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Opening extract from

Dinosaur Cove: Catching the Speedy Thief

Written by

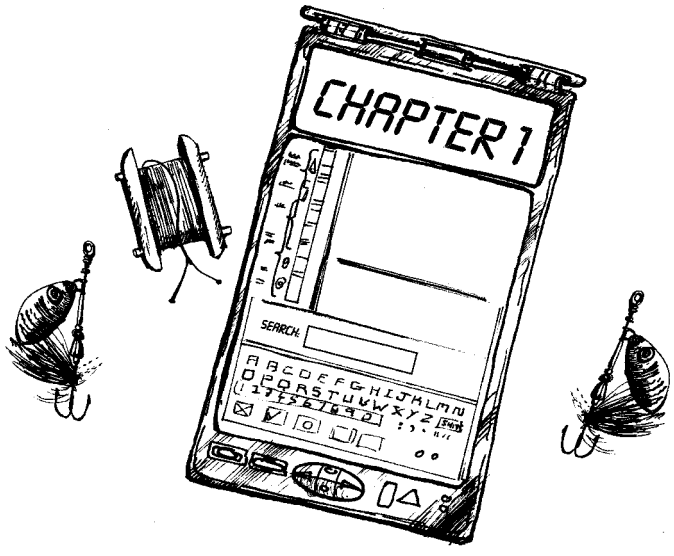
Rex Stone

Published by

Oxford University Press

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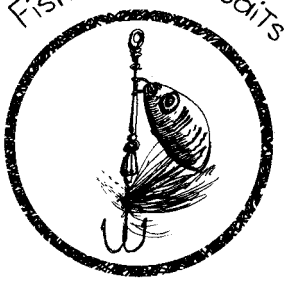
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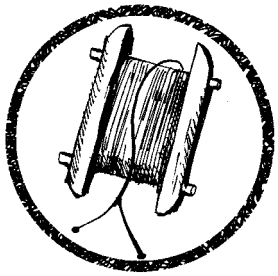
Jamie Morgan pulled a rainbow-coloured metal fish out of his grandad's tackle box and held it up for his friend Tom Clay to see. 'This fish has feathers!' A cluster of tiny pink and orange feathers sprouted out from where the tail should be.

'Different baits catch different beasts,' Jamie's grandad said with a grin, holding out his hand for the feathery fish. 'This spinner is great for catching sea bass. Now, let's see. What else will I need today?'

Fisherman's baits



sea bass spinner



crab line

He tipped a tangle of weights, spinners, and fishing line onto the kitchen floor of the old lighthouse.

'What's this?' Jamie picked up an H-shaped piece of orange plastic with string wrapped around it and a couple of heavy lead weights dangling from it.

'Haven't you seen one before?' Tom said in amazement. 'It's a crab line.'

Jamie shook his head. 'How can this catch crabs?'

