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Opening extract from

Dinosaur Cove: March of the Armoured Beasts

Written by

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With special thanks to Jane Clarke

To all my SCBWI friends

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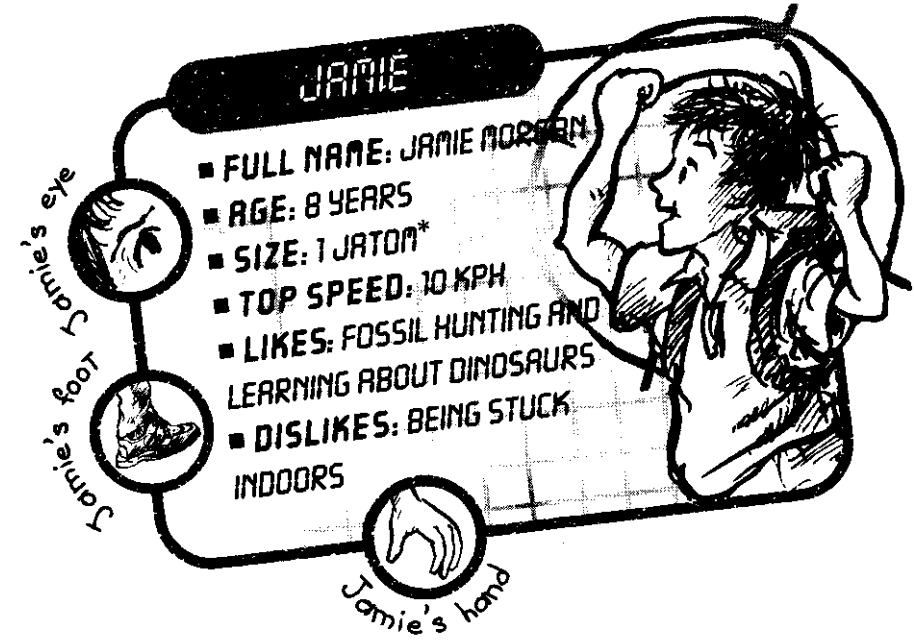
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FACT FILE

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 HE MEETS A LOCAL BOY, TOM, AND THE TWO DISCOVER A WORLD WITH REAL LIVE DINOSAURS! TRACKING DINOSAURS IS EXCITING, BUT DANGER SURROUNDS THE BOYS AT EVERY TURN.



