

A Mysterious Egg

The moist ground squished under Jed's feet as he strolled through the park early one March morning. Jed was a normal twelve year old, except for the fact that he and his best friend, George, had been tinkering with a time machine. They wanted to explore history. Turning the corner of the path, he found something strange. It looked sort of like a large rock. He leaned to pick it up and found it was fairly light for a rock. He decided it would be very cool in his rock collection, so he decided to take it home, but first, he went to show George what he had found. Amazed, George noticed that it had small spots on it and asked if he could analyze it.

"It could be some sort of egg," George said. "Maybe some sort of large creature's egg."

He thought it could be a crocodile egg, which was possible due to the fact they lived on the south shores of Florida, but he guessed it was more likely an alligator egg. As they bickered over it. George ran the analysis process. Surprisingly, when the machine was finished running the analysis, it couldn't find an animal that could have laid that egg. The machine's best guess was that it was some sort of rock never found before. Jed exclaimed, "It could be valuable!"

George shook his head, "I don't think so. It doesn't look that beautiful, like any other precious stones I've seen."

"Then I suppose I will just take it home for my rock collection." Jed said. Disappointed, Jed departed from George's house with his uninteresting rock. But as Jed walked home, he felt something else, as if he were just getting on board for a great adventure.

When he got home, he called, "Mom! I'm home!"

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His mom said, "Are you hungry? I have a snack on the table here."

Jed called, "No, I think I'm going to go up to my room."

"Alright Sweetie," his mom replied. He went upstairs to his bedroom and set the rock down on his shelf. Then, he went back downstairs, switched on the TV, and began to watch his favorite show about dinosaurs. In this episode, they were examining dinosaur eggs. A picture of a dinosaur egg appeared on the screen, he looked absent-mindedly at it. Then, his eyes went big. He paused the TV and raced back upstairs. He grabbed his rock and raced back downstairs. He compared his rock to the picture of the dinosaur egg on the TV; they looked almost exactly alike! After telling his mom he was going back to George's house, he got on his bike and pedaled as fast as he could with his rock, which he now was sure was an egg - a dinosaur egg! When he pulled into George's driveway, he ran inside and yelled, "George! The rock! It's a dinosaur egg!"

George came and said, "That can't be possible. Dinosaurs went extinct 65 million years ago. There's no way an egg could have survived from back then."

"But it did," Jed argued back.

"I'm sure this is not a dinosaur egg," George replied.

Jed stormed back home and sat down in front of the TV to learn some more about dinosaur eggs. The paleontologist featured in the documentary said that dinosaur eggs were not as large as you might imagine, with the largest ones being about two feet in diameter. For example, the eggs of the Hypacrosaurus, a duck-billed dinosaur, were only about the size of soccer balls. The shape and color of dinosaur eggs can indicate how the dinosaurs cared for their young. For example, the shape of Tyrannosaurus Rex

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eggs suggested that they built open nests. Jed found these facts very interesting, but he was going to need to find out how to take care of the dinosaur once it hatched. That's when he had the idea: the time machine!

He thought, "If I could bring the dinosaur back to its own time, using the time machine that George and I are building, we could return it to a nest that matches the egg type."

When he called George on FaceTime and ask him about this, George shook his head. "We can't do that, even if it were a dinosaur egg, because we don't know what time period it came from. We're looking at a time frame of 165 million years."

George advised Jed to just get some sleep and don't bother thinking about the dinosaur egg anymore. That night, as he reluctantly lay down in his bed to sleep, he was awakened by a cracking sound. He realized, on his shelf, the egg was cracking. Out came a small dinosaur, there was no mistaking it. There was a dinosaur in Jed's bedroom! Using his quick instincts, he figured the best thing to do would be to hide it. He went out the door with it in a bucket he had found. "I'll call you Spot," he said to the tiny creature, as he left his house.

He crept over to George's house to show him once and for all. But as he was knocking on the door, George didn't answer it, his mom did. She let him in to go see George, but she murdered under her breath that she had seen something strange in the bucket. Jed raced upstairs to go see George. He showed George and this time they didn't argue. They went over to their workshop where the time machine sat with all its pieces finally screwed into place, ready for its first voyage. Jed and George prepared themselves, buckling their seat belts inside the bench of the time machine. With a whirl

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and a clunk, the time machine was working. They could see history flying before their eyes, but then the error button flashed. George exclaimed, "It's malfunctioning! We didn't prepare enough!"

A few minutes later, 66 million years in the past, they were trapped, with no way to get back...

To be continued