

## TACO NIGHT TERROR

TJ was walking home from his first day of school. He couldn't wait to get home because tonight was taco night, his favorite day of the week. It was the first time his mom let him walk home from school with his friends without her. He was together with his three best friends: Cain, Dennis, and Mateo.

The four boys loved learning about space, but each friend was exceptionally different. Dennis was a pro at handball. Cain loved history especially when it comes to past battles. Mateo was the strongest of the group but also the funniest. TJ enjoyed skating but his dream was to explore space.

As the friends made their way home a funny thing happened, a meteor fell right in front of them! It was so big that the impact launched everyone back in different directions. TJ ended up in the bushes, and his three other friends landed on the front lawn. As the boys started to wake up after the crash, they were amazed to see a flying saucer. A dark figure, wearing a motorcycle suit, with a black helmet came out of the spaceship. He took a green glowing chain and wrapped it around TJ's friends. TJ was hidden by the bushes and saw his friends being pulled into the saucer. He quickly ran up to the closing hatch and grabbed the end of the chain and snuck inside without being seen.

The dark figure was mumbling something to TJ's friends and suddenly, the friends were hypnotized! They were agreeing to everything the dark figure was saying. TJ hid behind a strange shelf, listening to what was going on. As the dark figure led his friends to another room TJ noticed a booth with lots of buttons. He ran inside and pressed the button with a taco sign on it.

Suddenly, he saw bright lights and then he was teleported into the cafeteria where he stood in front of a giant blue blob. Before TJ could move the blob introduced himself as Blobby, this was not the first time Blobby met a space stranger. Blobby started to explain to TJ that Slim Shadow, the captain of the ship, was only looking for friendship. Slim Shadow was a lonely alien. He loved space and exploring it but no one else shared this interest. Other aliens made fun of him, and he grew lonelier and lonelier. He built himself a device to hypnotize humans and force them to be his friends. As Blobby finished the story TJ felt bad for Slim Shadow but on the other hand, he felt mad. No one is allowed to take his friends and hypnotize them!

TJ decided to find Slim Shadow and get his friends back. Blobby was more than happy to help. The two new pals found the captain's room and confronted Slim Shadow. TJ yelled at the alien to let go of his friends and give them back their freedom! He told Slim Shadow that friendship comes naturally, if you force people to be your friend that is not friendship that is being a bully. Slim Shadow at first was surprised by TJ but then he felt sorry because he knew how it felt to be bullied and all he wanted was friendship. TJ offered to be Slim Shadow's friend. The three best friends snapped out of their hypnosis and found out what had happened to them. Once apologies were made, everyone started talking about their shared love of space. Slim Shadow offered to take them on a tour of the galaxy before going back to Earth. When the tour finished and the boys were back on land, they all made a promise to their new alien friends to meet every full moon and visit one new planet every time. TJ was glad that he made new friends and got to explore space and continue to work at becoming an astronaut.