

Race  
Ahead

with  
Reading

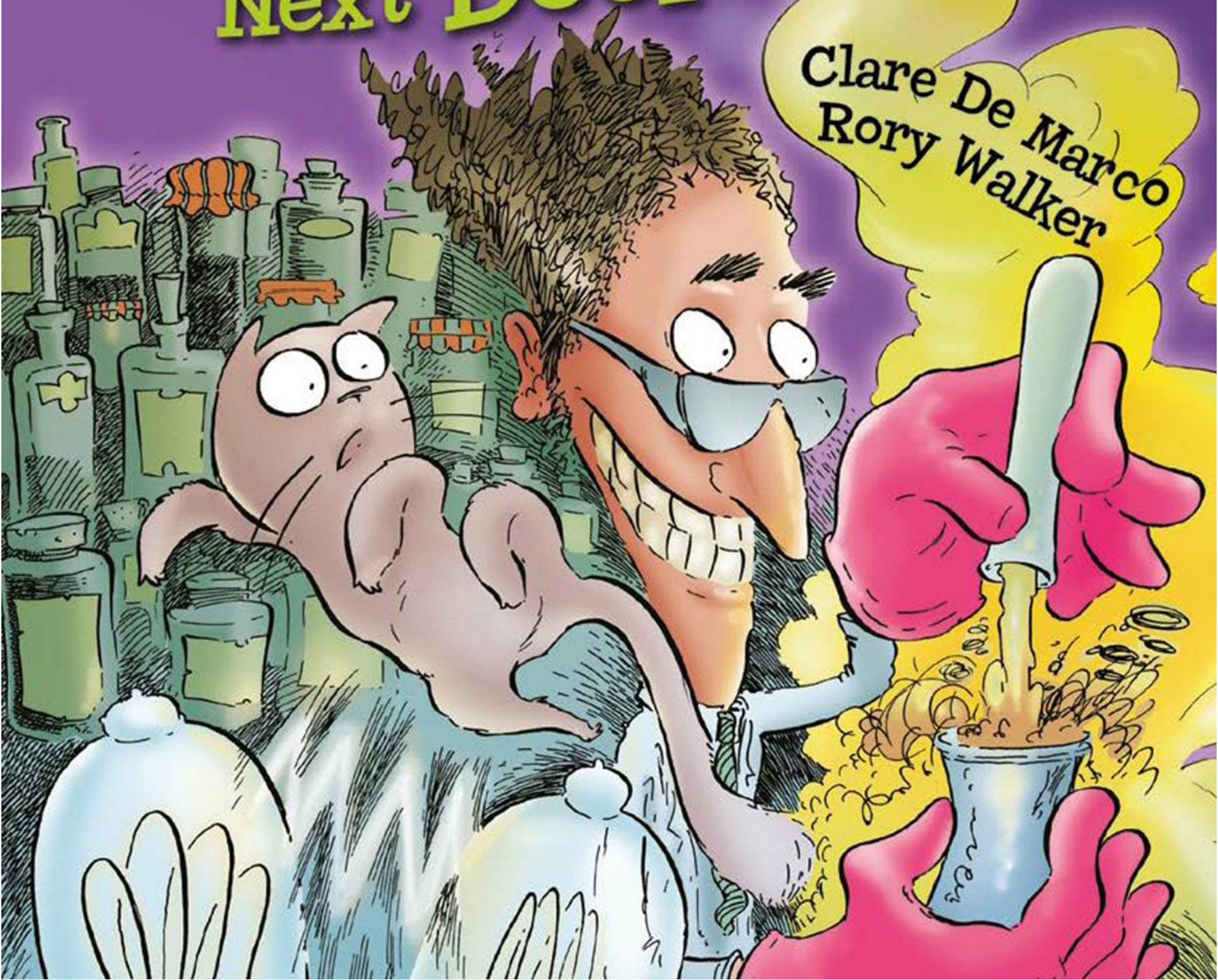


The

# Mad Scientist

## Next Door

Clare De Marco  
Rory Walker





# Chapter 1

Ella's next door neighbor, Mr. Willis, was mean. The other children didn't like playing near his house.



Even cats stayed away from his yard.  
So Ella kept out of his way.



One day, Ella had an emergency. Her little brother Tom's favorite bear had been catapulted by accident over Mr. Willis's fence. Ella had to get it back before bedtime.





Ella fetched the stepladder and put it up against the fence. Peering over, Ella could see Bear. She could also see thick shrubs, so she could not climb over.





Suddenly she could see Mr. Willis staring at her from a window.

“You'd better come get it!” roared Mr Willis.



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