

IMPOSSIBLE THINGS



**UNBELIEVABLE
ANSWERS TO
THE WORLD'S
WEIRDEST
QUESTIONS**

wren
& rook



FROM PROFESSIONAL FACT HUNTER AND PODCAST SENSATION

DAN SCHREIBER

ILLUSTRATED BY KRISTYNA BACZYNSKI

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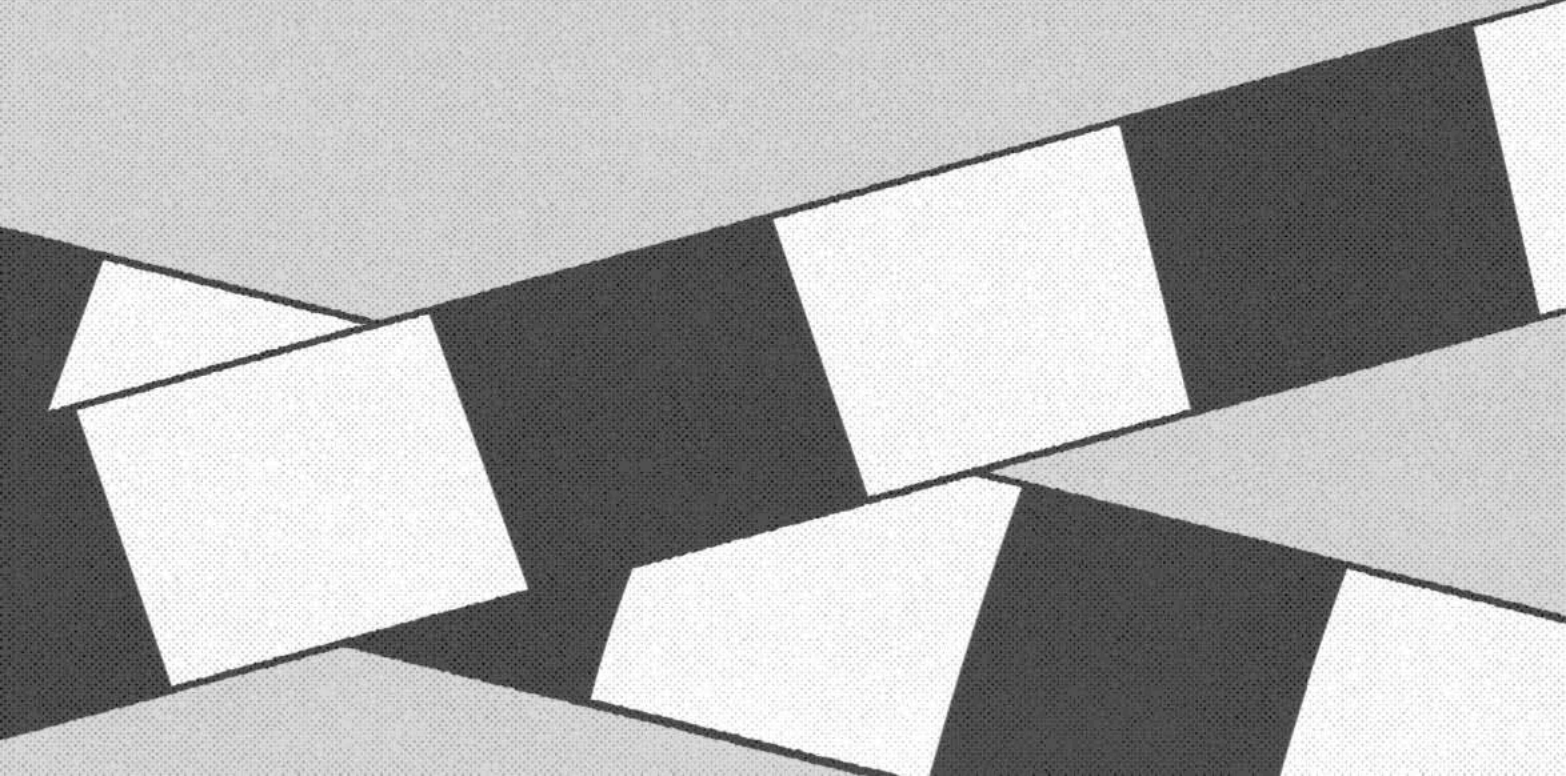
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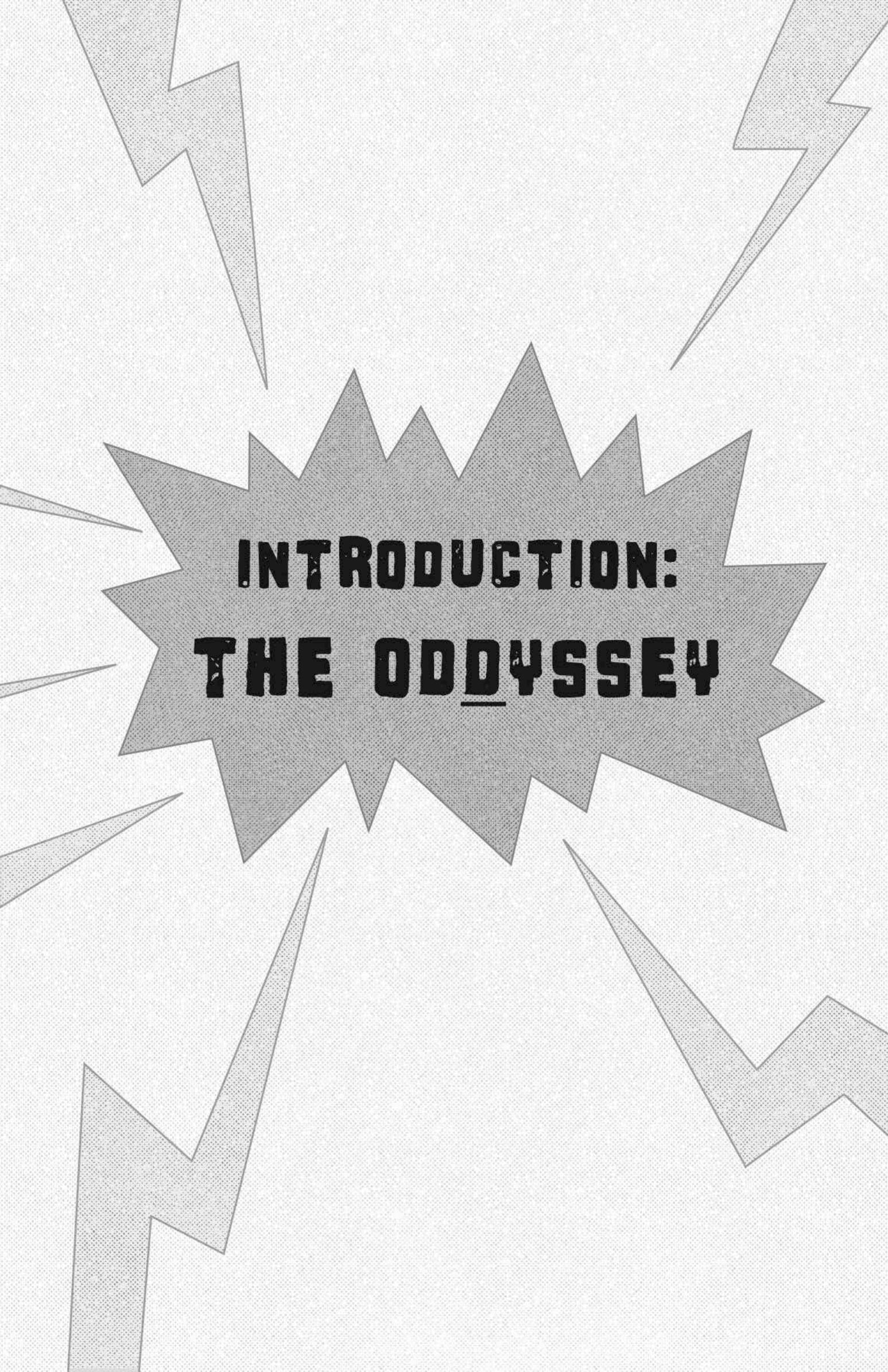
**WHAT HAVE ZOMBIES EVER
DONE FOR US?**

