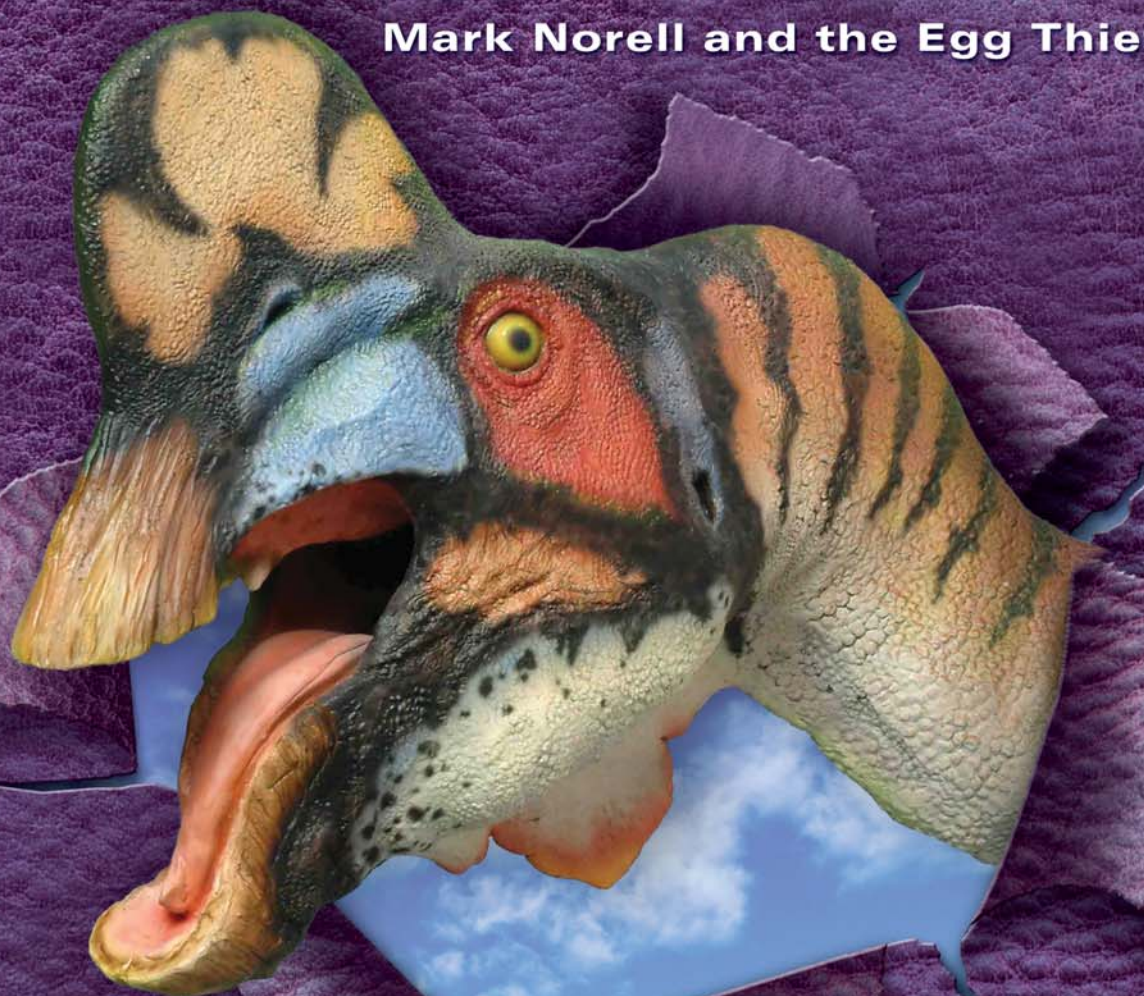


FOSSIL
HUNTERS

The OVIRAPTOR ADVENTURE

Mark Norell and the Egg Thief



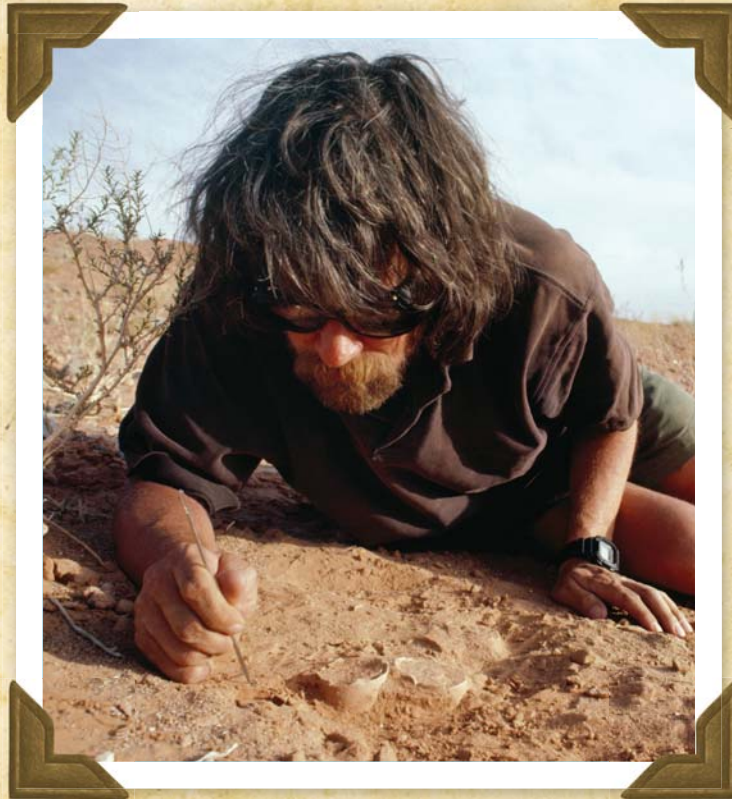
by Meish Goldish

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The OVIRAPTOR ADVENTURE

Mark Norell and the Egg Thief



by Meish Goldish

Consultant: Dr. Luis M. Chiappe, Director
The Dinosaur Institute
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover, Charlie McGrady Studio; Title Page, Louie Psihoyos / Science Faction; 4, © Louie Psihoyos / Science Faction; 5, © Mick Ellison; 6, © Neg. #258467, American Museum of Natural History; 7, © Neg. #219165, American Museum of Natural History; 8, © Neg. #410767, American Museum of Natural History; 9, © Neg. #110266, American Museum of Natural History; 10, © Neg. #410944, American Museum of Natural History; 11T, © Mick Ellison; 11B, © Louie Psihoyos / Science Faction; 12, © Mick Ellison; 13T, © Neg. #410737s / American Museum of Natural History; 13B, © Charlie McGrady Studio; 14, © Neg. #410761 / American Museum of Natural History; 15, © Neg. #410765s / American Museum of Natural History; 16, © Neg. #313658 / American Museum of Natural History; 17, © Christian Darkin / Photo Researchers, Inc.; 18, © Mick Ellison; 19, © Mick Ellison; 20–21, © Louie Psihoyos / Science Faction; 21, © Mick Ellison; 22T, © American