

Mónika A. Lukács

The Treasure of the Deep



Illustrated by Anikó Varga

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Sea of Adventures Series

Read with Me!

Recommended for children aged 7–10

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The Treasure of the Deep

Illustrated by Anikó Varga

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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 fourth book of the series, an anglerfish swims into the deep ocean to find a magical treasure with wonderful power. No one has ever found this treasure before.

The exciting story is written with medium-easy sentences and large letters. The colourful watercolour pictures make reading and understanding fun.





Lumos, the anglerfish



I am a small **anglerfish**¹, living in the dark corners of the ocean. Many say that I am ugly and frightening, like a monster.

Sometimes I believe this too, but I have learned not to care. Then I look at my little light, which hangs from my head. Its glow helps me find my way and catch food in this **endless**² darkness, where most **creatures**³ would be lost.

¹ anglerfish - lámpáshal

² endless – végtelen

³ creatures - teremtmények



CHAPTER I

The Big Challenge

I am swimming in the deep ocean when I meet my old and **wise⁴** teacher, Dermo. I have known him for as long as I can remember. He is a **thoughtful⁵** and clear-seeing turtle. He doesn't speak much, but when he does, it's **worth⁶** listening to.

⁴ wise – bölcs

⁵ thoughtful – megfontolt, figyelmes

⁶ worth - megéri





His **shell**⁷ often shines in the weak light of my lamp. When I was younger, I thought that we were **alike**⁸...

On this day, Dermo arrives looking very sad and worried.

⁷ shell – páncél, teknősbéka háza

⁸ alike – hasonló



“What’s wrong, Dermo? You look so sad. Even your shell doesn’t shine like before,” I say.

“Just look around, Lumos... My heart is sad because of what I see these days.”

“Do you mean the darkness around us?” I ask.

“Yes. The water has become so dirty that we can hardly see anything. Now we must swim deeper than ever before to find food,” he sighs.

“When I was young, this place was **crystal clear**⁹. Do you remember?”

Dermo doesn’t answer. He only **stares**¹⁰ ahead with a serious face.

After a while, he speaks again:

“But now everything is mixed up. The storms are getting stronger, the **icebergs**¹¹