*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

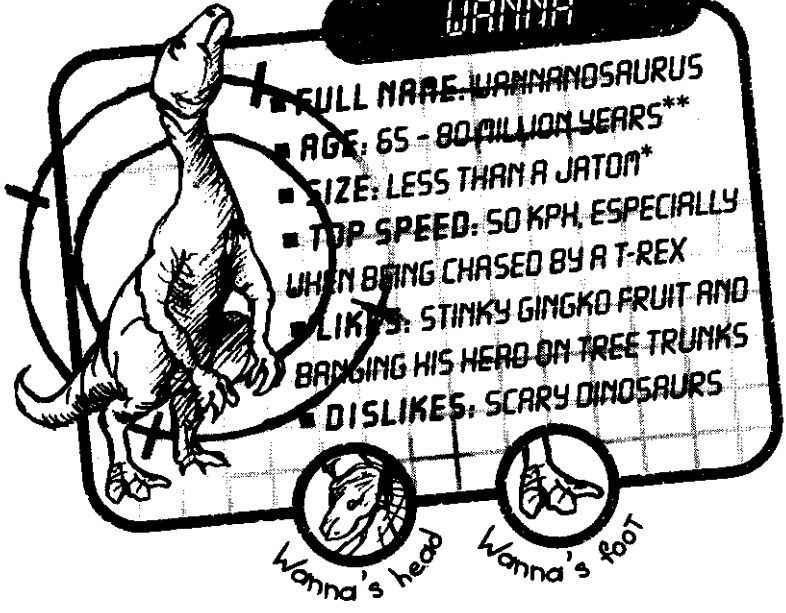


Tom's eye

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



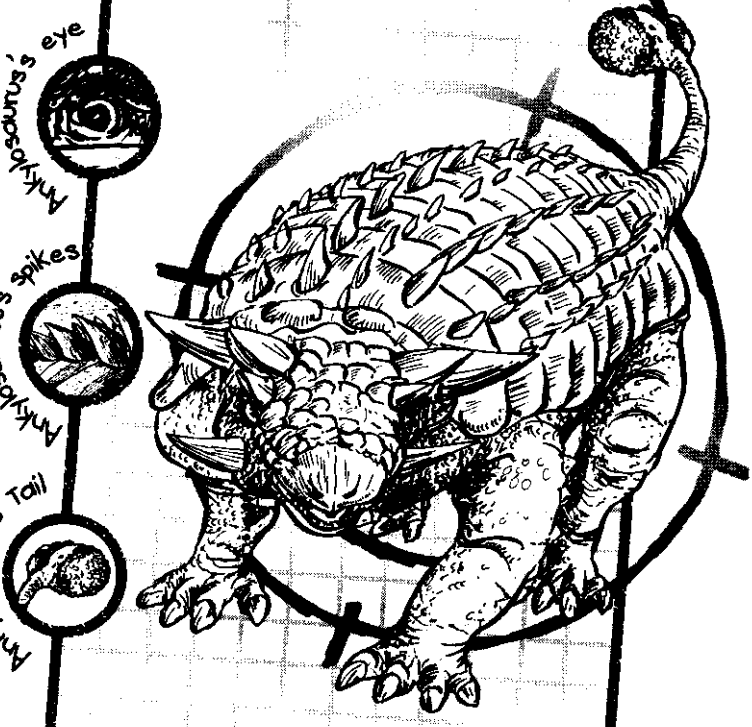
Wanna's head

Wanna's foot

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

**NOTE: SCIENTISTS CALL THIS PERIOD THE LATE CRETACEOUS

ANKYLOSAURUS



Ankylosaurus's eye

Ankylosaurus's spikes

Ankylosaurus's Tail

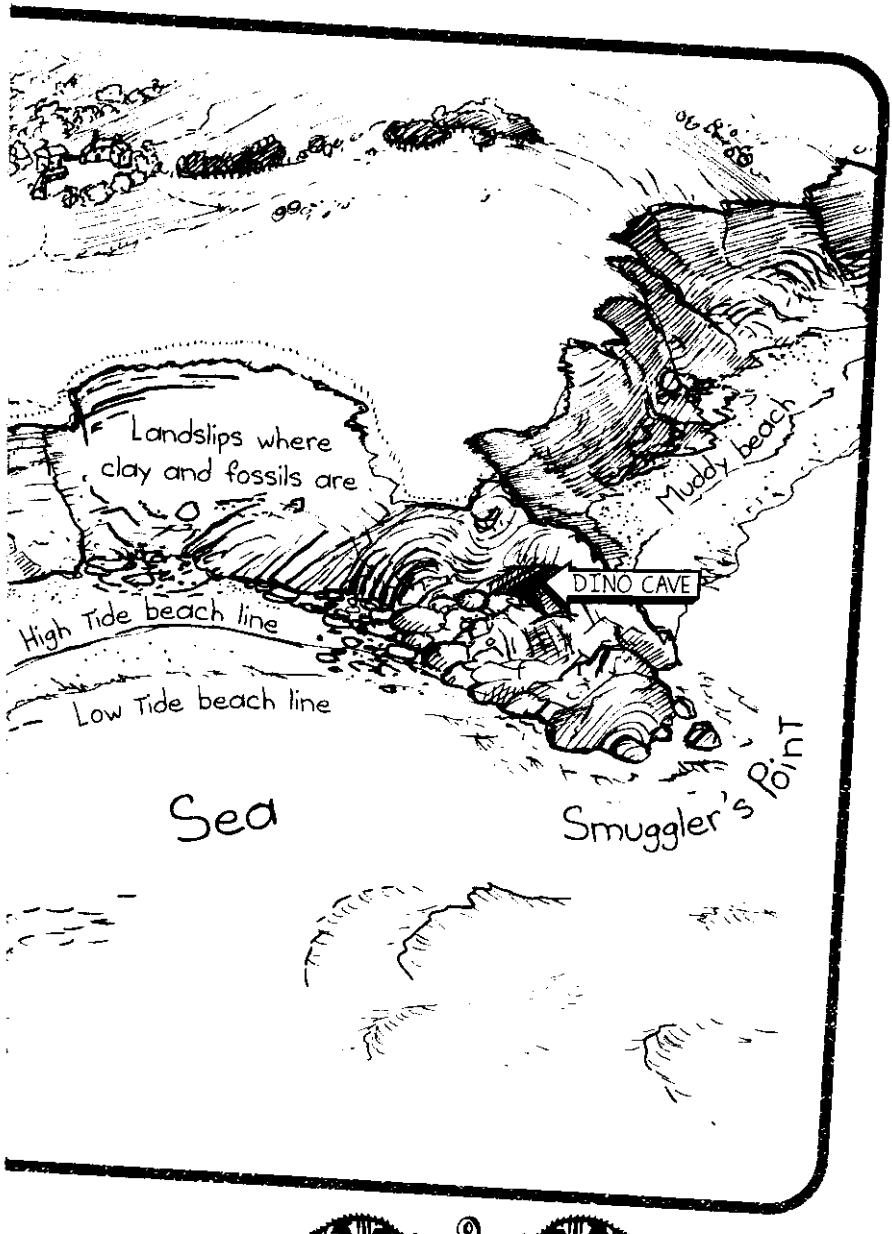
Ankylosaurus's foot

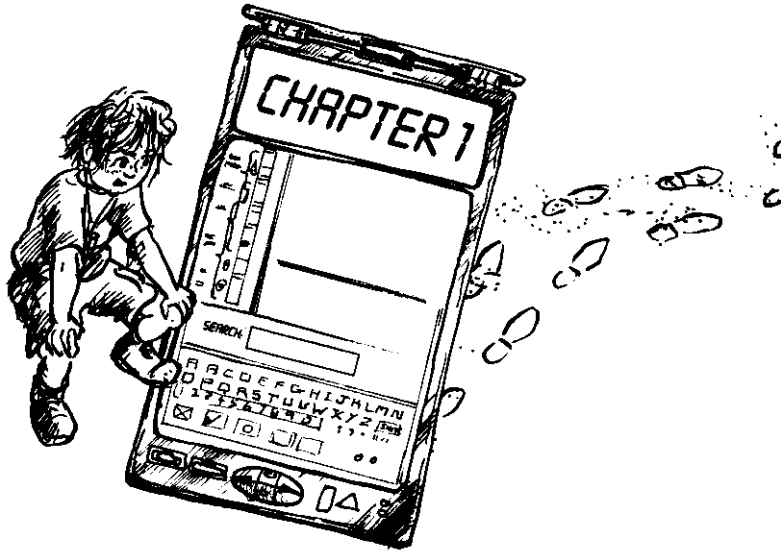
- **FULL NAME:** ANKYLOSAURUS
- **AGE:** 65 - 80 MILLION YEARS**
- **HEIGHT:** 2 JATOMS*
