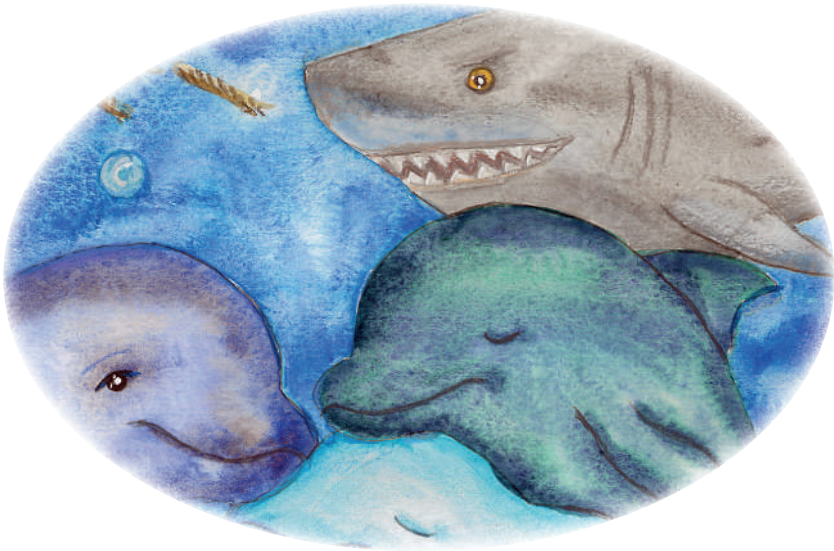


Mónika A. Lukács

# Friend or Enemy?



Illustrated by Anikó Varga

You can find additional materials for  
the book by scanning the code below.



*Sea of Adventures Series*

Read with me!

Recommended for children aged 7–9

Mónika A. Lukács

Friend or Enemy?

Illustrated by Anikó Varga

Translated by Adrienn Simovics

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# Foreword

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

In the third book of the series, a little dolphin meets a strange creature.

Will it be a friend or an enemy?

The story is written with medium-easy sentences and large letters, so it is simple to read.

The colourful pictures make reading and understanding fun.





# Niko

My parents say I ask too many questions.  
But I only want to understand our world.  
For example, why the sea is sometimes  
angry, why plastic bags drift beside the  
turtles, and why there are fewer and  
fewer fish around the reef.







## CHAPTER I

# The Mysterious Shadow

I know I am a **curious**<sup>1</sup> dolphin. I am also small and fast, but there are many things I don't know.

My family, especially my older brothers and sisters, sometimes laugh at me for this.

“Your curiosity will get you into **trouble**<sup>2</sup> one day,” my dad says while we swim over the **reef**<sup>3</sup>.

“Or it will save you,” my mom whispers with a smile.

I don't understand why this is a problem — that's just the way I am.

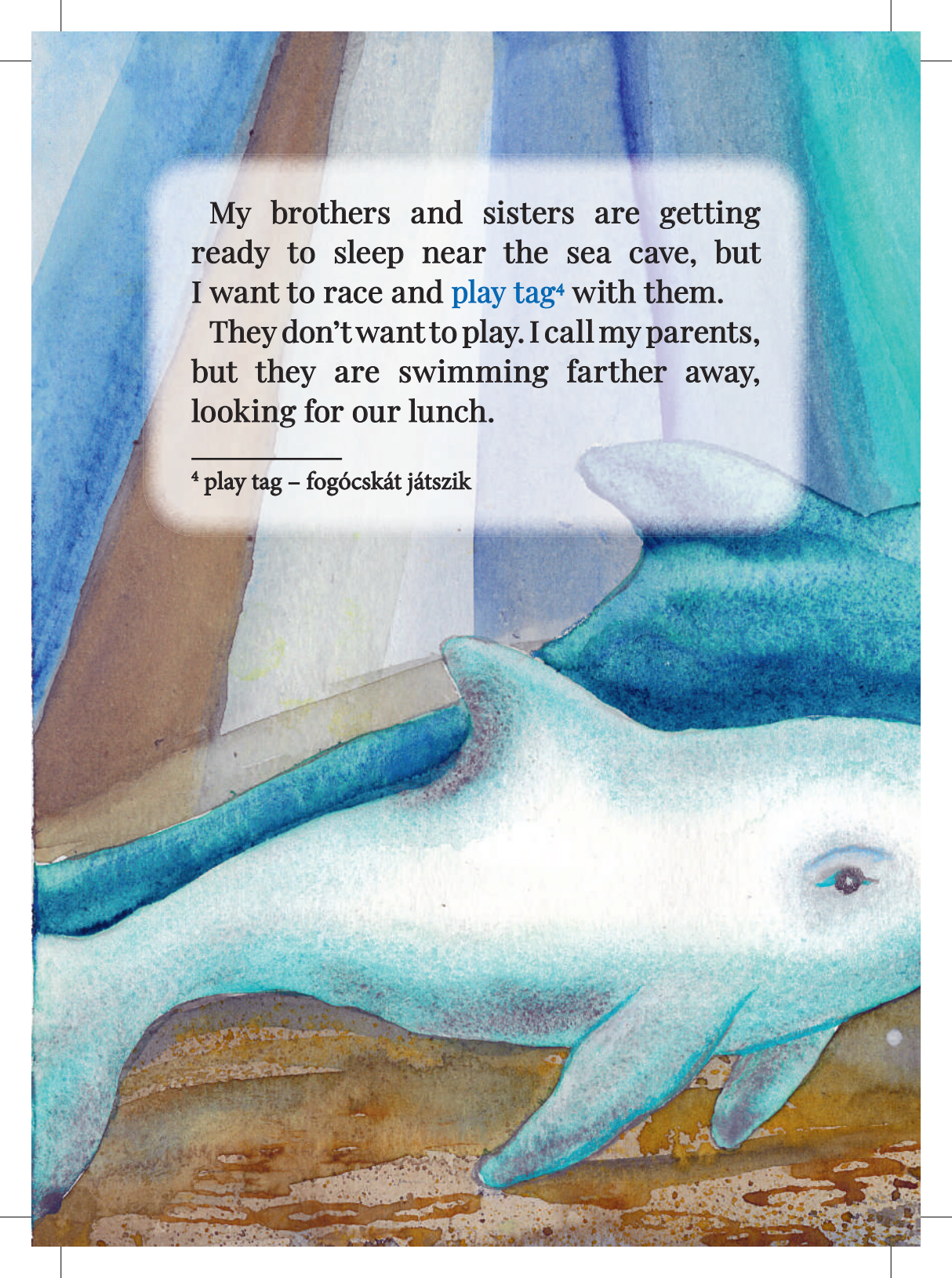
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<sup>1</sup> curious – kíváncsi

