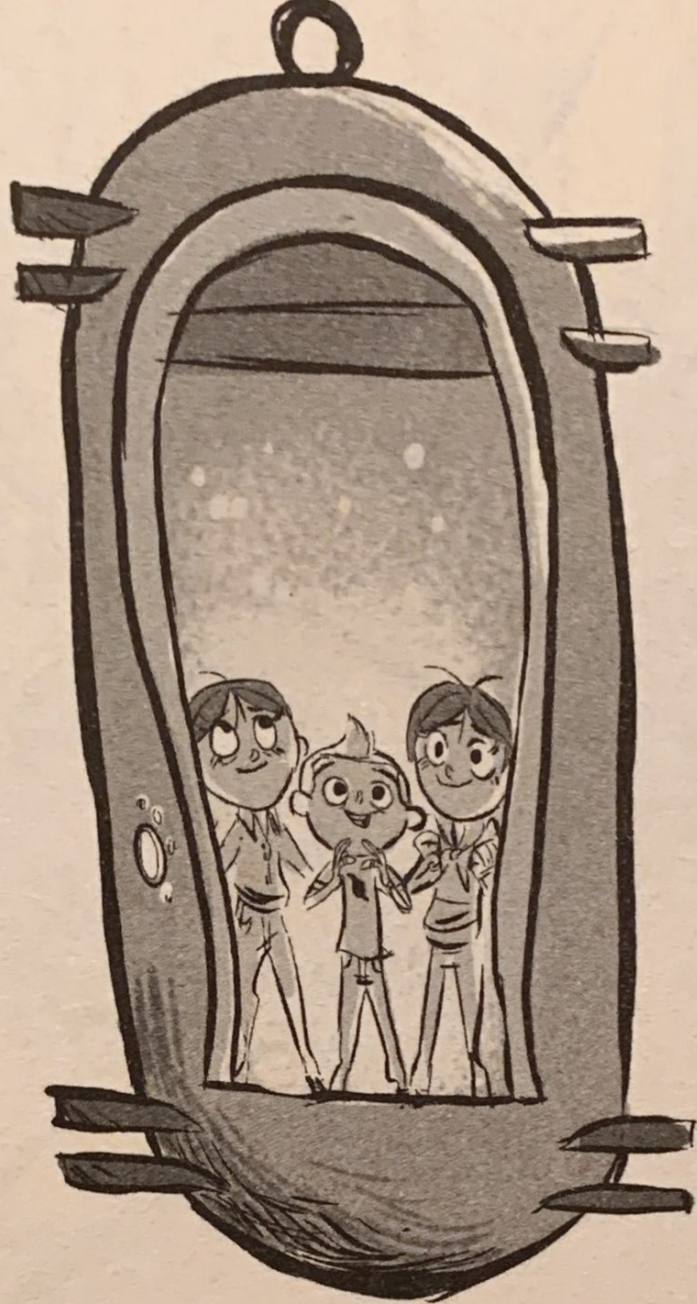




Chapter 5 Wired!



"Why don't you kids check out your new bedrooms before dinner?" said Dad.

Zack and the twins stepped into the elevator. The door closed behind them and the elevator took off.

A moment later the elevator slowed



to a stop. The door slid open. Zack stared into a large bedroom. It was covered in pink. Frilly curtains hung from the windows.

Zack shuddered. "Ugh! This is your



stop," he said to his sisters.

"Ooooh . . . ," said Cathy and Charlotte, running into the room.

The door zipped shut and the elevator sped off. A couple of seconds later it stopped, and the door opened again.

"Now, this is my room," said Zack, smiling. He stepped into the bedroom.

The walls were green. So were the carpet and curtains.



Most things in the room were green. Green was Zack's favorite color.

Zack spotted a huge desk. A computer touchpad was built into the desktop. The entire wall in front of it was a giant view screen.