⁹ crystal clear – kristálytisztta

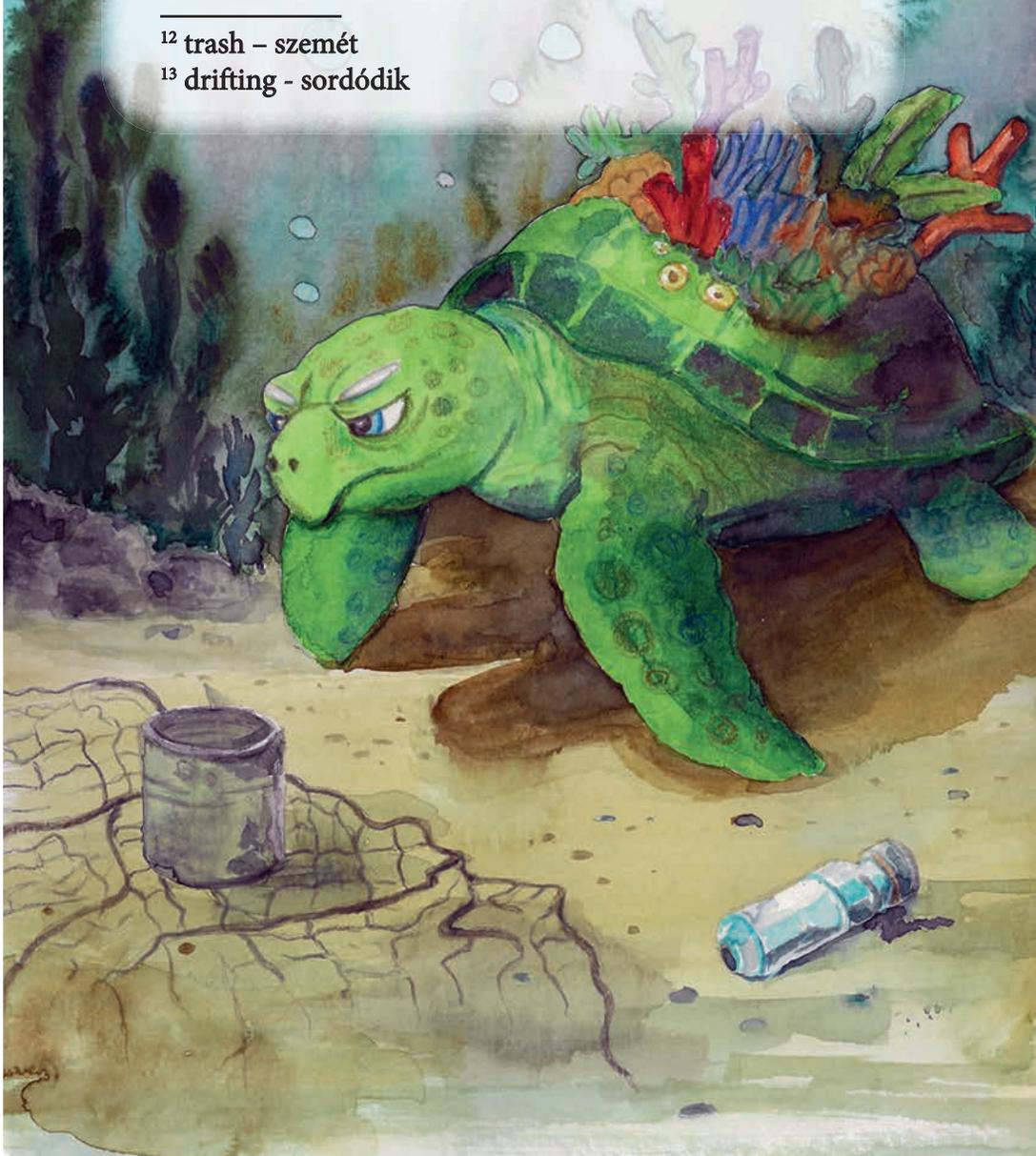
¹⁰ stares – bámul

¹¹ icebergs – jéghegyek

are melting faster. And just look: so much
trash¹² is drifting¹³ everywhere!”

¹² trash – szemét

¹³ drifting - sordódik



“Really. The animals are all sad because of this. Nobody laughs anymore,” I continue.

“There is no harmony. No peace. I can’t see the end of this,” the turtle’s voice **falters**¹⁴.

And he is right. Lately, everything has changed a lot.

Dermo thinks silently for a few minutes, then continues:

“Lumos, you are a special fish! Now that you are grown, I will tell you a secret.”

A secret? This word makes me very curious.

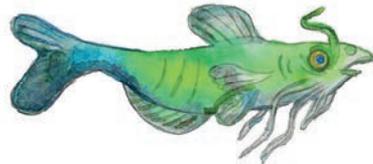
“There is an **ancient**¹⁵ legend that says there is a very rare and magical **treasure**¹⁶ at Black Flame Reef, deep down in the dark. According to the **myth**¹⁷, this treasure

¹⁴ falters - akadozik

¹⁵ ancient – ősi

¹⁶ treasure – kincs

¹⁷ myth – mítosz





can bring harmony back to the world of the waters. But only the one who can bring light into the darkness can find it.”

He hands me a **torn**¹⁸ map with his **rough**¹⁹ hand.

I look at the map.

¹⁸ torn – szakadt

¹⁹ rough – durva

In some places the directions are hard to see on the map. Time has **worn**²⁰ one corner yellow-white, where once the picture of the treasure may have been.

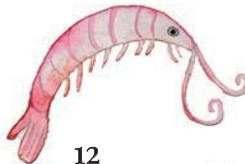
“The legend says this treasure is a special blue pearl at the very bottom of the ocean, and you just have to touch it. Its power can change everything. But those who tried to find it have never returned,” Dermo explains.

I think for a moment. “Wow! Could this mission be waiting for me? To save the world of the seas and oceans?” I ask myself.

Dermo looks deeply into my eyes but says nothing. From his **gaze**²¹, I can see that he is thinking the same as I am...

²⁰ worn – elhasználódott

²¹ gaze – tekintet





From that day on, I only dream about this at night and **daydream**²² about it during the day.

