

THE  
**JUMBALS**®  
in  
**Return of the Captubots**



By Chris Evans

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Pippa



Leon



Myrtle



Monty



JUMBALES<sup>©</sup>

Elvis



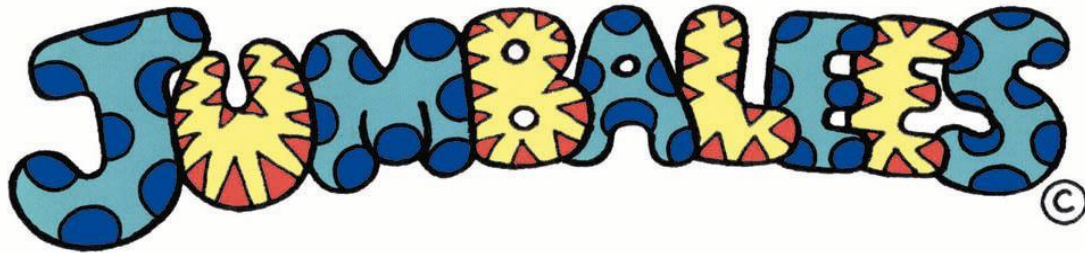
Hoppy



Fred



THE



in

# Return of the Captubots

Written and Illustrated by Chris Evans

Myrtle ran excitedly to the village, eager to share something she had seen. Running up to her parents and pointing up to the sky she shouted,

“Look! Up there. It's a spaceship.”

Her parents recognised it immediately and called the whole village together.

“I'm afraid it's bad news,” explained Jake, Myrtle's father.

“That's no ordinary spaceship. It belongs to the Captubots. They are the evil robot race that captured us from our home planet.”

He told them the story of how the Jumbalees came to live on Earth.

