

You are an astronomer.
Since you were a child, you have looked up at the sky and dreamed. You hope to find answers to all the Big Questions one day. How big is the universe? Is there intelligent life on other planets? Do UFOs really exist?

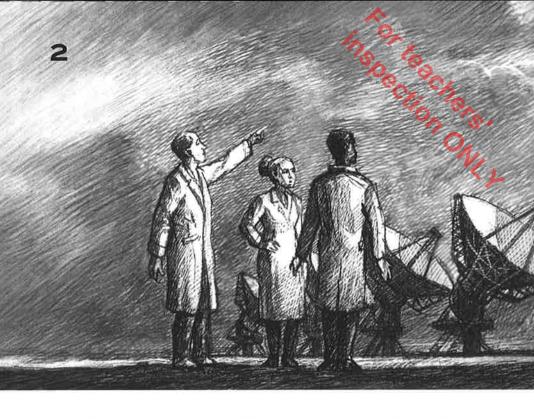
Well, actually, you already know the answer to one of those questions. You discovered it when you were seven years old. That was when you first heard Nimoy's voice inside your head.

At first, you didn't know who was talking to you. You didn't understand that Nimoy is an alien who lives on another planet. You didn't understand that you are the only person who can hear him.

Once, you tried to tell adults about Nimoy. They were very excited and took you to see a doctor. He was a funny old man. "Eat less sugar," the doctor said to you. "Watch less TV. Go play outside." You didn't understand what those things had to do with aliens in your head.

As you grew up, you stopped telling people about Nimoy. You only talked to him when you were alone. Nimoy soon became your secret friend. As the years went by, he became your best friend too.

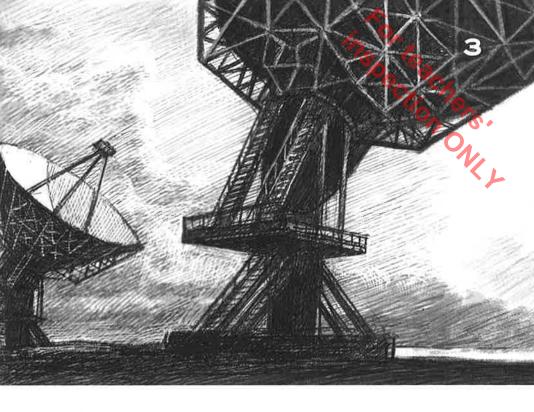
You used to talk to Nimoy every day after school. You told him things about Earth, and he told you many amazing things about the universe. Sometimes, things that even your teachers didn't know!



With Nimoy's help, you finished school very quickly. At the age of twelve, you entered a top university, where you studied astronomy. There, you continued to learn about the universe. You used powerful radio telescopes to map the galaxy, to listen to the stars, and to search for messages from other planets.

By the time you finished university—at the age of sixteen—you were already a famous astronomer. With Nimoy's help, you discovered seven new planets and even a new galaxy.

Your life with Nimoy is good. Still, sometimes you wish you could meet him face to face.



"When are you coming to Earth for a visit?" you ask Nimoy one night. It's a question you often ask.

"We're on our way," Nimoy answers after a short pause. "You know it's not easy. The speed of light—"

"Yes, yes, I know..." you say. "But with all the UFOs that people see here on Earth...I mean, they must all come from *somewhere*, right?"

"I don't know who they are," Nimoy tells you. "They aren't from my planet. It could be a new species. Not the Calaxians, I hope—those guys are trouble!"

Calaxians...you think to yourself, falling asleep. You don't know it yet, but those are the last words you hear from Nimoy, before your life changes forever.

insh to A few days later, three members of the Galactic Research Center come to your university to meet you. The GRG is a government research center in the Rocky Mountains.

"We are a government group, like NASA," a young woman tells you. "We search for messages from space. We want you to be a part of our team."

"That sounds exciting," you say. "I'll think about it."

That afternoon, you get another offer. This time, the offer comes from a private international research group called Project UFO. This group believes that governments on Earth are hiding information about alien visitors. They want your help to find the truth about UFOs.

Later that night, you try to talk to Nimoy about the job offers, but he doesn't answer you. That's strange, you think. Nimoy always answers me right away. I hope he's okay.

Unfortunately, you can't wait. You need to make a decision soon. On one hand, working for a government group means you could use some really high-tech equipment. On the other hand, a private group like Project UFO can give you more freedom to study what you want.

What do you want to do?

You are about to make your first choice! Make your choice before you turn the page.



If you join the Galactic Research Center, turn to page 6. 6

You decide to join the Galactic Research Center. A week later, you are in an airplane flying to Denver, Colorado.

Strangely, you haven't heard from Nimoy all week. You wonder if something happened to him. You think back to the last thing he said to you. Something about "Calaxians." Could that be the name of the aliens from the Calax star system? Maybe you can use the equipment at the research center to find out more.

When you arrive at the airport, the director of the research center is there to meet you. "Welcome," he says. "I'm Dr. Bill Pitting. I'm the director of the GRC."

"And I'm Dr. Holly Hayworth," says the woman next to him. "I'm head of the Astronomy Department."

"Thank you," you say, shaking their hands and smiling. "I look forward to working with you."

"We're really glad you joined the GRC," Holly says, as you get into a taxi outside. "We set up a special office for you. Your computer is very high tech. It includes a holographic map of the whole galaxy—even the smallest planets, like Calax III."

Your blood freezes as soon as she says the name Calax. How does she know you were just thinking about that star system? Can she read your mind? Maybe you made a big mistake coming here.



If you ask her about Calax, turn to page 14.

"v." I didn't "Calax III?" you ask, watching Holly carefully know we found a planet in the Calax system."

"That's right," Holly answers, looking straight into your eyes. "We found it just last week. We're not sure yet, but it looks like a small, rocky planet—about the same size as Mars. It may be a good place to find life, don't you think?"

"I don't know yet," you answer with your best fake smile. "But we'll find out very soon, I'm sure."

"Yes, I'm sure we will," Holly answers, with a fake smile of her own. She continues looking at you, as if she is waiting for you to speak again.

"Oh, don't get too excited about Calax III yet," Bill cuts in. "Calax is 1,000 light-years away from Earth. We may never know for sure!"

After that, the three of you ride in silence. You look out the window of the taxi, at the beautiful Rocky Mountains ahead of you.

When you arrive at the Galactic Research Center, Bill and Holly show you around the main building. Finally, you get to your office. It's perfect. Your equipment is very high tech. Maybe I can use this to find Nimoy, you think.

After he shows you how to connect to the GRC computer network, Bill shakes your hand again. "Sorry, I need to run to a meeting," he says. "But make sure you call if you have any problems. And again, welcome!"

"I should go too," Holly says, also offering her hand. "But I'll see you first thing tomorrow morning," she adds with a wink.