

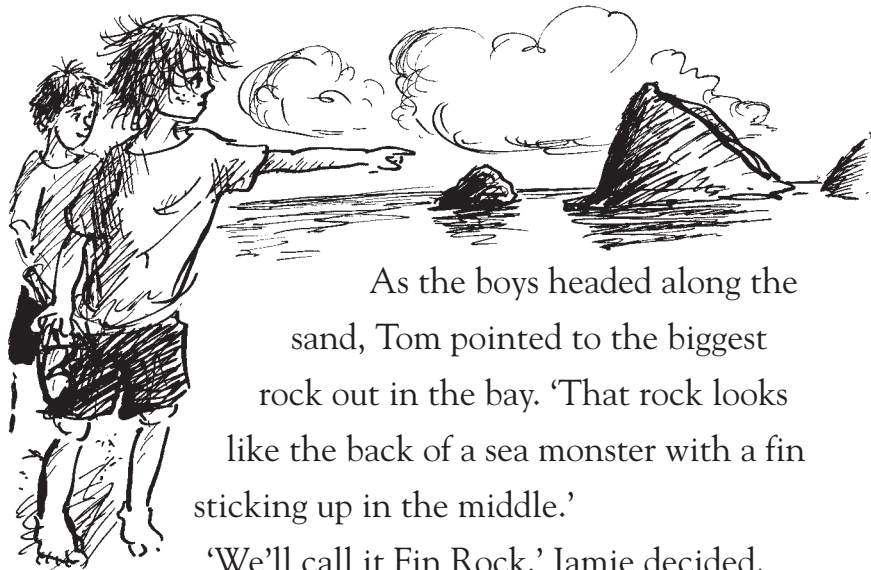
‘Beat you!’ Jamie laughed as he clambered over the last of the slippery black slate rocks onto the sand.

‘Only just,’ said Tom, sliding down beside him. ‘Anyway, Wanna’s the sea slug.’

Wanna scampered happily up behind.

‘Do you think he remembers our last trip to the seaside?’ asked Jamie. ‘He had quite an adventure with his flying reptile friends.’

Tom grinned. ‘Who knows what goes on inside that domed head?’



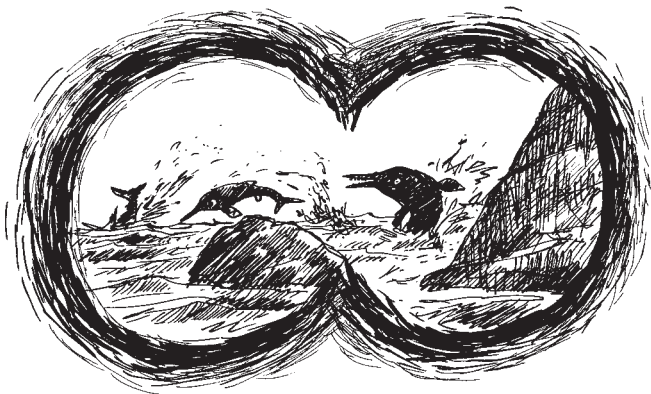
As the boys headed along the sand, Tom pointed to the biggest rock out in the bay. 'That rock looks like the back of a sea monster with a fin sticking up in the middle.'

'We'll call it Fin Rock,' Jamie decided.

The tall rock stood like a gate to the open sea and waves splashed up against it on the ocean side. Beyond the line of rocks, Jamie could see something leaping out of the ocean. 'Wow!'

Tom saw it too and looked through his binoculars. 'There's more than one!' He thrust the binoculars at Jamie.

Jamie knew what they were right away.



'They're ichthyosaurs.'

He flipped open his Fossil Finder and punched the keys. The image of a pointy-nosed prehistoric dolphin flashed up.

'ICK-THEE-Oh-SOR,' he read.

'ATE FISH AND SQUID. EXTINCT BY THE CRETACEOUS AGE.'



'They look like they're having fun,' Tom said. 'We should, too. Let's go snorkelling!'

They dumped the backpack, Tom's binoculars, and their T-shirts and shoes on a dry rock, grabbed their masks and snorkels and waded into the warm shallows. Tom carried the bodyboard.

The water was so clear that Jamie could see his toes and the pebbles on the sand.

Wanna dashed after them, but skidded to a halt at the sight of the tiny waves.



