

# Forces

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## Photo

Marc Wolens

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# Elmo is sleeping

It's 11:40 in the morning, and Elmo is sleeping. I put him to sleep not long after my daughter finally closed her eyes, because I can't stand the way he looks at me with those big, bulgy monster eyes when Alissa's not around. It's not that I don't like Elmo; in fact, I think he's pretty cute some of the time, but when the house gets quiet and the only two things moving are me and a small red furry monster, I get the weirdest feeling that he's more than he's

cracked up to be. Not really threatening (I think that would be going a bit too far) but mildly menacing, in a childish, bully-cum-watchdog sort of way. Anyway, he gives me the creeps, so I put him to sleep. I think I'm going to have to do something about him soon, before it's too late.

Elmo came to live with us not long after Alissa was born. In my infinite, new-mother wisdom I decided that since I had an impressionable young



"Elmo is Sleeping" by Katherine Williams  
Photo by Marc Wolens