<sup>2</sup> trouble – baj, gond

<sup>3</sup> reef – zátony





My brothers and sisters are getting ready to sleep near the sea cave, but I want to race and **play tag**<sup>4</sup> with them.

They don't want to play. I call my parents, but they are swimming farther away, looking for our lunch.

---

<sup>4</sup> play tag – fogócskát játszik







“What if I go play a jumping game?  
Just alone.”

Slowly, I start to go. I swim quietly to  
a more **distant**<sup>5</sup>, beautiful **bay**<sup>6</sup>. It looks  
perfect for playing. I **hum**<sup>7</sup>, shout with  
joy, and jump higher and higher out of  
the water. Time goes fast. I am just about  
to go back, when I see someone far away.  
A strange, shadow-like creature swims  
between the rocks.

---

<sup>5</sup> distant – távoli

<sup>6</sup> bay – öböl

<sup>7</sup> hum – mormog



His large, shiny eyes **sparkle**<sup>8</sup> from far away. His huge mouth is full of **sharp**<sup>9</sup> teeth. And his skin... not shiny, not colorful, but dark grey. Very scary. He doesn't see me.

---

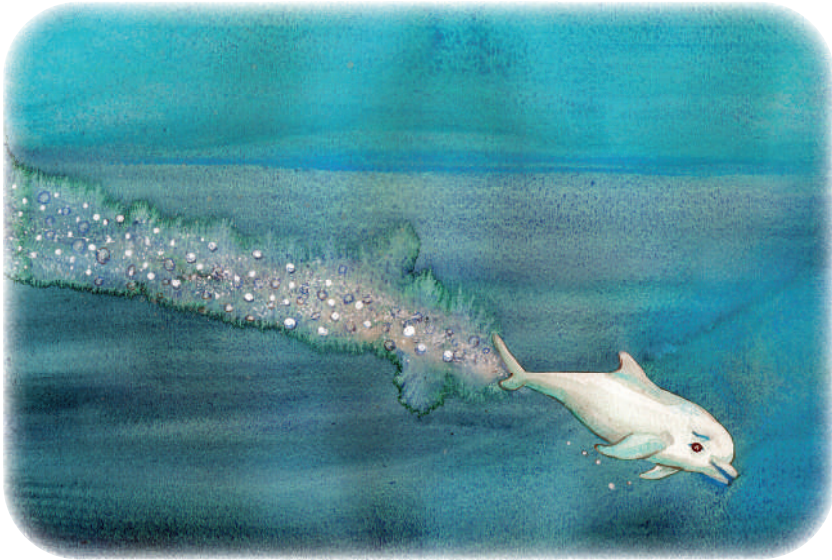
<sup>8</sup> sparkle– szikrázik

<sup>9</sup> sharp – éles





I pretend<sup>10</sup> I didn't see him either, and  
I turn around as fast as I can.



I swim away so quickly that even the  
bubbles make only a thin line behind me.

---

<sup>10</sup> pretend – úgy tesz, mintha

For now, I don't say a word to my family. I only think about him in my mind. I am very curious: who can he be? Is he **dangerous**<sup>11</sup>? Where does he live? Can I tell my parents about him? They would definitely be angry, because I went to the bay alone. They never allow me to do that.

“He looks a little like me. Maybe he's my age. But still, he is very different. I have never seen him before,” I wonder.

My heart **beats fast**<sup>12</sup> with **excitement**<sup>13</sup>.

Who can he be? And why did he look so strange? I can't stop thinking about him.

When my mother arrives, she sees at once that something is on my mind.

