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opening extract from

Dinosaur Cove: Escape From the Fierce Predator

written by

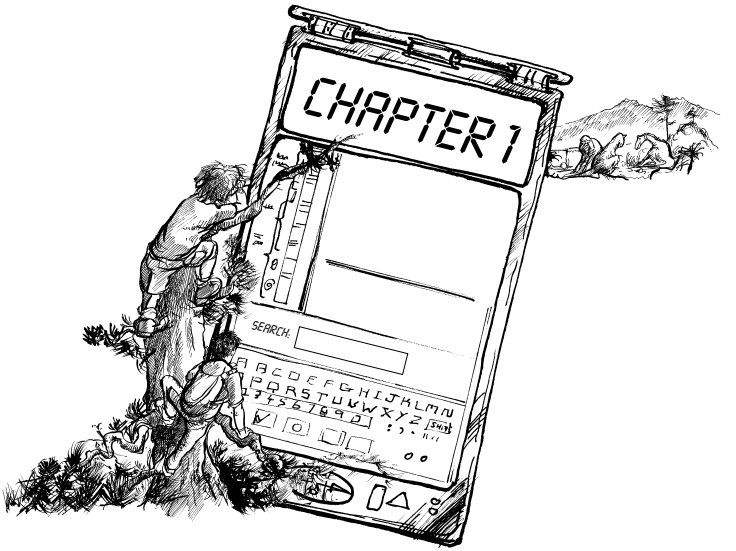
Rex Stone

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'Quiet please, everybody,' Jamie Morgan called, waving his arms to get the attention of his dino-mad audience.

Jamie's best friend Tom Clay cleared his throat and used his best TV presenter voice. 'The great dinosaur quiz is about to begin.'

Jamie's dad handed out the last clipboard and pencil to the crowd of eager children and gave Jamie and Tom high fives. 'Thanks for your help, guys,' he said. 'I can take it from here.'

'I wish we could join in,' whispered Tom, as they stepped away.

'It wouldn't be fair,' Jamie reminded him. 'Dad said we're such dino experts we'd be bound to win.'

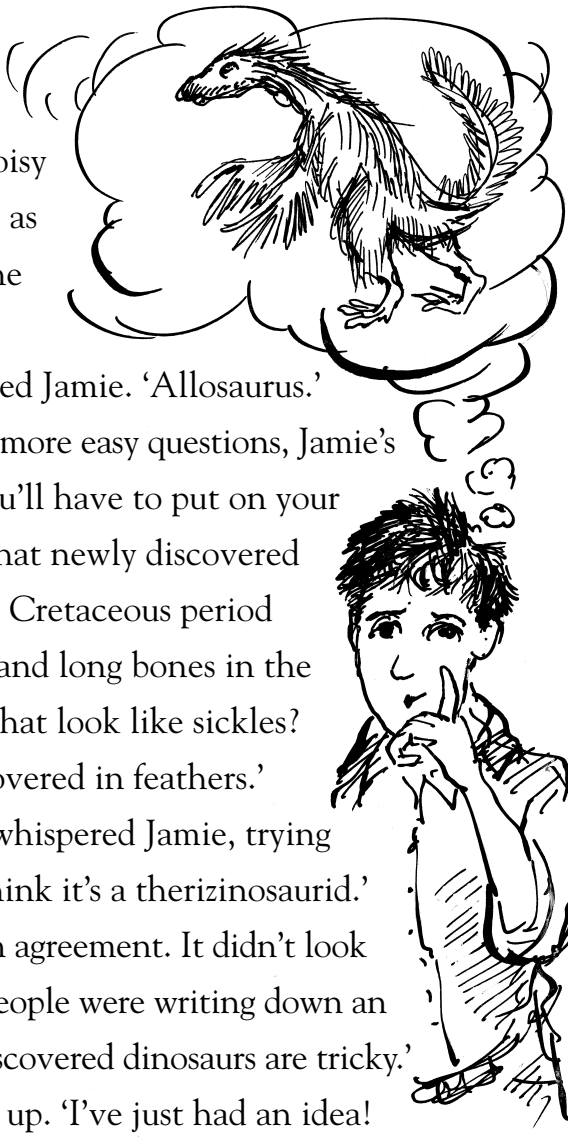
Tom nudged Jamie. 'He has no idea!'

The boys had discovered an entrance to a secret world of living dinosaurs. It was hidden deep in the cliff, inside an old smugglers' cave, and they visited it as often as they could.