One morning I wake up knowing that I must do something. I will start my **journey**²³. I will try my luck.

Excited and full of energy, I memorize the **route**²⁴ on the map, then say goodbye to Dermo to begin my trip to find Black Flame Reef.

²² daydream – nappali álmodozás

²³ journey - utazás

²⁴ route – útvonal



CHAPTER II

The Trench

I have been swimming without stopping for a whole day when I run into thick and huge seaweed²⁵. It bends back and forth²⁶ like an underwater ghost. Its vines²⁷ reach toward me like long, thin fingers. They want to grab me.

“This... this is scary!” I mumble²⁸ as a vine slides along my fin²⁹ and body.

“I don’t need to be afraid,” I tell myself. “These are just plants! I just need to move slowly and carefully.”

²⁵ seaweed – hínár

²⁶ bends back and forth – ide-oda hajlik

²⁷ vine – inda

²⁸ mumble – motyog, mormog

²⁹ fin – uszony





As I go on, I hardly notice that I have reached the edge of a **trench**³⁰ because the thick **stalks**³¹ blur my view.

I don't stop. I inch down into the trench when I hear a frightening voice.

“Where are you **rushing**³² to, little devil?” asks a scary voice.

A deep-sea octopus emerges from the darkness.

“You're not safe down here. You'd better turn back, or you will be dinner!” it continues **mockingly**³³.

It reaches toward me with its long arms. I am terrified.

³⁰ trench – árok, mélyedés (tengerfenéken: hasadék)

³¹ stalk – szár (növény)

³² rush - siet, rohan

³³ mockingly – gúnyosan





From fear, my little light orb³⁴ grows brighter and brighter on its own.

“Oh! This is too bright!” cries the octopus and steps back frozen³⁵ into the shadows.

I take the chance and quickly slip past³⁶ this scary trench.

³⁴ orb – gömb

³⁵ frozen – dermedten, mozdulatlanul

³⁶ slip past – elsiklik mellette



CHAPTER III

The Guardians of the Corridor

I am very happy that I **managed to**³⁷ escape from the octopus. I begin to believe that maybe I really am the one the legend mentions.

On the other side of the trench, I reach a **narrow passage**³⁸. Many creatures float here in purple, blue, pink, and rainbow colours.

³⁷ managed to – sikerült

³⁸ narrow passage – keskeny átjáró





They look like little underwater stars. As I swim closer, I see that they are **jellyfish**³⁹. One of them moves toward me, dancing.

³⁹ jellyfish – medúza

“We have been waiting for you,” it says. “Long ago, we received our colours from the god of the waters so that we could guide the bravest fish when needed. We help anyone who dives to Black Flame Reef, so they don’t get lost in the dark depths.”

I just **marvel at**⁴⁰ how wonderful these creatures are. I know that besides their beauty, they are very dangerous too.

If they touch me, I might not survive. They could **paralyse**⁴¹ me, and that would mean my end.

The approaching jellyfish breaks the silence again:

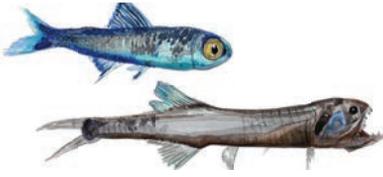
“You are brave and capable to have come this far!” it says **encouragingly**⁴².

Immediately, it shows me the way toward Black Flame Reef.

⁴⁰ marvel at - csodálkozik, ámul

⁴¹ paralyse – megbénít

⁴² encouragingly – biztatóan



According to⁴³ the map, I have to continue between the narrow walls—I remember. But the jellyfish stand still there, making it impossible to slip past them.

I'm afraid of them.

“Could this be a trap? ‘No one has returned yet,’” Dermo’s words come to my mind.

I take a deep breath and flash my light more strongly. My intuition⁴⁴ also tells me that this is the right way to go.

I gather all my courage and start my journey through the narrow corridor⁴⁵, between the jellyfish.

I watch my every move carefully, so I don't touch them, because if I do... oh, I better not even think about it.