- **LENGTH:** 9 JATOMS*
- **WEIGHT:** 150 JATOMS*
- **LIKES:** GOBBLING GREENERY AND PRODUCING GAS
- **DISLIKES:** GETTING STUCK IN THE MUD

*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

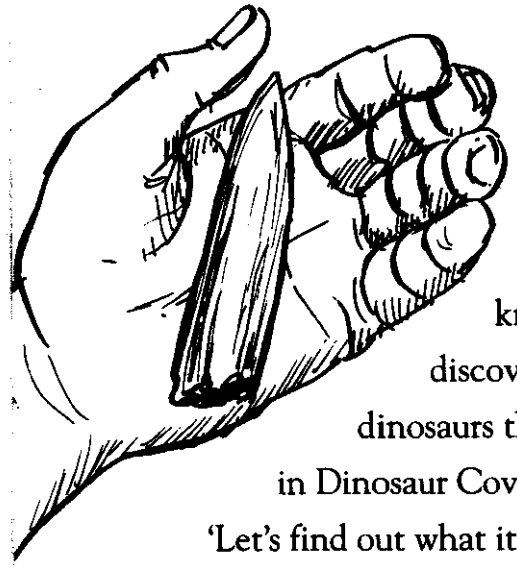

Landslips where clay and fossils are
Muddy beach
DINO CAVE
High Tide beach line
Low Tide beach line
Sea
Smuggler's Point



Jamie picked out a small fossil from the heap of gooey mud that had slipped down onto Dinosaur Cove beach in the night. The stone looked like a stubby pencil with a sharp point. He wiped it on his jeans and handed it to his best friend Tom.