Jamie's dad read the first question, taken from a talk he'd given earlier that day. 'Which dinosaur was one of the biggest Jurassic predators and had a name that means "different lizard"?'



There was a noisy tapping of pencils as everyone wrote the answer down.



'Easy,' murmured Jamie. 'Allosaurus.'

After a couple more easy questions, Jamie's dad said, 'Now you'll have to put on your thinking caps. What newly discovered dinosaur from the Cretaceous period had slender arms and long bones in the hand with claws that look like sickles? It was probably covered in feathers.'

'That's hard!' whispered Jamie, trying to remember. 'I think it's a therizinosaurid.'

Tom nodded in agreement. It didn't look as though many people were writing down an answer. 'Newly discovered dinosaurs are tricky.'

Jamie's eyes lit up. 'I've just had an idea! What if *we* discovered a dinosaur that *no one* knew about?'

‘And I know just where we could do that . . . ’ said Tom.

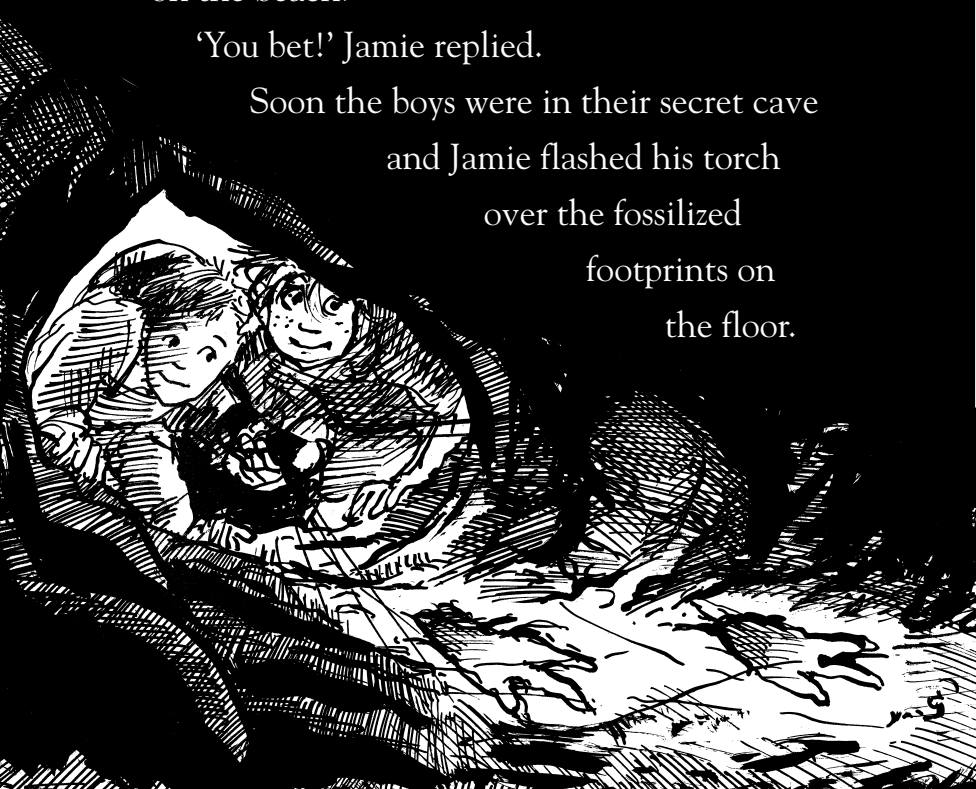
Jamie knew what Tom was thinking. ‘Dino World here we come!’

Jamie grabbed his backpack and waved to his dad. The boys sprinted out of the lighthouse towards their secret world.

‘Off on another adventure?’ Jamie’s grandad called as the boys passed him fishing on the beach.

‘You bet!’ Jamie replied.

Soon the boys were in their secret cave and Jamie flashed his torch over the fossilized footprints on the floor.



'Here we go!' he said, placing his feet in the footprints. Tom followed close behind. In an instant they were in the hot Jurassic sunshine of their amazing secret world.

Grunk!

A little green and brown dinosaur bounded up.