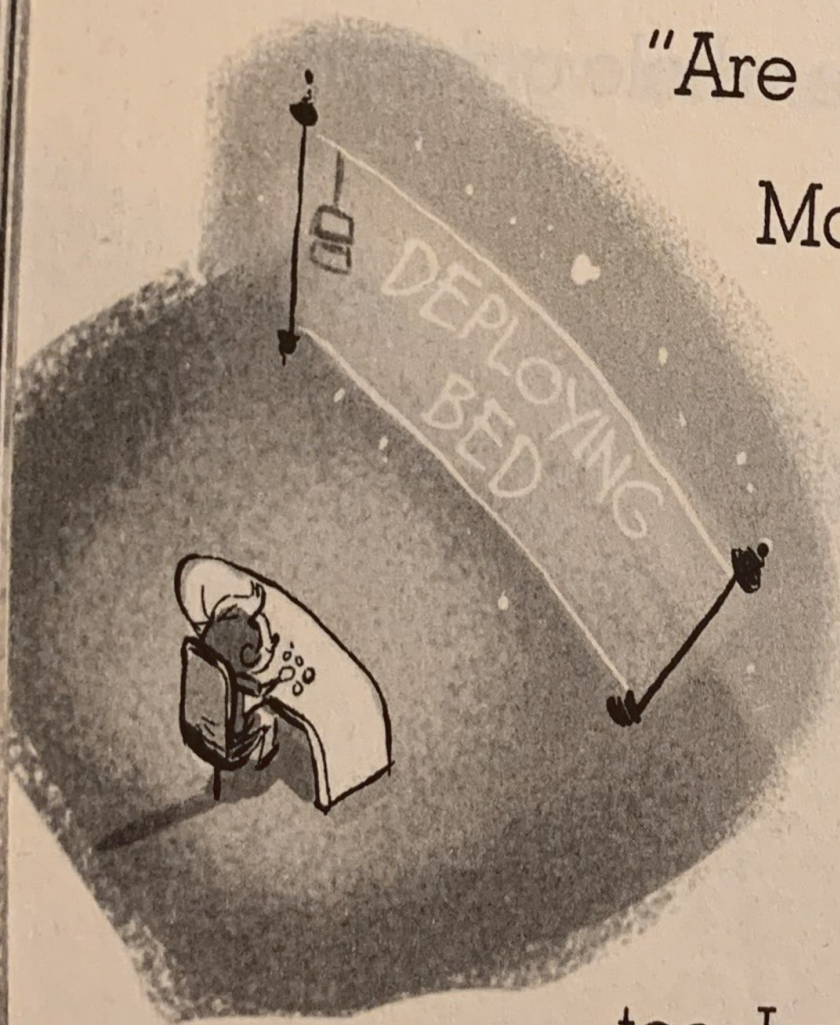


"That's awfully big for a computer monitor," Zack said. He touched the screen. Suddenly he was looking at a HELLO, ZACK message, then zillions of stars in space. "Wow! This is so cool!" he said. "I can see the whole galaxy!"



Zack searched the stars and planets around Nebulon for a few minutes. Then he looked around the room.

"Hey," Zack said. "Where's my bed?"



"Are you ready for bed, Master Just Zack?" Ira asked.

Zack jumped at the sound of his voice.

"Are you in here, too, Ira?" Zack asked.

"I am wired throughout the house," Ira explained. "Here is your bed."



Zack searched the stars and planets around Nebulon for a few minutes. Then he looked around the room.

