

DEREK THE DREDGER

and
The Underwater
Archaeologists

by Rebecca Causer
and Alison Hamer



for the Hampshire and Wight
Trust for Maritime Archaeology





Supported by English Heritage and the
DEFRA Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund



ENGLISH HERITAGE

DEREK THE DREDGER

and the Underwater Archaeologists



Written by Rebecca Causer and Alison Hamer

Illustrated by Rebecca Causer

For the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology



On the dark and mysterious seabed, deep beneath the sea lie old ships and galleons, older than you and me. Scuba divers swim in the sea learning about this underwater world. They use air tanks to help them to breathe, and dive into the deep unknown.

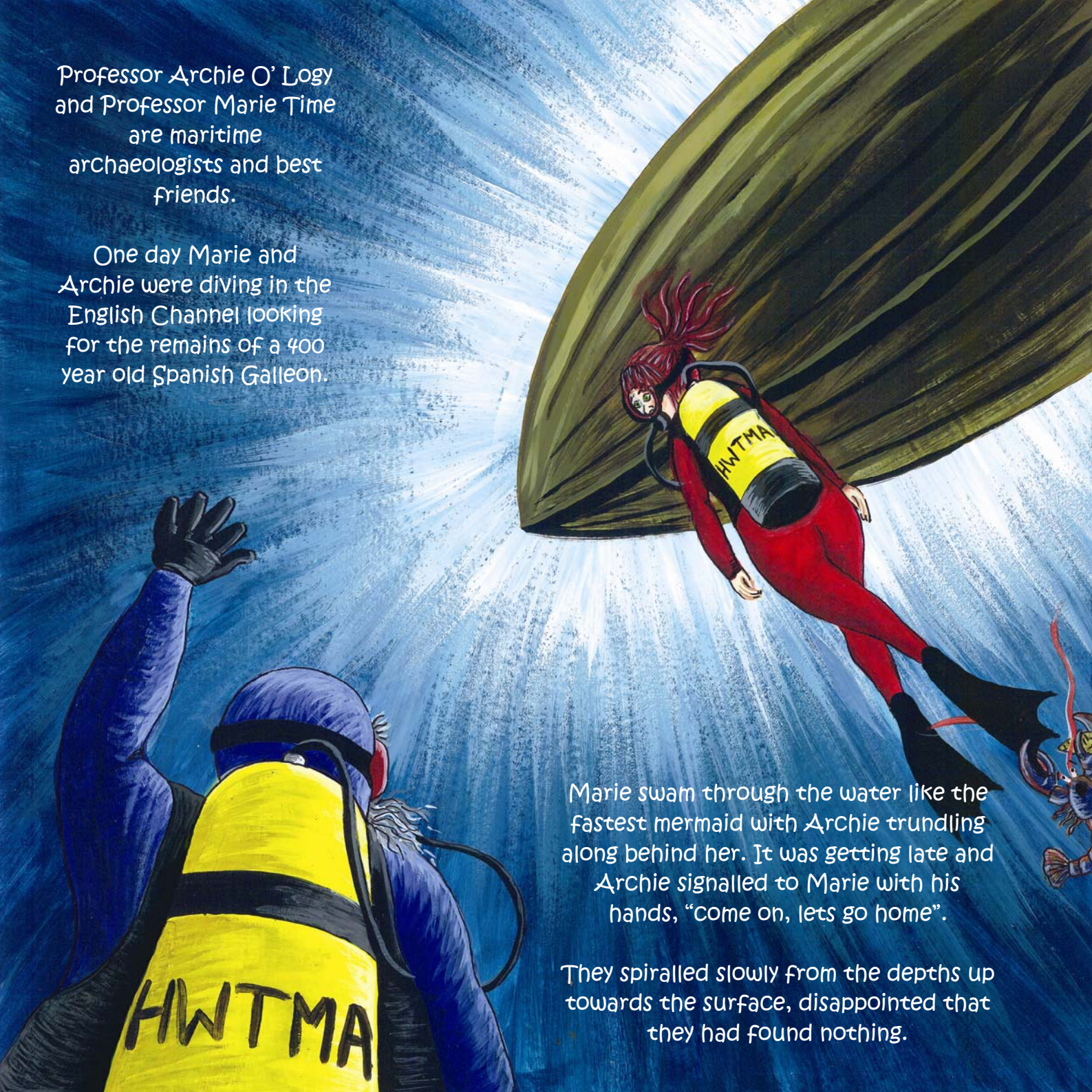
If you dare, you could explore life under the sea too!



Many shipwrecks lie on the bottom of the sea that have been sunk by storms, rocks and swashbuckling pirates. The sea holds onto these treasures like secrets from the past, and maritime archaeologists dive down to search for them. They use these ancient hidden artefacts and shipwrecks to help us understand the secrets of the past. They give us clues about our lives, our grandparents lives, their grandparents and on and on and on.....

Professor Archie O' Logy
and Professor Marie Time
are maritime
archaeologists and best
friends.

One day Marie and
Archie were diving in the
English Channel looking
for the remains of a 400
year old Spanish Galleon.

