

The Dream Machine

Chapter 1 – Genesis of a Koala

In a barren desert, located on a planet somewhere in the universe, a small koala is lying on the ground. He slowly awakes, and sits up, wondering where he is. He feels a little dizzy but begins to focus.

He looks around, before managing to get up, and walk. He had no rocket, no Sonic Spanner, no spacesuit. Just a torn red t-shirt. He saw that he was all on his own.

“Where am I? This place looks familiar, but I don’t know.” said the Koala to himself.

He wandered around trying to find how to get to where he needs to go. The koala is used to the outback desert, but not without a clue on how to get somewhere. He looked at the two suns in the sky, and his shadows, and remembers how to locate south, so begun his journey.

As he ventured, he heard a voice:

“You need to find your home Kola.”

The koala looked behind him and saw a shadowy hooded figure. He couldn’t make out any features, except the coloured fur which seemed to match his own, and a koala nose under the hood. He couldn’t see the figures eyes, or any other part of his body.

“Who are you?” asked the Koala.

The figure did not respond. Instead it vanished, to the surprise of the koala.

“Must be a mirage or illusion.” Said the koala to himself, as he continued his journey.

As the koala's journey continued, he found a road, but with no signpost to point the way to anywhere. As he followed the road, he heard the same voice from before say:

"Knowing who I am will not help you Kola."

"You again. Are you going to help me get to where I need to go?" asked the koala.

The figure did not answer.

"Who are you, or what are you? A figment of my imagination? A hologram? A message from the past?" demanded the koala.

"A ghost?" he added with concern.

The figure just stayed still before saying.

"Maybe you should be asking 'Who are you?'" said the figure.

"I know who I am. I'm Kola Cannes Koala. I travel through space, I have friends and family on Earth." The koala responded.

"But who are you?" said the figure.

Kola Koala just looked down, thinking about himself.

"You need to discover." Said the figure, as he disappeared, revealing a road sign post.

Kola ran towards it, and looked, realise the signpost read 'Gawler'.

"You mean I got to travel to where I was born, by foot?" sneered Kola.

Kola looked around but could not see or locate the shadowy figure.

Kola huffed and sighed as he followed the sign's directions down the road to where he hopes it will be his old township.

On Planet Medicus, Kola's friends Zee-Zee and Walla were getting anxious.

"What are you doing to Kola?" demanded Zee-Zee.

"He's dreaming, and soon the White Energy will transfer from him to this receptacle, which is like a battery. As Kola experiences the emotions in his sleep, the power will come to me!" grinned Walter.

"Sir, we are getting a visualisation of the dream through the psycho-sensor." Said Fred.

"Oh do show! This will be interesting!" smiled Walter.

On the screen by Walter's device, Zee-Zee and Walla could see a moving image of Kola's vision. However, all they could see was a long road.

"It's just a video of a long road!" said Zee-Zee.

"Well, we are just seeing what he sees, we can check what's causing his feeling." Explained Walter.

"Look there's a house in the distance, looks like Kola's heading there." Said Walla.

On Kola's long journey, he comes to what appeared to be a house at the end of the road. The road stops at the garden gate, which was part of a picket fence which surrounded the house. The house had an eerie familiarity to Kola.

"The road's a dead end? With a house? Why?" thought Kola, as he opened the gate and ventured up the garden path, he could see people talking, and laughing happily.

Kola approached the front door and felt it open. The sound of conversations and laughing was louder. Kola ventured further in, curious. He found that the noise was coming from a room, which

Kola guessed was a lounge. He looked and felt the patterns of the wallpaper, and the furniture layout was getting more familiar.

Kola then approached the door of the lounge, which was slightly ajar. He pushed it open to see lots of people, including some he recognised like Bouncer and Winnie, but also others he did not know, including another wallaby. As Kola entered, he realised that not one of the attendees noticed him, even when he tried to call their name.

Walla and Zee-Zee could see all the people Kola has encountered on the screen in the lecture theatre.

“Look that’s my mummy, and Bouncer!” said Walla.

“But what’s happening?” wondered Zee-Zee as he kept watching.

As the attendees stepped aside, Kola saw a koala mother cradling her baby joey. Kola, shocked at the sight, ran up to the mother, and stared at the baby joey. He saw that the baby had the same birthmark as he did as he sucked his thumb.

“Thank you for coming everybody.” Said the mother.

“What are you going to call him Krissy?” asked Winnie.

The mother looked at the baby and looked back up and smiled.

“Kola.” She said softly.

Kola, stared at the baby joey, opened mouthed.

“That’s... that’s me?” he gasped.

“Very perspective of you Kola.” Said the figure’s voice.

Kola looked up and saw the shadowy figure in the corner of the lounge. No-one could see him, and no-one seemed to be able to see the figure.

At Planet Medicus, Zee-Zee and Walla were looking at the screen aghast.

“That’s Kola as a baby with his mamma!” said Walla.

“Yeh, but who’s that ghost like thing Kola seems seeing?”

Walter was not interested in Zee-Zee and Walla’s commentary, as he was delighted with the process of his machine.

“Yes, I’m getting the power, it’s working!” cheered Walter.

By the Dream Machine, TJ was checking on Kola’s status.

“Sleep little koala, the Dream Machine is doing its job!” said TJ softly, stroking Kola’s head.

“We have no idea what will happen when Walter’s machine has finished siphoning the energy.” Said Fred.

“We will gradually bring him back when Walter’s finished.” Replied TJ

At the house, Kola felt something on the back of his head. Not only did it feel pleasant to him, but it also seemed to help him focus on where he is clearly.

“If that’s my mamma, where’s my father? Surely, he’s here.” Asked Kola to the figure, but the figure did not respond.

“Oh, where is that useless waste of oxygen?” said Bouncer.

Kola turned towards Bouncer, who was looking angry.

“Bouncer shhhhhh!” said Walla.

Krissy just focused on making baby Kola comfortable.

“I mean it, he should be here at his son’s emergence from the pouch. I bet he’s at the pub or the pokies!” snapped Bouncer.

“He said he’s busy, but he will be here later on.” Said Krissy.

Bouncer calmed down, as he didn’t want Krissy upset at a special moment, so sat beside her to give her a cuddle, while stroking the baby koala.

“Where is my father?” demanded Kola.

“He should be here, I’ve never seen him” frowned Kola.

The shadowy figure just turned around and walked out of the door. Kola followed him as he left the house through the back door. As Kola opened the door, he noticed that instead of being at an isolated house in the outback, he was on a street in a town that he knew.

“This, this is Gawler?” Gaspd Kola.

He looked around and remembered all the buildings.

“Gawler from when I was little!” he said.

“Oh this is good!” said Walter.

“Pretty soon I will have all the energy from Kola, and I can then proceed!” he smiled.

“Will you then let us and Kola go?” shouted Zee-Zee.

Walter turned and scowled at Zee-Zee, which unnerved him a little.

“IF you stay out of my way, and keep quiet, I may, just may, let you and your wallaby friend go home. Kola on the other hand, is mine to do as I please!” answered Walter.

Chapter 2 – The Bush Fire

Kola walked down what he knew was his childhood street, until he reached the retail precinct. He looks at the shops and remembered the Deli, the Milkbar, The Corner Store (despite it being in between two shops) the Bakery and The Gawler Hotel pub. Kola then saw Bouncer, appearing to march towards the pub. Kola rushed towards him.

Bouncer looked on a mission, as he went past the pub's entrance, and into the gaming room within the pub. As Kola followed, he saw Bouncer approach an adult koala buck playing a pokie machine, a common form of gambling on Planet Australia.

"I knew I'd find you in here Kyle!" snapped Bouncer angrily.

"Bouncer, go away, I'm on a streak!" responded the koala.

Bouncer then dragged Kyle away from the pokie machine and held him to a wall.

"Listen here Kyle." Said Bouncer, with gritted teeth.

"You have got Krissy back at home looking after your joey, cleaning up the house, and making sure ends are being met, while you're here, drinking, smoking, and gambling away your money, and not lifting a claw to help. I'm fed up with it, Wilbur and Winnie are fed up with it, and Krissy goes to bed in tears trying to sooth a little joey. You have got to buck your ideas up mate!" Bouncer stated.

"Leave me alone! I didn't want Krissy to have a baby, I do what I want!" snapped back Kyle, pushing Bouncer away.

"Well the baby's here now, so what you gonna do? Grow the hell up, get a job and be responsible for Kola's upbringing with Krissy? Or hide away, wasting your social on smokes, beer and pokies?" Bouncer grumbled, pinning Kyle to the wall.

“You’re not my boss, I am my own Koala!” shouted Kyle pushing Bouncer to the floor.

“You know what Kyle. Fine!” growled Bouncer, getting himself up.

“That baby probably has more responsibility himself now, then you’ll ever have. Oh, and I was here to deliver a message from Krissy. If you don’t get yourself home tonight, sober, then don’t go back at all!” said Bouncer, before he left Kyle to the pokie machines.

As bouncer left Kola turned and saw the shadowy figure. It was then he and had a realisation.

“Wait, I’m not here. How can I be dreaming about this?” asked Kola.

The shadowy figure did not answer.

“And that was my father! What happened to him? Did he ever come back?” Kola asked.

The shadowy figure appeared to shake his head.

“Well, is he still around?” inquired Kola.

The shadowy figure did not answer the question, but stated:

“The reason your father never appeared again...”

The shadowy figure disappeared before Kola’s eyes.

“Wait!” shouted Kola, before he started sniffing.

“Smoke?” thought Kola, before a chill of fright went through him.

“Fire!” screamed Kola, as suddenly towering flames grow all around and surround the defenceless koala.

“That was Kola’s daddy!” said Zee-Zee.

“He’s obviously got some issues.” said Walter.

“Please wake up him up Mr Walter, Kola’s having a nightmare!” cried Walla.

“Are you kidding? The power is drawing out of him faster, this is the emotion we need!” replied Walter, as the container was filling with the white energy from Kola.

Kola crouched down, the flames moving closer and closer to him.

“Help me please, I’m trapped!” cried out Kola.

Kola saw through the flames a paw that reached out, with the same birthmark his has. He grabbed the paw which pulled Kola through the flame, and into an opening.

The paw belonged to the shadowy figure.

“How did I not get burned?” asked Kola.

“You are not really here, have you not realised? The flames have no effect on us.” Answered the figure.

“Your paw, are you my.....? asked Kola, before he heard a scream.

“That’s my mama!” cried Kola, as he rushed to the location of the scream.

Kola saw his mother clinging to a dead tree, with his baby self, clinging to her.

“Someone help, please help my mamma!” cried Kola.

He then heard a helicopter lowering to the tree and a ladder dangling down, with Bouncer holding it. Kola could hear Bouncer shouting to Krissy. He saw himself being passed to Bouncer, but he could hear the tree making a grinding sound.

“Please help my mamma Bouncer!” cried Kola, clutching his paw.

As Krissy tried to reach the ladder, the tree collapsed in front of Kola.

“Mamma!” Screamed Kola.

Kola could see Krissy fall and ran towards the tree, as Kola cried and screamed out.

At the dream machine, TJ took a reading from Kola.

“He’s very hot, you’d think he’s got a fever.” He thought.

“I’ve observed what Kola’s dreaming, and this is out of the ordinary.”

Said Fred the badger, as he wheeled himself to Kola.

“How so?” asked TJ.

“He’s dreaming of events that he was not part of but were likely to have actually happened. It’s weird.” Answered TJ.

“Maybe he has a good imagination?” thought TJ.

“But who remembers themselves when they’re not even there?” reasoned Fred.

“Mama, mama!” cried Kola, as he ran to the burning tree.

As he tried to approach, all Kola could see was the huge flames, as the tree had vanished into the smoke and fire. Exhausted, he just collapsed down, and cried hopelessly. But as the tears fell, he heard another helicopter, and saw what appeared to be rain, falling all around him.

“The flames? They’re being put out?” thought Kola to himself.

Through the steam and the smoke, Kola could make out the stump of the tree and beside it laid his mama koala, unconscious. Kola rushed to her, not being able to feel the heat from the ground.

“Mama, mama please wake up. Mama!” cried Kola, shouting to wake her up.

Soon, Krissy's eyes opened. She gasped and woke. She looked around, not knowing where she was. Kola saw her try to get up.

"Mama I'm here, it's Kola!" he said, begging to be heard.

"I'm afraid she still can't hear or see you." Said the figure, who reappeared.

"But my mama, she's hurt!" said Kola.

"Your mother wanders off, she hit her head, and right now, she has forgotten who she is," said the figure.

