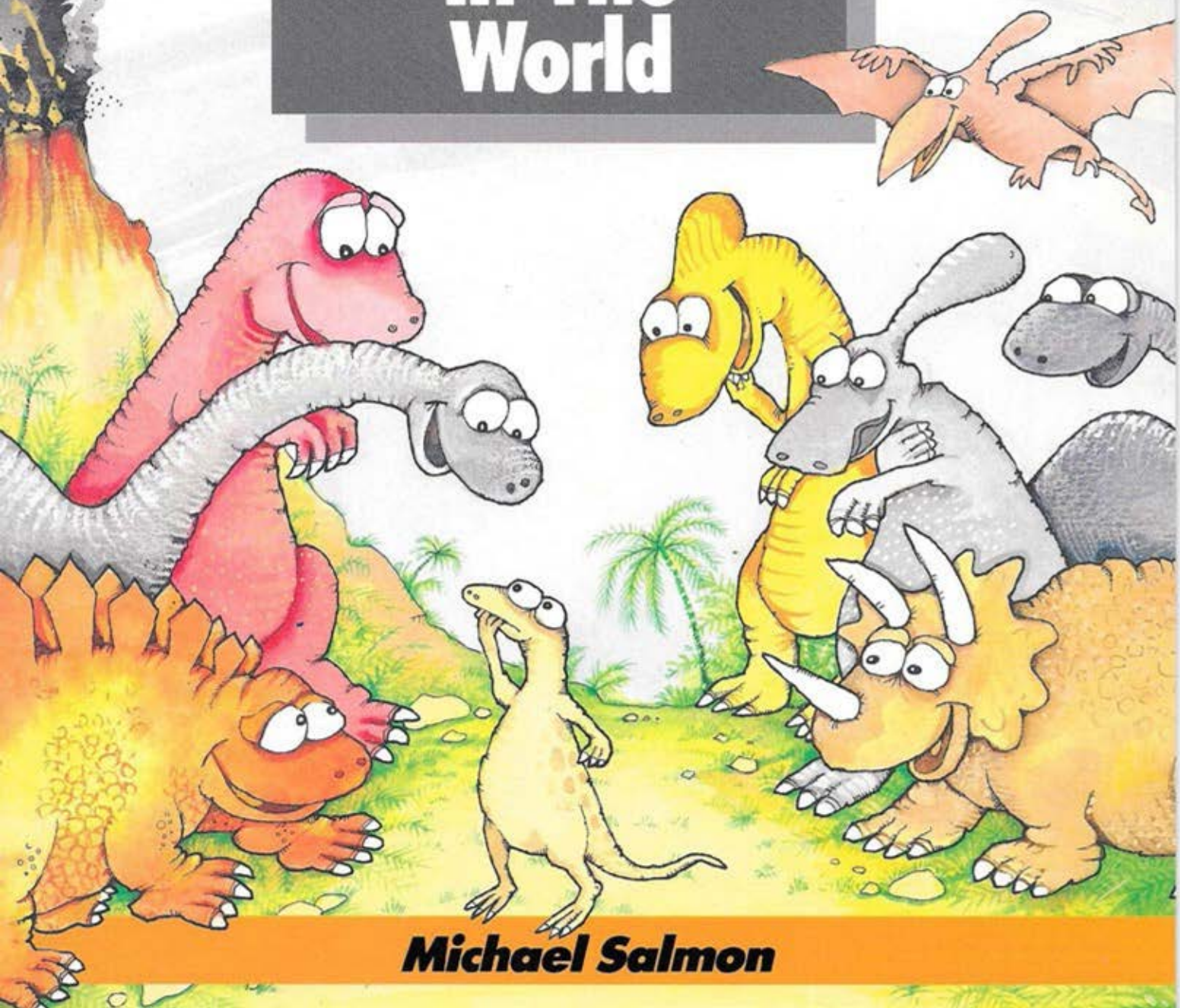


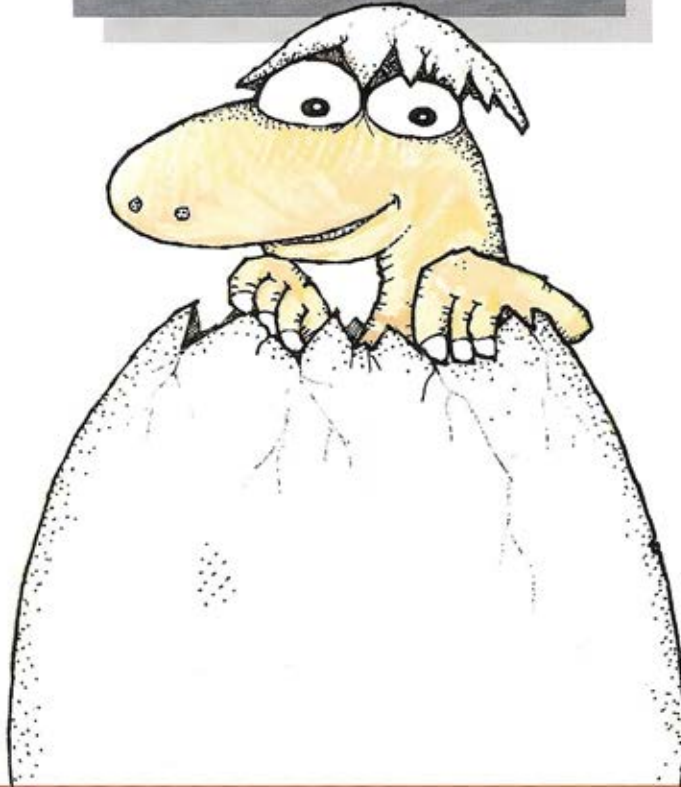
# The Smallest **DINOSAUR**

In The  
World



**Michael Salmon**

The Smallest  
**DINOSAUR**  
In The  
World



Written and illustrated by  
*Michael Salmon*

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# DINOSAURS

The Dinosaurs were land animals that ruled the world for over 140 million years. The last Dinosaurs died out about 60 million years before people first appeared.

The name Dinosaurs means "terrible lizards". They were a special group of prehistoric reptiles, and their closest living relatives are the crocodiles.

Dinosaurs grew far larger than any land animal alive today. Just one of the largest dinosaurs would have weighed more than 1,500 people!

However, there were some dinosaurs that grew no bigger than a chicken. They came in many shapes and sizes, some plodded on all fours, some walked and ran on their hind legs like ostriches.

There were both fierce meat-eating dinosaurs and ones that ate plants. Some lived on hills, others roamed low plains and dry areas. Most preferred the lush forests that covered large areas of the Earth.

It wasn't until the last century that people realised that dinosaurs actually had existed. Since then, thousands of skeletons have been collected all over the world.

