



WE FOUND AN ENTIRE LOST WORLD;
A WINDOW ON A MOMENT OF MAJOR
EVOLUTIONARY CHANGE.

| NIZAR IBRAHIM, PALEONTOLOGIST |

KAT KEENE HOGUE

NIZAR IBRAHIM

PALEONTOLOGIST

German/Moroccan paleontologist, anatomist, and National Geographic Explorer Nizar Ibrahim scours the vast deserts of North Africa for clues to life in the Cretaceous period, when the area was a large river system teeming with a profusion of diverse life. One of the youngest explorers ever to lead expeditions to the Sahara, he has unearthed spectacular dinosaur bones, rare fossil footprints, giant prehistoric fish, crocodile-like hunters, and a new species of giant flying reptile with a 20-foot wingspan that lived 95 million years ago.

For many years Ibrahim has been obsessed with one of the great mysteries in paleontology—the giant predatory dinosaur, *Spinosaurus*. Ibrahim's remarkable story and the findings of an international team of scientists were published in the journal *Science* and as a cover story for *National Geographic* magazine. What has been unveiled appears to be the first truly semiaquatic dinosaur, *Spinosaurus aegyptiacus*. New fossils of this massive sail-backed, crocodile-snouted predator reveal it adapted to life in the water, providing the most compelling evidence to date of a dinosaur able to live and hunt in an aquatic environment. The fossils also indicate that *Spinosaurus* was the largest known predatory dinosaur to roam the Earth, measuring more than nine feet longer than the world's largest *Tyrannosaurus rex* specimen.

In 2014 Ibrahim was named a National Geographic Emerging Explorer, and in 2015 he was named a TED fellow, the first paleontologist in the history of TED. Ibrahim is an Assistant Professor of Biology and currently teaches anatomy and evolutionary biology at the University of Detroit Mercy. In addition, he is a Research Associate with Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and a Visiting Researcher with the University of Portsmouth in England.

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