



The Adventures of **Mo**

Chapter 23

By Carol Patton

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The Voices

“I didn’t know the Earth makes a full circle around the sun once a year,” said Mo to Finchy. “Did you know that? It’s called orbiting.”

“Shhh!” said Finchy.

The two friends were watching a show inside a planetarium at a space museum in Hutchinson. The day before, they had been riding on top of the delivery truck for at least ten hours. They traveled along Interstate 55 South and saw many signs for Kansas City, which was more than three hours away from the museum.

They were learning why this planet has four seasons and how the sky changes throughout the year.

But the coolest part of the show involved the eighty-eight constellations in the night sky that anyone, anywhere, on Earth can see. They tried to connect the group of stars

that form constellations like Orion the Great Hunter, Leo the Lion, Taurus the Bull, or Aquarius, a young man pouring water.

Mo heard someone whisper in his ear. He turned around. No one was there. Moments later, he heard more whispering.

“After the show, meet me in the Apollo Gallery,” said a voice with a strange accent.

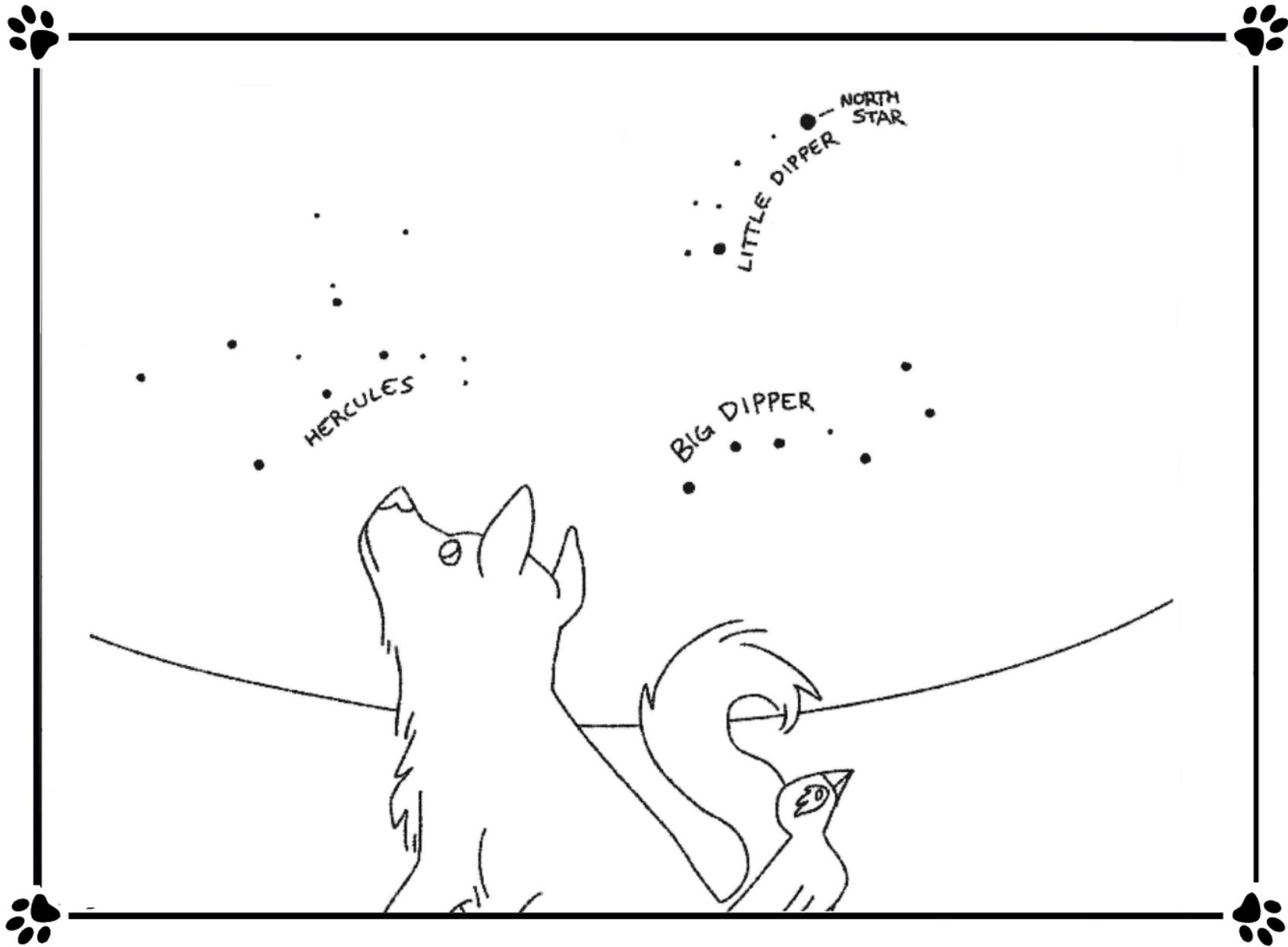
Mo’s ears pointed straight up. He didn’t know what to think. Was someone playing a trick on him?

