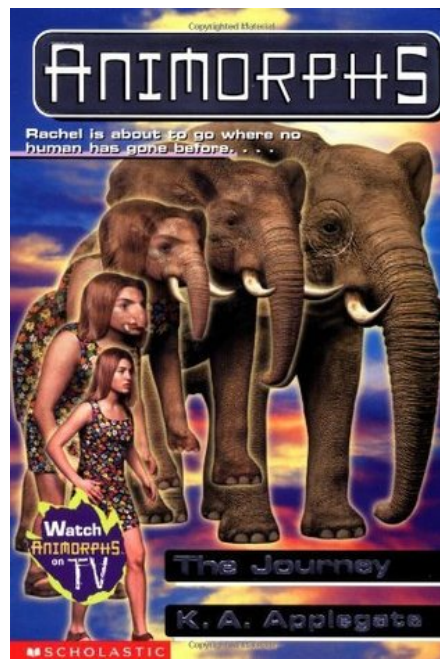




The Journey

K.A. Applegate

Download now

Read Online ➞

The Journey

K.A. Applegate

The Journey K.A. Applegate

Sometimes your worst problems are the ones you can't actually see. Like the Helmacrons. These less-than-an-inch-high aliens are back, and they want the morphing cube more than ever. Obviously Rachel and the other Animorphs can't let them take the cube. But when Rachel tries to stop the Helmacrons from stealing it, Marco gets in the way and ends up with tiny aliens, well, up his nose.

Rachel and the others can't let the Helmacrons stay inside Marco's head. They're armed, and could cause serious damage. So the Animorphs come up with a plan to evict the Helmacrons from their new residence. But it involves a shrinking ray and the obvious: Marco's nose...

The Journey Details

Date : Published August 29th 2017 by Scholastic Inc. (first published April 1st 2000)

ISBN :

Author : K.A. Applegate

Format : Kindle Edition 160 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Young Adult, Fiction, Fantasy, Childrens

 [Download The Journey ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Journey ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Journey K.A. Applegate

From Reader Review The Journey for online ebook

T Berry says

I don't usually like the Helmacron books. Mainly because I don't like the Helmacrons. I get that they're meant to be a kind of comic relief, but they grate me enough to not let me enjoy that aspect of them. And that's whatever. A personal preference with no bearing on anything, basically.

Having said that, I actually did quite enjoy this book. I forgot which one it was until a few pages in, but when I remembered it my entire attitude changed (from "Oh no, another Helmacron book, bleh" to "Ohhhhhh, it's /this/ one. Alright"). Because the stuff that /isn't/ the Helmacrons in this book is really interesting, actually. Also the very end gave me /chills/ when I first read it.

(view spoiler)

Also bonus points for mentioning Magic School Bus.

Jen says

So I have to admit that I pretty much hate the Helmacrons and every book they're in, which biases me from the start about this book because it's dealing with Helmacrons. I just feel like any and all rules of the Animorphs universe go out the window when they show up, which is frustrating.

I am glad that all necessary Magic School Bus references were made *within* the book itself, because if there had been an Animorphs book where they go inside a human and there hadn't been those references, I would have called the writers and complained for days at the obviously missed connection. Also, Marco-style, it saved me from having to make the references myself (to myself) while reading.

All that said, I did like the split narrative here so we could get the larger "mission" as well as the main storyline going. I appreciated the voices being written such that you could tell they were two different characters, too, because by this point in the series THEY TOTALLY ARE. I was worried that we were going to have another David on our hands in the sense that the "have to get evidence back from somebody" thing was developing, but fortunately that story went down a different path and didn't feel too repetitious. (Really appreciated the throwback reference to Marco's living situation at the beginning of the series; one of the strengths of the Animorphs books is it showcasing the problems we humans have just dealing with ourselves without any help from aliens.)

Ax is growing SO MUCH zomg and his ability to joke with the rest of the team as well as have their backs every time is such a great part of his character evolution. It's also horrendously painful to watch considering the series is winding down and I just know that his being the alien outsider is going to be A Thing.