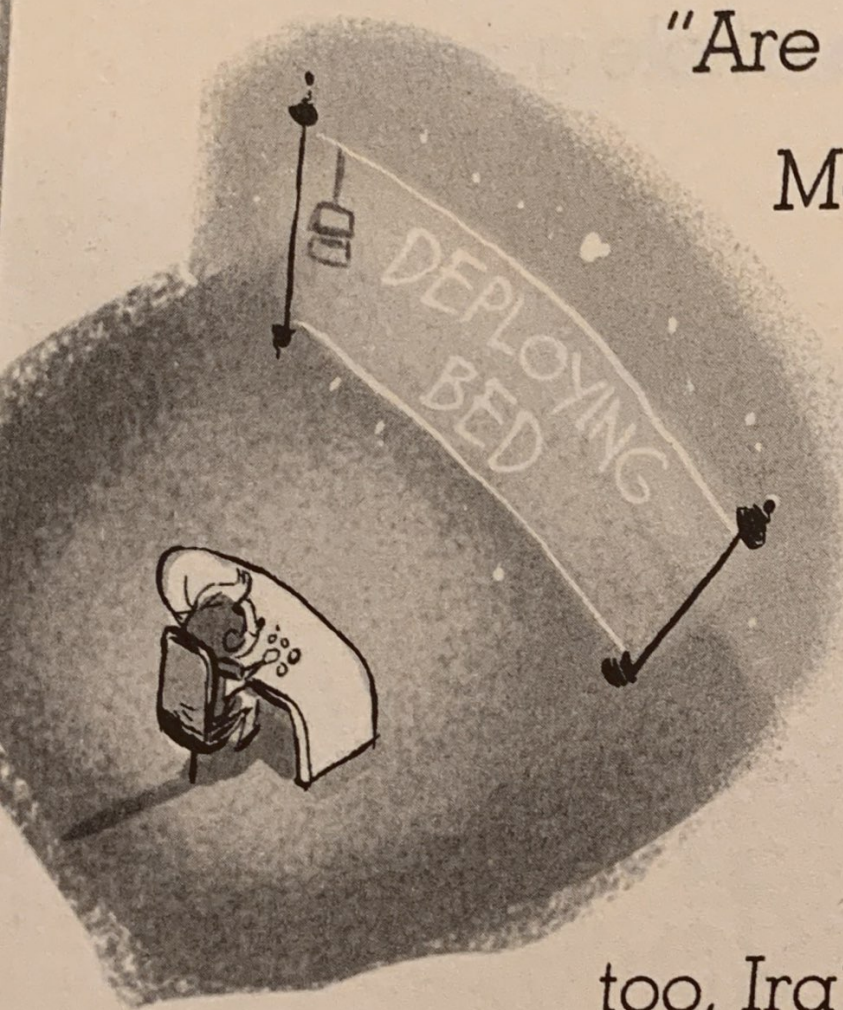
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Zack jumped at the sound of his voice.

"Are you in here, too, Ira?" Zack asked.

"I am wired throughout the house," Ira explained. "Here is your bed."





A panel in the ceiling opened and a bed came down from above. The bed had a pillow with a matching green pillowcase and blanket.

"Cool!" Zack said. "Thanks, Ira. But it's too early for bed."

"Very well," Ira said. The bed went back into the ceiling.

"You mean I don't have to make my bed every morning?" asked Zack.

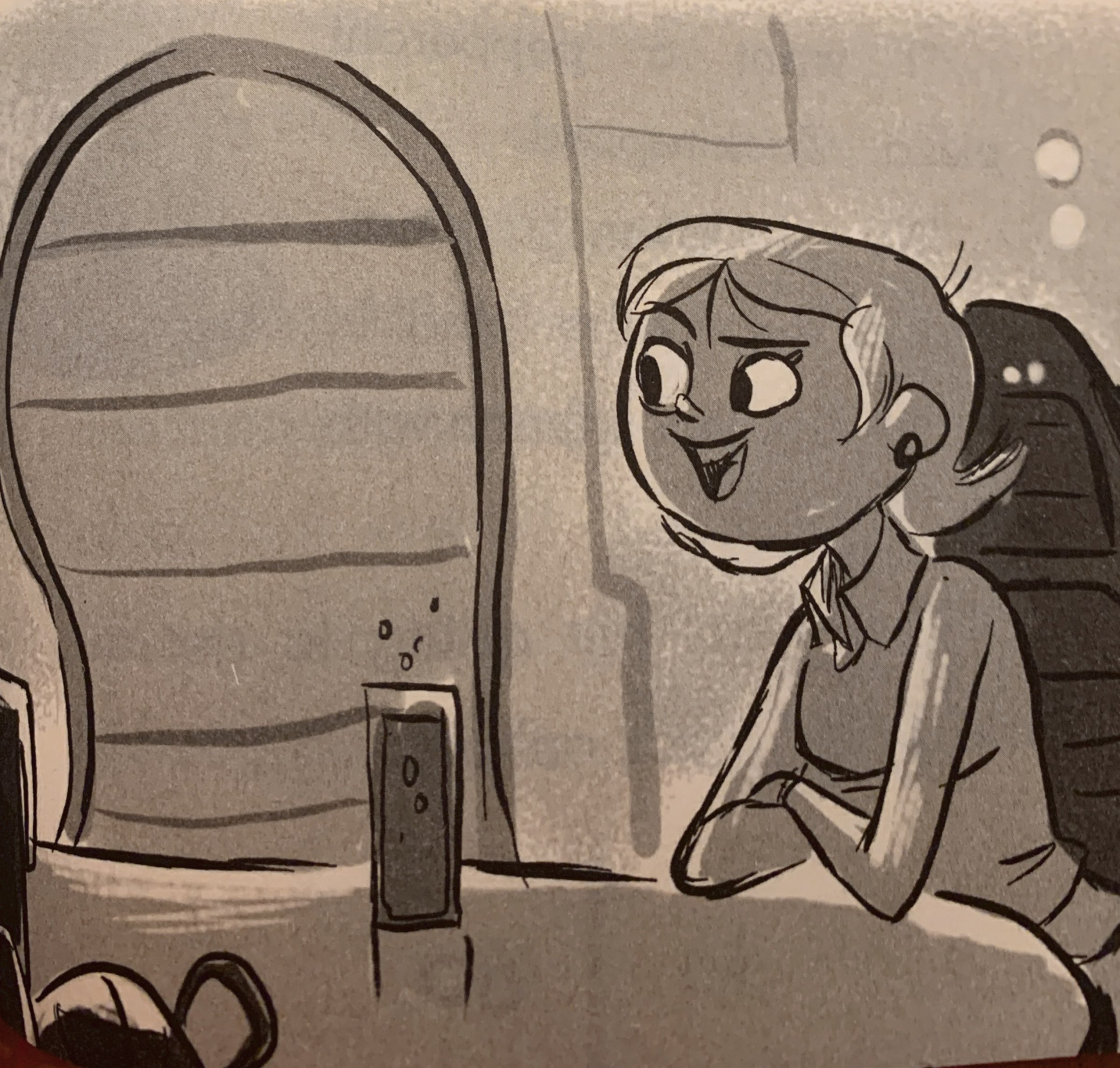
"Sweet!"