## COMPSOGNATHUS

The Compsognathus, the smallest dinosaur ever discovered was only the size of a chicken! about 60 cm (2ft) long. It had tiny arms with a long neck and a very long tail. The Compsognathus was a swift hunter of small game and was quick enough to catch and eat small lizards as it darted through the undergrowth. It may also have helped itself to the remains of other dinosaurs killed by its much bigger relatives.

### HOW TO PRONOUNCE THE DINOSAUR AND PREHISTORIC ANIMAL NAMES IN THIS BOOK

COMPSOGNATHUS — COMP-SOG—NAY-THUS —  
(Pretty jaw)

PARASAUROLOPHUS — PAR-A-SAWR-AH-LUF-US  
(Crested lizard)

POLACANTHUS — POL-A-KAN-THUS (Many spined)

IGUANODON — IG-WA-NO-DON (Toothed lizard)

DIPLODOCUS — DIP-LOD-UH-KUS (Double beam)

TRICERATOPS — TRY-SERA-TOPS (Three horned face)

ULTRASAUROS — ULTRA-SAW-RUS (Biggest Lizard)

ORNITHOMIMUS — OR-NITH-OH-MIME-US (Bird like)

QUETZALCOATLUS — KEET-SOL-KO-AT-LUS

(Winged serpent)

PTEROSAUR — TAIR-UH-SAWR (Winged lizard)

TYRANNOSAURUS REX — TIE-RAN-UH-SAW-RUS REX

(Tyrant lizard king)





**CRAA . .CK!**

In the warm sand, at the edge of a swamp, a tiny dinosaur egg broke open. Cecil, the baby compsognathus, peeped out.

Nearby, other eggs began to open, and baby dinosaurs of all shapes and sizes started to appear.



Cecil looked at the other babies,  
then felt his head.  
He didn't have a crest like the baby  
parasaurolophus.

Cecil felt his back.  
He didnt have spikes like the baby  
polacanthus.

