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Opening extract from

Dinosaur Cove: Charged of the Three-horned Monster

Written by

Rex Stone

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For Jamie Heywood and Tom Vogler who have always loved dinosaurs.

Special thanks to Jan Burchett and Sara Vogler

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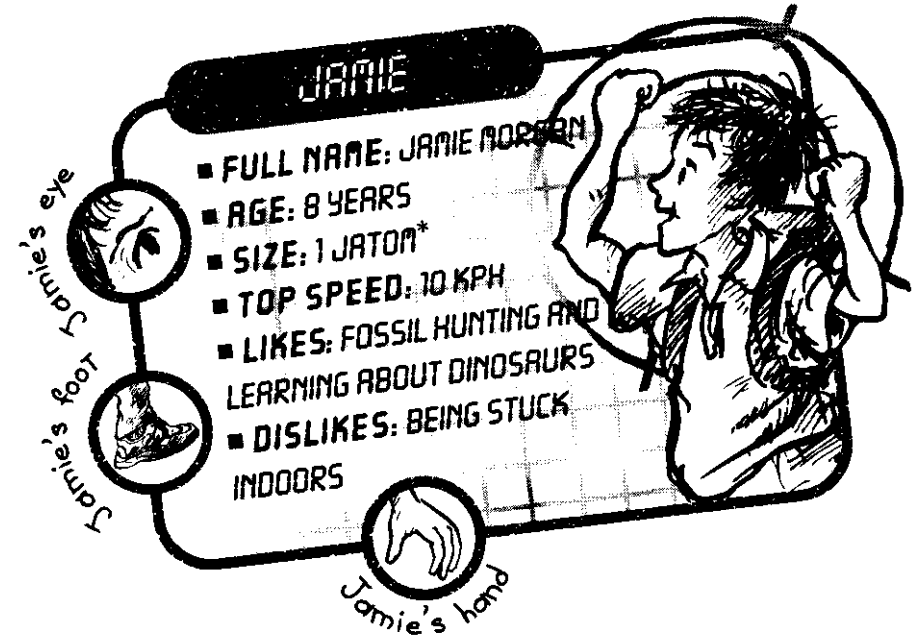
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FACT FILE

JAMIE HAS JUST MOVED FROM THE CITY TO LIVE IN THE LIGHTHOUSE IN DINOSAUR COVE. JAMIE'S DAD IS OPENING A DINOSAUR MUSEUM ON THE BOTTOM FLOOR OF THE LIGHTHOUSE. WHEN JAMIE GOES HUNTING FOR FOSSILS IN THE CRUMBLING CLIFFS ON THE BEACH HE MEETS A LOCAL BOY, TOM, AND THE TWO DISCOVER AN AMAZING SECRET: A WORLD WITH REAL, LIVE DINOSAURS! BUT IT'S NOT ONLY DINOSAURS THAT INHABIT THIS PREHISTORIC WORLD...



*NOTE: A JATOM IS THE SIZE OF JAMIE OR TOM: 125 CM TALL AND 27 KG IN WEIGHT

TOM

- **FULL NAME:** THOMAS CLAY
- **AGE:** 8 YEARS
- **SIZE:** 1 JATOM*
- **TOP SPEED:** 10 KPH
- **LIKES:** TRACKING ANIMALS AND EXPLORING WILDLIFE
- **DISLIKES:** RAINY DAYS





Tom's eye



Tom's hand

WANNA

- **FULL NAME:** ~~WANNANOSAURUS~~
- **AGE:** 65 - 80 ~~MILLION~~ YEARS**
- **SIZE:** LESS THAN A JATOM*
- **TOP SPEED:** 50 KPH, ESPECIALLY WHEN BEING CHASED BY A T-REX
- **LIKES:** STINKY GINGKO FRUIT AND BANGING HIS HEAD ON TREE TRUNKS
- **DISLIKES:** SCARY DINOSAURS