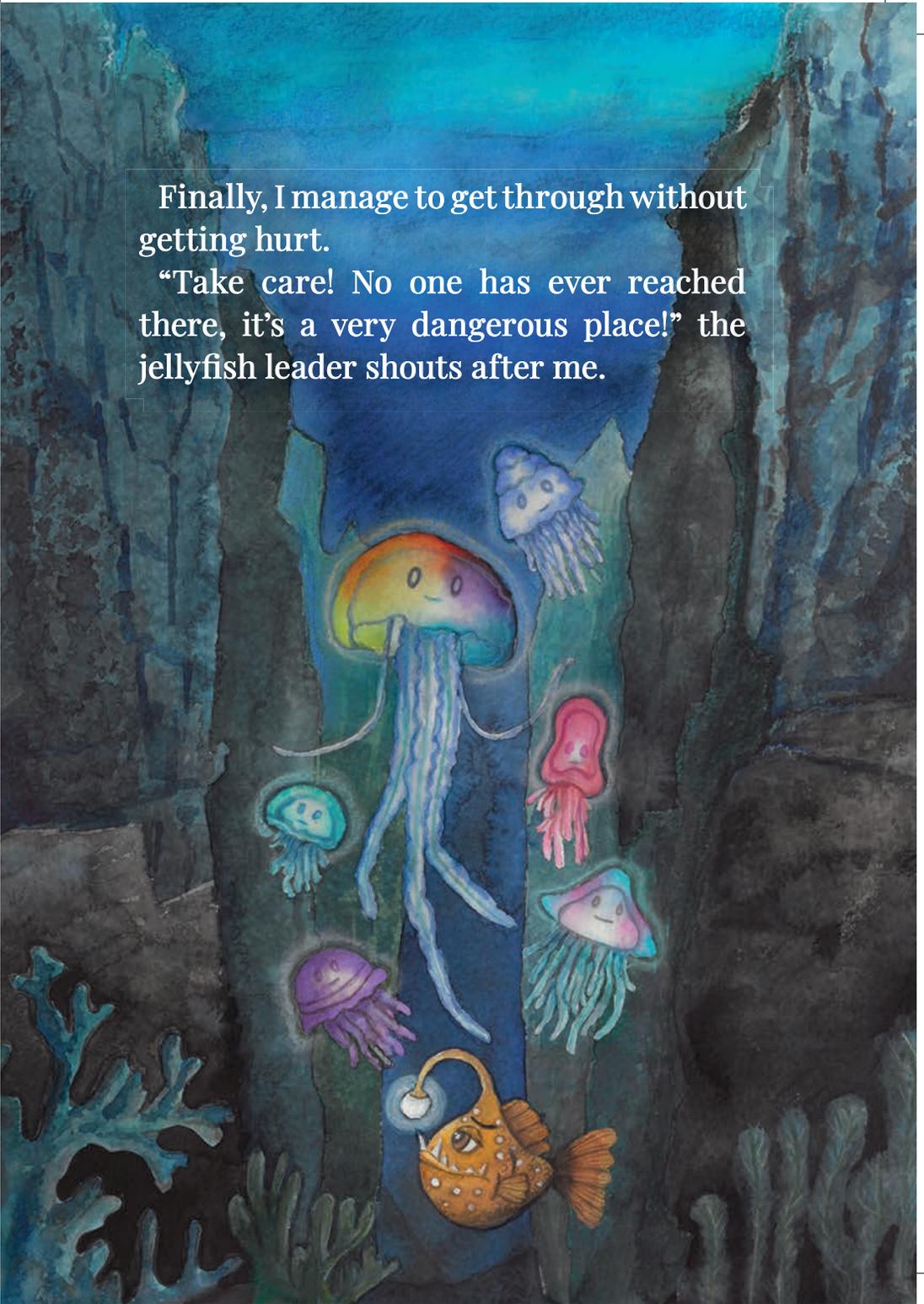
⁴³ according to – valami szerint

⁴⁴ intuition – megézés

⁴⁵ corridor – folyosó, átjáró

Finally, I manage to get through without getting hurt.

“Take care! No one has ever reached there, it’s a very dangerous place!” the jellyfish leader shouts after me.