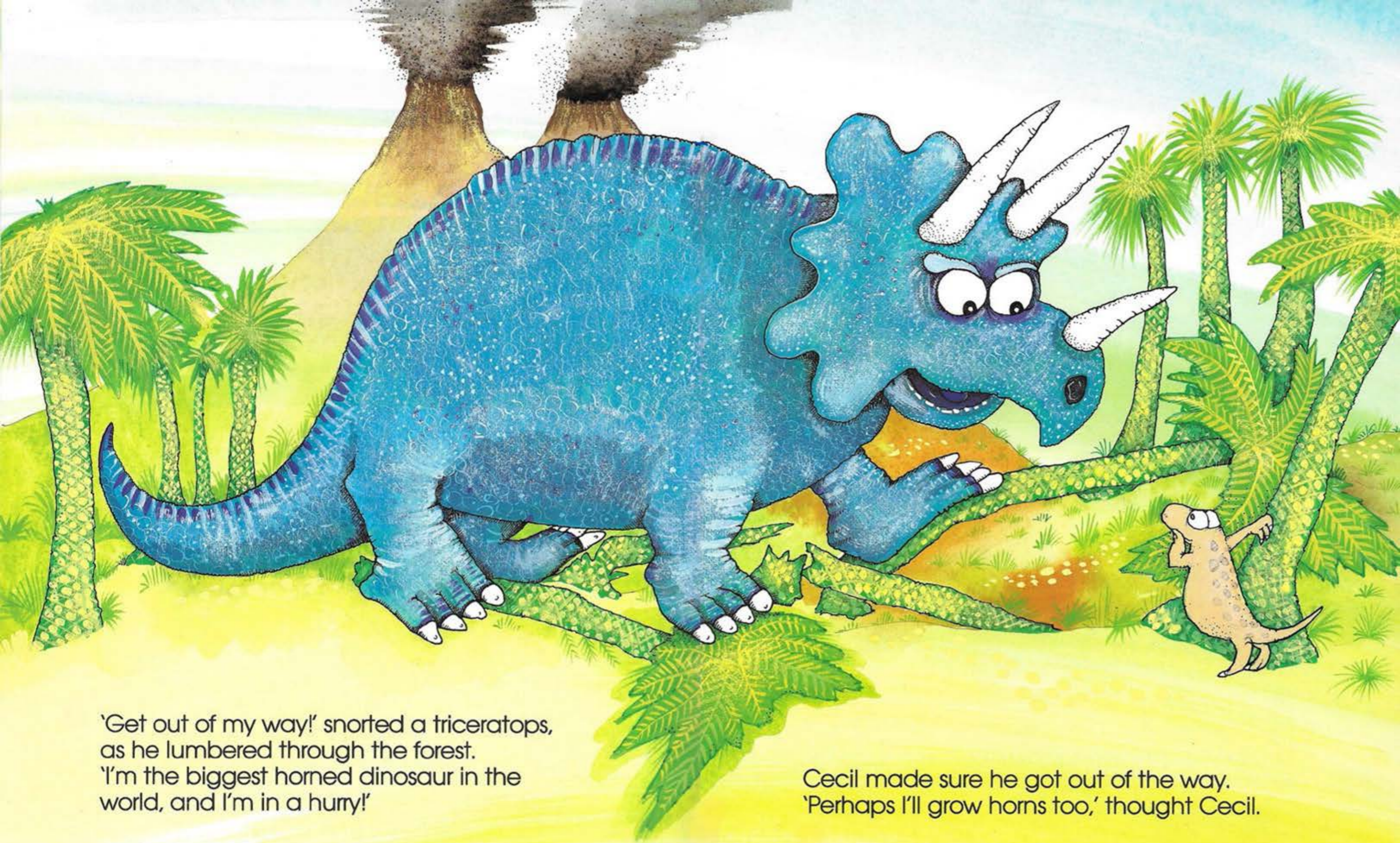
Cecil looked at his fingers.  
He didn't have a spiked thumb like the  
baby iguanodon.





As the weeks went by, the other dinosaurs grew bigger and bigger, but Cecil didn't. One day, as Cecil walked near the forest he wondered what might be special about a compsognathus!

'Look out!' shouted a diplodocus, 'I don't want to tread on you. I'm the longest dinosaur in the world and I'm in a hurry.' Cecil ran to one side. 'Perhaps someday I'll grow as long as he is,' thought Cecil.



