

Other World



By
Patrick Walston

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Patrick A. Walston
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I would like to dedicate this story to a very special friend Ariel

Chapter 1

The giant creature stood motionless sniffing the air, it lowered its massive head to the forest floor and flooded its nostrils with the scent that we tried so hard to cover up. It raised its head, opened its mighty jaws and let out a terrifying ear splitting roar.

We were horrified of what the creature would do next. All we could do is keep under cover of the thick trees and their enormous leaves. For now we remained unseen, sure the mighty lizard could smell us but seeing and smelling were two different things. I was just hoping that he would not see us because seeing would lead to tasting on this god forsaken rock.

We were on a mission, a top secret kind of a mission. We were told that this planet was devoid of animal life. I don't know who had been crunching those numbers that day but I guess they missed out on their Wheaties or something.

Life is crawling all over this planet and in a big way. I've never seen Dinosaurs and I've never seen Aliens but what it appears to me is we have a race of Alien Dinosaurs. I came to the conclusion that they are alien dinosaurs all on my own, what makes them alien you might ask, simple they didn't come from my home planet. That makes them alien to me. I guess I might be pretty alien to them as well.

I can only hope that me being an alien to them will stop them from ripping their razor sharp claws and teeth into my chubby body.

"Move it along stinky" I said under my breath hoping that the giant lizard would somehow listen and obey but instead it seemed to aggravate him more than just a little bit. I guess his hearing is more sensitive than I ever imagined he started stomping the ground with his enormous feet and he brought his larger than life head down and head butted the tree!

He struck the tree directly above where my team and I were crouched down hiding. I couldn't help but to scream like a little girl.

"Captain, shut up!" Jessica called up to me. I couldn't help it I was almost ready to go potty in my brand new space suite. The dinosaur stepped away from the gigantic tree rubbed its face with its tiny arms and retreated off into a different section of the woods.

Jessica is kind of like the newbie she has only been on the team for two years. She always has a way with words. Other members of the team include John, Kevin, and of course myself you can call me Richard.

John and Kevin are so silent, sometimes, I think that they are aliens myself. They follow whatever orders you give to them without question and spend a lot of time reading that horror nonsense. I think it's eating away at their brains. I just hope they never snap and go all Night of the Living Dead on us.

"What was that dinosaur after Captain?" asked Jessica.

I simply said nothing.

"What the hell did you do Captain?" Jessica asked with a different tone

"Have you ever played the game Angry Birds?"

"Yeah, I love that gaaam... Oh my god!" Jessica exclaimed finally getting a hold of what we were hiding.

“Same thing only we are the pigs and the alien dinosaurs are the angry birds.”

“How many dinosaurs have you stolen from?” Jessica was not impressed.

“So far we have more eggs than there are of days of Christmas!”

I knew Jessica was only getting a little more upset as the seconds past. I regained order by telling her we were only going to study the wonderful creatures and than put them back in their nests when we had learned everything that we had needed to know about the animals.

That did indeed calm her down, she must have thought we were thinking of making gigantic omelets. Kevin and John came forward with a serious look on their face. Kevin looked like he had seen a ghost and when he opened up his mouth to speak all he said was “The mission Captain”.

Well seeing that these alien dinosaurs were probably going to eat us anyway I thought I might as well reveal the mission to the others. It was so classified that they themselves knew nothing about it.

“OK the reason we came to this planet was simple but classified” I started telling them.

“No one was supposed to know where we were going or why we were heading there, and where we were going is here, the planet we have have come to know as second earth. We've been sent here to see if life was sustainable on this planet for animals. No one found any signs of animal life with the probes we sent. We knew there was water, plant life, breathable air and the gravity was about the same. We just didn't know that the planet had animal life.”

“What did it matter if the planet could sustain animal life?” John asked.

So I told him our planet was doomed we were looking for a new home and second earth looked like our best shot for the survival of the human race. For a minute the group thought about the doom that the planet Earth was facing and then they thought about the doom that we ourselves were facing and decided that we had better get to safety if we didn't want to face our own extinction.

Chapter 2

Kevin and John walked ahead of me and Jessica, I guess they figured they would be safer leading the way to camp in case anything big decided to attack us from behind. Jessica asked if I knew how much time the people of Earth had and I told her that information was so classified that even as a captain I didn't have a clue. She shrugged and kept walking. From the bushes beside us we heard a strange hissing sound that stopped us dead in our tracks.

The bushes started moving. We gasped in surprise and horror until the dinosaur showed itself. Standing at only four feet tall the tiny dinosaur tilted its head and looked at us as if saying what are you strange beasts. It gave a chirp and stepped closer to us bobbing its head up and down like a chicken as it walked. I couldn't help but to smile at the odd looking animal.

It made its way behind me and as I went to turn around I must have spooked it because it raised its leg and kicked me in the backside and I fell to the ground.

"Hey you stupid thing, what was that for?" I yelled in anger. Just then it came in and attacked me a second time. The second time was more painful than the first! It sank its razor sharp teeth into my arm and shook its head violently from side to side. The stupid little dinosaur ripped a chunk of meat from my arm and consumed it.

"Jeeesus!" I screamed as I looked down at my arm and then I looked up at Kevin and John who seemed to be smiling at the whole thing. Jessica just jumped back away from me. I got to my feet and kicked the dinosaur in the chest. It fell over on its side but a few seconds later it was back up again trying to attack me.

I was angry by now and I wasn't willing to lose more flesh to this damn creature. As soon as it lunged forward to bite me I swung my fist as hard as I could down onto its skull, dropping it right in the middle of its attack.

"Is it dead?" Jessica asked.

"I think I killed it with that blow" I said extremely proud of myself.

Kevin and John were talking amongst themselves about the bite mark on my arm and by now I could tell that those two really didn't like me. It's OK I didn't really like them either, they kind of gave me the creeps. Like those twins from the Shining.

"Let's take it with us" I said.

"Why do you want to carry a dead dinosaur around?" asked Jessica.

"I explained that it might come in handy and then she agreed and all four of us carried the dead dinosaur back to base.

We set up the lab equipment and started to study the eggs. We had several different kinds, there were several different sizes and colors. Some were smooth while others were bumpy. I wasn't sure what kind of information we could gather from the eggs but it wasn't my job to study the stupid things. Kevin was the scientist, he was the one who would make the discoveries.

