

# NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

## SECRET OF THE TOMB



 SCHOLASTIC

**Adapted by:** Lynda Edwards

**Publisher:** Jacque Bloese

**Editor:** Fiona Davis

**Designer:** Annette Peppis

**Picture research:** Pupak Navabpour

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# NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

## SECRET OF THE TOMB



**LARRY DALEY** is a night guard at the Museum of Natural History. Larry loves his job.

**NICK** is Larry's son. Nick is seventeen. He can't decide what to do when he leaves school.

**DEXTER** is a capuchin monkey.



**DR MCPHEE** is the head of the Museum of Natural History. He doesn't believe in magic.



**TILLY** is a guard at the British Museum, but she doesn't enjoy her job.

## PLACES



**THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY** is in New York. It is one of the largest museums in the world.



**THE BRITISH MUSEUM** is a famous museum in London. It has exhibits from all over the world.

## IN THE MUSEUM

There are many exhibits in the Museum of Natural History.



**TEDDY ROOSEVELT** was the youngest president of the USA. He was very clever.

**SACAJAWEA** was a Native American who helped American adventurers to reach the Pacific Ocean.



**AHKMENRAH** was an Egyptian king. His father gave him a special tablet.



**LANCELOT** was a famous knight in the stories of King Arthur. He was in love with Queen Guinevere and went on many quests. These were adventures to find something important.



**ATTILA THE HUN** was a very strong leader who led many attacks against the Romans.

**Octavius** was a famous Roman leader.  
**Jedediah** was an American adventurer who discovered new places.  
**Laa** is a new exhibit. He is a Neanderthal. Neanderthal people lived about 250,000 years ago.

# NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

## SECRET OF THE TOMB

## THE SECRET OF THE MUSEUM

Every night magic things happen at the Museum of Natural History in New York. There are electronic exhibits that walk and talk like real people and animals. Many visitors come to see the electronic exhibits. They think they are wonderful and very clever. But they don't know the secret. The exhibits aren't electronic, they are real!

Ahkmenrah has a magic tablet from Egypt. At night the tablet shines and the exhibits come to life. Many years ago Larry discovered this secret and the exhibits became his friends. Larry asked Dr McPhee to open the museum for visitors at night too.

Larry and his son, Nick, have had many adventures with their friends at the museum. There was the time when a night guard tried to take the tablet away. And once Dr McPhee sent the tablet to another museum and Larry had to get it back.

It's the start of another adventure at the Museum of Natural History. What's going to happen tonight?

## CHAPTER 1

# ONE NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

It was an important evening at the Museum of Natural History. Rich and famous people arrived at the entrance in their big, black cars. They were there to see the new planetarium\*.

Larry Daley watched them. He felt a little hot and uncomfortable in his expensive clothes. He hoped everything was ready. He and the exhibits were planning a very special show for the guests. Some of the people here tonight could give lots of money to the museum.

Dr McPhee, the head of the museum, was watching too. His face was red and his small eyes looked worried.

Larry touched Dr McPhee's arm. 'Nice jacket, boss,' he said. 'Did you borrow it?'

'No, I did not!' said McPhee angrily and he pushed Larry's hand away. 'I'm the head of this museum. I don't need to borrow clothes!' He walked quickly into the museum and Larry followed.

The new planetarium looked fantastic. It was in a very large glass room and right now the room was full of people. Everyone was smiling and talking.

'Big night for you!' Dr McPhee looked at Larry. He was always worried when Larry planned things. There were often problems. 'I hope your surprise is ready.'

\* You can look at the moon and stars from a planetarium.

McPhee knew the story about the magic tablet but he didn't believe it. For McPhee, magic was impossible.

'Good evening,' said Madeleine Phelps, McPhee's boss. She came over to them and smiled at Larry. 'Ah, Mr Daley,' she said. 'You have done wonderful work for the museum. We are getting more and more visitors for your shows at night!'

McPhee moved forward. 'Daley is really only a night guard,' he said. 'All the shows are my idea, you know.'

'Really?' said Dr Phelps. 'You don't look like an ideas man. But tell me about the electronic parts inside the T-Rex. How do you do it?'

McPhee's face went red. He turned to his night guard. 'Larry?'

'No, Dr McPhee,' Larry said with a smile. 'Why don't you explain your ideas?'

'Er ...' Dr McPhee started uncomfortably, 'a good magician doesn't tell his ... er ... secrets.'

'Nice one, McPhee,' said Larry quietly. He looked at his watch. It was nearly show time. He needed to talk to his friends. Larry hurried away.

'There's a new exhibit, Larry!' McPhee called after him. 'It's a Neanderthal. I hope you like him!'

The exhibits were waiting at the main entrance for the show to begin. Larry went past the information desk. The Romans were there. There was a Roman town in the museum. It had small houses, small shops and lots of very small Romans. They were playing on the computer and laughing at a video of some baby cats. The cats were jumping on a red light as it moved across the floor.

'Post the video and message on Facebook!' Octavius, their leader, was giving orders. The Romans jumped up and down on the letters on the keyboard.