CHAPTER IV

The Storm

Everything is ice-cold and **gloomy**⁴⁶ as I go deeper. I feel more and more unsure. On the map, this path was the last one I could see clearly.

“Am I lost? It is very quiet here. Maybe I should turn back?”

I must continue to find the treasure, I tell myself.

Finally, I reach one of the ocean’s deepest points. My light gently shines into the darkness.

I see a **shipwreck**⁴⁷. Its **mast**⁴⁸ is black, and the pirates’ flag is still visible. I go inside. Maybe the treasure I am looking for is here!

⁴⁶ gloomy – komor, sötét

⁴⁷ shipwreck – hajóroncs

⁴⁸ mast – árbóc

Jewels lie next to a **barrel**⁴⁹ on some **rags**⁵⁰. I swim closer to take a look. There are many rings and necklaces, and some stolen **pendants**⁵¹. Some of them are even **rusty**⁵².

⁴⁹ barrel – hordó

⁵⁰ rags – rongyok

⁵¹ pendants – medálok, függők

⁵² rusty – rozsdás



– This certainly isn't the “treasure” Dermo told me about – I **conclude**⁵³. But oh no! Just then, a **plank**⁵⁴ from the wreck falls toward me.

⁵³ conclude – megállapít

⁵⁴ plank – deszka



I'm so frightened that I almost turn to stone.

Luckily, it does not hit me. The plank falls to the seabed. It makes a lot of dust.

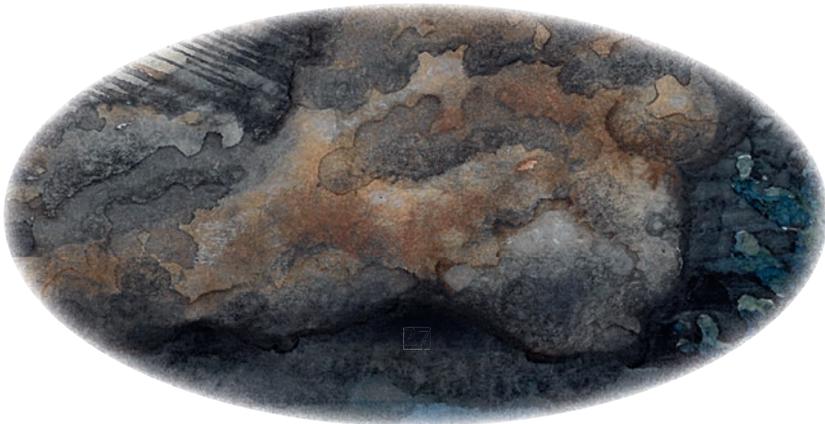
Then I wake up when I hear a sharp **creaking sound**⁵⁵. The whole ship is going to fall. I must get away immediately. My lamp light is getting stronger. It gives me power and guides me.

