

Space Bugs

Earth Invasion



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Space Bugs, Earth Invasion

Sample Chapter

By Jay Dubya

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Preface

Space Bugs, Earth Invasion completes the fantasy trilogy that was begun by *Pot of Gold* and *Enchanta*.

In *Pot of Gold*, Larry and Janet Garrison, twelve-year-old fraternal twins help four elfrechauns, Rhymer, Stretch, Prep and Nate retrieve their missing gold in an imaginary land. Together they defeat a wicked witch, Evilla that terrorizes the elfrechaun's world.

In *Enchanta*, Barbara and David Morgan are cousins to Janet and Larry. Barbara and David are transported by a white flying horse from Hammonds Grove, New Jersey to *Enchanta*. The children reunite three magical brothers, Changer, Pretender and Inventor with their father, King Wisher. The six then conduct a raid into Beneathia to rescue Wisher's wife, Queen Hope from the savage Beneathians.

In *Space Bugs, Earth Invasion*, ruthless Queen Termita from planet Insectia leads an invasion of Earth. Janet, Larry, Barbara and David go to a town landmark, Superstitious Rock, which is believed to have magical properties.

The four young teens wish for Rhymer the elfrechaun and Changer, Pretender and Inventor to come to *their* world and help defeat the Insectians. The four marvelous magicians show up, and with the help of the Garrison and Morgan kids, Earth is saved in a series of very funny situations where the aliens are frustrated, demoralized and eventually defeated.

Chapter I

“Superstitious Rock”

“Come on back, you have plenty of room,” the muscular foreman belched to the obedient dump truck driver. The construction crew chief was signaling to the driver, who studied his boss’s hand’ instructions in his rear view mirror.

The driver steered very cautiously as he steadily moved in reverse. The enormous dump truck was gradually approaching Hammonds Grove, New Jersey’s most famous landmark, Superstitious Rock.

The entire scene echoed with engine noises. The operators of giant bulldozers and front-end loaders had been busy knocking down the woods adjacent to Superstitious Rock to make space for a new town’ housing development. Several other major pieces of industrial equipment were carving out nearby roads for the new housing project. A dusty black sign painted with yellow letters revealed: *Danger: Hard Hat Area.*

The workmen were attempting to remove Superstitious Rock from its present location. Soon a huge crane was jockeyed into position alongside the gigantic dump truck. Thick steel cables were then lowered to encompass the colossal stone so that it could be hoisted onto the dump truck.

Many curious spectators stood at a distance gaping at the beehive of work' activity. Janet and Larry Garrison and Barbara and David Morgan were among the fifty or so interested eyewitnesses to local history in the making.

Janet and Larry were thirteen-year-old fraternal twins that shared blond-hair and azure-blue eyes. The Morgan children were also brother and sister, David being two years older than his brown-hair thirteen-year-old sister was. The Garrison and Morgan kids were cousins, their mothers being sisters. They carefully watched while the heavy machinery attempted to lift Superstitious Rock into the air.

“Do you think it will budge?” Larry inquired to his sister and his cousins.

“I don't think so,” David seriously replied.

“This is one time I'm rooting for a giant rock,” Janet confided.

“I'm with you,” Barbara agreed. “Superstitious Rock deserves to stay right where it is!”

The two sets of cousins were not exactly mere innocent bystanders involved in trivial conversation. The four had had magical contact with Superstitious Rock in the past, and the huge boulder was regarded as being magical by some of Hammonds Grove's more “superstitious” residents.

Hammonds Grove is a town of proud, hard-working people that believe in traditional American values. It is situated on the Atlantic Coastal Plain midway between Philadelphia and Atlantic City, conveniently located between the bustle of metropolitan life and the charm of the seashore's white sandy beaches.

The town has a population of fifteen thousand citizens, and the place could easily serve as the background for a Norman Rockwell painting. Hammonds Grove has neat avenues and streets abundant with shade trees and well-manicured lawns. It is a typical rural American community.

One strange setting, Superstitious Rock contrasted with the town's overall tranquillity. Many unexplained weird events were reported to have occurred in the huge boulder's vicinity. Rumor and gossip led to imaginative tales about the very tremendous stone, which was the only one of its kind in a fifty-mile radius.