John being the Dr. was having a closer look at my arm. He was not being gentle by any stretch of the imagination. First he had to clean the wound he did so using alcohol while scrubbing it viciously this was about the second time I had ever seen him smile. Then he had to stitch me up. It took a fair amount of stitches to close the wound on my forearm. I had underestimated the tiny dinosaur, I sure wouldn't let that happen again.

The bird like dinosaur lay motionless on a slab in the middle of our base camp for farther study. I didn't know what all we could learn from this dead dinosaur but Kevin got to work drawing blood and taking other samples. As far as I was concerned our mission was over. We did come to see if the planet could sustain life and it already held life.

We would be in danger if we moved the humans to second earth. I would report that life existed on the planet and it was hostile. I didn't want to put an end to the dinosaurs by bringing humans to their world. As soon as Kevin was finished studying the animal and eggs we would head back home to earth and report our finding.

Jessica and I walked back to the ship while Kevin and John stayed at the base. We had made a rule no one goes anywhere alone. I thought it was a good rule even though I still hated splitting up the group. When we arrived to the space ship we discovered that it had been completely destroyed. The radio equipment was out. There were large holes in the electrical systems. It looked like we were not going to be leaving the planet any time soon.

Jessica and I gathered any supplies we thought might be useful to our survival in this strange new world.

“How long until you think help will come?” Jessica asked

“There will be no help.” I said calmly.

“So there wont be any rescue?” she asked

“Nope, mission control will say there was an accident and they will leave it at that.” I said coldly.

We stayed quite and hurried to the base we set up where Keven and John were still studying the eggs and dead dinosaur.

“We have a major problem” I said and I told them about the ship being useless to us. In the distance we could hear trumpeting and other calls from these strange creatures.

Chapter 3

This being our first day in this strange land we didn't know what all to expect from the dinosaurs or from the planet itself. We were not sure how to judge hours on this planet or when the sun would be setting. All we knew is we were strangers in this land and we had to think fast or we would die sooner than later.

We all put our heads together and thought of ways to survive this new world. With the limited resources that we had we might find a way to last an Earth year. We decided that we would need to hunt and fish to survive and to keep warm we would need to build a fire and hope that it would drive the dinosaurs away from our camp.

We also decided on keeping the eggs for food after we were finished studying them. We figured the dinosaurs already knew the eggs were missing and they would come looking for us anyway might as well eat the eggs and die happy.

Earlier when Jessica and I had gone back to the space ship we gathered up our puny human weapons. Don't know what good they would do against alien dinosaurs but it was better than nothing. So we had our laser guns and a flame thrower.

We were expecting a planet without animal life so we didn't bring much ammo. We would make do with what we had and between the four of us we would learn how to make new weapons out of rocks and wood and other materials that this planet had to offer us with the limited tools we had.

Other thoughts hit me as we started talking about the trouble we were now facing. Thoughts of how we only had one space suite each. If we continued wearing them the smell would surely attract the dinosaurs and it might actually make us ill after a while.

We decided to ditch our heavy suites. We all were able to fashion new lighter "clothes" out of leaves of the trees not only was it cooler it also helped to camouflage us from the wildlife, not to mention I wasn't ready to roam around naked in front of Jessica. I was only hoping that the herbivores would stay away as well as the carnivores.

When I saw John and Kevin I couldn't help but laugh at their newly fashioned "clothes" they looked like football players of the Amazon jungle! They went all out by making shoulder pads out of the thickest of leaves. I came out wearing leaves that only covered what needed to be covered.

Jessica came out of the jungle wearing a bikini top fashioned of leaves and a giant leaf wrapped around her waist. I had never seen anyone make the jungle look so good. We didn't have time to do a fashion show so we got straight to work. Planning our next actions.

Chapter 4

Kevin and I decided to go out hunting while John and Jessica were to stay behind and look after the base. As we made our way into the thick jungle I had the feeling that we were already being hunted. My eyes shifting back and fourth across the thick jungle but seeing nothing to alarm me of any danger.

We walked a good twenty minutes before we heard the first cry it came somewhere from our right side. Something was out there. Watching and following our every movement. Kevin and I had never been hunted before so we didn't know exactly what to do. All we could do was make ourselves as big as possible and keep our weapons ready to fire. There was an answering call to our left.

Whatever it was that was stalking us must have been a pack hunter of some kind. Kevin and I continued walking for some time. The hunters now the hunted. I felt a little sick to my stomach thinking of the dinosaur movies I had watched growing up. I thought about a terrifying dinosaur leaping out of the thick bushes and aiming for my throat!

Kevin was shaking, he was sweating profusely my guess is he was having thoughts similar to mine. We made it to the other side of the jungle without getting killed, much to my relief.

The dinosaurs that had been stalking us didn't follow us to the open field. I started to wonder what kind of dinosaurs roamed these new territories. It didn't take long to find out. As we crouched down low in the tall grass a herd of herbivores came to graze in the open field.

The dinosaurs were a lot larger than any dinosaur we had seen so far. They were like the stegosaurus that used to live on Earth millions of years ago. They had huge bodies with a tiny head and plates that ran the length of their backs and spikes on the ends of their tails.

They were a brilliant color of blue and green. One of the large plant eaters was heading our way when it stopped and snorted loudly. The other dinosaurs looked up in alarm and froze where they were. At first I thought that the dinosaurs had spotted us but after a couple of seconds they continued to eat the tall grass.

Kevin and I remained motionless and let the large animals feed until they moved on down the field. I didn't want to take my chances with the large beasts. I knew that they were plant eaters but I wouldn't put it past them to smash anything that they might see as a threat.

We slowly got up from our crouched positions and silently started walking up a hill the opposite direction from the heard of stegosaurus. The sun was hot beaming down upon us. I wished that we had packed some extra fluids along for the hunt.

As we were walking I asked Kevin if he thought dinosaur meat would even be safe to eat. He didn't know for sure either. None of us had ever tried it but we guessed if it was OK to eat alligator then dinosaur would be alright. I couldn't help but wonder how things were going back at the camp.

