

# A ROBOT CALLED E4

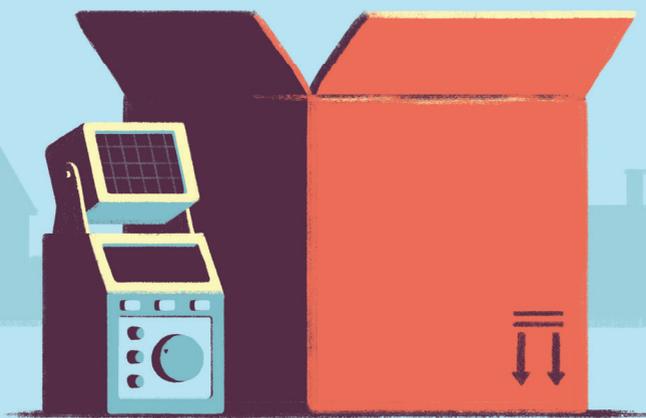


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# A ROBOT CALLED E4

For every young reader in the UK  
and for future generations



**Brought to you by  
Worcester Bosch**

Written by Joe Ivory and  
illustrated by Harry Waine

 **WORCESTER**



**BOSCH**

## CHAPTER 1. THE WEIRD SHED

When Alfie's parents moved house, he really couldn't understand why. The new house was older, dustier and stinkier – plus it was only about five minutes away from the old one.

'Parents are weird,' he thought as they showed him round what would be his new home.

"This will be yours," they said proudly, showing him a big empty cave of a room that smelled like feet.

"Great," he said. 'Parents are very weird,' he thought.

*There were two good things about the new house though.*

1) It was much closer to where his friend Ava lived. They'd known each other since they were babies and did pretty much everything together.

2) It had a huge – A HUGE – garden.

So, while his parents were still unpacking boxes of stuff that only parents seem to need (like vases and clocks and boring paintings), Alfie asked if Ava could come and explore the garden with him. Alfie knew it would be fun, but he also knew that Ava was happy to explore anything and everything, so he wouldn't have to do it on his own.

When she arrived, she was very...well...very Ava about the new house.

"It stinks of cheese and old books and is basically horrible," she announced. "But the garden looks interesting..."





Then she marched off, like Ava always did, stomp, stomp, stomp, down the garden and out of sight, fearless as ever.

Alfie, who preferred to say Ava was ‘bonkers’ rather than ‘fearless’ followed with caution.

It really was massive, this garden. Three huge old dangly, droopy trees towered up some way down it, so big you couldn’t see past them. And as Alfie reached them, trying to see beyond their dense branches, he heard Ava shout from what seemed like a very long way away.

**“Ooooh! Come and see what I’ve found, Alfie!”**

Emerging through the trees, Alfie was amazed to see not just more garden, but A LOT more garden. Double what was in front of the trees at least. And right at the end was Ava, waving.

When Alfie finally got there, he could see why Ava was excited. There, hidden behind a row of tall bushes, was a shed. A very large, very locked, very enticing shed.

**“Let’s go in!”** urged Ava, possibly about to explode with excitement.

“It’s locked,” replied Alfie.

“Way ahead of you,” said Ava, leading him to the back of the shed.

There, a panel had sort-of-broken. Ava pulled it and twisted until it was actually broken, leaving enough room to squeeze in. Which is what she did. Obviously.

“Come on,” she shouted from inside.

“I’m not sure we should,” said Alfie, but he knew they would because...well, Ava...

Alfie followed along and squeezed in too.

“I can’t see a thing!” said Alfie. Suddenly, a beam of light shot out and swept around the shed.

“Brought a torch, didn’t I?” said Ava. “You should always bring a torch.”

They looked around. It was like an Aladdin’s cave. Well, if the cave Aladdin found had been full of strange boxes, weird machines and old computers covered in dust.

“Wow,” gasped Ava. “Who did you buy this house from? Einstein?”

Alfie didn’t know. And he couldn’t really speak. This was an incredible shed, and it was at the end of an incredible garden, so speaking – no chance.



“Look at all this stuff!” shouted Ava.  
“Oh my God, I found a head!”

“What?!” screeched Alfie. “Who is it?”

“Not a *head* head,” said Ava. “A robot head. Look.”