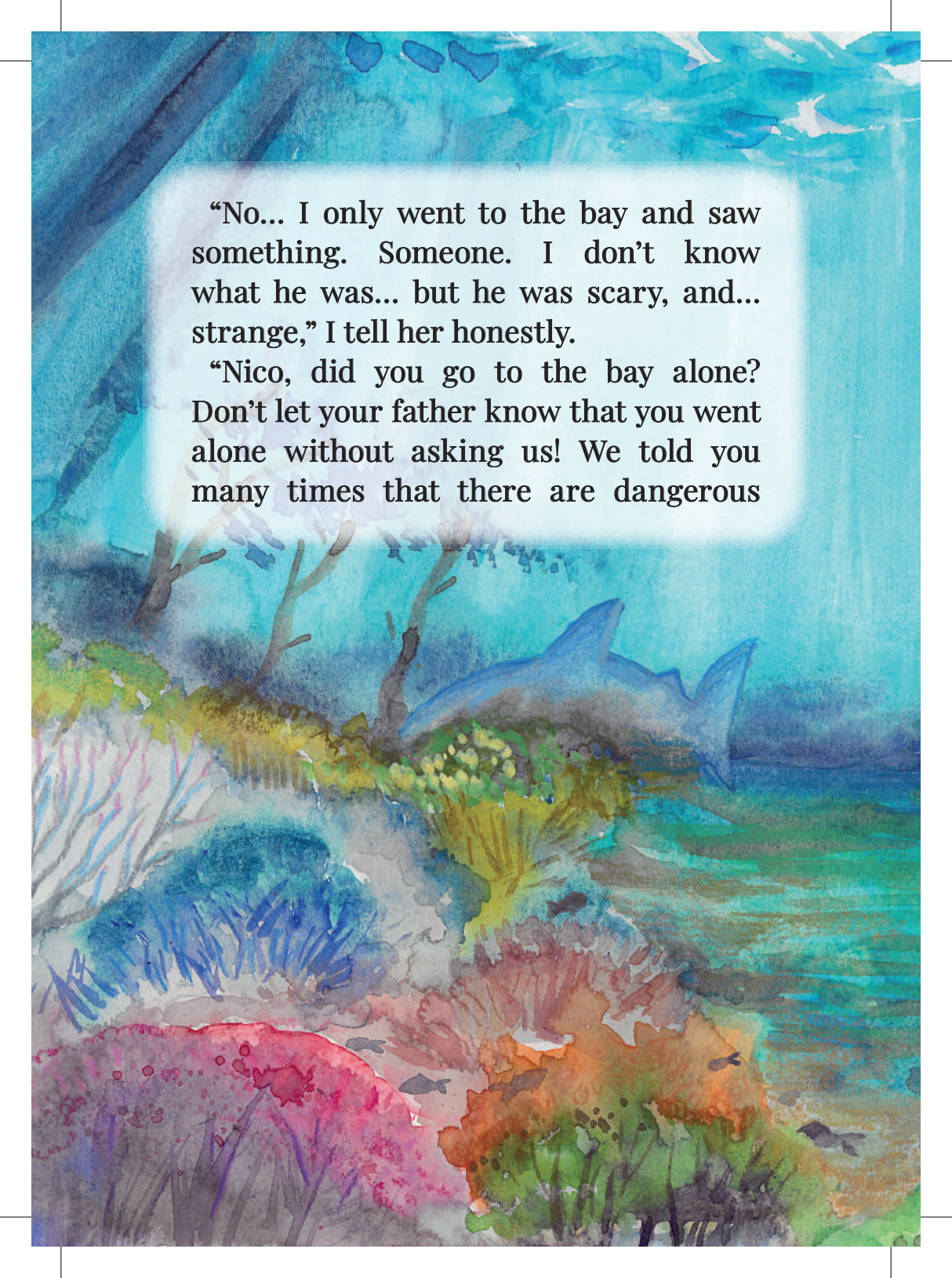
“Are you all right, Niko?” she asks. “Did something happen?”

---

<sup>11</sup> dangerous – veszélyes

<sup>12</sup> beats fast (heart) – hevesen dobog (szív)

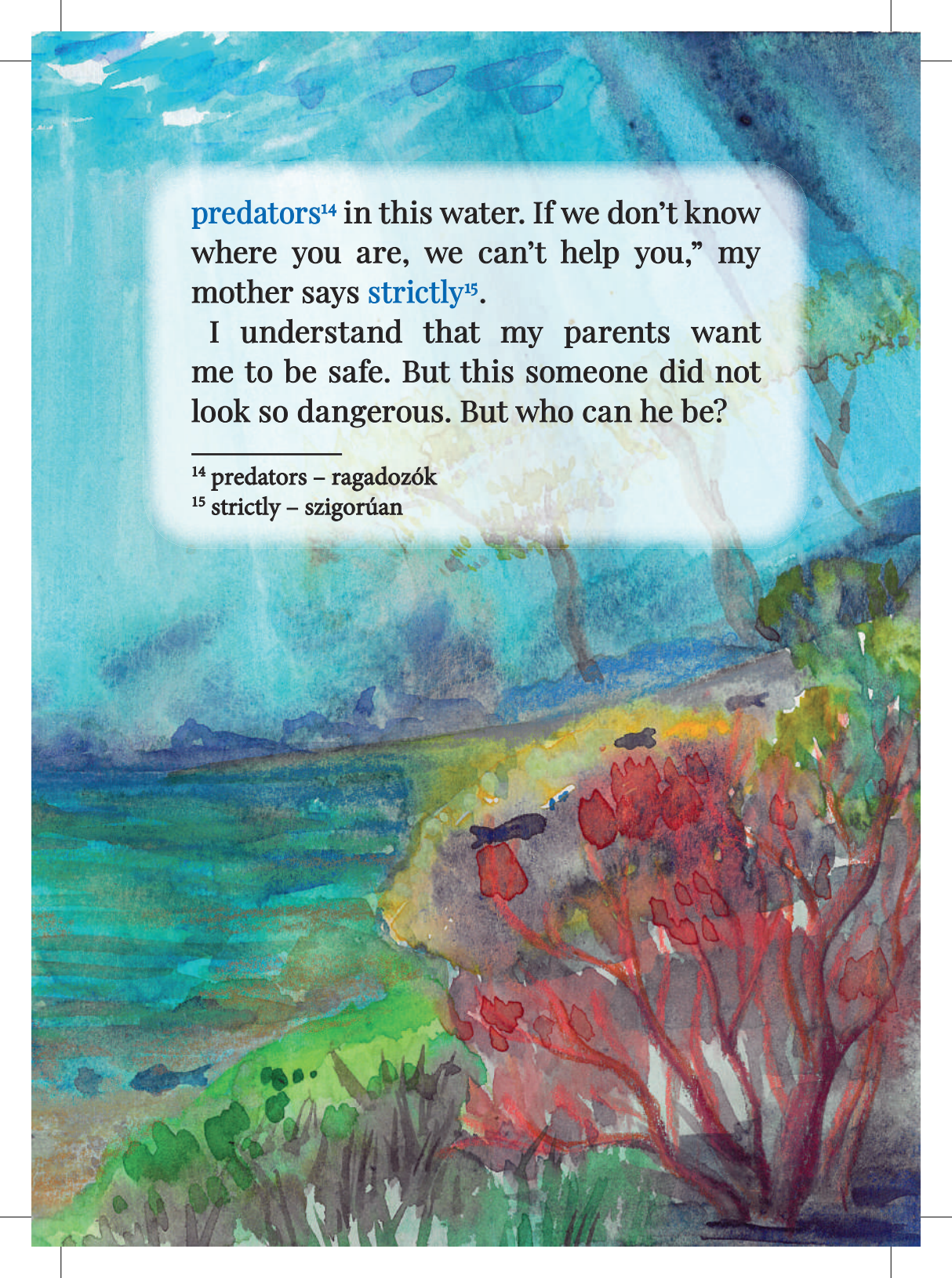
<sup>13</sup> excitement – izgalom



“No... I only went to the bay and saw something. Someone. I don’t know what he was... but he was scary, and... strange,” I tell her honestly.

