

Petra, an Orthopedic surgeon, lived in a nice two-story blue house at 2 Elm Drive in Utah, right next to the yellow “Not a through street” sign. The only problem about Elm Drive was that the neighbors at 1, 3, and 4 had gone missing in the last couple of years. Of course Petra and all the other people searched for Gared Bafdon, Sara Bafdon, Cale Stanch, and all the other neighbors, but they couldn’t find them. It was supposed they were murdered and the police were still looking for the culprit.

Petra had brown hair and brown eyes. She was always on the lookout for a place where the murderers might sneak in if they came back. She put down her spoon after eating some chocolate ice cream and forgot to wash her mouth off. Then she started the nightly ritual of racking the house for holes, open windows and trapdoors. She was always paranoid at night. Petra thought, “Maybe I should check the basement. I haven’t been there since two nights ago. Some mice might have chewed a hole in the wall.”

She walked down the sparkingly clean wooden stairs to the basement. There were eight bare bulbs on the ceiling, casting blindingly bright light on everything, “just in case the murderers came through here”. Petra first scanned the floor. She saw nothing until she came to the right corner, where a piece of the carpet was sticking up. Petra lifted it and gasped.

Underneath the carpet was a metal circle, slightly higher than the wood underneath the carpet. Petra slowly lifted it and peeked into the hole. She saw four feet of stairway leading to a stone platform. When Petra saw no murderers and nothing suspicious, except a small orange glow in the corner, she cautiously descended the stairway and thought, “Must be an old family safe.”

When both of Petra’s feet touched the platform, the metal lid slammed back on and everything went white.

Petra’s eyes flickered open. She was laying on a bed of moss under what looked like a giant fern in a forest of unrecognizable conifer trees. Petra sleepily thought, “Where am I?” and slowly stood up. The forest was echoing with weird sounds. Some sounded like shrieks and others sounded remotely like birds. Petra remembered going into the safe-thing.

Petra wondered nervously, “Was the safe like a car or something and took me to a forest? Is this what happened to the neighbors?”

Suddenly, what looked like a huge weird pheasant with a giant beak with teeth ran out from under another fern. It was chased by a humongous pheasant that was about 20 feet long with the tail and 8 feet tall with a thick, fleshy looking beak with teeth. It was mottled light and dark brown with a white belly and a wispy black crest. The words Utahraptor and Deinonychus drifted in Petra’s mind, like something had put them there. She knew with a certainty that a Utahraptor was chasing a Deinonychus. Suddenly, the Utahraptor stopped chasing the Deinonychus and sniffed the air. Then it spotted Petra and looked sideways at her. Slowly came nearer. Petra covered against the fern’s trunk. The Utahraptor, its unreadable yellow eyes peering at her, stopped right in front of Petra. She closed her eyes and thought, “The others probably disappeared like this. I’m going to die.”

The raptor sniffed Petra everywhere, and then looked at Petra again. She opened her eyes.

Arak looked at the mysterious animal, like the many others that had come out of the hole in the moss. She wanted to show it to her family, a live one this time. She bit the mysterious piece of skin on the creature. It stretched a lot. Then the creature made a weird noise that Arak knew was a fear noise. She could smell it. Then, not taking any chances that the creature might run away, Arak softly dragged the fearful and struggling creature to her nest.

Petra yelled, screamed and kicked as the raptor deposited her on its prickly nest. She knew the raptor would feed her to its babies, she just knew.

Arak called the chicks over to the creature who was looking up at them fearfully. She and her four fluffy dark brown chicks sniffed all over the creature. It looked up at them, its red