#### Mónika A. Lukács

## Beyond the Ice Fields



Illustrated by Lilla Szabó



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Sea of Adventures Series Read with Me! Recommended for ages 6-8

Mónika A. Lukács Beyond the Ice Fields Illustrated by Lilla Szabó Translated by Adrienn Gyurka Budapest, 2025

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The heroes of the *Sea of Adventures* stories all go on different journeys to find safety and stay alive.

In the first book of the series, Adél, a little penguin, wakes up to a scary sound. Are seals coming?

Or is there an even bigger danger?

The exciting story is easy to read with simple sentences and large letters.

The colourful watercolour pictures make reading and understanding fun.







### Adél

I live happily in the Arctic with my family and the other penguins.



I'm Adél, a little girl penguin who loves swimming in the icy waters and playing on the ice. My whole life is full of fun and laughter. This place is simply amazing!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> simply – egyszerűen



## Melting

There's always something peaceful<sup>2</sup> and calming<sup>3</sup> about the quiet of the Arctic<sup>4</sup> nights. But now, just before dawn<sup>5</sup>, a strange<sup>6</sup> noise breaks the silence. I listen, quietly and anxiously<sup>7</sup>, trying to figure out<sup>8</sup> what it could be. I can hear the deep cracking<sup>9</sup> sound more and more clearly. The ground beneath me starts to tremble<sup>10</sup>, as if something is coming. It's a strange and scary feeling.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> peaceful – békés

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> calming – megnyugtató

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Arctic – sarkvidék

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> dawn – hajnal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> strange – különös

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> anxiously – riadtan

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> figure out – rájön, kitalál

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> deep cracking – mély ropogás

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> tremble – remeg

Nothing like this has ever happened before. My heart suddenly tightens<sup>11</sup>. The usual<sup>12</sup> cold now feels even more chilling.



"Could it be giant seals that have grown into monsters and are attacking us?" I wonder<sup>13</sup> to myself.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> tighten – összeszorul

<sup>12</sup> usual – szokásos

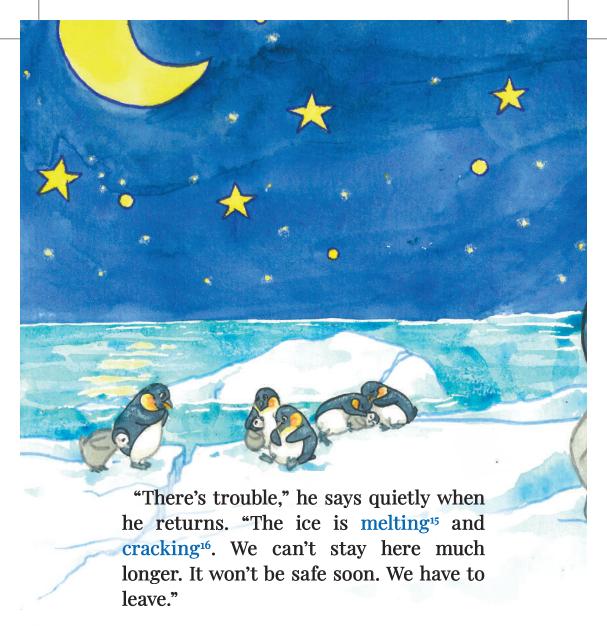
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> wonder – töpreng

Mom wakes up from the strange noise too. She quickly wakes up Dad.

Dad slowly opens his sleepy eyes. He listens to the cracking and rumbling, then his face turns very serious. He waddles off<sup>14</sup> to see what's going on.

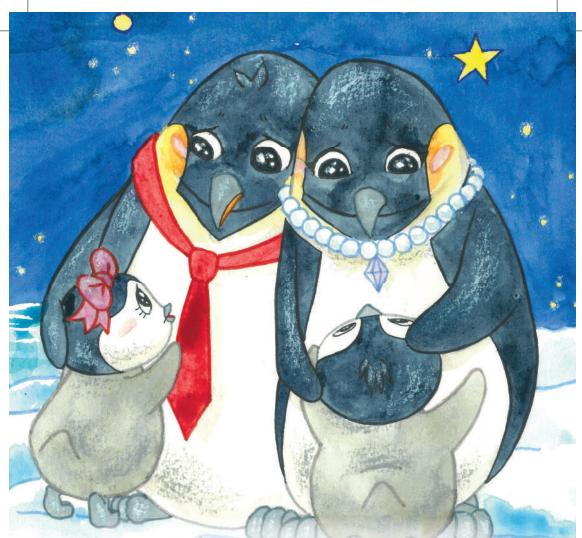
<sup>14</sup> waddle off – eltotyog





<sup>15</sup> melting – olvadás

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> cracking – hasadó



I don't really understand why cracking ice is so scary for the family. It's not like giant monster seals are trying to eat us.