When we reached the top of the hill we took in the view and it was amazing. As a child I always wanted to see dinosaurs but I couldn't they had all died off millions of years before I was even thought of. Now I realized I was in serious trouble stranded on a planet with these amazing beasts that might kill me but for the moment I was living my childhood dream.

The hill overlooked a large body of water where dinosaurs were bathing and drinking. There were dinosaurs of all ages from full adults to juveniles. There were a few species that I could identify but many remained a mystery to me. The dinosaurs were splashing in the water. Calling to one another. I couldn't believe my eyes. There were dinosaurs the most brilliant colors I had ever seen, I thought dinosaurs came in forest colors so they could blend in. These dinosaurs were very bright and very beautiful to look upon. They moved so gracefully. Kevin and I just sat amazed that all these different dinosaurs shared the same territory. Everything looked so peaceful until a familiar roar filled the air.

Chapter 5

The dinosaurs in and around the water began to panic and then all hell broke loose. During the panic the dinosaurs started a stampede, Kevin and I didn't have much time to react they were heading straight up the hill. I had thought the dinosaurs would be slow moving and clumsy creatures but they could really move when they needed to.

Down by the water the T-Rex came bursting through the dense wooded area. Chasing after the slower dinosaurs that had not had a chance to get completely out of the water yet. I would have loved to stay and watch the T-Rex feed but the wild stampede was already half way up the hill.

Kevin and I could do nothing but run for our lives as well. The animals were upon us in seconds, there was no way out of the mess that we were in. All we could do was look forward and keep running with the hopes of not getting trampled to death.

The sound of the stampede was like the rumble of thunder and the earth shook under foot. Many times Kevin and I would try to go to the left or right to get out of the herd but the larger animals would come from behind us and go around to our sides cutting us off. That was still a lot better than getting stomped into the dirt.

Finally the last of the dinosaurs passed by us leaving us unharmed the stampede lasted only a matter of minutes but it seemed a lot longer. I turned around to see that the T-Rex had cornered an adult dinosaur and was moving in for the kill. Its massive jaws opened wide as it lunged forward taking out a large chunk of the much smaller dinosaur's neck.

“We have to leave before it sees us” Kevin said in a whispered voice.

With those soft spoken words the T-Rex Jerked its head up from its kill and turned to face us.

The giant animal's sharp teeth dripping with fresh blood, its eyes focused on the two of us. It raised its head and let out a terrifying roar. Kevin and I both started running back down the hill in the same direction from which we had come. The dinosaur started up the hill after us sniffing the air. With the boom of each foot step the large animal made I couldn't help but to let out a scream. Kevin kept his cool he told me to “shut up and run!”.

My brain was racing faster than my legs were carrying me and my heart was pumping even faster than both put together. We finally made it back into the jungle and the T-Rex broke off the pursuit. I ran until I tripped over a tree root and landed hard on my stomach knocking the wind out of myself.

Kevin walked over and helped me back to my feet again but it took me a moment to catch my breath.

“Maybe we should get back to base and start from scratch” I said in a whispered hoarse voice. Kevin nodded his head and we started back to base.

Chapter 6

As we started walking through the thick jungle I realized that I had hurt my ankle when I had tripped over the tree root. It had taken us about an hour to get across the jungle the first time now we would be considerably slower on the way back to base. There was not much to say so Kevin and I walked back towards base in silence.

About two minutes into the walk we heard the call from somewhere off to our left and an answer off to our right. The same calls we had heard the first time in the jungle. We were being hunted once more. This time we didn't stand a chance of escape from the unseen predators.

I told Kevin to leave me and not let me slow him down. Next thing I know he took off through the forest ahead of me. That son of a gun actually left me to die out here all alone, I thought to myself. At least I had my laser gun on me ready to fire. It might not be able to bring the enemy down but it might make it think twice about messing with me.

I slowly limped my way across the forest floor listening for any sign of movement not hearing anything at all. My heart started pounding in my chest again. I didn't really want to die alone in this place. Not like this. From somewhere ahead of me I heard a blood curdling scream and then there was silence. It must have been Kevin that had let out the scream, I couldn't imagine any other animal that could make that kind of sound.

I said a silent prayer and started my long journey towards the base alone wondering how I would break the news to the others if I even made it back alive myself. I found it kind of odd, most animals attack the slower weaker prey. Why didn't the hunter attack me instead? Maybe the jungle was full of these hunters whatever they were. Or maybe they enjoyed the chase better. Either way I hopped ahead and listened as the creatures called back and forth to each other.

Now I knew I was in the middle of their deadly games. If I wanted to get out alive I would need to outsmart the creatures somehow. I pulled out my laser gun and got it ready for some action. These dinosaurs wanted to play games. I would show them who wrote the rule book on these kinds of games. As I slowly made my way from tree to tree the dinosaurs called and answered each other.

I knew there were only two at the moment so that was a good thing. They remained hidden from view behind the large trees and giant leaves. Softly snorting and chirping back and forth They were letting me live for a reason but the reason was unknown to me at the moment. Maybe they were playing a game of cat and mouse. A few moments later I stumbled upon the body of Kevin.

He was face down in the dirt. Remarkably there was no blood. There was not a scratch on him. He was, however, snoring like he had been put in a sleeper hold and had just passed out. The dinosaurs that remained unseen now made a hissing sound that could be compared to laughter. This was the first time I had questioned the intelligence of these animals.

“Wake up. Get up” I snapped as I rolled Kevin over on his said. He coughed and opened his eyes, I could tell he had the bad case of disorientation he didn't know what was up from left or right from down. I imagined he would be dizzy for a few minutes.

“What the hell happened, Captain?”

“Well you ran off and left me for dead because I have a hurt arm and ankle and I would have slowed you down.”

“Hey it's not my fault I remember you were telling me not to wait on you and save myself kind of speech I really respected you for that.”

“Kevin you are an asshole”

After our exchange of words we talked a little more about the dinosaurs that were hunting us. They must be super smart Kevin said. They have learned how to either use headlocks or pressure points to put other animals down and it seems that they even laugh about it as if they were just playing with us. There was no doubt in my mind that they were dangerous no matter how intelligent they seemed to be. My ankle was hurting a bit worse than it was before so I sat down on a large boulder and plucked a large leaf off of one of the local trees.

