

The Mesozoic

I looked around the library, my eyes scanning the stages. The children's library was hosting a career day event. I strolled past authors and doctors, artists and engineers all to the very back. The scientists. I looked around with interest, checking out all the cool creations. Then I laid eyes on the time machine.

I walked to the stage with the time machine, checking it out. The scientist who owned it stood next to the machine.

"Why, hello! Care to test my time machine?" She said,

I laughed and said yes. The scientist powered on the machine. The machine whirred softly as a portal began to form.

"Wait.." I said, taking a hesitant step back. "That looks an awful lot like.."

"The rumored portals?" The scientist finished. "Yes, all me. I test my time machines by spawning portals in different places."

I gasped, staring into the portal's blue light.

"And you're my first test subject." The scientist powered up the machine, and I felt wind sucking me in.

Then I heard a crash behind me. Before I could do anything, the machine was powered to its fullest, and books were flying past me. I held onto the stage for dear life, but I was too weak.

When my head stopped spinning, I was in a forest. The climate was humid and hot. I gasped for air, jumping to my feet and looking around. I heard a high-pitched hiss behind me.

I turned around slowly, spotting a small theropod before me. *Tawa hallae*. I thought. *Carnivorous*.

The tawa stood to its full height, a few feet taller than me. I swallowed, backing away slowly. The tawa growled at me. I felt my stomach drop, as I turned and ran. I kicked up dust as I charged fourth, into the forest. Ferns brushed my leg and small creatures jumped back in surprise. The tawa followed right behind me. Then I saw it. The soft glow of a portal! I took a deep breath, a sharp turn, and a leap into the portal.

I felt my feet touch down on the ground. I opened my eyes, looking around. *Still not safe*. I thought to myself, walking to a clearing in the trees.

Peeking past the forest, I saw more dinosaurs. Bigger ones. *Stegosaurus*. I thought, taking a sigh of relief. *Herbivores*. I took a step into the lush clearing, but immediately stepped back into the trees.

Allosaurus. I heard the low growling, and saw the bulky theropod. Her teeth glinted in the sun, red after a meal. I stepped back and fell down.

The allosaurus stopped in its tracks and turned to me. I knew I must be the perfect appetizer. Without hesitation, I got up and ran. The allosaurus followed behind. I could feel the theropods breath down my neck as I dove into a bush.

I stopped to catch my breath, looking past the confused allosaurus's legs. Then I saw it. The portal! I darted past the allosaurus and dove in.

I thought I was safe, but one more to go. *I must be in the cretaceous*. I thought, getting up. *Time of the T. Rex*.

I heard a low bellowing behind me, and my stomach dropped. *Don't move and it won't see you*. I breathed quietly. The T. Rex lifted its head and padded in front of me.

I heard myself scream, and immediately wished I didn't. The T. Rex roared in surprise, an ear-breaking screech. I darted past a huge boulder and into the jungle, and didn't stop running until I couldn't hear the T. Rex's feet.

Where is the portal? I thought to myself. It was usually around here once I escaped my doom. Sweat dripped down my forehead, and I remembered the heat. The ice caps hadn't formed yet. I walked around, looking for the blue glow. Nothing.

Only three portals. I thought suddenly, my stomach churning. There must be a way to get home! I hoped.

I heard the bellow of an animal, and then heavy footsteps. Immediately thinking of a predator, I dove into a bush. I looked through the branches to see a herd of edmontosaurus. I let out a breath I didn't know I was holding in. I walked out of the bush, gazing at the friendly herbivores. I watched as they walked past majestically, in a ray of light from an opening in the trees. That's when I realized. Not all dinosaurs are aggressive. These gentle giants certainly aren't!

Wait- ray of light? There wasn't an opening in the trees last I checked. I looked up. The portal home! But how would I get to it?

Most of the edmontosaurus had left, but one remained. He looked at me with an interested expression. I walked towards him hesitantly. The edmontosaurus swung it's tail, and with a mighty blow, knocked over a tree. The tree fell onto another tree, leaving a path to climb up to the portal. The edmontosaurus left soon after. I took a deep breath, smiling to myself, and climbed up the tree into the portal.

I stuck my head into the portal to make sure it was safe, then fully climbed through. *Finally*, I thought. *Finally home*.

THE MESOZOIC ERA

