

***SPACEMAN***

***BREN***

***and the***

***Planet***

***of Apes***

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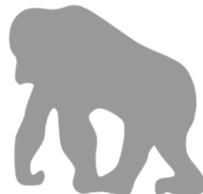
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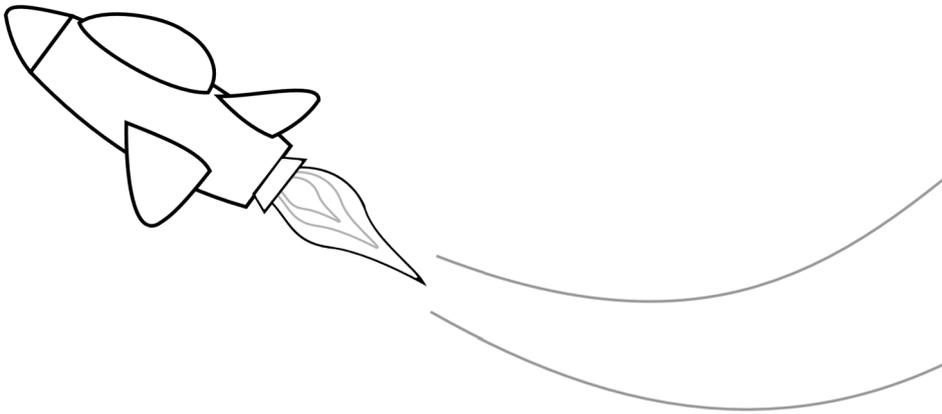
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Note to parents: This book is meant to be read aloud, with silly voices and sound effects. Also, your kids might need some help with the pictures. Make this book your own, something to look back on when your kids are older. Change the names, if you want to, to that of your own child. Then drop me a line and let me know how it goes. Enjoy!



Find all these monkeys on the front cover

For Brennan,  
There's a friend who sticks  
closer than a brother.



Color in the spaceship

Draw a green planet out in space

**T**his is the first and greatest story of Spaceman Bren. It's also the scariest.

This story takes place on a faraway planet at the edge of the galaxy. The whole planet was covered in misty jungle. And because it was ruled by gorillas and orangutans and chimpanzees, it was called...

*... The Planet of Apes!*

How many spacemen had travelled to this planet and never returned? Too many to count. All were sent by the Space Federation to search for a great treasure hidden somewhere in the jungle. They were also instructed to look for signs of intelligent life. Well, no one ever returned with any treasure. And what the spacemen discovered was certainly intelligent, but instead of *life*, all they found...

*... WAS DEATH!*

Draw Bren landing his spaceship in the jungle

Scared yet? Bren certainly was. As he flew his spaceship down through the atmosphere, he thought about all the spacemen who had travelled to the Planet of Apes but never came back.

As he approached the surface, Bren looked down at the jungle and discovered a pyramid hidden among the trees.

“If there’s any treasure around, I’ll bet it’s in there.”

He found a clearing nearby and landed his spaceship. Then he grabbed his space blaster and started hiking through the jungle.

Draw a stone statue of an angry gorilla

The jungle was so dense that the forest floor was dark and shadowy. There was no way Bren could find the pyramid just by walking around, so he set his scanner to “*TREASURE.*”

*BEEP... BEEP... BEEP...*

The beeps pointed him in the right direction.

He could hear monkey sounds all around him and it felt like he was being *watched*. But anytime Bren looked around, he couldn't see anything except the thick jungle.

Finally, he came to the pyramid. It looked like a giant temple that had been lost in the jungle. Vines and trees grew all over. Around the outside were big statues of angry apes with growling faces.

“I hope those apes don't live around here anymore,” he said to himself.

The entrance was a doorway that led straight into darkness. Spaceman Bren found a big stick, wrapped some cloth around it, and pulled out a lighter.

*flick, flick, flick...*

Bren lit his torch on fire then bravely started walking into the temple.

Draw Bren very scared in the dark tunnel

It was dark and musty in the ancient temple. Bren's scanner showed him the way.

*BEEP... BEEP... BEEP...*

The treasure was straight ahead.

Suddenly, he heard something *scurrying behind him!* He turned around quickly... but there was nothing there.

“What was *that?*” he said.

He took a couple more steps down the passage and heard something breathing.

*GRUNT, GRUNT*

He spun around again! But *still* he couldn't find anything. Spaceman Bren was very brave, but even *he* was getting nervous.

“*What's in here with me?*” he whispered to himself.

Draw two dark eyes staring through the darkness

Bren kept walking, slowly and carefully through the dark tunnel. It was very quiet.