Ava shone her torch at what she’d found. It was, indeed, a robot’s head. And where there is a robot’s head, Alfie thought, there might be a robot’s other bits.

He searched through the same box.  
“Arms, legs – everything!” he cheered.

“You know what this means,” said Ava.

“What?” said Alfie.



“We’re going to build a robot,” replied Ava.

## CHAPTER 2. HOW TO BUILD A ROBOT

After a lot of squeezing in and out of the hole in the shed, Alfie and Ava had all the parts of the robot they could find. They stood there for a moment, just looking at it.

“Wow,” said Ava.

“Very wow,” said Alfie.

“Does your dad have screwdrivers and stuff?”  
Ava asked Alfie.

“Probably,” Alfie replied. “But if I ask him for them, he’ll ask why I want them, and you know how I can’t lie.”

“Oh yeah,” said Ava.

“You do that thing where you can’t speak.”

“Yup,” said Alfie.

“Let’s just see if it...sort of...sticks together.”

“Yeah, right,” said Ava. “No chance.”

Alfie picked up the head and moved it towards what seemed to be the body. There didn’t appear to be a particular place to connect the two parts, so he just lay the body on the floor and placed the head where a head would go.

Next, he got the arms and legs and put them where arms and legs go, until it looked like a fully-made robot lying on its back – but with its head and limbs slightly separated from the body.



“What now?” said Ava.

“Er... no idea,” replied Alfie.

He absent-mindedly gave the head a little tap with his foot.

**'BZZZZZZT!'** went the robot.

“Aaaagh!” went Alfie.

“Cool,” said Ava.

“What’s it doing?” squeaked Alfie,  
having retreated several metres away.

But even from there he could see. From the robot body, little metal poles were emerging – and from the head, legs and arms, little metal sockets were appearing. After a second, the poles and sockets seem to be magnetically drawn to each other and started to click into place.

**'CLUNK!'** they went. **'SHUNK!'**

One by one, the arms joined the body, then the legs, and finally the head until – somehow – the robot had built itself.

“Cooooool,” said Ava.

“Actually,” said Alfie, “That is pretty cool.”

## CHAPTER 3. IT'S ALIVE!

After a minute or so of just sort of lying there making the odd 'FZZZZZT!' noise, the robot fell silent.

"Phew!" laughed Alfie. "I thought it was going to wake up and say someth..."

"INITIATING!" went the robot.

"Woooah!" went Alfie.

"So cooooooooool!" squealed Ava.

The robot sat up. Creakily, with scraping sounds and the occasional spark flying, but it sat up.

"PREPARE FOR LIFT OFF," it buzzed.

"Get back!" yelled Alfie.

"It's going to launch!"

The robot lifted off the ground and stood up.

"Oh," said Alfie. "That kind of lift off."

"HUMANS DETECTED," the robot crackled, and the screen on its chest fizzed into life.

"It knows we're here!" cried Ava. "HELLO, ROBOT!"

Alfie hid.

"HELLO HUMAN," bleeped the robot.  
"IDENTIFY."

"Oh, I'm Ava," replied Ava politely. "And that's Alfie".

Alfie peered out from behind a shrub. "Hello," he whispered.

"HELLO HUMAN AVA AND  
HELLO HUMAN ALFIE," barked the robot,  
spinning from the waist up slightly manically.

"I AM B4. ROBOTIC TIME  
DISTORTION DEVICE."

"Time distortion?" said Alfie.

"Time distortion?" said Ava.

"NAME DESTINATION," said B4.

"What does it mean?" Alfie hissed at Ava.

"Ha ha! Time distortion?" laughed Ava. "Destination? It thinks it's a time machine!"

"CORRECT, HUMAN AVA,"  
blarped B4, waving its arms about.

"150 million years BC!" shouted Ava.

"What?" shouted Alfie.



“Oh, come on Alfie!” laughed Ava.  
“There’s no way it’s a time machine. It must be a prank. I bet whoever built it used to get it out at parties and play tricks on the guests.”

“150 MILLION BC.” crackled B4.  
“LOCKED.”



“I’m not sure going back to when dinosaurs were around is a great idea,” said Alfie.

“Oh, it’ll be fine,” replied Ava. “I’m telling you – there’s no way this is a time machine.”

“INITIATING,” skwonked B4.

