

ALiAn rAsTArCh

a ♥ one act play for ♥ children

by kate ♥ goddard

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ALIEN RESEARCH by Kate Goddard

In a Galaxy far far away, on Planet Varney, some time in the future... Captain Skirt from the Alien Research Unit has just returned from his journey to Planet Earth. Earth was abandoned by its population some time ago, after all the trees were destroyed, and life was no longer sustainable. A colony of people from Earth is now living on a planet called 'Vif'. Captain Skirt has returned from his mission with an interesting discovery: Books! In order to study the contents of the books that he has brought, the Head of the Alien research unit brings each book to life. They reveal fascinating information about the 'aliens' and what life was like on Planet Earth.

Cast:

Planet Varney Alien Research Unit:	Mr Floc Captain Skirt Head of Alien Research Grand Councillor Planet Varney Council member 1 Council member 2 Other Council members
Book 1:	Patty whippet – dog trainer Colin the dog
Book 2:	Gary Ramsbottom - chef Assistant chef
Book 3:	Werlock Pphones - detective Dr Whatsup - his assistant Lady Agatha Prof. Oily Carty – diamond thief Old lady
Book 4:	Mr V. B'rainy – maths expert
Book 5:	Dictionary word readers (up to 8)

Book 6:	Prince Alarming Princess Zen Queen Alarming Hairy monster
Book 7:	Fashion reporter London Filton – fashion ‘victim’ Catwalk models Jonny Greenfinger – fashion designer Hoodie models
Book 8:	Betty builder Bert builder Hairdresser Customer Driving instructor Learner Driver

(Several roles can be doubled up and all cast can be Council members for final scene. The length of the play can be shortened by leaving out one or more ‘books’/scenes.)

Scene 1 – Alien Research Unit, Planet Varney

(Enter Mr Floc and Captain Skirt. The ‘Head’ of Alien Research is on stage to one side. He is under a cloth or behind a screen or Mr Floc and Captain Skirt may be in spotlight and ‘Head’ is in blackout.)

Mr Floc:	Ah! Captain Skirt, welcome back. How was it on Planet Earth?
Captain Skirt:	Not bad at all Mr Floc. It is very unfortunate that the earthlings are no longer able to inhabit their planet. It is lucky for them that they found an alternative place to live on Planet Vif.
Mr Floc:	Indeed that is very true. Of course, we are researching how they lived on Earth before they had to relocate. Have you found anything interesting?
Captain Skirt:	There is very little to be found there but I am very excited about what I have brought back with me. I believe it could be an amazing discovery.
Mr Floc:	What is it that you have discovered?
Captain Skirt:	These! (He holds up a pile of books.)
Mr Floc:	What on Earth are those?
Captain Skirt:	Um, I don’t know!
Mr Floc:	We must show the ‘Head’ of Alien research immediately.

Captain Skirt: Yes indeed we must, at once.

(They walk over to 'Head' which can be someone with just their head sticking out of a hole in a table; the rest of their body is unseen. Lights up or Mr Floc lifts off the cover/removes screen to reveal 'Head')

HEAD: Ah, Mr Floc, Captain Skirt, come into my office! What's new?

Mr Floc: Well sir, we have found these (shows books) on planet earth.

HEAD: Indeed, I have seen them before. They are BOOKS.

Captain Skirt: Books? What are they for?

HEAD: I don't know what the earth people did with these primitive items but they are full of information. They can show us how the alien earthlings lived before they destroyed all their trees and had to move to Planet Vif.

Captain Skirt: It would be useful if we could use these 'books' to find out more about how they communicate.

Mr Floc: Yes, but how do we look at them? They are all full of strange symbols and images. How can we know what they mean?

HEAD: Here on the planet Varney research unit we have a way to go into these books and animate sections of them. You know, bring them to life!

Captain Skirt: By Galaxy, he's clever!

HEAD: Yes, I'm not the 'Head' of alien research for nothing! Let us see the first book.

(Captain Skirt holds up the first book in front of 'Head')

HEAD: I will have to translate into our own language of Varmin: blurb blurb blurb... (improvised gibberish then he says the book title) "DOG TRAINING FOR DUMMIES" by Patty Whippet

Watch and learn...

Scene 2 for book 1 – Dog Training for Dummies

(Music - enter Batty old lady 'Patty Whippet' with Colin the dog)

Patty Whippet: In order to train your doggie to sit, you must be firm with him.

Colin the Dog: (to audience) She thinks she knows everything. I'll sit when I want.

Patty Whippet: Now Colin. SIT! (with arm action)

Colin the Dog: She's got to do better than that.

Patty Whippet: Colin. SIT! (with exaggerated arm action)

Colin the Dog: If she thinks I'm gonna sit for no reason then she's more batty than I thought!

Patty Whippet: Sometimes it is necessary to encourage the wee doggie with a treat (holds up a bone). Now Colin, SIT!

Colin the Dog: That's more like it. (takes bone and sits)

Patty Whippet: Yes, a firm hand is successful every time. Good doggie (pats dog)

Colin the Dog: Get off! I only did it for the bone. I ain't doing it just 'cause she tells me.