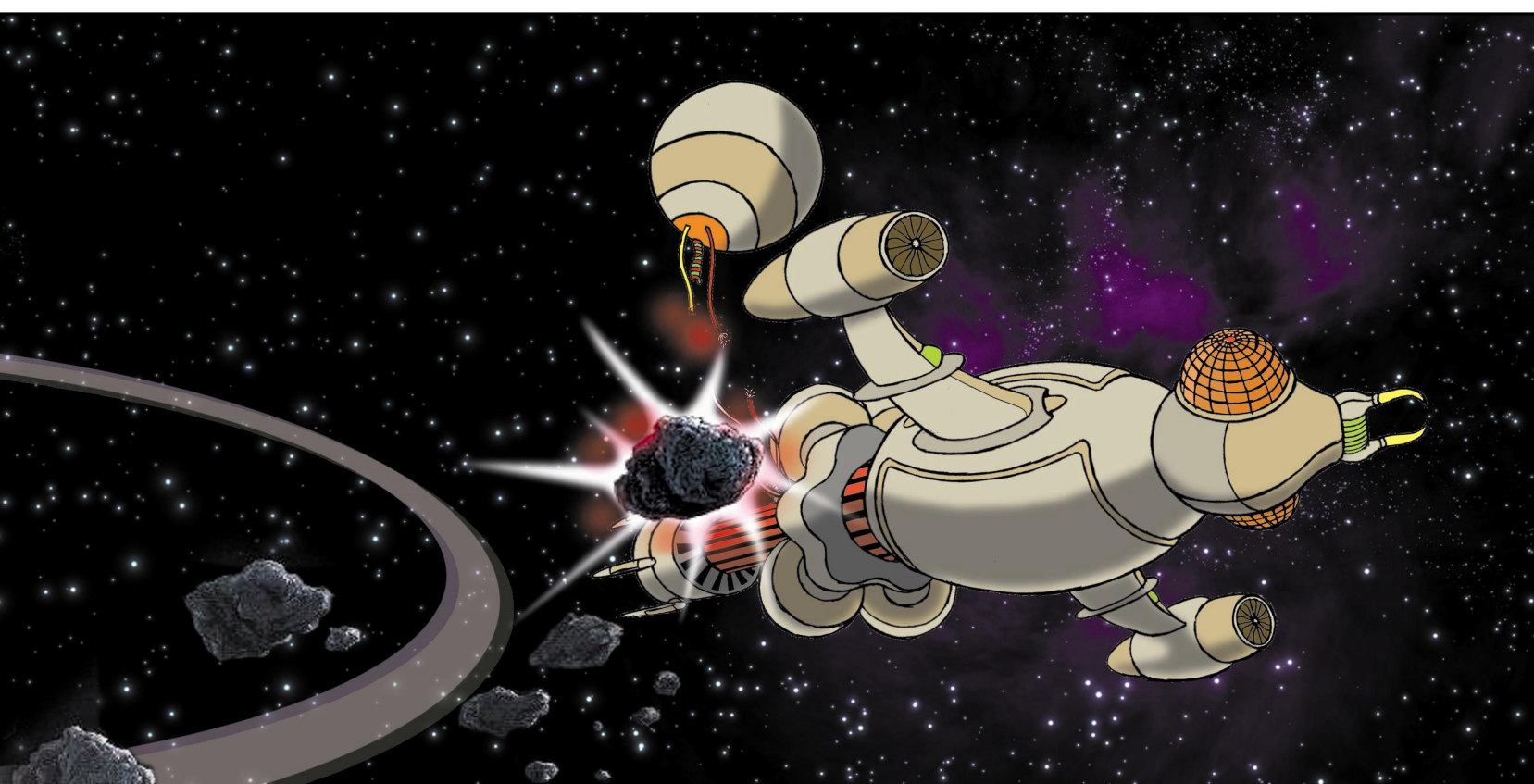


"The Captubots came from Planet Cyborgia in a distant galaxy. They travel through space visiting different planets. They came to our distant planet Jumbala and were taking us back to be their servants. As they flew through an asteroid belt our prison capsule was struck and broke away from their spaceship.

After many days travelling through space we landed safely on Earth. We settled on this island and have lived peacefully with our Earth neighbours for many years.

They have come to recapture us and will probably take some Earth humans as well unless we can stop them. All of you children must hide in the secret caves until it is safe. Zak will go with you."

Zak was the oldest and wisest of the Jumbalees.





There was no time to lose. The parents quickly packed the kids' backpacks with enough clothes and food to last several weeks then Zak led them off to the safety of the caves.

No sooner had they left than the scary Captubots arrived with their Chasers; fast dog-like robots they use to capture their prey. They rounded up the adults.

Jumbalees are a peaceful race and have no weapons. Resistance would be useless. They pleaded with the Captubots to leave them in peace but argument and reason was useless. The only answer they got from their captors was,

**"DO NOT UNDERSTAND: OBEYING ORDERS!"**



The young Jumbalees watched with sadness as their parents were lead off. Leon and Pippa sneaked out of their cave hideaway to follow them. Eventually they came to a clearing in the forest where they spied a large alien ship. The hapless villagers were put into a compound surrounded by a high fence, which was surrounded by the fierce Chasers.

The Captubots then moved towards their ship and plugged themselves in to power points. Soon there was a strange buzzing noise coming from the spaceship.

“What's that?” asked Leon, in a loud whisper.

“I think they're re-charging their batteries,” replied Pippa.

For almost an hour the Captubots were fixed motionless to their spaceship, but there was no way that Leon or Pippa could help their parents because they were still surrounded by the snarling Chasers.



"Let's get back and report to the others," Leon said to Pippa and they set off back to the cave.

When they returned the others listened wide-eyed and open-mouthed as Leon and Pippa told them what they had seen. Zak was old, had seen many things and had a wisdom that comes with age. He thought deeply for a while then spoke to the young Jumbalees,

"We will need to act quickly. The Captubots will be using the ship's solar panels to re-charge their batteries. We must rescue them before it gets dark. I have a plan."

He turned to Monty, "Monty, you will have to lead the chasers away from the ship."

Monty gulped nervously, "Why ME?" he asked.



“Because you can travel high up in the trees away from the reach of the Chasers.” explained Zak, “and that will give me time to carry out my plan.”

“What about the rest of us?” asked the ever-anxious Myrtle, “ What do we do?”

“I want you all to find a high tree, climb up it and wait for Monty,” said Zak.

Monty agreed but was not looking forward to being chased by those fierce creatures.

They all set off from the safety of the cave and down the hill towards the Captubots camp. Leon, Pippa, Elvis, Hoppy, Myrtle and Fred found themselves a high tree that they thought would be the safest place to be.

As Monty and Zak approached the Captubot camp they could hear the snarling of the Chasers patrolling the fence that surrounded the poor Jumbalee villagers.





