

Adventure Inventions

I liked this chapter a lot and was reluctant to ditch it. But it slows down the action and does little to develop the story. So, regretfully it had to go.

Professor P shot up the hill on his jet skis. Sleepy followed in close pursuit and Floppy zigzagged between them – pretending to be a slalom skier! Tara, Sparky and I raced after them as fast as we could in the slippery snow.

When we arrived at Honeysuckle Cottage, Professor P took off his skis. He opened the front door and we all went into the living room.

“Oh, Professor P,” Tara cried, “it looks lovely!”

Professor P had put Christmas decorations everywhere! Garlands were draped across the ceiling. Balloons hung in the corners of the room. Christmas cards adorned the walls, the mantelpiece and the piano. A warm fire was crackling in the fireplace and a lovely smell of burning wood filled the air. The room was so cosy and inviting it felt as though Professor P had lived here for years.

Professor P’s cats, Cuddles and Claws were curled up together, asleep on the sofa. Brains was sitting in an armchair by the fire, reading a book. He looked up when we came into the room.

“Hello, I’m reading a book,” he said proudly. “Floppy told me to read it. It’s called Essential Quantum Physics.”

“Oh, well done, Brains,” Professor P said, impressed but also rather surprised.

“You could try holding it the right way up, though!” Floppy laughed.

JURASSIC ISLAND DELETED SCENES

“So that’s why I couldn’t understand it!” Brains said, scratching his head and looking confused. We all laughed!

“Come on Brains,” Floppy urged excitedly. “Peter and Tara are here at last. Let’s get their surprise!”

Brains quickly put the book down and left the room with Floppy. When they returned a few moments later, Brains was carrying a large square box, wrapped in green paper covered with silver stars.

“Where shall I put it, Professor P?” Brains asked eagerly.

“In the corner, please, Brains,” Professor P replied. “Oh, and put it on plenty of newspaper – we don’t want the carpet to get damaged!”

I glanced at Tara. What could it be?

“I think you’ll like this!” Professor P said with a twinkle in his eye.

He opened the door and let Sleepy and Sparky into the hallway. Then he went over to the box, pressed a button on the side and quickly retreated. Brains moved closer to the box and peered at it curiously.

“Get back, Brains!” Floppy cried as he dived behind the sofa. “It’s going to blow!”

Brains, Tara and I quickly took a step back!

“Tell me when it’s over!” Floppy called out anxiously.

I stared excitedly at the box, wondering what would happen. It began with a faint hissing sound. Then a small trickle of smoke rose from the top of the box. Suddenly bright sparks erupted from the sides of the box and loud crackles filled the room. With a loud bang, thick purple smoke burst out of the box.

Floppy coughed loudly.

“Yes!” Professor P cried. “It worked!”

As the smoke began to clear, I could see what had happened.

“It’s a Christmas tree!” I cried in astonishment.

ADVENTURE INVENTIONS

“A self-inflating, ready-decorated Christmas tree,” Professor P said admiringly, “complete with an angel on the top!”

“It was all my idea,” Floppy said proudly, reappearing from behind the sofa.

“Can you get Peter and Tara’s present, please, Brains?” Professor P asked.

As Brains went over to the tree I noticed in amazement that a large box had appeared underneath it. Brains picked up the box, wiped away the ash and gave it to Professor P.

“And, finally, here’s your present,” Professor P said smiling. “A surprise in a surprise!”

He gave us the heavy box. It was wrapped in slightly burnt holographic paper and tied with a bright silver bow.

“Thanks,” we said excitedly, looking at it curiously.

“It’s not a pair of skis,” Floppy joked, “in case you were wondering!”

“I do hope you like it,” Professor P added. “I made it myself.”

“Can we open it now?” I asked, wondering what it could be.

“Well, it’s supposed to be for Christmas...” Professor P hesitated.

“Go on,” Floppy pleaded, “please!”

“Oh, all right, then!” Professor P agreed with a smile. He did not take much persuading!

Floppy was so excited he changed into a bright rainbow coloured parrot and flew around the room madly.

“You’ll love it!” he squawked.

Tara and I carefully took off the wrapping paper. We opened the cardboard box and peered inside.

“It’s a rucksack,” I said intrigued.

“But not an ordinary one!” Professor P said proudly.

JURASSIC ISLAND DELETED SCENES

We took the red rucksack out of the box. It was surprisingly heavy. The words *Adventure Inventions!* were printed on the front in gold letters

“*Adventure Inventions!*” Floppy giggled. “Try saying it quickly three times.”

“Adventure Inventions, Invention...” Brains said, scratching his head. “I can’t even say it once!”

“Look in the pockets!” Floppy cried excitedly.

I felt in the side pocket and pulled out a green plastic globe. It was about the size of a small apple and around the equator were the words *Clever Compass* in silver letters.

“You’ll never get lost with this,” Professor P explained. “The *Clever Compass* always knows exactly where you are. Try it – press the button on the top.”

I pressed the button.

“Hello,” it said. “I am your *Clever Compass*. You are now in Professor P’s house. The living room to be precise.”

Brains glanced around the room and nodded. “That’s right, we are!” he said, impressed. “It is a *clever* compass.”

“And I can tell you how to get from anywhere to anywhere else,” the compass said proudly. “Try me!”

“How do I get to my house from here?” Tara asked. “I live at 129 Seaview Close.”

“Turn right into Farmyard Lane, right again at the main road, then left into Seaview Close. Your house is two hundred and forty metres on the right. It will take twelve minutes to walk. Or three minutes by jet skis.”