Kola watched as she walks away. He tries to follow her, until he hears a vehicle approaching. Kola noticed he was nowhere near where the fire took place, but on a roadside again. He watches as a brightly coloured camper van pulls aside his mama. The occupants come out, appear to check if she's ok, before inviting his mother into the van, which then drives off.

"Who are they? Did they look after mama?" asked Kola.

Kola turned around and saw that he was on his own again.

At the lab, TJ and Fred were aghast.

"That's, that's our old friend Waratah's van!" gasped TJ

"It's not... oh so it is, I knew he came from Planet Australia but..." said Fred, before being interrupted.

"Well, being the fact that Waratah's a koala, kind of gives it away." Said TJ sardonically.

"But this is such a coincidence, Waratah helping Kola's mother." Fred said, as he saw Waratah helping Krissy into his campervan with his friends.

"Wonder what he's up to these days?" thought TJ.

“I heard he’s modified that van!” said Fred.

At the lecture theatre Zee-Zee and Walla see that the container is filling with more of the white energy.

“Yes! The energy is ciphering from your friend, and soon it will be all mine.” Said Walter.

“Mr Walter, please let Kola go, you must have enough of that energy.” Said Zee-Zee

“Oh no, this is just the beginning! I can’t stop until every watt is mine!” responded Walter.

Soon Fred and TJ wandered into the lecture theatre, to Walter’s annoyance.

“Sir, we have a theory that Kola isn’t dreaming.” Said TJ.

“What? Well, what is he experiencing if it’s not a dream? An out of body experience I suppose?” said Walter.

“Yes possibly.” Said Fred.

“Oh, for goodness sake. Well, if he is, you can submit the thesis, good luck, now get out and keep an eye on him, he must be alive or the power will be lost!” said Walter.

TJ and Fred left to continue to observe Kola, and Walter approached Zee-Zee and Walla.

“You see kids, Kola and I go back a long way, and if it wasn’t for him, I wouldn’t have hidden away like this. But with the White Energy, I will be unstoppable for my ultimate plan.” Explained Walter.

“What is your plan.” Said Walla.

“It involves destruction and revenge, but that’s only the beginning.” Smiled Walter

Zee-Zee and Walla held each other. From what they know of Walter, they don't know whether he is serious or not.

Chapter 3 – The Fostering.

On his journey, Kola found himself in a living room, one that was very familiar.

“This, this is Winnie’s house when she lived on Australia, it hasn’t changed!” smiled Kola.

Walla and Zee-Zee recognised the room on the screen where they are watching Kola’s experiences through his eyes.

“My house!” cried Walla.

“Kola remembers very well, didn’t he live here a while?” thought Zee-Zee.

“Of course. He is dreaming of his memories, these are perfect to get this energy!” said Walter.

“But who’s that?” said Zee-Zee, noticing someone he doesn’t know.

Kola hears the doorbell, and he hears someone come out of a room, but is surprised not to see Walla, but a male Wallaby go to the door.

“Bouncer!” smiled the Wallaby.

“Hiya Wilbur, here’s the little one!” smiled Bouncer, holding baby Kola.

“Wilbur? He’s my daddy!” said a teary Walla.

“Your daddy?” softly said Zee-Zee, giving Walla a cuddle.

“I never knew him.” She replied.

Winnie came to the door, and Bouncer handed Kola to Winnie's arms.

"We got the agency and social coming tomorrow." She said.

"Well, you're both experienced in fostering, I'm sure this will be the best place for Kola, you guys know how to look after tots and teens." Said Bouncer.

"Well, we will look after little Kola until Krissy can be found, any news?" asked Wilbur.

"No. She must be somewhere, as there has been no body where the tree was, and no signs of injury like blood or anything." Said Bouncer.

"Poor little thing, we will make sure he is happy and well." Smiled Walla.

"That was Winnie's husband." Said the figure, who appeared to Kola again.

"What happened to him?" asked Kola.

The shadowy figure walked into a room which Kola recognised as Winnie's bedroom. Sitting on the bed is Winnie, sitting and crying, looking at pictures of Wilbur.

"Wilbur died?" frowned Kola.

"Here Win, please drink this." Said Bouncer, walking in.

Winnie tried but couldn't manage to hold the cup.

"Poor Winnie, I had no idea." Frowned a teary Kola.

Kola then noticed himself toddling in, wearing just a nappy. He went to hug Winnie's leg.

"Sorry Win, he woke up from his nap, I've just changed him." Said Bouncer.

Winnie made a little smile, as she picked Kola up and cuddled him. Baby kola snuggled against her tummy.

“I must be around 2 here?” thought present Kola.

The figure held up 4 claws, indicating Kola’s actual age at this point in time. Kola just blushed.

“Awww Kola seems to be rubbing against your tummy.” Observed Bouncer.

“He’s been doing that a lot lately. He never did before.” Sniffed Walla.

“Poor Wil, he had a short illness, but he will be proud of what you have done for him, and Kola.” Bouncer tried to assure.

“We were never able to have children, we tried, but we were just unable to.” Cried Winnie.

Bouncer noticed little Kola kept his ear on Winnie’s tummy, as if he was listening.

“What’s Kola doing?” asked Bouncer.

“I don’t know, he appears to be... listening?” thought Winnie.

“Maybe you need to see a doctor, you might be expecting!” smiled Bouncer.

“I remember, when Winnie was expecting Walla, I stayed with her as much as I could.” Said Kola talking to the figure.

Kola then saw that time has moved on slightly.

“Awww good on ya Kola!” said Bouncer, as he saw a slightly older Kola putting a footrest under Winnie’s feet as she relaxes.

“Winnie having a baby?” asked little Kola.

“Yep, you will soon have a little baby foster sister, and you will be her foster brother.” Smiled Bouncer.

“I remember this, but how come I was seeing stuff I wouldn’t have remembered, like me coming out of my mamma’s pouch for the first time, or when Bouncer spoke to my father?” asked Kola to the figure.

The figure as expected did not answer Kola.

“You need to be thinking about who you are Kola.” Said the figure.

By The Dream Machine, Fred and TJ were shocked at what they were seeing.

“This is extraordinary! Kola is questioning himself about his dream, if I do that, I’d wake up.” Said TJ.

“The Dream Machine would normally fail by this point. This proves Kola is having more than a dream.” Thought Fred.

The figure led Kola back into Winnie’s room, where Kola could see himself peering into Winnie’s pouch with Bouncer by his side.

“Here she is!” smiled Winnie as she helped her baby joey out of her pouch.

Little Kola gasped in awe at the adorable sleepy little wallaby joey.

“Her name is Walla.” Beamed Winnie.

“Wawlla!” gasped little Kola.

Little Walla’s eyes opened which made little Kola smile. She reached her little paw’s to Kola’s nose which made him giggle.

"I remember this." Said big Kola to the figure.

"I never saw a baby before, she was so pretty and adorable, I loved her." He added.

"Awww, I was born after my daddy died." Frowned Walla watching Kola's experience at the lecture theatre.

"But look at Kola and see how he adored you." Said Zee-Zee.

"Kola was always like a big brother to me, he still is." Said Walla.

"Awww sweet isn't it? Well as you seem to be looking into Kola's early life, you will be finding out a lot more of Kola you might not know. But all I know is, I've got more of the white energy as he's yo-yo of emotions help release it." Said Walter.

"And will you release Kola?" asked Walla

"One way or another, yes I suppose I will!" affirmed Walter.

"I wish I knew my daddy." Cried Walla, snuggling into Zee-Zee's chest.

At the Dream Machine, TJ and Fred are continuing to take readings from Kola's biorhythms, and his 'dream' or experience.

"You're right, this can't be a dream. Kola is not experiencing Rapid Eye Movement, and his heartbeat suggests he's more than asleep, he's unconscious." Said TJ.

"This could more dangerous that we realise, if the energy drain continues, Kola may not wake up!" said Fred, stroking Kola's head.

"So, I am seeing stuff I remember, and stuff I would have had no experience over. This is not a dream. This is something more,

something I know in my gut that's putting me in danger. I'm having an Out of Body Consciousness. It's obvious now" concluded Kola to the figure.

"This only will only end when you find out who you are." The figure responded.

Kola walked away from the figure, but realised he was seeing his younger self reading. He then entered another room, and saw himself complete a 3-d puzzle. He then went into another room, and saw himself with Bouncer build an intricate construction made out of rods and string.

"What do you think Bounce?" smiled little Kola.

"Incredible mate, you made that yourself?" asked Bouncer.

Kola nodded and smiled, as he went back to his little project.

"Winnie, I think we need to get Kola in a good school, he must be able to get some form of scholarship," said Bouncer.

Kola then saw himself at a playground with Winnie and Walla, helping to push a swing that Walla was in, happily laughing.

"These were good times" said Kola, before turning around to see Krissy behind him.

"Mamma!" cried Kola, who was about to hug her, before she wouldn't feel him.

"My baby boy! He's so happy!" said Krissy, smiling with tears in her eyes, before walking away towards colourful vehicle with flowers painted on. She was blowing her nose through a tissue as Kola tried to follow her.

"Mamma, I'm here, I'm sorry!" cried Kola, before Krissy got into the van and it drove off.

Kola then saw the figure.

“I remember mamma told me about this, when I.. I hated her.”

Frowned Kola.

The figure remained unresponsive.

Chapter 4 – Education, Education, Education

TJ came back into the laboratory containing Kola and The Dream Machine. He was nudging a trolley with some iced tea for himself and Fred, whilst holding his crutches.

Fred was reading some of his findings on Kola's state.

"This is interesting." Fred thought.

"Any clue on what Kola's experiencing?" asked TJ

"It seems he's having an Out of Body Consciousness." Summised Fred

"What, an OBC? That's just a theory, it's never been proven." Said TJ

"Well shame we don't have the TWA or other University board with us for peer review. This would be the proof." Said Fred.

TJ looked down towards Kola. He thought he was peaceful and seemed so innocent, and by looking at Kola's experiences on the screen, saw how much he has grown in his first years.

"Supposing we can't get the consciousness back to Kola's body?" thought TJ with dread.

"Make sure you don't tell Kola's little friends, but it seems only Kola can bring himself back." Replied Fred

"Well if he can't, can't we? Asked TJ.

"Walter's in control of the machine. We can only perform an emergency shutdown from here. If we do that, his body will be physically and mentally shocked. That will finish him." Replied Fred, solemnly.

Kola in his experience, sees himself waiting it what appears to be a grand hall, He is with Winnie, Walla and Bouncer, and he seems much older, around 5 years old.

“Goodbye baby sis!” sniffled Kola, as he gave Walla a cuddle.

Walla did not understand what was truly going on.

“Don’t worry little mate. Walla won’t grow up too much while you’re away.” Assured Bouncer

“But this will be a long time for me. I’m scared.”

“Awww Kola.” Frowned Winnie.

“You sure this is a good idea Bouncer?” she asked turning to Bouncer.

“Well Kola’s aptitude test recommended it, but...” said Bouncer.

“Give it 2 seconds, if you don’t like it, we will send for you back, ok?” assured Bouncer.

Kola looked at some of the other kids walking through a portal, he saw a little cyan skunk look back at him, smiled, before walking forward.

“Ok, I’ll go.” Said Kola.

“Ok, remember me and Win are on vacation for the next two weeks, which means we can call you every minute, more or less. On average you will get a phone call once a day.” Said Bouncer.

“OK, lets go!” said Kola.

Kola observed himself walking through the portal, before disappearing.

“The TWA, Two Week Academy.” Said present Kola.

“I need to take you there.” replied the figure.

Kola sighed.

“I had some fun times there... but” said Kola, thinking.

“This may help you Kola.” Encouraged the figure.

“I had some hard times there too.” Kola finished.

But Kola had no choice in the matter, as he looked around and saw himself in a room full of beds, clothing everywhere, the lights out.

“Oh no, this is the lower dormitory, not this place! Cried Kola.

On Planet Medicus, Walter was thrilled see the power ever increasing into the container.

“Kola seems upset here, I don’t like it!” sniffled Walla.

“He’s got to wake up soon, he will then help us get back home, and he won’t turn into a baby again!” said Zee-Zee, trying to reassure Walla.

The figure pointed to a bed, where Kola saw himself having a restless sleep, before the dormitory’s lights came on for waking up time. Kola remained in bed, before all his dorm mates, except for one, came over to look at him. Little Kola sensed this and shoved his head under the blanket.

“Cry baby. He’s wet the bed again!” said a snively weasel.

