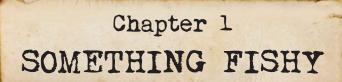


JOHN PERRITANO



The sun was setting.
It was getting dark.
Two men were fishing in a boat.
They were on Lake Champlain.
That is next to New York.
Vermont lies on the other side.

It was time to go home.
The men turned their boat east.
Waves hit its *hull*.
They looked to the left.
Ripples ran out across the water.
Then they saw something odd.
What was it?

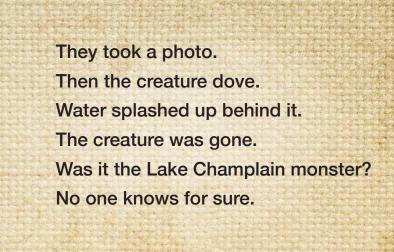
Maybe it was a log or rock.
But then it moved.
It was too big to be a fish.

The men claim it was a *creature*.

They saw a green body.

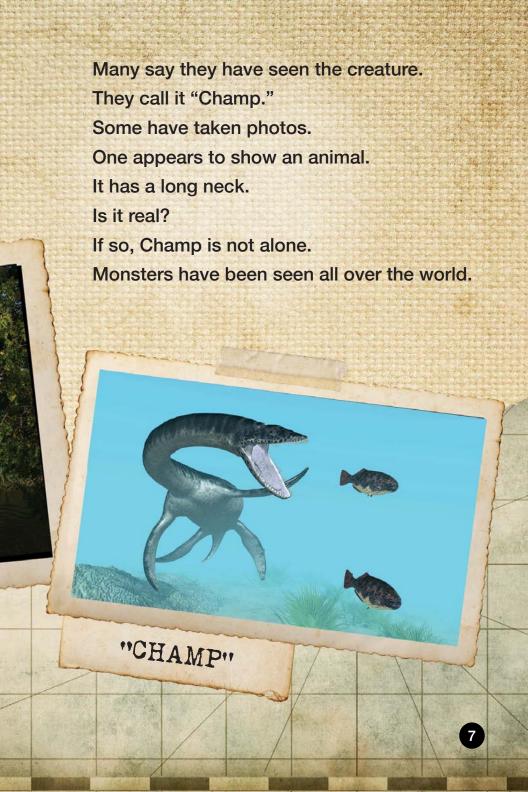
It had a long neck.

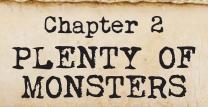
Its eyes were dark.



Lake Champlain is big.
It is 125 miles long.
The lake is also very deep.
One spot drops to 400 feet.
A monster could hide here.







Some people claim monsters lurk in water.

There have been sightings for years.

Many were lies.

Others remain mysteries.

They are waiting to be solved.



That is the job of special scientists.

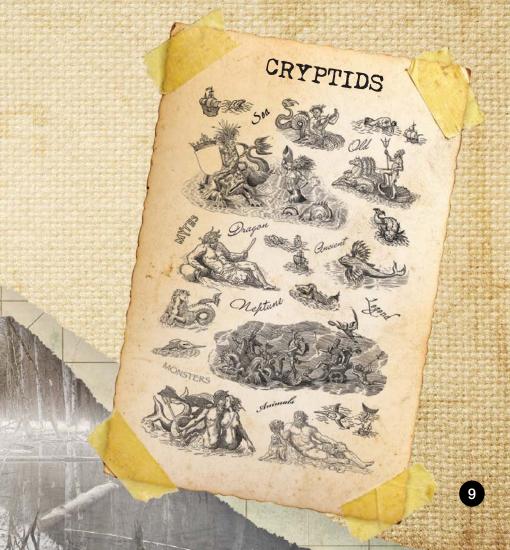
They are called *cryptozoologists*.

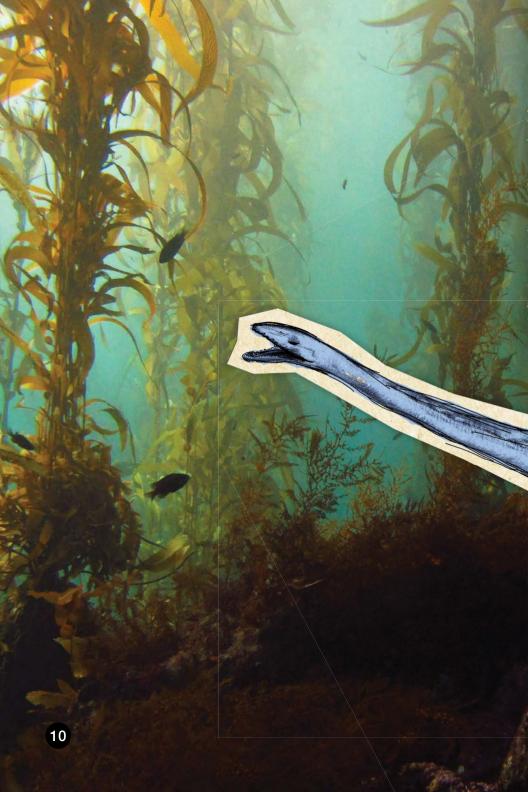
Finding *cryptids* is their goal.

These are unidentified animals.

People claim to have seen them.

But there is no proof that they exist.





Are water monsters real?

That is hard to prove.

People think they like to hide.

Some are said to lurk in lakes.

Others may live deep under the sea.

They also have been seen in rivers.

The search for proof continues.

