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opening extract from

Dinosaur Cove: Tracking the Gigantic Beast

written by

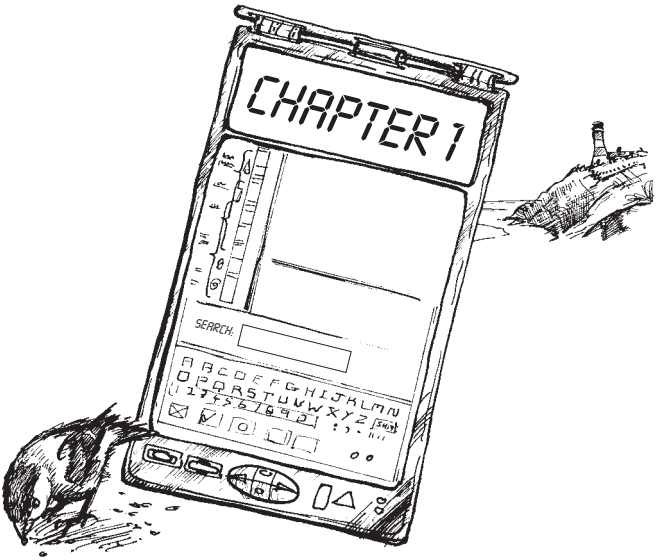
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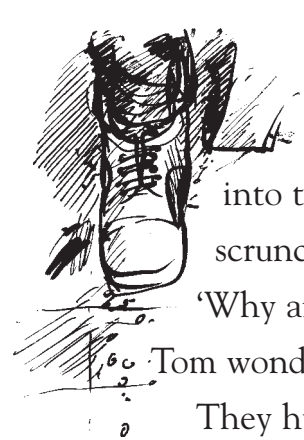
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'Where are you, Grandad?' Jamie Morgan's voice echoed round the dinosaur museum on the ground floor of the lighthouse. 'We're off to hunt for dinosaurs!'

'He'll think we mean fossil dinosaurs, not real ones,' Tom Clay whispered. The two friends grinned at one another. Only they knew the amazing secret of Dinosaur Cove—a cave that led to a world of real live dinosaurs!

'Grandad?' Jamie called again. As he slung his backpack over his shoulders and stepped



into the lobby of the museum, his feet scrunched on something gritty.

'Why are these seeds all over the floor?' Tom wondered. 'Maybe he's gardening?'

They hurried out of the front door and looked around the cliff top. There was no sign of Grandad.

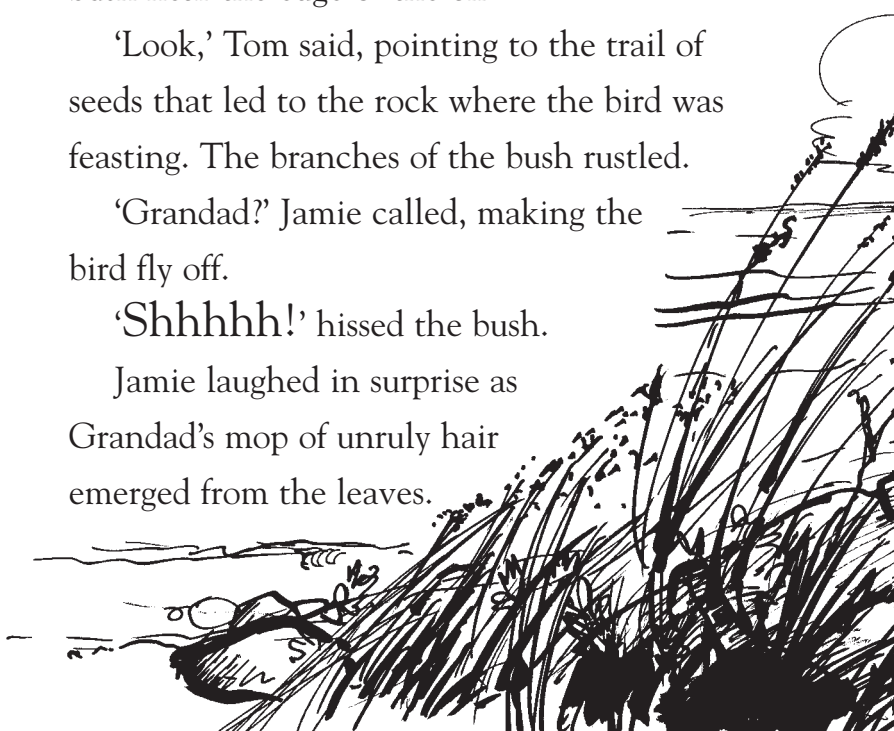
There was a flash of yellow as a little bird with a red head swooped down and began to peck at something on a flat rock beside a bush near the edge of the cliff.

'Look,' Tom said, pointing to the trail of seeds that led to the rock where the bird was feasting. The branches of the bush rustled.

'Grandad?' Jamie called, making the bird fly off.

'Shhhhh!' hissed the bush.

