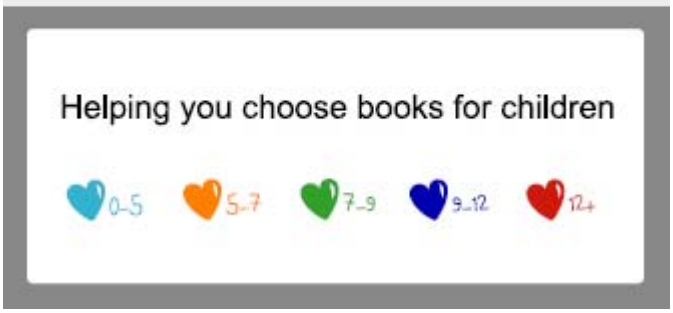
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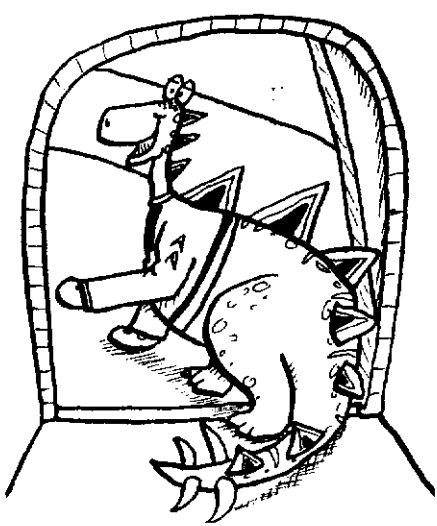
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Chapter One

THE MONSTER IN THE DARK

"Next stop, planet Aggadon!" cried Captain Teggs Stegosaur as he bundled aboard his space shuttle. A new adventure was beginning, and he could hardly wait.

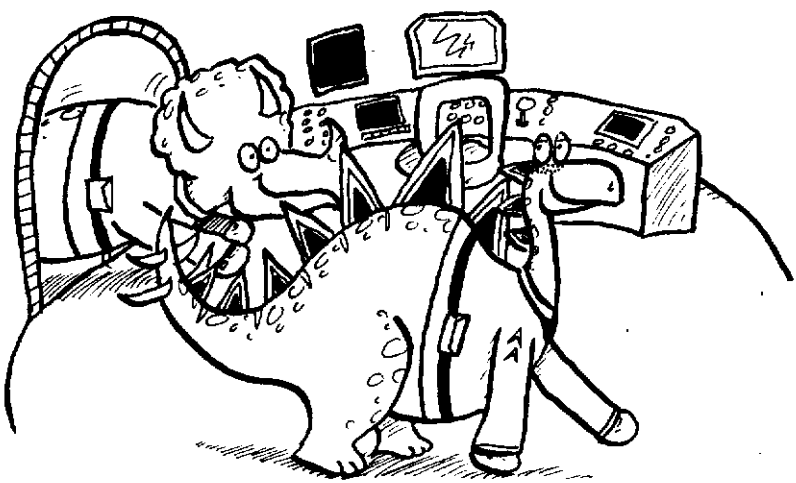


Teggs was the captain of the DSS *Sauropod*, the fastest ship in the Dinosaur Space Service. He and his crew had been sent to the Tri System, a colourful collection of worlds where millions of

triceratops had settled. New planets were being discovered in the Tri System all the time – but sometimes, strange dangers were discovered with them.

That was certainly the case with the planet Aggadon.

Arx, Teggs's second-in-command, squeezed into the shuttle beside him.

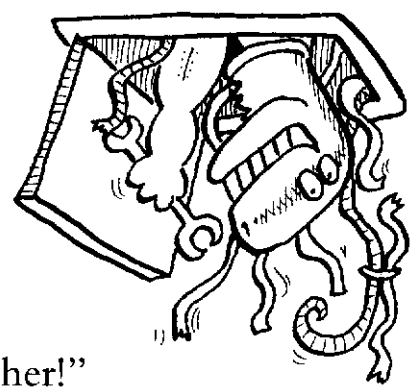


He was a triceratops himself, lean and green and very bright. "I hope my niece Abbiz is all right," he said worriedly. "She went to Aggadon to help make it a nicer place for everyone

coming to live there – and I haven't heard from her since!"