“Mr Housemaster, the baby koala peed in his blanket!” said a porcupine.

The housemaster marched into the dormitory and broke up the little crowd around Kola’s bed.

“Right! You lot, go have your shower, I’ll deal with this.” Said the Housemaster.

The housemaster was a blue wolf. He leaned over Kola’s bed.

“You can stay in there all day if you want, but we’ve had enough of washing your piss out of your blanket. You can wash it, and all the other blankets in this dormitory, until you learn.” Snapped the housemaster, pulling the blanket from Kola, and throwing it back at him.

The house master left the dormitory, as Kola slowly rolled out of his bed. He sniffled a little bit as he removed the blanket and sheets. Present Kola looked on.

“That housemaster was a cretin. He thought I was useless and good for nothing, even though I tried.” Said Kola.

He then heard a rustling from under another bed.

“But someone was always there for me.” Said Present Kola, as a little cyan skunk came out from under his bed, and approached Kola, helping him with his sheets and the bedclothes of the other beds.

“Don’t worry Kola, you won’t be like this forever.” Said the skunk, smiling at the small Koala.

Kola saw himself smile at the skunk, as he carried on.

“Gussy was such a great friend, but I let him down!” cried present Kola.

Kola then saw himself outside, in a quadrant, where the academy building surrounds an outside courtyard.

“How do I keep appearing from one place to another?” questioned Kola to the figure.

The figure, predictably to Kola, still did not respond, but pointed to the skunk who was walking through the quadrant unwittingly, before being ambushed by the same weasel and porcupine who taunted Kola.

“Oh no, Gussy, get away from there, RUN!” shouted Kola, forgetting that Gus would not be able to hear him.

“Hey! Let go!” screamed Gus, as the bullies, pinned him down.

“You like helping the baby koala little skunker!” laughed the weasel.

“Go away, leave me alone!” screamed back Gus.

“Not until you learn. Get his credit fob!” shouted the porcupine to the weasel.

“Help please someone!” cried Gussy, who was getting quills stuck in him from the porcupine.

Kola looked tearfully, seeing his friend suffering at the hands of the two bullies.

“I can’t watch this, please take me away from here!” begged Kola.

The figure, of course, did not speak to answer Kola’s request, but gestured, by holding his paw to his ear. This confused Kola, until he looked up, and heard a familiar sound.

“Ahhhhhhhhh! What’s that?” screamed the weasel, covering his ears.

“Its hurts!” the porcupine added, shaking, with many of his quills falling out.

Both the ran away from Gussy, covering their ears, and as Kola and the figure could also hear the noise being emanated.

“Mmmm, maybe I shouldn’t have brought you here after all!” said the figure shaking his covered head.

Kola was clearing his ears, as he saw himself jump out of a bush, running towards Gussy, who was curled to the ground, covering his ears. Kola rubbed his back and his head, trying to signify that Gussy is safe.

“Kola...” softly said Gussy.

Kola returned a smile.

“You made that noise?” asked Gussy.

“Just basic sonic manipulation, perfect for scaring useless cretins, and bullies!” smiled Kola, showing Gus a device, that he made.

Gussy then hugged Kola, who then helped him back up.

“Let’s get Matron, she’ll help get the quills out.”

Gussy cringed at the thought, but took Kola’s paw, as he walked with him to the medical bay.

“Haha, it was the first thing I learned, Sonic waves. Sadly, the academy confiscated my device until I learned how to make it again, which took nearly five days, when I got to middle school here.” Said present Kola to the figure.

The figure walked away, until Kola notices he was in a classroom.

“Oh no, not this classroom, the kindergarten!” frowned Kola.

“Come on Kola, two plus three equals?” barked the teacher.

Kola saw himself quickly counting on his paws.

“Fourteen ma’am.” Said Kola.

“In UNIVERSAL figures Kola, not artificial sequences!” barked the teacher.

Kola just shook his head.

“I don’t know!” frowned Kola.

The teacher huffed.

“Five miss!” smirked the weasel.

“Thank you, Willard!” said the teacher, before moving on.

“Oh, the memories!” said Walter back on Planet Medicus.

“Where’s Kola now?” asked Zee-Zee.

“He’s at the Two Week Academy.” He replied.

“This must drain the last of the energy now. He was always a sentimental boy at that place.” Walter added, before going over to where TJ and Fred are.

“That was Gussy, Walla. Look how he helped him, and how Gussy helped Kola when he had an accident!” said Zee-Zee.

“I know, I remember when Kola cuddled me when I had an accident like that.” Said Walla.

“Maybe this wombat will be finished soon, then we can all go home.” Hoped Zee-Zee.

“Please can I go home now. I don’t want to be here!” protested Kola.

“I did lots more stuff on Planet Australia, and on Earth.” He added.

“I am trying to help you learn who you are. You need to revisit as many aspects of your past as possible to help you determine. If you don’t, you will fail.” Said the figure, as he vanished, allowing Kola to see himself at a chalk board, writing what appeared to be a complicated formula.

“What am I doing?” thought Kola, as he saw himself staring at the board with all the equations, and formulae.

Kola then heard his past self say:

“That’s it!”

Soon the same teacher came in and spoke to Kola at the chalkboard.

“So, Kola have you managed to figure out what two plus three is in universal... figures... yet?” the teacher said as he stared at the board, at Kola’s working.

"I found the conversion and used it for these formulae I wrote in artificial sequence." Said Kola passing the paper which.

"It's the formulae for Sonic Manipulation, and this..." said Kola, before turning the board.

"This is a formula based on my understanding of quantum chemical engineering." Kola added.

"Oh honesty boy. Do you really think that is...." Said the teacher, before examining the formula.

"Correct?!" he added.

"It's easy, once you understand the conversion, I learnt this from a television show back home. How 2000 it was called." Explained Kola.

The teacher sighed.

"Ok, I guess you're supposed to be here after all, come on, you earned many Academy privileges today." Said the teacher, leading Kola out of the classroom.

Fred and TJ watched what Kola was doing on their monitor.

"This koala is amazing. It appears he had converted universal figures from an artificial sequence. I couldn't manage that until my masters course." Said Fred.

"What could Walter possible have against Kola?" thought TJ.

"I think we are about to find out..." said Fred pointing at the monitor.

Walter gazed at his monitor of Kola's experience.

"Well, at last it gets interesting!" grinned Walter.

"So, Kola knows you from his school?" questioned Zee-Zee.

"I use to *teach* Kola when he got to degree level. He was always right about everything. Always helping other students, always early to my lectures." Grumbled Walter.

"Wow Kola was so good at school!" said Walla.

"He was a bleddin' pain the....!" Shouted Walter, before stopping himself.

"I had to read, and re-read my planning and notes, that blasted marsupial always had to show me up!" he added.

"But Kola was trying to learn and be clever." Said Zee-Zee.

"Well, he's not looking too clever now!" replied Walter, with a smile.

Zee-Zee frowned before sitting back down and burying his head in paws. Walla tried her best to comfort him.

"You see sir, if you move the decimal point to.... Here, you got the answer you need!" said Kola innocently.

"Sit back down!" shouted Walter.

"Kola's right, this formula didn't make sense until Kola corrected it." Said a fellow student.

"But Teri, can't you see, Professor put this mistake in deliberately so we can learn!" smiled Kola, with a slight smug.

"No wonder he couldn't stand me, I always had to do something to show him up. But it was just, I don't know, he's arrogance?" said Kola, watching himself.

"How you make friends astounds me!" thought the figure.

“I just wanted to show I can learn and grow. The first days I was always considered... well... not good enough.” Frowned Kola.

Kola soon found himself in an office where a goat was sitting at a desk. He heard a knock at the door...

“Come in!” said the goat.

As the door turned, Kola saw himself enter the office.

“You wanted to see me Dean Professor Masters?” said Kola shyly.

“Ah yes Kola, sit yourself down!” said the goat.

Kola slowly sat down and joined his paws on his lap.

Professor Masters finished typing some paperwork, before removing his glasses, and turned to Kola with a smile.

“So, Kola, 10 days have passed. You are nearly finished with your master’s degree. How’s your dissertation getting on?” asked Masters.

“Er, you graded it an hour ago. Merit you said.” Replied Kola.

Masters returned to his keyboard and brought up Kola’s file.

“Oh yes, five points from a distinction. You sure you don’t want to resubmit; you got half hour!” said Masters.

“Well, I wanted to think about my thesis for my doctorate.” Said Kola.

“Your doctorate?” replied Masters, as he looked at Kola’s scholarship status.

“Oh yes, you can complete your doctorate. Fair dos. So, what did you want to research for your thesis?”

“I don’t know.” Frowned Kola.

“Well, let’s see your strengths.” Said Masters, as he turned on his projector.

“You have good grades in Space Command, Fundamental Universal Languages, Orbital Trigonometry, Galactic Calculus, Sector Geographical Navigation and reasonable grades in Quantum Arts and Particle Manipulation.” Said Masters.

“Oh, but an excellent grade in the Theory of Cosmos Mechanics.” He added

“Great, but I’m bored with that, only so much you can do with 1089 elements in our known universe.” Grumbled Kola.

“Yes, but we still yet to discover more” said Professor Masters.

“I don’t want a piece of material called Kolanium thank you!” said Kola.

“No, it’s a shame Gusanium won’t have practical use outside of a white hole. But some other academy has it for an Apparent Project, or some such silliness.” Giggled Masters.

“Hey, he worked hard on that!” snapped Kola.

“He nearly vaporised the common room!” said Masters.

“Only the staff one!” smiled Kola.

“Yes, quite.” Replied Grady.

“Anyway, I want to do something different.” Stated Kola.

“Well, your transcript is lacking in something...” thought Masters.

“Ah yes, Biological Matter” he added.

“Of course. I could research life in the universe!” beamed Kola.

Dean Professor Masters looked at the list of research vacancies, back on his computer.

“Oh this is interesting... Do you like plants?” asked Masters.

“Plants.” Said present Kola to the figure.

“I found a research opportunity. Something that was unknown in the universe.” Kola added.

“Which was?” asked the figure.

“‘The Life of the Chitwort, and how age is consumed’. That was the title of my thesis I was supposed to have worked on, but it got taken by my supervisor.” frowned Kola.

“Who was your supervisor?”

“The Wombat!” said Kola with gritted teeth.

Kola found himself at his old laboratory.

“Kola, you isolated that chemical, why did Wally get the credit?” asked Gus, who had some time to help Kola out.

“Well, he stole my paper when grading it. Unfortunately, I did not claim in the paper that I discovered it. I wasn’t aware I was the first to isolate it!”

“What was the chemical?” asked Gus.

“It the chemical that the plant uses to regress it’s victim, allowing it to absorb the nutrients. Something that was pretty much a mystery. It’s known as Chitzyme.” Explained Kola.

“I... I worked so hard to get it!” he added, with a frown.

“Oh, I’m sorry buddy!” said Gus, comforting Kola.

“But you got your doctorate. How?” said the Figure to present Kola.

“I was at my lowest ebb, but then the day after, Gus came in with a comic book from the library. It was an artifact from Earth. The comic featured a certain newspaper.” Said Kola.

Kola then saw himself in the academy’s refectory, a dining hall for research students.

“What are you reading?” asked past Kola to Gus.

“It’s a comic I got from the academy archive. It’s from Planet Earth.” Replied Gus.

“Earth? Where’s that?” asked Kola.

“I don’t know, it orbit’s a star the academy calls Sol. Third planet from it, so in the habitable zone. They make comics and lots of stuff. They must be very artistic there, but they’re not too advanced in space travel, so as a planet it’s only observed by the rest of the galaxy.” Said Gus.

“What’s the comic about?” asked Kola.

“It’s about a superhero. He comes from a different planet to Earth, and he works for a newspaper called... Daily Planet.” Said Gus, wanting to get back to his comic.

“Daily Planet.... That’s it!” beamed Kola.

“What’s it?”

“It’s a planet, near... never mind. They have chitworts there, and Daily Birds. There must be a relationship!” said Kola.

“Gussy, you’re a genius!” beamed Kola, hugging his skunky friend.

“Nature in perfect harmony – The flora and fauna on Daily Planet” said present Kola to the figure.

“Along with the research I completed for Wally, I had enough academic credit for the doctorate, but it nearly came to a halt, thanks to him.” he added.

Kola saw himself with Walter in the laboratory.

“Kola, I have graded your thesis, and it was interesting, but inadequate.” Said Walter.

“Inadequate? I had this peer reviewed three times.” Kola protested.

