

A boy and his father are taken by Aliens.

TROY'S AMAZING UNIVERSE A for Aliens

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Chapter One

I heard that when parents split up it is never the kids' fault. But if my parents don't live together anymore, I know that it will be my fault. They fight, and all that they ever fight about is me.

"Why are you taking him to this doctor?" Mom yelled.

"He said this operation could fix his speech! We should try it!" Dad yelled back.

Mom's hands are shaking. "Operations are dangerous. And there is only a small chance it will work. If it goes wrong, he might be much worse!"

"You're just afraid of everything! ...Oh Troy, I didn't see you there."

Hi Dad.

Dad is taking me to a new doctor in the city. I don't want to go to another doctor. This one is in a building that is so high you can see all the way to the ocean. Dad will take me all the way to the top if I don't act scared in the doctor's office.

"Troy needs his coat on." said Mom. She is always worried about me being cold.

“He doesn’t need that heavy jacket, it’s warm outside.”
Daddy is not right, cold can hurt me. Mom said so.
Daddy’s is putting on his shoes. His socks are yellow.

“Make sure you hold his hand.” My Mom is starting to talk louder to Dad, and that is making her voice get squeaky.

“Huh?” My Dad is tying his shoes more.

“Ron, can you try to pay attention? That’s what lost you your last job.” Dad is tying his sneakers, he ties them lots of times.

“What are you talking about? That wasn’t my fault.”
Dad gets all different jobs. It’s not his fault. He told me it’s because his bosses are too picky. Mom said; it’s because sometimes he is in another world. How does he get to another world? We only have a mini-van.

“You only need to tie your shoes once, Ron.”

My Dad likes to make sure his shoelaces are extra tight.

“Let’s go Troy. Don’t worry, Honey, Troy will be fine. I just have to find my keys.” Dad is giving Mommy a kiss. She is not kissing him back.

Dad is opening the garage door. Wait! We can’t go. I need my DVD player. Tell Dad. “E-E-E.” No don’t get in the car, Dad. “E-E-E!”

“What is Troy? “E” what?

“E-E-E!”

What is “E”?

DVD, I can’t say it because, even though I am seven years old, I don’t speak too good. “E-E-E!” I have trouble with my consonants. It makes Dad mad at me. Dad is opening the car door.

“Troy, just get into the car.”

No. Pull away. I don’t want to act bad. I don’t know how to make him understand me. Sometimes, I am trying so hard and nobody knows what I want. It makes me throw a tantrum. If I throw a tantrum I won’t get to go up on the highest building. Try again. “E-E-E!”

“What is it?”

Dad is just looking at me. Here comes Mom. “Here Troy, you forgot your DVD player.”

“Oh, you wanted your DVD? See Ann, we need to get his speech problem fixed,” Dad said.

I need to be fixed, so Dad will understand me.

I think Dad is driving too fast. When the pointy thing in the circle is on 60 my Mom always says, slow down.

“Ooo, owww.” Slow down.

“Troy, there’s no place to get food here. “ Dad is not hearing me. I can see that there are no stores here.

Nothing is on this road, only trees and grass and rocks. I have some gummie worms in my pocket. They make my hands sticky. Dad says I mess up all of the DVD’s with my sticky hands. When he tells me that I just put my hands over my ears, so I can’t hear him. I like this DVD, it doesn’t have any gummie on it and I can pretend that I am driving like Dad with my game. There is a direction thing on Dad’s car. Right now we are going “N”.

Sometimes we go “W” or “E” or “S”. My DVD game has a direction thing too. I wish I had a horn instead. Screech to the right, screech to the left, I like when Dad drives.

My favorite DVD is OCTANE OCTOPUS, UNDERWATER SUPER HERO. He’s not afraid of water,

or cold or animals or anything. I really want to know how he does that.

Uh oh oh. Wow! Look up in the sky. There is very bright purple and blue light over the trees.

“Troy, look at that!”

The bright light is so big and it is coming close!

“I can’t see!” Dad yelled.

Uh oh oh! The light shined in our eyes and now our car is flying off the road!

“SQUEAL... BOOM!”

We are turning over and over.

“CRASH!”

I am flying out of the van, still in my car seat. Lots of noises are everywhere.

“RIP! CRUNCH! BAM! BAM! BAM!”

My seat is turning over and over...