“Nico, did you go to the bay alone? Don’t let your father know that you went alone without asking us! We told you many times that there are dangerous





**predators**<sup>14</sup> in this water. If we don't know where you are, we can't help you," my mother says **strictly**<sup>15</sup>.

I understand that my parents want me to be safe. But this someone did not look so dangerous. But who can he be?

---

<sup>14</sup> predators – ragadozók

<sup>15</sup> strictly – szigorúan





## CHAPTER II

# The Stranger

The next morning, I already see him from far away. He's hardly **visible**<sup>16</sup> from here. He **floats**<sup>17</sup> between the rocks.

When he sees me, he doesn't move. He only watches me.

When our eyes meet, time stops. I quickly come to my senses, my heart beats fast again, I turn back at once and rush to my family.

---

<sup>16</sup> visible – látható

<sup>17</sup> floats – lebeg



All day I keep wondering who he can be, why he is so gloomy<sup>18</sup>, and why he is always alone.

I know my mother is worried already, and she would be very angry if I went closer to the rock near the bay. I can't do that.

“Can I watch him from a safe distance?” I keep thinking to myself.

The next day, our eyes meet again.

He comes closer. But only slowly. We are far enough from each other so I can escape if I need to.

But I am more and more sure that he is not a predator, because he doesn't speed up, he only moves carefully in circles.

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<sup>18</sup> gloomy – komor





I swim a little bit toward him too. We are still far enough from each other, he's not dangerous.

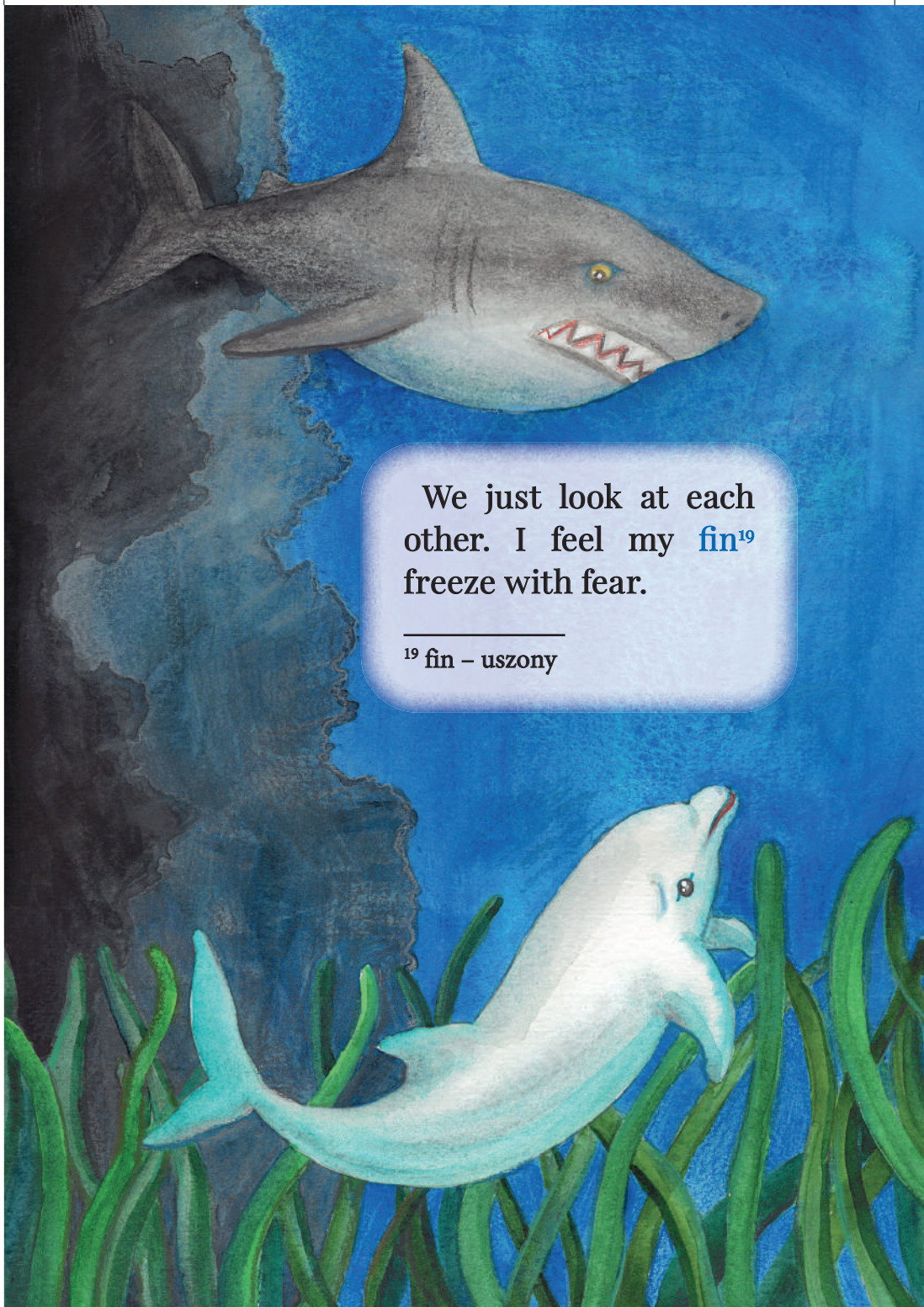
I shout:

"Hi! I'm Niko. Are you a dolphin too?"