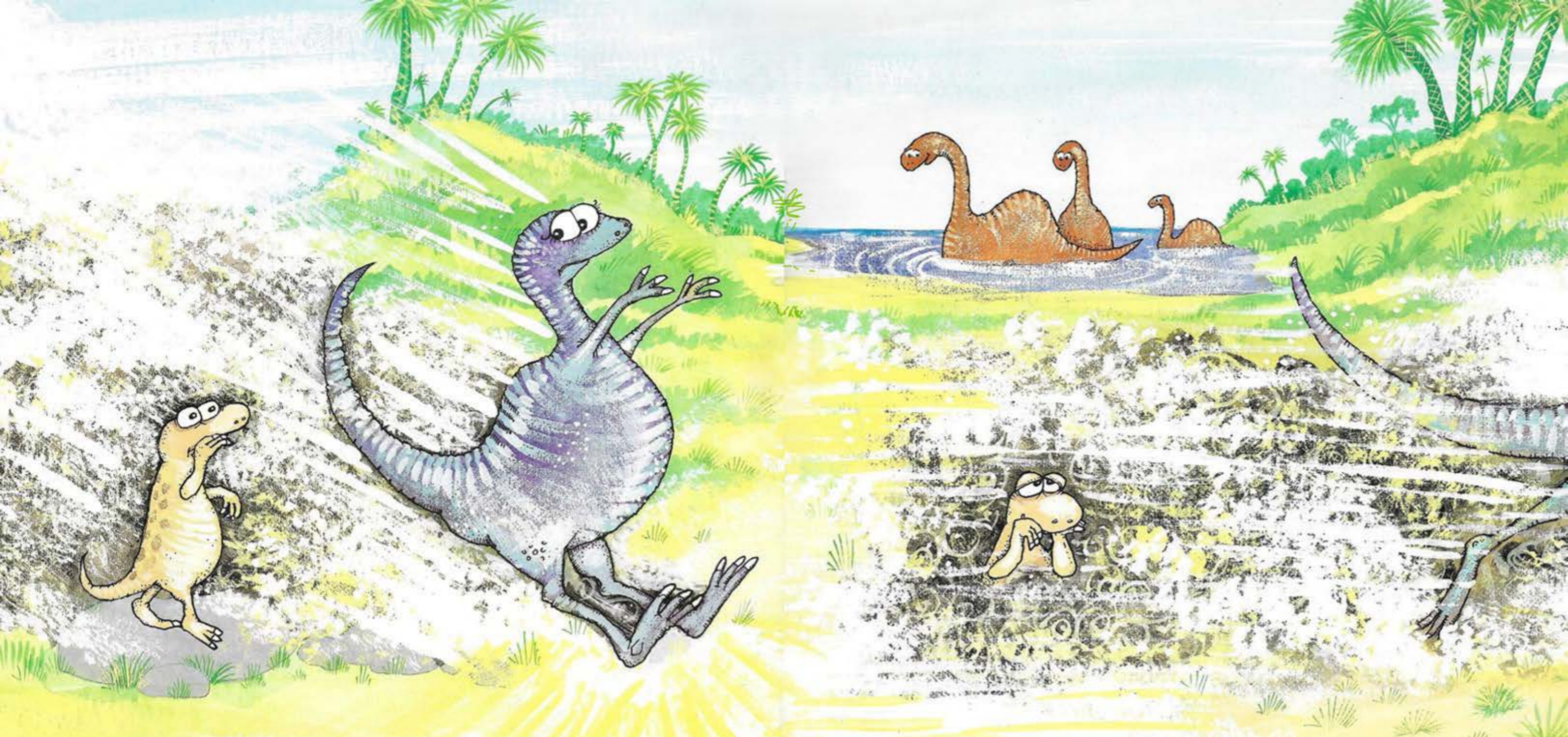
'Get out of my way!' snorted a triceratops, as he lumbered through the forest. 'I'm the biggest horned dinosaur in the world, and I'm in a hurry!'

Cecil made sure he got out of the way. 'Perhaps I'll grow horns too,' thought Cecil.



Just then the ground shook and a huge ultrasaurus hurried by. 'Make way for the largest and tallest dinosaur in the world!' said the ultrasaurus.

'Perhaps I'll grow as big as the ultrasaurus,' thought Cecil, and as he walked on he began to wonder why everyone was in such a hurry.