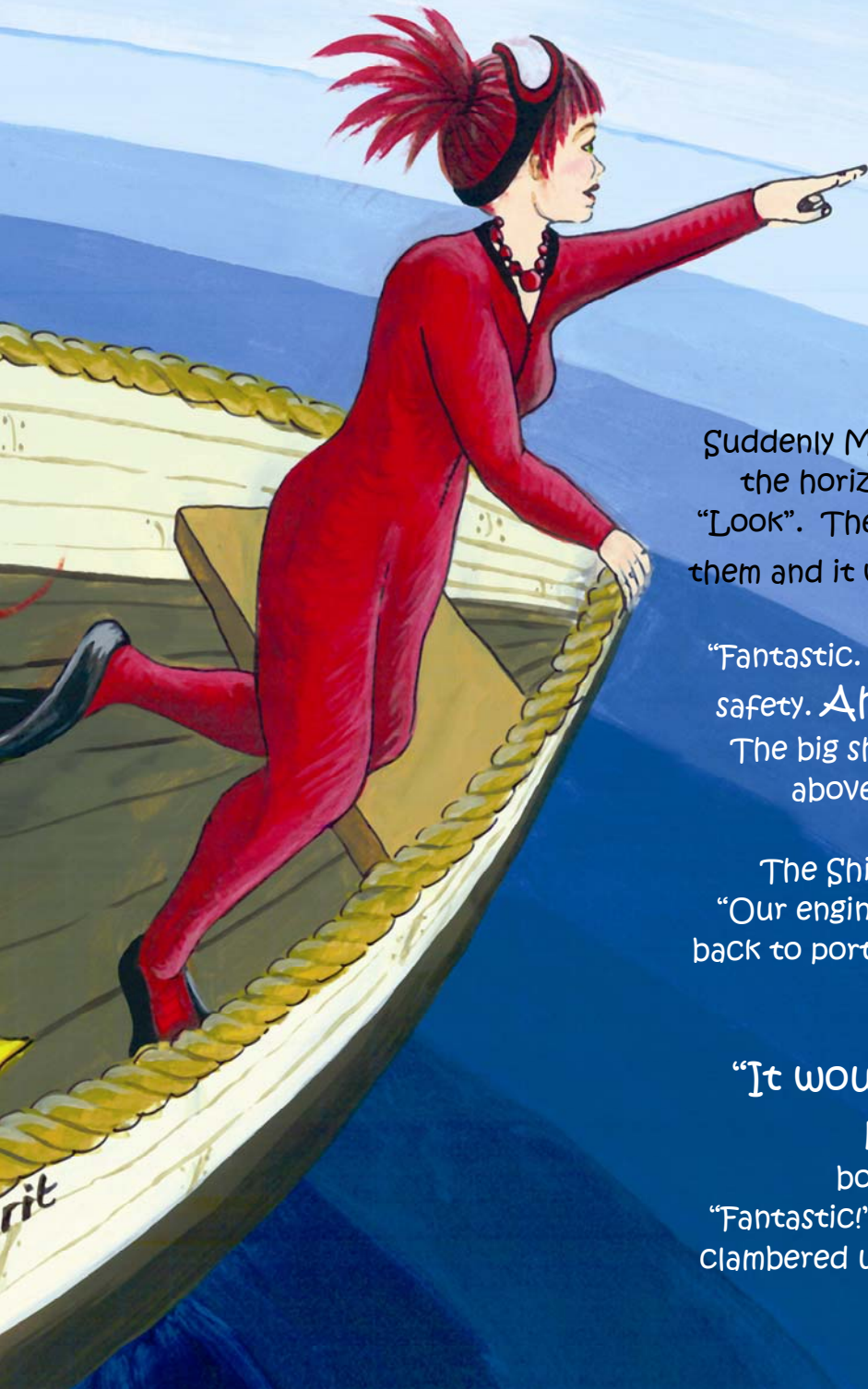


Marie swam through the water like the
fastest mermaid with Archie trundling
along behind her. It was getting late and
Archie signalled to Marie with his
hands, "come on, lets go home".

They spiralled slowly from the depths up
towards the surface, disappointed that
they had found nothing.

They climbed on board their boat, "Wight Spirit", ready for a nice cup of tea, but disaster!
The engine would not start.
"Fiddle sticks" said Archie "double fiddlesticks!"
Professor Archie sighed "Some days nothing goes right Marie. Do you think we will have to paddle back?"





Suddenly Marie saw a tiny shape moving on the horizon. “Wait Archie,” she cried “Look”. The tiny shape was moving towards them and it was getting bigger and bigger.


“Fantastic. It is a sturdy ship to help us to safety. Ahoy, Ahoy!” roared Archie. The big ship glided closer, looming high above them in their little boat.

The ship pulled up alongside them. “Our engine is broken. Could you take us back to port?” asked Marie in her friendliest voice.

“It would be my pleasure, you poor lost souls”

boomed a friendly voice.

“Fantastic!” said Archie and Marie as they clambered up the ladder and onto the ship.



“Golly gumdrops” said Archie “ this is hard work” as he pulled himself up the ladder. “I’m not as fit as I used to be.”