The leaves were thick yet flexible it seemed like the perfect material to fashion an ankle brace out of. I placed my good ankle on the leaf and cut a hole the size of my ankle in the middle of the leaf. I wrapped the longer part of the leaf just above my ankle and the shorter part of the leaf around the bottom of my foot. I used my laser gun to cut into a tree until sap started pouring out.

I used the sap to fashion the home made brace together. It wasn't pretty but it would hold. Kevin had regained his balance and we decided to start walking again before those pesky dinosaurs attacked again. Next time they might not play such a friendly game, next time they might be out for blood.

We could hear the dinosaurs following us in the jungle and every now and then one would let out a cry and then the other would answer it's call. We still have not had a good look at these mystery creatures.

Now with the splint I was actually able to walk much faster and the animals were getting restless. They called back and forth to each other and for a few minutes until one of the unseen animals made itself know to us. It jumped over a log and landed on the branch of a tree.

It had powerful hind legs that had long curved claws on the middle toe. It's forearms were about as long as a mans but they also were equipped with razor sharp claws. It opened it's mouth and let out a hiss and showed that it had plenty of sharp shark like teeth. I pulled out my laser gun and Kevin pulled his out as well.

The dinosaur huffed at the non threatening weapons.

“What is it Kevin?” I asked.

He only replied that it was some kind of raptor and he said we were as good as dead. The dinosaur came closer and closer to the spot where Kevin and I stood motionless. I couldn't come to grip with the reality that this was it. The dinosaur now only a few feet away from me, I pointed my laser gun into the beast's eyes and pulled the trigger. The raptor squealed maybe more out of surprise than pain but it stopped its advance towards us.

It shook its head and rubbed its injured eye with its left clawed hand. The dinosaur stood motionless standing still as if it was planning its next move. I would shoot out the other eye if I needed to. The raptor regained its courage and stepped closer to Kevin and myself. This time the dinosaur kicked the laser out of Kevin's hand. It got in Kevin's face sniffing and huffing and licked its scaled lips.

Kevin started to breathe real heavy and he started shaking uncontrollably. He was sweating more than I had ever seen a man sweat in my life. I can only imagine what was going through his mind at that precise moment in time. Tears started forming in Kevin's eyes and he was saying something to himself.

I lifted my gun to take out the raptor's other eye but just then the second raptor jumped from the brush and knocked my weapon to the ground. I had forgotten that there were two of these beasts I hadn't heard from this one for a while and I figured since we could only see one there must only be one in the area. The dinosaur wasn't interested in eating me, it was only protecting its mate.

Right when I thought Kevin was a goner the dinosaur did something completely unexpected. It exhaled loudly with a snort and curled its upper lip reminding me a little bit of Elvis. It turned and ran into the bushes. I ran to my laser gun and picked it up, brushed it off and put it away. Kevin was still crying like a baby breathing heavily but I can't say that I blame him. I went over to him and asked "What was that all about?" he didn't answer. He just continued to stand there gasping for air. That's when it hit me. The reason that the raptor left. Kevin had an extremely bad case of halitosis. I guess that even dinosaurs are picky about what they eat when it comes down to strange and foul odors.

It took a few minutes but Kevin finally got a grip on himself and we were able to start moving again. He asked me to promise not to tell the others what had happened. I agreed that I would keep my mouth shut when we got to base but I teased him about it the whole walk through the jungle. He did deserve it for running out on me.

He was going to leave me for dead so I think I should be able to laugh at his dragon breath. It took about two hours earth time to get through the jungle that leads to base. I was happy to see Jessica and John again. John greeted me and asked if my arm was hurting from the bite I received earlier and he asked me about the home made splint around my ankle.

After John took a look at my ankle and decided that the splint would do just fine he bandaged me up again and asked me about our little adventure.

Chapter 7

Turns out John and Jessica had a wild time of their own. When we went out hunting, the dinosaur that I killed with one blow wasn't actually dead. I just kind of knocked him out. He awoke shortly after the two of us left the base. They said he was hard to capture and the little pain in the ass creature could kick hard too.

Luckily no one else got bit by the four foot tall tower of terror but he pretty much destroyed the eggs that we had collected earlier on in the day. Now there was no hope in returning the eggs, no hope in learning anything new from the eggs and omelets were absolutely out of the question. In a way I feel sorry for the poor dinosaur they first had to shoot it in the eyes with the lasers to blind it and when that didn't kill it they brought out the flame thrower and cooked it alive.

That explains how and why dinner was ready for us all when we returned back to camp. The sun remained high in the sky and I started to have my doubts that the sun would ever start to sink. I was tired and longing for my bed. Sadly we had no beds on this new planet. All we had were the hammocks that we were able to save from the destroyed ship.

I couldn't help but wonder how long we could survive in this other world. At the same time I couldn't help but wonder how long the people on earth could survive. It would seem that time was running out for all of us.

I tied my hammock up in one of the corners of the small base that we had constructed earlier. The base is made of flimsy snap together space materiel it's a rather large shelter but it's not the strongest of buildings to ever be constructed. It was useful to keep us out of sight of the dinosaurs and out from the hot sunny day. I climbed into my hammock while John, Jessica and Kevin sat at a little table that was made from the same space age material that the base was made of where they were dealing cards to each other to play poker.

They wanted me to join them but truthfully I didn't know the rules to poker. It's funny how I came to be the captain and I have no clue how to play a simple game with cards. Or how I was the first to panic when confronted by the Tyrannosaurus. I was told two different times to shut up by members of my crew. Now the mission is shot to heck so I guess I could just call them friends now.

As I lie awake in my hammock I thought about what all has happened today. Nobody seems too upset that we wont make it back to the doomed planet Earth. The thought that we need to try to co exist with dinosaurs is a thought that doesn't settle right with my soul but there is nothing more I can do to change things about that.

Chapter 8

I don't know when I drifted off to sleep but it was much needed. Jessica, John and Kevin were all asleep in their hammocks as well. I went to the flimsy door and took a peek outside and to my surprise the sun had set. It was then when I noticed that the planet not only had extra hours in the day but it also had three moons.

I couldn't help but wonder what kind of affect this had on the tides of this new world. I wanted to wake everyone up because the dinosaurs were so active during the day, we might stand a better chance doing our business at nightfall. Being that it was our first day on the new planet I let everybody sleep. The night time was also dragging by as long as the day time.