“I’ve got a slightly bad feeling about...” began Alfie.

But before he could finish, it happened.

What happened?

Well, first a very bright, purple light shot out of B4. Then a kind of whooshing sound began and got louder and louder. A strange glowing aura emerged from B4 and engulfed them, and everything began to shake – the ground, Alfie’s knees, Ava’s teeth.

And then it all stopped.

“Did it work?” said Alfie. He’d shut his eyes as soon as all the oddness began.

“Oh!” said Ava. “I didn’t expect that!”

“**Did it work?**” shouted Alfie, eyes still closed tight.

“I think so,” whispered Ava.

“I definitely, absolutely think so.”

Alfie opened his eyes. He looked up.

And the dinosaur looked back at him.

## CHAPTER 4. DINOSAURS ARE BIG.

The dinosaur was in fact a diplodocus. More than 20 metres long and 20 tonnes in weight, its huge neck and little head loomed over them, curiously eyeing these strange new creatures.

“Waagh!” yelled Alfie.

“Wooooaaah!” yelled Ava.

“DIPLODOCUS,” blarped B4.  
“HERBIVORE.”

“We’re going to get eaten!” screamed Ava.

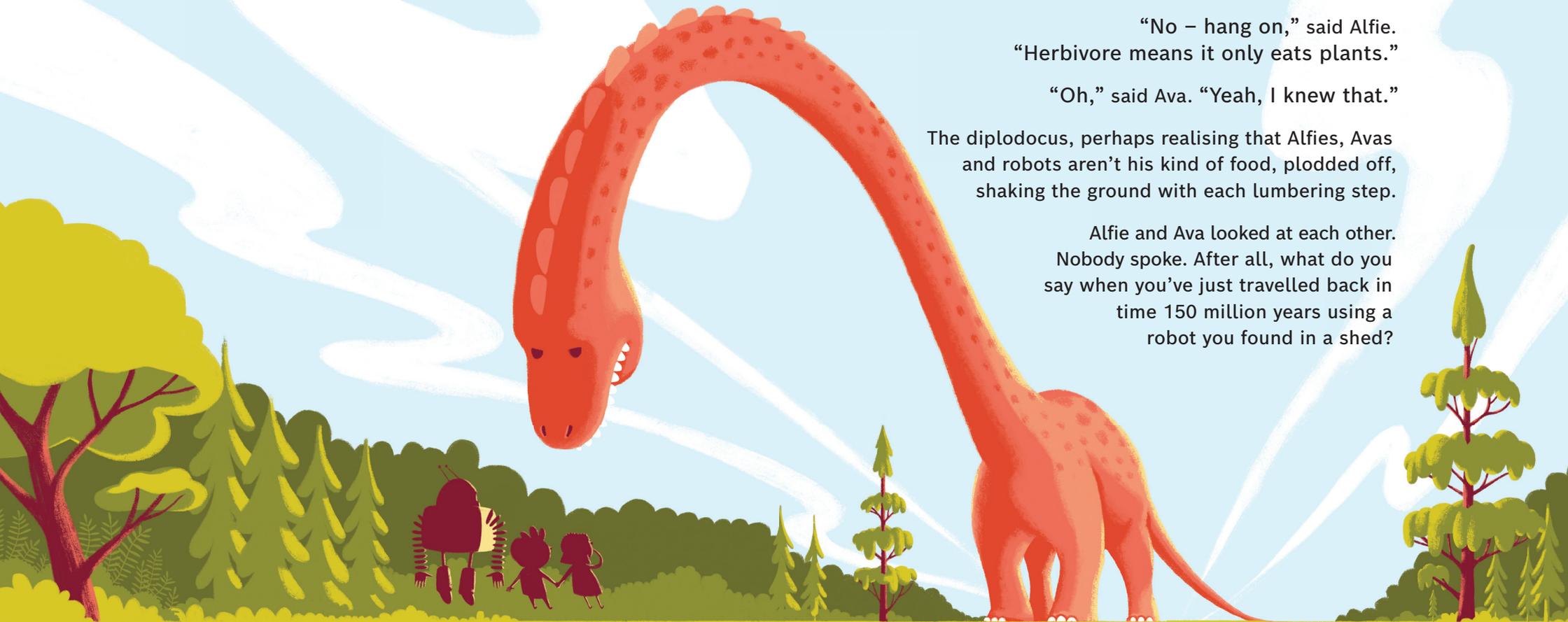
“No – hang on,” said Alfie.