'That could be a dinosaur tooth,' Jamie's grandad said, putting down his fishing bucket and leaning in for a closer look.

'It's not a dinosaur tooth,' Tom replied. 'They don't look anything like this in real li—'



Jamie nudged Tom with his elbow. Grandad didn't know they'd discovered real live dinosaurs through a secret cave in Dinosaur Cove.

'Let's find out what it is.' Jamie rummaged inside his backpack. 'Compass . . . cheese and pickle sandwiches . . . Fossil Finder!' Jamie flipped open the lid of the hand-held computer and typed 'stubby pencil' in the search box. At once a picture of the fossil popped up.

'*BEL-EM-NITE*,' he read. '*THIS BULLET-SHAPED FOSSIL IS THE BODY OF A SEA CREATURE LIKE A SQUID.*' Jamie snapped the Fossil Finder shut and put it, and the belemnite, in his backpack.

'Fossil squid, eh?' Grandad chuckled. 'You can't eat those! I'm off to find some *fresh* fish.'

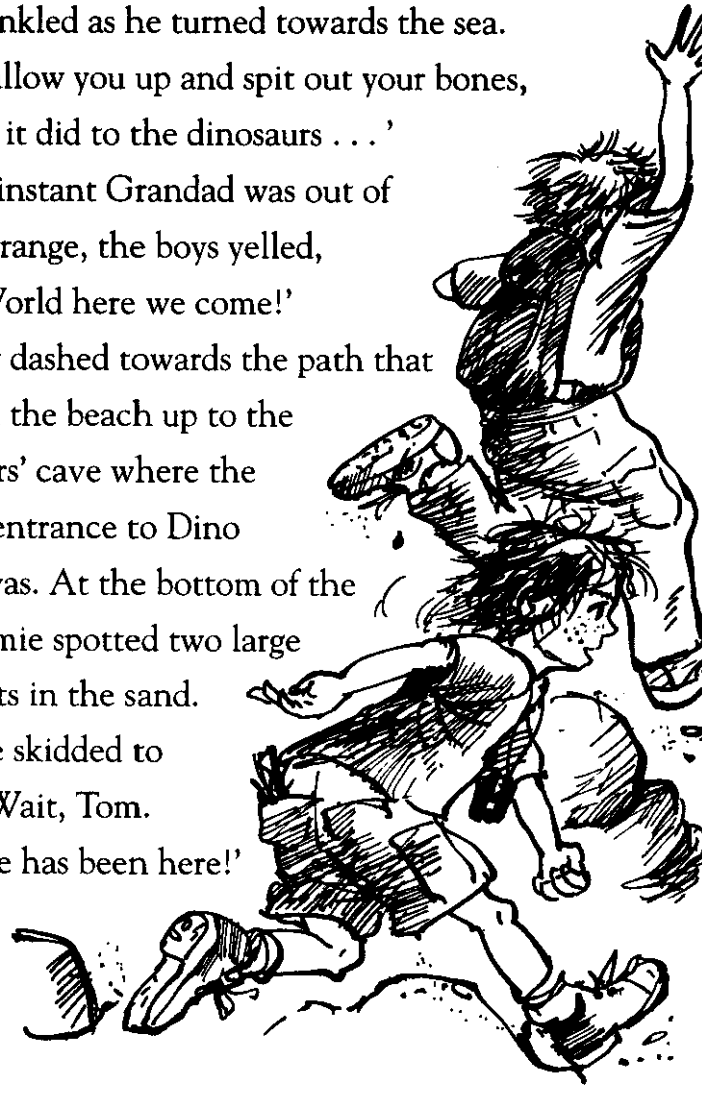
'And we should go find some fresh dinosaurs,' Tom whispered to Jamie as Grandad gathered up his fishing gear.

