

Rex, The Sherpdeederps, and the Quest for the Snapelberries

By Will Karn

It was just another warm summer night in the town of Bloxville. Rex was out on the porch, watching his grandpa rock back and forth in his grand rocking chair while he told his stories and sipped his steamed milk. Every night there would be a new tale, bursting full of mischief, and adventure. His grandpa looked at his watch then said “Its getting late Rex, I think it’s about time to go to bed, we have to wake up early if we want to get a good look at all the animals in the zoo tomorrow.”

Rex rushed upstairs, brushed his teeth and jumped into bed. But Rex was so anxious he just couldn’t go to sleep. He laid in his bed tossing and turning thinking about all the different animals he was going to get to see; hippos, lions, sharks, even zebras. He got so restless that he got out of bed to get a cup of guava juice from the kitchen. As Rex was pouring the juiced he looked out the window and to his surprise he saw a big white flash and several blue orbs spin through the sky, swirling round and round. Rex was so absorbed by the blue orbs he accidentally spilled guava juice all over the ground. Rex quickly cleaned up the mess but when he looked back out the window there was nothing but stars and darkness. He dismissed the whole thing, drank his guava juice and went back to bed.

The next day Rex and his grandpa woke up early, ate a big bowl of Count



Chocula, brushed their teeth, got dressed then hopped in grandpa's big red pickup truck and headed to the zoo. When they got there they went crazy and ran all over the zoo finding all the animals Rex was dreaming about the night before. As Rex and his grandpa were walking through the safari part of the zoo, they felt a mighty rumble, the earth began to shake, the sky began to flash, and there was a tremendous BANG followed by the sound of a giant vacuum. And before Rex's very own eyes he saw all the colors on earth spiral up into a great big tube in the sky. The hippos were no longer purple, the lions were no longer tan, the sharks were no longer blue, and the zebras, well they were still black and white. But after only two minutes all the colors on earth were gone.

The sky transformed into a giant video screen and two dopey looking aliens were staring down at everyone. The aliens were slowly getting pumped full of our color, their bodies were green with purple tentacles and orange hair. A few moments later their booming voices echoed throughout the land.

"Earthlings, we are the Sherpdeederps from the Ganglyon nebula, back on our home planet there is no color. We were sent by our leaders to extract all the color from the most colorful planet in the universe. Earth was that planet. Do not follow us or try to get your colors back; your attempts will be thwarted. ALL HAIL THE MIGHTY SHERPDEEDERPS."

The screen disappeared and the sky turned back into pail grayness. Mass chaos ensued.

Everyone in the town went mad, running around looking for color everywhere.



They looked under rocks, no color. They looked inside their cheeseburgers, no color. They even looked at little Cindy's sidewalk chalk drawings and still no color. As everyone was freaking out Rex remembered a story his grandfather told him a while ago.

“Grandpa, what about the Snapelberries?”

“SnapelBerries, they may very well be the only thing on this planet still holding color, but I haven't been to Snapelwoods in many years, I'm not sure I could even survive the trip.”

“I will go grandpa. I will retrieve the Snapelberries, and restore color to the world.”

And before his grandpa could say a word Rex was off.

Rex rushed to his house to pick up supplies for the trip. He grabbed his skateboard, backpack, and a PB&J for the road. Rex hopped on his skateboard and went south towards the Snapelwoods. The road was bumpy and the trip was long, up and down, and up and down. Through the slithery slopes of Snakesville, around the rough roads of Rockston, and past the prickly path of Putertown.

After two days Rex arrived at the entrance to the Snapelwoods. The trees looked threatening, and Rex had an odd feeling about the woods. As he walked in the tall dark trees he couldn't help but think they were looking at him. It was dead quite not a peep to be heard. All the sudden the trees started to shift around trading positions and doing loops around Rex, through all the commotion Rex was lost he couldn't tell which way he was supposed to go and which way he came in. in the distance through all the black, white,

and grey Rex saw a glimmer of green. He was so overjoyed he rushed towards the green. Running with no regard for his surroundings, as fast as he possibly could. He was suddenly stopped to screeching halt by a humongous owl.