Wanna's head



Wanna's foot

*NOTE: A JATOM IS THE SIZE OF JANIE OR TOM: 125 CM TALL AND 27 KG IN WEIGHT

**NOTE: SCIENTISTS CALL THIS PERIOD THE LATE CRETACEOUS

TRICERATOPS



Triceratops's frill

Triceratops's foot

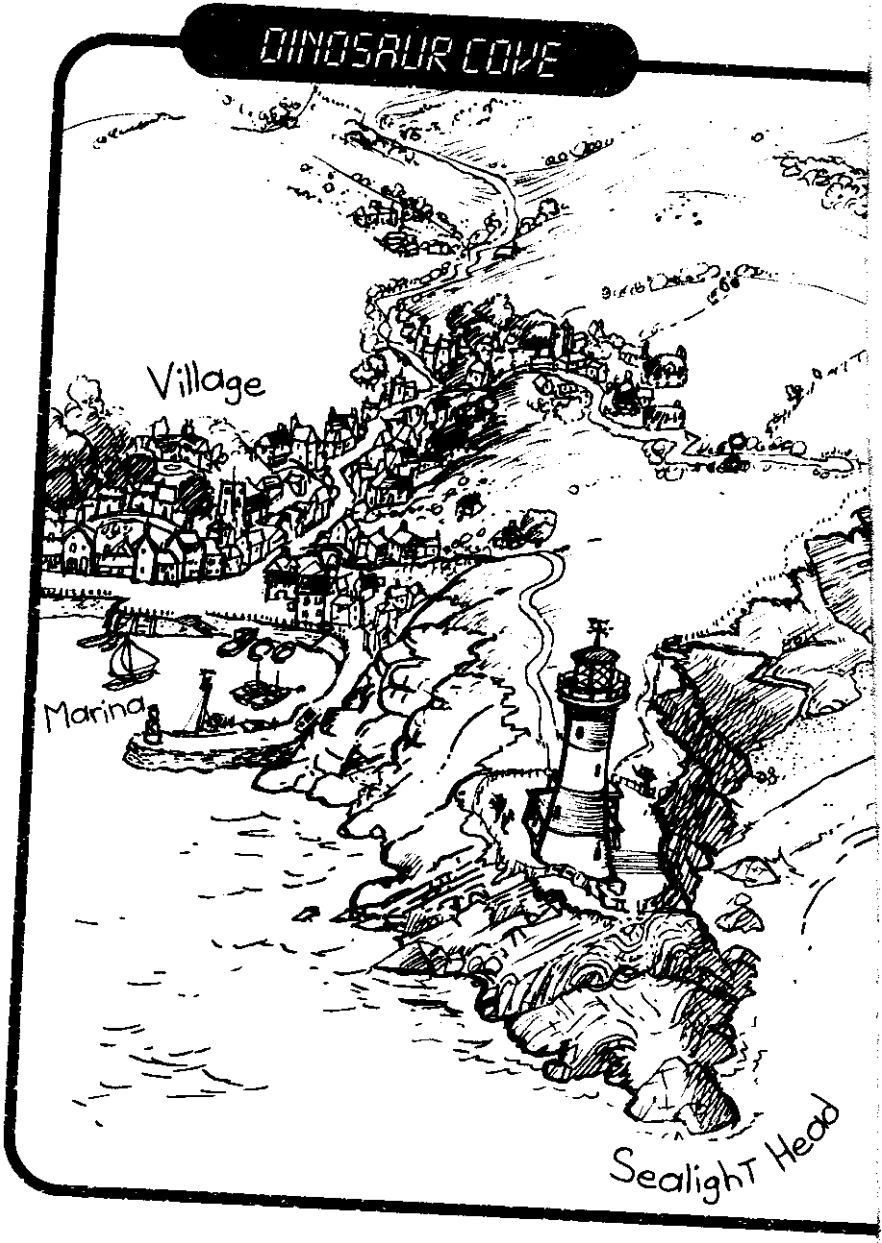
Triceratops's mouth

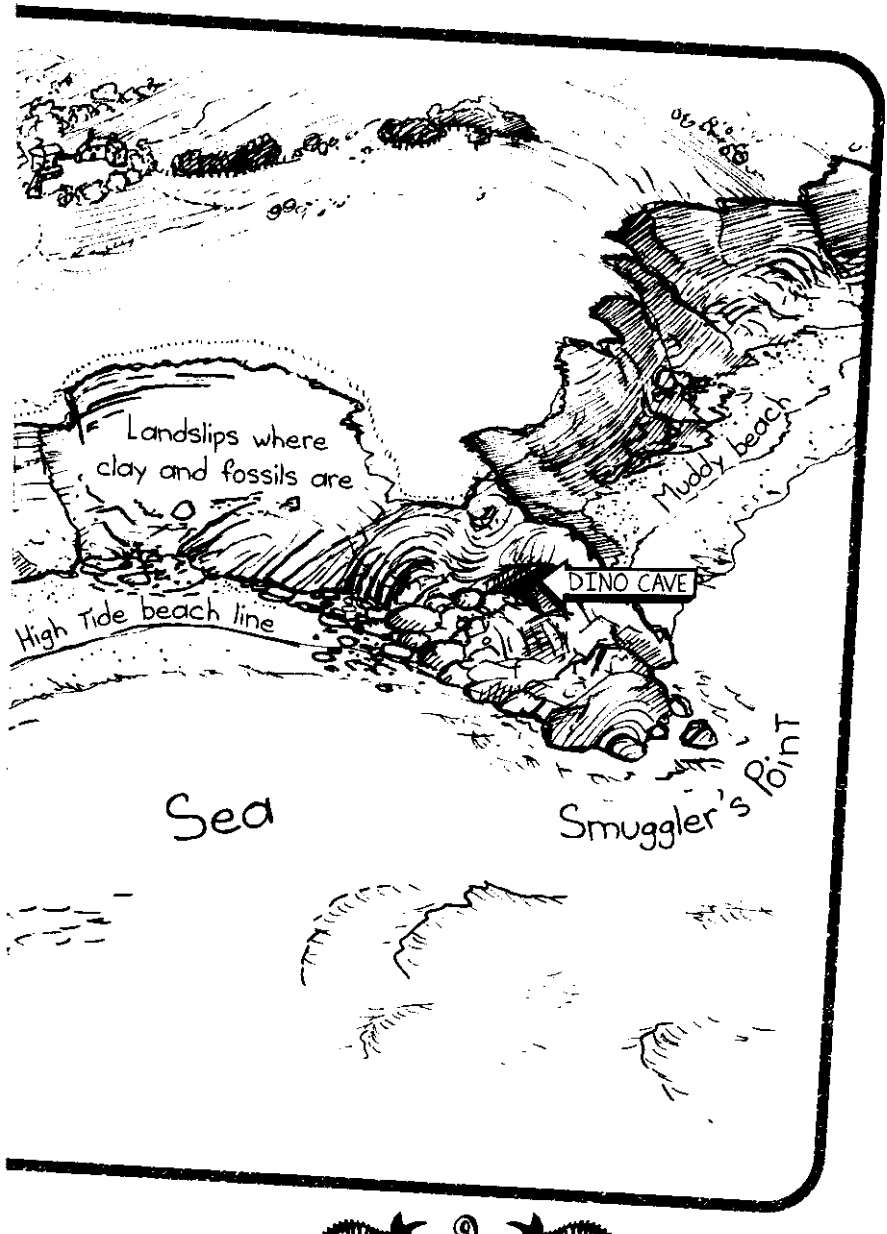
Triceratops's horns

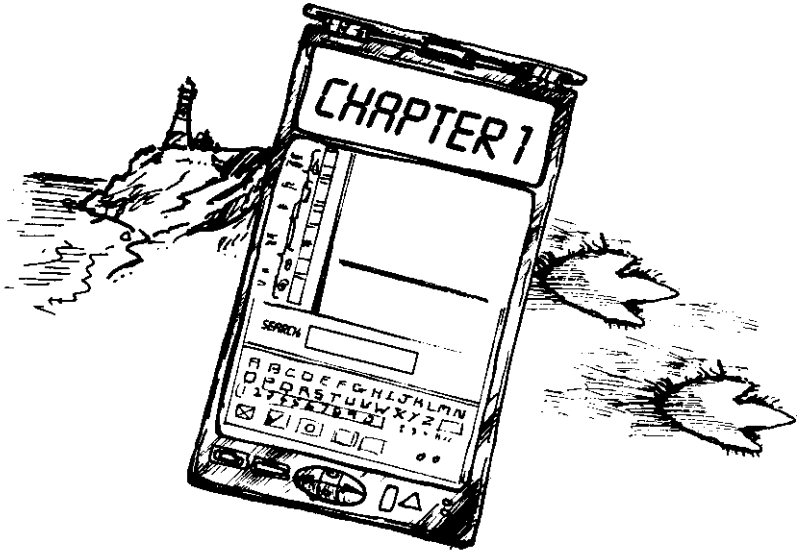
- **FULL NAME:** TRICERATOPS