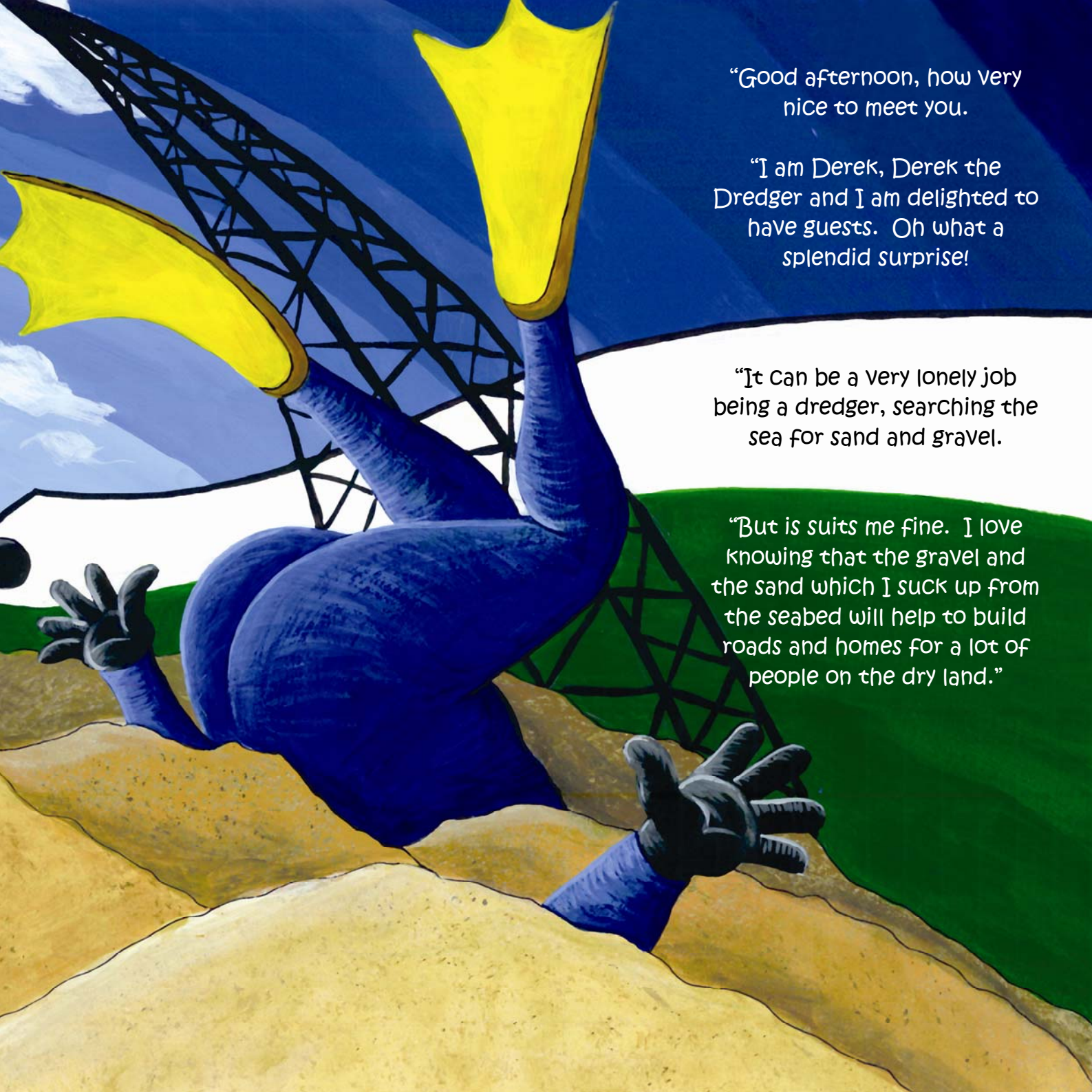
Well” said Marie “you are older than time itself”

“Cheeky” puffed Archie, as he hauled himself over the side and fell onto the ship.

Marie followed Archie
and they both found themselves tumbling down
a great heap of sand and gravel.

“Welcome Aboard”
boomed the loud and friendly voice.

“Goodness” gasped Archie, “we’ve landed in a great sandpit.”
“And you are sitting on my pincer” said a little voice. “Oops” said Marie
who found a small crab tucked beneath her foot.
“Sorry” she said as it scuttled away.

