning Modika about him being a cannibal. Mons is sad that Bulder doesn't like him, Modika comforts Mons and they leave Bulder. Bulder tries to work up the courage to help save Modika from the threat of Mons Monster, but is he strong enough?

Bulder's plan (Bulders plan)

He has to be strong enough! He heads to the front room and finds Flakey peering through the window at the others. There's something still not right about Mons, but he does seem to be settling into Dunderly. Modika is glad when she spots Bulder. She opens the door and offers him soda and a cake. But Bulder refuses the food claiming it might be poisoned. Modika is beginning to get a little tired of Bulder's attitude towards Mons. Back on the sofa Buster reads a ghost story about a monster wandering the streets of the human town in the middle of the day – he's captured by the Monster Patrol and never seen again.

Modika brings Bulder out some warm clothes but he doesn't want to risk getting comfortable and falling asleep. He must stay outside, and awake.

Secrets of the night (Nattas hemmelighet)

Bulder stands watch, armed with a pile of snowballs, in case Mons attacks. Sure enough, Bulder does spot Mons creeping around, and Mons sees Bulder too. He trails Mons to the edge of the cliff where he is trying to get signal on a mobile phone. Bulder shudders as Mons reaches up and pulls off his monster head, underneath: Mons is a human!

The reveal (Avsløringen)

Mons is not a monster, he's a human in a monster costume and Bulder realises that he's in Dunderly to uncover the Monsters' home. Bulder knocks the phone out of Mons' hand and over the cliff. Mons is aghast, he tells Bulder he had been about to dissuade his uncle from visiting Dunderly, because the monsters have all been so nice. And Mons' uncle is . . . Chief Commander of the Monster Patrol! Bulder is not pleased, nor is he inclined to listen when Mons says he would actually like to stay with them. He snatches the camera from Mons and sends him back down on the lift back to the humans, throwing the discarded costume head down after him.

A new day (Ny dag)

Bulder wakes up certain that things will be alright from now on, but decides not to tell Modika about Mons being a human so that she doesn't get scared (or angry!) But Modika's first thought when Bulder suggests Ludibunder, is to find Mons to include him in the game. She can't find him anywhere, but then notices that the lift has been sent down. She pulls the lever to return the lift and notices two sets of footprints – including Bulders. She realises what has happened and shouts angrily for Bulder.

Buster gets angry (Buster blir sint)

Modika explains her theory and then Buster handles the interrogation. Bulder eventually admits to having chased him off, because he was a human. The others don't believe him and Modika demands he accompany her down in the lift to look for him.

The Monster Patrol (Monsterpatruljen)

Bulder's plan is to find Mons' discarded head to prove his innocence. When Modika sees Mons' monster footprints suddenly become human footprints, she thinks it's because he's been captured by humans. On the lift back up

Bulder nearly falls off, but Modika catches him. Bulder wonders why she bothered, because she's so angry with him. Modika explains that she doesn't want to lose another monster.

Bulder alone (Bulder alene)

The monsters are in a low mood and not responsive to Bulder's attempts to turn things into a celebration. He decides that he might make Modika less angry by trying to help. In doing so he discovers that without a postman (Mons is the postman) visiting Dunderly their whole existence might be threatened. The post is the Monsters' link to the outside world for food, supplies and all manner of important things. Modika doesn't want Bulder around, so Bulder takes the camera he snatched from Mons and heads outside. On the way out it is Buster (no longer angry) who comforts him.

Pompidoo (Pompido)

Outside even Flakey is mad at Bulder, but Pompidoo wants company. Bulder is glad to have someone to talk to and even more pleased when Pompidoo complements him. But Pompidoo's wavering bravery gives up when he realises that the post will stop coming. Bulder, feeling cast out by the others, decides to take on the job of postman.

Bulder is gone (Bulder er borte)

When Modika eventually goes to apologise to Bulder, Pompidoo tells her he's gone off to be a postman. Modika is really upset that another monster has left her.

A warm cabin and a cold chill (Ei varm hytte og et kaldt grøss)

Bulder goes down the lift and follows Mons' tracks to a cabin where he finds Mons. Bulder asks him to come back to Dunderly as a postman, and as a human. Mons is touched that the others miss him. As they talk Mons repairs his damaged phone and listens to an answerphone message from his uncle. The Monster Patrol are on their way to Dunderly to "rescue" Mons!

Back to Dunderly (Tilbake til Dunderly)

Modika is inconsolable at the loss of two monsters, until Flakey disturbs her to say that Mons and Bulder are back! Modika is thrilled to see Bulder with Mons. After a hero's welcome for Bulder, Mons removes his head, the others are shocked and uncertain at the presence of a human, but there's no time to argue because just then the lift-bell rings, and it's the Monster Patrol.