- **AGE:** 65 - 80 MILLION YEARS**
- **HEIGHT:** 2 JATOMS*
- **LENGTH:** 6 JATOMS*
- **WEIGHT:** 280 JATOMS*
- **HORNS:** LENGTH OF A BROOM HANDLE
- **TOP SPEED:** NORMALLY SLOW, BUT UP TO 48 KPH WHEN CHARGING
- **LIKES:** BEING ONE OF THE HERD
- **DISLIKES:** BECOMING EXTINCT. IT WAS ONE OF THE LAST TO GO

***NOTE:** A JATOM IS THE SIZE OF JAMIE OR TOM: 125 CM TALL AND 27 KG IN WEIGHT

****NOTE:** SCIENTISTS CALL THIS PERIOD THE LATE CRETACEOUS


DINOSAUR COVE
Village
Marina
Sealight Head


Landslips where clay and fossils are
Muddy beach
DINO CAVE
High Tide beach line
Sea
Smuggler's Point



Jamie Morgan sprinted along the pebbly beach of Dinosaur Cove to meet his new best friend.

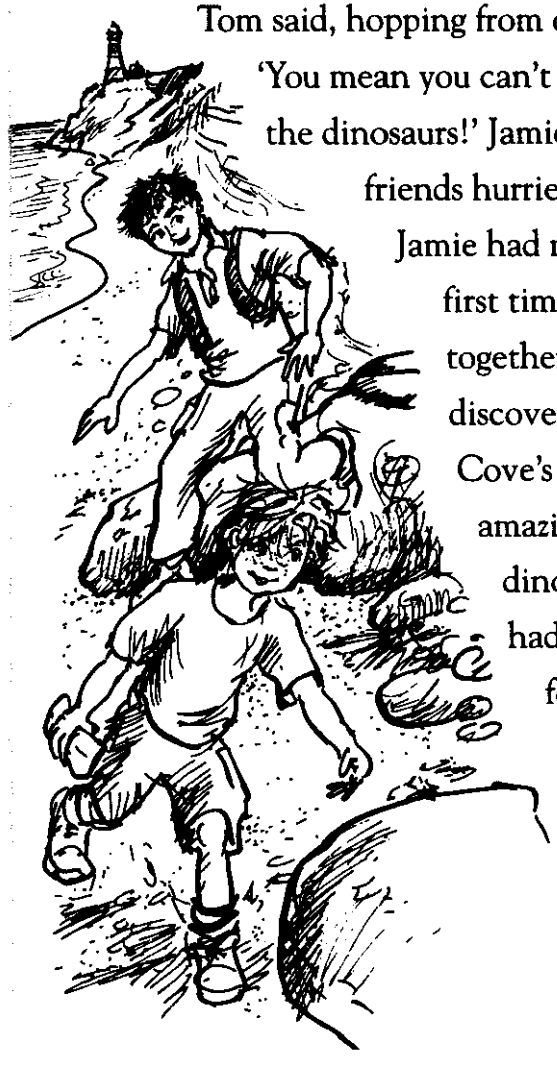
'Have you got everything?' asked Tom Clay, jumping off the rock he was standing on. 'I brought my binoculars and my compass.'

