





# Chapter 9

# Surprise!

Dad arrived home as Zack pulled up in front of the house. Dad reached into the back of the car and took out a big box with a bright green bow.

"Have I got a surprise for you, buddy," said Dad.

"Hi, Dad. This is my friend Drake."



"Hello, Drake. I think you'll like this too," Dad said.

*Maybe Dad got me a Nebulon bike!*  
thought Zack.

But then Zack heard barking from inside the box. He quickly pulled the lid off. Out jumped Zack's dog, Luna.

"Luna!" Zack shouted. "I didn't think I'd see you so soon!"

Dad smiled. "I knew how much







you missed her, so I put Luna on the next cruiser to Nebulon."

"Thanks, Dad," said Zack.

Luna jumped on Zack and licked his face. Then she jumped up on Drake. She almost knocked him over.





"What is THAT?"  
Drake cried, backing  
away.

"Don't be scared,"  
Zack said. "It's just  
my dog, Luna. She's  
very friendly. Do  
you have a dog?"

"I have never  
seen a real dog before," Drake  
explained.

"Don't they have any dogs on  
Nebulon?" asked Zack.

"No," said Drake. "I think I saw a  
picture once, in a book."





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"Well, here's something else they don't have on Nebulon," Dad said. He reached into the big box and pulled out two candy bars.

"Chocolate Nutty Crunchy Gooney Bars!" Zack said. "My favorite!"







Dad handed one candy bar to Zack and one to Drake. Both boys started munching on the treat.

"Yumzers!" Drake cried.

Zack laughed.

"That's what we say on Nebulon when something tastes really, really, really good!" explained Drake.





"Yumzers!" Zack repeated.

At that moment Mom, Charlotte, and Cathy joined the others outside.

"It's official," Mom announced. "I've decided to open a boutique. I'm going to sell Earth clothing to the women of Nebulon."

"Great idea, honey," Dad said.



"Yay!" Charlotte and Cathy both cheered.

Then Zack's hyperphone began to buzz. He pulled it from his pocket.







"Hi, Bert!"

Zack said  
when the  
video chat  
connected.  
Bert's face  
popped up  
on the small  
screen. "Thanks

for watching Luna.

She just got here."

"Cool," Bert said. "I wanted  
to make sure she got there okay."

"How's life back on Earth?" Zack  
asked.







"Pretty good," Bert replied. "The Explorers Club went on a field trip to Calypso. It was fun."

"That's so cool! I hope my new school has an Explorers Club too," Zack said.

"Do you like living on Nebulon?" Bert asked.

Zack looked at his family. Then he looked at Drake and smiled. "I miss Earth," he said to Bert. "But I think I'm going to like living on Nebulon."