

CHAPTER 1



Marvin flicked through the dinosaur book on his lap. The pages were well worn, the new-book smell was long gone, but still, he always came back to it. For so long it had been the best way for him to see what dinosaurs had looked

like, but that was all about to change because today he was going to the Natural History Museum with school. Marvin loved school trips, and he wasn't the only one. The school coach was filled with excited chatter. Their teacher had long ago given up on getting the class to be quiet.

'If you could be a dinosaur, any dinosaur, which one would you be?' Joe said from the seat next to Marvin.

'A pterodactyl, I think. I know it's not technically a dinosaur, but I'd love to be able to fly! To be whooshing through the clouds.' Marvin spread out his arms and flapped like a bird. 'What about you?'

'I'd be a velociraptor! They can run so fast, they might as well be flying.' Joe moved his legs back and forth quickly, pretending to run. 'But . . .'

'But what?' Marvin leant forward.

'We're missing the biggest and meanest one of all,' Joe whispered.

'A T-Rex!' Marvin shouted.

Joe roared in appreciation and raised his arms over his head.

Marvin burst out laughing.



‘Being a T-Rex would be cool I guess. But what if you turned into a T-Rex and then tried to eat me?!’ Marvin said.

‘Yeah, good point. I definitely wouldn’t want to be a T-Rex if it meant eating you for a tasty snack,’ Joe replied with a grin.

High-pitched beeping filled the air. Marvin jolted upright in his seat.

‘What’s that sound?’

‘Nothing.’ Marvin shuffled uncomfortably, pushing his backpack further underneath his seat. It wasn’t nothing. It was Pixel, Marvin’s robot sidekick. Marvin took his super-suit and Pixel everywhere with him. ‘Just in case’, as his grandad would say. You



never know when a superhero would be needed, so Marvin stayed ready. He would have loved to tell Joe all about his secret superhero identity and his super sidekick, but his grandad had warned him to keep his identity a secret.

Marvin wasn't surprised that Pixel was beeping; just like him, she was also excited about the school trip. Pixel had kept him up all night talking about it.

'Weird, I thought I definitely heard something.' Joe frowned.

'Erm . . . maybe someone on the coach has an alarm clock or something,' Marvin said. 'I'm thirsty so I'm just going to go pick up my water bottle.'

'Pixel, you have to be quiet.' Marvin leant down underneath his chair and whispered into his backpack, facing away from Joe.

Pixel popped her head out of the backpack. 'Apologies! My increased excitement levels appear to have

compromised my beeping function again,' she whispered. Pixel had a round body and a small round head. She was silvery and smooth with long, ridged arms and huge round eyes. 'Are we nearly there yet?' she asked.

Marvin's eyebrows raised.

'If I tell you will you beep?'

'Maybe,' Pixel replied.