I must admit that I got super grossed out a couple of times, which I did not expect. Maybe I was empathizing a bit too much with Marco and how all of this must be totally messing him up--or maybe I just have a weaker stomach than I thought.

Ben Babcock says

The Helmacrons, first seen in #24: *The Suspicion* make their second appearance in *Animorphs*. This time, the Animorphs voluntarily shrink themselves to extract the Helmacrons from *Marco*. Hilarity(?) ensues.

My feelings for this book are similar to my feelings for *The Suspicion*. If I were to make a list of the “essential” *Animorphs* novels to read, *The Journey* wouldn’t be on it. The B-story, in which Marco must retrieve a camera that might contain images of the Animorphs de-morphing, is under-developed (no pun intended). The few scenes that ghostwriter Emily Costello deigns to actually give it do little to create any real tension. The plot basically exists to give Marco something “dangerous” to be doing while the other Animorphs cruise through his digestive tract.

The Journey reminds me of that episode of *The Magic School Bus* where everyone tours Arnold’s digestive system. However, this story lacks some of that show’s charm. The best part is almost certainly just imagining what it would be like to morph into something like a shark in order to swim through a bloodstream rather than an ocean. And while I know that kids often like things adults find annoying (such as the Helmacrons), I have to wonder if at this point in the series many of the readers might be old enough to find these tiny, grating aliens as annoying as I do.

Misgivings about the B-story aside, this book and story are extremely competent in terms of their use of *Animorphs* tropes. We get into the story fairly quickly after yet another in media res battle opening. But that’s the thing—I feel like everything, from the opening to the Helmacrons to the dilemmas, is something we’ve seen before in other *Animorphs* books. I don’t mind standalone stories as a general rule, but I at least want them to give me something new. *The Journey* feels like someone gave Costello a grab bag of “generic Animorphs story elements” and said, “Pick 5 and go to town.”

With no new morphs, though, no real Yeerk threat, and little in the ways of moral dilemma beyond “Marco should avoid morphing because problems”, *The Journey* lacks any element strong enough to make it impressive.

Next time, fortunately, we have a definite moral dilemma as the Yeerk Peace Movement asks for the Animorphs’ help....

My reviews of *Animorphs*:

← #41: *The Familiar*

Kim Dyer says

Nope, sorry. I’ve suspended my belief a little too far for these stories in previous books but this one just went too far. I actually rather liked the previous Helmacron adventure. It was silly but still a little fun. This time, the fantastic voyage up Marco’s nose was just a little too odd. While it made small attempts to be educational, this is still a story in which children morph into bats to navigate their friend’s stomach, so the effects are minimal.

Fake science aside, the story is just a wash of gross moments (bodily fluids aplenty) and repetitive scenes of the Animorphs choosing the best morphs to navigate different body parts (using such logic as sharks can breathe in plasma because it’s basically seawater). The Marco half of the story is also weak. This shares some similarities with the first David story, yet boils down to a simple adventure where Marco has to outwit a vicious pit bull to steal a camera from a little boy’s bedroom. It’s low-stakes and more than a little dull.

The danger posed by the Helmacrons seems pointless, given how easily it is ultimately resolved and the story culminates in a weird final message about the danger of being bitten by a strange dog, which feels even more

tacked on than the environmental messages of previous stories. All in all, it felt this story feeling a bit like wasted space. It is pure filler, doing nothing to advance the over all story and barely featuring the Yeerks at all. Definitely one of the worst so far.

Jonathan Grant says

Reading goal complete :D
This one was pretty decent.

Swankivy says

The Animorphs follow a race of tiny megalomaniacs up Marco's nose. Lovely. The classic "inner space" idea is done--I mean you can't have a sci-fi series without having the episode where people get shrunk and sent into someone's body--but I liked the *Animorphs* take on it.

Notable moments and inconsistencies:

This book is ghostwritten by Emily Costello.