Zak gave the signal and Monty jumped out from the cover of the forest waving his arms wildly and shouting at the top of his voice.

“YahBoo! You can't catch me you barking Bozos!”

The Chasers looked at each other, puzzled at first, then set off in hot pursuit of Monty, who had already sped off as fast as his legs could carry him. He had never run so fast in his life!

“There's no way those mechanical misfits are going to catch me,” he thought to himself, but it was not long before they were close on his heels. He thought he could not run any faster but just as one of them was about to take a bite out of his tail Monty leapt high up into the air and grabbed hold of a hanging vine. He used this to swing up even higher then swung from tree to tree far out of reach of the fierce Chasers.



He was getting closer to the tree where his friends were and could hear cheers of encouragement from them as they waited for him to arrive. With a final swing he landed safely to join the other Jumbalees high above the ground.

The Chasers arrived shortly after, snapping and snarling at them from below, in what the Jumbalees thought would be a safe place.

They were all very excited by Monty's arrival and pointed and jeered at the Chasers.

"Nah, nah, nah, nah nah," shouted Monty, "You can't catch me. I'm up a tree!"

"Look," exclaimed Elvis, pointing down at the base of the tree, "I think we're in trouble!"

The others looked down to see that the Chasers were trying to climb the tree.



"Oh No!" said Leon, "What happened to Zak's plan? He'd better be quick!"

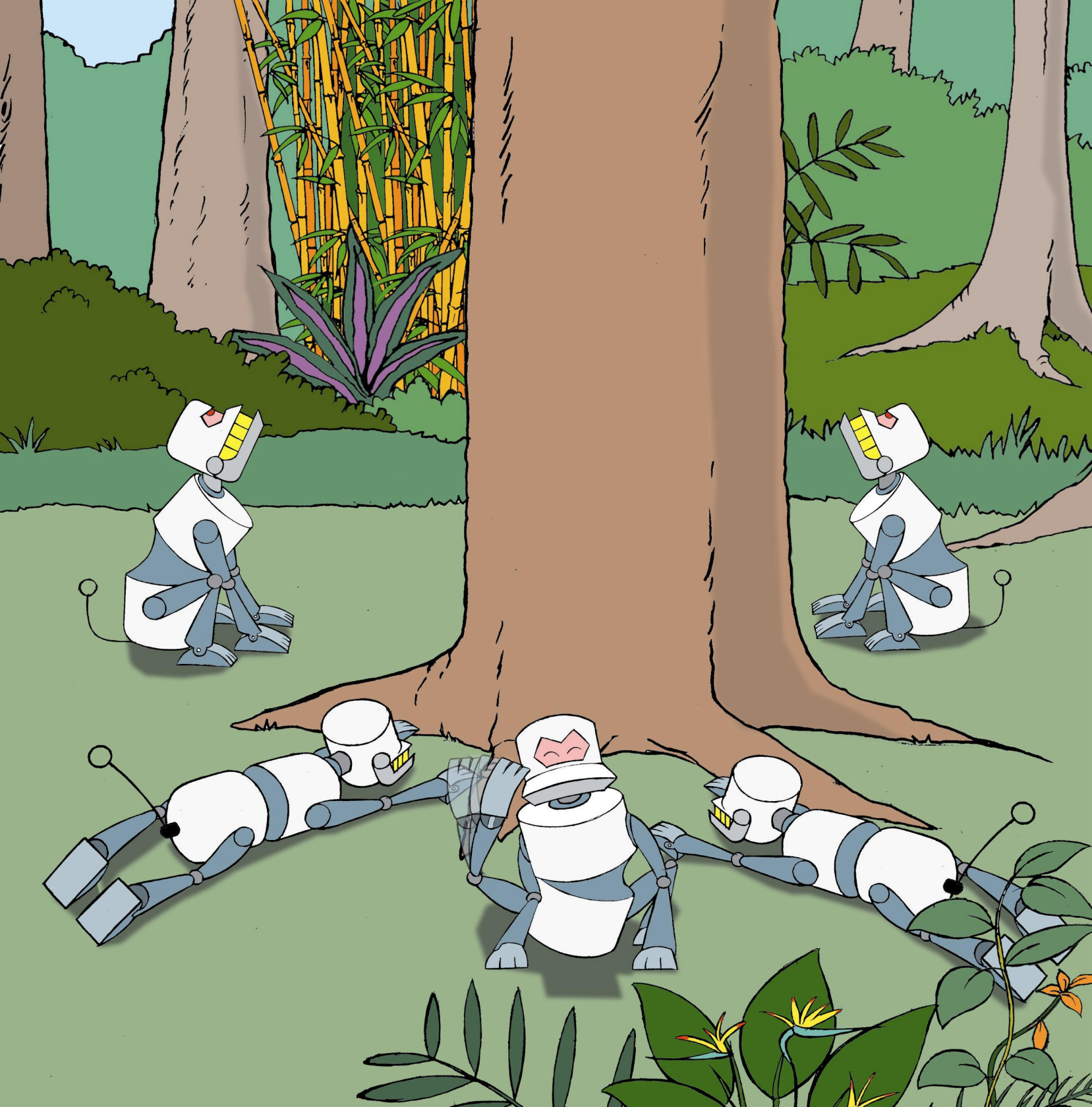
Meanwhile back at the Captubot camp Zak had been busy, and hopefully soon all would be well.