"She'll be fine, you'll see," said Gipsy, taking her seat behind him. She was a stripy, duck-billed dinosaur in charge of the *Sauropod*'s communications. "She's probably just been busy."

"Probably," agreed Iggy, the ship's engineer. He had popped his head out of a hatch in the ceiling, tangled in wires. "Either that or one of those monsters has got her!"



"Don't be daft, Iggy!" said Teggs crossly. "Of course she hasn't been got by the monsters!"

But secretly, Teggs was as worried as Arx was.

At first sight, Aggadon had seemed a

quiet, peaceful world. That was why so many triceratops wanted to move there. But just a few weeks after the advance group landed, a massive shower of meteorites – rocks in space – had fallen from the sky.

And not long after that, the first mysterious monsters had been spotted.

No one had seen them clearly – they lurked in the planet's deep forests, and their terrifying roars alone were enough to make everyone hide under their beds. Where had the monsters come from and what did they want?

That was what Teggs and his crew had to find out. But since there was nowhere to safely land a ship as big as the *Sauropod*, they were taking one of the shuttles.

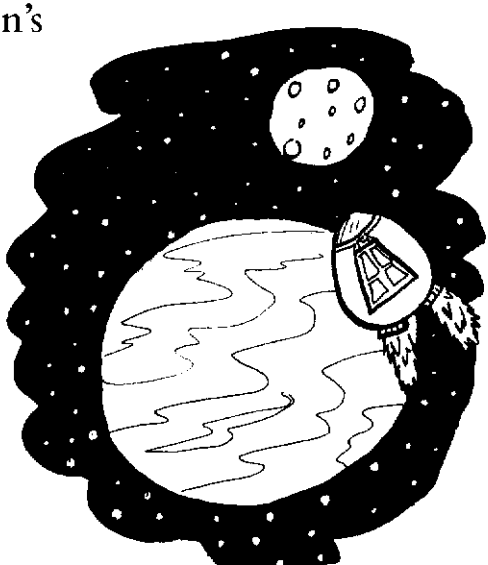
"That's the dung boosters plugged in," said Iggy, swinging down from the ceiling. "We'll go faster than ever

now!" He cleared his scaly throat. "Sorry, Arx. I didn't mean to upset you before."

"Never mind, Iggy," said Arx kindly. "Let's just get going. The sooner we arrive on Aggadon, the sooner I'll know if Abbiz is all right."

"Stand by for blast off!" ordered Teggs. "Three . . . two . . . one . . . GO!"

The shuttle zoomed away from the safety of the *Sauropod* in a cloud of stinky smoke. Soon the little ship was entering Aggadon's atmosphere.

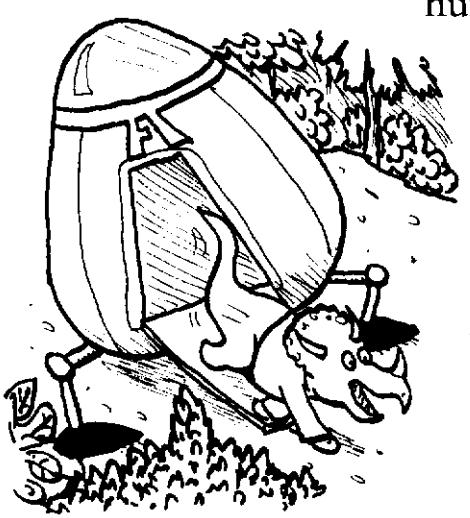


It was night-time on the planet. An enormous sea-green moon glowed in the sky like a giant lightbulb. Iggy

steered them over grey mountains and deep brown forests until the triceratops' camp came into sight. At the moment it was only a few large huts, halls and caravans. Some of the buildings were only half-built. Others seemed to have fallen down.