“Peer reviewed by scholars of your level, not an assessment by experts in the field, such as myself.” Walter smugly replied.

“You assessed my work last time, yet you got credit!” moaned Kola.

“Don’t be so impertinent koala.” Growled Walter

“Well, I want my work assessed by someone else!” said Kola.

“Well tough, me or nothing!” said Walter.

“You only have five more minutes before your scholarship comes to an end. You seem to have Hobson’s choice in the matter!” he then warned

Everyone in the room heard a knock at the door. When Walter opened the door, Dean Professor Masters entered the lab.

“Ah Dean Masters. I have assessed Kola’s thesis.” Said Walter, passing it to him.

“Oh, thank you.” Said the Dean.

To Walter’s surprise, the Dean sped-read Kola’s assessed work.

“I... I... I’m sure that not necessary Dean.” Nervously said Walter.

“Oh, but it is, you see, this is not the same thesis Kola gave me, it appears to have been edited, and by all account, discredited!”

"I thoroughly examined it!" said Walter.

"Yes, as did I, and the fellows of the academy." Said the Dean.

Dean Masters extended his hoof to Kola, to his and Walter's shock. Kola knows that the only time the Dean shakes paws with a scholar is when they have reached their level after grading. Kola knew he got his doctorate.

"Oh... Thank you sir!" said Kola, smiling with an absence of breath.

Walter was open mouthed and shocked. He couldn't explain the situation.

"Our fellows were very impressed. You got full accreditation... Doctor Kola!" smiled the Dean

"And Walter. My study now." The Dean added firmly, before leading Walter away.

On Planet Medicus, Walter screamed at his monitor.

"That's when that marsupial got me sacked from the TWA, after all the work I did for the place!" said Walter, as he ran to the Dream Machine lab.

"He didn't mean to get you sacked you sir. He was just doing his best! He deserved his doctorate." declared TJ.

"Oh, are you siding with this retched rat?" growled Walter, grabbing TJ's shirt collar.

"No, I was...." said TJ before being interrupted.

"Because any more insolence from you, and you find out what it's like to be fired and build yourself up from scratch!" snapped Walter, firmly pushing TJ away.

TJ was shocked and speechless as Walter headed back to the power lab where Zee-Zee and Walla are.

“It wasn’t Kola’s fault you got fired” said Zee-Zee.

“It WAS his fault!” shouted Walter.

Zee-Zee cuddled Walla.

“That insolent koala is finally getting what’s coming to him, as is the TWA!” growled Walter.

“Just feel free to cower in that Safety Bubble!” he added.

The figure took Kola back to the Grand Hall outside the TWA, where time runs normally. He saw himself walk with Gus, out of the portal, both wearing Tudor style caps and gowns.

“Kola!” screamed Walla in excitement.

“Hey Walla!” smiled Kola, even though it’s been twenty years to him, since he saw her last.

Winne and Bouncer came over to Kola.

“Well done Mister. We have a young doctor on our paws!” smiled Winnie.

“Uh huh. Oh this is my friend Gussy!” smiled Kola, as he introduced his skunky friend.

“Nice to meet you Gussy, we’ve been talking to your parents!” said Bouncer.

“Oh where are they?” enquired Gus looking around.

“Here we are little one!” smiled Glaucia.

“Mummy! Daddy!” beamed Gussy as he ran towards them.

“Come on you two, it’s your graduation ceremony!” smiled Winnie, as the adults lead the two friends to the event in the next hall.

Present Kola looked on with the figure.

“This was a great day. I learned so much, but thanks to the Space-Time condensation, a lot of what I learned gets forgotten sometimes. I recently forgot that my theisis was on the Chitworts.

“You still don’t know who you are?” asked the figure.

“I’m forgetful if that helps!” smirked Kola.

“This is not about what you are, but who!” replied the figure.

“God dammit, I’m a doctor, not a literary philosopher!” smirked Kola

“Then you are not finished in your journey.” the figure said.

During the ceremony, Walter gate-crashed, and tried to take Kola’s diploma away from him. Bouncer jumped up, pushed him down, and helped security drag him away, screaming.

“Your lecturers are crazy!” said Winnie.

“Yeh, but at least I’m finished dealing with him!” Said Kola.

Chapter 5 – Kola-Galatic.

“Iced Tea?” offered Fred to TJ to help relax him.

“Please!” said TJ, seeing Fred pour the drink from a pitcher.

“Has Walter got all the energy yet?” asked Fred.

“Nope he wants every last drop!” replied TJ.

“If he’s not careful, Kola will be in a critical state, he can’t be far from it now.” Said Fred.

In the power lab, Walter was adjusting some of the instruments on his contraption. Zee-Zee and Walla were getting bored and dosed off.

“Wake up you two!” shouted Walter.

Zee-Zee and Walla both jumped as they awoke.

“Can we go home now? We don’t like it here!” said Zee-Zee.

“You will stay until I’m finished! You will learn that when you go to school.” Said Walter.

Zee-Zee huffed, as Walter looked at monitor.

“Breakfast? Why I’m I seeing Kola chomping down on Coco-Frosted Spacebites?” sneered Walter.

“Spacebites? I know what happens here!” said Zee-Zee.

Present Kola saw himself in the kitchen of Winnie’s home, as she put Walla in her highchair for breakfast. He then saw himself enter from the hallway.

“Morning!” smiled Kola as he sat down next to Walla.

“Morning Kola!” smiled Winnie as she brought Kola’s cereal.

“How’s little Walla today?” smiled Kola as he tickled her under the chin.

“Awww, I use to love when Kola did that! But what happens here? We’re just having breakfast!” thought Walla, seeing the event on Walter’s screen.

“Wait!” said Zee-Zee impatiently.

Present Kola watched as he saw himself pour the cereal out of the box, and a heavy thud hit the bowl, loud enough for Winnie to notice.

“What was that?” said Winnie concerned.

Kola looked into his cereal, prized it away in the bowl, to reveal a little rocket.

“Winnie! I’ve won a rocket!” screamed Kola.

“What? They’re putting rocket’s in cereal now?” replied Winnie.

“Yeh, I prized away my prize, look!” said Kola, holding his rocket up.

“Looks like it’s got a compression mode. If you take it outside in the sun, it will get to normal size.” Said Winnie, reading the box.

“Alright, lets go out!” screeched Kola.

“Uh hum. Breakfast first, and I want Bouncer to look at it before you step a foot inside!” said Winnie firmly.

“Ah, Ok” sighed Kola, as he finished his breakfast.

“And I promised Winnie I’d play with her.” Remembered Kola.

“Well, you can do that while your new rocket charges.” Smiled Winnie.

“I remember being so excited, I got qualified to command a rocket at TWA, just needed credits to pay for insurance and registration.” Said present Kola.

“You remembered to play with Walla, despite your excitement.” Said the figure.

“Course I did, Walla was, or is my foster sister, I love her, and I promised!” said present Kola.

Present Kola soon realised he was outside Winne’s house, and saw himself with Bouncer setting up the rocket:

“Ok little mate, here is your external control.” Said Bouncer handing it over.

“Very user friendly, it has only one button!” said Kola.

“Well once you press the button, the controller goes inside.” Said Bouncer.

“Oh like this?” said Kola, pressing it.

“Kola! Will you wait...” said Bouncer, before turning around and seeing the rocket grow.

The rocket grew from its toy size, and grew and grew, until it was as tall as Winnie’s house. Kola and present Kola watched in awe at the sight.

“My very own rocket!” beamed Kola, as he rushed to the door.

“It’s not very big though?” he then commented.

“Kola, you know how physical space-compression works!” said Bouncer.

“Oh yeh, I forgot!” said Kola as he opened the door and looked around.

“Wow it has everything!” awed Kola.

“Galley, mess, sleeping quarters, atmospheric bubble, family room. I can bring Walla with me, it’s a family rocket!” Kola listed with elation.

“Yep, and it has a manual...” said Bouncer, dumping a big book on the floor with a thud.

“Great, don’t need it, I got this!” said Kola, holding up a device.

“My Sonic Spanner!” he smiled.

“Where did you make that?” Bouncer asked.

“At the TWA, I developed an interest in Sonic Engineering, and thought that I could made my own to save credits. Now just to tune it in with my rocket’s internal and external frequencies...” said Kola, fiddling around with the device.

Bouncer sighed.

“Alright, I’ll leave you to it. Safe piloting!” smiled Bouncer, as he left.

Present Kola, the figure and Bouncer saw the rocket launch away from Winnie’s yard, and up through the sky until it disappeared out of the atmosphere.

“This was the best day of my life. My first journey was to Planet Amazonia, where I met up with Gussy. He acquired a rocket too, and we had so much fun. We’d play battles and explore all what this sector of the galaxy had to offer.” Said Kola.

“And you found a planet that was special?” questioned the figure.

“Well, Gussy took me there, but he didn’t find it as fun as Amazonia, or Australia for that matter. But there was something I liked, especially the Northern Hemisphere.”

Kola soon found himself on Earth’s surface, as his rocket landed. It was in a town in Britain, with a large park.

“Oh Kola, why are we here again?” moaned Gussy as he came out of his rocket.

“I want to show you something!” said Kola.

Kola and Gussy wandered into the park, and he was wearing a backpack. They approached a flat green, and Kola got out a ball, patterned with black pentagons.

“Look!” smiled Kola.

“It’s a weird ball?” sneered Gussy.

“It’s a football, though some places on this planet called it soccer apparently.” Said Kola.

“What do you do with it?” wondered Gus.

“Well...” said Kola, getting a few objects out and placing them where goalposts would be.

“You kick the ball, through the two objects over there, and I got to stop you!” answered Kola.

“Why?” sneered Gus.

“It’s a game or sport.” Said Kola, as he kicked the ball, though it missed its target.

“Earth people do it for fun!” he added.

“Oh like this?” said Gus, rushing over to the ball and kicking back.

Kola tried to stop the ball, and ran after it, but failed as it went through the objects.

“Drat!” grumbled Kola.

“What was that?” queried Gus.

“That was a goal.” Frowned Kola.

“That not a good thing?” replied Gus.

The two friends spent the time kicking the ball around the green, each trying to get the ball into their goal. Both were determined, as present Kola looked on.

“We had some fun times together me and Gussy. He was a great a friend to be around, until it happened.” Said present Kola.

“So you stopped caring for him?” said the figure.

“No, what? No, I don’t care if he did regress, he’s still my friend!” snapped Kola, angrily.

“I will always be anyone’s friend if they are kind and understanding, like Gussy, Zee-Zee. I care for lots...” said present Kola as he saw a motherly blue and purple racoon, carrying a toddler Qinling Panda on her shoulders.

Past Kola, with Gussy, also saw the pair. It distracted him from the game, allowing Gus to score another goal.

“GOALLLLLLL!” screamed Gussy.

“You do take it too seriously!” puffed Kola.

“What happened? You were distracted!” said Gus.

“Nothing, just saw something that was, well... charming.” Said Kola with a smile.

“Let’s head off, I want to see Winnie and Walla.” Said Kola.

Gus and Kola headed back to the rocket, and took off, leaving the Earthen atmosphere.

Present Kola looked on...

"That was the first time I saw Mummy and Pepsi." Said Kola to the figure.

"Something was kind, warm... and safe I suppose." Kola added.

On Planet Medicus, Walter is frustrated at the lack of power being extracted from Kola.

"There isn't any power coming through, the readings say Kola still has plenty left inside of him!" growled Walter.

"Don't you have enough?" said Zee-Zee.

"I need the lot, I cannot use the power until it's all here, the machine won't let me absorb it!" said Walter, before he marched into the lab where the Dream Machine is.

TJ and Fred were watching Kola, as they were drinking their iced tea.

"Listen you two. The power is extracting from Kola too slowly." Cried out Walter.

"Well Kola's experiences have been more positive since we saw him at TWA." Explained Fred.

"Be that as it may, I'm running out of patience, and time. I want him in deeper statis, now!" demanded Walter, as he looked at a timer on his wrist.

TJ and Fred looked at Walter and each other aghast, knowing the immediate danger Kola would face.

"No." affirmed TJ.

"What did you say?" growled Walter through gritted teeth.

“You will kill him!” said Fred.

Walter paused, took a breath, before grabbing hold of TJ, lifting him up, and throwing him to the floor towards Fred, with his crutches falling away.

“How DARE you defy me you worthless cretins! I have done so much for you idiots, and this is how you THANK ME? I could have assistants that could actually walk by themselves!” bellowed Walter.

TJ held Fred’s legs and Fred tried to comfort TJ, but both were shaking and too shocked to speak.