At one point a Controller shoots Rachel with a Dracon beam while she's in elephant morph. The lowest setting can knock out a human but probably wouldn't do anything but annoy the elephant, which is what happened. Question is, why didn't the Controller have the Dracon beam on a higher setting? They apparently go up high enough to actually vaporize any living thing, but even if the Controller didn't want to kill Rachel (so they could infest her and use her morphing ability), it seems he could have used a stronger setting and would know better than not to.

At one point the Helmacrons wish death on "the air-breathing alien," but no one seems to think this is significant. Then later everyone's mystified as to why they stepped into Marco's bloodstream if they wouldn't be able to breathe in there. Clearly it was a clue that they don't breathe air, but no one picked up on it.

An opening quotation mark was missing when someone was asking how they can go after a bunch of mushrooms.

After Marco has supposedly died in cockroach morph of a Helmacron blast, Rachel suggests tunneling into the lungs, and when they shoot through some air comes out and they acknowledge getting into the lungs. Roaches don't have lungs.

It seems odd that the Animorphs acknowledge the Helmacrons' possibility of aligning with the Yeerks or giving the Yeerks information about them, but then they let these blatantly untrustworthy creatures just charge up their ship and leave.

In a previous book, morphing did not rid any of the Animorphs of their illness, which was plot-relevant because the sickness they suffered from downed everyone on the team except Cassie, requiring her to do missions herself. But in this book, Marco morphing in and out of roach morph cured him of rabies. It could be that because the illness was some kind of alien illness they all caught from Ax, it behaves differently than human illnesses, or because rabies is viral and not bacterial, but this could be an inconsistency.

It's alarming that Marco could get rabies from a domesticated dog that was living as someone's pet.

No attempt was ever made to follow up on the kid who took the Animorphs' picture. Sure the camera was the evidence, but it would have made some sense to look into there being someone who had witnessed their human forms morphing.

Jerry says

Another fun volume in this series...and this one has a different twist.

Amantha says

Let the Great Animorphs Re-Read resume!

The Helmacrons were annoying the first time around, but now? Just ridiculous. If I want to learn about the inside version of the human anatomy, I'll watch Magic Schoolbus.

Salmaan Shariff says

This was an amazing book with so many thrills

Stephanie says

This book is absolutely ridiculous. It is one big Magic School Bus meets any given fight-the-aliens-in-a-strange-world-that-tries-to-kill-you movie. The humor in this is great, the premise of the story, not so much. Five stars for humor, one star for premise (the Helmacrons sneak into Marco's body and trick the Animorphs), and three stars for execution (it's almost like this book knows it waxes ridiculous, but then takes a very serious turn near the end). We'll say that gives an average of three stars, thanks to the saving humor and the sensible ending.

Really, the humor is what carries this book. We have glimpses of the "serious" Animorphs, their great teamwork, but their actions/reactions resonate truer with them early on in the story, when they were still figuring out how to plot and plan missions and instead just wing it, than with who they have become (winging it when necessary but usually having at least one back-up plan in mind). Not to mention the really strange passage of time – through Marco we realize that over twelve hours passes from start to finish, but based on Rachel's narration and the pacing, plus the amount and length of morphing, it seems like only a few hours, tops. That really threw me in reading this book: that so much time had passed despite expectations.

Plus, why they didn't they actually suggest to Marco to force himself to throw up when they were in his stomach, especially after mentioning it as a possibility. Also, I distinctly remember that when they morphed hammerheads to infiltrate Visser One's underwater experiments, they each had a computer chip placed in their heads. Morphing did not remove the chip to Z-space, and it instead endangered them. So... while I can see their general concern for "What happens to us if Marco morphs?" it does not make that much sense

insofar as they are concerned for their own safety and well-being. They seemed to assume that they would end up in Z-space instead of remaining in Marco, despite having actual experience with the latter scenario of remaining inside Marco happening. If they *really* thought that Marco morphing would result in the Helmacrons ending up in Z-space, then this entire book might have been able to be avoided by Marco morphing right then and there.