I couldn't sit still any longer. I was willing to bet that all the dinosaurs were sleeping by now and it was safe enough to go out into the new world alone. I grabbed a flashlight that we had collected from the crippled ship and set out to the lake that was not too far from the base. I felt like I could use a bath anyway.

With a false sense of security I made my way to the water's edge and tested it with my right foot. The water was freezing. I was surprised with how hot it had been all day long. I took off my clothing of leaves and walked into the water.

I was in the water bobbing up and down scrubbing under my arm pits minding my own business, when I saw the water ripple on the other side of the lake, it didn't hit me that this was a salt water lake until it was too late. The giant fish was swimming full speed at me. I didn't have far to go before I was on land so I was running as hard as I could but in the water it made everything seem like it was going in slow motion.

The giant shark lunged out of the water for me but somehow by a miracle it missed so I continued to run as fast as I could. The giant fish turned around and snapped at my legs but again it was too late I barely escaped that water. I could see now that the shark was a juvenile meg; so that is what I called her. If she had been an experienced adult my life would be over. I decided to put on my jungle clothes and head back to base before anything else could go wrong.

As I walked back to base I listened to the night, the snores of the dinosaurs could be heard some closer than others but I heard no more activity than that. I thought about the massive shark and wondered what kind of creatures lived in the fresh water. I shivered not out of coldness but with the knowing of how easy one could come to death on this planet.

As I made my way to base I looked up at the stars and I wondered how my home planet was doing. I couldn't help to think about my friends and loved ones that I would never see again but I wondered if they were looking up into the sky at the same exact moment thinking of me or my crew.

For the rest of the walk back to base nothing happened and I was thankful for that. Tomorrow I would tell my crew that we need to work only at night and try to sleep during the day, we might live longer if we adjust that way.

I climbed back into my hammock and tried my hardest to drift back to sleep. Thoughts of the days events racing through my head made sleep elusive. The sounds of snoring both from the animals outside and the humans inside also made it hard to fall into a restful sleep. I lie awake staring at the reflective ceiling of the snap together shelter wondering what surprises tomorrow would hold.

Chapter 9

I was in the jungle crouched down looking over a nest of golden eggs, when a raptor came up behind me and kicked me with its powerful leg. I could feel the flesh tearing and I let out a scream. The raptor was grinning its evil grin, licking its lips and staring at me with its reptilian eyes. I was all alone, I don't know how or why I was in the jungle.

The rest of the crew was nowhere to be found. I started screaming calling for someone to help anyone to help. The raptor just tilted its head to the side listening to my words that I was sure were going to be my very last and then it spoke to me.

“Richard!” the raptor had said my name I started thrashing at it violently screaming in disbelief.

“Richard, calm down, your alright” the raptors voice sounded comforting but the dinosaur was still wearing its evil grin. Just then another raptor appeared from the brush and it too began to speak.

I couldn't make out the words until the first raptor spoke once more. Saying “he's having a nightmare.”

That's when my mind began to clear up as I looked around the jungle I realized that it wasn't the jungle at all. I was half way tangled in my hammock. The raptors where Jessica and John. Kevin was still asleep in his hammock unaware of my thrashing around and screaming.

I told John about my nightmares and he said that we were in a new place and a lot of stuff had happened and we were all stressing out and scared. He didn't have any medications to help with the nightmares but talking to someone helped.

Now that everyone was awake I talked to them about trying to stay up all night to avoid the dinosaurs. We could live a lot longer if we didn't have to face the dinosaurs. There would be other benefits to staying up all night such as the sun not taking a toll on us as we worked. The others agreed that might be a good idea. If it didn't work out then we would switch back to days.

I told the crew that hunting at night or searching for food would be easy the planet was even bright at night because of the two extra moons and if we needed to we had extra flashlights. During the day we tried our best to rest and take it easy. We stayed in the shelter telling stories about how things were when we were children and what we liked to do when we were on Earth growing up.

Jessica, John and Kevin even taught me how to play poker. The day crawled by so slowly it was as if time was standing still. From inside the small shelter we heard the animals trumpeting and calling to one another.

Then we heard a sound that we had not heard since we left our home planet. Drips of water falling from the sky. It started to rain. Thankfully the little shelter had zippers on the inside to keep water out in case it ever did rain on distant planets. The sound of the rain was comforting at first. Until the lightning started to flash and the thunder started booming and echoing throughout the jungle.

The sun was hidden behind dark clouds and the only light we had came from the four little flash lights. The shelter had two small plastic windows in the top where we could see out and to provide light but I had never seen a sky so black as it was now. The lightning flashed and lit up the shelter.

As I looked over towards the middle of the room I saw a large shadow flashed across the wall when the lightning flickered. I knew exactly what that shadow was the moment I saw it. The others must have seen the shadow too because they remained perfectly still and silent. Lightning flashed again and the shadow hadn't moved it was standing in the same exact spot.

I couldn't help but wonder what the dinosaur was doing so I slowly arose from my hammock and walked over to the side and unzipped the privacy window just enough to see the large animal sniffing at the air. He was swaying a little from side to side as if trying to pick up a scent. The rain must have created a cover scent for us.

We might have lucked out for today but tomorrow if the T-Rex returns I doubt we will be so lucky. The giant dinosaur looks more frightening in the darkness of the storm than he does in the regular daylight. The wind howls and I slowly close the privacy window. For the next few minutes the T-Rex remains in the same spot but soon gives up on whatever he was doing and slinks back into the jungle.

“Tonight after the storm passes we must find a new location.” I suggest to the others. The others listen to my plans to move to another area of the new world. The storm lasts for hours and we do what we can to sleep it out. When we awake the storm has passed and the sun is setting. The dinosaurs are settling down for the night and we figure if there is a good time to get moving now would be the time.

We leave the snap together shelter the way it is and we take off towards what I hope to be a new beginning for us. The three moons were now visible casting light open the surface of this unusual planet. We walk for hours getting who knows how far away from camp. My ankle still hurting me but still splinted up so the pain is manageable.