Patty Whippet: The next problem in dog training is to get your doggie to do his business outside instead of on your carpet!

Colin the Dog: That's just too embarrassing, I'm off! (and he runs off stage)

Patty Whippet: Come back doggie! COLIN! (runs off stage after him)

HEAD: Um. Most illuminating. Let's see the next book?

(Captain Skirt holds up 2nd book)

HEAD: I'll just translate: (improvised gibberish) blurb...blurb...blurb
 "GARY RAMSBOTTOM'S BLOOMIN' TASTY RECIPE BOOK"

Scene 3 for BOOK 2 - Gary Ramsbottom's Bloomin' Tasty Recipe Book

(Music - enter Gary Ramsbottom and his assistant)

Gary: Yeah right, now I'm gonna make you a bloomin' tasty recipe using just an egg, some flour and some milk. You won't believe how easy this is....

Assistant: But isn't that...?

Gary: I say to myself, Gary, I say, you are just a bloomin' genius. No one has ever thought of this before. What you do is you bung it all in a bowl like this; mix it up like this; and then cook it in a bloomin' pan. Bloomin' easy!

Assistant: But...

Gary: And then, and this is the bloomin' amazing part, you can put different bloomin' stuff on it like jam or cream or bloomin' chocolate spread. De-bloomin-licious!
(to assistant) Try some.

Assistant: Yes it's great but isn't that a crepe?

Gary: CREPE? Bloomin' Crepe? Are you saying my recipe is bloomin' crepe?
How dare you?

Assistant: No, I mean a crepe; a pancake!

Gary: Look, 'ooo's the bloomin' chef 'round 'ere?

Assistant: You are.

Gary: You are, what?

Assistant: You are, Chef!

Gary: Yes, and don't you bloomin' forget it!

(Exit Gary and Assistant.)

HEAD: Um, these earthlings do use interesting language. What else have we?

Mr Floc: This one sir (holds up the 3rd Book).

HEAD: Good (improvised gibberish ...) blurb...blurb...blurb...
"WERLOCK PFONES AND THE STORY OF THE BAD PROFESSOR OILY
CARTY – DIAMOND THIEF"

Scene 4 for BOOK 3 - Werlock Pphones and the Story of the Bad Professor Oily Carty – Diamond Thief

(Enter Werlock Pphones and Dr Whatsup)

Werlock: Ah, Whatsup, we have the evidence we need to put the dastardly evil Professor
Oily Carty in prison for good!

Dr Watsup: Yes Pphones, but how shall we capture him?

Werlock: We shall set a trap, Whatsup.

Dr Watsup: What kind of trap, Pphones?

Werlock: My cousin, Lady Agatha, has agreed to be our bait. She will wear her most
expensive diamond necklace and wait for Professor Oily Carty to try to steal it!

Dr Whatsup: Ah, brilliant Pphones, and we will be there to catch the brigand!

Werlock: Elementary my dear Whatsup.

(Lady Agatha comes in)

Ah Lady Agatha, are you ready to do your bit?

Lady Agatha: Yes cousin Werlock. Terribly exciting isn't it?

(She sits down and pretends to read, or something?)

Werlock: Now we must hide

(Werlock and Dr W hide. Prof Oily Carty enters and tries to steal the diamonds from Lady Agatha. She screams...)

Lady Agatha: Help! Help! He's stealing my diamonds!

(Werlock and Whatsup come out)

Werlock: Ah! Oily Carty we've caught you red handed trying to steal Lady Agatha's diamonds!

Lady Agatha: Yes you thieving scoundrel, take your hands off me!

Oily Carty: Werlock Pphones, we meet at last! However, you won't get me this time, ha ha ha HA! (he pulls out a gun and runs off stage with the diamonds)

Lady Agatha: Stop him!

Werlock: Do not worry dear lady, he will get his comeuppance.

(Werlock blows a whistle and they all run off after Oily Carty – in a slow motion chase to music – they all run off stage and Oily Carty re-enters and bumps into an old lady who has entered from the other side.)

Oily Carty: Get out of my way you silly old bat!

(Old Lady tries to hit him with her handbag and he shoots her - BANG! She falls down! He runs off stage and there is the sound effect of a horse and carriage screeching to a stop etc. He has been run over and only his legs are showing from the side of the stage with perhaps some red material as blood. Werlock, Dr Whatsup and Lady Agatha enter.)

Dr Whatsup: Goodness Pphones, I'm all of a quiver.

Werlock: What's up Whatsup?

Dr Whatsup: I'm not sure I like the sight of blood Mr Pphones, not sure at all.

Lady Agatha: But Dr Whatsup, you're a doctor!

Werlock: Well it looks like Oily Carty has come to a sticky end. He won't be troubling us again.

Lady Agatha: And my diamonds?

Dr Whatsup: (He pulls the diamonds out of his pocket) Here they are Lady Agatha. I took the liberty of removing them from the villain's pocket.

Lady Agatha: Oh, thank you, but, um, what about that poor old lady?