The Helmacrons [...] I can't believe someone hasn't blasted these maniacs out of the universe by now.

(view spoiler)

“The Helmacrons,” Marco said with an amazed shake of his head. “I can't believe someone hasn't blasted these maniacs out of the universe by now.” – page 17 – You said it, Marco, you said it!

(view spoiler)

Julie says

Started and finished in a single day, because I had an Animorphs dream the night before (!), which I figured was the universe commanding me to pick up this series again. :] (For those interested, my dream mostly involved Marco grudgingly, reluctantly admitting his unrequited feelings for Rachel, and some dire shit that I blocked out -- I think it had something to do with Jake and being in Jake's shoes and having to make the calls for a mission.)

ANYWAY. This book! It's the return of the Helmacrons, and so accordingly, it is *so so so silly*. It's ridiculous and fun, a Magic Schoolbus-esque shrinking romp through Marco's body to track down the tiny rogue aliens. It's the sort of throwaway adventure (without much strategising) I would've associated with much earlier in the series; the main indication of this being 40s-era Animorphs is how efficient and matter-of-fact they were in the fight at the *start*, and how they automatically meet up at Cassie's barn like debriefing from a military mission. Yet once they enter Marco's body, all plans are thrown out the window, and it's just an impetuous flailing around from situation to situation.

I liked the shared narration in this book, breaking the usual stride of single narrators. I also think I liked it more than the initial Helmacron book, but it definitely does seem to be lighter and aimed for a younger audience. Honestly, I think *The Journey* exists purely to offset the absolute, complete emotional *destruction* that was #41 The Familiar and Megamorphs #4 (which, in fact, were so destructive that I haven't been able to finish a book in 2 weeks, which if you know me is *a really really big deal*). And considering the first time the Helmacrons appeared is after the David trilogy and the Hork-Bajir Chronicles, it's like this series only busts them out -- one of their most ridiculous concepts/premises -- when you REALLY need a pick-me-up.

Several of the quotes I highlighted still had to do with compiling evidence for my not-ship hypothesis. Ugh, ignore me.

(view spoiler)

JonSnow says

Giving this a 1/5, instead of my original 3/5 which I had reverted to a 2/5, for a lot of reasons.

As if book 24 wasn't bad enough, we get another Helmacron book. Ugh. In spite of this, it was mildly interesting at a few points, but not enough to redeem itself from being another Helmacron book. The most stupid and annoying and unbelievable alien race. This is a fantastic voyage type rip off, and it's pretty mediocre at best.

For all the referencing of the internet by Emily Costello... she clearly didn't take the time to learn that you can't get full on rabies symptoms in mere hours. The plot was ridiculous and annoying. The references to the magic school bus and the fantastic voyage were just annoying, as opposed to the usual amusement.

What the hell was up with the camera plot... that was basically a bunch of BS filler that had no real impact on anything. Just filler.

Caitlin says

"Excuse me," Marco cried. "Are you planning to have a BATTLE in my NOSE?"

This quote pretty much entirely sums up this book. It was a total filler book, but it was entertaining and somewhat educational in a Magic School Bus kind of way.

Jenny Clark says

Kinda a throw away book, with the Hemlacons back and as egomaniacal as ever. A needed break after the last to gut tearing last two books.

So, these crazy little aliens decide to take Marco prisoner from the inside. By going up his nose. Need I say more?

Almira says

Jake: "If Helmacrons don't breathe, why do they have noses?"

Ax: "It is possible the organ has another use. Although it is hard to imagine what it would be."

Rachel: "This from a boy who eats with his feet."

Ax: "Eenie, meenie, minie, moe?"

Rachel: "You really have been on Earth too long. You'll never fit in on the Andalite home world now."

Ax: "I would miss Saturday morning cartoons."

"BRB@Marco's nose"

- Animorphs

XDDD :D :D :D

Btw we should talk about how Marco's so brave here. I mean he's always brave but he's alone here and that's a different kind of courage. :)