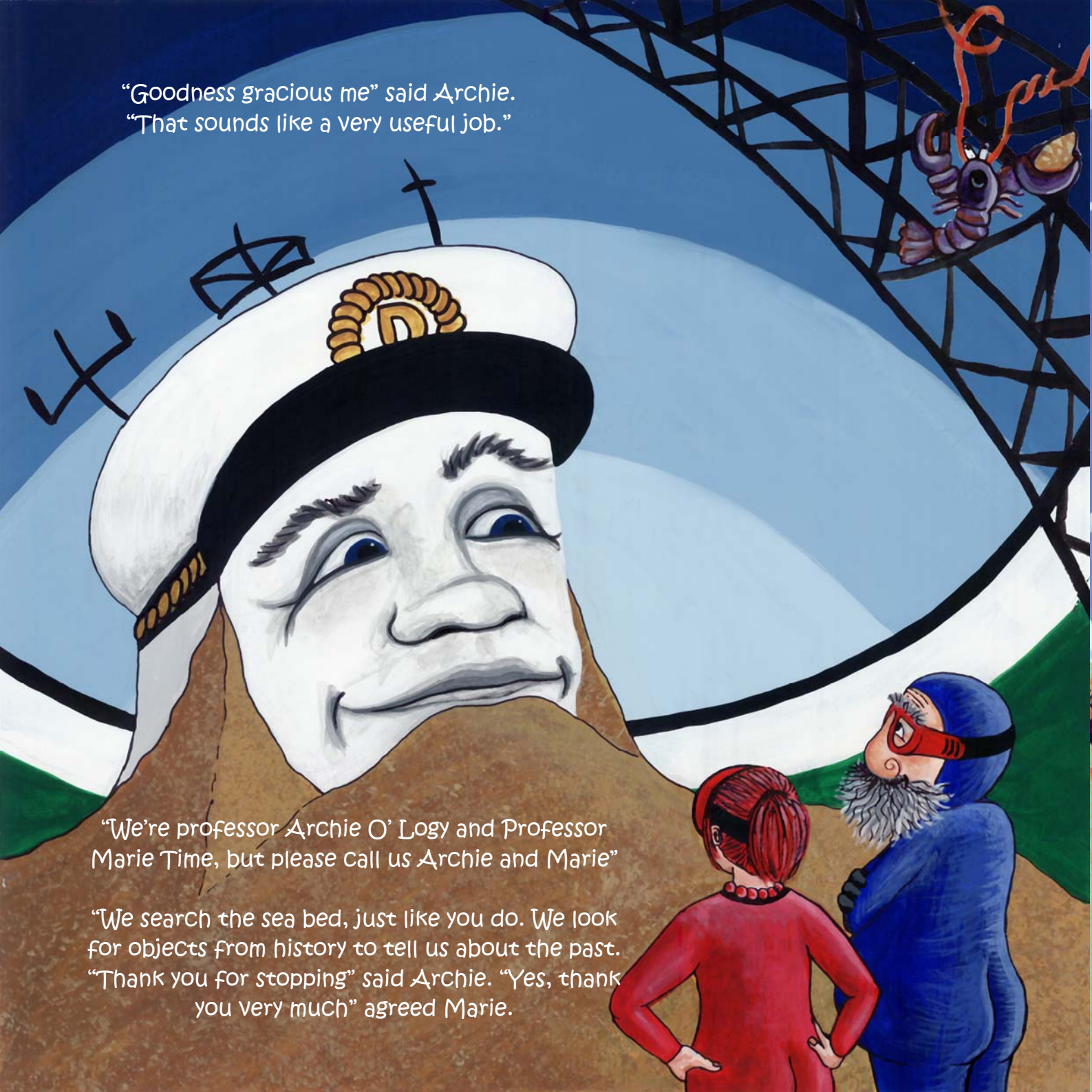


“Good afternoon, how very nice to meet you.

“I am Derek, Derek the Dredger and I am delighted to have guests. Oh what a splendid surprise!

“It can be a very lonely job being a dredger, searching the sea for sand and gravel.