Jamie took off his backpack and rummaged inside for his fossil hunting equipment. 'I've got my pocket knife, my notebook, and the Fossil Finder.' Jamie's brand new hand-held computer had all sorts of prehistoric

information at the touch of a few buttons.
'I brought some sandwiches, too,' Jamie said.
'Cheese and Grandad's home-made pickle.
It'll blow your head off!'

'I can't wait to get back to our cave,' Tom said, hopping from one foot to another.

'You mean you can't wait to get back to the dinosaurs!' Jamie said, as the two friends hurried down the beach.



Jamie had met Tom for the first time yesterday and together they had discovered Dinosaur Cove's biggest secret: an amazing world of living dinosaurs! First, Jamie had found a set of fossilized dinosaur footprints, and then the

footprints had transported them to a place where dinosaurs still roamed the earth.

'It's hard keeping something so big a secret,' Tom confessed. 'My big brother kept asking me what I did yesterday.'

'I know!' Jamie replied. 'My dad got a huge triceratops skull fossil for the museum this morning, and I kept thinking about the *real* triceratops we saw yesterday.'



Jamie and his dad had moved in with his grandad to the old lighthouse on the cliffs and Jamie's dad planned to open a dinosaur museum on the ground floor. Jamie's dad knew more about dinosaurs than anyone, but he didn't know the colours of a T-Rex like Jamie and Tom did!

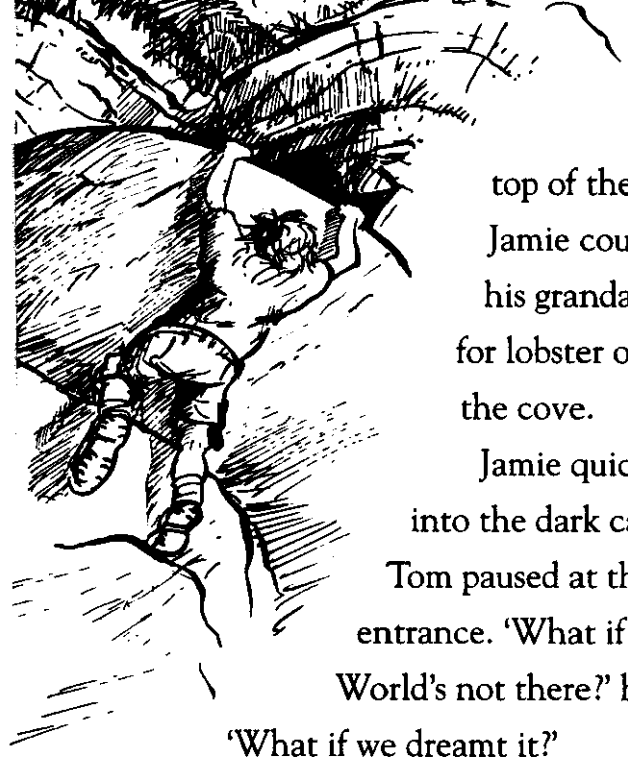
'I forgot to tell you!' panted Jamie, as they scrambled up the steep path towards their secret cave. 'I brought some coloured pencils with me. I thought we could make a map of Dino World in my notebook.'

'Good idea,' Tom said. 'We'll be like real explorers, charting unknown territories!'

'And seeing lots of dinosaurs!'

They reached the tall stack of boulders that led to their secret cave, and climbed up using cracks in the rock. From the





top of the boulders, Jamie could see his grandad fishing for lobster out in the cove.

Jamie quickly slipped into the dark cave, but Tom paused at the hidden entrance. 'What if Dino World's not there?' he asked. 'What if we dreamt it?'

Jamie laughed, and the sound echoed around the cave. 'No way! That T-Rex we met was definitely real!' With a shiver of excitement he turned on his torch and shone it into the far corner. The beam picked out the small gap in the cave wall.