'Would you like to put a message on Twitter too?' one of the Romans asked.

'That's enough, guys!' shouted Larry. He turned to his friends. 'Now, it's a big night tonight. Are we all ready?'

Everyone cheered. They wanted to start.

Teddy Roosevelt came up to Larry. He was on his horse and a group of big, strong men walked behind him. 'Larry, my boy,' Teddy said quietly. 'You need to see the new Neanderthal.'

One of the men looked up and Larry had a surprise. Was he looking in a mirror? The Neanderthal had Larry's face! 'McPhee's little joke,' thought Larry. 'Very funny.'

'Hi, I'm Larry!' said Larry.

The Neanderthal copied Larry. 'Laaa ...' he said slowly. He touched Larry's hair and face with his big hand. Then he touched his own face. He gave a big smile. 'Dada?' he said.

'No,' said Larry quickly. 'I'm not your dada.'

'Dada,' said Laaa again and he put his strong arms around Larry. 'Dada! Dada!'

Teddy smiled. 'It's good to have family,' he said kindly. 'But now we must capalackpagillapropper ...' Teddy froze.

Larry looked at him, 'Are you OK?'

Teddy moved his head carefully. 'That was strange. I am sorry,' he smiled. 'Yes, my boy, I'm fine.'

Larry turned again to the group of exhibits. 'It's nearly party time!' he said. 'Don't worry. Just have fun!'

\* \* \*

The guests were sitting at tables in the planetarium after an expensive dinner. They were waiting for the show to start and they were hoping for something fantastic.

Larry spoke quietly into his phone. 'Go, lights! Go, Teddy!'

Music filled the room and a light shone in the centre of the room. Teddy rode in on his horse. He looked the perfect President. Everyone cheered.

Teddy spoke loudly and clearly. 'Since I was a boy, this museum has brought the past to life for the people of this city,' he said.

The Neanderthals came in. They were holding fire torches.

'Today,' continued Teddy, 'we look into the sky, to the sun, the moon and ... the stars. Would you like to meet them? Tonight you can.' He smiled. Behind him starry lights appeared in the dark. They danced and moved around the room. It was a fantastic show.

Teddy spoke to the guests again. 'This is all possible because of you,' he smiled. 'I look at you all and I see ...'

Everyone waited for his next words.

Suddenly Teddy's face changed. His eyes became cold and his smile disappeared. 'Fight them!' he shouted. He jumped off his horse and pointed his gun at the guests.

Larry stood up quickly. What was happening? Something was very wrong here.

'They're all around us!' Teddy shouted to the other exhibits. 'Fight them to the end!'

The Neanderthals started moving towards the guests, waving their torches. Dex the monkey screamed at them. People jumped up and tried to leave the room. But they couldn't get out.

Octavius and his men were running across the floor. They pulled over chairs and hit people's feet with their little swords. Even Sacajawea was throwing pieces of cheese. The guests were falling over and screaming. It was



like a very bad dream.

Larry ran over to Teddy. 'What are you doing?' he shouted.

Teddy was angry. He pointed his gun at Larry. 'Teddy, it's me!' said Larry.

'I don't know you!' said Teddy and he pushed Larry away and fired his gun across the room.

'Stop this!' McPhee shouted at Larry as Dexter threw a meatball past his ear. But Larry couldn't do anything. He had no answers. Then Teddy suddenly froze.

'Firgil-fliminy-geegar-zeezah!' he said and fell over, face first into a plate of butter.

Larry moved to help him, but then he heard a sound. He looked back. One of the tables was on fire and behind it something was moving in the thick smoke. A large animal came through the fire. It was REXY, the T-Rex\*, and he did *not* look happy.

'AAAAAARRRR!'

'Oh no!' thought Larry.

## CHAPTER 2

# 'THE END WILL COME'

At last the exhibits were quiet again. Larry put water on the fire. What was going on? He didn't understand.

'What happened, guys?' he asked his friends. But they just looked at the floor.

Teddy's face was red. 'We are very sorry, my boy,' he said quietly. 'We don't know.'

'No,' said Octavius. He was upset. 'It was strange and horrible. We didn't have a choice.'

Then Ahkmenrah called Larry over. 'Come quickly!' he said. 'You must see this!' Larry and Teddy followed him to the Egyptian room.

Ahkmenrah pointed at the tablet. 'Look!' Ahkmenrah was worried. Usually the tablet shone with a brilliant white light, but now the light was not so strong. Part of the tablet was green.

'Oh no,' thought Larry. 'If the tablet stops working, the exhibits won't come to life.'

'What's happening to it?' Larry asked Ahkmenrah.

'I've never seen this before,' the young man said sadly. 'My father didn't tell me all the secrets of the tablet. I don't know what to do!' He was almost crying.

Larry thought quickly. 'OK,' he told the exhibits. 'I'll find an answer. For now, go back to your places and don't move. I'll be back tomorrow night.'

Larry thought about the museum on the way home. He was only certain of one thing: the exhibits needed him. He had to help them, but how?

\* T-Rex = Tyrannosuarus Rex. It lived about 67,000,000 years ago.