... and then? (... og så?)

It's chaos. The monsters start to hide. The lift bell is ringing more urgently. Buster and Samantha try to get Johnny Human set up. Bulder grabs hold of Modika and tries to tell her that Mons and his plan can be trusted. Bulder convinces them and the whole gang give him a vote of confidence.

Mons' plan (Mons Menneskes plan)

The monsters hide in the secret room, apart from Bulder who has to find Flakey, who has run off. The Monster Patrol arrives at the top of the lift. Mons greets his uncle, Fabian Nevesen, and a large man, Dave, who is holding a large canon-type weapon: a monster catcher. Mons' story is that he has inherited the cabin and just wanted to show it to his uncle. But Fabian is angry that his time has been wasted. They are about to leave when the monster catcher spies Flakey across the frozen lake.

Alarm! (Alarm!)

Bulder watches from a hiding place. Flakey tries to stand perfectly still, like a real snowman. The ruse works, Fabian calls off the hunt and goes inside the Monsters' cabin. Dave the monster catcher is not convinced and heads over to

investigate Flakey – who promptly runs off. As Dave gets closer to where Flakey stood Bulder is joined by Modika, and they race to build a snowman and put him on a sledge. In the end, the only way to buy enough time to succeed is by shouting as a distraction.

A good laugh (En god latter)

When Fabian and Mons come out to see what's causing the noise they find Dave with a prisoner, but it's only the snowman that Modika and Bulder built. Fabian dismisses the catch and heads back to the cabin, but Dave is furious – and then catches sight of Bulder.

Run, Bulder, run! (Løp, Bulder, løp!)

Modika and Bulder run off up the mountain, while Mons delays Dave by jumping on him and holding on tight. Modika and Bulder find a bear's cave – where Flakey is hiding. They have to get him out. Dave is fast approaching; his solution to the Mons problem has been to tie him to his back. Modika and Bulder run into the cave to find Flakey.

Trouble in the toilet (Trøbbel på do)

Fabian goes to relieve himself in the outside toilet, Pompidoo is terrified. Meanwhile Bulder and Modika find Flakey.

Over and out (Over og ut)

Modika, Bulder and Flakey are in the bear cave when Dave, with Mons still tied to his back, starts his search. Mons claims the cave is empty but Dave knows better and demands that Mons bring out Bulder. Bulder offers to go out alone, but Modika insists that she and Flakey go too. But it turns out that Dave doesn't dare to go into the cave after them. Bulder gets a new idea; all four of them shout as loudly as they can, hoping to trigger an avalanche.

The abominable snowman (Den Avskyelige Snømannen)

The worst is about to happen to Pompidoo in the outside toilet when the shouting from the bear cave alerts Fabian, who leaves his business unfinished and makes to leave. But Buster has snuck out and blocked the door to the toilet. Buster watches the avalanche start and sees it chase Dave down the slope. Bulder, Modika and Flakey dig their way out of the bear cave and see that Dave has hidden behind a tree to avoid the snow. But when Flakey rolls down the slope towards him, picking up size and speed as he goes, the monster catcher gives up, throws his net gun away and sprints for the lift. Buster hides behind a corner as he goes past, releasing Fabian from the toilet. Fabian runs furiously after Dave, but the lift has reached the ground by the time Fabian reaches the lift - and Dave has driven off in the Monster Patrol's snow-scooter.

Goodbye to Dunderly (Farvel til Dunderly)

This time ALL of the monsters are well hidden when Mons reaches his uncle to say that Dave had been scared off by an avalanche. Fabian is outraged at the utter waste of his precious time and, before leaving on the lift he bullies Mons, condemning him to a lifetime working as the postman for the area and he takes his snow mobile for good measure.

Slowly the monsters come out of their various hiding places and, after reassuring each other that the threat is over, they congratulate Mons on his plan – and pile on top of him in a “monster mash” to say thank you. Bulder says Mons is welcome to stay with them after all, and Modika agrees, but Mons likes his job as a postman. So he'll go back to his own life and save the ludibunder for when he comes to deliver the mail. He has time to share waffles and hot chocolate with them before he goes. They eat them in the outside toilet, so that Pompidoo can join in. They squeeze in together, and Bulder and Modika sit closest of all, happy that, tomorrow, they'll have ludibunder again!

It's time for the reader to leave Dunderly, but if you promise not to mention it to anybody, then maybe you can come back another time. Well? Do you promise?