"Can't we fix it? No? Maybe it just sounds scary," I wonder.

My brother Leo is usually really brave, but now I can see fear even in his eyes. I can feel this is something serious and dangerous.



I snuggle closer<sup>17</sup> to Mom.

"What's going to happen now?" I whisper<sup>18</sup> to her.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> snuggle closer – közelebb húzódik

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> whisper – suttog



## My Idea

Our parents begin to talk things over.

"We have to do something. We need to find a solution!" Dad says worriedly<sup>19</sup>.

They argue<sup>20</sup> for a long time about what they should do.

"What if we look for a floating<sup>21</sup> ice sheet?" I say hesitantly<sup>22</sup>. "One that's strong enough to carry us away from here?"



Leo joins in:

"Once, when Adél and I secretly wandered off, we saw how huge the world is and how much of it we haven't explored yet! There must be a place that's safer."



Everyone looks at me. I see hope sparkle<sup>23</sup> in Mom's eyes, and Dad nods in agreement.

"That's a good idea. We need to find a large, floating block of ice," he says thoughtfully<sup>24</sup>.

Dad doesn't hesitate for long. He starts preparing for a scouting trip<sup>25</sup>. Leo wants to go with him, so they set off<sup>26</sup> together.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> set off – elindul



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> sparkle – csillan

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> thoughtfully – elgondolkodva

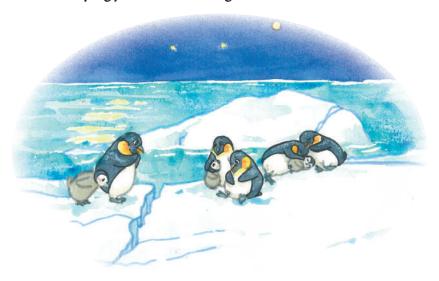
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> scouting trip – felderítő út

Mom excitedly<sup>27</sup> hurries off to tell the penguin folk about the escape plan.

I sit by the edge of the ice field all day, never taking my eyes off the endless water.

With all my heart, I ask the light fairies to protect Dad and Leo from the terrifying jaws<sup>28</sup> of the seals.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> terrifying jaw – rémisztő fogak



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> excitedly – izgatottan



After many hours, I finally spot them in the distance<sup>29</sup>.

"We found the floating ice sheet that can save us!" Leo shouts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> distance – távolság

The penguin tribe<sup>30</sup> greets them and the good news with thunderous applause<sup>31</sup>.

But time is running out.

The ice beneath us is cracking louder and louder. The crevices<sup>32</sup> are much deeper than before.

We don't have much time left.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> crevice – repedés



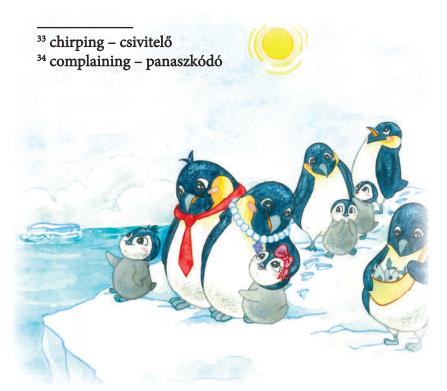
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> tribe – törzs

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> thunderous applause – tapsvihar



## We Escape

Together with all the chirping<sup>33</sup> and complaining<sup>34</sup> penguins, we set out on our journey. I can see that Mom is worried.



Swimming is really exhausting<sup>35</sup> for me – I have to slow down. I do a few somersaults<sup>36</sup> and play on the waves and chunks of ice<sup>37</sup>.



I fall behind.

I get scared when I realize no one is around. I start shouting, hoping someone will hear me.