The Chasers kept trying to climb the tree but with little success. Eventually they gave up and just sat at the base of the tree looking up. The Jumbalees sighed in relief.

"What do we do now?" asked Myrtle anxiously.

"We just have to wait," replied Pippa, "and hope Zak's plan works."

After several hours passed the Jumbalees were getting tired and hungry. The Chasers had not moved and were still waiting for them, looking up menacingly.



Suddenly there was a loud rumbling sound. They all looked around.

“What was that?” exclaimed Hoppy in a panic.

“It was my stomach,” explained Elvis, “I’m very, very hungry.”

Hoppy wanted to appear brave and said, “I thought it was your stomach. I wasn’t frightened.”

Leon could see that his friends were getting worried and tried to reassure them.

“Don’t worry everyone. I’m sure it will be OK and we will all soon be going home for our dinners.”

They all looked anxiously back at Leon and wondered what had happened to Zak’s plan.





Elvis thought this would be a good time for one of his poems.

*"It's been good to know you  
All my friends  
And I'll miss you till the end  
Now it's time to say goodbye  
With a teardrop in my..."*

"I... think something's happening," interrupted Monty. He always managed to interrupt Elvis before he could finish his little odes.

In the distance they could hear the sound of an alarm. The sound got louder and louder.

The Chasers turned their heads towards the direction the sound was coming from and to the surprise and great relief of the Jumbalees they ran back to their camp.



"Wow! That was close," exclaimed Monty.

"Too close," replied Fred.

"Can I look now?" asked Myrtle.

"Of course," replied Pippa, "They've all gone."

"I wasn't scared," boasted Hoppy.

"Oh Really! Then why have you turned yellow and why are your legs shaking?" replied Elvis.

"Stop arguing," ordered Leon, "we had better go to the camp to see if Zak and our parents are safe."

"Good idea!" agreed Pippa.

They climbed down from the tree and walked in the direction of the spaceship to find out what had happened. Carefully, they approached the Captubot camp and were greeted by a very strange sight.