A graphic of a warning banner with a black background and white rectangular segments. The word "WARNING:" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters across the black section.

WARNING:

**if you read a book of
Impossible Things,
Impossible Things start
to happen to you.**

A graphic of a warning banner with a black background and white rectangular segments, similar to the one at the top of the page.



**INTRODUCTION:
THE ODDYSSEY**

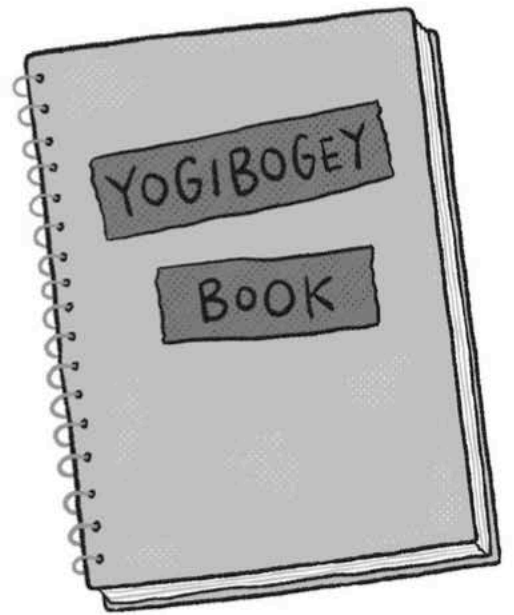
Hello, my name is Dan Schreiber: fact hunter, former co-holder of the *Guinness World Record* for The 'Longest Game of Keepy-Uppy with a Balloon Ever', and investigator of all **THINGS IMPOSSIBLE.**



I am writing to you from the twenty-first century; **OR** if you believe in the '**phantom time hypothesis**' (a weird theory that claims that nearly 300 years of history never actually happened, and that all events between the years 614 and 911 CE were just made up by a Roman Emperor and a Pope) then I am writing to you from the year **1727**; **OR** if you believe in '**Last Thursdayism**' (which is the idea that the Universe didn't begin a long time ago, but actually only started last week and that everything has just been made to look like it's been here for billions of years to trick you) then I'm writing to you from just three days since the beginning of time!



I'm afraid I can't be sure *when* I am coming to you from, but what I am sure of is *where* I am coming to you from – and that is a wooden bench in Highgate, North London. I'm here, with my **YOGIBOGEYBOOK** ready in hand, because I am attempting to do something **IMPOSSIBLE**. I am



going to try to interview a ghost. That's right – a ghost! Now, this won't be the easiest ghost to make contact with, and that's because it isn't human: it's a chicken. To be precise, it's a nearly 400-year-old half-plucked frozen ghost chicken. And I do not speak chickenese. Well, that's not quite true – I do know a few clucks. Thanks to a book called *How to Speak Chicken*, I can now say 'buh-dup' (hello), 'doh-doh-doh' (good night) and 'bwah! Bwaah! Bwaaah! Bwaaaaahhh!' (I'm about to lay an egg!). Though I'm not fully sure when I'll get to use that last one.



But hopefully if I do spot this phantom fowl running past me, I can get its attention by speaking to it in its own language. *Did that guy just say he's about to lay an egg?* The confused chicken might think as it passes me. *I've got to see this.*

According to reports, this ghost chicken has been spotted many times by locals. Sometimes it has been seen sitting in the branches of the trees surrounding the square, and other times it has been spotted running around in continuous circles. There are even accounts of a hungry Second World War air raid warden chasing after it in an attempt to catch it for dinner.

That was a long time ago, though. I've now been sitting here for over an hour, and so far nothing. Though I must admit, I've not got high hopes, as no one has seen this chicken for a long time. And there might be a very worrying reason for that. But I'm getting ahead of myself! We'll find out more about that in

the ghost chapter. For now, while I wait for the chicken to show up, I thought I'd fill the time by introducing myself, as well as explaining what this book is and why it's incredibly important that you should read it.



You see, right now, as you read these words, there are people all over our planet who are trying to solve **IMPOSSIBLE THINGS**. They are trying to find out if we can talk to each other using just our minds or they are trying to make contact with aliens in distant galaxies or

they are trying to prove there are monsters roaming the Earth and swimming in our lochs. But so far no one has 100% proven that any of these things are true. That's where you come in. Perhaps you might one day be the person who solves these mysteries and uncovers the truth. I hope you join us in the hunt, because we need all the help we can get to find the answers to all of the world's weirdest questions.

Are Venus flytraps actually aliens from another planet? Did dinosaurs land on the moon 66 million years before us? Should doctors be giving us anti-comet medicine? And will a time travelling poo one day accidentally ...

DESTROY ALL OF HUMANITY?

These are just some of the questions we will be tackling over the course of this book. I am going to take you on a journey into the world of the bizarre, to meet the people who are trying to get to the bottom of these questions, and most importantly I'm going to show how you too can become an Impossible Investigator.



HOW TO BECOME AN IMPOSSIBLE INVESTIGATOR

Becoming an Impossible Investigator is easy. There are just three simple rules.

