Sufficiently Developed Technology

The fairy tales were folk myths - and the monsters, aliens. Humanity went out to the stars, thirty millenia ago - to get promptly beaten back down into the mud. We just didn't have the right kind of magic to hold off all the aliens out there. They wiped out every attempt we made to bring back magic, too.

They would have done the same with our technological development, only they didn't really understand tech, and couldn't 'scan' for it. The aliens only came back with a bombardment fleet after we developed 'exotic physics' for our warp drive.

...Boy, were they surprised!

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