



CHAPTER 1

MR FUZZELWUZZELWOOD

Rex's life was perfectly normal, just like any human's. He lived in a flat in the city with his roommate. He had a job as a PE teacher at the local school. He'd figured out how clothes work and thought wearing T-shirts and ties was "his thing". He could even make a lasagne with a crunchy Cheez Nubbins topping, which

he was proud to say his roommate described as “acceptable”. But the thing was, Rex wasn’t a perfectly normal human; he was a dinosaur.

A dinosaur with a school fair to prepare for.

“I’m in charge of the endurance hopping competition for the grown-ups,” said Rex, making the whole garden shake as he hopped on one foot.

Rex’s best human friend, nine-year-old Sandra Shellman, put down the big pot of glue and said, “Fun! I’ll come and watch.”

As well as being a nine-year-old, Sandra was an expert investigator, specializing in mysteries. In fact, with the help of her friend Anish, she was the brains who first discovered Rex’s secret identity. Now everyone at school knew that Rex was a dinosaur and mostly seemed OK about it. Rex stayed in disguise when he was out in the big wide world though. A dinosaur at the supermarket trying to buy shampoo attracts a lot of unwanted attention.

“Do you want to see the display for my stand?” Sandra spun round the huge piece of card she’d been working on.




“I love it,” said Rex. “You used a lot of glue, didn’t you?”

“You can never have enough glue,” said Sandra. “I want someone to come with me to the sewers to hunt for the alligators!”

“What about Anish?”

“I think he’s busy with the pet show. He and Bigfoot are getting Mr Fuzzelwuzzelwooo ready. Come on, let’s give them a hand.”

Sandra carefully pocketed her glue and Rex followed her over to the picnic table, where Anish and Rex’s roommate, a yeti named Bigfoot, were fussing over something.



Who’s a cute little
fuzzy wuzzly cuddly
wuddly woowoowee!

The illustration shows Sandra on the left, smiling and looking at a small, white, fuzzy creature with large eyes. Bigfoot, a large yeti-like character with a white hat and a blue beard, is on the right, looking down at the creature with a grumpy expression. The creature is sitting on a brown surface, possibly a picnic table.

Rex crouched down and looked closely at the strange creature. It let out a grumpy little “weep!”

“What’s this?” asked Rex.

“It’s a guinea pig,” said Sandra.

“Ninny pig?” said Rex. He still found some human words hard to say.

“Guinea pig,” said Sandra.

“Grumpy pig?” said Rex.

“Guinea pig,” said Sandra.

“Gwinty squid?” said Rex.

“Guinea... We’ll work on this later.” Sandra gave Rex a pat on the shoulder.

“I don’t get it. What’s it for?” asked Rex.

“It’s a pet,” said Sandra. She crouched down next to Mr Fuzzelwuzzelwooo and said:



Who’s a cutey wooty
little guinea piggy!

The illustration shows Sandra on the right, smiling broadly and looking at a small, white, fuzzy creature with large eyes. The creature is sitting on a brown surface, possibly a picnic table.

Rex wrinkled his nose. "It smells a little –"
Rex looked for the word – "poopy."

Anish opened his eyes wide and said, "Mr Fuzzelwuzzelwooo has a delightful musk!"

There were lots of things about humans that surprised Rex, but he really didn't understand why Sandra and Anish, two of the most sensible humans he knew, turned into babbling jelly people when they talked about Mr Fuzzelwuzzelwooo.

"But it doesn't even talk," said Rex, more baffled than ever. "Isn't it boring? Even I talk."

"Boring?!" Outraged, Anish's mouth dropped open. "Mr Fuzzelwuzzelwooo is my friend!"

"Rex!" hissed Bigfoot. "You can't just tell people their pets are boring and smell like poop!" Bigfoot, even though he was a yeti, was more human than most humans.

Rex shuffled his feet. "But it does smell like poop. I'm just being honest."



"That's not the point," said Bigfoot.

Rex spread his little arms wide. "We didn't have pets in prehistoric times. If I'd gone around calling an Aquilops a 'cutey wooty whatsit', all the raptors would have laughed at me and then eaten the Aquilops."

"They might not have if the Aquilops was as cute as Mr Fuzzelwuzzelwooo here," said Sandra, giving the guinea pig a scratch. "Come on, we'd better go and set up at the fair. Nessy will be there already putting up the hook-a-duck stand and Dodo is bringing his burger van. And maybe you'll find a pet you do like at the pet show?"

"Maybe," said Rex, but he wasn't sure about that.