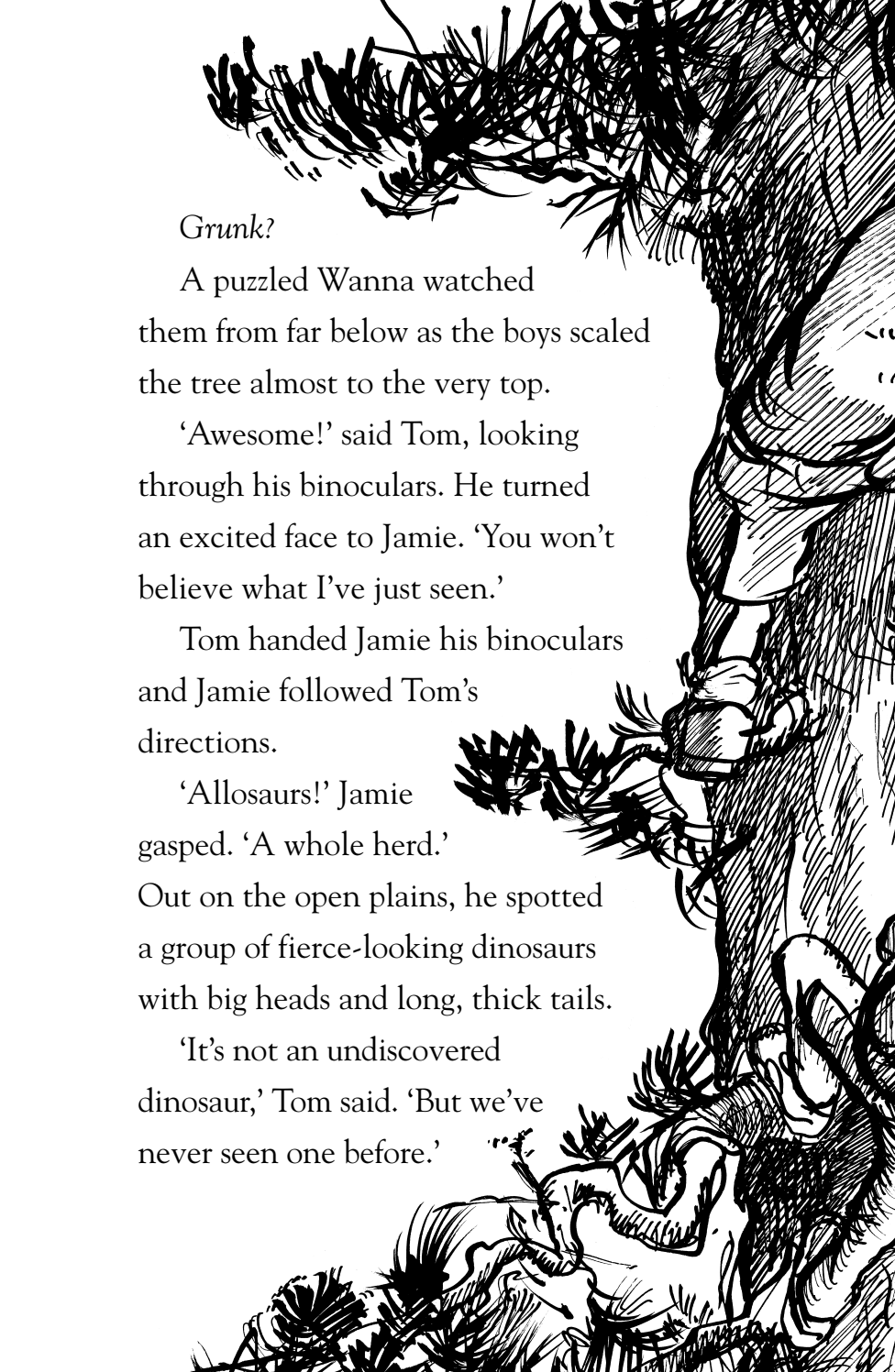
'We're back, Wanna,' cried Jamie as their prehistoric friend gave them a nudge with his hard, bony head.

The wannanosaurus wagged his tail in excitement.

Tom looked around the cycads and conifers of the steamy jungle. 'Where would be the best place to find an undiscovered dino?'

'Let's climb that tree and look around,' suggested Jamie.

The conifer branches were well spaced and the fern-like leaves easily pushed out of the way. Tom and Jamie climbed the tree like a ladder.



Grunk?