"Zack, honey," called Mom through the commu-link. "Dinnertime."



Zack scooted into the elevator and rode to the dining room. He took a seat at a table that floated in midair. Charlotte and Cathy sat across from him. Mom and Dad sat on either side.

"So, Mom, what's for dinner?" Zack asked. "Are we going out?"





"No need," said Dad. A big, cheery smile spread across his face. He turned to the twins. "Girls, what would you like for dinner?"

"Spaghetti!" they both shouted.

"You got it! Zack?"

"I want a pepperoni pizza," Zack replied.

"No problem," said Dad. "Your mother and I will have grilled salmon with baked potatoes."

"Where are we going to get all that, Dad?" Zack asked.





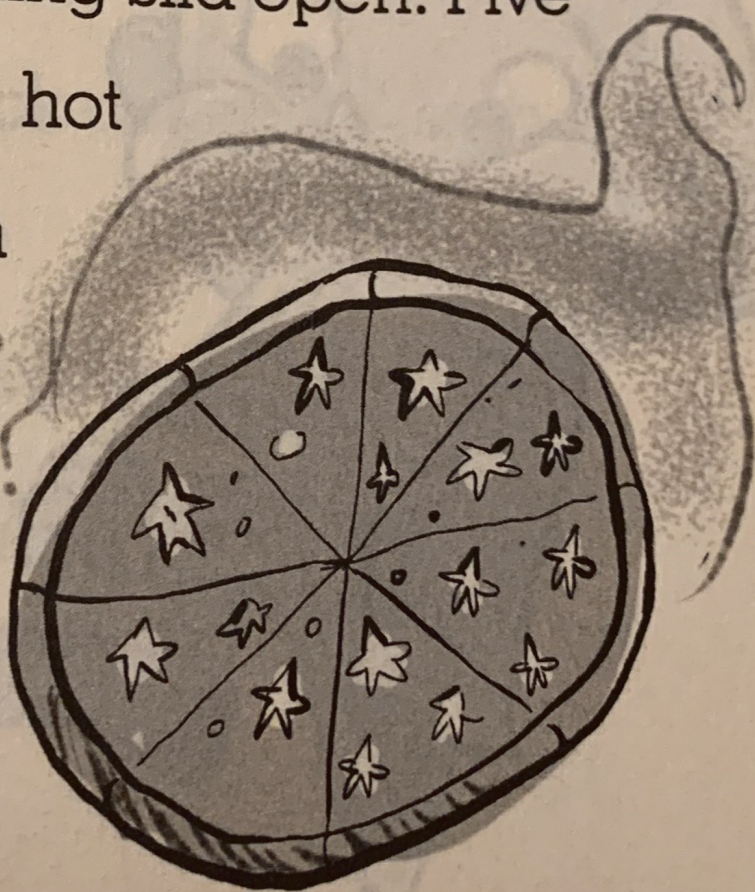
"Right here! Ira, two spaghetti dinners, one pepperoni pizza, and two plates of grilled salmon with baked potatoes."