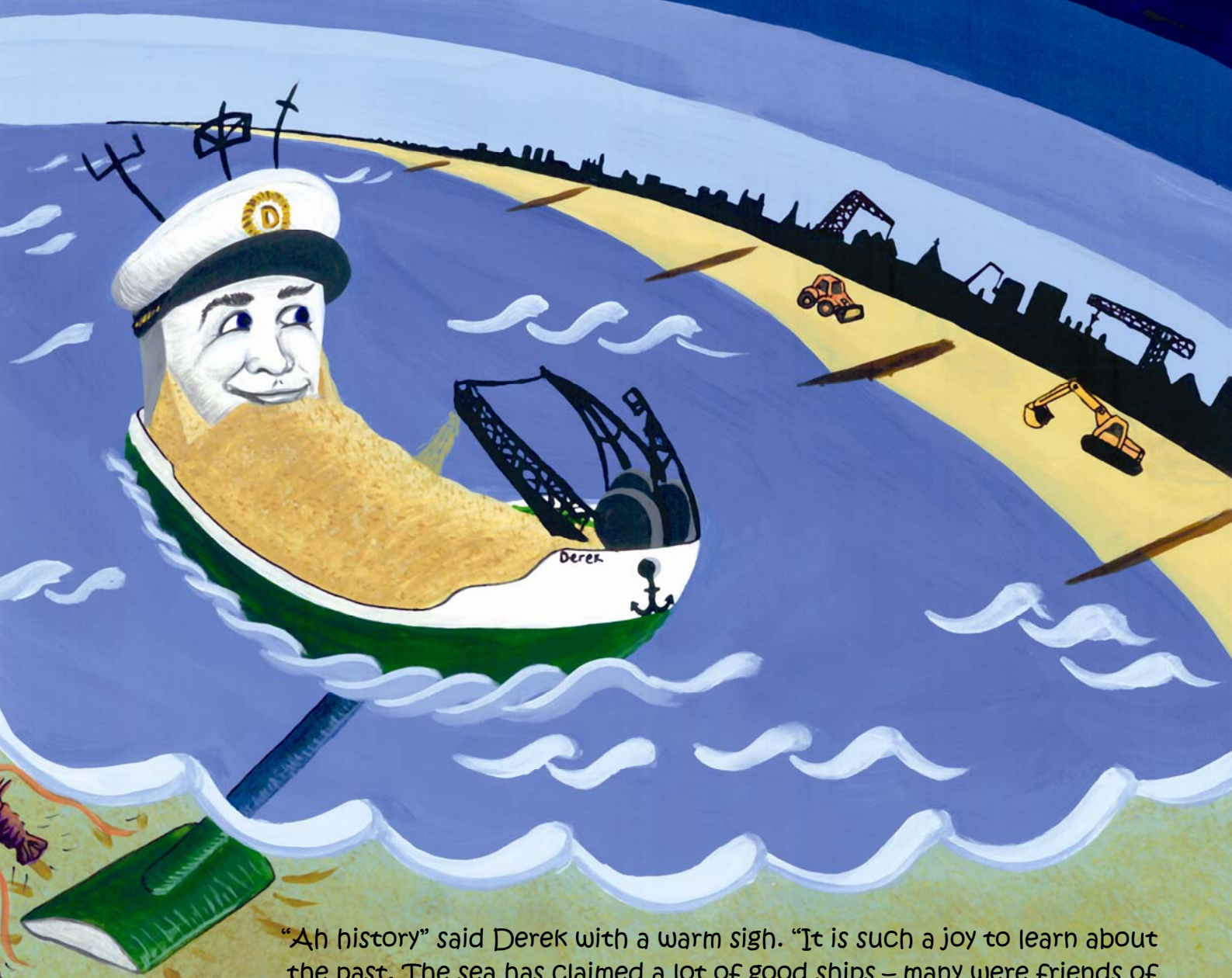
“But it suits me fine. I love knowing that the gravel and the sand which I suck up from the seabed will help to build roads and homes for a lot of people on the dry land.”



“Goodness gracious me” said Archie.
“That sounds like a very useful job.”

“We’re professor Archie O’ Logy and Professor Marie Time, but please call us Archie and Marie”

“We search the sea bed, just like you do. We look for objects from history to tell us about the past.
“Thank you for stopping” said Archie. “Yes, thank you very much” agreed Marie.



“Ah history” said Derek with a warm sigh. “It is such a joy to learn about the past. The sea has claimed a lot of good ships – many were friends of mine. I lost my own grandmother to a storm when I was young. I miss her dearly every day and I always wonder what happened to her.”

“What a fascinating job you do” I am just a humble dredger. A bit like my cousins, the diggers who work on land, digging up the earth.”

Marie was sad that Derek had lost his grandma, but suddenly something caught her eye. "What is that poking up from the sand and gravel?" she asked. She started digging in the pile and pulled something out. "It's a bone!" she exclaimed, "and look, here is a piece of flint!"



Archie scrambled over to take a closer look. "This is a piece of archaeology. It could even be a very old artefact from long ago! We should investigate."

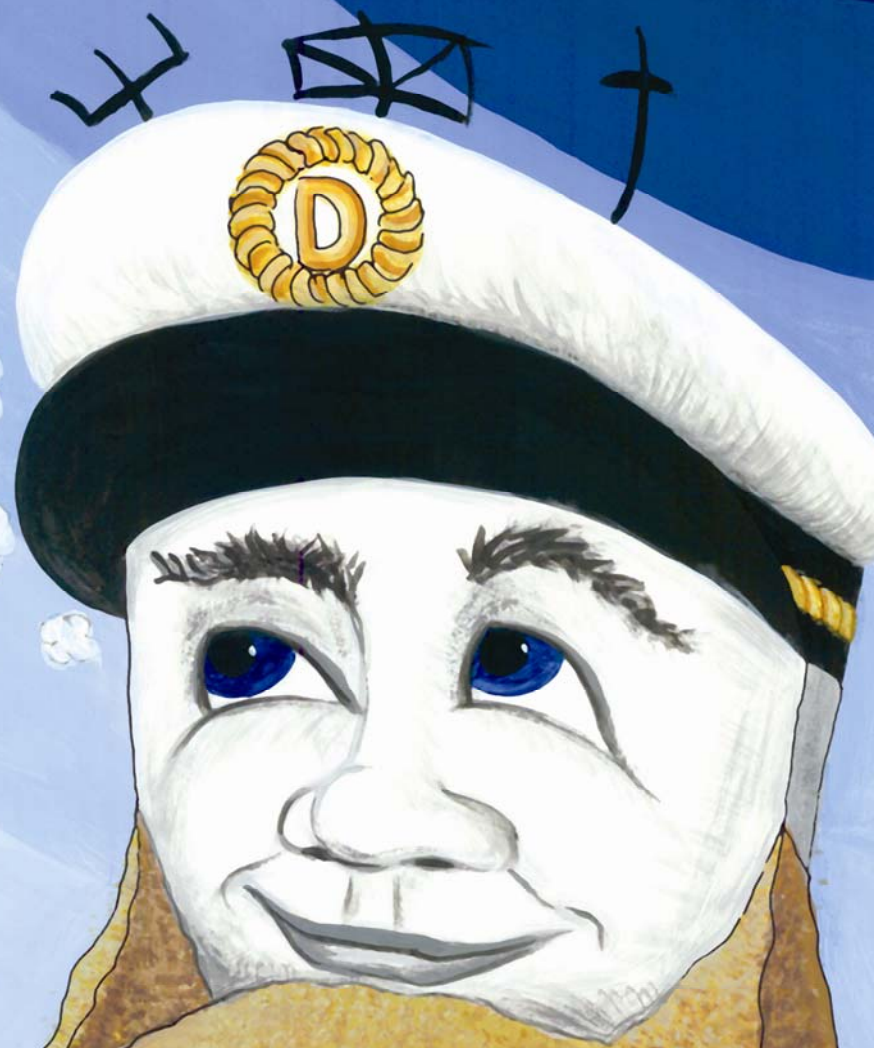
"Wow!" said Marie. "This is just what we've been looking for. How did you find this Derek?"

