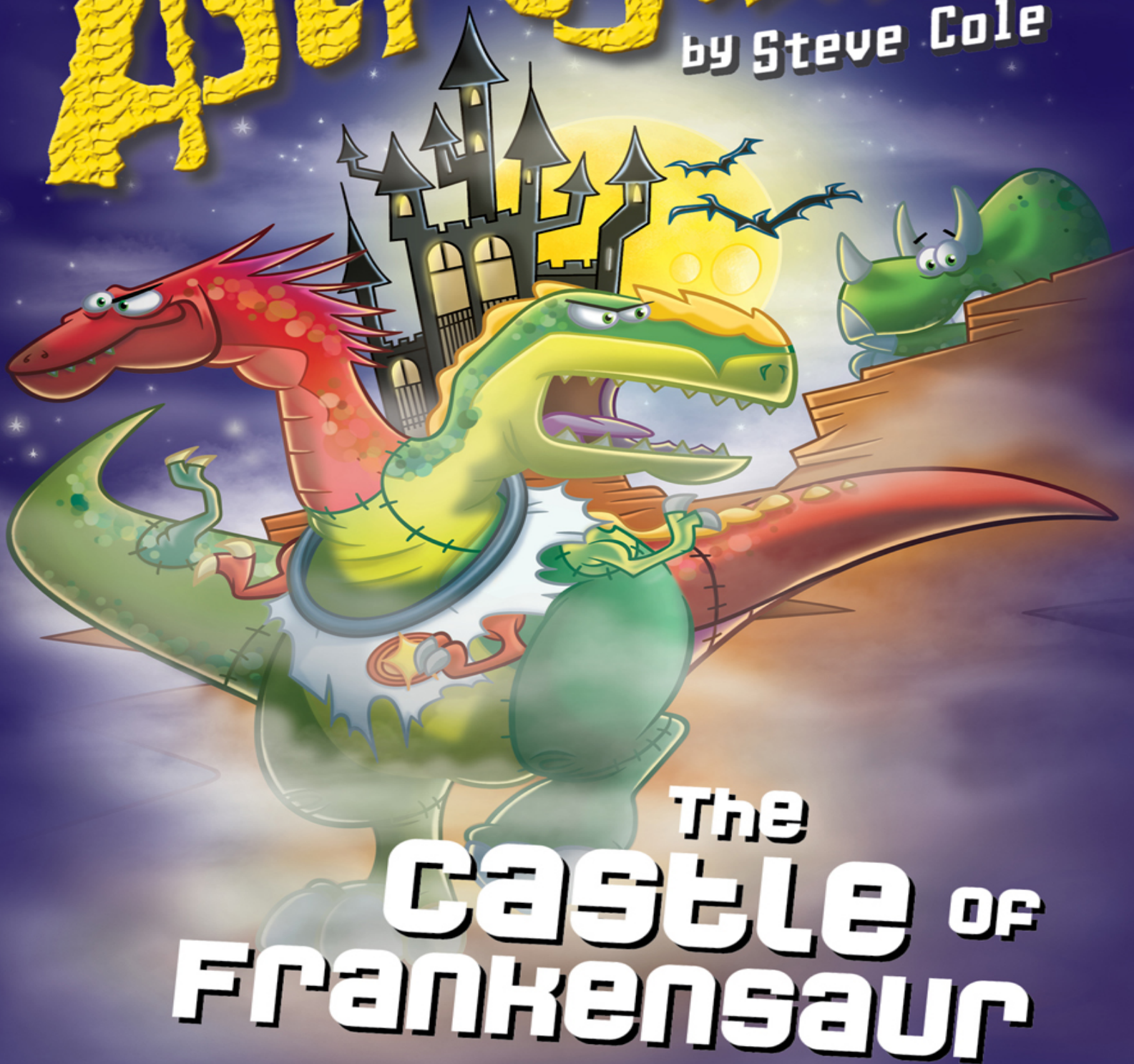




Astrosauvans

by Steve Cole



The
**Castle of
Frankensaur**

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About the Book

Dinosaurs . . . in space!

Meet Captain Teggs Stegosaur and the crew of the amazing spaceship DSS *Sauropod* as the astrosaurs fight evil across the galaxy!

On the trail of carnivore space-robber, the astrosaurs find a creepy castle on a distant asteroid – the secret hideout of super-scientist Dr Frankensaur. Plunged into a sinister mystery, Teggs must fight deadly robots, headless horrors, mutant monsters and a threat to the entire cosmos . . .

Astrosaurs

THE CASTLE OF FRANKENSAUR



Steve Cole

Illustrated by Woody Fox

RHCP DIGITAL

*For Candi Scarlett Featherquill (and Poppy Bristow, her
inventive owner)*

WARNING!

THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT DINOSAURS?

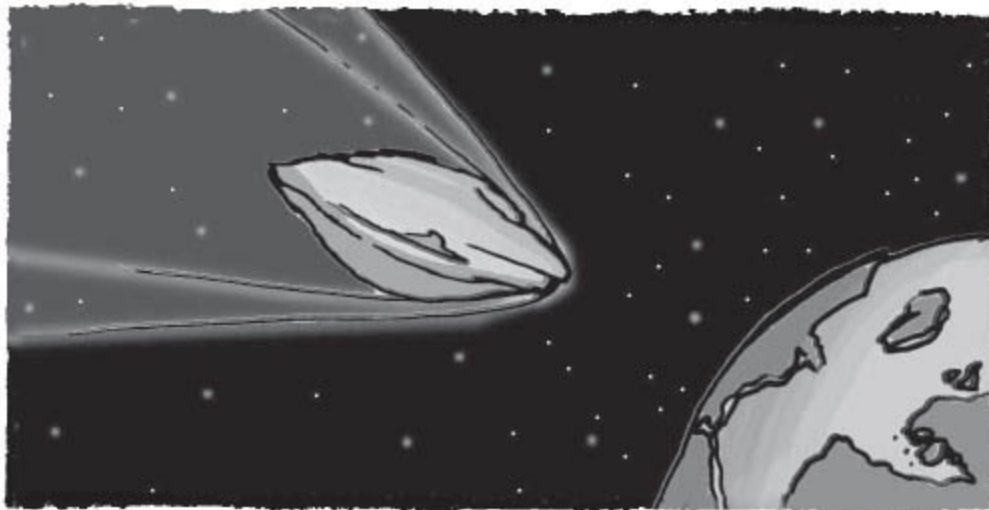
THINK AGAIN!

The dinosaurs . . .

Big, stupid, lumbering reptiles. Right?

All they did was eat, sleep and roar a bit. Right?

Died out millions of years ago when a big meteor struck the Earth. Right?



Wrong!

The dinosaurs weren't stupid. They may have had small brains, but they used them well. They had big thoughts and big dreams.

By the time the meteor hit, the last dinosaurs had already left Earth for ever. Some breeds had discovered how to travel through space as early as the Triassic period, and were already enjoying a new life among the stars. No

one has found evidence of dinosaur technology yet. But the first fossil bones were only unearthed in 1822, and new finds are being made all the time.

The proof is out there, buried in the ground.

And the dinosaurs live on, way out in space, even now. They've settled down in a place they call the Jurassic Quadrant and over the last sixty-five million years they've gone on evolving.

The dinosaurs we'll be meeting are part of a special group called the Dinosaur Space Service.



Their job is to explore space, to go on exciting missions and to fight evil and protect the innocent!

These heroic herbivores are not just dinosaurs.

They are *astrosaurs*!

NOTE: The following story has been translated from secret Dinosaur Space Service records. Earthling dinosaur names are used throughout, although some changes have been made for easy reading. There's even a guide to help you pronounce the dinosaur names on the next page.

Talking Dinosaur!

How to say the prehistoric names in this book . . .