“I need that energy and I’m going to get it, no matter what!” Walter shouted, before walking back to Kola on the Dream Machine.

“Are you two going to really stand in my way?” grinned Walter, as he turned to the Dream Machine.

As Walter was adjusting the controls to put Kola in deep stasis, TJ watched, knowing he had to save that Koala. TJ snuck to one of his crutches, dragged himself to Walter, and tried his best to whack him with it, in order to stop him.

“Why you treacherous vulpine!” growled Walter.

Walter snatched TJ’s crutch, whacked away the pitcher of Iced Tea which spilled over Kola. He then whacked TJ across the side of his body, which caused him to crash into Fred’s wheelchair.

“Owww!” cried poor TJ.

“TJ!” cried Fred.

“What some more Fox, or do you want to share some with your badger mate?” snapped Walter.

“Leave him alone you bully!” cried Fred.

“Your work is done here boys. I’ve made my adjustments, Kola will die soon, and you two can join the kids out in the theatre, where you can watch my majesty!” said Walter.

Walter dragged TJ by the scruff of his collar, and pushed Fred in his wheelchair to the theatre. He effectively threw TJ to where Zee-Zee and Walla were, before pushing Fred’s wheelchair away to their location. Zee-Zee was bewildered, but instinctively tried to halt Fred’s wheelchair, even though he was in a Security Bubble.

“Guys I’m so sorry!” sniffed TJ to Kola’s friends.

“Who are you?” said Walla.

“We work for Walter, but we tried to save your friend, we tried!” cried TJ.

Zee-Zee became more concerned. He felt sorry for the poor fox and badger but grew angry at Walter as he observed the increase in the energy drain. He switched off the security bubble, moved himself and Walla closer to the pair, and switched it on again.

“There, Mr Wally can’t get you anymore!” said Zee-Zee.

Fred and TJ felt an enormous gratitude for the clever squirrel, and TJ let him sit on his lap, and Walla hopped onto Fred’s.

“Kola chooses his friends well!” smiled Fred.

Kola remained on the dream machine, covered in iced tea, but still breathing.

Chapter 6 – Life on Earth

“You want to do what?” sneered Bouncer.

Present Kola saw that he was taken back to his Australian home, with himself, Bouncer and Winnie present.

“I remember this.” Said present Kola.

“I want to study Earth as part of my post doctorate thesis” replied past Kola.

“Are you mad? Earth is only a Grade 4 civilisation!” Bouncer said.

“Grade 4+ since 1969.” Answered Kola.

“Whatever, look what would Winnie say, she’s your foster mother, you’re not just going to abandon her like that, and what about Walla?” thought Bouncer.

“Kola has already spoken to me, and I think he’s crazy, but it’s his decision.” Said Winnie

“But you’re his foster mother, surely you would not be ok with this?” Bouncer said, getting frustrated.

“That arrangement came to an end as soon as Kola graduated. He got credits for his doctorate, and he’s got an income from his publications.” explained Winnie.

“Oh, so he’s been a freeloader since then!” laughed Bouncer.

“Bouncer!” said Winnie, irritated.

“Alright I’m sorry, but Walla won’t be too happy, it will be like losing a brother?” assumed Bouncer.

“Well Walla was fine when Kola was at TWA, and Kola has promised to regularly visit us, haven’t you Kola?” said Winnie, looking at Kola sternly.

“Of course, I got my own rocket!” said Kola.

“You better mate!” said Bouncer, with a serious smile.

Present Kola remembered this day well.

“Bouncer was taken aback, but he helped me so much. He developed my back story to make it believable to Earth folk; the research he did. I was an orphan, which technically was true. Bouncer posed as my social worker and made a call to a foster home in the town where me and Gus played football. That town just felt like home to me, even though I knew no-one.” Said Kola to the figure.

“Bouncer made many journeys for me back and forth to Earth. But after they found space, the home accepted me.” He added.

Present Kola then saw himself in the hallway of the home. It was a tall house, which use to be a bed and breakfast. It had many rooms for the charges, and a large garden with play equipment. Handy for Kola, there was a field at the back where he could land his rocket in cloak, where it can't be seen. The kind owner was a hedgehog named Mrs Horlick, who was slightly taken aback with Kola's age, but she and her husband welcomed Kola with open arms.

“Hello Kola, and welcome to our home, your home!” smiled Mrs Horlick.

“Thank you ma'am.” Smiled Kola.

“You will be in Room Buttercup and will share with George and Benny.” Said Mr. Horlick.

“Kola doesn't have many belongings, and hopefully he will settle in, he needs somewhere small and homely.” Explained Bouncer.

“We understand, and we are happy to have him, oh here's George.” Said Mrs Hollick, as he turned to George's direction.

George was a 10-year-old Rabbit, who wore dungarees.

“Come on Kola, I’ll take you to our room!” smiled the kindly Rabbit.

Present Kola saw himself playing with George and Benny’s toys in his room.

“They were kind to me, but they weren’t to stay here forever. In a few months they found a new home out of town, but Benny gave me a drawing he made of us, which is still on my rocket, in my cabin. Something was weird. The home became emptier. I wondered how long I could stay there, but Mrs Horlick said everything will be ok.”

Soon the figure took present Kola to the park, where he saw himself playing with some of his friends from the home.

“Oh the park, I love it here. I still come here with Pepsi, Zee-Zee and the others.” Smiled present Kola.

Present Kola watched as he saw himself playing on the roundabout, using his feet to make it spin.

“You play alone?” questioned the figure.

“Sometimes I like my own company. Most of the other kids already had groups of friends so I usually did my own thing.” Replied Kola, before turning to the side of the figure.

There Kola saw the motherly blue and purple racoon, with the little Qinling Panda, with a balloon tied to her wrist.

“Oh I remember this...” said Kola, as he looked on.

As past Kola came off the roundabout, he saw the Qinling Panda sitting in the sandpit with her bucket and spade. Her mother sat on the bench, reading her book. He wanted to go over and play with her, but felt a little shy, so went to play on the swing.

The Qinling panda found the ribbon the balloon was attached itchy, so she tried to bite it off, but when the ribbon did come off the balloon started to fly away. She got up and chased after it while her mummy was continuing to read her book.

The balloon got caught in the branches of a tree, and the Panda looked up, trying to climb it.

As Kola came off the swing, he saw the panda halfway up where the balloon was, but unable to move... up or down. He saw the Panda was looking distressed, so rushed over.

"You ok there?" said Kola.

The Qinling panda looked down at Kola, and gently shook her head.

"I'm stuck!" replied the panda, before sniffing,

"Where's your mummy?" asked Kola.

"O...over there!" directed the panda, before starting the cry.

"Ok, I'll get her!" said Kola, just about to leave.

"No No, don't go!" the Panda cried.

"Ok ok ok, I'll try and help you!" said Kola, about the climb the tree.

The panda gripped the bark desperately, as Kola climbed up.

"These trees aren't like the gum trees or didgeridoo trees on Australia!" Kola thought.

Back at the bench, the racoon looked and noticed the panda was gone. In her despair she looked around the playground until she saw

a tree with a balloon and her panda cub on a branch halfway up, and a koala climbing up to her.

“Pepsi!” the racoon shouted as she ran towards the tree.

Kola did not notice the shout from the racoon, as he was fully concentrated on getting the panda down safely. Before the racoon reached the tree, Kola managed to get to the panda’s branch.

“Ok, I’m going to help you down, please hold on to my back.” Asked Kola.

The panda manoeuvred over to Kola and gripped his back. Soon a breeze came through the tree, and blew the balloon towards the panda and Kola, allowing it to be grabbed by the panda.

“My balloon!” she said.

“You need to hold on little one, let me have the balloon and I’ll try to bring it down too.” Said Kola.

Hesitant, the panda gave Kola the ribbon the balloon was attached to. Kola then put the ribbon in his mouth, before beginning his decent.

“Hold on tight little one!” said Kola as he descended.

The panda was frightened of falling, so gripped Kola’s top, and buried her head into Kola’s back.

As Kola got to the ground, the racoon rushed to the pair.

“Pepsi, my Pepsi!” she said before picking the panda up of Kola’s back and wrapping her arms around her.

“Pepsi?” smiled Kola, thinking it was a sweet name.

The racoon turned to Kola, smiled before giving him a huge hug.

"I never been hugged like that before..." said present Kola to the figure.

"But I felt, I don't know, a nice feeling, like everything would be fine." He added.

As Kola and figure looked on, the racoon looked to Kola.

"Thank you so much! My little hero!" wept the racoon.

"I was glad to help!" smiled Kola.

"What do you say Pepsi?" said the racoon to the panda.

"Thank you! Er" replied Pepsi.

"Thank you who?" added the racoon.

"I don't know your name." Pepsi responded.

"My name is Kola." Smiled Kola.

"Kola? What a lovely name. I'm Rio, and this little minx is Pepsi." Smiled the racoon.

"Pepsi, what a sweet name!" said Kola.

"And Rio's nice too.. haha" giggled Kola.

Soon, Mr Horlick shouted for Kola, as it was time to go home.

"Oh, you live at the foster home?" questioned Rio.

"Uh huh, been there for a while now." Said Kola.

"Well hope to see you very soon!" smiled Rio.

"Yeh I hope so!" smiled Kola as he ran to his fellow charges.

Rio cuddled Pepsi as Kola ran off, showing a little concern about Kola's welfare.

“So, you carry your heart in your paw.” Said the figure as he and present Kola were sitting on the branch of the same tree.

“I try my best. That’s who I am.” Said Kola, remembering the figure also had the heart on his paw.

“Nice try!” said the figure getting frustrated.

“Whatever!” grumbled Kola.

“A week later I was playing with Pepsi at the playground, making sure she wouldn’t climb trees again!” Kola added with a giggle.

“Rio would always come and be thankful I was there to play with Pepsi and keep an eye out for her, I guess.” Kola finished.

Present Kola saw himself at the park on a different day. Rio called Pepsi over to her buggy, and Rio waved to Kola before setting off.

“I don’t know why, but I felt I had to follow them.” Said Present Kola.

Past Kola followed Rio and Pepsi along the street, trying to keep out of sight. It wasn’t long before Rio and Pepsi arrived at their house. He noticed how nice the street was, with birds twittering, and the gentle breeze through the trees.

Despite being outside the house, Kola did not want to be noticed yet.

“I’m finally at home in this experience!” said present Kola.

“You followed the panda and racoon for a reason.” Said the figure.

“Look!” said present Kola.

The figure saw past Kola run up towards the open gate of the house and caught Pepsi’s pushchair just before it hit the road!

“You used Holistic Statistical Prediction?” said the figure.

“Very basically, but yes.” Said Kola.

The figure and present Kola saw Rio run out.

“Oh my God, PEPSI!” cried Rio.

“You OK sweetie pie?” she asked as she frantically checked Pepsi to make sure she was alright.

“Kola! Kola!” said Pepsi pointing.

“Kola?” said Rio as she turned and saw Kola walking away.

“Kola! Don’t go. How did you get here?” asked Rio frantically.

Kola turned.

“I, I followed you.” He said, with a stutter.

“Well thank goodness you did, heaven knows what would have happened!” said Rio, ruffling Kola’s hair.

“Why don’t you come inside, I’ll talk to Mrs Horlick, and you can stay for dinner if you like?” smiled Rio.

“I was shocked!” said present Kola.

“I thought after I was caught following, they would ask me to go away. But she let me into her home, and mummy cooked the best dinner on this planet!” said Kola.

“Time is not our side Kola. Do you know who you are?” said the figure.

Kola ignored him.

“After going around and playing with Pepsi several times, at one point I seriously wondered if I would ever see them again when news came that foster home was running out of money. We were told it was to close. I wondered where I would end up, and if I would have to go back to Australia.” Said Kola.

“The day I was packing was one of my worse days here on Earth.” He added, before the figure realised that he was sitting on the bed with present in his room.

The room was barren, as most of the pictures and posters and items have been removed. There was one bag of belongings left.

“I was the last one here.” Said Kola.

Kola saw his past self enter the room, picking up the bag forlornly, before leaving.

Present Kola followed himself to downstairs where he saw his past self with Mr and Mrs Hollick.

“Ok Kola, you all packed for your new home?” Said Mrs Hollick.

“I wish we didn’t have to close; I like it here.” Said Kola.

“But you got no friends here anymore, and we can’t keep the place. We’re going to miss this place too.” Said Mrs Hollick.