"Well," Derek replied, "I sometimes stumble on odd bits and pieces when I am dredging. You see I dig from the very bottom of the seabed."

“But we spent a long time diving today and we did not find any artefacts like this. This is a wonderful thing to find. How did you do it Derek?”



“I use a special machine called sonar,” said Derek. “It sends me pictures of the seabed and shows me the best places to dig up sand and gravel. Sometimes I even see shipwrecks too!”



“That is so exciting,” said Marie. “Will you tell us when you find more archaeology?”

“I’d be happy to” beamed Derek. “That’s what friends are for.”



Archie and Marie watched the coastline come into view as they chatted with Derek. They all agreed that working together would be much more fun.



Archie and Marie were tired but happy to be coming home safe and sound, thanks to Derek. The new friends all hoped they could work together again very soon to find hidden artefacts from the sea.

The next day, like detectives, Marie and Archie used clues, books and pictures to try to work out what the artefacts could be.

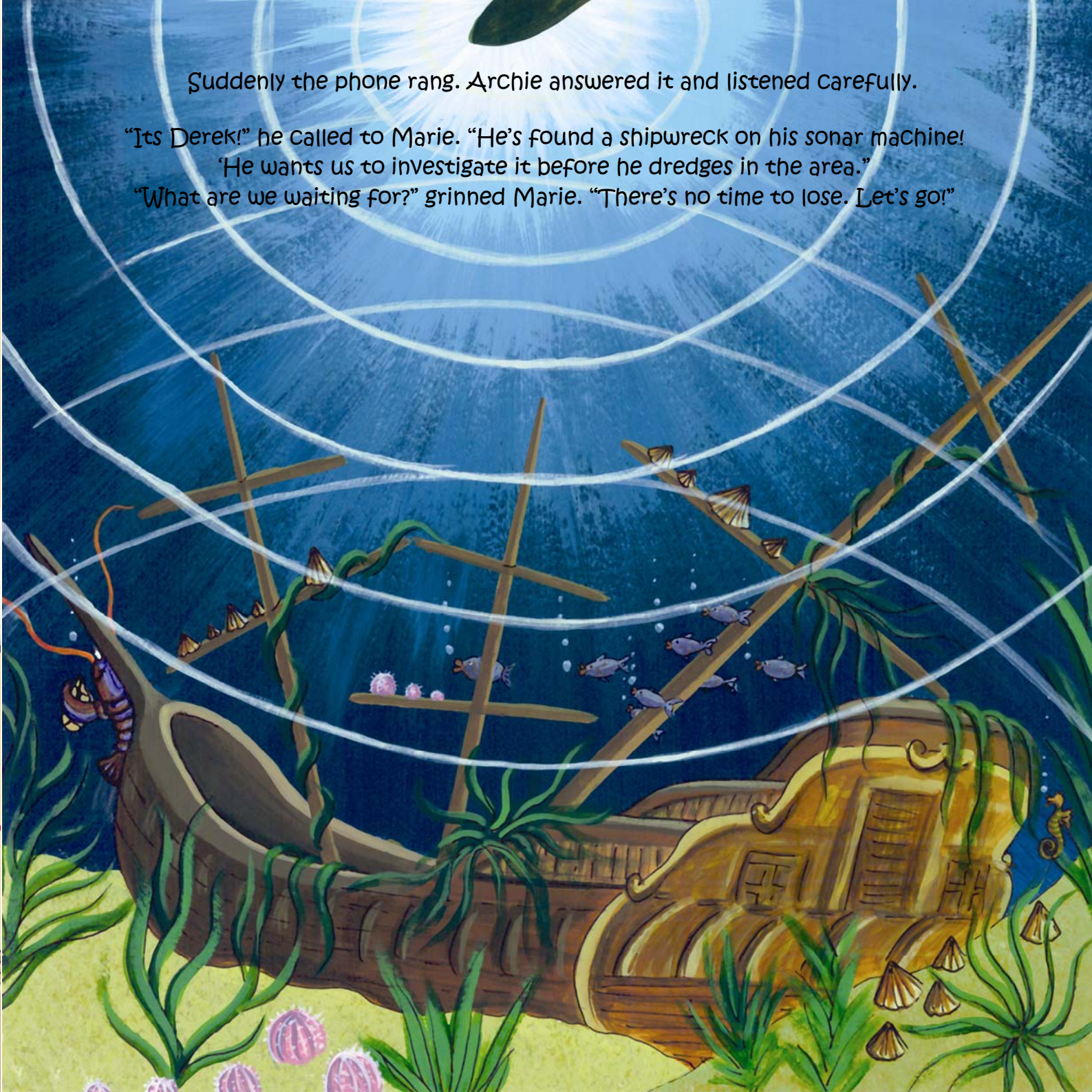



“Hmmm”, said Marie. “I think this piece of flint could have been used as a tool to hunt animals...”
“...Yes!” exclaimed Archie,
“and this is the bone of the animal they hunted!”

Suddenly the phone rang. Archie answered it and listened carefully.

"It's Derek!" he called to Marie. "He's found a shipwreck on his sonar machine!
'He wants us to investigate it before he dredges in the area.'"