“Herbivore means it only eats plants.”

“Oh,” said Ava. “Yeah, I knew that.”

The diplodocus, perhaps realising that Alfies, Avas and robots aren’t his kind of food, plodded off, shaking the ground with each lumbering step.

Alfie and Ava looked at each other. Nobody spoke. After all, what do you say when you’ve just travelled back in time 150 million years using a robot you found in a shed?



They looked around them. They were on the edge of a wide meadow of deep grass, with a strange, jungle forest all around it. And beyond that, tall, tall hills rose up, topped with rocky cliffs and crags.

High above them, huge featherless birds circled and swooped. Occasionally, something in the distance would let out an eerie screech.

Finally, Alfie said, “Well, I think that’s quite enough dinosaur stuff for one day and can we go home now please?”

“Go home?” Ava replied quickly. “**Go home?** Look at this place, Alfie! It’s amazing! And so green.”

“It really is...” agreed Alfie.

“And clear and clean!” continued Ava. “Not like home! Let’s at least have a little look around first.”

“Yeah, I suppose...” muttered Alfie.

“Let’s look in that forest!” said Ava, marching off, like Ava always did, stomp, stomp, stomp across the meadow.



After a few strides, she had vanished into the long grass.

“Why does she always do that?” Alfie asked B4.

**“ANSWER UNKNOWN.”** B4 buzzed back.

“Yes,” replied Alfie. “I know.”

Just as Alfie was about to trudge after Ava, he heard something that sounded a lot like Ava shouting.

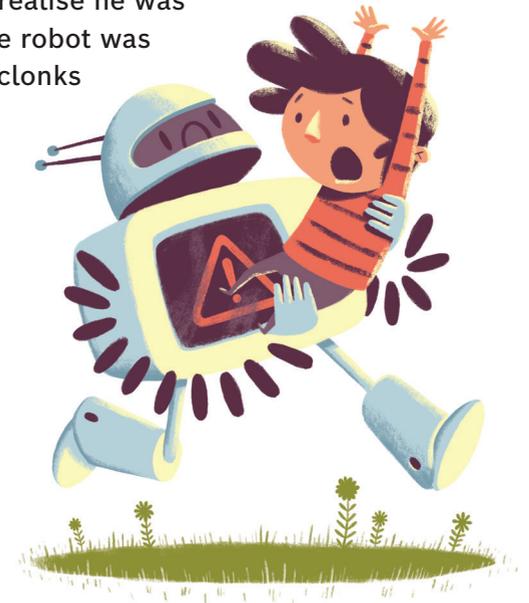
He realised it was, indeed, Ava shouting when she burst through the grass yelling **“Ruuuuunnnn!”** at the top of her voice.

Not entirely sure what was going on, Alfie watched as Ava sprinted past him. When suddenly he saw the heads of several very angry-looking dinosaurs as they ran across the meadow towards him, he realised exactly what was going on.

**“ESCAPE MODE INITIATED.”**

blooped B4, and Alfie felt himself being picked up.

It took him a moment to realise he was in B4’s arms, and that the robot was sprinting fast with noisy clonks and bonks after Ava.





Over B4's shoulder, Alfie could see what was chasing them. Three tall, fearsome lizards with spiny heads, massive jaws and rows of horribly long teeth. And they were closing fast.

**"ALLOSAAURUS DETECTED!"** blarped B4.  
**"CARNIVORE! ESCAPE! ESCAPE!"**

"Carnivore?" yelled Alfie. **"CARNIVORE?"**

Alfie saw B4 was heading for the edge of a thick clump of trees – and then he heard Ava shouting **"Up here!"**

Somehow, she had managed to scramble up to the top of the tallest tree she could find. Alfie turned to look at the allosauruses. They were now so close he could see just how sharp those teeth were.

**"They're going to get UUUUUUUSSSSSSSSSSSSSS!"**  
he howled.

Alfie wasn't howling the word 'US' because he was being munched by an allosaurus. He was howling the word 'US' because he was flying through the air, up, up, up, whizzing towards Ava at the top of the tree.