STEGOSAURUS -
STEG-oh-SORE-us

HADROSAUR -
HAD-roh-sore

DIMORPHODON -
die-MORF-oh-don

KRITOSAURUS -
CRY-tuh-SORE-us

DASPLETOSAURUS -
Dass-PLÉE-tu-SORE-us

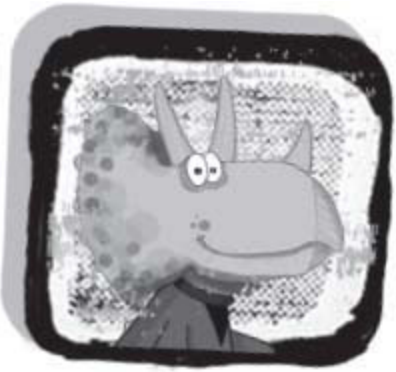
TRICERATOPS -
try-SERRA-tops

SAUROPELTA -
SORE-uh-PELT-ah

THE CREW OF THE DSS SAUROPOD



CAPTAIN TEGGS STEGOSAUR



ARX ORANO, FIRST OFFICER

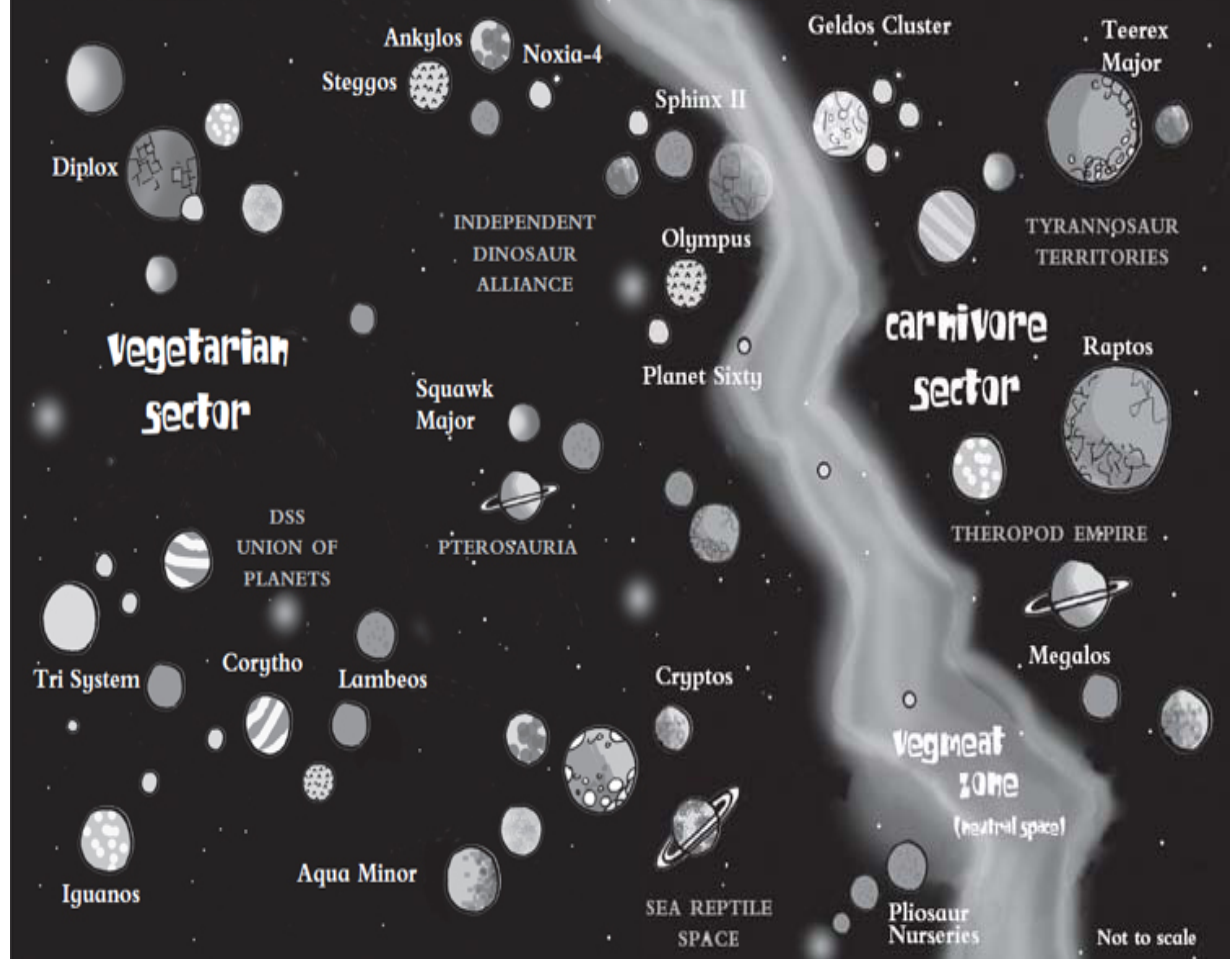


GIPSY SAURINE, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



IGGY TOOTH, CHIEF ENGINEER

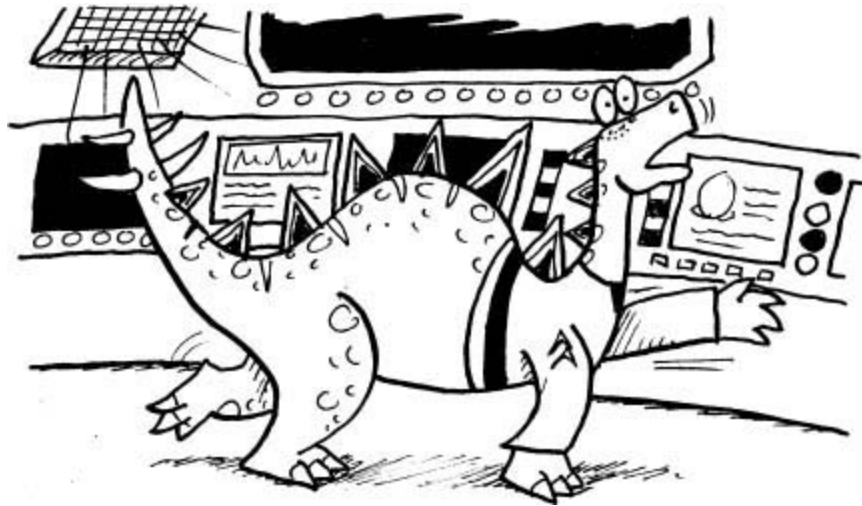
Jurassic Quadrant



Chapter One

ROBBERY IN SPACE

"HELP! THIS IS Pilot Marsh in star-vault Zeta Three - I am under attack!"