"What are we waiting for?" grinned Marie. "There's no time to lose. Let's go!"



An illustration of two divers exploring a shipwreck underwater. The ship is a large wooden vessel with a prominent black star on its side, resting on a sandy seabed. One diver, wearing a red suit and a camera, is positioned near the top of the ship. The other diver, wearing a blue suit and a red mask, is positioned near the bottom of the ship, holding a red circular object. The scene is filled with green seaweed and purple sea urchins. A metal frame with a grid is visible on the seabed, and a white sheet of paper with a drawing is placed next to it. The water is a deep blue color.

Out at sea, the professors set to work.
On board Derek, they looked at his wonderful sonar pictures
of the shipwreck. Then they made an action plan.

Marie was itching to go and finally they jumped in and sank down onto the shipwreck. They investigated the shipwreck by measuring it.....drawing it.....and by taking photos.

Whilst Marie and Archie were on the seabed, Derek was on the surface. He had noticed distant dark clouds forming and strong winds blowing. "Oh no" thought Derek "danger".

Ships at sea must always be aware of weather conditions. Stormy weather has sent many ships to the bottom of the sea to become shipwrecks.

Archie and Marie were well prepared and made sure they came to the surface before any bad weather set in.

But the sea and the wind have minds of their own...

Archie and Marie got back onto their boat.

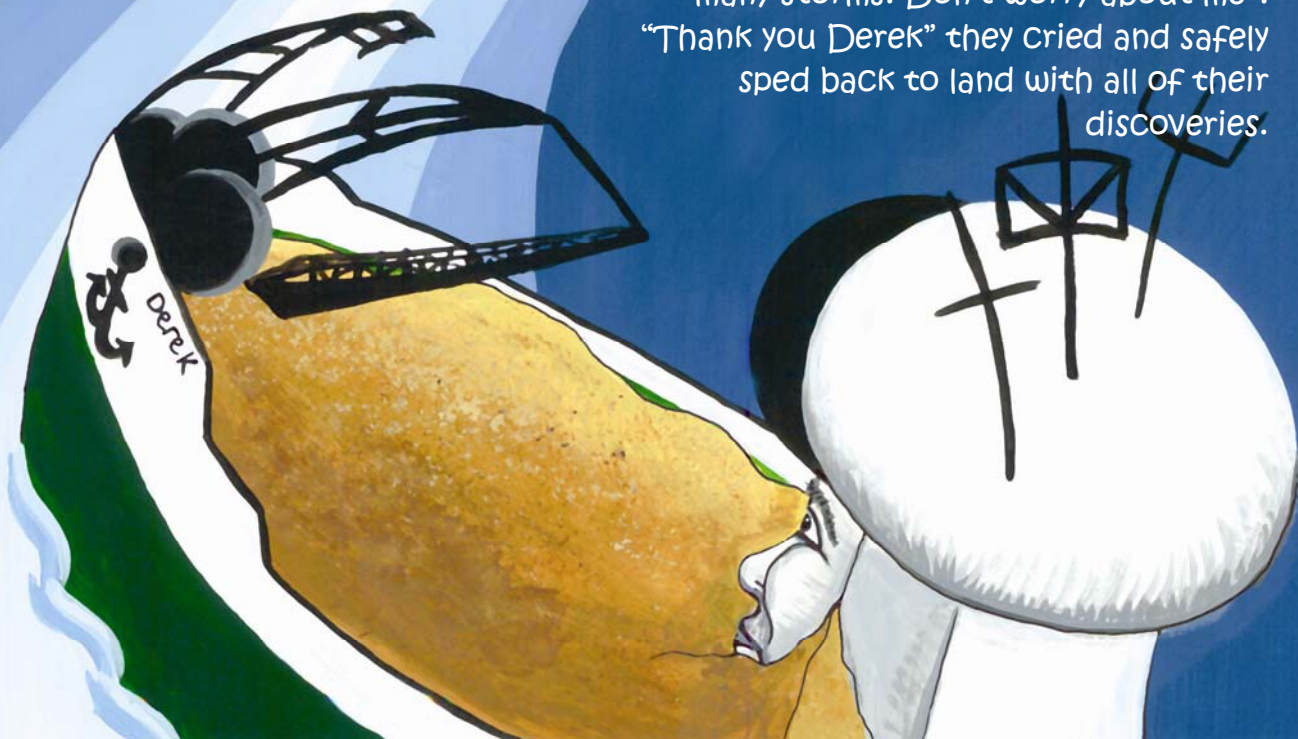
"You should go in" said Derek.