Jamie took off his backpack and crawled through on his belly into the second chamber which was narrower and pitch dark. Jamie

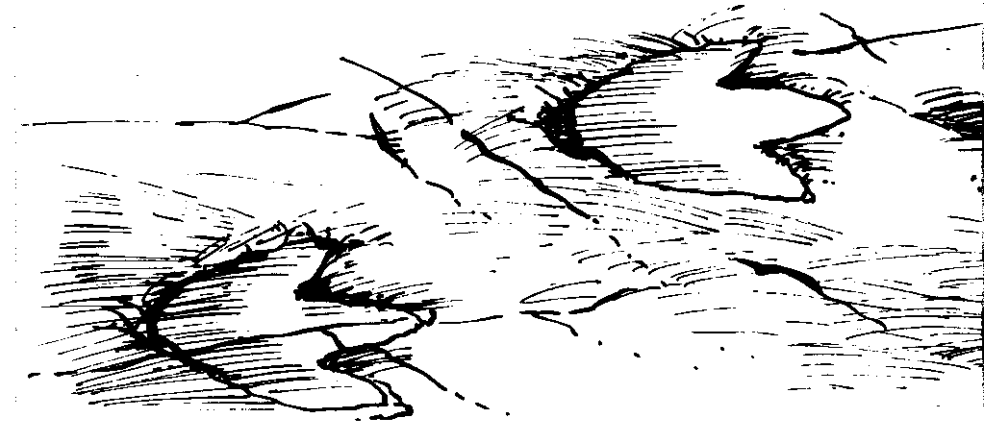
and Tom suspected they were the only people ever to have been in this place.

Jamie flashed his torch over the stone floor. 'Here are the fossilized dinosaur footprints we found yesterday.'

'The best fossil anyone has ever found!' Tom said. The footprints had somehow transported the boys to Dino World.

Tom stepped into the first clover-shaped indent in the cave floor. 'Here goes!' He placed his foot carefully into each footprint, walking in the dinosaur tracks.

Jamie stuck close behind him and counted every step. 'One . . . two . . . three . . . four . . . FIVE!'

