

CHAPTER 1.

"It's a strange world after all . . . It's a strange world after all . . . It's a strange-

Helen's singing really is bad, Ben thought. I must be tactful. "You've got the lyrics wrong, my dear."

"Huh?"

"It's a *small* world after all."

"No, it's a strange world. Small world just does not cut it."

"Strange in what way?"

"Where do I start? Strange because the world is a beautiful, bountiful gift to us humans, and what do we do to it? We pollute it, contaminate it, destroy the trees, kill off the animals and bees, and