"Hi! My name is Karka. I'm a shark," he answers. His voice is quiet and sad.

"A shaaark? You are a shark? Please don't hurt me, I won't hurt you!" I say nervously, because suddenly I remember that my father always talks about sharks as the most dangerous predators.





We just look at each other. I feel my **fin**<sup>19</sup> freeze with fear.

---

<sup>19</sup> fin – uszony

Then I realize that he's staying still and quiet. He doesn't attack, he doesn't **threaten**<sup>20</sup>. He only looks at me with his big eyes. I take a deep breath, stay calm, and feel **relieved**<sup>21</sup>.

"What are you doing here alone?" I ask.

"I live here."

"Your parents?"

"They **disappeared**<sup>22</sup>."

"But... how can you be alone? Aren't you afraid?"

"Not anymore."

A long **silence**<sup>23</sup> follows his sad answer. He doesn't say anything else, only stays quiet. But time flies quickly, I have to go back to my family.

---

<sup>20</sup> threaten – fenyeget

<sup>21</sup> relieved – megkönnyebbült

<sup>22</sup> disappeared – eltűnt

<sup>23</sup> silence – csend

“A shark... And a child... Alone... And he didn’t hurt me... He was not scary at all when we talked,” I think to myself. I should tell my parents that they don’t need to worry.

As the days go by, we get closer and closer. I see him every day.







We meet while my brothers and sisters are resting. One afternoon we find an old reef. We hide behind it and play there, chasing each other happily. He shows me how to make the most beautiful bubbles and how to swim upside down.

I show him how to **tickle**<sup>24</sup> our bellies with sea grass. We race, we play **hide-and-see**<sup>25</sup>, and we laugh for hours.

---

<sup>24</sup> tickle – csiklando

<sup>25</sup> hide-and-see – bújóska



I feel that we have something **in common**<sup>26</sup>.

I teach him my favourite dolphin song, the one my mother sings every evening. He likes it.

It's funny how he also tries to learn the song. It's not easy for him. His voice is strange, but that doesn't bother me.

Weeks go by, and we spend even more time together. I always wait for these moments with joy.

As I get to know Karka better, he becomes more and more important to me.

"I have never talked like this with anyone," Karka says one day.

"Me neither. You are so... **different**<sup>27</sup>," I smile at him.

---

<sup>26</sup> in common – közös (dolog)

<sup>27</sup> different – más, különböző



“Because of my teeth?”

“No, no... you just think differently. You see the world in another way. And I like that.

Karka laughs. From between the big, scary teeth, a piece of sea grass is hanging. It's very funny. We laugh together.



Just then, my brother Lóri sees us.

“Oh, Niko! Who is this ugly thing? You spend your time with him? If Dad finds out, you will be in trouble!” he shouts **mockingly**<sup>28</sup> and runs away.

The news gets home faster than I do. Lóri told everything he saw.

At home a fight begins. The **tension**<sup>29</sup> is high. Everyone only **scolds**<sup>30</sup> me and attacks me for what I did. I don’t understand them, because they have no reason. Nothing dangerous happened.

“What are you doing with a shark, Niko?!” my father says to me. “Are you out of your mind? You play with a shark? That is like playing with your life!”

“But he’s not like that! He is Karka, and he doesn’t hurt anyone! He is alone, still a child!

---

<sup>28</sup> mockingly – gúnyosan

<sup>29</sup> tension – feszültség

<sup>30</sup> scolds – leszid





He has no parents. And he is kind too!”  
I **protest**<sup>31</sup>.

“Enough!” my mother also shouts.  
“Sharks are dangerous. I don’t want you to meet him again! Do you understand?”

“But Mom... he’s my friend...”

“He can’t be your friend. A shark can never be a dolphin’s friend!” my father answers quickly. “Don’t let me see you with him again! I don’t want to hear one more word about it.”

I **burst into tears**<sup>32</sup>, I am very **disappointed**<sup>33</sup>... They want to protect me, but from what?

I can’t understand why I can’t meet him again. Why are my parents so **cruel**<sup>34</sup>? They don’t even know Karka...

---

<sup>31</sup> protest – tiltakozik

<sup>32</sup> burst into tears – sírva fakad

<sup>33</sup> disappointed – csalódott

<sup>34</sup> cruel – kegyetlen



## CHAPTER III

# The Silence

I can't go the next day, or even the day after that. Never...

They **forbade**<sup>35</sup> it.

Poor Karka doesn't know why I am not coming. He only waits and waits. What can he be thinking?

I can't move away from my parents. I must stay far from him.

He may feel that I left him. Without **explanation**<sup>36</sup> and without a word.

---

<sup>35</sup> forbade (forbid) – megtiltotta

<sup>36</sup> explanation – magyarázat



At our reef, everything goes on as usual. But I am not the same anymore. The games became boring. I don't ask questions anymore. The world is more and more colorless.



“What is wrong with you, my dear?” my mother asks. “You are so sad these days.”

“Nothing,” I whisper, because I can't say how much it hurts that my friend is missing.







Because inside... I feel very **empty**<sup>37</sup> without Karka. Very.

And Karka swims every day near the rock. Sometimes I see him from a corner of the cave, moving in circles like a black dot. He waits. He waits for me.

I don't dare, I can't **sneak out**<sup>38</sup>. Someone is always watching me. But no one says a word to him.