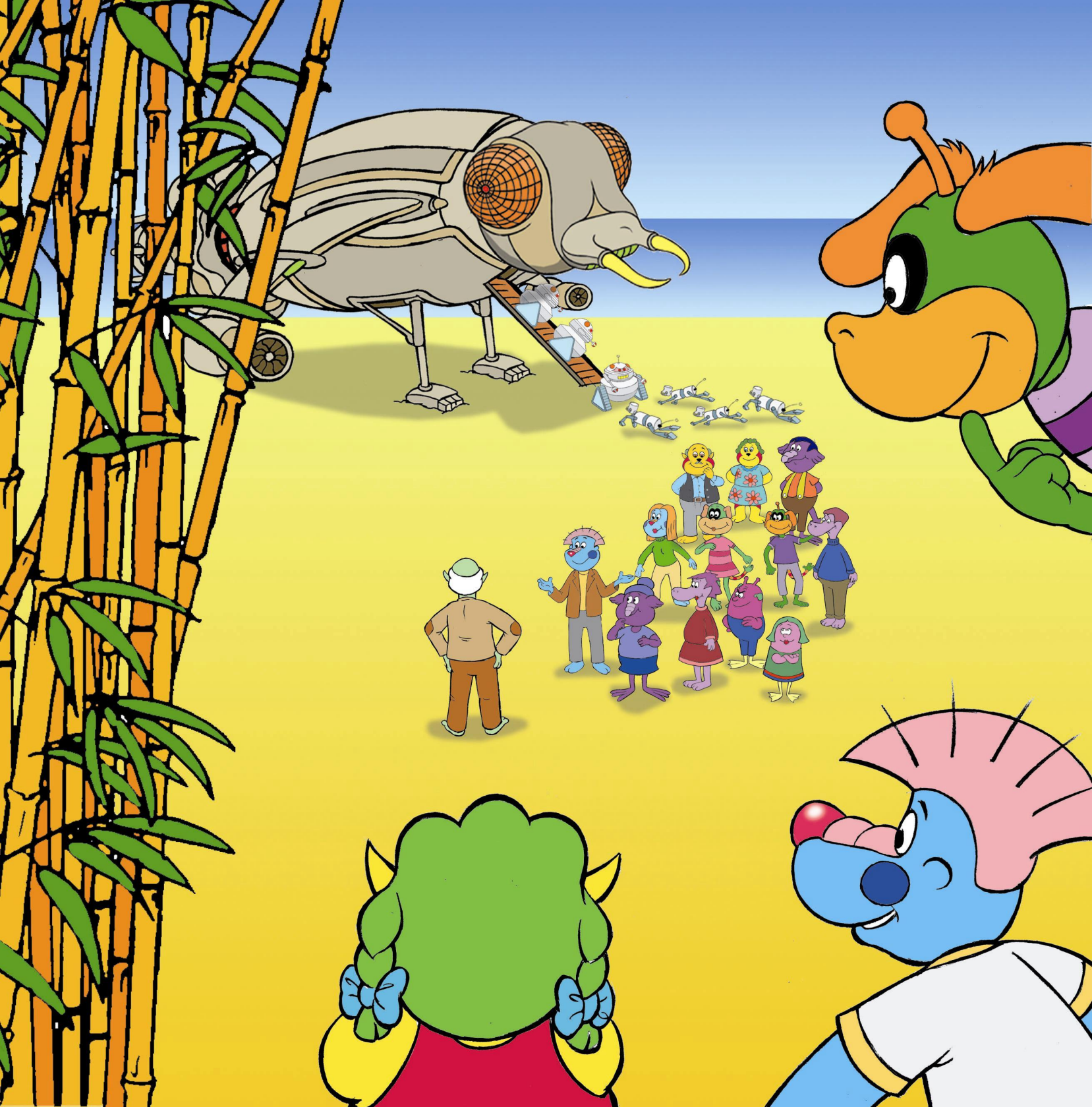
The Captubots had taken down the fence that was surrounding the parents and were all moving backwards in a line into their spaceship. The Jumbalees could not believe their eyes.

The Chasers then followed their masters onto the ship. The ramp rolled back into the doorway and the door slid closed. There was a loud hum from the spaceship as its engines started up.

Zak stood looking up at the craft with his hands on his hips wearing a self-satisfied smile. The kids ran up to their parents excitedly and there were lots of hugs and kisses.

“I think we should say a big thank you to Zak,” said Leon's Mum.

All the Jumbalees ran up to Zak.

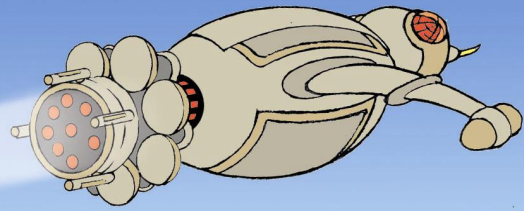


“What did you do? How did you do that? Where have they gone? Will they come back?” They all asked eagerly. Zak interrupted them,

“One question at a time, please.” he said to them.

“I noticed that the Captubots spent a long time re-charging their batteries. When Monty drew the Chasers away from the camp I was able to sneak behind them and change the cables around on their charging station. The next time they re-charged themselves their systems went into reverse and so did all of their actions. They are now heading back to where they came from and hopefully we will never see them again.”

Zak was the hero of the day and everyone in the village was very grateful to him for saving them from the terrible Captubots. Life soon returned to normal and the young Jumbalees looked forward to their next adventure.





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