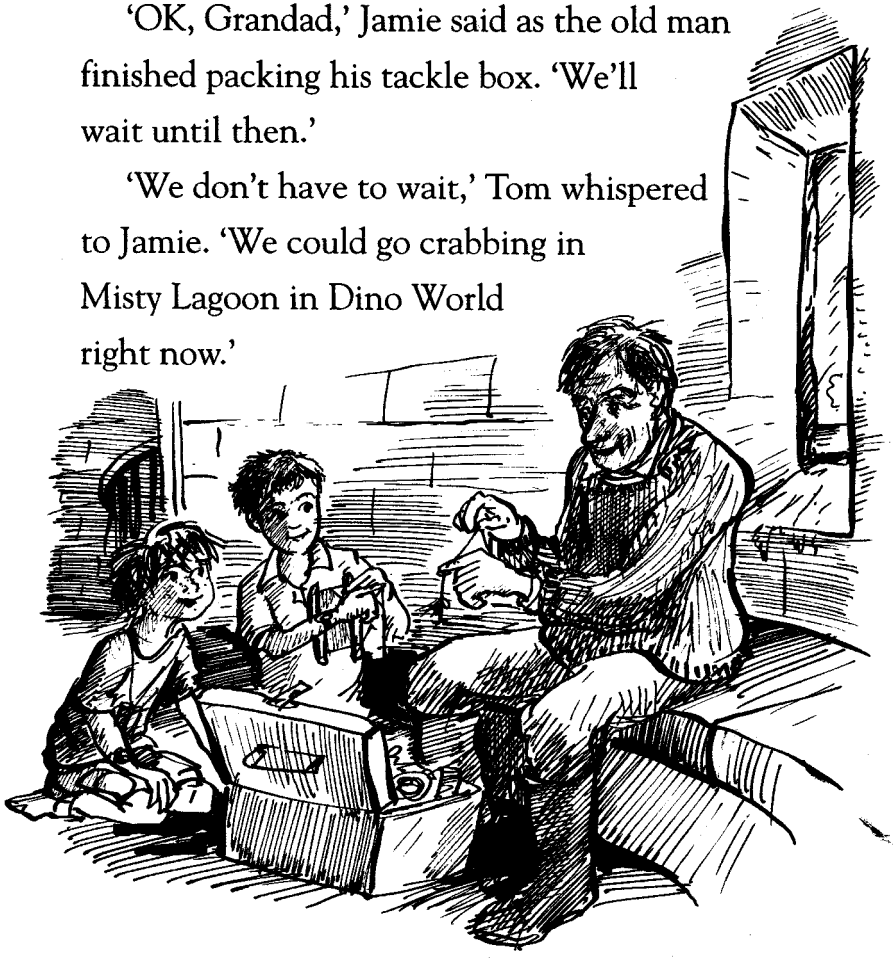
'It's easy,' Tom said. 'You tie a bit of bacon rind on the end and throw it in. The crabs grab the bacon and you grab the crabs!'

'Cool!' said Jamie. 'I'd like to try that.'

'The best place for crabbing is Sealight Head at high tide,' Grandad said, as he crammed everything but the crab line back in his tackle box. 'But high tide isn't until later this afternoon. I'll meet you there, if you like, after I've caught some sea bass for dinner.'

'OK, Grandad,' Jamie said as the old man finished packing his tackle box. 'We'll wait until then.'

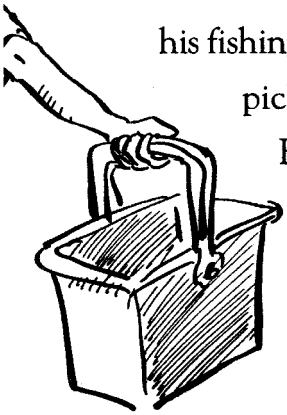
'We don't have to wait,' Tom whispered to Jamie. 'We could go crabbing in Misty Lagoon in Dino World right now.'



Dino World was Jamie and Tom's secret—even Grandad didn't know that they'd found a world where real live dinosaurs lived.

'Great idea!' Jamie winked at Tom. 'We'll meet you near Sealight Head later, Grandad.'