Captain Teggs Stegosaur almost jumped out of his orange-brown skin as the urgent voice echoed around his spaceship, the DSS *Sauropod*.

"A distress call!" he cried. "Luckily I've got the best ship in space and the finest crew in the universe. Astrosaurs to the rescue!"

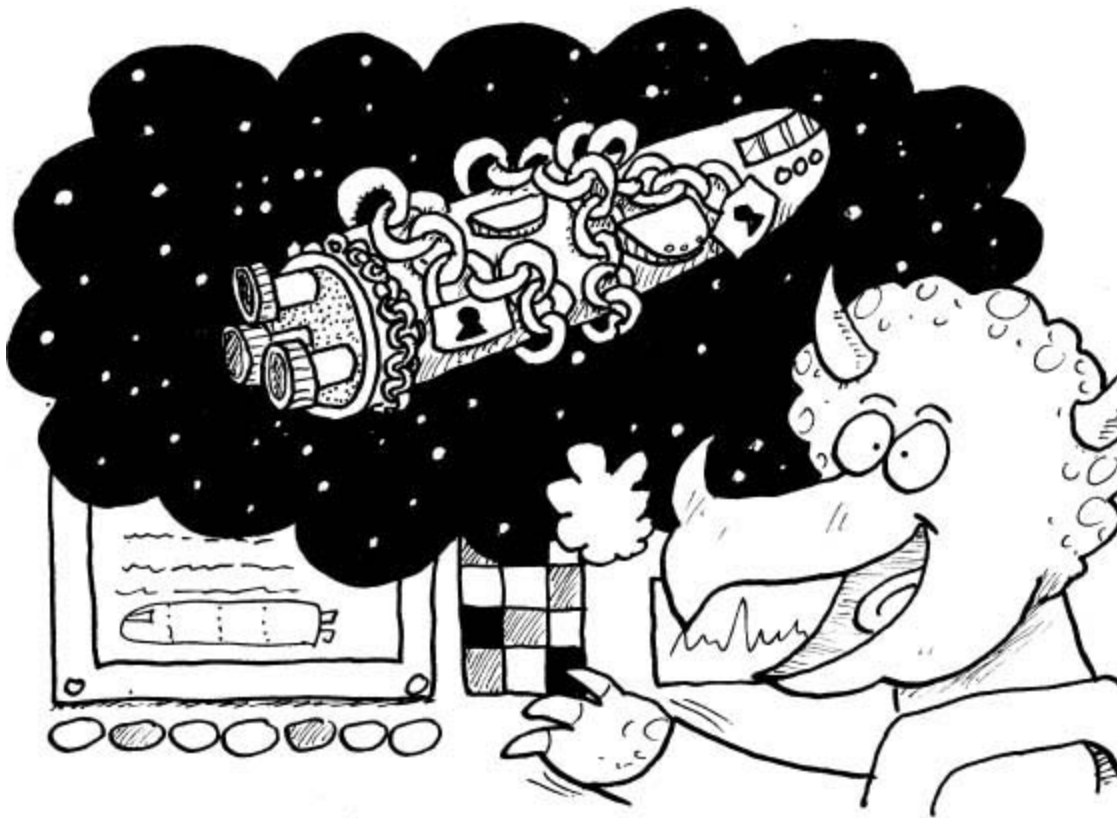
Teggs galloped over to Gipsy Saurine, the stripy hadrosaur in charge of communications. "Gipsy, can you trace where Pilot Marsh's message came from?"

"On the case, Captain." Gipsy peered at her computer screen. "It came from two star-systems away. And it was sent on a 'priority red' channel."

"Emergency," came the pilot's voice again. *"Star-vault Zeta Three is under attack from an unidentified spacecraft. My location is Sector Three-point-seven-nine . . ."*

"What is a star-vault, anyway?" asked Teggs.

"It's like a giant safe that's been turned into a spaceship, Captain," called a green triceratops from across the flight deck. This was Arx, Teggs's brainy first officer. "They are used by galactic banks to transport gold and jewels between planets in the Vegetarian Sector. No ship in space is tougher to get into."



"Even so, it sounds like a tasty target for robbers." At the word "tasty" Teggs's tum rumbled - no matter what the emergency, Teggs never lost his enormous appetite! "Set a course to intercept that star-vault. Maximum speed!"