Alfie flopped into the tree's big, soft leaves, grabbed hold tight and pulled himself to safety next to Ava.

"What h-happened?" stuttered Alfie.

**"B4 threw you!"** replied Ava, not quite able to believe it.

They both looked down. All they could see was a mob of angry allosauruses tramping and screeching at the foot of the tree – allosauruses which quickly started fighting with each other when it appeared that their prey had escaped. After a lot of screeching and biting, they tore off in different directions across the meadow.

At the base of the tree, there was nothing left but trampled grass and broken bushes.

"He's gone," said Alfie quietly.

**"B4 has gone."**

## CHAPTER 5. STRANDED.

After shouting for B4 from the top of the tree (and then being very quiet when they realised that shouting was attracting more dinosaurs with very sharp teeth), Alfie and Ava clambered down.

There was no sign of the robot, not even a footprint.

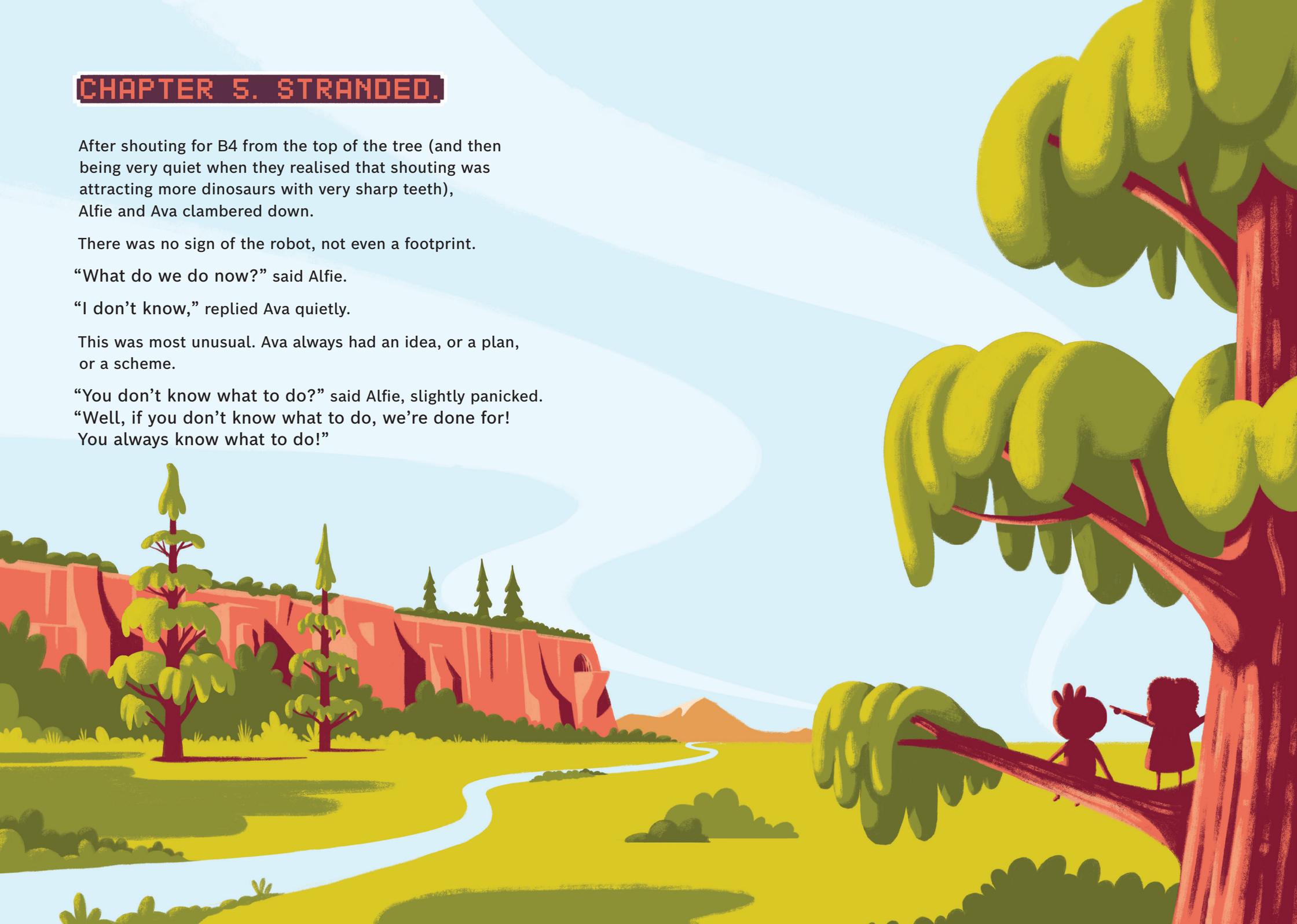
“What do we do now?” said Alfie.

