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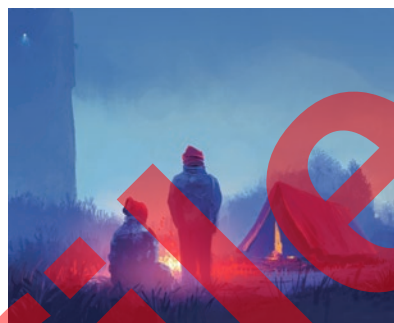
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INTRODUCTION

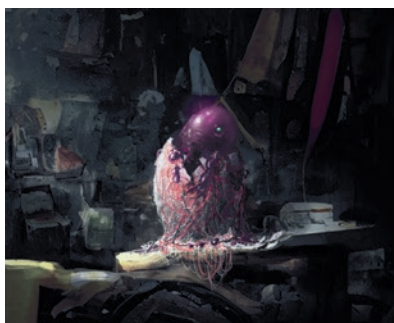
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INTRODUCTION

It was not fully understood in the 1980s that there were other worlds out there. Strange, alien worlds, separated from us not by distance, but by reality and dimensions. In these other places, where the physical laws are similar yet unfamiliar, previously inconceivable life thrives.

What if that life needed your help? Would it recognize you as a friend? Would you be able to help it prosper and return home? What if there were others from this world who wanted that life for themselves, who did not understand that it was intelligent and feeling just like you?

In *They Grow Up So Fast*, you can experience four seasons of raising and protecting one such new life. Over the course of a year, the Kids find an unhatched creature and keep it safe from those who may harm it before it makes its way back to its own weird dimension. All the while, they are dogged by adults, other kids, and even a government agency that wants to find the alien for themselves.

Alternatively, use these Mysteries as inspiration for your own scenarios. Each Mystery includes unique challenges and situations the Kids must resolve that you can use to inspire your own stories.



■ **CHAPTER 2: THEY GROW UP SO FAST** - This book presents an interwoven set of four Mysteries, each one about caring for an unfamiliar creature in a new stage of its life cycle. The Kids must keep it secret from adults who might hurt it, intentionally or otherwise, before eventually returning it to its family by the end of winter.

■ **CHAPTER 3: EASTER EGG HUNT** - In spring, the Kids are taken on a camping trip by their parents. During the night, one of them sees something in the sky that sets the year of secrets in motion. By the end of the Mystery the Kids must sneak into a small section of the Loop to find what has been secreted there by something more alien than anything they have seen before.

■ **CHAPTER 4: THE BEST OF WHAT MIGHT BE** - It lives! At the start of summer, the Kids witness the hatching of an alien egg, with the creature inside imprinting on them instantly. They soon learn that the creature has needs of its own, although fulfilling them may be difficult while under the watchful eye of their new science teacher.

■ **CHAPTER 5: THE YEAR'S LAST, LOVELIEST SMILE** - By autumn, the strange creature has already grown to an unmanageable size. It is in danger of being noticed, or of escaping only to be discovered by adults. The Kids must move it somewhere it can live peacefully while it continues to thrive. The main problem is likely to be the existence of a new school club, one that threatens to expose the Kids and what they have found to both other kids and the teachers at the school.

■ **CHAPTER 6: YOU CAN'T GET TOO MUCH** - In winter, the inevitable happens. The creature is too large to hide, and is discovered and captured by the government. If the Kids want a chance of saving it from a lifetime of being studied, they must sneak into where it is being held and release it. After the creature helps them escape in a dramatic fashion, it communicates that the time has come for it to finally leave. Only by working with the man whose experiments trapped the creature in this realm in the first place can they get it home again safely.

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THEY GROW UP SO FAST

Everything changed on that fateful day. Looking back, I know that whatever we did changed our lives forever. The sky raptured and something strange came through. It was a great adventure that showed us how little we knew about the universe. It was scary and yet magical. I wish we could do it again.


MAFF