Quiet. Now there is no noise. Open my eyes. I am facing the sky and very bright sun is shining in my eyes. A smoky smell is in my nose. Pieces of our white mini van are all over the grass and rocks. Around my belly is the strap from my car seat. Uh oh oh. I think the whole back seat came out of the van and I am still buckled to it. Daddy? Where is Daddy? I don’t see him.

“AAAA-EY!” Daddy! Where are you? “AAAA-EY!” Daddy! “AAA-EY!” Can he hear me saying Daddy? I know what I want to say but my mouth has a hard time making the words. It looks like everybody else’s mouth, I don’t know why it doesn’t work as good.

Sniff! I can’t smell my Dad. He smells like leather. I can’t hear everything as good as everyone else, sometimes the words get a little garbled. Sniff. It still



smells smoky here. I can tell who everyone is by the way they smell. My Mommy smells like warm muffins.

I think I have to get out of this car seat and look for my Dad. The sun is too hot on my face. My skin burns easy. If I get a bad sun burn Mommy will have to take me to the emergency room. She takes me there if I fall, or get a cut, or get a sun burn, or if I cough. My Mom doesn't like it if the doctor says I'm fine and he doesn't need to do anything, so sometimes they give me an ice pack or a band-aid. I think most people go to the hospital if their mini van flips off the road, and they roll down a hill, and their seat flies out onto the grass. Too bad Mom didn't come.

I have to push this button very hard and my seat will open. My fingers aren't strong enough. Push...Push harder...it won't open. I wish I was strong and bigger too. Then I could open this. If I was big I wouldn't be in a car seat, but I am not. I am the smallest kid in second grade, and the kids in first grade are bigger than me too. Oh, and the kindergarteners are taller than me too. I am the smallest kid in the whole school. Hmm... Since I am laying backwards maybe I am small enough to wiggle out the top of the straps. Yes! I can move! Wiggle. It's good that my Dad buckled me in, because Mom makes the straps really tight. Wiggle, push with my feet...a little more...

“BAM!”

I fell on my head. Lucky, the grass is soft and muddy. I am out. Yeah! Stand up. My legs fell like they are made of Gummies. I'm hungry, some Gummies would be nice.

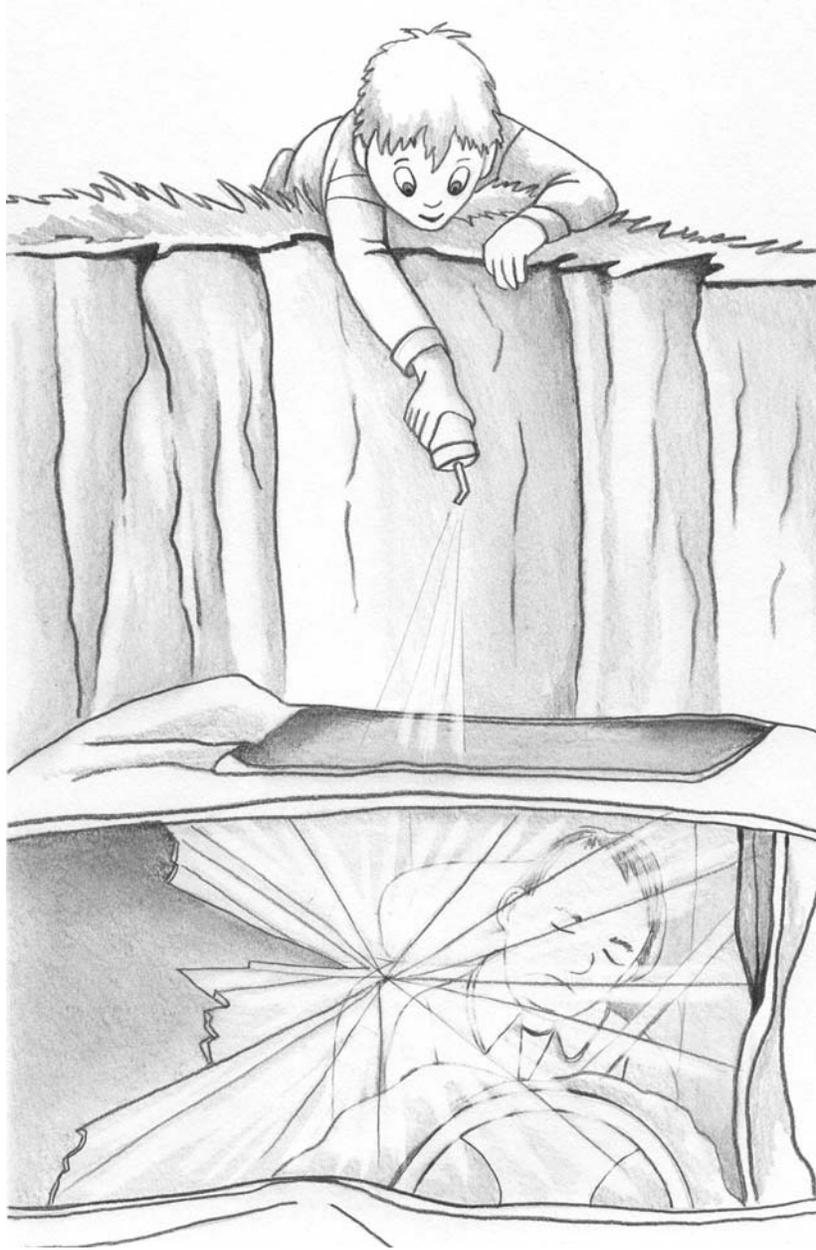
Where is Daddy? Stuff is all over the ground, a tire, the thing that wipes the rain away and squeaks, a water bottle, the sun roof and lots of little white pieces. My Dad's baseball cap is hanging in that tree. In the mud is his phone you carry around with you. I see a little window, and the big window from the front of the van. It is all broken. My Mom yells loud when Daddy or me break something. Dad and I will need our earmuffs on when she sees this.

