

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

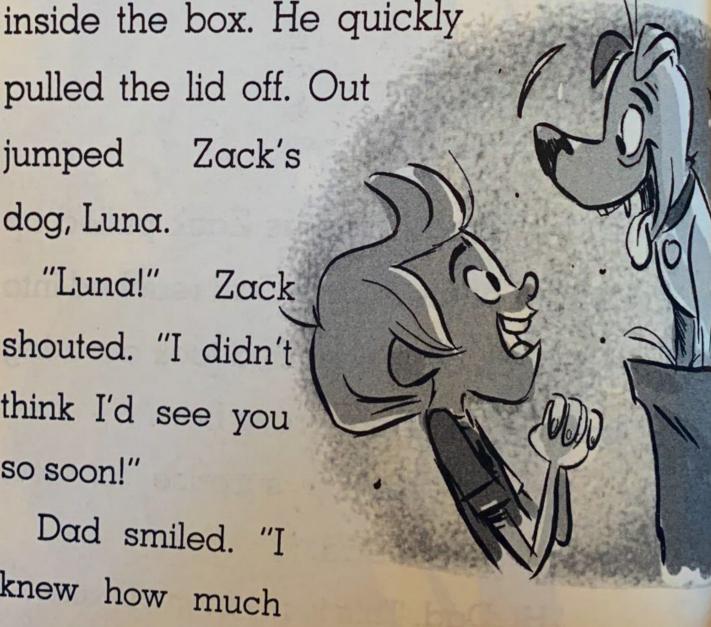
pulled the lid off. Out

jumped Zack's

dog, Luna.

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

Dad smiled. "I knew how much



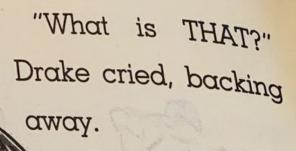


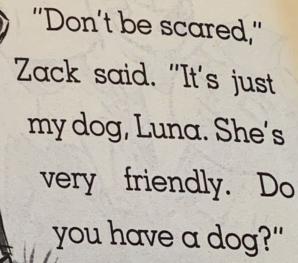
you missed her, so I put Luna on the next cruiser to Nebulon."

"Thanks, Dad," said Zack.

Luna jumped on Zack and licked his face. Then she jumped up on Drake.

She almost knocked him over.



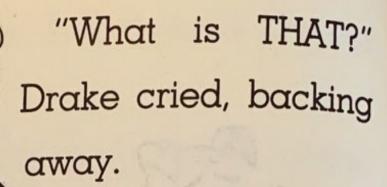


"I have never seen a real dog before," Drake explained.

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

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

"Well, her don't have don't have



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

"I have never

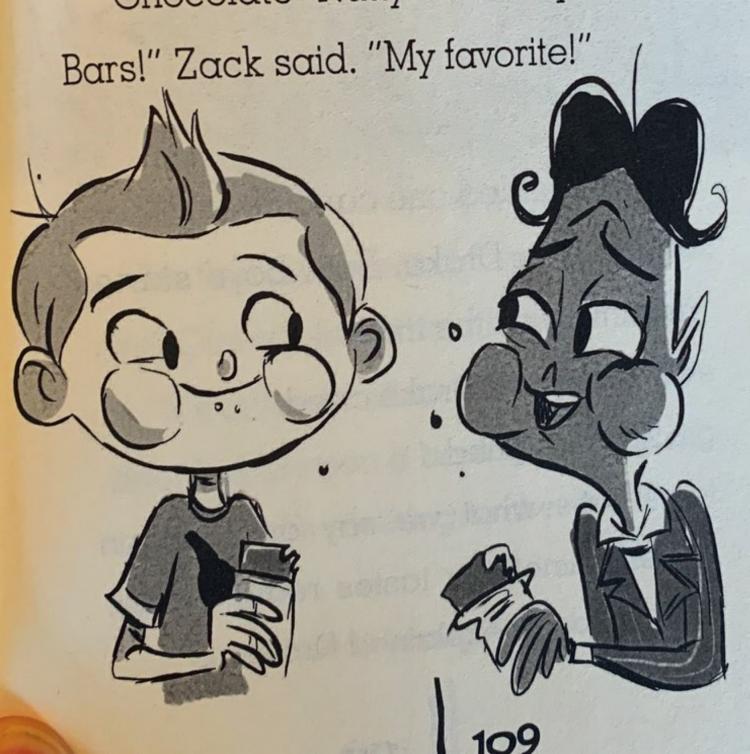
seen a real dog before," Drake explained.

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

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

"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 Gooey



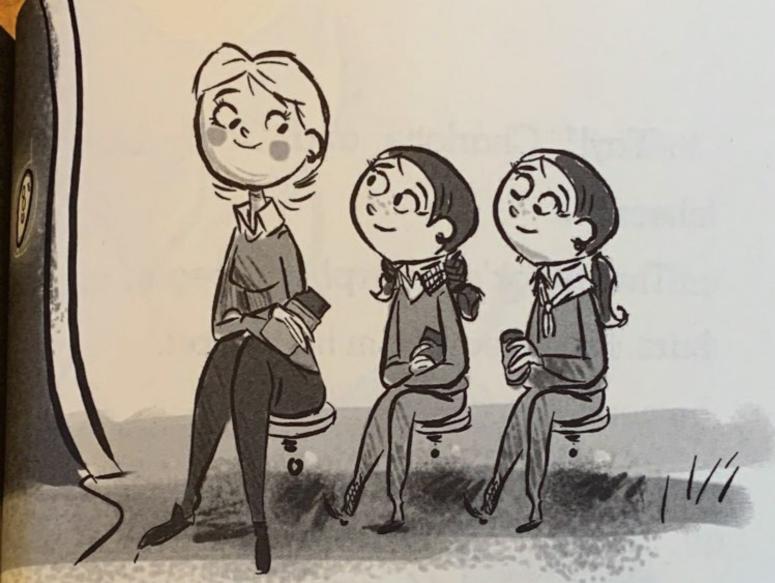


Dad handed one candy bar to Zack and one to Drake. Both boys started munching on the treat.

"Yumzers!" Drake cried.

Zack laughed.

"That's what we say on Nebulon when something tastes really, really, really, 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 looked at Drake and smiled. "I miss Earth," he said to Bert. "But I think I'm going to like living on Nebulon."