‘You wombat!’ Tom laughed. ‘They won’t hurt you.’

‘I know what’ll get him in.’ Jamie ran back onto the beach to his backpack and pulled out a gingko fruit.

He backed slowly into the water keeping it just out of Wanna’s reach. The little dinosaur followed eagerly, but when the water lapped over his feet, he darted away again.

Jamie pretended to take a big bite out of the stinky gingko. ‘Yum, yum!’

Wanna licked his lips then took a few steps forwards, wading up to his knees in the water.

‘That’s it, boy,’ Jamie said. ‘Come and get your tasty snack.’ He put the gingko on the bodyboard as Tom held it still.

*Grunk!*

Wanna scrambled on to the bodyboard making it wobble in the water. Jamie held Wanna’s waist as the little dinosaur got his balance.

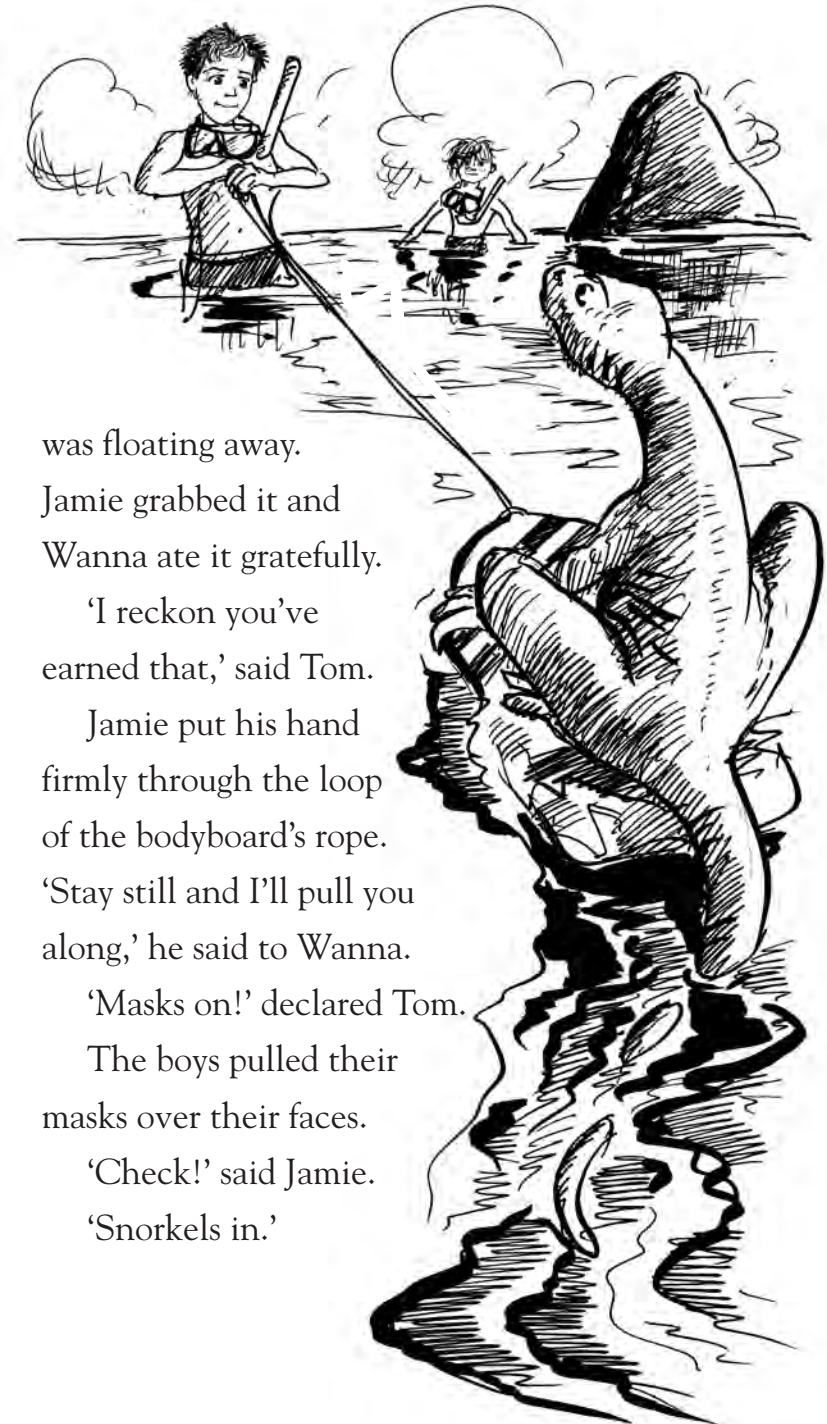
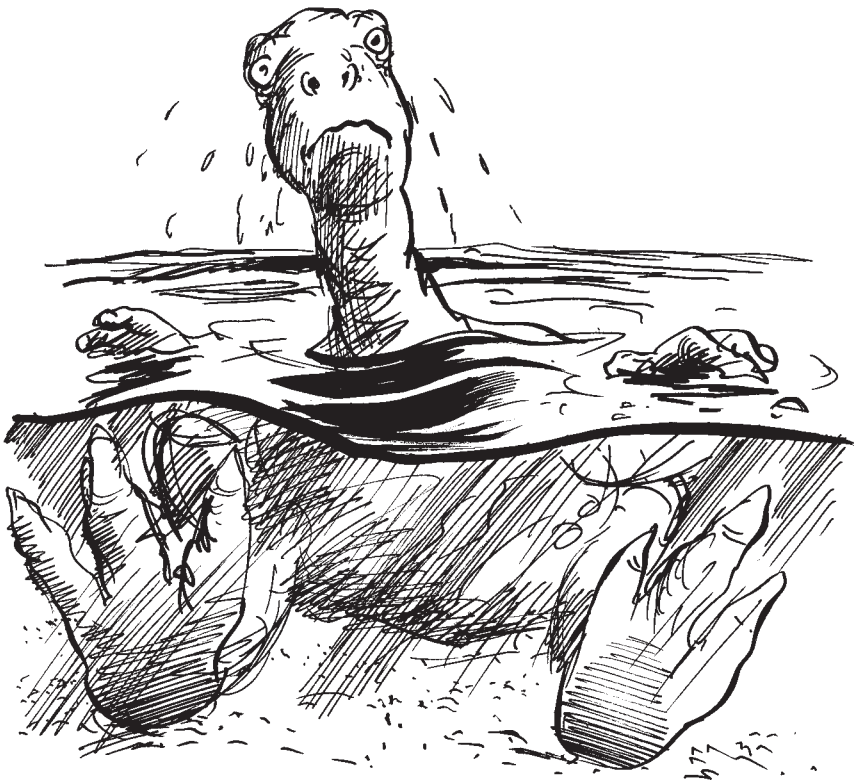
‘He looks like a surfer now,’ chuckled Tom, letting go of the board.