"The place looks deserted," said Gipsy.

"Maybe everyone's having their dinner," said Teggs hopefully. He was not only the bravest stegosaurus that ever soared through space, but also the hungriest!



Iggy landed the shuttle in a large clearing in the forest. Arx was the first to come out. "Abbiz?" he called.

"It's your Uncle Arx! Where are you?"

But there was no reply. The camp was as quiet as a whisperfish with headphones.

Teggs clambered out after him, and started munching on a tasty-looking plant growing by his feet. "Gipsy, perhaps you should hoot one of your special 'hello's?"

"Yes, sir." Gipsy was a champion hooter thanks to her hollow head-crest. She took a deep breath and hooted at top volume: "HOOOOOOOO-OOOOOOO-OOOHHHHHH!"

And almost at once, she was answered with a deafening, horrifying roar: "GRRRRR-HHHHHHH-HRRRRRRR!"

Iggy jumped in surprise. "It's a monster!" he cried. "It's come to get us!"

"I saw something move!" said Gipsy breathlessly.

Teggs had seen it too – a towering,

shadowy shape, half-hidden behind a tree. The green moonlight gleamed on a pair of enormous curved fangs . . .

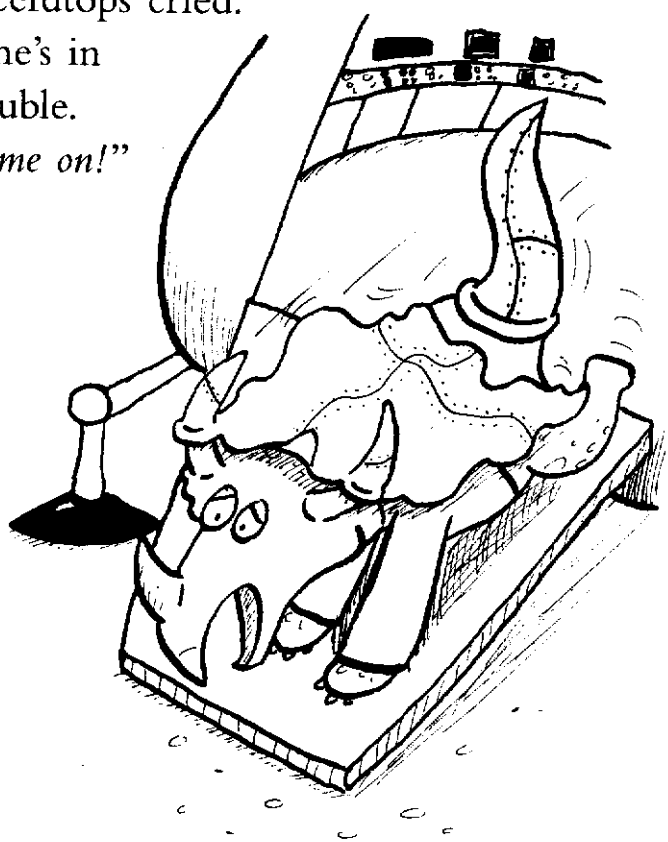


"Change into battle gear, everyone," Teggs ordered. He whirled his bony, spiky tail around over his head like a powerful club. "I'll hold it off." While his crew rushed to obey, Teggs galloped to the edge of the clearing, ready to fight the monster.

But suddenly he heard a high,

bloodcurdling scream from the opposite direction. Teggs spun round. A moment later Arx came charging out of the shuttle at top speed, his combat suit only half on, his battle helmet dangling from his horns.

"That was Abbiz screaming!" the triceratops cried. "She's in trouble. *Come on!*"



Chapter Two

THE METEORITE MYSTERY

Teggs hurried after Arx in the direction of the scream, trying to catch him up. He had never seen the triceratops move so fast.

"Hold on, Abbiz!" Arx yelled, the back end of his combat suit flapping behind him like a funny cape. "I'm coming!"



Abbiz screamed again. The noise was coming from behind a long, low building.