---

<sup>37</sup> empty – üres

<sup>38</sup> sneak out – kiszökni



## CHAPTER IV

# The Silence Strikes

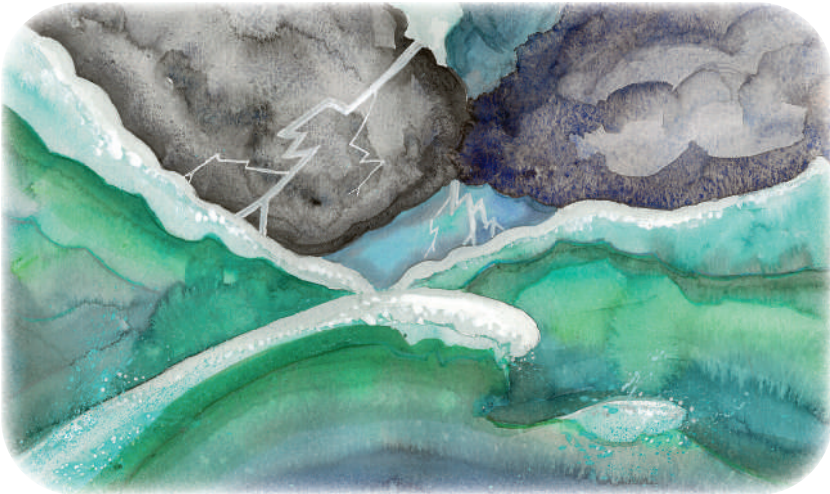
This morning starts with strong wind, **lightning**<sup>39</sup>, and loud **thunder**<sup>40</sup>. The sky and the sea become dark. A big **storm**<sup>41</sup> is coming.

---

<sup>39</sup> lightning – villámlás

<sup>40</sup> thunder – mennydörgés

<sup>41</sup> storm – vihar



But the family has to go out to find fish. We need to find calmer water. So we swim further and further, **avoiding**<sup>42</sup> the angry waves.

We are already quite far when unexpectedly everything becomes surprisingly quiet. It is like we arrived in another world. There are fish everywhere. We just look around, **amazed**<sup>43</sup> by this **abundance**<sup>44</sup>. We have never seen anything like this before.

Then suddenly something happens that none of us expected.

My mother shouts at the top of her voice: “A **net**<sup>45</sup>! Be careful!”

But it is too late. A huge fishing net falls on us.

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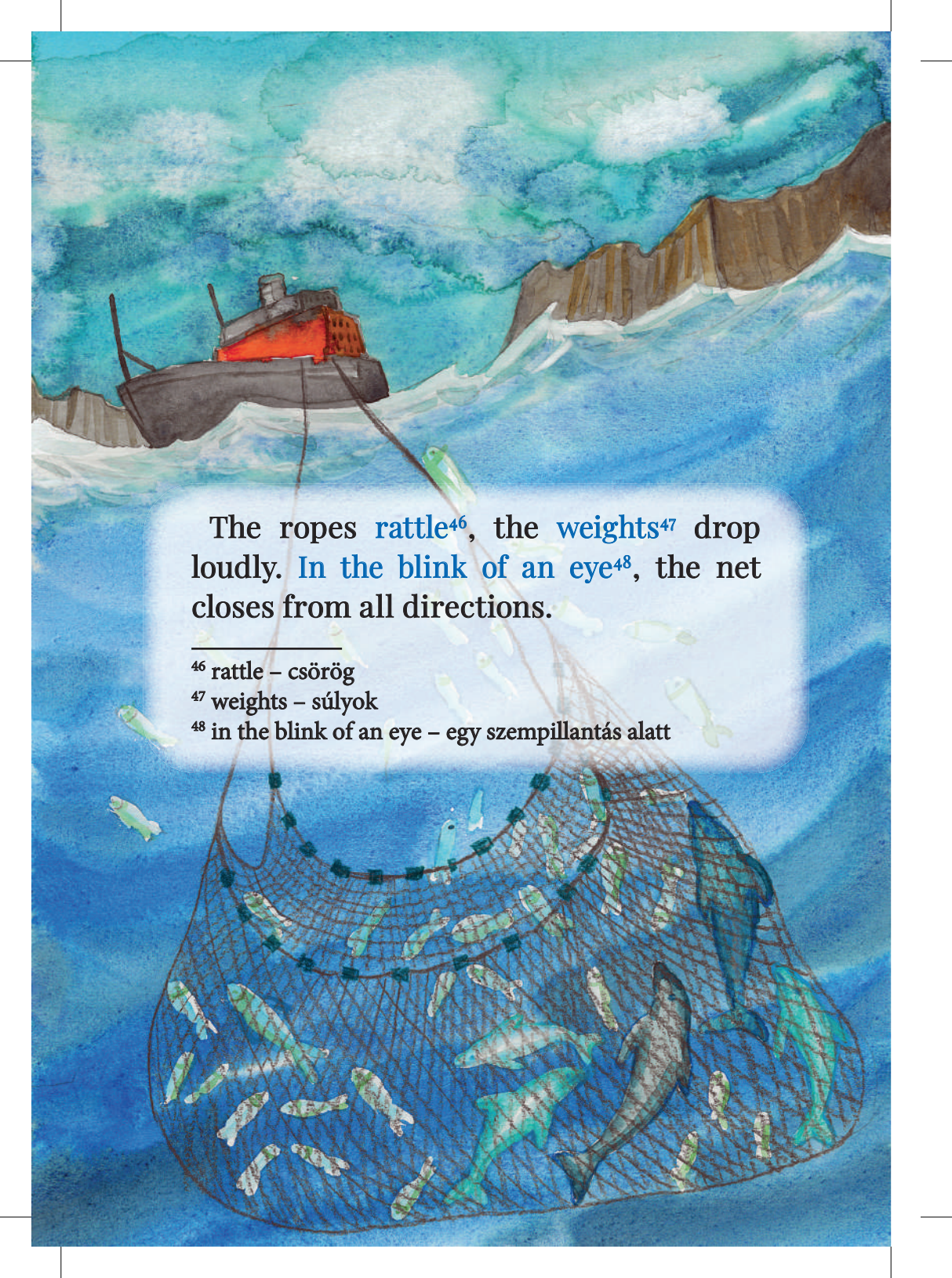
<sup>42</sup> avoiding – elkerülve

<sup>43</sup> amazed – lenyűgözött

<sup>44</sup> abundance – bőség

<sup>45</sup> net – háló





The ropes rattle<sup>46</sup>, the weights<sup>47</sup> drop loudly. In the blink of an eye<sup>48</sup>, the net closes from all directions.