'Don't get stuck in the mud!' Grandad's eyes twinkled as he turned towards the sea. 'It'll swallow you up and spit out your bones, just like it did to the dinosaurs . . . '

The instant Grandad was out of hearing range, the boys yelled, 'Dino World here we come!'

They dashed towards the path that led from the beach up to the smugglers' cave where the hidden entrance to Dino World was. At the bottom of the path, Jamie spotted two large footprints in the sand.

Jamie skidded to a halt. 'Wait, Tom. Someone has been here!'



Tom bent down to examine the shoe imprints. 'They're fresh,' he said, 'and they're leading up our path!'

'Oh no,' Jamie groaned. 'What if someone's found the way through our cave into Dino World?'

'Then it wouldn't be our secret any more,' Tom said grimly. 'You know grown-ups. They'd sell tickets to visitors to make money out of it.'

Jamie frowned. 'Or they'd say it was dangerous and close



it up completely. We might never get to go back!'

Jamie and Tom examined the ground carefully and followed the footprints up the steep slope to the pile of boulders beneath their secret cave.

'Someone definitely came this way,' Jamie said.

'We've got to make sure the cave's safe.' He clambered up the boulders as fast as he could.

'What are you waiting for?' he called from the top. Tom was lingering over a footprint beneath the boulders. Jamie hopped impatiently from one foot to another as Tom scaled the boulders and hauled himself up next to Jamie.





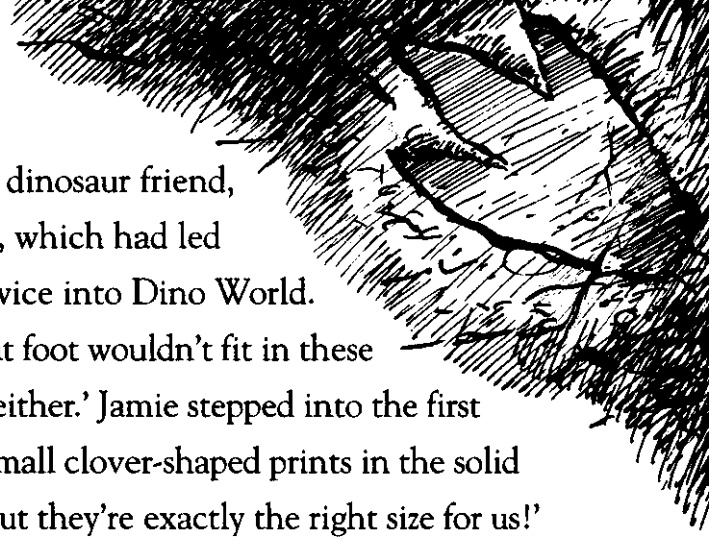
'There's no need to panic.' Tom grinned and led the way into the cool cave. 'No one came in here. Those footprints went on past the boulders. Our cave is safe!'

'But what if they come back?' Jamie flicked on his torch and shone it into the corner of the cave. The light disappeared into the gap they'd discovered on their first visit.

'Stop worrying,' Tom told him. 'There's no way someone with feet that big could get through here.'

'You're right.' Jamie breathed a sigh of relief as he pushed his backpack through the tiny gap and crawled in after it, followed closely by Tom.

He flashed his torch over the floor of the secret chamber and picked out the fossilized footprints



of their dinosaur friend, Wanna, which had led them twice into Dino World.

'That foot wouldn't fit in these tracks, either.' Jamie stepped into the first of the small clover-shaped prints in the solid rock. 'But they're exactly the right size for us!'

'Then let's track dinosaurs!' Tom declared. 'I'm right behind you.'

'One . . . two . . . three . . . ' Jamie's heart beat faster as he counted each step. *What kind of dinosaurs will we see today?* he wondered.

' . . . four . . . '

The cave wall in front of him looked like solid rock, but as he put his foot forward a crack of light appeared.

'FIVE!'

The crack of light widened and the ground felt soft under Jamie's trainers as he stepped from the dark cave into Dino World.