I have to find Dad. Follow all the broken pieces. They go to this big hill. Look down. Water! There is the front part of the van. The river is right next to it. I can see my Dad sitting in his seat through the big hole in the roof. He's sleeping. I don't think he should take a nap now. This hill goes straight down and I don't know how to go down and wake up Daddy without falling into the water. What would Octane Octopus do? He always thinks of a way. Hmm...

Sometimes Mom wakes Daddy up by pouring water on his head. The water bottle in the grass is filled up. If I lay on my belly I can hold the bottle over the hole in the roof. Pour. The water is not hitting his head. It's wetting his pants. Uh oh oh! The bottle dropped. BONK! That hit his head. He's moving. Yeah! Get up Daddy! Daddy is rubbing his head. "AAA-EY" Daddy!

"Troy! Are you hurt?"

Are you dirt? Dad is far down. When people are far away, I get the sounds all mixed up. Maybe he said; Are you dirty? I am all covered with mud. "Yeah!"



“Where are you hurt?”

Where is the dirt? Hold up my hands, they are all brown.

“You’re smiling. That’s good.”

I am smiling because Daddy woke up and he is walking around down there. So I think he didn’t break himself.

“Troy, don’t move! I just have to figure out how to get up there.”

Daddy is climbing up the rocks. OOPS! A rock came loose and Dad fell. He fell again -and again. It’s very slippery and he isn’t getting closer to me.

“Troy! Is my phone up there?”

What bone? Dad lost a bone? I’d better go find it.

I looked all over the grass and I didn’t see one bone. Look, here is Daddy’s phone. Maybe he can call Mom and she can come and help me look. I’ll go show Dad the phone.

“Good job, Troy! Now, you need to call 911.”

I think Daddy said we need to call my someone? Mommy! We need to call Mommy.

“Troy! Hit nine!”

It’s mine? I know it’s your phone Daddy.

“Hit nine!”

It’s mine? Daddy must want his phone. Here Dad.

“NOOOOO!”

Uh oh oh. The phone fell in the river.

“Troy! Listen to me! Stay there. I am going to walk down the river and try to find a place to climb up. Stay there!”

Dad is down there yelling. I heard him say to stay here. There is no TV here to watch or anything. How big is here? Does he mean right in this little spot or up here where the van is? Here could be a very big place. I need to find my DVD player. Yeah! Here it is. What is that? Something is flying over the hill.

Uh oh oh! A big giant shiny snake! Bigger than a house! It is the color of a quarter. Its eyes are sort of square and a funny light is coming from them, blue and purple, like we saw in the sky before we crashed. It flies like a big airplane. The mouth is opening! Daddy! I have to run away. I can't move, my hands are shaking and my belly hurts. I am being scared. I can't go to the highest building. It's not a snake. It's a space ship- CHOMP!

Chapter Two

“Troy, come on, wake up.”