“I don’t know,” replied Ava quietly.

This was most unusual. Ava always had an idea, or a plan, or a scheme.

“You don’t know what to do?” said Alfie, slightly panicked.

“Well, if you don’t know what to do, we’re done for! You always know what to do!”



“I think I might have gone a bit far this time, Alfie,” said Ava, her voice trembling.  
“How are we going to get home?”

Alfie wasn't used to this. He'd never seen Ava scared or even slightly worried. And he didn't like it. It made him feel a bit... well, silly. Silly, because he shouldn't have to rely on his friend all the time – and he had always relied on her. Now Ava needed to rely on him – and rely on him she could!

“Right,” said Alfie, decisively. “I'm not really used to this but listen. We're going to find B4 and he's going to take us home.”

“But how?” replied Ava.

“We're going to think like a robot,” said Alfie, feeling more decisive with every second.  
“Actually, we're going to think like our robot.”

“Okay,” said Ava.

“We know B4 built himself, right?” said Alfie.  
“So, if he could build himself – like he did in the garden at home – maybe he can repair himself.”

“Right,” said Ava. “Makes sense.”

Alfie was starting to enjoy this having-a-plan thing.  
“If those allosauruses damaged him...”

“Allo-what-nows?”, interrupted Ava.

“Allosauruses – the dinosaurs that...actually, don't worry about it – if they damaged him, he'll need to fix himself,” said Alfie.  
“And where would a robot fix itself?”

They looked around. For the first time, they actually, really noticed the world they were now in.

“**Wow,**” said Ava. “**It's pretty amazing, isn't it?**”

“**It really is,**” said Alfie.  
“**Look how green everything is.**”

“It's not like this at home,” said Ava.  
“It's all concrete and roads and grey buildings there. And there's plastic everywhere.”

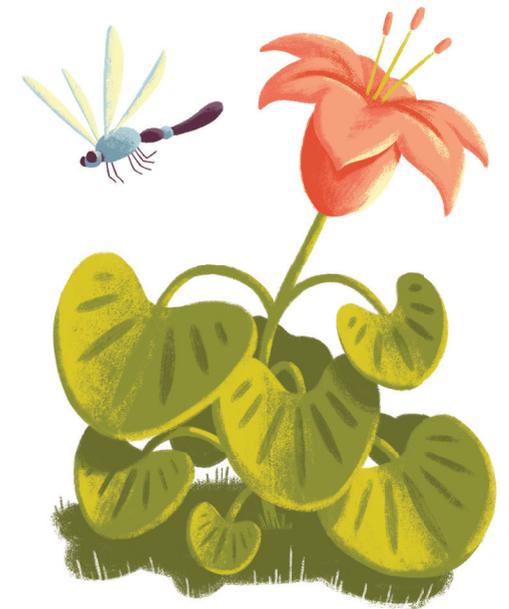
“Look at the forest over there,” said Alfie.  
“And all these different plants. There are millions.”

“And those caves up there,” said Ava, pointing up to the steep cliffs at the edge of the meadow.

“**Wow,**” said Alfie. “**They're amaz...wait a minute.**”

They both turned to each other.

“**Caves!**” they shouted together.  
“**That's where a robot would fix itself!**”



## CHAPTER 6. ALONG WAY UP AND A LONG WAY HOME

Alfie and Ava discovered fairly quickly that climbing a steep cliff isn't very easy. In fact, it's incredibly hard. So hard that, unless you were a professional mountaineer, you might as well not bother.

After a fifth attempt to get even a short way up, they stopped trying.

"That cliff does not want to be climbed," said Alfie, peering up to the top.

"Stupid cliff," said Ava.

"We need some other way of getting up there."

Just then, they heard a screech. Above them, a huge flying dinosaur flapped out of a tree and soared up to the top of the cliffs.