The ground soaked from the storms of the day, we still have a while to go before we reach the mountains that I was aiming for. I am hoping that the mountains are not crawling with dinosaurs like the jungles are. I am also on the search for a cave to dwell in that might be hidden deep within a mountain.

We continued walking towards the mountains and listening to the sounds of the night. We could hear the heavy breathing of dinosaurs and the snoring sounds they made as they slept. I felt like an explorer coming to a new land, well at least I had reason to feel that way cause that's pretty much what we were now.

My legs were aching and my back was getting stiff from all the walking but we had to carry on if we wanted to make it to the mountains before the sun came up. We walked all through the night.

When the sun was rising we had reached our destination.

“Are we almost there yet?” Kevin asked.

With the mountains extremely close now I chuckled at the question and continued walking. It had been awhile since we had heard the snoring of the giant beasts. Now there was a deafening silence. I had a pretty good feeling that all the dinosaurs lived below the mountains. I wondered what creatures if any lived on the mountains.

It wasn't long before I got my answer. When we reached the bottom of the mountain I found the very thing I was praying for a cave! When I put my head into the cave listening I could hear water dripping from the ceiling and a familiar sound. I didn't think it could be but it was. Chattering! It wasn't a language that I couldn't understand but it came from the vocal cords of human like creatures! I shined my flashlight into the cave and took a look at the bipedal human like race. They looked just like earthlings!

“Caveman” I shouted with joy. These creatures were just like the early humans of planet Earth. The cave dwellers were frightened at first but once they saw we meant them no harm they calmed down and went back to doing the things that they were accustomed to. I was surprised to find out that they were not hostile in anyway. We slowly entered the cave one by one and the cave dwellers stood up to retreat to the back of the cave.

Making soft soothing sounds I tried to assure them that they would be alright and that we were friends. I made motion by putting my fingers towards my mouth and opening and closing my mouth to see if they could understand I was trying to say that we were hungry. A couple of the cave dwellers repeated the motion until one of them finally understood I meant food he grunted and started jumping up and down rubbing his stomach.

It was amazing I had successfully communicated with one of the cave dwellers. He took me by the hand and lead me to a corner of the cave where there was an underground lake he picked up a spear and focused his eyes on something I couldn't see. A few minutes later he jabbed the spear into the water and pulled out a large fish.

I was amazed at the speed and strength of the cave dweller. He took it to the center of the cave and rubbed two sticks together until he got sparks and then blew on the sparks until he created a fire. These cavemen have come a long way but they have so much to learn and I can teach them, I thought to myself. After the fire was big and strong the cave man took the fish to a corner where he used a knife made from a rock from the cave to cut off the fishes head and gut the fish, next he removed all the scales from the fish and placed the fish on a stick and hung it above the fire.

I was so impressed but I guess the cave people had learned to live this way or else they wouldn't have lasted this long on this planet. We all gathered together and ate of the giant fish. Jessica, Kevin, John and myself were so worn out by our journey that we passed right out after we finished eating our portion of the cooked fish.

I have no clue how long I had been sleeping but when I awoke I felt refreshed and more energetic than I had the whole time we had been on the new world. I could tell that my crew were feeling well rested. Jessica was playing with the children while John and Keven were trying their hand at making new weapons.

I got up and walked to the mouth of the cave and looked outside. The sun was high in the sky and there were clouds but they were white and fluffy non threatening clouds. I could see for miles as I looked into the new world that I was now prepared to call my home.

I walked over to Kevin and John sat down and started making a weapon of my own. It was a dagger made from a a rock that I had found in the cave. Kevin and John worked together studying the local plant life to make new medications for any sickness that might over take us. The cave dwellers were very interested in learning what we had to teach.

We started out by teaching them how to count and say the English alphabet. Just as I thought the children picked up on things a lot faster than any of the adults but everyone gave it their best efforts. It took a while but the clicking sounds and grunts that the cavemen used to communicate were replaced by broken words.

It was too bad we didn't have any flash cards on us with pictures of the Earth objects that the cavemen were sounding out words such as cat, dog, mom, dad, ant and bat. Soon the cave dwellers were speaking cats and apples. Of course they didn't make much since but we gave them credit for sounding words out and remembering the words. The cave dwellers clapped wildly hooting and hollering when they learned a new way to put a word together. Even if the word wasn't a word at all.

I guess to them all that mattered is that they could make new sounds not just clicks and grunts and they sounded like they knew what they were talking about half the time. Like a child learning to speak their words would go in the wrong orders and they knew nothing about grammar.

“Me is friend, you” a caveman spoke those words to me and I couldn't help but to smile at him. He clapped his hands and waited to see if I had a reply for him. I spoke soft and slow to him in a friendly way saying “Thank you, for being a friend to me.” he almost resorted back to grunting and then he said “You welcome” With a much greater smile on his face. I couldn't help it I had to give this extraordinary caveman a hug. I already had an understanding of the words that he was saying and he was practicing saying more words for the sake of learning.

Everyone had heard him and they were going crazy about him. I heard Kevin had something against him for the next words out of Kevin's mouth were “Show off”. I turned and looked at Kevin but he was staring blankly back up towards me. I mouthed what was that about and Kevin just left the crowd of celebrating, happy, hyper learning cave men.

Later that night when things settled down the gave men were asking real questions all on their own. We had to dumb down the answer so that they could understand everything that we were saying. It had been less than one day and even the children were learning to speak. This made us feel like we were back on Earth teaching needy kids the importance of life. Seconds turned to minutes, minutes into hours, hours into days and days into weeks. The changes in the cave dwellers were so outstanding I had never seen such a transformation before. Now most of the cave dwellers were talking amongst themselves.

Others came to me and my crew to get answers to questions that we most likely didn't have the answers for. They were extremely spiritual beings without being told anything about church or how to pray. They gave thanks for everything that they had, One cave man started clicking and grunting while another cave man explained this is our language. To you they sound like sounds that can't possible mean anything but they are our why to talk not only to one another but also to the one who has put us here.

“I don't understand, who put you here?” I asked in shock. He looked at me and said the same one who must have put you here” I couldn't believe my ears.

“How long have you'll lived on this planet with these dinosaurs?” The cave man looked at me puzzled until I realized he had not understood me, there was no such thing as time on this planet.

“Were you born on this planet or did you come by other way here.?”