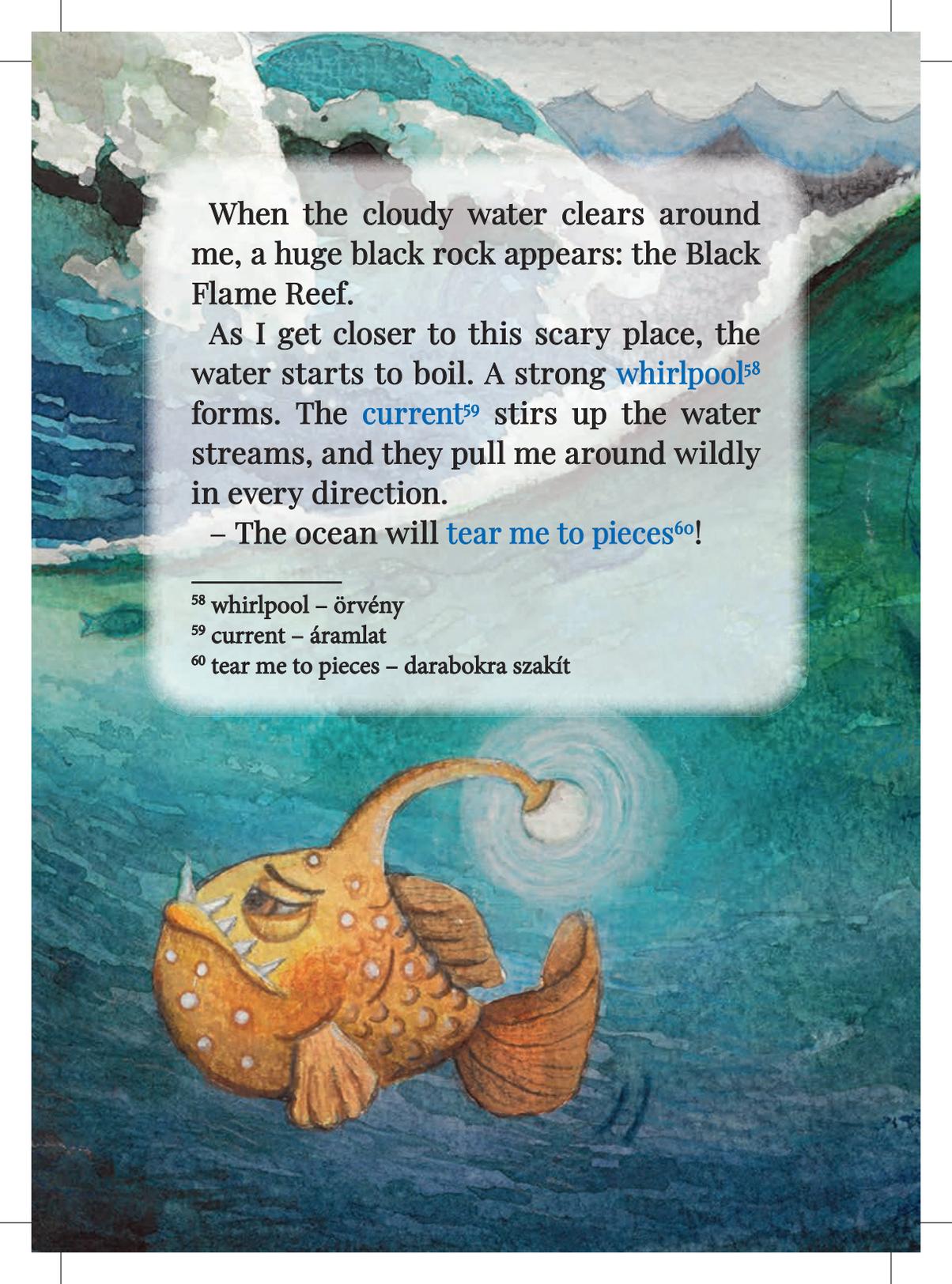
Like someone being chased, I hurry away from here to save my life. As the whole ship **falls apart**⁵⁶, the **mud**⁵⁷ cloud lifts me and takes me far away.

⁵⁵ creaking sound – recsegő hang

⁵⁶ falls apart – szétesik

⁵⁷ mud – iszap





When the cloudy water clears around me, a huge black rock appears: the Black Flame Reef.

As I get closer to this scary place, the water starts to boil. A strong **whirlpool**⁵⁸ forms. The **current**⁵⁹ stirs up the water streams, and they pull me around wildly in every direction.

– The ocean will **tear me to pieces**⁶⁰!

⁵⁸ whirlpool – örvény

⁵⁹ current – áramlat

⁶⁰ tear me to pieces – darabokra szakít





I almost feel that I can't go on, when Dermo's words come to my mind. Could it be that I am the one to bring light into the darkness? Could it be that I will save the world of the waters?





I gather all my courage and shine my light brighter than ever before. It helps me calm down and see better what is around me.

On the side of the **steep rock**⁶¹, in one of the cracks, I see something strange. A **jagged shell**⁶² slowly opens, like a flower.

⁶¹ steep rock – meredek szikla

⁶² jagged shell – csipkézett kagyló

Inside, a blue pearl is shining. It looks a little like someone hid a piece of a magical sky in it. The pearl's light pulses magically in the dark.

“This is the TREASURE!” I shout.

I glide closer to the shell, when suddenly a shadow moves towards me.

From behind the rock, a **giant squid**⁶³ comes out. Its body is huge, and its arms move slowly. With its long **limbs**⁶⁴ it guards the treasure, and with its big eyes it looks at me.