Museum of Natural History / Science Faction; 22B, © Mick Ellison; 23, © Mick Ellison; 24, Kathrin Ayer; 25, © Louie Psihoyos / Science Faction; 26, © Michel & Christine Denis-Huot / Photo Researchers, Inc.; 27, © Reuters / Corbis; 28–29, Rodica Prato; 28, © Joe Tucciarone; 29T, © Luis V. Rey; 29B, © Natural History Museum Picture Library, London.

Publisher: Kenn Goin; Editorial Director: Adam Siegel; Editorial Development: Natalie Lunis; Creative Director: Spencer Brinker; Photo Researcher: Beaura Kathy Ringrose; Design: Dawn Beard Creative

Special thanks to Emily Lanzara at the American Museum of Natural History

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Goldish, Meish.

The oviraptor adventure : Mark Norell and the egg thief / by Meish Goldish.

p. cm. — (Fossil hunters)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-258-6 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-258-2 (library binding)

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-286-9 (pbk.)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-286-8 (pbk.)

1. Oviraptor—Eggs—Mongolia—Juvenile literature. 2. Oviraptor—Nests—Mongolia—Juvenile literature.

I. Norell, Mark. II. Title. III. Series.

QE862.S3G66 2007

567.912—dc22

2006008000

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003. Printed in the United States of America.