Jamie laughed in surprise as Grandad's mop of unruly hair emerged from the leaves.

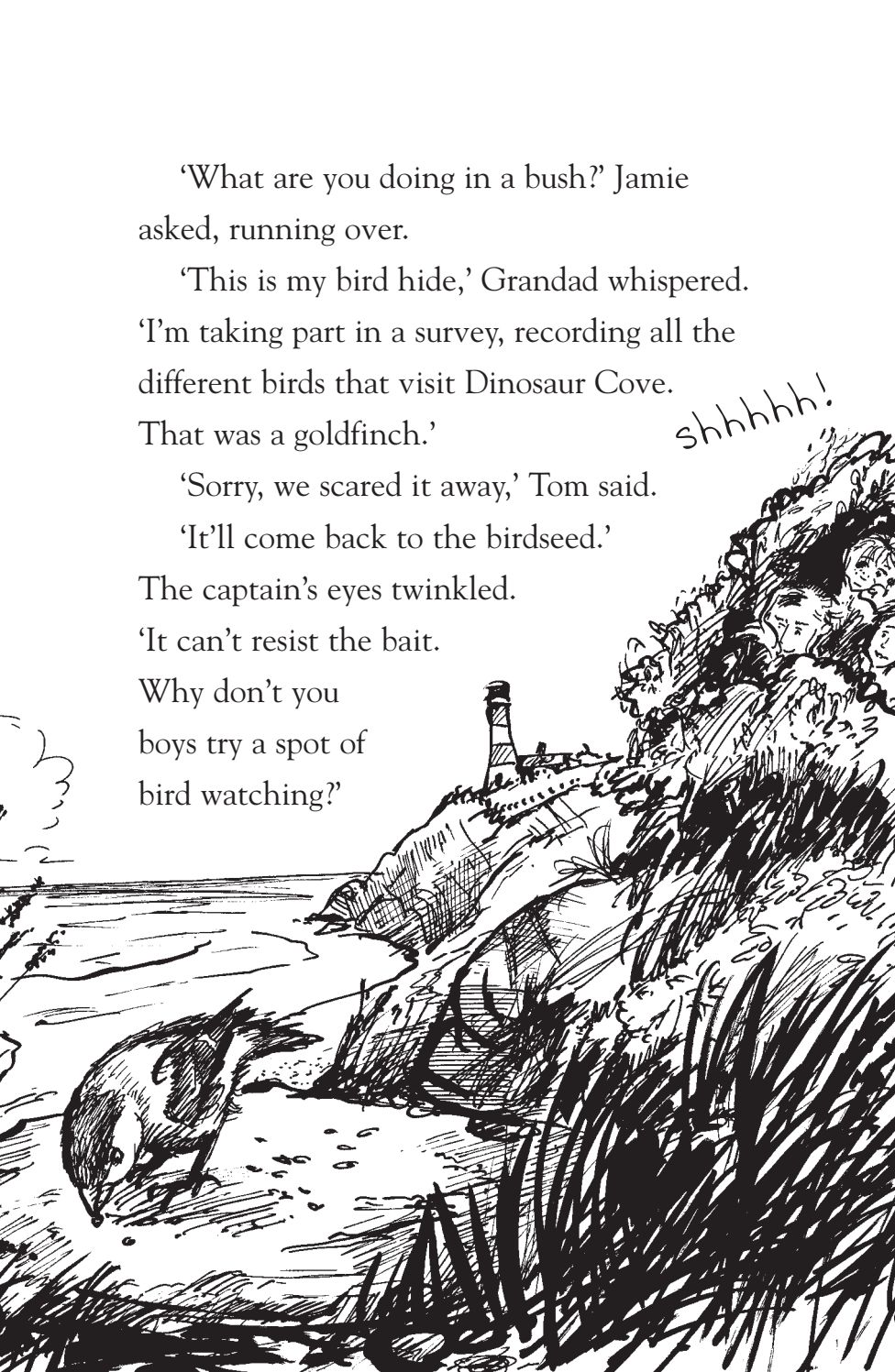


'What are you doing in a bush?' Jamie asked, running over.

'This is my bird hide,' Grandad whispered. 'I'm taking part in a survey, recording all the different birds that visit Dinosaur Cove. That was a goldfinch.'

'Sorry, we scared it away,' Tom said.

'It'll come back to the birdseed.' The captain's eyes twinkled. 'It can't resist the bait. Why don't you boys try a spot of bird watching?'



‘Awesome idea! We know just the place to do it.’ Jamie nudged Tom.

Grandad held up his finger. ‘Remember, the secret of bird watching is stay quiet and hidden.’ He tapped his nose, then ducked back into the bush.

‘See you later, Grandad!’ Jamie called.

They raced off along the path towards Smuggler’s Point.

‘Got the ammonite?’ Tom asked.

Jamie patted his pocket. ‘The Jurassic one,’ he confirmed as they reached the cave. The spiral fossil was the key to which time period they would visit.