“Brilliant!” Tara cried in amazement.

“I like to think I am,” the compass said smugly.

“Conceited more like!” Floppy muttered.

I put the compass back in the rucksack. Tara reached into the other side pocket and pulled out a large purple penknife. Written on the side were the words *Professor P’s Patented Penknife (Purple)*. Tara looked at me and smiled. It was very similar to one we had seen before!

ADVENTURE INVENTIONS

“An electric penknife!” she exclaimed in delight.

Professor P nodded. “Let me show you,” he said eagerly.

Tara handed him the penknife.

“It has a titanium blade,” he explained, pulling out a small blade with a serrated edge. “Cuts through anything! Do be careful with it, won’t you?”

“We will, Professor P,” Tara promised.

“It also has a pair of electric scissors, an electric screwdriver and a firelighter,” he continued. “There’s a solar cell on the side to recharge the battery. Oh, and there’s even an electric can opener!”

Brains backed away. “I don’t like the look of that!” he said, looking rather worried.

“It’s all right, Brains!” Floppy laughed, “nobody’s going to use it on you!”

Professor P gave the penknife back to us.

“Thanks, Professor P, it’s great!” we said together.

“I hope it will come in useful,” he added, smiling.

“No adventure would be complete without one!” Floppy said, winking knowingly at Professor P.

Tara put the penknife back in the rucksack. We searched excitedly through the other compartments and found a can in the front pocket. It was painted red and had the words *Super Soup* written on the side. It reminded me of the can of self-heating beans that Professor P had invented last summer. I could clearly remember when it exploded and sent beans flying all over the kitchen!

When Brains saw the can he looked very worried and quickly hid behind Professor P.

“It’s not going to explode, is it?” he asked nervously.

“Of course not,” Professor P replied.

“It got into my circuits, last time it blew up,” Brains complained, “And the time before that...”

JURASSIC ISLAND DELETED SCENES

“Don’t worry, Brains,” Professor P reassured him. “I’ve fixed the overheating problem. It’s quite safe, now.”

“What’s *Super Soup*?” I asked, inspecting the can closely.

“No camping trip would be complete without it,” Professor P explained proudly. “It’s my own special recipe – homemade tomato soup. For convenience, I put it in a self-heating can.”

“Self-exploding, more like!” Floppy quipped.

“Just press the button,” Professor P continued, ignoring Floppy. “Wait a few moments and you’ll have a can of piping hot soup.”

“That’s a great idea, Professor P,” Tara said, putting the can back into the front pocket.

We reached into the main compartment of the rucksack. We pulled out a heavy black box with the words *Total Tent* written on it. The box also had a red button on the top. I reached out to press it.

“Don’t press it, Peter!” Floppy warned. “Or we’ll never get it back in the box!”

“It’s a self-inflating tent,” Professor P explained. “Press the button and a full size two-person tent pops out.”

We looked at the box, very impressed.

“I invented it after my last camping trip in Scotland,” Professor P added.

“That was a disaster!” Floppy laughed. “The tent blew away while we were still searching for the poles!”

“Well, you certainly won’t have any problems like that with my *Total Tent*,” Professor P said happily.

“It goes up in a flash!” Floppy added.

“I do hope you like my *Adventure Inventions*,” Professor P said proudly as we packed up the rucksack.

“They’re fantastic!” we said, delighted with our gift.

“Now, you’re ready for an adventure!” Floppy cried. “You could go anywhere, or should I say...”

ADVENTURE INVENTIONS

“Oh, is that the time?” Professor P said, looking at his watch. “I must get ready...”

I glanced at Tara in surprise. Why had Professor P interrupted Floppy so abruptly?

“Brains, will you start packing my suitcase, please?” Professor P asked as he led us all into the hallway.

We said goodbye to Brains and went over to the front door.

“Will you be away for Christmas, Professor P?” Tara asked.

“Yes, I’ll be in Cambridge for the next few days,” he replied. “I’ll be back on Boxing Day.”

“Oh, good,” Tara said, “that means you can come to a party at my house the day after Boxing Day. Mum and Dad always ask a few neighbours over for drinks. Would you like to come, too, Professor P?”

“I’d love to.” he replied, looking very pleased.

“Brilliant,” Tara said happily. “It’ll be great having you there!”

“Thank you, Tara,” he said smiling. “I’ll look forward to it.”

“Can I come too, please?” Floppy asked. “I’ll be on my best behaviour!”

Floppy changed back into his usual rabbit form and tried his best to look sensible! Professor P looked at him sternly.

“I will!” Floppy promised, a golden halo appearing above his head.

“I’m sure you will,” Tara laughed. “Of course you can come, Floppy!”

I called to Sparky and we thanked Professor P again for our wonderful present.

“I’m so pleased you like it,” Professor P said as we stepped out of the house. “See you after Christmas!”

JURASSIC ISLAND DELETED SCENES

We waved goodbye and walked along the snow covered path. As I closed the gate behind us, Tara turned to me excitedly.

“Did you notice when Professor P interrupted Floppy?” she asked.

I nodded. “Yes, it was odd, wasn’t it?”

“I think Floppy was about to give away a secret,” she continued. “It happened before when we were on the cliffs and Floppy tried to say something about the island.”

“Yes, I remember,” I said. “Floppy said the island could be useful – and then Professor P stopped him from saying anything else.”

“I think Professor P’s planning something...” Tara said in a hushed voice. “That’s why he’s given us his *Adventure Inventions*.”

I felt a shiver of excitement run up my spine. Something was to happen – I could feel it. Professor P was planning an adventure!

And we were going to be part of it!