**WHOOSHI!**

An ornithomimus rushed up and screeched to a halt in a cloud of dust.

'I'm the fastest dinosaur in the world!' said the ornithomimus, and with another

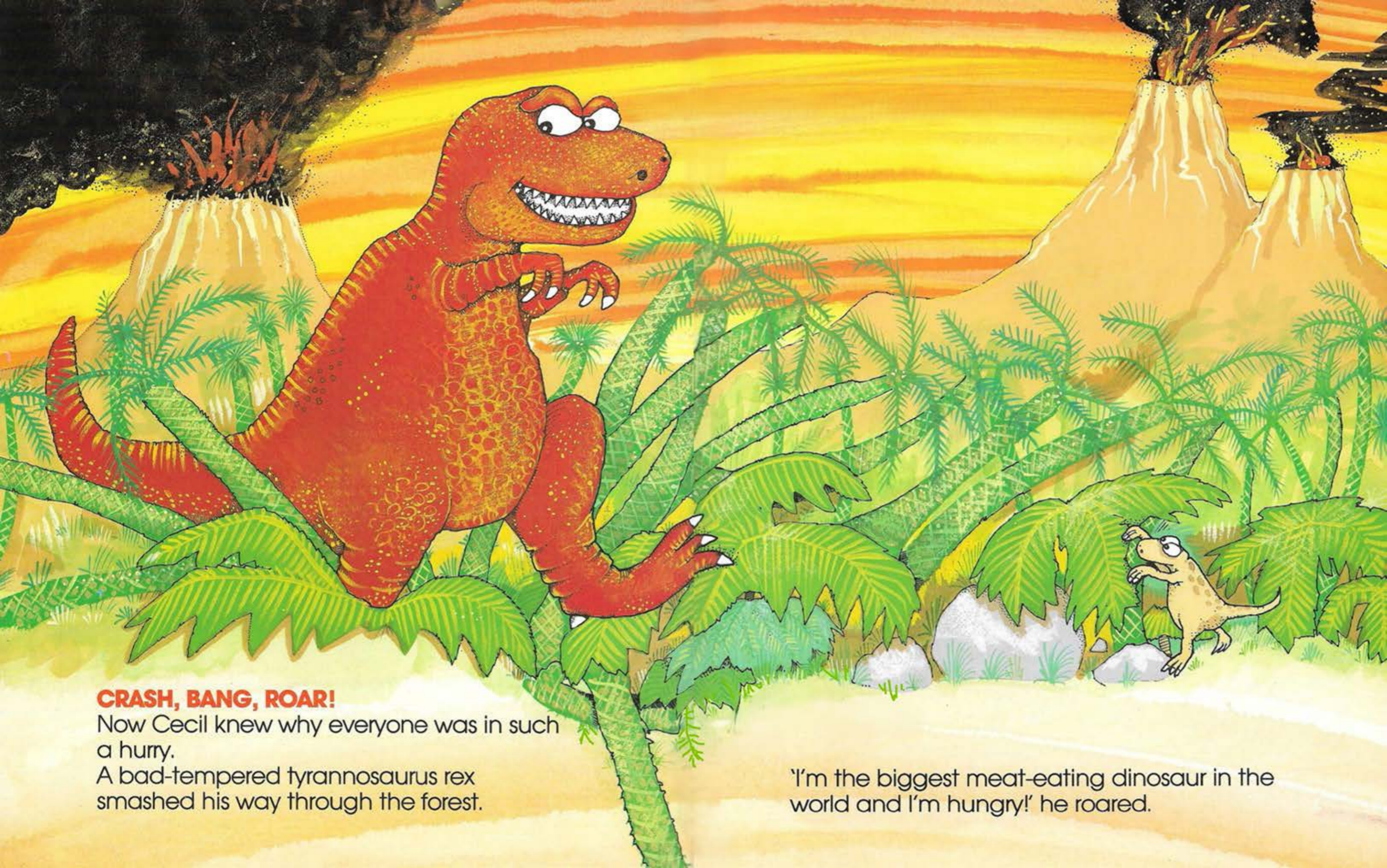
**WHOOSHI!** she was gone.

'Perhaps I'll be able to run as fast as she can,' thought Cecil, as the cloud of dust cleared.



Soon, a giant shape blotted out the sun, casting a long shadow across the swamp. It was a quetzalcoatlus!