Jamie took out his torch and they squeezed through the tiny gap at the back of the cave into the secret chamber that led to Dino World. His heart was thumping with excitement as he fitted his feet into the fossil footprints. He took a deep breath and stepped



towards the cave wall. 'One, two, three, four . . . FIVE!'

A crack of light appeared in the solid rock and suddenly he was in the sweltering sunlight of Dino World. His ears filled with the sounds of insects buzzing and the strange



calls of unseen creatures out there in the Jurassic jungle.

There was a squelch as Tom trod on the slimy leaf mould beside him, stirring up a familiar smell in the hot humid air.

'Phew!' Tom gagged. 'The gingko fruit must be ripe. They're even stinkier than usual.'

'Wanna will love them.' Jamie pulled a face.

At the mention of his name, a little dinosaur with a bony head bounded up to the boys on his two back legs, wagging his tail and making happy grunking noises.

'He's pleased to see us.' Tom laughed. 'It's good to see you again, Wanna.'

Wanna looked up hopefully at the fruit-laden gingko tree.

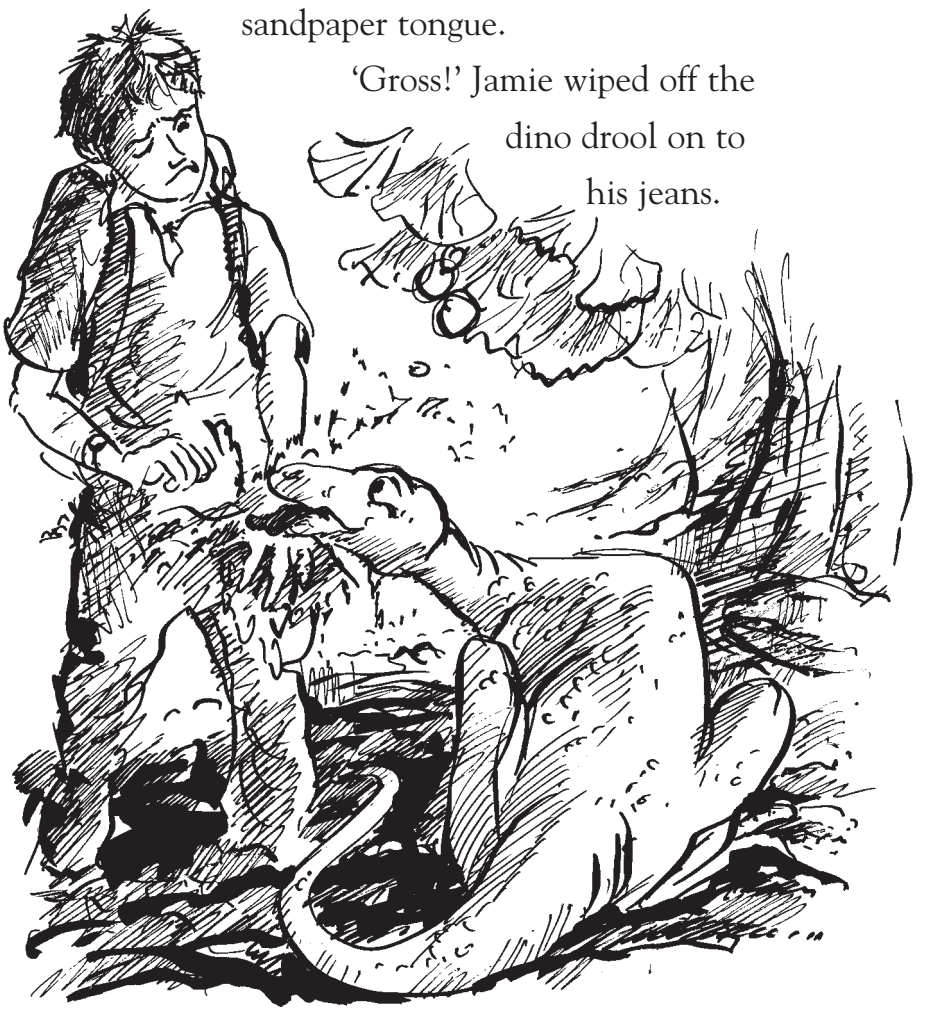
'I'll get you one.' Jamie wrinkled his nose and reached out for an apricot-sized fruit on a nearby branch. It was so ripe that sticky gingko goo squished through his fingers.



He tried to toss the fruit to the little dinosaur but it stuck fast to his hand.

'Yuck!' Jamie held out his hand. Wanna slurped down the fruit, then licked the sticky juice off Jamie's fingers with his sandpaper tongue.

'Gross!' Jamie wiped off the dino drool on to his jeans.





'Since Wanna's so mad about gingkoes,' Tom said thoughtfully, 'maybe we should take some along to bait flying reptiles, like birdseed.'

'We'll be the very first Jurassic birdwatchers.'

Jamie filled a plastic bag with the foul-smelling fruit and stuffed it in his backpack. He held out his hands for Wanna to clean.

'Let's go dino bird watching!'