"Remember when we were up that tree," Ava said, thoughtfully. "Did you notice the eggs?"

"No," replied Alfie.

"I was concentrating on the flesh-eating lizards."

"There were eggs," continued Ava.

"And I bet I know where they came from."

Alfie looked at Ava. She had that familiar look – the one that ends with a dangerous, slightly crazy plan. But this time, Alfie wasn't scared. In fact, he found himself having a dangerous, slightly crazy plan himself.



"Up a tree?" asked Ava.

"Up a tree!" agreed Alfie.

Minutes later, they had both scrambled to the top of the tree the flying dinosaur had come from. There, nestled in a nest of leaves and twigs, were three huge eggs.



“Right,” said Ava. “Now...”

“Now we wait,” said Alfie.

And wait they did. For a while. And then a bigger while. And then even more of a while. But finally, the flying lizard was back. Up close, it was much bigger than they thought. Covered in a fuzzy kind of fur, it didn't look as scary as the allosauruses.

“Wait for it...” whispered Ava.

“Wait for it...” whispered Alfie.

“**Now!**” they both yelled.

As the creature launched on its next flight, they both reached out and grabbed a leg.

“**Wooohoooo!**” yelled Ava.

“**This is awesome!**” yelled Alfie.

Up they flew, each beat of the dinosaur's wings taking them higher and higher – barely noticing the two humans dangling from its long legs. Below them, they could see the meadow stretching out to a beautiful wide lake, with forests and mountains beyond it.

In just a few seconds, they were closing in on the top of the cliff. Just as the dinosaur reached the edge they let go and fell, tumbling and rolling across the ground, laughing as they went.

“**Ha ha ha! That was the best thing ever!**” shouted Alfie, jumping up and down.

The dinosaur landed a few metres away from them. Then it turned and looked their way.

“Ah,” said Alfie. “I know that look. That look reminds me of an allosaurus.”

“It does have very large teeth, doesn't it?” said Ava nervously.

But just as the dinosaur was turning to face them, a sound came from the cave.

**"PTEROSAUR DETECTED!  
PTEROSAUR DETECTED!"**

The dinosaur – well, the pterosaur – flew away in an instant, startled by the strange mechanical voice.

**"B4!"** yelled Alfie and Ava, running into the cave to find the robot, covered in dents and scratches but in one piece.

**"Please take us home!"** shouted Alfie and Ava again and again.

**"REPAIRS NEARING COMPLETION,"** blonked B4. **"ONE HOUR REQUIRED."**

**"Carry on!"** said Alfie happily. **"But hurry up!"**

While they waited for B4 to finish fixing himself, Alfie and Ava stood on the cliff edge and looked out. As far as they could see, there was nothing but green trees, rolling hills, beautiful mountains and clear, brilliant skies. And all over the landscape they could spot creatures of a thousand different shapes and sizes, running, grazing, flying.



“Just look at it,” said Alfie.

“This is what the world used to look like.”

“It’s very scary,” said Ava. “But it’s very, very beautiful.”

“It’ll almost be a shame to go home to all that concrete,” said Alfie.

“Almost...” said Ava. “I won’t miss the dinosaurs trying to eat us, but it’d be nice if our world looked like this.”

“Well, this is our world,” replied Alfie.

“We’ve just...sort of...ruined it a bit.”

**“REPAIRS COMPLETE,”** splonked B4. Now, he was standing next to them, surveying the incredible view beneath them.

“How many times have you travelled back in time?” Alfie asked him.

**“1,756 TIME DISTORTIONS LOGGED,”** buzzed B4.

**“Crikey!”** said Ava.

“And was the world always in a better state when you went back?” continued Alfie.

“Was the planet always healthier in the past?”

B4 whirred and crackled. **“AFFIRMATIVE,”** he fizzed.

“So, the planet is getting more and more poorly all the time?” said Ava.

B4 whirred and crackled a bit more. **“AFFIRMATIVE,”** he blooped as he walked into the cave. **“AFFIRMATIVE.”**

Neither Alfie nor Ava knew what to say, so they didn’t say anything. They just took a long, last look at the amazing world they’d visited.

Then they stepped back from the cliff edge, back to B4 and back home.



## CHAPTER 7. A DIFFERENT WORLD.

Alfie and Ava ran up the garden, into the house and straight into Alfie's parents.

