The mechanical hiss from landing gears filled the ship as it came to a sudden stop. The decent onto the planet was filled with violent turbulence which had many of the crew gripping tightly to their seats but they had managed to get over the worst of it and were now safely on the ground. They had performed countless scans on the planet from orbit until they were absolutely sure the strange, alien world was safe for them to explore. This was largely due to the insistence of the captain who was reluctant to head down onto the planet until she was certain it was safe to do so. Her number one priority was the safety of her crew and she took it very seriously.

As the ramp of the ship slowly lowered to the ground, the crew of scientists made last minute checks on their equipment and prepared themselves for what awaited them. They would be the first humans to step foot on another planet outside of our solar system. Some were shaking with nerves, others with excitement. As the door finally slid open, the sight in front of the crew left them speechless. Beyond the clearing they had landed in, strange trees, as tall as skyscrapers, surrounded them. Purple leaves measuring several metres across covered the canopies. Beyond the trees, in the distance, strange, mysterious mountains disappearing into the red
clouds above. The diverse wildlife, unlike anything they had encountered, spread as far as the eye could see. One in particular caught the eye of the crew. Not too far from the ship, a herd of gigantic creatures lumbered across the clearing towards the trees. They reminded the crew of elephants that had once roamed the earth many hundreds of years ago, although these creatures were significantly larger. Perhaps even five times their size. Their skin was cracked and looked very coarse, giving them the impressions of giant walking boulders.

Pushing past the stunned scientist, the captain took a deep breath and walked down the ramp. Clutching her plasma rifle tightly in her hand, she took the first step onto the planet. Solid ground was a welcome change to the weightlessness of space. The crew shortly followed and began to set up all of their equipment. Even though they could not see any creatures that looked threatening, they still decided to set up the energy forcefield around the ship and the surrounding area. This would stop anything from getting too close to the crew. As they worked setting up their machines to analyse and scan the strange new world, more and more creatures began to appear, clearly curious as to who had just landed on their planet.

As the crew worked, the captain stood at the edge of the forcefield, listening to the strange sounds of the alien planet. Every sound she heard was strangely familiar and like nothing she’d experienced all at the same time. As she watched and listened, she suddenly felt the ground beneath her feet shake. The others noticed it too and stopped what they were doing. They waited and then felt it again. And again. And again. It was then that they noticed it. Moving between the trees. It was a creature that made the giant elephant-like creatures in the opening look infinitesimal...