

THE SECRET OF THE ZONARS

by Victor Z.

I was strolling along one of the paths of Hullabaloo in Peru when I saw this weird creature. It had a fox head and this shabby necklace of fur around its neck and a deer like body with tiger like feet and millions of fox tails at the back, it was a Zonar. Now I had seeing a Zonar before, they were sometimes a little ferocious, but most of the time all that they wanted to do was to go about their own business. However, this one was curious, he got a little bit closer to me before giving out a nice loud bark. The rest of its pack came too. There must have been twenty of them and they were all curious about me. I wasn't sure why until I saw one of the kits come all the way to my pocket and pull out a mango, then I knew that they were hungry.

There was a farm with mango trees by a little peak on the mountain that I was on. We went all the way up to the peak. I went over the fence and dug a little hole and all of the Zonars went through the hole. Soon we were eating mangoes until we heard a loud rumbling sound and a man singing in a gruff voice. The Zonars quickly pricked up their ears and rushed through the hole. I followed right behind, but the noise was getting closer to the fence and the hole was long. I didn't know if there was going to be enough time for us to escape. Right when the noises were almost touching the hole, we saw daylight again. We were out of the hole and quickly covered the hole. Then we decided to go back where we met. The Zonars showed me a cave that I hadn't noticed it before. At a single swish of one of the Zonars' tails torches lit up the cave. We went all the way to the back of the cave and there I saw how the Zonars slept. They put their tails up to their heads and curled up to a little ball of tails and that's how they went to sleep.

The next morning, I woke up to hear lots of Zonars call, I opened my eyes and saw that some of the male Zonars were going to hunt. Some of the older kits were allowed to go for breakfast wasn't much food. They were all excited for there have never been any kits going to hunt for a long time. I wanted to go also to see what they would hunt. For I only knew that they ate mangoes and those you don't hunt. So I decided to crouch down onto four legs that way I would be able to do what the Zonars did. We went through a narrow path down the mountain and there we saw a bunch of blobs in a clearing where the path ended. They were mostly pink blobs, but there were a few green blobs. The Zonars crouched down in hunting position and I knew that that's what they were after.

The blobs had little cute eyes and little round edged mouths. I felt pity for them so I quickly went back to my house and got a little glass container and I scooped up a green blob before one of the kits could catch it. I named him Slimy and I put him in a tank near to where the cave was. Once the Zonars hunted all the blobs that they could catch, I came back and watched them eat. Then one of the momma Zonars took me around for a tour of the cave. We saw a map of the cave and we decided to look at it. It showed the entire cave network and I saw that there was a secret bookshelf near to where we were. We took the map with us so we could find the bookshelf. We saw a slight crack where the bookshelf was supposed to be, but no latch or anything that we could open it with. Then momma Zonar remembered that she had seeing a bunch of papers that told the secrets of the cave and how you could use them. We looked at the papers and we saw in one of the last papers it said, "The Secret Rock Bookshelf". Quickly I read through what it said about the bookshelf. And we learned that there is a special rock pattern that you have to press on the rocks for you to find the bookshelf. We did the

pattern and instantly the part of the wall that was in the little crack turned to reveal a half circle bookshelf full of different old books that Zonars and other creatures could read when people weren't invented yet. One of them had all of the secrets of the cave and showed where the secrets were and how to get to them. We used the other map to help us find where the other secrets were because the book only showed sections of the cave where the secrets were.

First, we were curious about a secret boat storage. We opened the secret latch door that was opened by knobs that you pulled up and down and then a door that worked with springs sprang open and we looked inside. Instantly, the whooshing sounds of the waves of the secret river that lead to the ocean attracted all the pack. We looked at the huge ships, there were carvings of ancient sailors, sailing over the seven seas. One of the Zonars decided to have a voyage across one of the seas, the rest of the pack agreed, and they decided that they would prepare their provisions for the voyage. And a few days later they would set out on the voyage. I was so excited that I spent the rest of the day preparing and getting Slimy's clothes for the voyage.

The next day, we set out on the journey, most of the smaller Zonar families had their own boats. But bigger families shared big boats with other big families. I was on one of the bigger boats. The hard part was to go through the river. We got logs to push the bigger boats onto the shore of the river. While rowing boats came ahead and put slabs of wood on the waterfalls for the smaller boats to go down the slabs of wood. It took a very long time, but finally we reached the ocean. Quickly we set sail and dropped the logs on land so we would know which shore was our home. We brought lots of maps of the ocean so that we could find our way. Suddenly, we saw a Bobaraptor, he had the head of a bird, a body of a bear, a neck

with blue scales and flippers like a dolphin with tail of fish. It blocked us from our way, we couldn't go past it or else we might get eaten. Then it swam supper quickly towards us and knocked over two smaller boats. We quickly threw ropes and tied them to the boats and then we flipped the boats back up again. We threw spears to sink the huge Bobaraptor. The Bobaraptor wailed with pain and then it slowly sunk to the bottom of the ocean.

After this we continued on our way, the map predicted that there were Lava Monsters up ahead. Soon it got nighttime and the Zonars have never sailed before, so they didn't know how to use the stars for navigation. However, they did know how to use an astrolabe. The captain of my ship said for me to get an astrolabe from the hold of the ship. I didn't know what an astrolabe looked like, but then a kit Zonar told me about the astrolabe and how it looked like. The astrolabe is used for navigation and it kind of looks like a compass. It can tell you the time, where to sail and a bunch of other things. Then I quickly found the astrolabe and brought it back to the captain. It was big and he told me to hang it in a little pole that was near the steering wheel. He told me to rig the sails for extra speed and we set off super fast. We saw a fiery glow up ahead; it was big and it was moving. We came closer and we saw that it was a terrifying Lava Monster. As we came forward, we got our spades ready. We fetched thin pieces of wood that we could surf on, we got our weapons ready and we sped up ahead and attacked the Lava Monster. We battled and battled, it took the entire night and through the day, we lost five ships. Finally, I took the magic fire stone from the Lava monster's heart and then it became even more angry because he only had a little bit more of life to spare. Then I rode on the Lava Monster's back and did tricks. I stood on my head and danced with my fingers. Then I did one last blow on the Lava Monster's eye and it died.

Soon we were off again. I learned how to use the astrolabe very well. We sailed for miles and miles away. I asked Slimy to rig the sails to go slower for I saw sandbars up ahead. I climbed up into the crow's nest and I shouted, "Land up ahead!". We got ready to set anchor on this new foreign island. We saw that there were no flags, indicating that there weren't any inhabitants of the island. We saw the shallow bay and we set anchor on it. We saw birds all around wild safari jungle birds. We also saw various different kinds of creatures. We slowly started building a dock. There were lots of long deep poles that we used to hold the dock. There were also ropes attaching to the land in case of any hurricanes that came and blew the dock away. Finally, we finished the dock. We stuck a nice long pole in the ground, and it reached higher than the trees. We made a pulley system on the pole to raise up a flag that said, "ZONAR ISLAND". Then we started building a town. We took various breaks to enjoy the fruits that grew from the trees and we played with the animals which were very nice. It took a few weeks, but at last we finished our village.

The village was a happy place to live on, lots of different sailors came to enjoy the island, but only Zonars were allowed to live in it, except for me, Slimy, and all of the animals who were there before us. We took a few trips back to the cave in Hullabaloo to get lots of important and sacred things. And we made a whole new cave with a network of tunnels in the new island with our secrets including the secret bookshelf. It was a happy island for ever and ever.

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