The cave man smiled and said “I've lived on this planet for as long as I have breathed air. I realized this conversation was going no where. It was just stories that their parents had passed. Most likely how a god had delivered them from the dinosaurs by placing them in the mountain. Surely they don't believe in the same God that I believe in. If they do they were never mentioned in the Bible. This kind of made me doubt my own faith if God didn't mention dinosaurs in the bible and he didn't mention aliens what else was he hiding from me? That's when I heard a voice inside my head say give it a break Richard how much are you trying to hide from him. That immediately shut my mind down as far as to doubting my faith in the one I call God.

I couldn't help but think about the millions of people back on my home planet and the doom that they had but themselves in. I made up my mind and my heart. For as long as I had the opportunity to live with these gentile cave dwellers I was going to teach them the history of earth, so that they never make to the same mistakes as man had. This was what the humans were calling Second Earth might as well be used as the planet for second chances.

The cave dwellers were eager to learn new things daily. They didn't ask how we gained all the understanding that we had they just saw it as a gift that was were willing to share with them freely. In return they thought us their ways. We learned as much about the tribe as we could as they learned as much about humans as they could. We brought time to their world. They were amazed when seconds turned to minutes, minutes turned to hours, hours turned to days and days turned to week. Weeks turn into months and months turned to years.

We had spent seven years with the cave dwellers who were no longer acting like cavemen at all. We had watched as the babies had grown into small children and the children had grown into preteens and teens, the teens of the tribe were now in their twenties and getting married to bring more children into the world. It was sad to see every one aging but time touches everyone.

Made me wonder if I had never introduced them to time would they have ever changed. I know that was a stupid way to think considering time was a man made concept but still the thought of me unleashing time on this planet that might not have changed for millions of years haunted my soul.

When it came time for one of the cave dwellers to die they simply left the cave never to return.

So far only two members left the tribe to die alone in the wilderness. They chose to do that because they thought it was the easy way to say goodbye to their loved ones. They would walk as far away as they could from the mountain and say a prayer that their bodies would be used as food for the animals and then they prayed for the opportunity to help flowers grow.

We have known these wonderful people for seven long years and still had so much to learn about their customs and their ways. I remembered my home planet and it made me break down in tears. Jessica, John and Kevin came over to me and tried to comfort me and they asked me what was on my mind I had to tell them.

“Everyone one we used to know is now dead unless they had a successful flight to some distant planet that could support life, Earth is gone for good” I said with tears streaming down my face.

“Richard it's not your fault we couldn't bring everyone our mission was secrete, you didn't destroy the ship. You have done amazing things on this planet. You have helped us stay alive. Seven years ago you walked us to these mountains with a hurt ankle, you risked your health and well being to save our lives. You have taught the frightened cave dwellers how to be a modern person without the violence.”

Jessica was trying to remind me about all the good that had happened on the mountain and all the evil that had taken a hold of the Earth in it's final stages of life. That kind of helped me let go a little at a time. I would always miss my friends and family along with my loved ones and I would always wonder if someday we would all meet up again somehow in this great universe.

Kevin patted me on the shoulder and said “I am happy to follow you captain”. This made me smile a little. They had stopped calling me captain and started calling me by my birth name, Richard about seven years ago. I had to admit it felt kind of good to be called captain once more.

I straightened up, wiped the tears from my eyes and decided that I wanted to go for a walk. I asked if anyone would like to join me and Kevin, John, Jessica and half the men in the cave spoke up saying that they wanted to walk with me. The women and children stayed behind. They would rather play and gossip where it was safe.

All the people going on the walk picked up spears and daggers some even picked up home made bow and arrows along with home made sling shots. No matter where you go outside you have to go with weapons. The dinosaurs not only live in the jungle but there are a number of them that roam the mountains as well. The T-Rex never wonders this far but we have to watch out for other large meat eaters such as the Allosaurus and the Spinosaurus.

I had no clue that such dinosaurs even existed until the cave dwellers painted pictures of them on the walls of the cave, they even compared the size of each animal to one another. The Spinosaurus looked huge compared to the T-Rex and I didn't want to run into him at all.

The Allosaurus is a deadly hunter as well. I had actually gone on a hunt and seen one of those in action myself. The cave dwellers have taught me about a special plant that you can rub on a dagger or spear and all you need to do is pierce the dinosaurs skin and the dinosaur will drop dead in a matter of seconds. I have learned how to fire the bow and arrow so I carry arrows, a dagger and a spear.

While we are out we come across a few harmless dinosaurs they are about the size of chickens I still have my laser gun so I shot one just to see how the animal would react. The laser was just powerful enough to bring the prehistoric poultry down for the count. The men laughed as the small dinosaur fell and started going into a fit. I didn't kill the animal I just stunned it. At least we found one game animal we could hunt with the laser if we started running low on fish.

We continued our walk around the mountain when I spotted a herd of Triceratops. The dinosaurs never ceased to amaze me. I thought their horns would be three little points on their heads and that would be the end of the story about them.

They were huge roughly the same size as the Stegosaurus Kevin and I had seen years ago. These giant beasts were brightly colored red with bright orange on the crests above their heads. Their horns were long and sharp enough to penetrate at least six people at one try. We let the dinosaurs eat but we would be prepared if they decided to charge after us.

We walked down past the herd that seemed to ignore us and we walked to the river. The water was flowing down the mountain and over the rocks making some serious white water. It was hard hearing anything over the white rapids.

Chapter 10

We walked down hill following the river, drank of the water. We then walked out into an open field. Most of the times when I went on my walks I was only accompanied by John, Kevin, Jessica and maybe three others. This time there were twelve of us walking around in the open field. I Had a feeling that we should turn back early and head for the cave. I ignored my feelings and we continued walking for another ten minutes until we reached my usual resting spot.

We sat around enjoying the much needed time outdoors. The feeling of being watched came over me and I suggested that we should head back to the caves. We might have been armed with sears, daggers, bows and arrows but sometimes it's easier just to run. Just as we were standing up a large dinosaur burst through the woods and grabbed a hold of Kevin. It clamped it's huge jaws around Kevin's mid section and clamped down shaking Kevin violently ripping him in half in a matter of seconds.