<sup>46</sup> rattle – csörög

<sup>47</sup> weights – súlyok

<sup>48</sup> in the blink of an eye – egy szempillantás alatt



“Swim, Niko!” my father shouts to me.

I try. We all try to get out. But there is no way out.

The net **traps**<sup>49</sup> us. It **squeezes**<sup>50</sup> more and more, it doesn't let go. My brothers and sisters flap their tails in panic. My mother tries to calm them and protects me with her body. My dad pushes against the ropes. I pull the knots, bite them, hit them. With all our strength we pull and stretch the ropes, but we get more and more **tangled**<sup>51</sup> in the net.

“We have no **chance**<sup>52</sup>,” my father says, tired.

And he is right. The net is much stronger than us.

---

<sup>49</sup> traps – csapdába ejt

<sup>50</sup> squeezes – összeszorít

<sup>51</sup> tangled – belegabalyodott

<sup>52</sup> chance – esély



“No... I will not give up...” I whisper,  
gasping for air<sup>53</sup>.

“It can’t end like this...”

---

<sup>53</sup> gasping for air – levegő után kapkodva



## CHAPTER V

# A Mistake

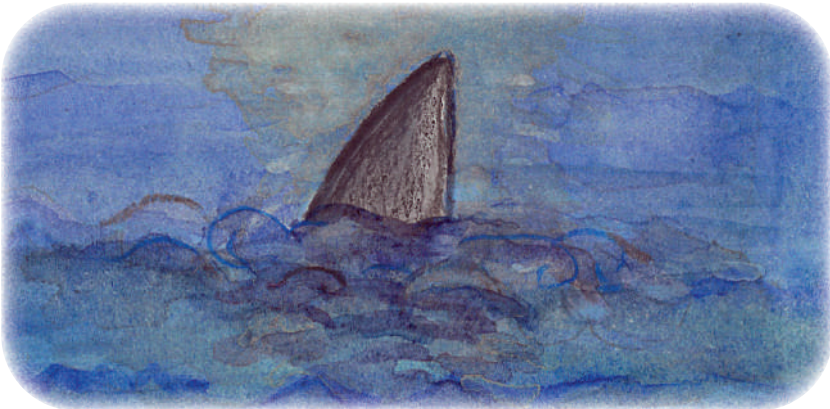
The net moves with us, dragging us.  
It takes us to our doom<sup>54</sup>, to a place that  
you only hear about in the scariest stories.

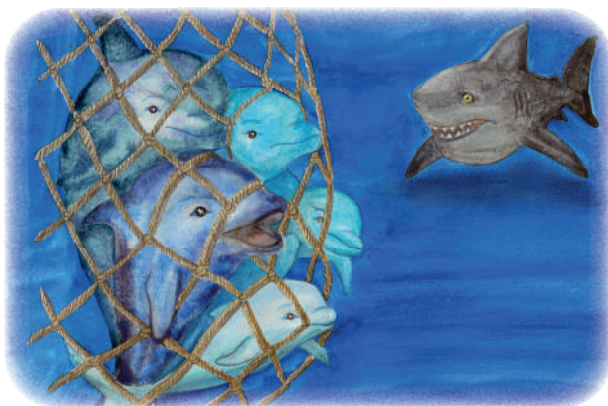
And then... a shadow appears.

It makes slow circles in the water,  
moving around. It's him, I recognize his  
movement.

---

<sup>54</sup> doom – végzet, pusztulás





“Karka!” I shout.

“No! Don’t **encourage**<sup>55</sup> him, he is a shark! He will hurt us!” my father yells.

Karka’s eyes shine with anger, his teeth **flash**<sup>56</sup> sharply. I have never seen him like this.

Like a dangerous wild animal, he attacks the net. He bites. He tears. He **rips**<sup>57</sup>.

I close my eyes in fear so I don’t see what is happening. I am so scared that I can’t hear anything.

---

<sup>55</sup> encourage – bátorít

<sup>56</sup> flash – felvillan, csillan

<sup>57</sup> rips – széttép



But I feel the ropes give way. I open my eyes. I see a **gap**<sup>58</sup>... then another...

I gather my remaining strength, and carefully but quickly get free. The others also get out one by one through the gaps that Karka **tore**<sup>59</sup> for us.

---

<sup>58</sup> gap – rés, nyílás

<sup>59</sup> tore – elszakított







My mother guides the whole family,  
**trembling**<sup>60</sup>. My father looks at Karka.

“You saved us,” my father says with  
**admiration**<sup>61</sup>.

“I only wanted to help my friend and his  
family,” Karka says quietly, looking at me.

My mother’s eyes fill with tears.

“We are free!”

---

<sup>60</sup> trembling – reszketve

<sup>61</sup> admiration – csodálat







“Karka... I would like you to **forgive**<sup>62</sup> me, I was wrong about you,” my mother finally says.

“You really are different. A special little shark. If you want, you can stay near us.”

Karka doesn't answer **immediately**<sup>63</sup>, he only smiles. He is happy that we are saved.