'I'm the largest flying pterosaur in the world!' said the quetzalcoatlus, as he glided past Cecil.

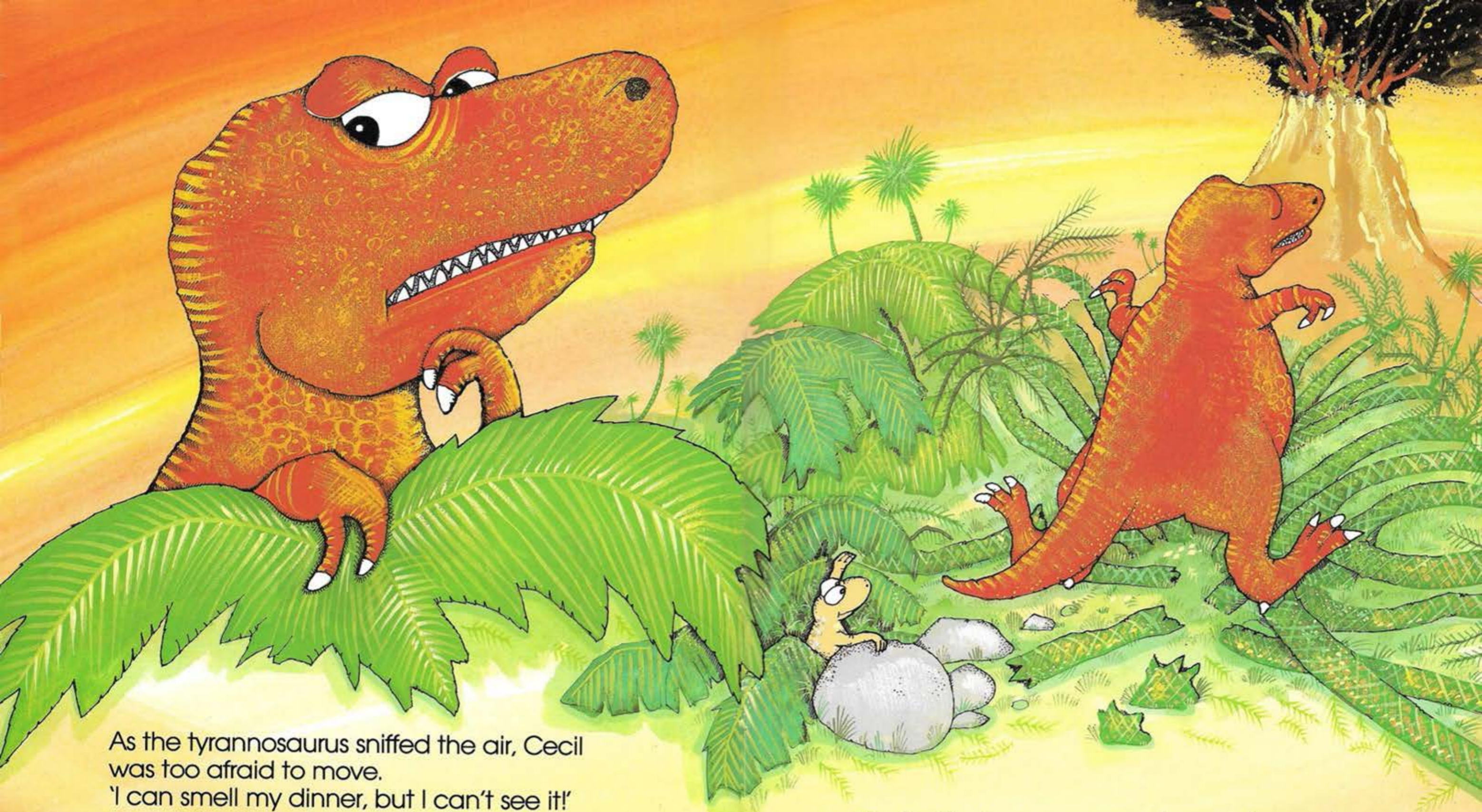


**CRASH, BANG, ROAR!**

Now Cecil knew why everyone was in such a hurry.