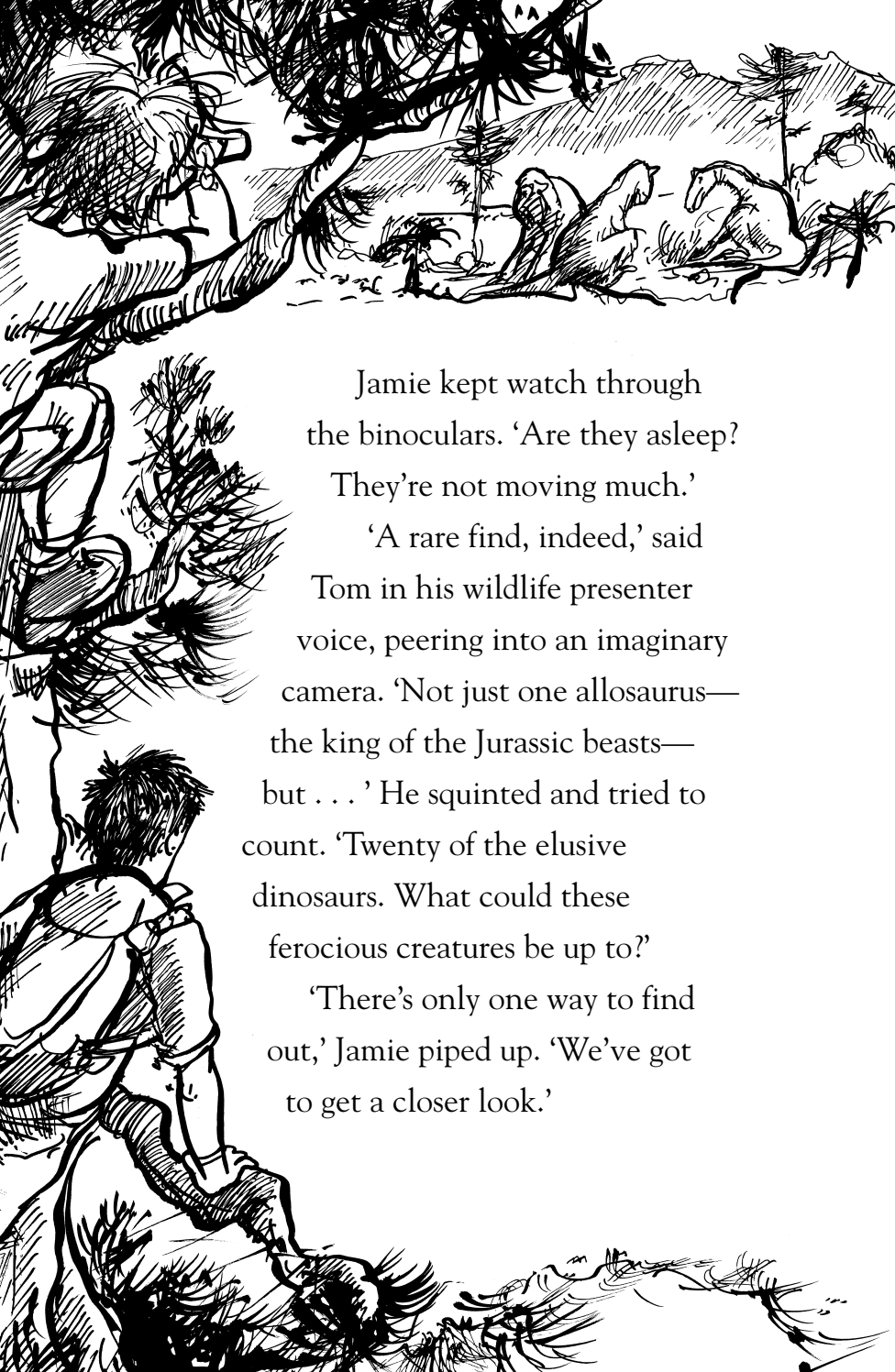
A puzzled Wanna watched them from far below as the boys scaled the tree almost to the very top.

'Awesome!' said Tom, looking through his binoculars. He turned an excited face to Jamie. 'You won't believe what I've just seen.'

Tom handed Jamie his binoculars and Jamie followed Tom's directions.

'Allosaurs!' Jamie gasped. 'A whole herd.' Out on the open plains, he spotted a group of fierce-looking dinosaurs with big heads and long, thick tails.

'It's not an undiscovered dinosaur,' Tom said. 'But we've never seen one before.'



Jamie kept watch through the binoculars. 'Are they asleep? They're not moving much.'

'A rare find, indeed,' said Tom in his wildlife presenter voice, peering into an imaginary camera. 'Not just one allosaurus—the king of the Jurassic beasts—but . . . ' He squinted and tried to count. 'Twenty of the elusive dinosaurs. What could these ferocious creatures be up to?'

'There's only one way to find out,' Jamie piped up. 'We've got to get a closer look.'