‘Champion of the waves,’ said Jamie.

But when Wanna bent down to eat his ginkgo, he overbalanced and somersaulted into the sea. He sat in the shallow water looking very surprised.

‘Poor old Wanna,’ said Jamie, trying not to laugh. The boys helped him on again. This time Wanna managed to stay afloat, but looked mournfully at the ginkgo which



was floating away.

Jamie grabbed it and Wanna ate it gratefully.

‘I reckon you’ve earned that,’ said Tom.

Jamie put his hand firmly through the loop of the bodyboard’s rope. ‘Stay still and I’ll pull you along,’ he said to Wanna.

‘Masks on!’ declared Tom.

The boys pulled their masks over their faces.

‘Check!’ said Jamie.

‘Snorkels in.’



Tom placed the snorkel in his mouth and gave an excited thumbs up.

The boys waded out until the water came up to their armpits and then started swimming, putting their faces in the water so that their snorkels pointed up into the air. Jamie looked down, breathing through his snorkel. Below him, small plants waved in the gentle current and weird, colourful sea creatures darted up and down. An electric-blue sea slug crept over a rock. Then a group of squid-like creatures came swimming by. Their spiral shells were wonderful colours: blues, greens, and purples.

*Real live ammonites!* Jamie thought. *They're so bright.* The ammonites were nothing like

the brown and grey fossils he and Tom often dug up back at Dinosaur Cove.

He could see Tom was having fun too. He made an O shape with his thumb and forefinger, the OK sign for divers. Tom signed back and made a face like a blubbery fish. Jamie burst out laughing and they both came up, gasping for air.

Wanna grunked cheerfully at them. He was obviously enjoying himself as much as they were.

The boys looked down again. A shoal of large cuttlefish drifted past.