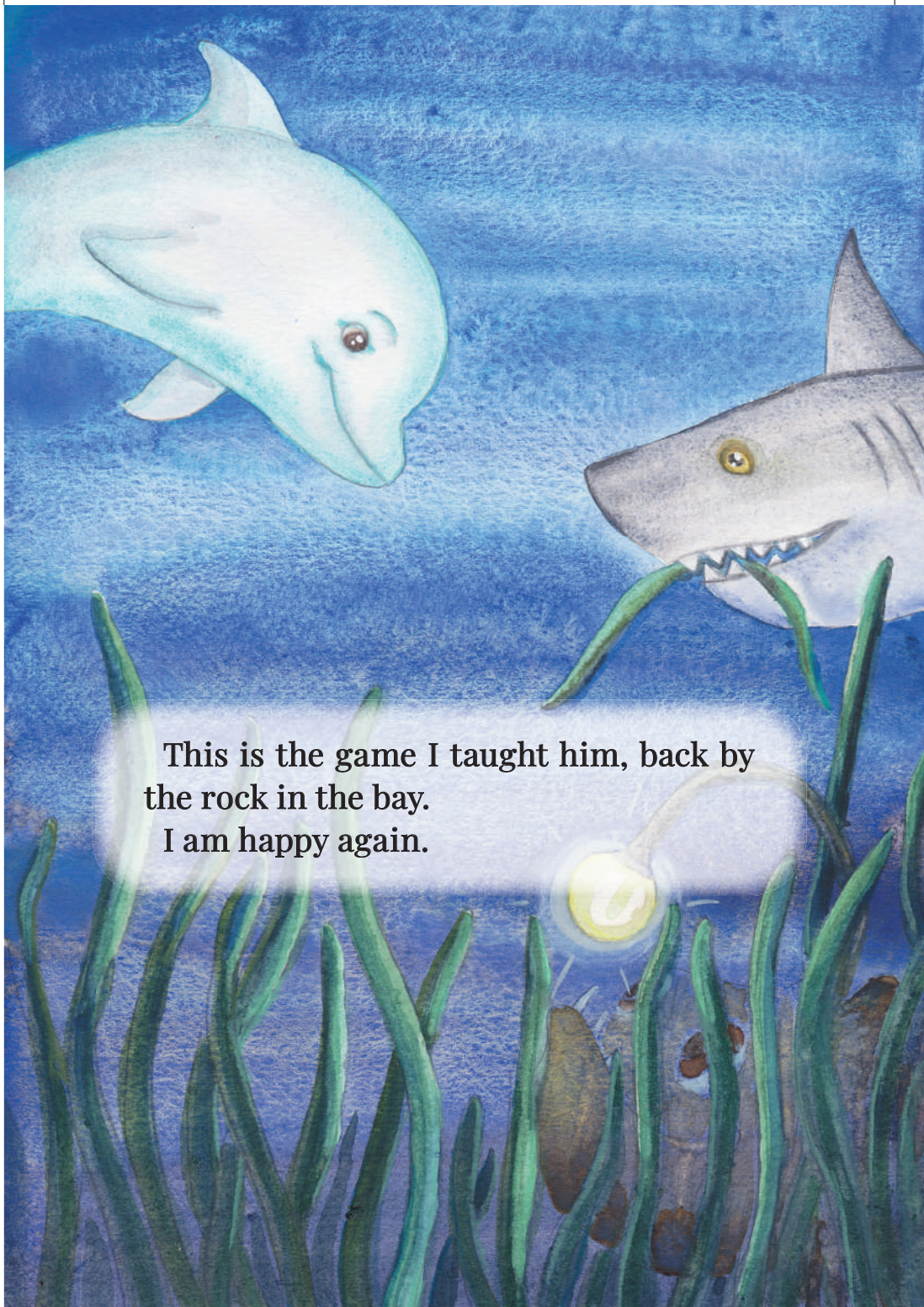
Down in the deep dark, a mysterious little light starts to **flicker**<sup>64</sup>. Someone is watching us curiously. I look at it for a moment, but then Karka comes to me. It tickles me with a piece of sea grass.

---

<sup>62</sup> forgive – megbocsát

<sup>63</sup> immediately – azonnal

<sup>64</sup> flicker – pislákol, vibrál



This is the game I taught him, back by  
the rock in the bay.  
I am happy again.



## Did you know?

Sharks and dolphins live side by side in many parts of the world's oceans and seas.

Baby sharks are real survivors. They are scary and dangerous. Most of them swim and hunt alone right after they are born. In some species, it may happen that they even hunt their brothers and sisters.

Dolphins are social creatures. They are smart, fast, and playful. They can jump up to 6 meters out of the water and dive as deep as 600 meters. They use special sounds to recognize each other.

Dolphins can defend themselves well. They attack with their noses if a shark threatens them.

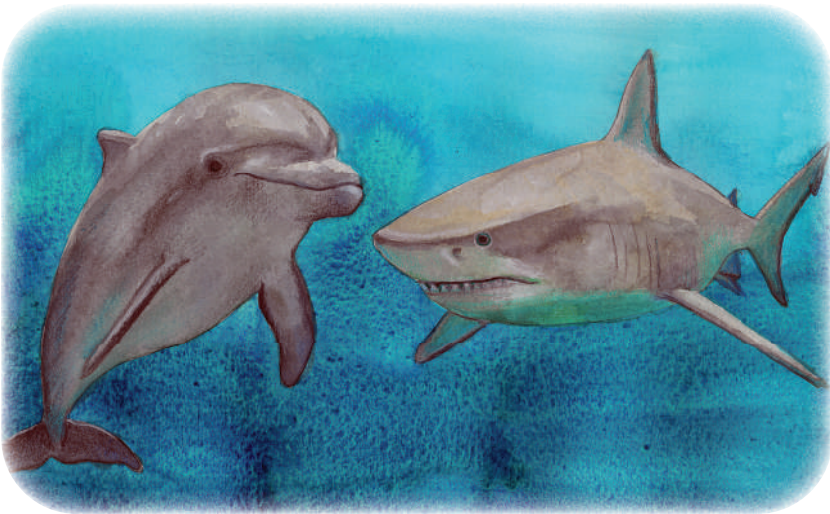
There are cases when sharks follow a group of dolphins near fish areas.



The dolphins stir up the fish, making them available for the sharks. At these times, they don't hurt each other.

This is a special and rare cooperation between the two species. It shows that in the ocean, survival is not always about defeating the enemy.

We don't know of any case when the two species become friends. But in stories, this can happen!





# Project Description

The book was created as part of the “*Empowering Students as Agents of Change*” (SHORE) project ([www.shoreproject.eu](http://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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