The bottom half of Kevin slung to the left while the upper half of Kevin was pulled into the murderous mouth of the Allosaurus crushed and then swallowed before we had a chance to react to the presence of the large meat eating dinosaur.

“Kevin!, Oh my God! NO!” I screamed in disbelief but it was too late and he was gone.

Screams of panic and horror filled the once peaceful and quite resting spot.

“Tears flooded my eyes, and I lifted my spear but I couldn't see to be of much use fighting the giant dinosaur.

“Just run!” Jessica screamed at me and to the others who were trying to pull out their weapons as well. The large meat eater looked at Jessica and cocked it's large head to the side and started after her.

A couple of brave cave dwellers found there way in between her and the large red dinosaur the Allosaurus roared and stomped them into the dirt. I started searching desperately to find the kind of plant that contained the poison that could kill the large animal but I couldn't find one anywhere. I noticed other cave dwellers searching for the killer plant as well. Jessica, John, and the most of the others were running full speed back to the caves. At least I knew they would be safe. I was sure that me and this small handful of cave dwellers that were searching for the plant could slow the Allosaurus down enough so that everyone else could make it to the cave safe and sound.

I was feeling deep regret in asking who wanted to go for a walk today, I was also kicking myself in the ass for not turning back when I felt the urge to. My friend was gone and I couldn't bring him back. I had no time to get lost in my regrets I had to avenge his death. I pulled out my bow and arrow and loaded the weapon pulled the arrow tight and let the bow fly striking the enormous animal in the back. The dinosaur turned to me and bellowed another roar and started running toward me. I saw my life flash before my very eyes.

Everything was moving in slow motion I could feel the dinosaurs foot steps as they hit the ground. I looked around and I could see the cavemen running toward the beast with their spears slicing it's skin. It head butted one cave dweller and whipped another one with it's massive tail. Finally I snapped out of my trance and yelled at the others to run for their lives.

They did as they were told and ran away from the beast. I also retreated from the dinosaur. I ran in the opposite direction from the caves leading the dinosaur into the jungle. I figured that would give everyone a chance to get away. I also thought I would have a chance losing him in the jungle. The Allosaurus kept up pursuit as it followed me into the thick brush, it was slowed down not being in the open. Thankfully to my size I was able to run a lot faster through the trees than he was. I kept my eyes low searching for the plant that might be able to save my life. I saw no sign of the damn thing. My heart was pounding hard and my chest felt heavy. I thought I might pass out but I kept focused and I was determined to survive this encounter with this bloody dinosaur.

Up ahead I saw what I had been searching for it was that plant. The one with the poisonous leaves. As I run towards it I stooped down and plucked a handful of leaves out of the plant. I rubbed the leaves on the tip of my spear getting it ready for the kill. The filthy lizard would have no idea what was coming to him. I stopped dead in my tracks and this must have confused the dinosaur because he stopped running as well. I could barely see his red skin through the thick trees.

I shouted for him to come and get me. He approached with caution. I must have misjudged him maybe he could smell the poisonous plant. I started walking towards him with the spear in my hand ready to rip it into his thick flesh. The dinosaur started to walk around me in a circle trying to get behind me but where ever he would turn I would turn the same way. There was no way I was going to let this beast jump on my back.

This stand off lasted for maybe twenty minutes Earth time. Finally I made the first move running towards the large lizard slashing violently at him. He ducked away from the spear and raised his tail and swung it towards me but I was able to dodge it at the last second. Finally I saw an opening and jammed the spear into the dinosaurs side. The Dinosaur gave a loud roar and chomped at me one final time as it fell to the ground. I stood there listening to it's final breath. Thankful to be alive.

Chapter 11

I had survived this encounter with death. Now I was able to finally say goodbye to my friend Kevin. I sat in the woods and cried over the losses. I blamed myself for the useless deaths of Kevin and the caved dwellers. If it hadn't been for me they would still be alive. I should have been the one to die. I didn't know if I could even go back to the cave and face the survivors of the attack.

I started walking back to the resting spot and I looked at the destroyed remains of the bodies. I couldn't just leave them there in the open so I said a prayer for them. The same prayer that they would say when they left the cave to die on their own. Then I dragged the bodies back into the woods. Where the dinosaurs could consume them and they could then be turned into fertilizer for the flowers. I walked back to the caves with a heavy heart.

I was expecting a lot of crying and evil looks when I returned but it was the opposite. There was a lot of smiles and cheering when I returned. I couldn't help but drop to the floor and cry. The cave dwellers picked me up and comforted me they told me that I was a hero. I sure didn't feel like a hero.

“It's my fault they are dead, I put all of you in danger. How can I be a hero?”

“ You survived” one of the cave dwellers told me.

Jessica, and John welcomed me back with tears in their eyes I could tell that they were saddened by the loss of Kevin and the others but they didn't blame me.

Later that night we held a ceremony for the lives lost that day. They died bravely and were honored as heroes as well. That night I couldn't sleep. I was haunted by the fact that that we had lost so many in one day. I tossed and turned seeing images if the Allosaurus ripping poor Kevin in half and the blood dripping from it's teeth. I needed something to distract me from the horrors that haunted my mind.

I arose from my bed of rock and walked to the mouth of the cave and looked outside to the three mooned sky. I stood there for hours counting the stars. The view of stars on this planet was much clearer than it had been on Earth. There were no city lights to cancel out the star light.

The moons appeared so close that you could see the craters on them and mountains on the surface. I sure missed Earth. There were just some things on this planet that I had been taking for granted the whole time I've been here. The new friends I had made were among those things. Tomorrow would be different I would let them know how much they mean to me. For now I would stair off into they sky and let them sleep. It has been a long and painful day for everyone.

Chapter 12

I had been up all night and I was mentally and physically exhausted when everyone else was waking up. I greeted every one as they woke up and told them that I loved them and I was sorry about yesterday. They all gave me a hug one by one and told me there was nothing to be sorry about life happens. I thought about it and they were right. Life happens. That had a better ring to it than we all will die someday.

Jessica made her way over to where the children were and started playing with them as she did everyday. John and I made our way with the men at the under ground lake to catch our breakfast that would last a further three days and nights. Life went on.

Sure it would be a different but we will always lose friends along the way but we have to stay positive, we have to think of the future when we might see them again someday.