It knows why I have come.

⁶³ giant squid – óriás tintahal

⁶⁴ limbs – végtagok, karok





I get scared.

I tremble all over, even my jaw shakes,
yet my glowing lantern shines even
brighter.

The beautiful pearl is within reach;
I just have to **overcome my fear**⁶⁵.

“This is what I’m looking for, I can’t give
up! I can feel its pull, its power.”

The light of my lantern glows brighter
and brighter.

⁶⁵ overcome fear – legyőzni a félelmet



Now it not only shines but glitters like a huge diamond.

The giant squid is very surprised. It has never seen such bright light. It covers its eyes with its hands and moves back. It slides into the deep.

I quickly swim to the pearl.

I touch it.

At that moment, sparkling sunlight bursts out from it. The light flows over me, calms me, and warms me inside.

I feel that now I haven't only found a treasure, but I have also become one myself.

The pearl disappears in an instant. It **merges**⁶⁶ with the shell.

Meanwhile, the water becomes calm, and the swirling currents **settle down**⁶⁷.

⁶⁶ merges – eggyé válik, összeolvad

⁶⁷ settle down – lecsillapodik





A big **column of light**⁶⁸ flashes through the darkness, and the soft voices of **mermaids**⁶⁹ surround me.

It feels as if magic is breaking the **ancient curse**⁷⁰ so the world can become **balanced**⁷¹ again.

Like in a dream, images appear before me: the water becomes clean, animals return to their homes. Everyone is peaceful and happy.

In front of my eyes, I see a distant iceberg with many brave penguins, a family of seagulls hugging their chicks, and a dolphin and a shark dancing joyfully.

I float around these images.

I am sure that I am not dreaming – this is real.

⁶⁸ column of light – fényoszlop

⁶⁹ mermaids – szirének, habléányok

⁷⁰ ancient curse – ősi átok

⁷¹ balanced – kiegyensúlyozott

I feel proud:

“I think, at this very moment, I have restored⁷² peace in the waters. Well, this is why I started my journey!”

I carefully lift the shell lying in front of me to take it with me.

⁷² restored – helyreállította





CHAPTER V

The Light Returns



I return home happily.

There are no **obstacles**⁷³, everything is clear around me. Dermo and all my other friends welcome me joyfully and with great happiness. They already know that I have succeeded.

⁷³ obstacles – akadályok

I tell them about my journey, the challenges, and how I found the Black Flame Reef.

“You have fulfilled⁷⁴ the prophecy⁷⁵, the legend has come alive!” Dermo shouts, satisfied and triumphant⁷⁶.

An old memory returns: when I was little, I was afraid to use my lantern. I worried others would laugh at me or be scared.

Now I feel happy knowing that this little lantern of mine led⁷⁷ me to that secret place, a place only I could reach. I have brought light and joy to the world of the waters.

My friends look at the shell, and they all admire its beauty⁷⁸.

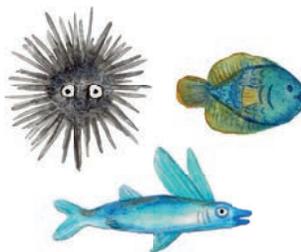
⁷⁴ fulfilled – beteljesít

⁷⁵ prophecy – jóslat

⁷⁶ triumphant – diadalmasan

⁷⁷ led – vezetett

⁷⁸ admire its beauty – megcsodálják a szépségét



Dermo puts it to his ear. He can hear the mermaids' voices and the sound of the waves. My story is in it too.

From this day on, I am not just a little monster as a glowing fish, but also the brave hero of the seas and oceans.





Did you know?

The humpback anglerfish is an angry-looking “little monster.” It lives mostly in the deep parts of the Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic Ocean. People also call it the devilfish.

It has a strange spine on its head that lights up, like it has its own flashlight. This happens because of a chemical reaction. This is called bioluminescence. Fireflies also glow in a similar way.

The anglerfish uses its light like a fishing rod. It attracts its prey, which is usually smaller fish or crabs.

Compared to its body size, this fish has the biggest teeth in the ocean.

We almost never see them at the water surface. They live in the deep sea.





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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