Dad is whispering in my ear. Open my eyes. I think the snake ate me. I am sitting in a real squishy seat next to my Dad. A big belt is across my belly. Dad’s too.

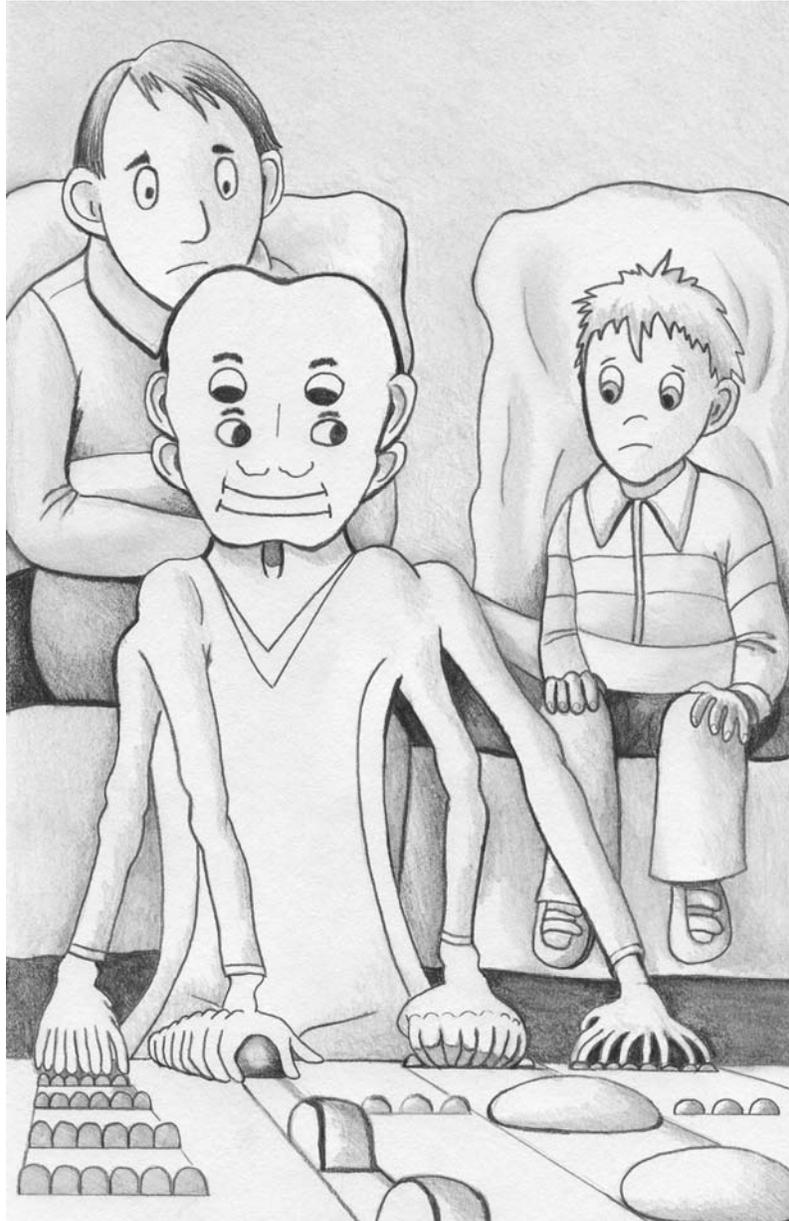
“ZOOM!”

We just took off. Out the window I can see the trees getting very tiny and –

“ZOOM!”

The whole earth is down there. I think we are up in outer space. It’s amazing. This must be how Dad gets to another world.

An outer space man is driving us. He kind of looks like a grown up, with no hair, except that he has- one, two, three, four arms and four legs. His face has two eyes, and two more eyes. He has double of everything, ears, mouths, noses. He can probably smell even better than me. Double man smells like the chocolate milk that I left under the bed for a long time. I like his clothes. They are kind of made of water with colors. They move when he moves.



“Troy, are you all right?” Dad asked.

Nod yes.

“Don’t be scared.”

Uh oh oh. Now my hands are wiggling and something is jumping around inside my belly.

“Hey you up there! Where are we going?”

Dad is loud. I don’t think the Double man likes it. His ears are closing.

“Hey! Where are you taking us?”

Dad is getting louder and the Double man is not opening up his ears. Double man is turning his head to us. His mouths are talking.

“Dee! Suuueev!”