“I don’t care about that, I’ll miss... I’ll miss you! And Mr Horlick. You have been kind to everyone. A lot of my friends here had very sad stories. And you helped put smiled on faces.” Said Kola.

“Well, it wasn’t only us.” Smile Mr Horlick as he came down.!

“Everyone said how fun you were to be around, and now nice you are. You helped us to help others and now all your friends have forever homes, something we could never offer truly.” Smiled Mr Horlick

“Really?” said Kola.

Both present and past Kolas tears begun to well from their eyes.

“But I will miss you and Mrs Horlick.” Said Kola.

“We will be fine. We got a new home too, and this time, we will have others look after us as we get older.” Said Mrs Horlick.

Kola looked down at his bag.

“Ready to meet your new family?” asked Mr Horlick.

Kola nodded as he was led by The Horlicks to their car.

Present Kola turned to the figure.

“I don’t usually like surprises but this one...” smiled Kola as he saw himself somewhere very familiar.

The figure looked around and saw he was somewhere different.

“What? How are you doing that?” said the figure shocked.

“This is my life, and I should be in control!” said Kola, showing a determined look on his face.

The figure sighed as the Horlicks’ car arrive on the driveway of a house.

In the car, past Kola was helped out of his booster seat. He didn’t recognise the journey’s route, but he knew exactly where he was.

“Nice here isn’t Kola?” asked Mr Horlick with a smile.

Kola smiled and nodded his head enthusiastically as he approached the gate. He saw the front door open, and the delight of seeing Pepsi, he’s new little sister run towards him.

“Kola!” screamed Pepsi as she came and gave Kola the biggest hug she could. Rio came out, knelled to Kola’s level and surrounded him in her appreciative arms.

“Welcome to your new home Kola and our family!” she said softly.

“The worst of days became the best of days” smiled present Kola, wiping away his tears.

“So, you got a new sister, a new mummy and a new home. Are you finished yet?” said the figure impatiently.

On Planet Medicas, Walter was finalising the energy drain.

“Yes, 99% complete! I am ready for the energy!” said Walter as he was setting the palm electrode, ready to absorb it.

“The final percent is always the longest!” said Fred.

“Shut up wheels!” snapped Walter.

“Hey, leave Fred alone you rotten wombat!” shouted Zee-Zee.

“Oh, I will be glad to see the back of you!” growled Walter.

“Look at your friends heartbeat.” He added, pointing at the oscilloscope.

Zee-Zee, Walla, TJ and Fred stared at the screen, seeing the jolted line of Kola’s heartbeat.

“It is already starting to get slower. And it will continue to get slower, and slower and slower. Now’s the time to say your goodbyes!” laughed Walter.

“Goodbyes?” said Walla.

“What’s happening?” queried Zee-Zee with concern.

TJ hesitated to say anything. He and Fred looked at each other and bowed their heads.

“When... when that line stops going up and down and is a flat... straight line.” Said TJ, unable to finish.

“Kola will. He will have died.” Said TJ tearfully with a stutter.

Zee-Zee and Walla both looked at each other, before crying in
cuddle, and Fred and TJ comforted the pair the best they could.

Chapter 7 – Dead End

“Now the reason I stay on Earth.” Said present Kola.

“Time is running out!” said the figure.

Kola ignored the figure as he sat on a swing in a park. He saw himself playing in the sandpit with Pepsi, when a squirrel came over.

“Look Zee-Zee, there’s you!” said Walla through her tear.

Zee-Zee wanted to be delighted but was too worried for Kola.

“Please Kola, please stay alive for me, and Pepsi and Walla and Gemgem!” cried Zee-Zee clenching his paws.

“And Gussy, and Bouncer, and Rio and mummy!” said Walla, as Zee-Zee put her arm around her.

TJ and Fred both put their paws on Zee-Zee and Walla respectively, as Walter sniggered getting the energy ready.

“Zee-Zee!” screamed Pepsi.

“Hi Pepsi” smiled Zee-Zee, giving Pepsi one of his special squirrely hugs.

Kola smiled as Pepsi giggled.

“Oh, who’s this?” smiled Zee-Zee.

“Kola!” screeched Pepsi excitedly.

“You’re Kola? Pepsi’s new brother?” smiled Zee-Zee.

“Zee-Zee clever!” smiled Pepsi.

Past Kola smiled as he welcomed Zee-Zee to join him and Pepsi.

“You trying to build a castle?” wondered Zee-Zee.

“Yeh, but the sand’s consistency is too dry.” Said Kola.

“Huh?” said Zee-Zee, not knowing some of Kola’s words.

“Too soft!” said Kola, with the sand running through his paws.

“Oh, I can fix that!” said Zee-Zee, starting to dig.

“Squirrels are good diggers!” he added.

Zee-Zee got some of the damp sand he dug, and scooped it into a bucket, before revealing a beautiful sandcastle.

“Wow! You are clever!” smiled Kola.

Zee-Zee bashfully giggled. He stayed to help build more sandcastles for Pepsi and Kola, before a fortress was made.

“Wow, we did well!” smiled a chuffed Zee-Zee

Soon, a grown-up squirrel came over with a pram.

“Hi mummy!” smiled Zee-Zee

“This is Kola!” he added.

“Nice to finally meet you, Kola! I’m Zena, Zee-Zee’s mummy.” smiled the grown-up squirrel.

Kola smiled as Zee-Zee went up to the pram.

“Is Gemgem awake yet?” asked Zee-Zee

“Yep, she wants to see her brother.” Smiled Zena.

“Come on Kola, come and meet my baby sister!” said a proud Zee-Zee

Kola thought a baby was a baby but came up and looked into the pram. He saw an adorable baby squirrel, making light chattering noises. Kola turned his ear into Gem's direction.

"Hehe I'm not a teddy!" giggled Kola, decoding Gem's 'talk'.

Zee-Zee was aghast:

"Did Gem talk?" said a shocked Zee-Zee.

"Uh-huh, Gem called me a teddy!" smiled Kola.

"Hehe. Gem, Kola's a koala which is a marsupial, not a Teddy Bear!" giggled Zee-Zee.

"Zee, I think Kola's joking. Gem can't talk yet, she only makes baby noises, or babytalk if you like" said Zee-Zee's mummy.

"Oh. Hehe. Silly Kola!" smiled Zee-Zee.

"Well, we got to head off now, but hopefully Kola can come around with Pepsi to play sometimes." Smiled Zee-Zee's mummy.

"I would love to!" said Kola.

Present Kola looked as Zee-Zee gave Pepsi and his past self a big hug, and looked on as the squirrel family left the park.

"Me and Zee-Zee have some fun times here on Earth. We play cowboys, pirates, pretend space, and Zee-Zee lets me play with his Lego and blocks. He's a great friend to me and Pepsi. And I learn a lot from him, he is such a good brother to Gem." Said Kola.

"Figured it out yet?" said the figure.

"Time is fleeting!" he added.

Kola smiled and clapped his hands, where the figure noticed he was in a stormy garden during the night.

"Wow! I summoned a storm!" smiled present Kola.

"Well done." Said the figure sarcastically.

Kola saw himself walk out of a house with his arms around Zee-Zee, who was wearing a hat and his pyjamas.

“What is that, Kola?” asked Zee-Zee, barely lifting his head up from the wind.

“It’s my spaceship!” past Kola announced.

“This is how I got here to see you!” he added.

“How come you got a spaceship?” asked Zee-Zee disbelieving.

“I’m a space Koala!” said past Kola, smiling.

“A Space Koala? I thought you came from Australia?” said Zee-Zee, disbelieving in something so ridiculous.

“I do come from Australia, the Planet Australia!” giggled Kola.

“Planet Australia?” Australia is a country you silly Koala!” sneered Zee-Zee.

“Well, the country copied us.” reasoned Kola.

“OK, I’m going back to bed, I’m not allowed out by myself at night. Good Night Kola.” Said Zee-Zee, just about having enough of Kola’s shenanigans for one night.

“Sure you don’t wanna come for a ride?” asked Kola.

“No thank you Kola, you have fun” said Zee Zee, rolling his eyes and dismissing the idea, as he started to walk back.

“Suit yourself!” said Kola as he returned to his rocket.

Suddenly a bright flash of lightening occurred, followed swiftly by the loudest rumble of thunder Zee-Zee ever heard. The little red squirrel screamed and ran towards Kola and rocket. As Zee-Zee ran into Kola, Kola gave him a reassuring hug, as he opened the door to his rocket, and brought Zee-Zee in.

“That was Zee-Zee going on his first adventure in space.” Smiled Kola.

“He’s been with me many times since!” Kola added.

“You’ve also got him into bother many times since!” said the figure

Present Kola frowned as he saw Zee-Zee fall from his rocket, and hurtling towards the surface of Earth, until he saw his past self use his Sonic Spanner to slow Zee-Zee’s decent. He was then able to hold an unconscious Zee-Zee in a space bubble, and controlled the bubble to Zee-Zee’s house and into his bed.

Present Kola then saw from his rocket his past self, and Zee-Zee clinging to the wings of his rocket, as they try to get back in after a certain baby squirrel was playing with the controls. Present Kola smiled as he turned and saw out of the window...

“I thought squirrel’s could climb?” Kola heard his past self say.

“Eh so can koalas!” Zee-Zee said.

Present Kola then saw himself in a forest, with lots of vines dangling down from the branches, and with himself, Walla, Zee-Zee and Gem staring at the danger.

“Stay perfectly still!” said past Kola.

“Zee-Zee is important to me. I have and always will find a way to keep him safe. He has helped me so much, as has Walla and Gem.

Kola saw the time his rocket had the energy crisis, and Zee-Zee comforting his past self, who collapsed to the ground in tears. He then saw Zee-Zee and Walla push his past self, who was sleeping in a supermarket trolley, desperately finding a way to get Kola awake.

Finally, he saw Zee-Zee, drag his past self's body, and giving it to a kind chitwort to revive him.

"Zee-Zee has done so much for me!" Kola told the figure.

"You let Zee-Zee, his little sister and Walla travel with you. But there is someone who you are supposed to love, yet who never travels with you, In fact, she doesn't even know you travel in space." Said the figure.

"I know you mean Pepsi. And yes I do love her. I lover her to Planet Australia and back." Answered Kola, irritably.

"Are you scared? Scared that harm will come to her? You don't seem too bothered about Zee-Zee and Walla. Or is it a trust issue?" Replied the figure.

Kola looked down. He felt he had good reason not to bring Pepsi on his adventures, but realised he was excluding her from the fun space usually brings.

"Its not I don't trust my sister. I love her, I love my Earth Mummy. I just don't want them to make me leave their home." Said Kola sullenly.

"And that's not true about Walla and Zee-Zee. If anything happens to either of them, I would never forgive myself. The same goes for Pepsi, Gem, Gus, Winne, Bouncer, mummy and mamma." Kola added.

On Planet Medicus, the time finally came for Walter to extract the white energy.

"Dream Machine shut down!" announced the wombat.

"No Walter please don't!" cried Zee-Zee.

“You can still bring Kola back from the brink if you have some patience and luck!” shouted TJ.

“Kola’s has had enough luck!” said Walter as he flipped the switch.

The lights on the Dream Machine around Kola turned off, and the sound of the machinery slowed until it became silent as the mechanics slowed to a halt. The mechanical restraints were also loosened, but there was no movement from Kola’s paws or feet.

“The only thing left is Kola’s heartbeat, once he’s flatlined, I can have the energy, and be done with this place!” said a celebratory Walter.

Zee-Zee, Walla, TJ and Fred could do nothing but stare at the oscilloscope as the jolted line slowed even further.

Kola noticed that something was happening in his experience.

“What’s happening? Everything’s disappearing!” said Kola with concern.

“Now’s your last chance Kola. Who are you?”

“Fine!” said Kola, looking around, noticing the existence was disappearing into blackness.

“I’m Kola Cannes Koala. I do my best always to try and be kind. Show some care and love, have an adventure to learn or to help.” Said Kola.

“I want to do right. I was to learn from doing wrong. I love my families, my friends, my planets. I am Kola!” he added with determination.

“But WHO are you?” said the figure coming to Kola’s face.

“That’s easy, I worked that one out back when I saw myself as a baby.” Kola said

“And...” said the figure, bowing down to Kola’s level.

Kola held up his paw with the heart on it.

“Dad. I am your son!” said Kola.

The figure stood back, pull off his hood, revealing to be an adult koala, with the same colour fur as Kola, and green eyes. He looked down at Kola emotionless.

Kola looked in awe of seeing his father up close, before his father spoke.