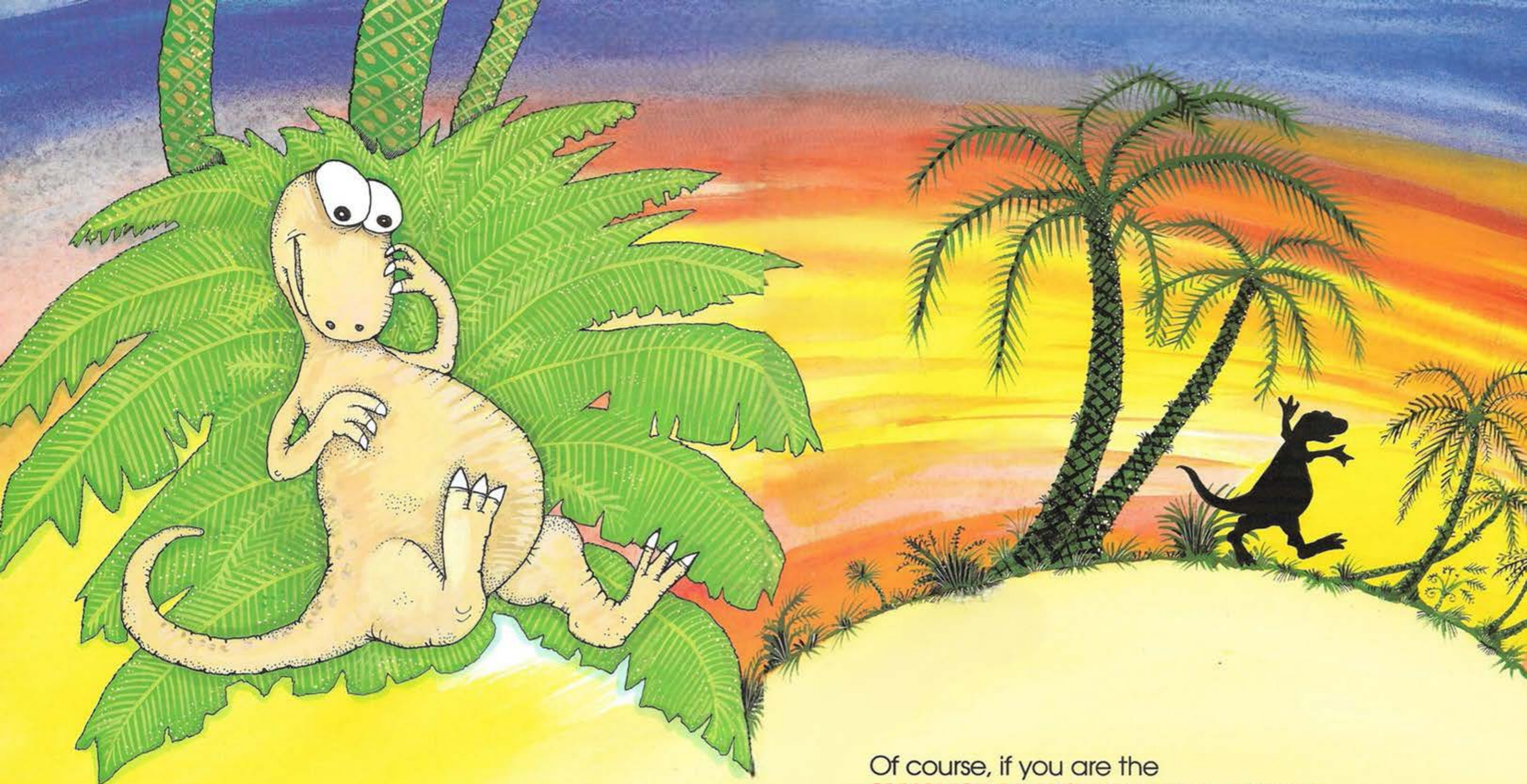
A bad-tempered tyrannosaurus rex smashed his way through the forest.

'I'm the biggest meat-eating dinosaur in the world and I'm hungry!' he roared.



As the tyrannosaurus sniffed the air, Cecil was too afraid to move. 'I can smell my dinner, but I can't see it!' roared the tyrannosaurus, looking all around.

Finally, the tyrannosaurus stomped away in a worse temper than before.



Cecil couldn't believe that he hadn't been eaten up.  
'Perhaps,' he thought, 'I'm special after all!'

Of course, if you are the **SMALLEST DINOSAUR IN THE WORLD** and you stand quite still, you can become almost invisible, and *that's* something very special!

Enjoy all the delightful books in this series