Suddenly, *SOMETHING JUMPED OUT IN FRONT OF HIM*, shrieking,

***“OOH OOH AHH AHH!!!”***

Bren yelled too,

***“AAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!!!!”***

He jumped back in fright, dropping his torch and scanner to the floor. He was just reaching for his space blaster when he saw two black eyes staring back at him in the torchlight.

Draw Bren peeing his pants (just a little)

It was a monkey! He was about half Bren's height and he was smiling!

Bren, however, was not happy.

*“Monkey! You scared me so bad I peed in my pants a little!”*

The monkey was very smart, because as soon as Bren said the word “pee”, he looked down at Bren's pants. When the monkey saw the tiny drops of pee on his pants, he started laughing!

*“Monkey! Don't ever do that again! And stop laughing at me. It's not funny.”*

The monkey quieted down. He seemed to understand everything Bren was telling him.

“Monkey,” said Bren, “I'm looking for treasure. Can you show me where it is?”

*“COO-COO-WALLA!”* said the monkey, nodding. He grabbed Bren's sleeve and pulled him deeper into the tunnel.

So Spaceman Bren picked up his torch, took a deep breath, and followed him in.

Draw Astro giving Bren a kiss

“*COO-COO-WALLA, COO-COO-WALLA!*”  
said the monkey as they walked along.

“What’s *COO-COO-WALLA?*” asked Bren.  
“Is that your word for ‘Treasure’?”

The monkey jumped up and down and  
nodded his head.

“Okay. What should I call you?”

The monkey stopped and pointed upwards.  
Bren looked up, but it was just the stone roof  
above their heads.

“You want me to call you Up?”

The monkey shook his head and frowned.  
He pointed higher.

“Higher than the roof? Your name is Sky?”

The monkey threw a rock at Bren.

“Ouch! Okay, what’s higher than the sky?  
Hmmm, stars and planets. Well, what about  
Astro?”

The monkey jumped up into Bren’s arms  
and gave him a big, slobbery kiss!

***SMOOCH!***

“Haha,” said Bren. “Astro it is.”

Draw a cavern full of gold and jewels

Spaceman Bren didn't feel quite so afraid now that he had his new friend Astro the Monkey with him.

Down the dark tunnel they walked. Bren thought he heard more scurrying and grunting, but anytime he looked behind him, the noises stopped. However, they both knew they weren't alone. Even Astro was scared.

Eventually, they came to a great cavern and Bren's scanner started beeping like crazy.

***BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!***

As he held up his torch, Bren could see that the entire room was full of... ***TREASURE!*** There were stacks of gold and piles of jewels! There was treasure *everywhere!* Bren had never seen so much treasure in all his life!

“***COO-COO-WALLA,***” said Astro, pointing around.

“Amazing! Wait till the Space Federation sees this!”

Draw a skeleton

Bren was just about to pick up some gold coins when Astro started going crazy!

*“OOH OOH! AHH AHH!”*

“Astro, what’s the matter? Why can’t I take some treasure?”

Astro pointed down at the ground in front of them. Bren hadn’t noticed them before, but all around the room were... *BONES!* These weren’t animal bones, they were *people* bones. They belonged to past explorers who had tried to steal the treasure.

This is what happened to all the missing *spacemen!*

Draw lots of angry apes

Then, all around them, came the sound of heavy breathing. Grunting and growling filled the whole room.

***GRUNT! GRUNT! GRUNT!***

“Oh no... who’s in here with us?” Bren whispered.

Astro whimpered and looked upward. As Bren lifted his eyes, he saw a balcony all around the top of the room. Standing along the balcony were forty-five

***BIG...***

***STRONG...***

***ANGRY...***

***APES!***

Draw a gorilla with big teeth and bad breath

Do you know what an ape is? Apes are like regular monkeys, except bigger and they don't have a tail. Gorillas, orangutans, and chimpanzees are all apes. It was this type of animal - apes - that surrounded Bren and Astro. They were all huge and didn't look happy.

You see, these apes were the guardians of the treasure. If Astro hadn't stopped Bren from picking up the gold, the apes would have destroyed him! They were the reason no spacemen ever made it out alive.

All of a sudden, all the apes jumped down to the floor. Then they thumped their chests and gnashed their teeth.

"Whoa, guys," said Bren. "I just came to check out your planet. No need to get angry. The treasure is all yours."

The apes said, "*OOH OOH. AHH AHH.*"

"I see," said Bren. "That must mean 'Danger' in your language."

Astro slowly nodded his head.