In the mid-1800s several journals and county newspaper articles verified that a witch had been hanged in the early 1700s at the very site of Superstitious Rock. Many honest people in recent years claimed to have seen bizarre-looking creatures cavorting near the extraordinary rock. Ghosts, goblins and leprechauns were said to be dancing and frolicking around the immense boulder.

The giant stone was indeed a local legend. In recent years more eerie stories sprouted around the giant rock, adding to its legend and mystery. Even some of Hammonds Grove's most reliable and sober citizens swore that the awesome rock possessed great supernatural powers.

In 1998, Hammonds Grove's mayor wanted to put an end to all of the gossip about the legendary boulder. She contacted *Rutgers University* geologists, who then performed an investigation into and a study of the magnificent boulder. The scientists' discoveries were most revealing.

The *Rutgers* research team determined that the land surrounding Hammonds Grove was composed mostly of sandy soil mixed with occasional Jersey sandstone deposits. Boulders the size and composition of Superstitious Rock are found fifty

miles west in the Piedmont regions of Pennsylvania. Superstitious Rock was somehow a mistake in geography. It belonged on the opposite side of the Delaware River.

Janet, Larry, Barbara and David all believed that Superstitious Rock was magical and that it would resist all human efforts at moving it. The four had had past associations with the rock's magical properties.

Larry and Janet had experienced a fantastic adventure inside Limerick Caverns, located in western Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. While casually touring the underground hollows with their parents, the twins saw a great rock that was described by their tour guide as a duplicate of Ireland's famous Blarney Stone. The large Blarney Stone was an exact copy of Hammonds Grove's Superstitious Rock, and it set the twins on an exciting adventure where they helped Rhymer and three other elfrechauns find their missing pot of gold.

As Janet and Larry lingered behind their tour group, the jaunty elfrechaun appeared and led them into a strange land. The twins knew that the rock was no ordinary stone.

"Superstitious Rock is magical," Janet stated to her brother, "and no man or machine will ever remove it from where *it* wants to stay."

"They'll soon find out that *it* has a mind all its own," Larry replied.

Barbara and David also had an adventure connected with Superstitious Rock. They had stopped their bicycles next to the giant boulder one April afternoon. They leaned their bikes against nearby tress and climbed to the rock's summit.

Suddenly they encountered a marvelous flying horse named Wings, who flew them to a magical land called Enchanta.

Many folks scoffed when the cousins told their “fantasy tales.” But the four quietly remained true believers in Superstitious Rock’s magical nature. Even their parents dismissed the children’s stories as “imaginative modern-day fairy tales.” It was with good reason that Janet, Larry, Barbara and David took a keen interest in the construction crew’s present activities to move the landmark.

“Tie up those guy wires,” the muscular work foreman bellowed to his construction crew. “Handle that rock like it’s a baby in a cradle,” he loudly directed above the roar of bulldozer and crane’ engines.

The attentive crane operator manipulated his levers, and his machine’s engine squealed. Everyone observing and hearing the event held his and her ears in response to the deafening noise.

“Okay men,” the foreman screamed, “hook those heavy chains to the main cable so that the crane can lift this baby up off the ground!” The foreman then turned toward his audience of fifty observers. “Everybody stay clear of the work area,” he shouted like an angry teacher threatening an unruly class.

Soon the foul smell of diesel fuel clogged the air. The bulky machines, like hulking dinosaurs, went about their maneuvers. The crane’s giant motor sounded as though it belonged attached to a jet airplane. Ten seconds later, the crane’s motor’s noise ascended from a loud roar to a thunderous howl.

The strong, sturdy steel cable wobbled as it attempted to lift up the huge rock, which was providing ample resistance. The steel chains and cable stretched to their maximum tolerances.

The crane's operator realized the magnitude of the task at hand. He gingerly managed the controls with the care of a hospital surgeon. The crane slowly yanked and tugged the huge rock in a series of steady spurts. Superstitious Rock was gradually elevated to a height of fifteen feet above the ground.

An outburst of cheers originated from a dozen construction workers standing nearby. The men were prematurely celebrating man's most recent triumph over nature. A proud smile beamed from the construction foreman's tanned face.

Without any warning, the thick sturdy cable snapped, and the gigantic boulder collapsed to the earth. After it made a big thud, a cloud of dust created from the impact with the ground enveloped the enormous rock.