

Other World



By
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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.

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