1. Don't go anywhere without your YOGIBOGEYBOOK

A **YOGIBOGEYBOOK** is a special place to write down all of the weird things that you notice as you go about your day-to-day life. It's important that you jot these things down, because much like a dream, they can quickly disappear from your memory. Get yourself a book that fits in a backpack or your pocket, and make sure you log all the weird and **IMPOSSIBLE THINGS** you notice and hear about. I take my **YOGIBOGEYBOOK** with me wherever I go. It is full of odd and fantastic ideas, amazing coincidences, spooky happenings and the occasional sketch – for example, just now, I drew what I think a ghost chicken might look like.

My **YOGIBOGEYBOOK** is crammed with lists (like 'Time-travel destinations I want to go to'), diary entries (like 'Today I have travelled five hours on a train to try to spot a levitating sausage roll') and general notes (like 'Important: must remember to start training my house plant to become a police detective?').



It is essential that every Impossible Investigator keeps their **YOGIBOGEYBOOK** with them at all times. All you need is an empty notebook and a pencil, and you're off.

2. Never laugh at an impossible idea, always laugh with it

I recently spoke to a man who said he believed that Adam and Eve from the Bible were not actually humans.

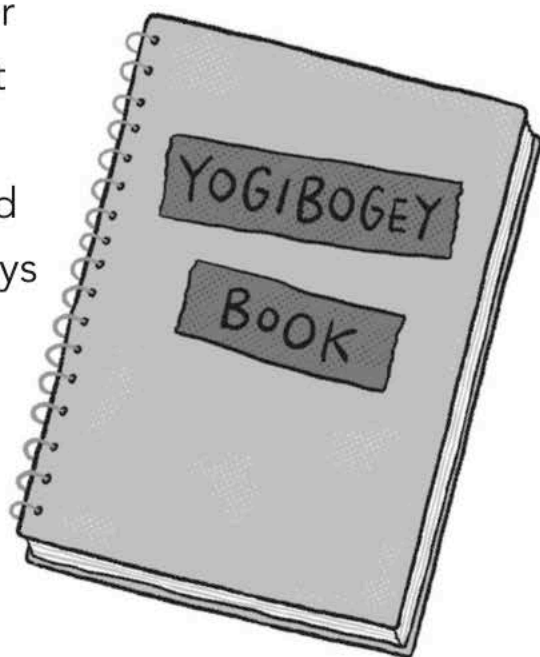
'What were they?' I asked.

'Garden vegetables,' he replied.

'You mean . . . like carrots?'

'More like asparagus,' he replied.

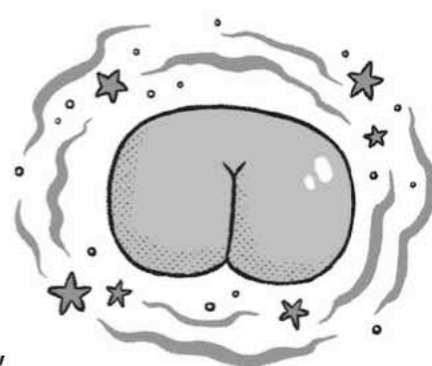
The best **IMPOSSIBLE THINGS** should make you laugh when you first hear them. Because as soon as you start taking them seriously, things go wrong. Never mock the people and the ideas that they believe in, always ask questions, and when they say something interesting, take your pencil out and write it down in your **YOGIBOGEYBOOK**.



3. Tom does not have a magical bottom

Always to be cautious when investigating **IMPOSSIBLE THINGS**, because while they are fascinating and exciting, often there is a reasonable explanation. Remember: just because millions of people say they see a ghost, it doesn't make it fact. What we need is solid proof. If you're gullible, like me, you will sometimes fall for some really odd things. Like the time I believed that my friend Tom had a magical bottom. I was told Tom never needed to wipe his bum after going to the toilet. Nor did his mum, dad, sisters or brother! *Incredible*, I thought, *an entire family with magical bottoms*. For years I believed this story. Then one day, I discovered that my friends had tricked me. You see, I had believed something because it sounded so weird I wanted it to be true.

That's it. Stick to those three rules and you'll be fine. Anyway, I'd better wrap this introduction up now. It's very dark here in Pond Square, and a noise from the bush behind me just now was so scary I almost 'bwah! Bwah! Bwaaah! Bwaaaahhhhed' in my pants.



NOTE TO SELF:
remember to apologise
to Tom for the many
years I spent spreading
the rumour that he had
a magical bottom.





It's time to get
on with it.

Let the Oddyssey
begin . . .