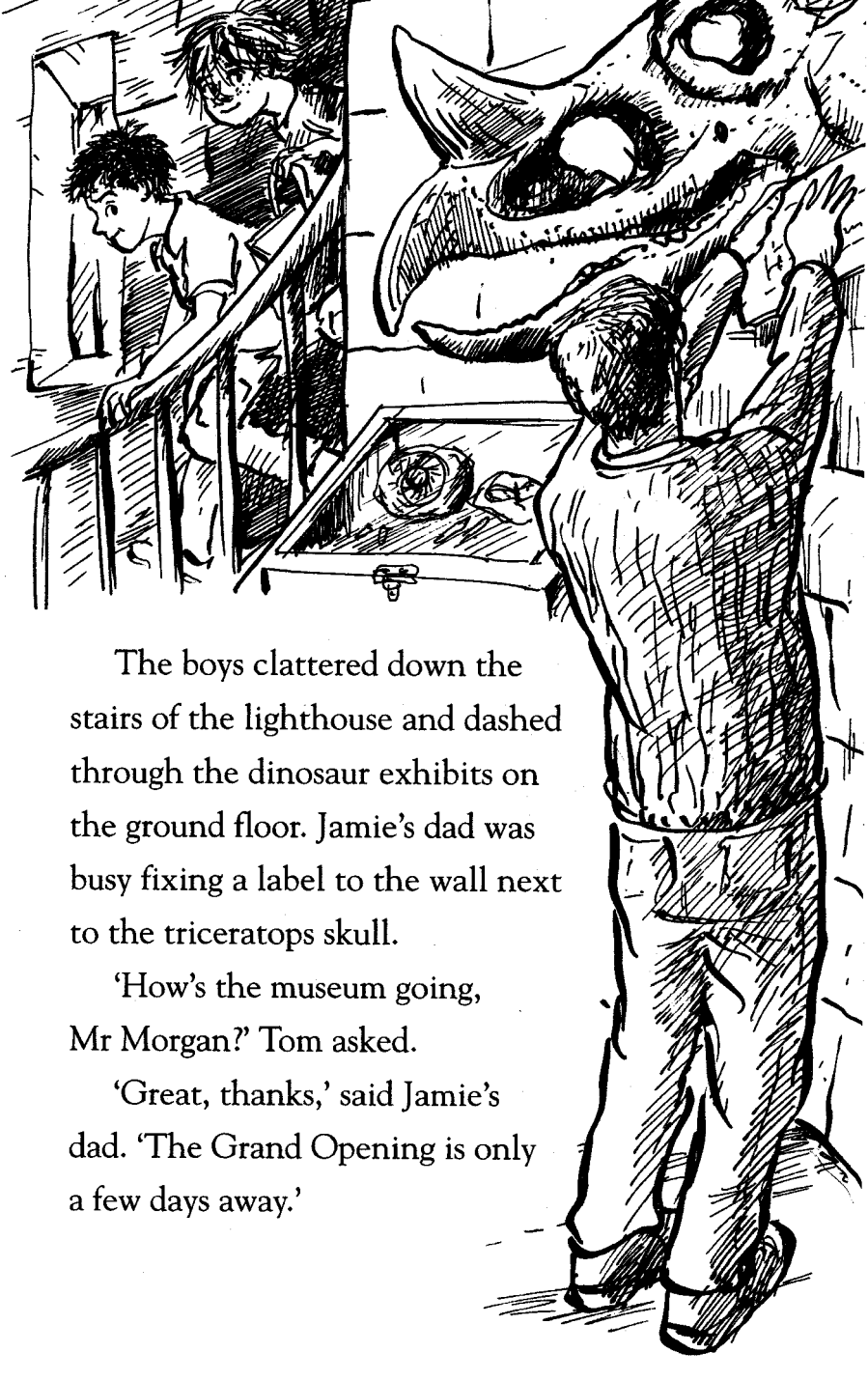
'Don't forget the bait and mop bucket to put the crabs in,' Grandad told them. He pulled on his fishing boots. 'And I've put two cheese and pickle sandwiches in the fridge for you.'



He headed for the door. 'Have fun!'

'We will,' Tom said with a smile. The minute Grandad was out of the door Tom grabbed the handle of the mop bucket. 'Got your Fossil Finder, Jamie?'

'Already in my backpack.' Jamie grinned as he wrapped two cheese and pickle sandwiches in shiny tinfoil and made a separate package for the bacon. He stuffed them in his backpack along with the crab line. 'Let's go!'



The boys clattered down the stairs of the lighthouse and dashed through the dinosaur exhibits on the ground floor. Jamie's dad was busy fixing a label to the wall next to the triceratops skull.

'How's the museum going, Mr Morgan?' Tom asked.

'Great, thanks,' said Jamie's dad. 'The Grand Opening is only a few days away.'