"No problem, I'll just be leaving."

Draw a treasure chest

As Bren backed away, the apes seemed a little less angry. He looked once more at the room full of treasure and saw a chest sitting on a pedestal in the middle of the room.

“Um, if you don’t mind my asking... what’s in the treasure chest?”

The gorillas immediately roared and beat their chests!

***THUMP, THUMP, THUMP!***

The orangutans slapped the ground and threw dust in the air!

***STOMP, STOMP, STOMP!***

The chimpanzees shrieked and jumped around!

***HEEEE, HEEEE, HEEEE!***

They were all furious! But instantly they stopped when the biggest, strongest gorilla stepped forward and slowly lifted the lid.

Bren took a step closer, held up his torch, and saw...

Draw a space blaster shooting lasers

## *A space blaster!*

Wait, a space blaster?

Bren gave a funny look and said, “Oh heck, that’s just a blaster. I’ve got one here in my pocket.”

He pulled it out and held it up. When they saw it, all the apes went *CRAZY!*

*THUMP, THUMP!*

*STOMP, STOMP!*

*HEEE, HEEE!*

Bren tried to calm them down, but it was no use!

You see, the last spaceman that tried to steal the treasure had used his space blaster to shoot the apes. They managed to destroy him, but some of them had died during the attack. Then, because the blaster was such a powerful weapon, the apes put it in a treasure chest and set it on a pedestal.

The apes were furious about Bren’s space blaster! They were about to destroy him too!

Draw Bren shooting his space blaster at the ceiling

“Yikes!” said Bren. “Let’s get out of here!  
Come on, Astro. Get on my back!”

Bren shot his blaster up at the ceiling,  
sending sparks flying everywhere!

***PEW!***

The apes scattered, terrified of the weapon.  
Bren started running back down the tunnel as  
fast as he could, carrying Astro on his back.

The forty-five monstrous apes chased after  
him. They were all roaring!

***RRRRROOOOOAAAAARRRRR!***

Bren didn’t want to shoot any of them, so he  
shot the ceiling again to scare them off.

***PEW! PEW!***

Sure enough, they scampered away from the  
sparks but kept chasing him through the  
darkness.

Draw a chimpanzee with its bum on fire

Bren and Astro burst out of the temple. The apes were growling and whooping and shrieking all around them. They swung on vines, leapt on branches, and crashed through the bush. But whenever they got too close, Bren shot a nearby tree, sending sparks and flames flying.

***PEW! PEW!***

That kept the apes at a distance, but they wanted to tear Bren apart!

Finally, they all reached the ship.

“Astro, get in!”

Bren and Astro dove inside and slammed the hatch closed. The apes jumped on top, furiously trying to tear the spaceship apart.

Bren started the engines. One of the chimpanzees was sitting on the edge of the rocket and got its bum scorched by the flames. It jumped ten feet in the air and ran away shrieking.

***HEEEE, HEEEE, HEEEE!***

All the other apes jumped clear of the ship as it blasted off through the atmosphere.

Draw Bren and Astro flying in the spaceship

“Phew! I’m glad we’re out of *there*. Those angry apes almost destroyed us!”

Then Bren realized what he’d done. He slowly turned to see the monkey in his passenger seat.

“Oh no,” he said. “I just stole a monkey.”

Astro smiled as he looked out the window.

“*COO-COO-WALLA.*”

“Huh? Oh yeah, I guess the stars *do* look a lot like treasure.”

Bren was very happy to be off the Planet of Apes, away from the angry apes. Bren had always wanted a copilot - space can be lonely sometimes.

“Well, Astro. Do you want to come with me on all my adventures?”

Astro shrieked and jumped up and down happily. He threw his arms around Bren’s neck and gave him another big, slobbery kiss.

***SMOOCH!***

Draw you and your best friend

“Ha, alright. You can stay. In fact, I think you’ll be very helpful to the Space Federation. But most of all, I think you’ll be a very good friend to me.”

Bren was right. They quickly became best friends. Astro stayed with Bren for all his adventures and helped him out of trouble many times. The Space Federation even made Astro an official Spacemonkey.

That’s the story of how Spaceman Bren visited a dangerous planet ruled by apes looking for treasure. But instead of gold and jewels, Bren came away with an even greater treasure: *a friend*.

The end.

## Hey Kids!

You've probably noticed that there are no pictures in this book. That's because kids always do a better job at imagining stories than adults. So go back and draw all the pictures. Get your parents to scan and email them to me and we'll post the best ones on our website! Be sure to include your name and age.

Enjoy!

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