

Part 2: The Mystery of the Green Pelicans

Chapter 8

Running low to the ground on all six limbs, the little alien is able to move quickly through the dark vegetation. Sebastian struggles to keep up. His fishing rod catches on a bush and is yanked from his hand. Turning to retrieve it, Sebastian sees the first of the flying creatures approaching the motu.

Snatching up the rod, he stumbles through the overgrowth and into the clearing where the little alien stands next to the large tangled vines, motioning him on. When Sebastian reaches the tangle, he sees the alien crawl between two large roots and he follows, yanking his belongings through with him.

Once inside the tangle, Sebastian is amazed to see a very large, dark, metallic-looking object protruding from the sand. Flush with the upper surface of the large object is a wide hatch, the little alien already climbing through. Sebastian takes one last glance back and wishes he hadn't.

"Diarrhea!"

A massive furry fox-like creature flies through the air. Its glowing red eyes and long ivory teeth transfix Sebastian as it sails through the air and hits the ground just outside the tangle. The fur and the bat-like wings immediately begin to melt away as it transforms into a hideous black alien monster with pointed teeth, beady black skin and silvery eyes. It stares into the tangle at Sebastian. He is nearly frozen with fear until thin hands with elongated fingers grab hold of him. He's jerked inside the hatch just as several more of the flying foxes land on the sand outside the tangle. The hatch silently slides closed as the morphing monsters begin tearing at the tangle of vines.

His heart racing, Sebastian is plopped onto the sloping floor of an alien spacecraft, his belongings scattered around him. He's shaking and tears fill his eyes. A very low, throbbing sound gives him the impression of being inside a giant beating heart. The shrieks, cries and clawing noises from the hideous alien monsters just outside the hatch quickly erase that image from his mind.

The little green alien is among twenty of the pale green six-legged creatures that have formed a semi-circle around Sebastian. They too are shaking, from their segmented bodies to their long fingers. But unlike Sebastian, no tears flow from

their black almond-shaped eyes. Three of the creatures are closely examining Sebastian's digital camera that came to rest on the floor at their feet.

"Are you going to eat me?"

From deep within the craft, Sebastian hears his question repeated in his own voice. This is followed by a series of shrill chirps, clicks and whistles.

The creatures before him stop shaking and look at one another. Then their heads begin to bob up and down rapidly, and they begin their own chirping, clicking and whistling as if they are laughing.

The littlest green alien steps forward and points an arm and finger in the direction beyond the others. They shuffle apart, and Sebastian gets his first look at the expansive interior of the alien craft. He's in a triangular-shaped area that broadens as it goes deeper into the craft. It's sectioned off into rooms, not by walls, but by display panels made of material invisible to the eye, save for a multitude of graphics and images. They remind Sebastian of heads-up displays on fighter jets or submarines that he's seen on TV, but without reflective acrylic or glass substance to them. Sebastian hesitates, then climbs to his feet.

"Where are you taking me?"