

# CONFUSING CREATURES

The Alchemists Shadow

Matt Boston



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Illustrations by Matt Boston

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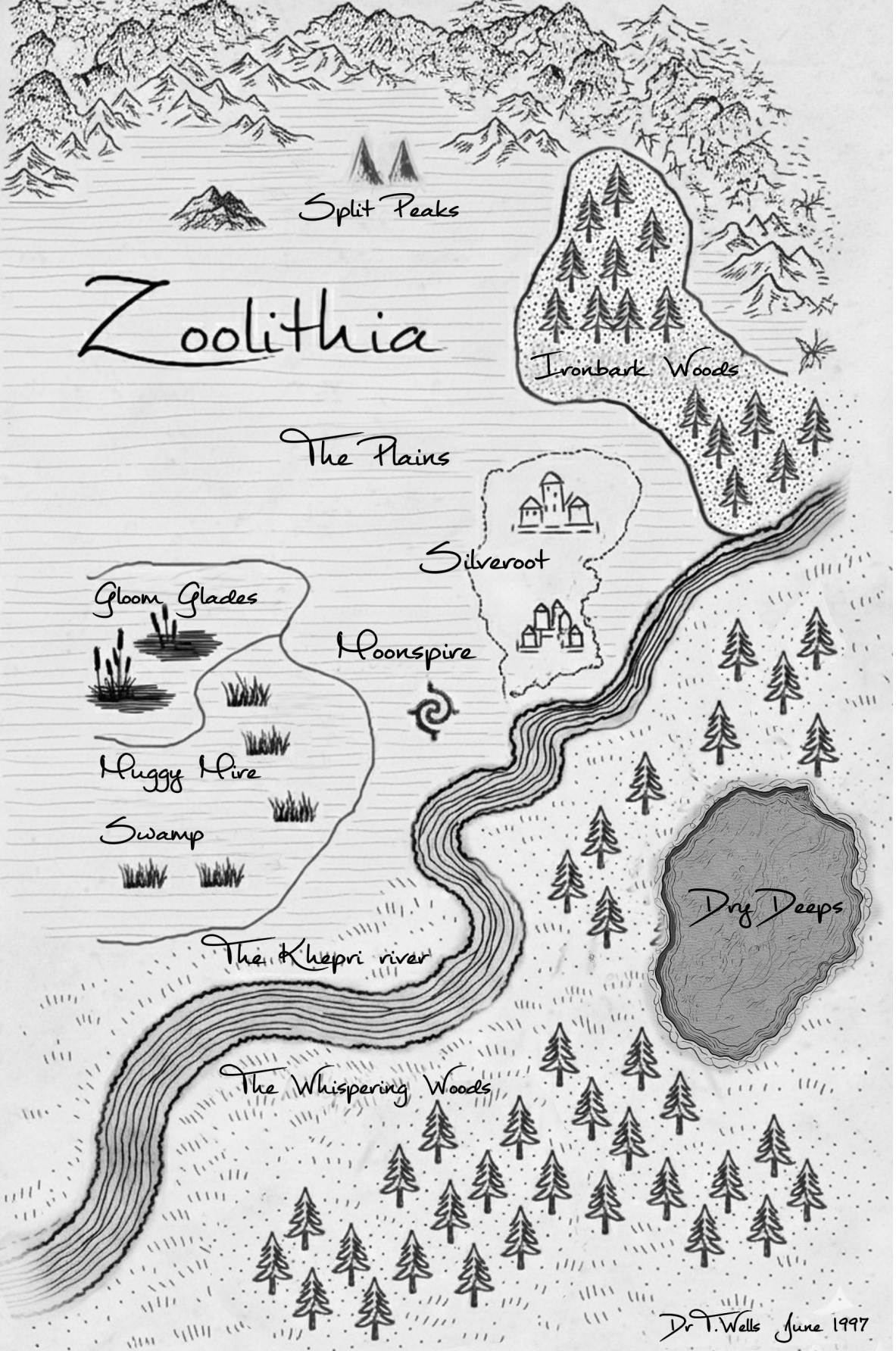
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The world reveals itself to those who can read its signs



Split Peaks

# Zoolithia

Ironbark Woods

The Plains

Silverroot

Gloom Glades

Moonspire

Muggy Mire

Swamp

The Khapri river

Dry Deeps

The Whispering Woods



Long ago, the alchemists of Zoolithia discovered a strange magic that could blend the features of animals.

They called it Animalchemy.

From this magic came the creatures of the wild plains and glowing forests – the Confusing Creatures.

But some believed this power was too dangerous to exist.

And they were right.

## Chapter 1: The Strange Fog

The fog came from nowhere. One minute, Oliver was telling his Dad about a wildlife documentary; the next, a weird mist crept between the stalls like ghostly fingers.

Just moments before, the fair had been brilliant. He'd already been on the Twister three times and his Dad had helped him win a holographic Kraken card at the ring toss. He kept pulling it from his pocket to watch it shimmer while finishing his second hot dog.

The bright summer sky turned grey, and the temperature dropped so fast he could see his breath. Above them, the moon was slowly starting to cross in front of the sun, casting everything in an eerie silvery light.

Then came the fog. It wasn't like normal fog either... This was thick and swirly, and the cheerful fairground music became muffled, like it was playing underwater. Even the smell of hot dogs and candyfloss seemed to fade away.

This wasn't how the day was supposed to go. The fair only came to Millfield Park once a year, transforming their sleepy town into something magical. But this felt different—unsettling.

The fog steamed up his glasses. He wiped them on his shirt and pushed back his hair. That's when he saw it: standing alone in the mist, an odd-looking stall. It was wonky, as if someone had drawn it with all the angles wrong. Behind it sat an old woman.