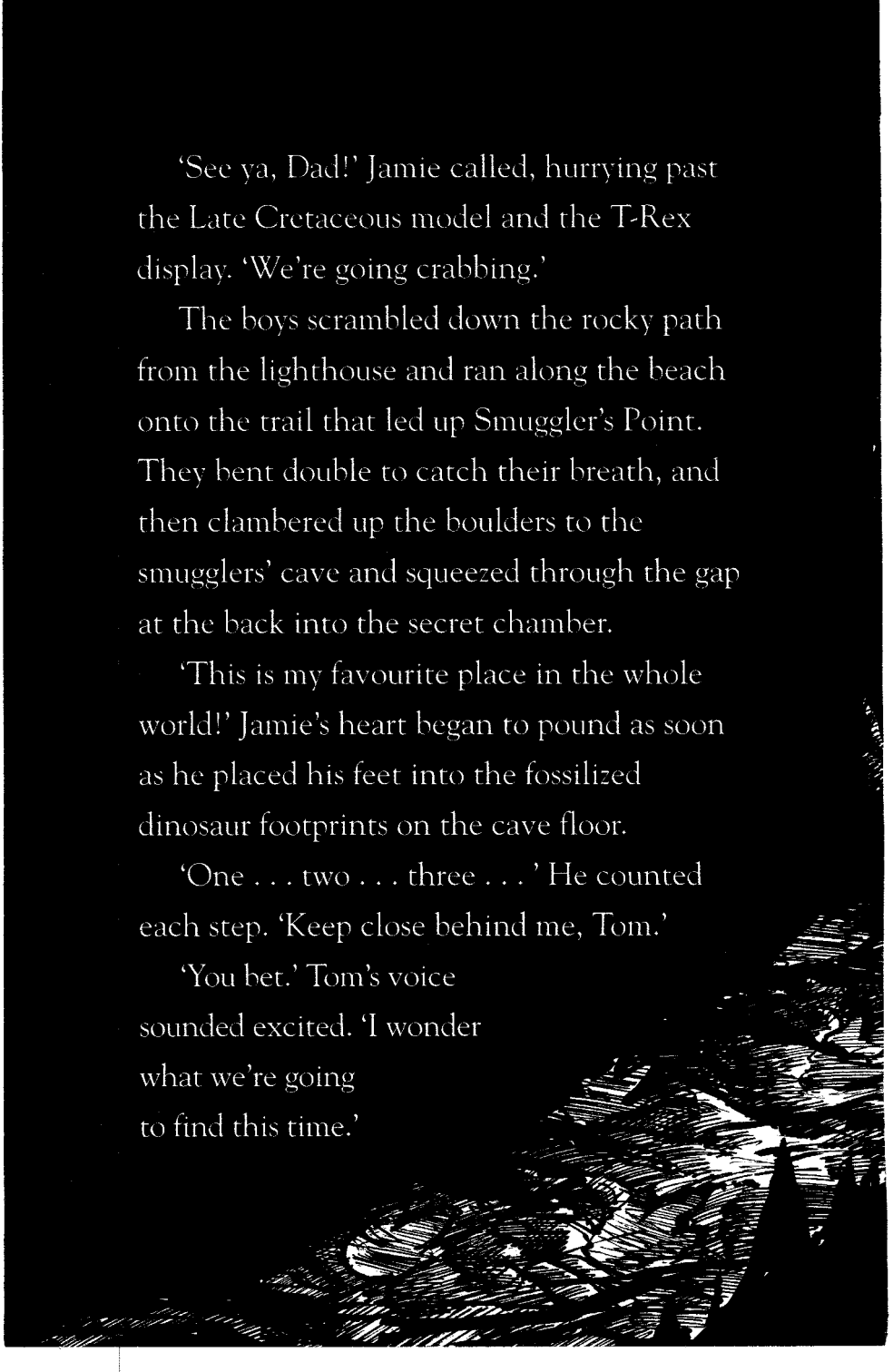
'See ya, Dad!' Jamie called, hurrying past the Late Cretaceous model and the T-Rex display. 'We're going crabbing.'

