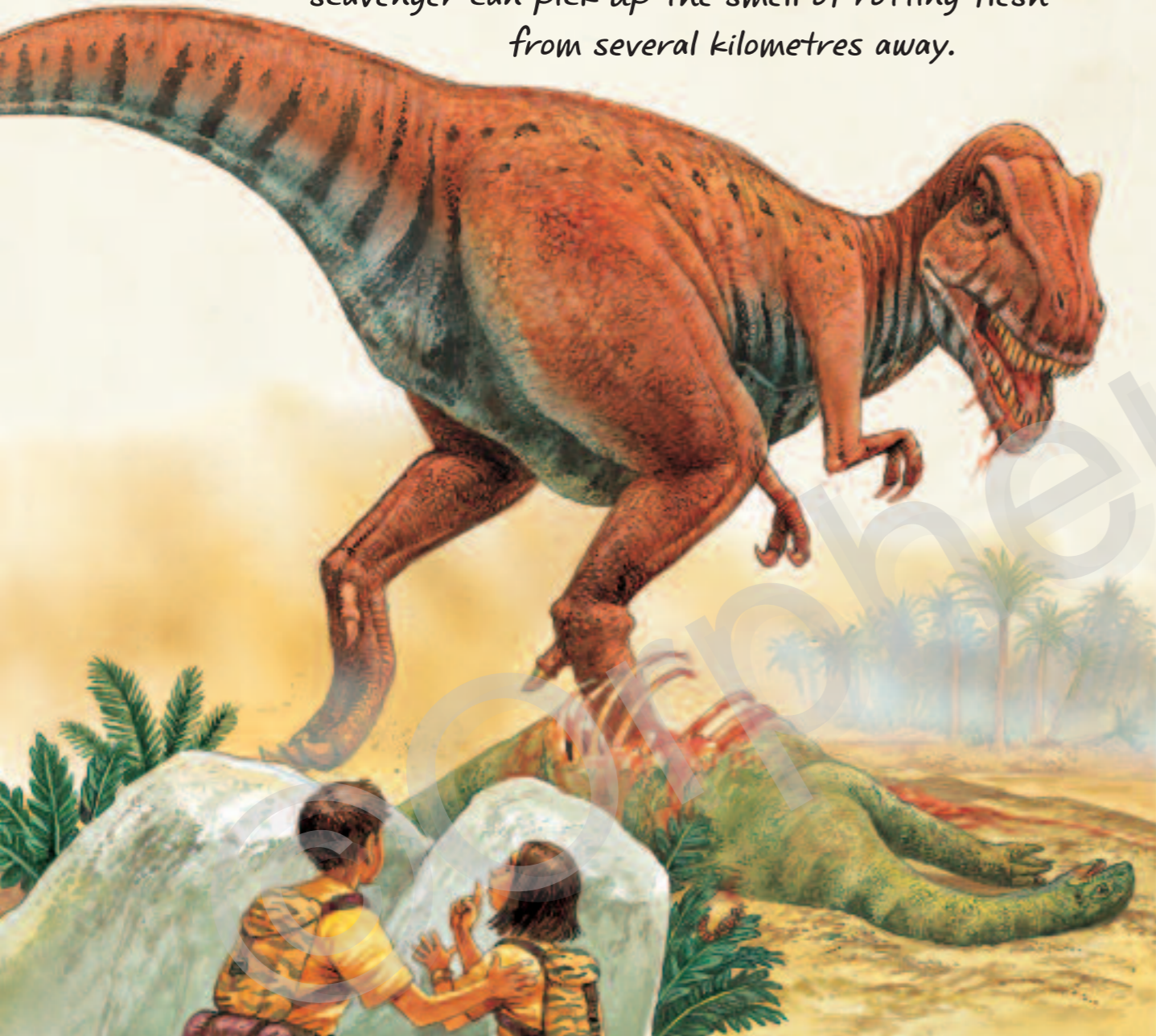


“Maisie, you must be mad!”

“We can’t leave here without seeing one”, I said. “If we’re very quiet and don’t move, it won’t go after us.”

We soon found the carcass of a dinosaur. Yuk! Josh squeezed his nostrils tightly, but I thought this was perfect. A good scavenger can pick up the smell of rotting flesh from several kilometres away.



We hid behind some rocks, and, within minutes, the KING OF DINOSAURS, stood before us. Wow! Tyrannosaurus rex! We didn’t move a muscle. Here was the largest, fiercest, SCARIEST monster you could ever imagine—just metres away. Eek! I think we could both have easily fitted into his mouth.

He tore a few huge chunks out of the side of the carcass before wandering off. Both of us let out a breath—which he must have heard. He stopped, and slowly turned round. We froze...

He let out a spine-chilling roar, waggled his tiny arms and lolloped off. Whew!

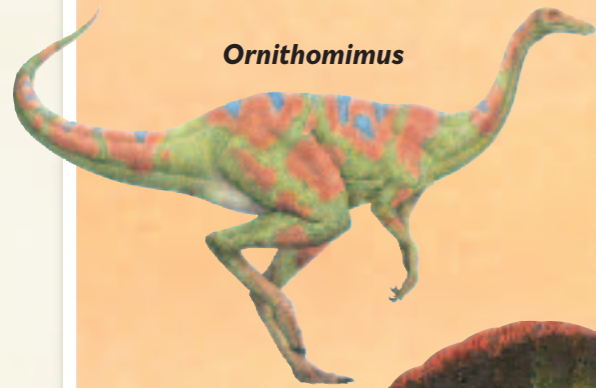
That was close!

This is one of its teeth, at actual size. The curved shape and razor-sharp edge makes it perfect for tearing meat from the bones of its prey.



# FLESH-EATING DINOSAURS

Flesh-eating dinosaurs are known as theropods. Theropods were among the first dinosaurs. When they first appeared, they were very small reptiles perfectly suited to the hot, dry climate during the early Triassic period. But even as the world grew wetter in the Jurassic, theropods also adapted. As their main food source, larger plant-eating sauropods, grew bigger because of the abundance of food—trees and green vegetation—so, too, did the theropods, who became large, powerful hunters.



*Ornithomimus*



*Tyrannosaurus rex*



*Eoraptor*



*Coelophysis*



*Carnotaurus*



*Spinosaurus*



*Compsognathus*



*Allosaurus*



*Deinonychus*



*Oviraptor*

Theropods ran on two muscular hind legs. A large theropod, such as *Tyrannosaurus rex*, killed or scavenged on its own, rushing at its prey and plunging its dagger-like teeth into its flesh. Smaller theropods might have hunted in packs. This enabled them to bring down victims much larger than themselves. One group of small theropods may have had feathers.