After the show, he mentioned the strange voice to Finchy.

“I didn’t hear it,” said Finchy. “Sure you’re getting enough sleep?”

Mo rolled his eyes and headed straight for the Apollo Gallery with Finchy in tow.

They walked around, looking at all kinds of cool stuff like the Odyssey, the space capsule that brought three astronauts safely back home when they couldn’t land on the moon.



“Thanks for coming,” said the strange voice. Mo and Finchy both turned around in a circle but still didn’t see anyone.

“Who are you?” asked Mo. “Where are you?”

“I’m standing right in front of you,” said the same voice. “You can’t see me or any of us because . . . well, it takes too long to explain. But certain animals with excellent hearing like dogs and birds can hear us.”

Mo and Finchy looked at each other, not sure if this was a prank.

“None of us have names, but we’re known as The Voices,” said the same voice.

“We’re from the moon but travel all around the universe, making friends with many different beings who look, act, live, and think differently than us.”

Finchy was having a hard time keeping quiet. He had so many questions.

“What do you look like, I mean really look like?” he asked without waiting for an answer. “Do you have feathers like me or pointed ears like Mo? What do you eat? How many of you visit this planet? Where do you go? What do you do? Who else knows about you? What do . . .”

Finchy and Mo could hear them laughing.

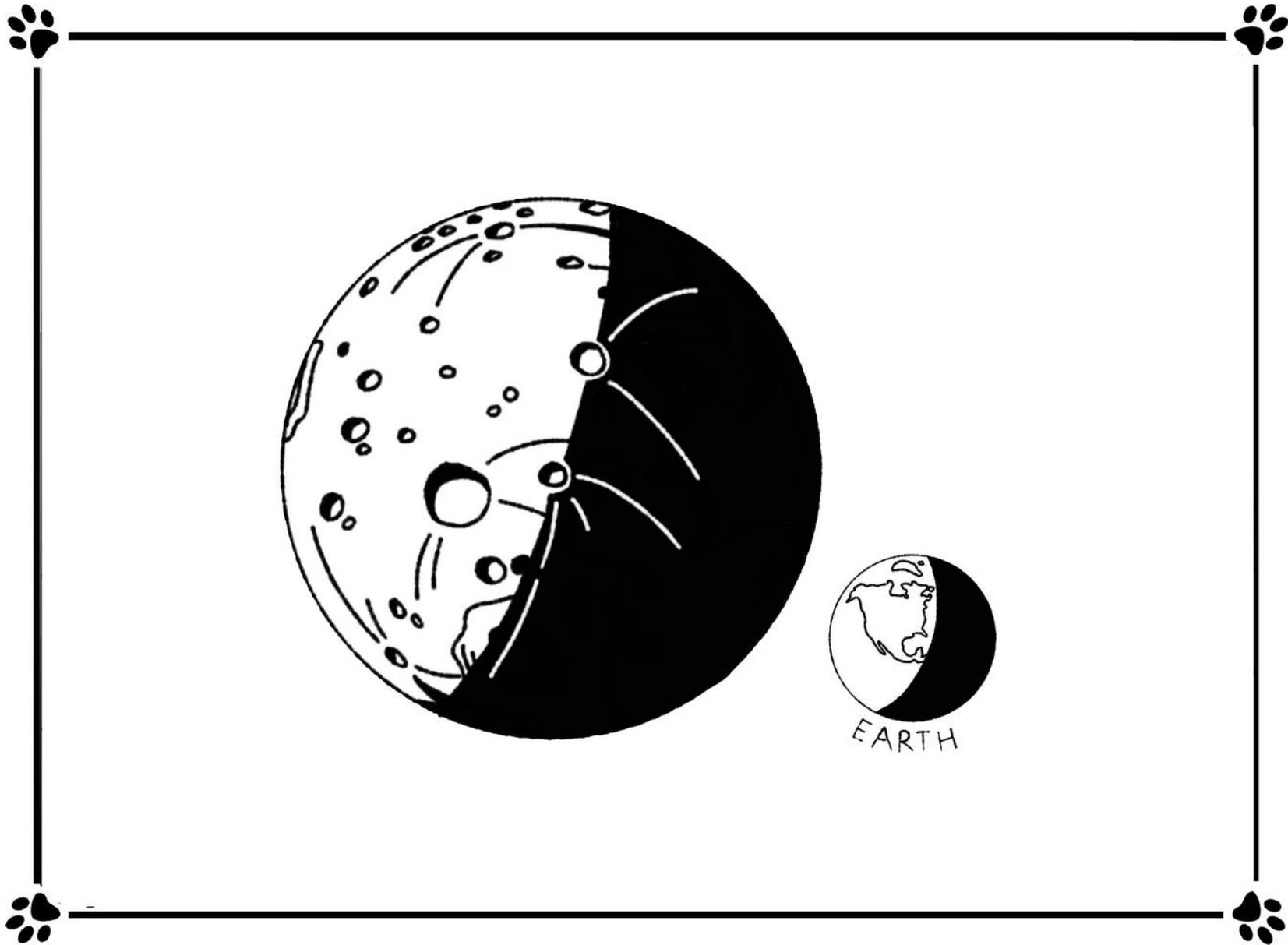
“Slow down,” said a second voice. They took turns answering Finchy’s questions.

Mo and Finchy learned that The Voices don’t have a head or body. They can travel anywhere they want and have already visited hundreds of different galaxies throughout the universe. Although they can see and hear, they can’t taste, smell, or touch.