(The old lady gets up and brushes herself down.)

Old Lady: It's all right dear, my corset is so thick the bullet didn't go through!

Dr Whatsup: Good, it would've been awfully inconvenient if she had kicked the bucket. Wouldn't it Pphones?

Werlock: Elementary my dear Whatsup!

(Exit Werlock, Dr Whatsup, Lady Agatha and old lady)

HEAD: Yes, fascinating! We must see some more. (Captain Skirt holds up book 4)
Translating... (improvised gibberish) blurb...blurb...blurb...
"ADVANCED MATHEMATICS"

Scene 5 for BOOK 4 - Advanced Maths

(Enter Mr V. B'rainy)

Mr V. B'rainy: In order to decipher the principles of advanced methods of pure mathematics, we must first explain the fundamental theory behind the calculations required. This may therefore result in subtracting binary calculations and multiplication equilibriums...

HEAD: (interrupting) No No NO!, this one is no good, Get me another one!

(exit Mr V. B'rainy. Captain Skirt and Mr Floc hold up book 5)

Captain Skirt: This one is very heavy.

HEAD: Yes, it must have plenty of good information within. I will translate:
(improvised gibberish) blurb...blurb...blurb...."OXFORD DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH" Ah! I believe this is one of the earthling languages. This will be very interesting...

Scene 6 for Book 5 – Oxford Dictionary of English

(Each 'Reader' enters with card with each word/s written on front – they read out definition with relevant expression and actions if appropriate)

- Reader 1: 'Brouhaha – noun – a NOISY and over excited critical response, display of interest or trail of publicity...'
- Reader 2: 'Brow – noun – a person's forehead, an eyebrow, or the summit of a hill or pass or a gangway from a ship to the shore.'
- Reader 4: 'Browbeat – verb – intimidate someone, typically into doing something, with stern or ABUSIVE WORDS!'
- Reader 5: 'Brown – adjective – a colour produced by mixing red, yellow and blue, as of dark wood or rich soil.'
- Reader 6: 'Brown ale – noun – dark mild beer sold in bottles' – HIC!
- Reader 7: 'Brown algae – plural noun – a large group of algae that are typically olive brown or greenish in colour including many seaweeds. They contain xanthophyll in addition to chlorophyll'... URGH!
- Reader 8: 'Brown bear – noun – a large bear with a coat colour ranging from cream to black, occurring chiefly in forests in Eurasia and North America'... GRRRR!

(All Readers walk in circles say their words at the same time faster and faster)

HEAD: STOP! I can't stand this one either! Too much information at once. I'm really browned off! Lets carry on with another book please...(Captain Skirt holds up book 6) Here we go again (improvised gibberish) blurb....blurb....blurb...'BOOK OF FAIRYTALES'
Ah, this sounds much more promising...

Scene 7 for BOOK 6 – Book of Fairytales

(Music and enter Prince Alarming. There is a lamp stand, fake plant in a pot, cushion and an over-size comedy hammer hidden at the side of the stage or behind a screen).

Prince Alarming: Oh woe is me, I am a prisoner in this castle and cannot escape. A horrible monster has put me here!

(Enter Princess Zen.)

Princess Zen: Hey, fair prince, I am Princess Zen and I have come to rescue you!

Prince Alarming: Oh goodie gum drops, my princess in shining armour has arrived! But hark (hand to ear) I hear the Monster returning!

Monster: (from off stage) Roarrrrr! I'll eat that scrawny Prince for tea.

Princess Zen: What?

Prince Alarming: Hark! I hear the monster returning!

Monster: (off stage) Roarrrrr! Yes, I'll eat him with olive oil and balsamic vinegar. That'll be really tasty. Ooh, and a bit of bread to mop up the juice! Yummy!

Princess Zen: Well that monster has rather good taste I must say!

Prince Alarming: (as monster comes up behind princess). Look out!

Monster: OY! Get away from my dinner!

Princess Zen: Ahh! Er yes, he is a bit of a scary looking fellow isn't he?

Prince Alarming: Yes and he'll eat us both!

Princess Zen: Hey prince, be cool. I am a black belt in Feng Shui!
(She organises the scene getting the objects from the side of the stage or behind the screen and gets the prince and monster to move around and hold things)
Here, hold this and stand there...
(She gives monster the lamp stand and moves him),
You go there...
(She helps Prince out the way)
You go there...That's better... Now, you hold that and that ...
(She gives the monster the plant pot and then the prince)
And I'll stand here...
(She stands next to monster and picks up the hammer)
With this!
(She hits monster over the head and he falls to ground!)

Prince Alarming: Oh! That was clever!

Princess Zen: Just moving things around to improve the vibes! Now fair prince, in true fairytale style I must meet your mother, the Queen and ask for your hand in marriage!

Prince Alarming: Fantabbytastic! Follow me and I will take you to her.

(They go off and the Queen comes on with chair/throne. Prince Alarming and Princess Zen enter)

Queen: Well I never, it's my son, Prince Alarming! Where have you been? Your tea is getting cold!