He stared into the gigantic owls big eyes, and was frightened. The owl towered way above Rex, breathing heavily the owl bent his neck down until he was face to face with Rex. His heart was jumping out of his chest but he stood tall and faced the giant bird.

“What do you want,” Rex said with confidence. “Come on you big dummy what do you want from me.” Rex said while pushing the owl in the face. Owl turned its head and started to cry, Rex heard it crying and felt bad.

“I’m sorry for pushing you,” Rex said sincerely. Owl turned back around and wiped the tears from his eyes with his giant wings.

“It’s okay I was just trying to say hi, nobody ever wants to play with me because I’m so big and scary looking.” Owl said sadly.

“I’ll play with you, but after I get the color returned to earth, do you know the Snapelberries are?” Rex asked Owl.

“I agree we do need to get the color back to earth, I’ll take you to them hop on my back,” the owl said crouching down so rex could get on his back. Owl took three big wing flaps and they were flying high above the Snapelwoods.

“We’ll be there in a few seconds, but you must be careful because the Snapelberry serpent slithers amongst the brush,” Owl warned Rex, and swiftly swooped down from the sky and hovered above the Snapelberry brush.



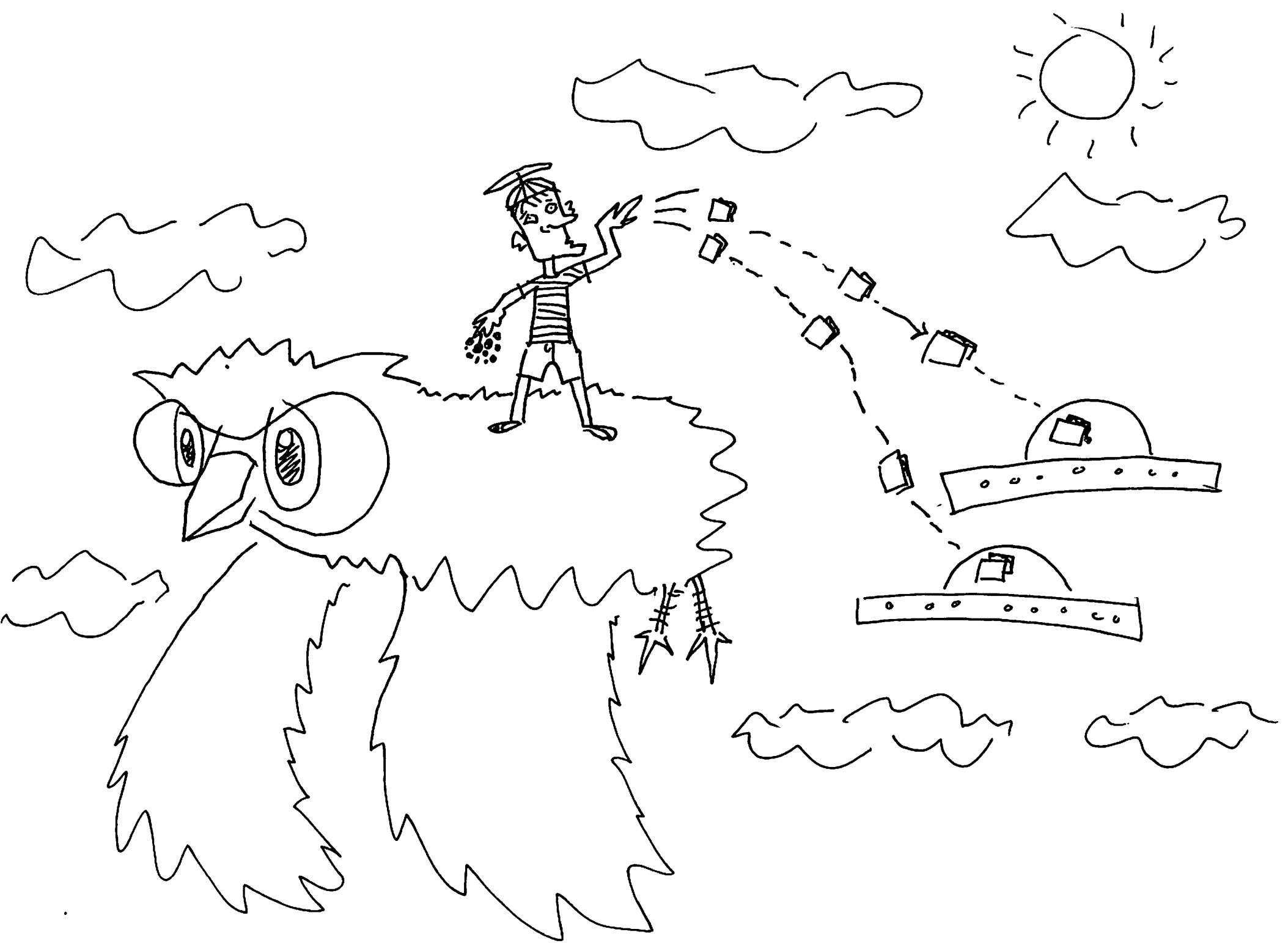
“Go get the Snapelberries quickly before the Snapelberry snake awakes from his slumber,” Owl insisted.

