

VICTOR SHMUD
TOTAL
EXPERT

Let's Do a Thing!

BOOK ONE

JIM BENTON

SCHOLASTIC INC.

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ISBN 978-0-545-93229-5

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

17 18 19 20 21

Printed in the U.S.A. 40

First printing 2017

Book design by Jim Benton

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Chapter 1

HELLO, VICTOR



Victor Shmud lived with his parents in a house with trees and bushes outside, but none of those things you see in front of houses sometimes, like little statues or birdbaths or things like that.



Victor always thought their house would look better with a thing out front, and he felt that anybody walking past could tell right away that there was a space right there that needed a thing in it.

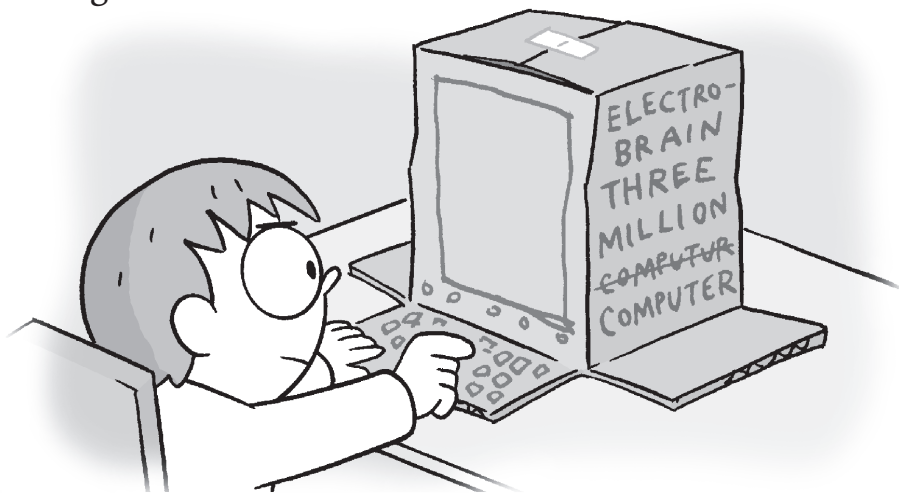
Victor's room was always messy, because even though he had decided to be many things in his life, like a Knuckle Doctor, a Hunter of Ghost Bears, and The Guy at the Restaurant Who Puts the Sugar in Those Little Envelopes, he hadn't decided to be A Guy Who Cleans Up Bedrooms yet.

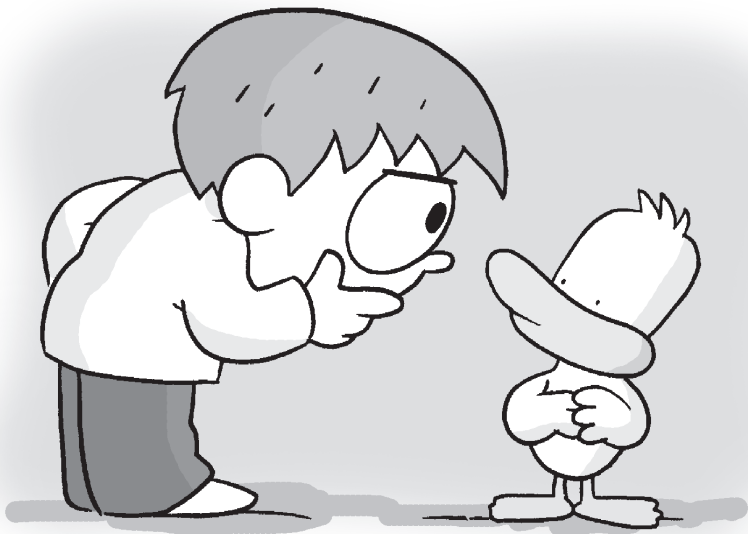
It actually wasn't even on the list.



Victor rolled out of bed and checked his computer—the highly advanced Electro-Brain Three Million—which he had created by writing ELECTRO-BRAIN THREE MILLION on the side of a cardboard box, back when he was a Computer Scientist a couple of weeks ago.

The Electro-Brain Three Million didn't work as well as other computers for email and going online, but it was square-shaped, and Victor believed that this was a good start.





Victor looked down at Dumpylumps, the tiny duck that had been by his side since he was a baby.

“What are you?” Victor asked. “A chicken or something?”

“Quack,” said Dumpylumps.

“You should have that cough looked at,” Victor said. “As an Expert Bird Veterinarian, I need to tell you that healthy chickens don’t make noises like that.”