

NAANTÉ

THE

DINOSAUR

By: Lucas King

Millions of years ago there was a dinosaur named Dante. He was born a meat eating T-Rex. Being T-Rexes, Dante and his mother were feared throughout the land. Growing up, Dante had trouble learning to hunt. He was born with abnormally large feet which made him extremely clumsy. His mother would continuously teach him how to hunt for food. She would show him which prey to pick and to get as close as he could without being seen. Then when the time was just right, you jump out and chase the prey down.

Dante practiced what his mother had showed him, but it never worked. He could never get close enough to the prey because his giant feet would make too much noise. When he finally learned to keep his feet quiet, he could never chase down a prey because if he wanted to go fast he would trip every time over his massive feet.

Dante never could get food for himself, and he became very dependant on his mother. Dante was growing bigger over time along with his feet. Soon Dante's mother was very tired of catching food for two big dinosaurs. She knew that Dante's feet were a big problem and she didn't know how he was going to survive.

When young T-rex dinosaurs become adults they are forced to leave their mothers and live and hunt by themselves. Dante was now an adult T-



Rex, and his mother knew that she had to leave him. One night while stalking some prey hiding behind some trees, Dante's mother broke the hunting silence and said,

“Dante, you have become an adult, and you are far too big for me to take care of anymore. All mother dinosaurs must leave their young and I will be leaving tonight. I have taught you everything I know that will help you survive. Don't be scared, just remember I love you.” Dinosaur tears began to fall from her face and she turned around and left.

Dante was stunned. He couldn't move. His mother's words had frozen him in place. His mother's shape disappeared into the darkness and Dante realized she was gone. He tried to chase after her but fell over his giant feet. Crying, he got back up and tried to run after her, but fell again and again. Dante yelled at the top of his lungs, “Mother, NO,” but he got no response.

That night Dante could not sleep and he cried until the sun came up. The next day he had no one to talk to and was hungry from all the crying he did. He knew he might feel better if he finally caught some food, and with a giant meal his mother might come back. Dante went to his mother's favorite hunting grounds and spotted a herd of prey. He knew he had a chance to finally catch a prey.

He started to remember what his mother had taught him. Dante



worked hard on not making noise with his giant feet. He quietly got close enough and hid behind a tree like his mother always did. He waited for the perfect moment and finally jumped out through the trees like a spring. The prey began to run away and Dante was feeling excitement as he began to close in on a one. He opened his mouth to finally catch his reward when he tripped out of nowhere on a stone. Dante tumbled and rumbled until he finally stopped. Nothing could be seen but a giant dust cloud. The dust settled and there laid poor Dante curled in a ball, crying over his stubbed toe.

“It’s not fair!” he exclaimed. “Why was I born with these ugly giant feet?”

Dante was now even more sad and hungry than before. He knew he had to find some food soon. Dante decided to go explore the large land in search of prey that were slow and easy enough to catch. He set out on his journey in the opposite direction of the giant volcano that could be seen from anywhere in the land.

Dante walked and walked, and thought about his mother every step. Dante’s thoughts of his mother were interrupted by a loud groan from his stomach. He was very hungry. He turned around to see how far he had traveled from the volcano, and was surprised to see that it was now a speck



in the distance. He was now in a land he had never been to before.

Dante was tired from his long journey and spotted a group of tall trees casting shade.

“That shade looks like a perfect spot for a nap, so I can regain my energy for a hunt,” Dante said as he fell asleep.

In the middle of Dante’s nap the earth began to shake and he awoke to loud thumps and giant feet in front of him. Dante looked up to see four giant long necked dinosaurs eating out of the trees.

“Hey what are you doing?” Dante asked.

The giant dinosaurs seemed puzzled to hear a voice and looked down to see Dante awaiting their response.

“We are eating, little one.” said the huge dinosaurs in a slow, low voice.

“What prey lives up there that can feed you?” asked Dante.

“We don’t eat meat, we eat the leaves and berries.”

“How can you get so big without meat?”

“Easy, we just never stop eating leaves and berries.”

Never stop eating. This thought made Dante’s mouth water.

“Can I try some of your food?” asked Dante.

“Sure, have as much as you can reach,” answered the giant dinosaurs.



Dante stuck his large mouth into the tree and bit down, getting a mouth full of only dead leaves and berries. He chewed and immediately spit out the nasty food. Dante used his giant feet to stand up on his tippy toes and reach the fresh leaves and berries. It tasted delicious.

When all the dinosaurs were finished eating the giant long neck dinosaurs asked where Dante's mother was.

"She left me, and I can't catch food without her because I have large ugly feet," Dante answered.

"Large feet aren't ugly," said the dinosaurs. "You can join our family and we can eat leaves and berries all day."

"I would love that," said Dante.

After meeting the giant dinosaurs, Dante was able to survive off the leaves and berries. Being a vegetarian was hard for Dante, and he would dream of meat when he was asleep. Dante learned eventually how to catch meet my leaving berries on the ground for smaller dinosaurs to eat. He would hide behind a big tree, and when the moment was right he would pounce on the unsuspecting prey.