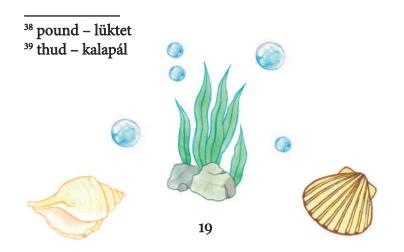
<sup>35</sup> exhausting – fárasztó

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> somersault – bukfenc

 $<sup>^{37}</sup>$  chunks of ice – jégdarabok



Then I spot a seal nearby, watching me. My heart pounds<sup>38</sup> and thuds<sup>39</sup> loudly.



I want to speed up, but I can't.

My flippers<sup>40</sup> keep getting caught between the ice shards, holding me back. It's so hard to move forward. The seal follows me persistently<sup>41</sup>, like a hungry monster. My whole body trembles – I'm really afraid.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> flipper – szárny

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> persistently – kitartóan

"I'm going to lose this fight," I sigh<sup>42</sup> to myself.



Then suddenly<sup>43</sup>, I see Mom. She had noticed in time that I was missing and came to find me.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> sigh – sóhajt

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> suddenly – váratlanul

"I'm here, don't be afraid," she whispers gently. She lifts me onto her back and rockets through the razor-sharp<sup>44</sup> chunks of ice to save me.

Weak and tired, I cling tightly<sup>45</sup> to her neck.

<sup>45</sup> tightly – határozottan, szorosan



<sup>44</sup> razor-sharp – tűéles



At last, we all reach the floating ice sheet.

I'm still shaking from what happened. Mom cuddles up to me and wraps her flipper around me. She begins to tell me stories about the fairies of the northern lights, who watch over every little penguin.

I soon fall asleep to the story and the sound of the waves.



#### Our New Home

For days, the currents<sup>46</sup> carry us toward new lands. The floating block gently rocks us the whole time – I've gotten used to it by now.



Then suddenly, Dad spots<sup>47</sup> a vast ice field in the distance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> currents – áramlatok

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> spot – észrevesz



"Look! There's our new home!" he shouts at the top of his voice.

All the penguins leap off<sup>48</sup> the ice sheet and swim toward the wonderfully beautiful land.

I sniff<sup>49</sup> the air. The scent of fish and crabs drifts toward me.

<sup>48</sup> leap off – leugranak

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> sniff – beleszagol

"We did it. We're safe," Mom whispers, planting a big kiss on my cheek.

That night, we sleep on the ground of our new home.



I feel completely<sup>50</sup> safe. That evening, Mom tells us stories about special fish and birds.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> completely – teljesen

In my dreams, I dance with colorful fish, swimming, laughing, and exploring<sup>51</sup> their exciting world.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> exploring – felfedezni





#### Did You Know?

Penguins are birds that mostly live in the Southern Hemisphere, especially in Antarctica – but they cannot fly. They communicate with each other using chirping sounds. Penguins lay eggs, which are kept warm by both parents taking turns. They choose a mate for life.



They are perfectly adapted to the cold, polar environment.



Penguins are excellent swimmers, capable of diving quickly and to great depths. Their main food sources are fish and crabs. Penguins live in groups called colonies and move together. By huddling close, they help protect one another from the cold.

According to an ancient legend, penguins cannot fly because they were chosen to guard the deepest secrets of Antarctica.



## **Project Description**

The book was created as part of the "Empowering Students as Agents of Change" (SHORE) project (www.shoreproject.eu), in which the Budapest University of Technology and Economics is the Hungarian member. One of the program's goals is to help children better understand the importance of oceans, seas, and the waters of our planet, as well as the diversity of their wildlife.

The primary mission of the project is to promote *ocean literacy*. The *Sea of Adventures* series supports this goal by bringing young schoolchildren closer to the wonders of aquatic life and the species living near water – through the magical world of stories.

Children experience the characters' struggles, come to understand their deep interconnections, and become more sensitive to the ways water and its environment influence one another.



# Did you know that there are 7 essential principles of ocean literacy that everyone should know?

- 1. The Earth has one big ocean with many features.
- 2. The ocean and the life in the ocean shape the features of the Earth.
- 3. The ocean has a major influence on weather and climate.
- 4. The ocean makes the Earth habitable.
- 5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.
- 6. The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.
- 7. The ocean is largely unexplored.



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