“You would have used the time wisely in most circumstances, but this wasn’t it. Your life is fading Kola, but you can get through.” Said the koala, before holding his paw out to Kola, with the heart shape visible.

Kola moved his paw to his father’s and they touched. Kola felt a jolt of energy through his body, as his father faded, worrying Kola.

“Father! What’s happening? You can’t go. What can I do, what can I do? And why can I smell tea?” cried out Kola, as he knelled down all alone in the blackness of the remains of his experience of existence.

“You have completed your experience, you must regain consciousness, for your friends are now in need of rescuing. And the galaxy is in danger!” Said the voice of Kola’s father.

“What can I do?” cried Kola.

“Look in your paw, for its energy is apparent within you!” said Kola’s father.

Kola looked at his paw, then looked up and saw himself strapped on The Dream Machine, then he saw Zee-Zee, Walla, TJ and Fred looking distressed at a different machine, before seeing a laughing Walter Wombat.

“He’s draining the white energy for himself! I must return, I need to get back to save Zee-Zee, Walla, those two helpers, and stop that Wally Wombat NOW!” shouted Kola as the vision disappeared, before he himself faded away into the darkness.

At Planet Medicus, Kola’s body continued to lay motionless on the Dream Machine, still covered in the iced tea. Zee-Zee, Walla, TJ and Fred saw the last jolted line of the oscilloscope, for the next line returned flat with a constant beep indicating the cease of Kola’s heartbeat.

“Behold, Kola is no more, dead and extinct!” celebrated Walter.

Zee-Zee, Walla, TJ and Fred could only watch the flatline, tearfully and in despair.

“No, no! He can’t be. NOOO!” Cried Zee-Zee, and he collapsed into TJ’s chest.

Walla was just speechless, as she cried into Zee-Zee.

TJ and Fred could only comfort Zee and Walla as they both shed a tear on Kola’s apparent death.

Chapter 8 – Energise

“Finally! The White Energy is ready for my body to accept, and with this I will have my revenge on the TWA for dismissing me, and I have my revenge on that koala at last!” said Walter pleased with his success.

“Wait all this was to destroy the TWA? You can’t, the time condensation is held by the energies of 5 white dwarf stars. If you break the link, you will form a large destructive black hole capable of wiping out the entire galaxy!” protested Fred.

“Yes, I know! And now to energise!” said an excited Walter as he held his paws on the electrode.

“He’s grounded by the specialised flooring, we are doomed!” sighed TJ.

As Walter held onto the electrode, the energy started to drain from the container, down through the machinery, to the electrode, and through Walter’s arm into his body.

“Yes, come to me, come to me and accept my majesty!” said Walter, excited that he is receiving the energy.

The four friends couldn’t bear to look, as they saw the energy drain completed and finished its journey through to Walter.

As he turned, he’s eyes were burning white, and had an expression of awe on his face.

“This is brilliant!” screamed Walter, as he fired the energy across the theatre.

“Walter stop this! You have the control; this power is madness!” protested Fred.

“Do you think I don’t know?” shouted Walter, before using his paw to zap a beam of white energy in the direction of the four.

They all ducked, but the Security Bubble protected them all.

“You are specks of insignificant dust to me now. I have the energy I need, and the power to have my ultimate vengeance!” screamed Walter.

“We can’t stop him!” said TJ.

“The galaxy is simply awaiting destruction.” He added.

“Including Earth?” queried Zee-Zee.

“And Planet Australia?” Walla asked.

Fred could only nod, before they all heard a distinct knocking coming from the machinery.

“What’s that?” growled Walter.

“I heard it too!” said Zee-Zee.

“It’s not supposed to make that noise!” said Walter, as he examines the machine.

“What is it?” asked TJ.

“I don’t know. I didn’t make this.” Replied Fred.

Walter looked towards the apparent location of the sound of the knocking, until he noticed it was coming from a vent in the machine. The knocks then made the beat of ‘Shave and a haircut’.

“No no no, it can’t be?!” said Walter, as he opened the vent with his energy.

“I know that knock!” said Walla

As soon as the vent opened, a grey curled koala rolled out, covered in dust and fluff.

The koala coughed out the dust from his throat before standing up.

“Ah that’s better, thought I’d never get out of there!” said Kola.

“KOLA?” screamed Zee-Zee and Walla.

“How is he...?” said Fred, before being interrupted.

“KOLA’s ALIVE?” screamed Walter, grabbing him and holding him to his face.

“How is it? You flatlined, you’re supposed to be dead!” shouted Walter to Kola’s face.

Walter’s body was starting to glow white, which did not go unnoticed to Kola as he looked down.

“I flatlined? Now how did I flatline whilst still being alive? Maybe it’s because I. Was. Not. Attached. To. The. Machine!” said Kola, flicking Walter’s nose on the last word.

“Ah you little brat!” responded Walter dropping Kola to the ground.

“Woke up thanks to the iced tea. The goldilocks of caffeinated beverages. Coffee? Great but too much caffeine. Green Tea? Not enough. But iced-tea, with the coldness of the ice so not to get scalded? Perfect!” explained Kola.

“Kola watch out!” squeaked Zee-Zee as a beam from Walter’s hands shot at him.

Kola jumped out of the way.

“I will finish you off myself!” shouted Walter, as he prepared another beam.

“Five!” said Kola as he jumped out of the way, missing the beam.

“You like thunderbirds Zee-Zee?” smiled Kola.

“Yes, but look out Kola!” shouted Zee-Zee, as another beam fired at him.

“Four!” said Kola as he jumped out to a safe distance from the bubble.

“Stand still you maniacal marsupial!” shouted Walter.

Kola jumped away again.

“Is he always this crazy?” asked TJ to Zee-Zee.

“Usually!” smiled Zee-Zee

“Three!” said Kola, before he jumped over to a conduit on a wall, and climbed to the ceiling, missing another beam.

“That’s right, countdown to your destruction!” shouted Walter, firing another beam, missing the target again.

“Two!” said Kola now above Walter’s head.

“Careful Kola!” shouted up Walla.

Kola smiled and nodded at Walla.

Before Walter could prepare another beam. Kola let go of the ceiling conduit.

“DROP BEAR!” shouted Kola, as he fell, and landed aggressively on Walters head.

“Owww! Get off you brat!” he screamed.

Kola then jumped off before saying:

“One!”

Soon the white light was covering Walter’s body, which made him feel warm.

“Ahhhhhh! What’s happening” shouted Walter, as his body was being encased in the white light Kola’s body use to.

“I see you amplified the energy, and got it out of me, so thank you. But you forgot one small thing. You forgot to take the chitzyme out!” smiled Kola.

“What no?” cried Walter

“And by amplifying the power, you’ve amplified the combined elements of the chitzyme!”

“He’s going to be a baby!” giggled Zee-Zee.

“No, I got to get this energy out of me!” shouted Walter, before Kola held him down.

“Why? I thought you wanted this energy!” smiled Kola, as he held Walter down.

Walter’s body started to shrink, as his size reduced in front of everyone’s eyes.

“No, Noooooooooo!” cried Walter as he shrunk down to the size of a one-year-old.

“Yes!” cheered Walla.

Walter ruffled himself out of his clothes, unable to use his white energy.

“You’ll pay for this Kola, you know the regression doesn’t last forever, and I will still have the energy!” cried a squeaky Walter.

“Well, you said you didn’t want the energy anymore, so I can fix that!” smiled Kola, holding his Sonic Spanner.

“You think that thing will help?” sneered Walter

“Kola managed to pick up his belongings.” said TJ.

Kola then slipped on a pair of black rubber insulation gloves on his paws.

“Found these while I was crawling around in there!” said Kola.

“Now, you decided you don’t want the energy? But don’t worry, I can sort that!” Kola added, picking up Walter.

“No no! Put me down you cretinous koala. Let me go!” screamed Walter as Kola carried him to the machinery.

Kola then used the Sonic Spanner to adjust the machinery, before forcing Walter’s paws with his insulated ones on the electrode and firing the machine up.

As Zee-Zee and the others watched, they saw the container fill again with the white energy. Walter tried desperately to struggle away, but as a one-year-old baby, he could not beat the strength of a determined Kola, who knew Walter could never have this energy again.

“I can’t believe this. He has actually reversed the polarity of the neutron flow!” said Fred.

Kola just stared emotionlessly at the power container, before making a slight maniacal smile once the container was full as the energy was finally out of Walter.

“There. Don’t do it again!” said Kola angrily at Walter.

It took Kola’s moral strength not to just drop Walter on the floor but came to his senses and just plonked him down gently.

“You won’t get away with this koala!” said Walter despondently.

“Well, what are we going to do with a little baby Wombat, who now has to grow up all over again as he hasn’t got the white energy anymore?” wondered Kola.

Walter gasped, and then legged it out of the theatre.

“Kola he’s getting away!” cried Zee-Zee.

“Oooo yes, you have a teleport field here, I know somewhere else that has one, I’ll just lock onto the coordinates.” Smiled Kola

Kola was concentrating on keying in the co-ordinates and predicting Walter's route.

"He'll be heading to his escape pod, location 498,523,982." Said Fred

"Great, I'll just adjust that." Said Kola.

"And done!" he smiled.

Walter was running along a long corridor; he looked back relieved he was not being followed. As he saw the entrance to his escape pod in sight, he toddled as fast as he can. Just before he reached the entrance, he felt the teleport field, activating around him.

"No no nooooooooo!" screamed Walter as his body faded away.

"Got him!" cheered Kola.

"Where did he go?" thought TJ

"Somewhere to be taken care off!" smiled Kola.

"Planet Nurserus?" thought Walla.

"Yep! Ok, bubble deactivated. Time to go home at last!" said Kola.

Zee-Zee and Walla breathed a sigh of relief, as Kola used his Sonic Spanner to deactivate the bubble.

Both Walla and Zee-Zee hugged Kola tightly, especially after thinking he died for a while.

"Kola you won't know that you have probably saved the entire Galaxy. Walter was planning to..." said Fred, before being interrupted by an alarm.

"What's going on?" said a concerned Kola.

"Oh no, no wonder Walter was in such a hurry. As soon as he kidnapped you, he set the base to self-destruct at this time!" said TJ, looking at the log on the consol.

The whole interior of the base was shrouded in a red light.

“Teleportation still active?” asked Kola.

“Yes, but we still have the white energy here.” Said Fred.

“How many civilised planets within 20 light years? All grades?” Said Kola.

“31. As far as we know!” said Fred.

Kola started to key in the coordinates for their location and the location of his rocket.

“Guys, look after Zee-Zee and Walla for me, while I finish this off!” said Kola.

“Kola, what are you doing?” said Fred.

“Teleporting all of you to my rocket, where you’ll be safe from the white energy radiation. When it’s not under control, it will kill you. Trust me I know!” said Kola.

“Kola, you need me to stay, you can’t stop the destruction and remove the white energy yourself!” protested Fred.

“Kola please don’t stay.” Cried Zee-Zee.

“You my brother and Pepsi’s brother.” Said Walla softly.

Kola looked at Zee-Zee and Walla’s eyes and felt needed to reassure them.

“I will be fine!” said Kola.

“TJ the rocket will be in crisis mode when I’m not on board, which will send you to Earth or Planet Australia, whatever’s nearer. And I can lock the teleport coordinates, so they follow the rocket.” Said Kola.

“But what about you Fred?” said a worried TJ.

“Kola can’t do this on his own, I can try to stop the self-destruction, but not the energy.” Said Fred.

Kola could not wait any longer, and activated the teleport around Zee-Zee, Walla and TJ.

“Kola, wait...” said TJ before he, Walla and Zee-Zee dematerialised in the teleport field.

As soon as the three disappeared, Kola’s rocket launched from its location, but Zee-Zee, TJ and Walla materialised onboard, on the bridge. TJ was distressed.

“Kola, I needed to tell him that if the rocket goes out of the teleport field, he or Fred won’t be able to teleport onboard!” muttered TJ to himself.

“Huh?” said Zee-Zee

“Don’t worry little buddy, I’m going to check the planet.” Said TJ.

Back down on Planet Medicus, Kola and Fred were desperately trying to stop the imminent explosion.

“Walter has secured this with an infinity code, I can’t stop this.” Cried Fred in frustration.

“This was set on a timer, no wonder he was in a rush to get the energy. He was going to leave me and TJ behind, and of course you, Walla and Zee-Zee.” Fred added.

“What about the nanolites back on Earth?” thought Kola.

“I have already sent the self-destruct signal to them, but it will take time to reach there.” Said Fred.