Be quiet. He doesn’t talk the same words as us. But I know he said to be quiet. You can just tell what people are saying if you really listen.

“What does that mean?” Dad said.

I think Dad can’t tell unless he hears the words.

Chapter Three

Wow! We stopped and the snake's mouth is opening and a big tongue is rolling out. Our belts are opening.

The Double man is saying something.

"Ieev ouuv"

"What is it?" asked Dad.

He wants us to get out. Pull Dad's hand.

"Where are we?" asked Dad.

Dad should know- we are in another world. Dad is grabbing my hand and taking me down the tongue and onto a big circle on the ground.

"Ugh Troy. Your hands are sticky."

"Oops. Gummies." Walking here is funny, kind of bouncy. On the side of the circle are all different outer space men. They don't look like the cartoon ones on TV.. Most of them look something like us, but different. None of them have freckles like me. The words they are talking in are all mixed up, not like at home.

Two green ones, a big one and a little one, are jumping and clapping their ears together. A purple daddy

one, that is round like a ball, is bouncing his son. Uh oh oh! They are all dad's and son's. The orange ones, and the pointy ones, and the slimy ones and us! I know where we are. It's a dad and son party! Pull Dad's hand.

"What is it Troy?"

Point to the little ones, point to me.

"Monsters! You see monsters! Just stay behind me."

No Dad. It is a dad and son party! Point to my Dad and point to the other dads.

"Yeah, they are really weird. Look at those two! They have fire coming out of their skin."

Double man is back. His hands are pushing me and Dad.

"Where are we going?"

"Eaartj".

We are going to Earth. Point. See Dad. He is taking us to stand under that ball that is turning in the air. It looks like the planet where we live. All the dads and sons are under balls with different planets.

"Troy, I think we are at some kind of weird space party. Let me ask this Blobby thing. Hey you, why are you here?"

"Ploopapplo".

He doesn't know.

"What? Why are you here?" asked Dad.

"Ploopapplo."

He said he doesn't know Dad. Can't you tell?

"How about you, with the hair on your feet, can you understand me?" Dad isn't giving up.

"Zignut," said the hairy feet guy.

Hmm. I think he said yes.

“What is wrong? No one here can understand me.”

I can Dad. I can understand you. Smile at Dad.

Dad is shaking his head. All the different sounds are bothering him.

“Ruuv vjiiu op.”

Double man is back, holding two necklaces with red glowy things in the middle. He put one on Dad. Now he is putting one on me. Look, everyone has the same necklace.

“Can you hear me now?” said Double man.

Hey. That is funny. Double man is talking like us? Wait. It sounds like everyone is talking like us. I can hear the bouncy dad and son next to me.

“What is this?”

“It looks like a picnic.”

“Good we’ll have a ball!”

My Dad is talking to Double man.

“Yeah, I can hear you. Now take us back home!” yelled Dad.

“You have to win your way off of this show.”

Double man answered.

“What show?”

Double man is trotting away.

Music! Loud music is playing and a spinning thing is coming down from the sky. It is spinning very fast, like the thing in THE WIZARD OF OZ that took the house away. It looks like that, with lots of different colors. The spinning thing is slowing down. It landed right in the edge of the circle and melted on to the ground. Inside it is another Double man, bigger then the one who drove us

here. On his head is something like a big double cowboy hat. It covers up all of his ears.

“Welcome to the stupendous, colossal, amazing- All Galaxy Olympics.” The Big Double man is talking to everyone.

“You have all been brought here to compete as teams for the glorious, one of a kind title of Mega Milkyway Masters!”

I like Milkway bars, but Gummies are my favorite.

“I suppose you are wondering why you can all understand me. The red ball around your neck is a universal communicator, one of the most marvelous inventions in the universe. It is powered by this magnificent red sphere to my right,” announced Big Double man.

Big Double man is pointing to a big, red, glowy ball. It is up high on a big pole, so high that if I stood up on top of ladder, on the top of my school, I still couldn't reach it.

“As long as you are on this planet, and wearing that amazing and fashionable ball, you will all be able to understand each other, no matter what mundane language you speak.”

Big Double man uses a lot of words when he talks. I guess that is double talk.

“My splendid driver here has flown to the far reaches of the galaxy and brought back the finest athletes from every planet.”

That is funny. He brought me here and I didn't even make the tee-ball team.

“You should all be honored to be selected for this prestigious event. Launch the games!” Big Double man finished.

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