



## PART THREE OF FOUR

# Did Ryan Really See a Dinosaur in His Backyard?

By Donna Sievers

Illustration by Ryan Ito-Allen

**R**yan and his parents talked about what they were going to do because it was not every day that a T-Rex decided to live in the ravine at their house. Where did this dinosaur come from? Are they all dreaming or did this baby dinosaur hatch from a prehistoric dinosaur egg?

Before they could finish breakfast and get ready for school, they realized they had to make some big decisions. What do you do with a dinosaur in your backyard? They decided to go to school or work and then they would make decisions over the weekend. Ryan went to his elementary school, Bear Creek, and his mom and dad went to teach at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Remember, I told you his mom and dad are very smart, but they did not know exactly what to do with a dinosaur in their backyard.

While they were gone, Ryanasaurus stuck his long neck out of a tree in Ryan's front yard. Ryanasaurus wanted to know where Ryan was going, and since Bear Creek Elementary School was pretty close to the house, the baby T-Rex watched Ryan leave and could actually see the kids playing at school. Ryanasaurus wanted to go play with them. There was a group of kindergarteners playing chase on a grassy hill, and there was another group of kids

playing soccer on the field, but where was Ryan? Ryanasaurus missed him and thought he'd better head out and find Ryan. "I am his friend and he may need me," thought the baby T-Rex. Just as soon as he started to head out, Ryanasaurus saw Ryan playing soccer and knew Ryan was okay. That was lucky! Can you imagine what would have happened if the baby T-Rex had walked over to the school and all the kids, teachers, principal, and aides saw a real dinosaur? Yikes...that would have been scary!

Ryanasaurus watched the school all day. He heard some bells and could not figure out where the kids went. After they played and ran around, it got very quiet in the neighborhood and Ryanasaurus just stayed hiding in the tree, waiting for the kids to come back outside. Later, he saw all the kids leaving the school. Most of the kids walked home or rode bikes because that is what kids do in Boulder. The baby T-Rex watched Ryan walk home and greeted him with a gigantic roar! Boy oh boy, did that startle Ryan! Ryan led Ryanasaurus back into the ravine and told him that he'd better not roar at anyone else because that was pretty loud. Somehow, the baby T-Rex got the message and settled down.

Ryan had never had a pet before, and he certainly never had a dinosaur friend, but they liked hanging out together. Ryan got his dinosaur books and dinosaur toys from his bedroom and showed them to Ryanasaurus. Pretty soon, Ryanasaurus was quietly listening to Ryan read him stories about dinosaurs. Ryanasaurus loved looking at the pictures in the books and he really loved seeing all of Ryan's toy dinosaurs. Ryanasaurus found his favorite dinosaur toy. Can you guess which was his favorite toy? You guessed it...a baby T-Rex!

**Watch for our next Bluff Heights Newsletter to see what happens with the baby T-Rex and Ryan.**

*Donna Sievers was raised in Long Beach and taught at Stanford Junior High, Bolsa Grande High, Pacifica High and CSULB before leaving the classroom for administrator duties in Garden Grove USD. She and her husband live in Bluff Heights, where their retirement activities include volunteering for the Joyful Child Foundation in Memory of Samantha Runnion, gardening at the Bembridge House, bike riding, walking to the ocean and maintaining a 107-year-old house and garden.*