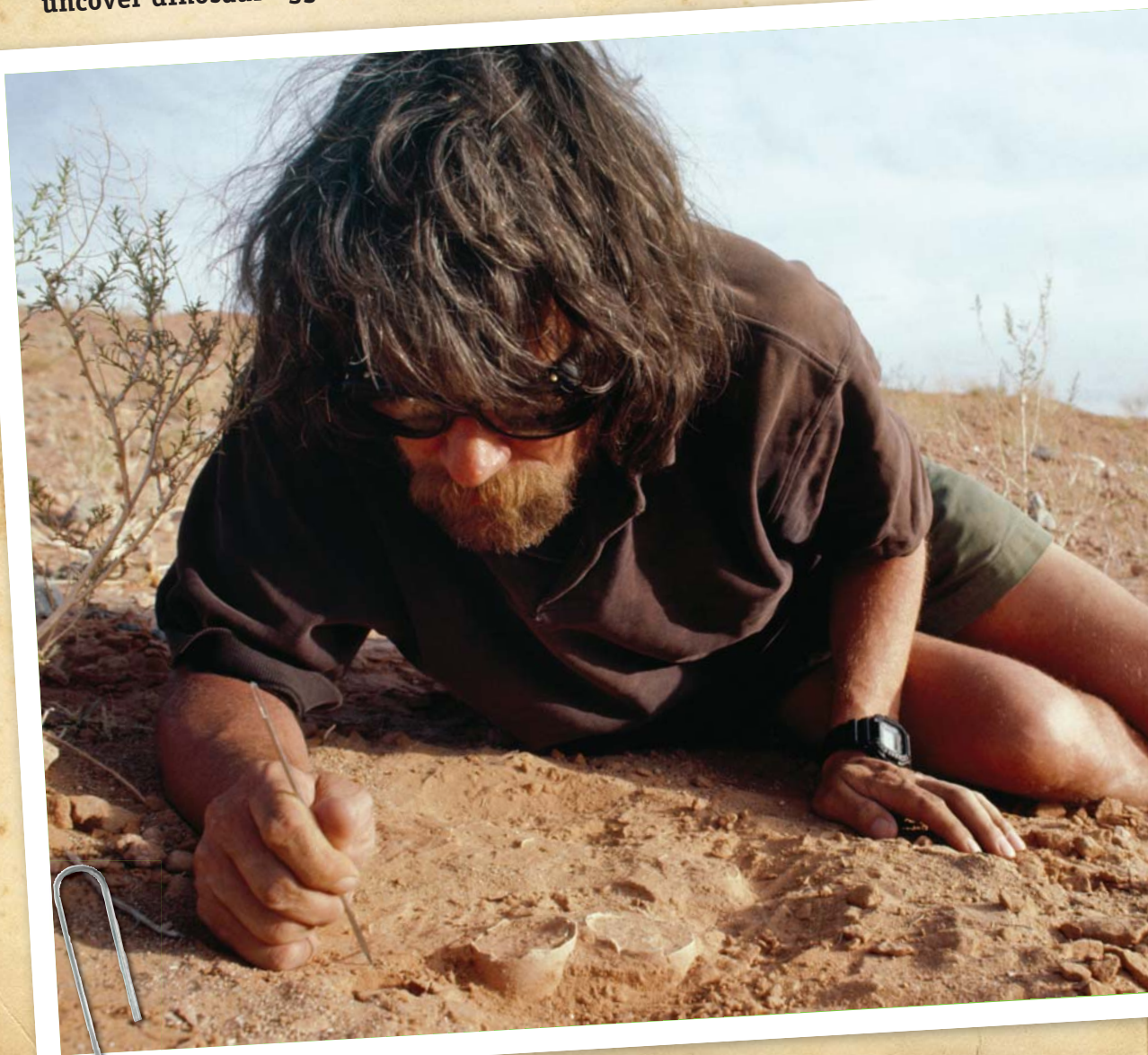
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A Shocking Discovery

Deep in the Gobi (GOH-bee) Desert, Mark Norell was hunting for **fossils**. As he searched the dry, rocky ground, he spotted a nest of dinosaur eggs. One egg caught his eye. The top was worn away. Inside the shell was a tiny dinosaur skeleton.


Mark Norell in the Gobi Desert using a pick to uncover dinosaur eggs



Mark could hardly believe his eyes. The dinosaur inside was not the kind he expected to see. This egg would change everything. A great mystery would finally be solved.



Mark and his team were searching for dinosaurs in an area of the Gobi Desert called Ukhaa Tolgod, which means "brown hills."



Dinosaurs lived in the Gobi Desert tens of millions of years ago. Sand and rock have preserved their eggs to this day.

Back to the Beginning

The dinosaur egg mystery began 70 years earlier. In 1922, a team of **paleontologists** traveled to Mongolia. They were led by Roy Chapman Andrews, who worked at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Andrews loved to explore new places. "I was born to be an explorer," he once said.



Roy Chapman Andrews

Andrews began his career at the American Museum of Natural History as a janitor. He said it was an honor just to clean the floors there.

Andrews had good reason for going to Mongolia. He wished to explore the Gobi Desert. He wanted to search for **ancient** bones of people and animals.

Some scientists believed Mongolia was the home of the first people on Earth. Andrews was eager to find out if that was true.



Before Andrews searched for dinosaur bones, he had recovered and studied whale skeletons. He sailed on Japanese whaling boats to learn more about the animals.

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About the Author

Meish Goldish has written more than 100 books for children. His book *Fossil Tales* won the Learning Magazine Teachers' Choice Award.

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Mark could hardly believe his eyes. The dinosaur inside was not the kind he expected to see. Was it possible that this egg would finally solve a 70-year-old mystery?

ENDORSED BY

The Dinosaur Institute[®]
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Natural History Museum
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The *Albertosaurus* Mystery
Philip Currie's Hunt in the Badlands

The Fossil Feud
Marsh and Cope's Bone Wars

The *Maiasaura* Nests
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Sue Hendrickson's Huge Discovery

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-258-6

ISBN-10: 1-59716-258-2



9 781597 162586