“Everyone travels to your planet,” said a third voice. “Coming to Earth is like going on vacation. Besides dogs and birds, we also play with dolphins, owls, elephants, horses, and others who have better hearing than humans. Sometimes I even go to school – no one knows I’m there – to learn more about this universe. Did you know that the planet Jupiter has seventy-nine moons? Seventy-nine!”

Mo and Finchy asked them what life was like on the moon.

The Voices told them that daylight on the moon lasts for fourteen straight days and is followed by another fourteen days of nonstop darkness.



Mo knew all about light and dark days. In some parts of his home state, the sun doesn't come out for sixty-seven days during winter. In the summer, it doesn't stop shining – even at midnight – for more than eighty straight days.

"Temperatures on the moon also reach up to two hundred and sixty degrees and drop to two hundred and eighty degrees below zero," said a fourth voice.

Mo and Finchy were glad they lived on Earth.

Then The Voices discussed their plans for the rest of the day, which included watching a penguin race in Antarctica, judging a dance contest among African elephants, and dining with dolphins.

Mo and Finchy waved goodbye, feeling sad that their new friends couldn't stay longer. They also felt a bit jealous. Why couldn't they do those things?

But then they realized how many things they could do that The Voices couldn't do. They could smell flowers, taste chocolate, or hold somebody's hand.

"Now that I think about it," said Mo, "no one can do everything. We all have

something special about us. We just need to find out what that is.”

“Precisely,” said Finchy. “Look at me. I can fly, sing, and build. And Mo, you can. . . you can. . .what exactly is it that you can do?”