“Good, now if only I can just get the energy out.” Said Kola, about to put his paw on the electrode.

Before Kola was able to touch the electrode, he felt a warmth where his birthmark is. He looked into his paw and saw a glow.

“...for its energy is apparent within you!” remembered Kola in his father’s voice.

“This!” shouted Kola, rummaging in his belly fur, removing a small transparent glass looking ball.

“What is... That can’t be!” gasped Fred looking up from the controls.

“It is. It’s an apparent.” Replied Kola.

“It’s made of a base element; it could absorb the white energy and crystallise it making it safe.” Said Fred.

“Well now’s the time to try!” said Kola, putting the apparent on the electrode.

“I’m going to have to touch it whilst grounded” said Kola, still feeling the warmth of his paw.

Kola used his Sonic Spanner to reverse the polarity again, and the power started to drain, into the apparent.

“It’s working!” smiled Kola.

“We haven’t got long, we got less than 60 universal seconds!” said an anxious Fred.

“Teleport out now Fred, please. TJ’s waiting for you.”

Fred shook his head.

“And Zee-Zee, Walla and your families are waiting for you!” replied Fred.

Kola’s green eyes shone with his tears. He smiled at Fred for his selflessness.

“We got this!” sniffed Kola.

Back on Kola’s rocket, TJ, Walla and Zee-Zee were watching down on Planet Medicus.

“Come on Fred, come on Kola!” said TJ with gritted teeth.

“Kola’s going to make it, he’s just gotta!” cried Zee-Zee.

Before the pair could say anything else, they saw a huge flash below on the surface. TJ stared teary eyed and put his paws on Zee-Zee and Walla.

“I’m sorry, I’m so sorry guys.” Sniffed TJ.

Neither could speak, and both just buried their little heads in TJ’s chest.

Chapter 9 – Earthbound

Back on Earth, Bouncer and Walla, who was cuddling Gem with Grub, were sitting in Bouncer's workshop, waiting for any signal or for the nanolites to disappear.

"What is he doing?" grumbled Bouncer.

"You've asked me that thousands of times since he left." Said Winnie.

"Walter's got him, Zee-Zee and Walla, I just want to know what's happening!" replied Bouncer, kicking his workbench.

"You know what that Wombat's like. I'm just glad we got Kola that Security Bubble. I hope he uses it!" Said Winnie.

"I know he can be responsible sometimes, but it's not knowing that getting me!" replied Bouncer looking at Gem. Giving her a stroke.

Gem looked up at Bouncer feeling soothed, until sparks appeared above them, and tiny cracks sounded all over the workshop. Gem giggled at the colours.

"What's going on?" said a concerned Winnie, holding Gem tightly.

"It's the nanolites, they must be self-destructing." Said Bouncer.

All over the workshop, and outside, tiny specks flashed and cracked in different colours. Winnie and Bouncer felt them falling down on their heads and shoulders, like tiny grains of sand. After the last spark and crack sounded Bouncer jumped into action.

"We should be able to communicate now!" said Bouncer.

He rushed to his rocket to his space phone. Bouncer tuned in to Kola's frequency.

“Kola, Kola are you receiving me?” called Bouncer.

Nothing was coming through.

“Rocket Blue 193585... Kola... KOLA!” shouted Bouncer, to no avail.

Winnie came over to put her paw on Bouncers back, while he nuzzled with Winnie.

The screen and audio remained out of tune, as Bouncer and Winnie stared tearfully at the screen, not knowing if they would ever hear a voice.

“You know that thing won’t be able to contact me, while I’m on Earth!” said Kola at the rocket’s door.

“Teddy!” screamed Gem.

“YOU!” shouted Bouncer, rushing over to Kola, grabbing him and holding him to his chest.

“Hey!” said Kola, muffled against Bouncer.

“Don’t you ever scare me like that again! You hear me? Just don’t!” said Bouncer softly and tearfully, holding Kola affectionately.

“I’m sorry Bouncer!” said a muffled Kola.

“ShShSh, I’m sorry, it’s my fault!” said Bouncer

“Mummy!” shouted Walla, as she hopped over to Winnie.

“Walla, my darling!” cried Winnie, as Walla hugged her, and tickled Gem.

“Kola saved us and protected us!” Winnie said.

“Did he now? I’m so glad!” smiled Winnie.

“Zee-Zee!” screamed Gem as she saw him at the door.

“Oh thank goodness, come here!” said Bouncer opening an arm.

Zee-Zee jumped in as Bouncer hugged the two friends.

“What about the White Energy, and the regressions?” said Bouncer.

“Cured!” said Kola.

“Thanks to our two new friends!” he added as he managed to get out of Bouncer’s hug and went to the door.

“Friends?” queried Bouncer.

“Guys, this is Fred and TJ, they helped me.” Said Kola.

“Kola helped us!” replied Fred.

“He saved us from that maniac, and he teleported my friend and himself just in the nick of time, before Walter’s Base self-destructed.” TJ added.

“Wow. Look guys whatever happened thank you so much!” Said Bouncer.

“But what happened to Walter?” asked Winnie passing Gem to Kola, who climbed onto his shoulders.

“He absorbed the White Energy, but it still had the chitzyme molecules in it, so he regressed.” Explained Fred.

“But Kola got the energy out of him before he grew again, so now he has to grow naturally again.” Added TJ, with a laugh.

“And he’s now on...” said Kola before being interrupted.

“Planet Nurserus.” Sighed Bouncer, with his eyes rolling.

“Yep, and I now no longer turn into a baby!” smiled Kola.

Gem started to frown on Kola’s shoulders.

“Well, I can’t thank you enough, but I think we can start by providing you guys with a dinner, come on in!” said Winnie.

As Bouncer and Walla welcomed TJ and Fred into their home, Kola sensed that Gem was not too happy, as she’s not as fidgety as usual on his shoulders.

Kola sat her on his lap. He looked at her and stroked her head of hair.

“Who’s a little grumpus today?” smiled Kola.

Gem sighed and said with a frown in her chattery way:

“You don’t understand me anymore.”

Kola looked down into her sad eyes. He whispered in her little ear:

“I do understand!”

Gem looked up open mouthed, dropping Grub.

“Huh?” said Gem, confused.

“But you’re big Teddy again!” said Gem.

“I know, but I could always understand you. Babytalk is one of the many universe languages I know” smiled Kola.

“Huh, but why did you not talk to me before? Any why were you surprised?” said Gem.

Kola turned Gem to the direction of Walla’s house where Zee-Zee was visible having a drink. Kola directed Gem’s attention to him.

“Zee-Zee?” said Gem.

“Yep. Zee-Zee’s your big brother, and he loves you very much, like a good brother. And like a good brother, he’s learning everyday to understand you. It’s one of his jobs after all. I don’t want to step in his way or take that away from him!” smiled Kola.

“Zee-Zee understands me the best!” said Gem.

“That’s right. I want him to do so, he’s my friend, and he is proud of you.” Said Kola.

Gem smiled, and gave Kola a hug, before Zee-Zee arrived.

“Hiya Gemgam!” Zee-Zee said before picking Gem up and putting her on his shoulders.

“You need some dinner.” He added, before starting to walk back to the house.

Kola saw Grub, picked him up, and brought him to the squirrelly siblings.

“Oooo, you dropped your Grubgrub, but don’t worry, Kola’s save him!” smiled Zee-Zee.

Gem giggled as she took it from Kola.

“Thank you, Teddy!” smiled Gem.

Kola replied “You’re very welcome” in baby talk.

“Huh, what did you say?” queried Zee-Zee.

“Uh, nothing much, let’s go inside, I’m super hungry!” smiled Kola, as he held Zee-Zee’s paw.

A few months later, TJ and Fred were waiting for their lift to their new home at the TWA. Bouncer and Kola waited with them.

“You guys going to be OK?” asked Bouncer.

“Yeh, TWA offered us a fellowship program, we are becoming lecturers in Energy Modulation. We’re waiting for some old friends.” Said Fred.

“Awesome, which I had you guys as lecturers, I would have learned so much!” replied Kola.

“Well, maybe you could do a fellowship program.” Thought TJ.

“And spend 2 days back at TWA? Nah, you’re ok!” smiled Kola.

Soon, everyone heard a spaceship landing. It was a strange sound, almost like a diesel engine.

Kola looked up, as he saw a campervan like object land in front of Bouncers house. He was shocked, when he saw the colour and the patterns.

An older looking koala in a flowery shirt came out towards the group.

“Hey TJ and Fred?” said the koala.

Kola was awestruck.

“You ok young joey?” asked the koala noticing Kola.

“My mamma, you helped my mamma.” Stuttered Kola.

Bouncer looked confused.

“Man, I don’t know many mammas little guy.” Said the koala.

“You picked her up after the bushfire on Planet Australia.” Said Kola.

“The Bushfire?” Bouncer responded.

“The bushfire, koala lady on her own, I remember... yeh!” smiled the koala.

“Krissy her name was. She was in such a state, couldn’t remember a thing. But we took her in, as we always do when we see people on their own.” He added with a smile.

Kola hugged the older Koala.

“Hey are you Kola?” asked the koala.

“Uh huh!” said Kola.

“After a while she did tell us about you, and we knew you guys will meet again.” Said the koala, revealing he has an Apparent too.

“If you see Krissy again, tell her Waratah asked for her.” he added, before helping Fred onto the campervan spaceship.

Kola happily helped TJ onto the campervan, but not without giving his two newest friends a big koala hug.

"I'll see you again soon... won't I? asked Kola.

"Of course Kola, you will be forever in our hearts!" said Fred.

"And you guys will meet again!" smiled Waratah, holding his apparent.

"Here give this to Krissy." He then said, passing Kola the very flower he's named after.

Kola took the flower, and he jumped off the campervan spaceship, before he and Bouncer waved their friends off. The campervan hovered up into the sky, before shooting off out of the Earthen Atmosphere.

"Waratah? He saved mamma!" smiled Kola.

"You will find out who he is soon when you take that flower to your mamma." Said Bouncer.

"But one thing you never told me. What happened to the White Energy after you took it out of Walter. You said the base self-destructed." Asked Bouncer.

"Oh, I used this thing." Said Kola, holding up his Apparent.

"What?" gasped Bouncer.

"Where did you get that?" he asked.

"Christmas present" replied Kola.

"Christmas present? And I suppose Santa gave it to you?" responded Bouncer, a little sarcastic.

"Erm, well, Yes." Replied Kola.

"For Goodness sake Kola, where did you find it?" demanded Bouncer.

"I told you. It was found near the North Pole." Answered Kola.

“But they don’t come from Earth, someone dropped it, or sent it here.” Said Bouncer.

“Maybe it was sent here for me to find?” suggested Kola.

Bouncer was about to respond, but realised Kola could be right.

“Well did it crystalise the energy?” said Bouncer.

“Yep, look!” said Kola, passing the apparent to him.

Bouncer got out a magnifier eye piece and examined it.

“Well, nothing on Earth can break it, so this is the safest place.” Said Bouncer.

“But who sent it to Earth and how?” he wondered.

“Let’s just be glad they did!” said Kola, as Bouncer gave it back to him.

“Just be careful with it, these things have been known to warp the space-time continuum. Too many together and...” said Bouncer, before being interrupted.

“The space-time continuum, that’s it! This thing caused my Out of Body Consciousness, it went back in time during my life. It wasn’t a dream.” Said Kola.

“What? You had an OBC?” sneered Bouncer.

“Yes, and I met my father.” Said Kola.

“Oh no. Kola your father has been missing for years, he never came back after the bush fire.” Said Bouncer.

“He’s with me now.” Said Kola, showing Bouncer his birthmark.

“Well, if he is...” said Bouncer, holding Kola’s paw.

“...at least he’s making himself useful now!” he finished.

Meanwhile, on Planet Nurserus, a little wombat was building with some blocks in a playpen, when a little dingo stumbled over, knocking them down.

“Grrrrr!” growled Walter.

He moved over to his drawing of a koala, when the dingo grabbed a crayon, and started scribbling over, stabbing the paper, which made Walter curiously smile.

“I’ll get you Kola. And your Planet Earth too. Walter will return!” he said through gritted teeth, before manically laughing, causing the dingo to howl.

“Awoooooooooool!” the dingo said.

“Shut up Dermot!” snapped Walter, pushing the dingo away, causing him to yelp.

The End

MEMORANDUM

To: All Readers

From: The Chitworts

Date: Irrelevant

Subject: Our Return

We are coming back....

Next story in space... The Flower of the Chitworts!

Koalas stay away!