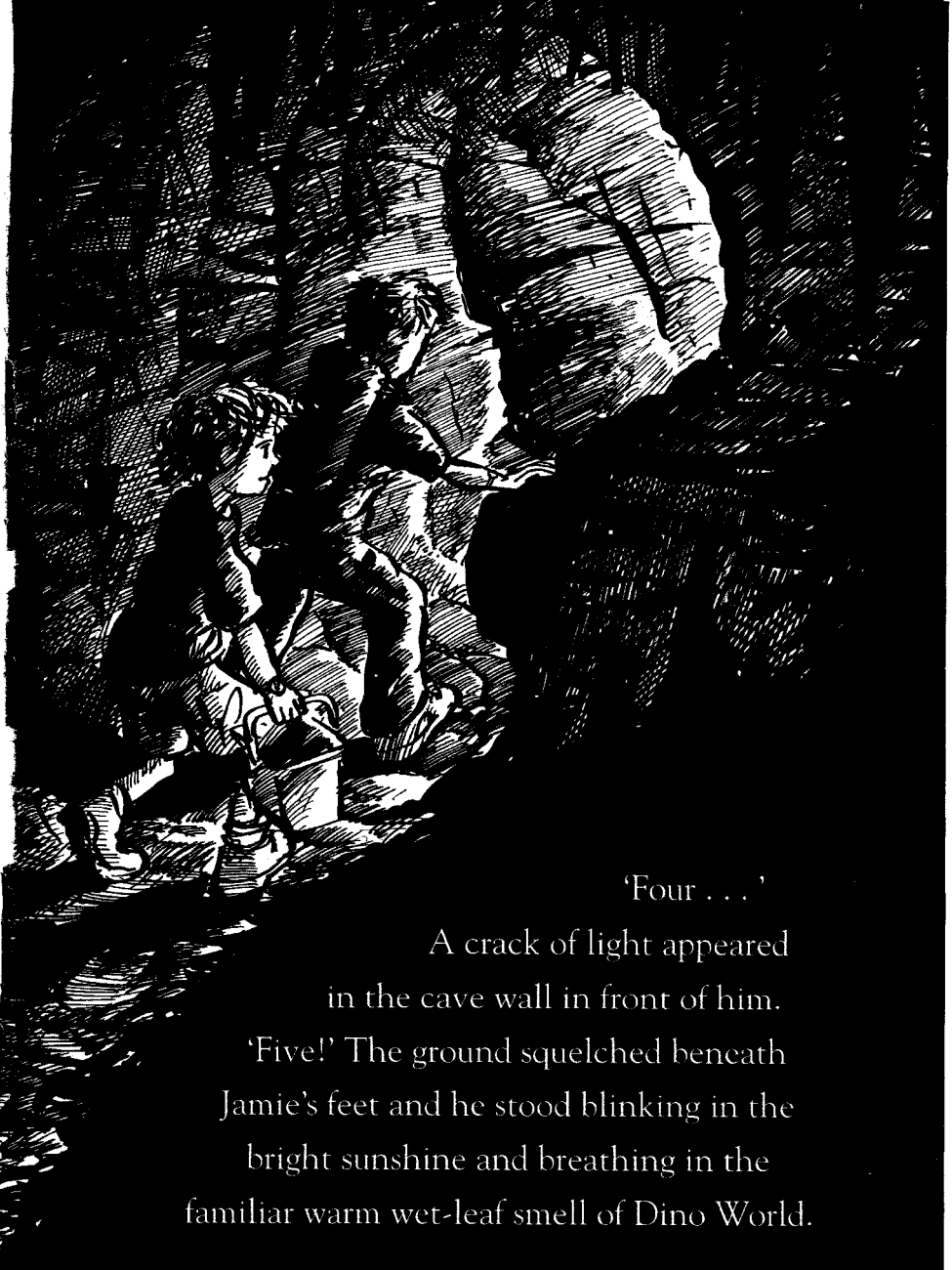
The boys scrambled down the rocky path from the lighthouse and ran along the beach onto the trail that led up Smuggler's Point. They bent double to catch their breath, and then clambered up the boulders to the smugglers' cave and squeezed through the gap at the back into the secret chamber.

'This is my favourite place in the whole world!' Jamie's heart began to pound as soon as he placed his feet into the fossilized dinosaur footprints on the cave floor.

'One . . . two . . . three . . . ' He counted each step. 'Keep close behind me, Tom.'

'You bet.' Tom's voice sounded excited. 'I wonder what we're going to find this time.'





'Four . . .'

A crack of light appeared in the cave wall in front of him. 'Five!' The ground squelched beneath Jamie's feet and he stood blinking in the bright sunshine and breathing in the familiar warm wet-leaf smell of Dino World.