"Right away, Mr. Nelson," said Ira.

"Ira cooks, too?" Zack wondered aloud.

A panel in the ceiling slid open. Five plates of steaming hot food floated down and landed on the table.

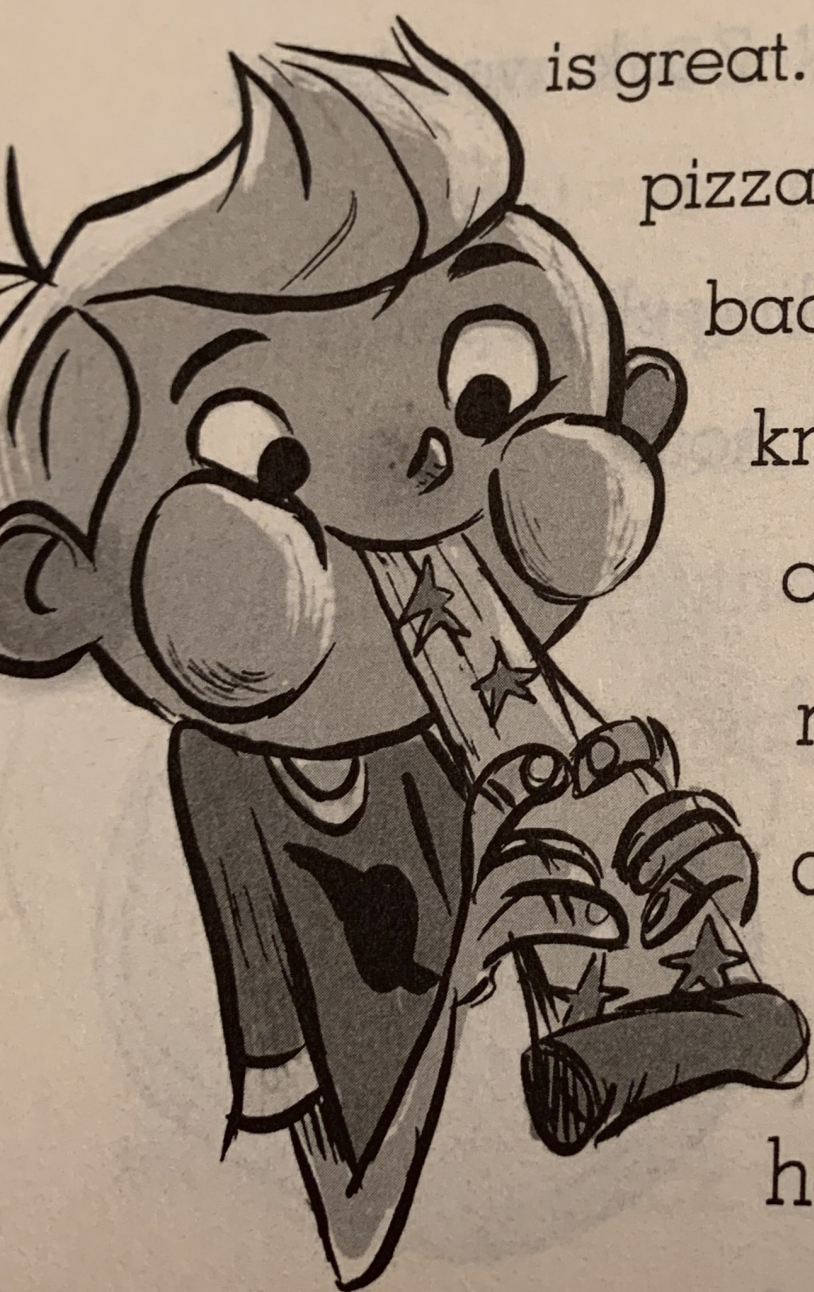
Zack pulled a slice of pizza from

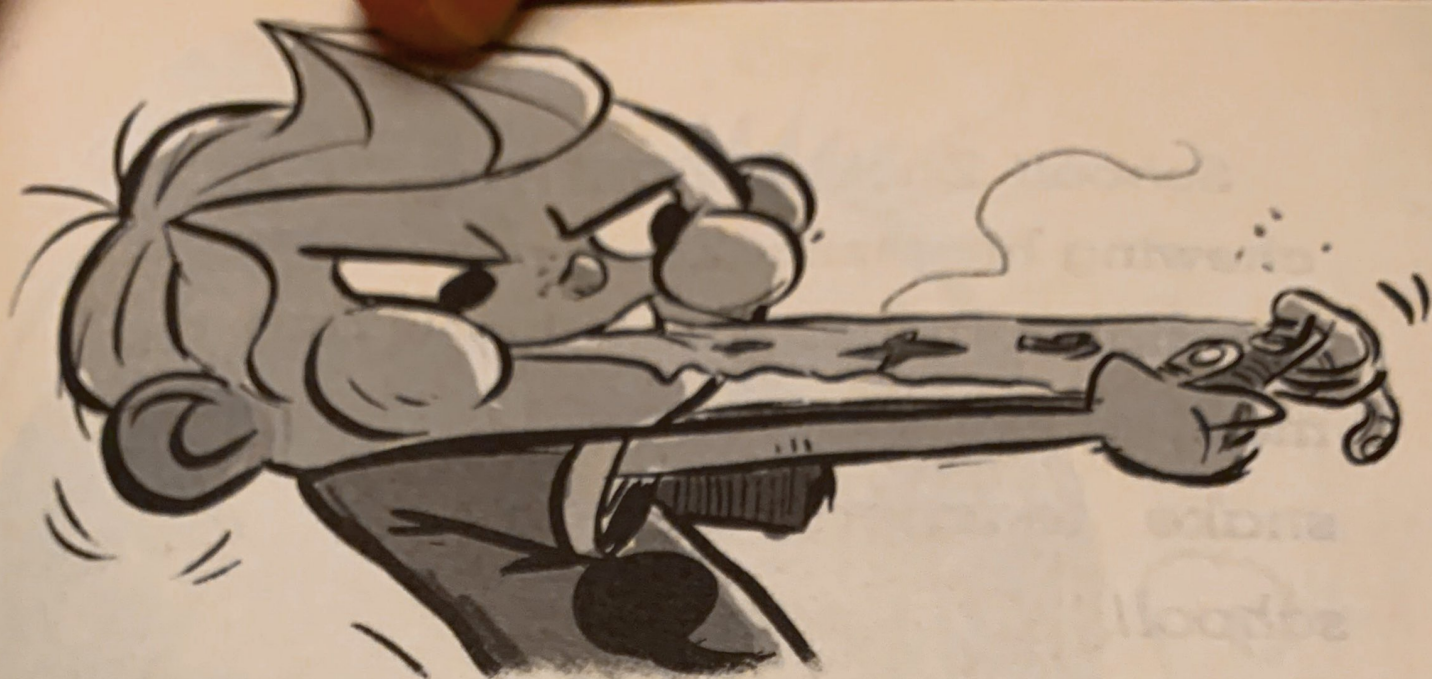


the pie. It had crispy star-shaped pepperoni slices that floated on top of the gooey cheese. As Zack took his first bite he suddenly realized just how hungry he was.

"Wow!" said Zack. "This pizza is great. It tastes just like the pizza at Tip-Top Pizza back on Earth! You know, I think living on Nebulon might not be that bad after all."

"I'm so glad, honey," Mom said.





"After dinner we can make sure that you and your sisters are all ready for tomorrow."

"Tomorrow?" Zack asked through a mouthful of pizza.

"Yes. We've registered you at Sprockets Academy," Mom explained.

"Tomorrow you start school on Nebulon."

School! Zack thought. He stopped chewing his pizza. Zack remembered his nightmare about school, and his monster classmates and two-headed snake teacher. I forgot all about school!

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