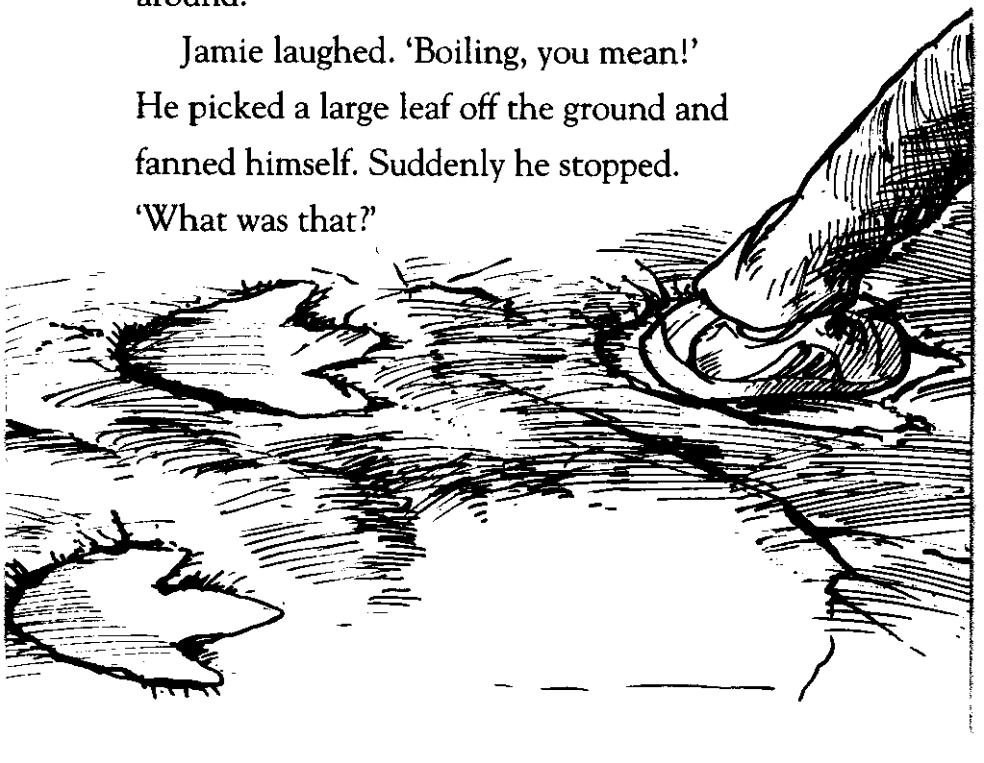


In an instant, the cold, damp cave was gone and Jamie and Tom were standing in a bright sunny cave and staring out at giant, sun-dappled trees. The air was hot and humid and they could hear the heavy drone of insects. They ran out on to the damp squelchy ground of Dino World.

'We're back in the jungle,' said Jamie happily. 'We're on Gingko Hill.'

'This is so cool!' said Tom, looking eagerly around.

Jamie laughed. 'Boiling, you mean!' He picked a large leaf off the ground and fanned himself. Suddenly he stopped. 'What was that?'



The boys listened hard. From somewhere in the steaming jungle they could hear scuffling—and it was getting nearer.

'Something's coming!' warned Tom.

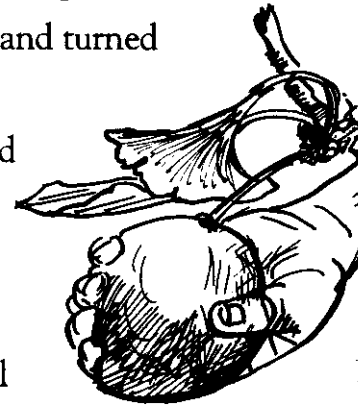
Just then, a plump, scaly little creature with a flat, bony head burst out from a clump of ferns. It scuttled along on its stumpy hind legs and hurled itself at Jamie, knocking him flat on his back.

Grunk! *Grunk!* *Grunk!*



'It's Wanna!' exclaimed Tom in relief.

Jamie and Tom had met the wannanosaurus on their first visit to Dino World, and the Fossil Finder had said that it was pronounced 'wan-na-no-saur-us'. Wanna had helped them when the T-Rex was after them and turned out to be a true friend.



'Stop licking, Wanna!' panted Jamie, trying to push him off. 'Your tongue's like sandpaper.'

Tom reached up to a nearby gingko tree and picked a handful of the small, foul-smelling fruit. He held one out. 'Have a stink-o bomb, Wanna. Your favourite!'

Wanna bounded over and greedily gobbled it up as Jamie staggered to his feet. Tom gave him one more and then quickly tossed a few more pieces of the fruit to Jamie, who hid them in his backpack.

'Let's start mapping!' said Tom.

Wanna sniffed the bag as Jamie dug around and pulled out his notebook and coloured pencils. 'We're here,' he said, drawing Gingko Hill in the middle of the page. 'Yesterday we found the ocean and the lagoon in the west.' He sketched them in.

Tom checked the compass. 'So let's head north today.'

'Great,' said Jamie. 'Come on, Wanna! We're going exploring.'

Wanna wagged his tail and trotted happily alongside the boys. They scrambled through ferns and creepers and squelched among slimy giant toadstools.

At last they came to a break in the trees and peered through. Below was the dense tangle of the jungle and beyond that vast grassy plains with a wide river snaking through towards their hill.





'Look at those far away mountains,' said Tom, scanning the horizon with the binoculars. 'They're so high their peaks are hidden in the clouds.'

'Far Away Mountains—that's a good name!' said Jamie, and scribbled it down on the map.



Then Jamie took the binoculars and scanned the plains, and what he saw made him gasp. There were about fifteen strange-looking houses made of orange earth sitting near a curve in the river.

'What is it?' Tom asked.

'I don't know,' Jamie replied. 'I think . . . I think there's a village!'