Rex jumped from his back into the prickly brush. As he was looking for the Snapelberries he heard a hiss. Startled, he started searching frantically so that the Snapelberry snake couldn't get him. He looked and looked but they were nowhere to be found, the hiss started to get loader and loader. All of the sudden the snake popped out of the brush with his beady little eyes and huge venomous fangs staring right into Rex's eyes. Rex was in trouble, but he noticed something growing off the snakes back.

“THE SNAPELBERRIES,” Rex exclaimed. He ripped them off the snake and ran as fast as his legs could go. The snake wanted his Snapelberries back and started slithering right after Rex, as soon as the snake was in striking distance; Owl swooped down and picked up Rex with one of his giant talons.

The Snapelberry snake newly stripped from his berries slithered away embarrassed, got on his trans galactic communicator and phoned the Sherpdeederps and explained what had happened.

Rex and Owl were flying gleefully away to NASA headquarters to inject the Snapelberries in to the giant vaporizer, so all the color the Snapelberry contains could be absorbed back into the planet. Out of nowhere a UFO appears and starts firing lasers at the back of Owl. Rex stood up on the owl and began to pelt the UFO with parts of his PB&J, throwing the jam and peanut butter on the UFO's windshield blinding the aliens.



Owl slickly maneuvered away from the aliens and pulled up in the NASA landing dock. People from NASA helped Rex off Owl and brought him to the giant vaporizer. Owl was tiny compared to the vaporizer, and Rex had plenty of Snapelberries to fill it. *CRASH, BANG* Everyone turned towards the noise as the Shepdeederps barged through the door with their laser pistols drawn

“NOBODY MOVE OR ILL SHOOT,” the aliens shouted. “Now hand over the Snapelberries.”

“No,” Owl protested. The Shepdeederps waddled over to Owl pistols pointed at the giant bird. Owl signaled Rex to through the Snapelberries in the vaporizer.

“NOW YOU GIVE THEM UP YOU GIGANTIC MORON,” the aliens exclaimed.

As the aliens badgered Owl, Rex slyly slipped the berries into the vaporizer, found the big red button and pressed it. There was a gigantic shock knocking everyone to the floor, color started exploding out of the vaporizer, blue greens reds oranges purples maroons umbers, even new colors Rex had never seen before, transforming and morphing into a beautiful new color filled world. The sky was purple, the trees were red, the water was orange, the grass was blue, Rex was green, Owl was pink, but the zebra was still black and white.