**"Woah!"** said Alfie's dad, laughing.  
"Where have you two been?"

Alfie and Ava looked at each other.

"That's not important," said Alfie quickly.  
"What's important is that we've been talking and decided that we need to take better care of the planet and stop making a mess of it because it used to be much nicer than it is now."

Now it was Alfie's parents who looked at each other.

"Wow," said Alfie's mum. "You went into the garden as normal kids and you've come back as eco-warriors! What happened down there?"

"Nothing!" said Alfie before changing the subject as quickly as possible. "We learned all about this at school. What kind of recycling will we be doing in this new house? And what about energy – we need to be careful with energy."

"And do you have plans for composting?"  
Ava continued. "Using rainwater?  
What about reducing the plastics you use?  
Have you thought about any of this?"

Alfie's parents stared at them.

"Well, you'd better start," said Alfie, running back into the garden with Ava. "B4 it's too late!" They both laughed.

"Good one!" said Ava, disappearing into the distance.

Alfie's parents looked at each other.

"B4?" they said at exactly the same time.



We've had a long interest in the environment at Worcester Bosch and as far back as 2000 (probably when some of your parents were your age!) we've been running art competitions for young people to share their idea of the 'environment and the home'. Over the years we've had some wonderful, creative entries.

More than 20 years later, we're still holding our competition but we've made some changes to the way you send in – we used to ask you to send it in via the post but we realised that this means that you have to spend money packaging it up and posting it off and then you'll never get to enjoy the art again – so now we are asking you to get an adult to help you take a really good photo of the art you create using a phone or any digital camera and then to upload it to our site. It's really simple and it means you can still put your artwork on your fridge or take it to school to show your class so it's much better really.

Why not have a try? You could include B4, Alfie and Ava in your artwork or you could just use your imagination to create your ideas on the environment – we love receiving your entries. You can find all the details on this webpage ([www.worcesterbosch.co.uk/env2050](http://www.worcesterbosch.co.uk/env2050)) and there are age categories from age 3 right up to 18 so if you have a younger or older brother or sister who likes art then you could get them involved in sending their art in too.



**From all of us at Worcester Bosch, we hope you enjoyed the adventures of Alfie, Ava and B4 as much as we did.**

You might be wondering why a company that makes boilers is interested in saving the planet.... Well, it's really important to us that we work hard to make sure that our products are as efficient they can be and use the least amount of the earth's resources as possible. We try to behave in a way that whatever we do, we protect the earth for future generations – and that's you and any children you might have when you grow up.

That's basically what we're about – Warming Lives... Providing hot water to make sure you have a warm bath or a hot shower and also to make your home warm is why we make the products we make .... But warmth comes in many forms, and it's also about bringing smiles and warmth to people, like yourselves, reading our new bedtime story to help prepare you for a peaceful night's sleep and a great tomorrow.

We also know how valuable the planet is to the billions of people and animals (but, sadly, not dinosaurs!) living on it. And we want to help look after this wonderful world together. A Robot Called B4 may only be a story, but imagine what kind of a future we could all achieve if everyone shared the same care for our environment!

So we encourage you, our loyal reader, to be like Alfie and Ava and join us in trying new ideas, taking risks, and making a positive difference.

Together, let's warm lives, let's protect our future – and let's change our world for the better.

Do you want to know more about what we do to make the world a better place? Perhaps you want to conduct your own energy saving experiments at home to show your friends and family. You may even want to build your own B4 robot!  
*For all this and more, please visit*  
[www.worcester-bosch.co.uk/storybook](http://www.worcester-bosch.co.uk/storybook)



When Alfie and Ava find a strange box of mechanical parts at the back of the shed in Alfie's new house, they make an amazing discovery: when they put all the bits together, they make a robot.

**Even more amazing, it works!**

They soon discover that this robot is called B4 – and he claims to be able to take people to any point in history. That's how Alfie and Ava travel 150 million years back in time to a world crammed with dinosaurs – some of them distinctly unfriendly!

**“A Robot Called B4 has taught me how much we need to take care of our planet, treat it well, and work together with our friends.”** – Holly aged 8

**“A time-travelling adventure that makes me want to help save the planet.”** – Ryan aged 9

Part No.  
8-716-121-936



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