

LEVELED Book • K

Grounded to Earth



MULTI
level
H•K•N

Written by Torran Anderson
Illustrated by Reginald Butler

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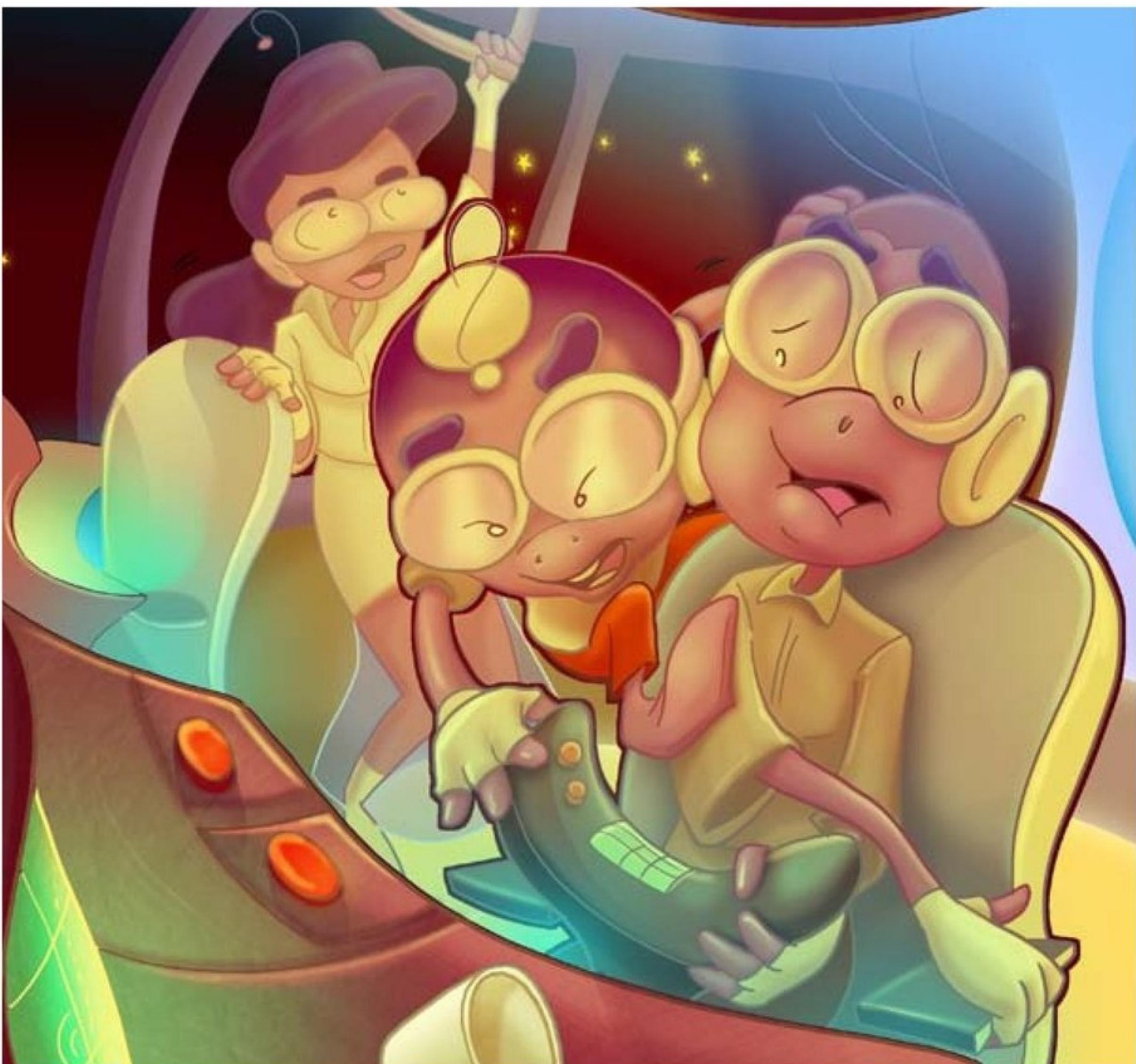
Zorb really wanted to take over Earth.

“We have blasters!” Zorb said.



“Take a deep breath and count to ten,” his mother said. “You need to leave Earth alone.”

“We have spaceships and robots!”
Zorb said.



“How many times do we have to discuss this?” his father said. “Just because we are more powerful, it doesn’t mean we should take over a planet.”

Zorb leaped past his parents and grabbed the spaceship’s controls.

“Earth is mine!” Zorb yelled.



“Son,” his father said, “you need to learn a **lesson** about the humans.”

Before Zorb could speak, his dad pushed a large red button.

Zorb was instantly **teleported** to a park on Earth.



He saw a group of children playing kickball.

“I am Zorb, the ruler of Earth!” Zorb said.



The kids stopped their game. They took one look at Zorb and burst out laughing.

“You’re just a little kid,” a boy said.



Zorb looked down at himself. He was inside a **suit** that made him look like an ordinary kid.

“I have blasters!” Zorb shouted.



The kids went back to playing their game.

“I’m more powerful than all of you!”
Zorb yelled.

All the kids ignored him.



Zorb was furious. He wanted to scream. Instead, he took a deep breath and counted to ten.

“Excuse me,” Zorb said to the boy,
“can I play your game?”

“Sure,” the boy said. “My name is
Hector. You can be on my team.”



Zorb had never played kickball before. It was a strange **alien** game that he had a difficult time learning. The other kids taught him the rules and how to kick the ball.

Even though everyone else was better at kickball, no one made fun of him.

Maybe humans aren't so bad after all,
Zorb said to himself.



When it was Zorb's turn to kick, the pitcher rolled the ball. Zorb kicked as hard as he could, and the ball soared over the fence.

His team chanted, "Zorb! Zorb! Zorb!"

As he stepped on home plate, Hector gave him a high five.



Zorb saw two grown-ups watching the game.

“Did you learn your lesson?” the woman asked.

“Dad, Mom, is that you?” Zorb asked.



“Yes,” his dad said, lifting up his human mask.

“Do you still want to take over Earth?” his mom asked.

“No,” Zorb said. “I just want to take over this game.”

Glossary

alien (<i>adj.</i>)	unfamiliar or strange (p. 12)
blasters (<i>n.</i>)	fictional weapons that shoot beams of energy (p. 3)
lesson (<i>n.</i>)	an experience that teaches something useful or valuable (p. 6)
suit (<i>n.</i>)	a set of clothes or coverings used or worn for a specific purpose (p. 9)
take over (<i>v.</i>)	to take control of something (p. 3)
teleported (<i>v.</i>)	instantly moved from one place to another (p. 6)

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Level K Leveled Book
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