"There is a storm brewing".

"What about you Derek?" asked Marie.

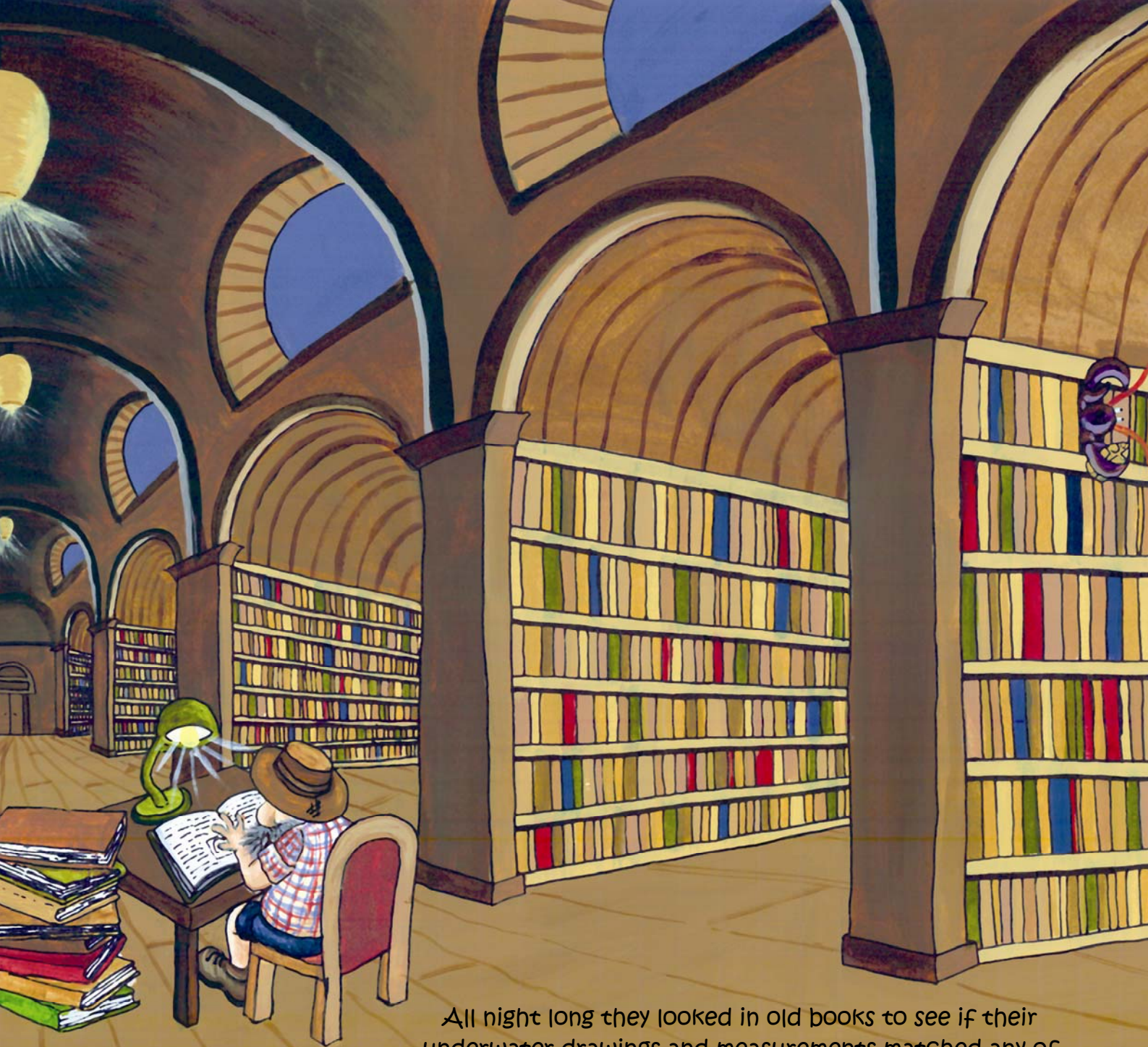
"I am strong" said Derek, "and I have seen many storms. Don't worry about me".

"Thank you Derek" they cried and safely sped back to land with all of their discoveries.





Back on dry land, Archie and Marie took all their measurements, drawings and photos to the library.

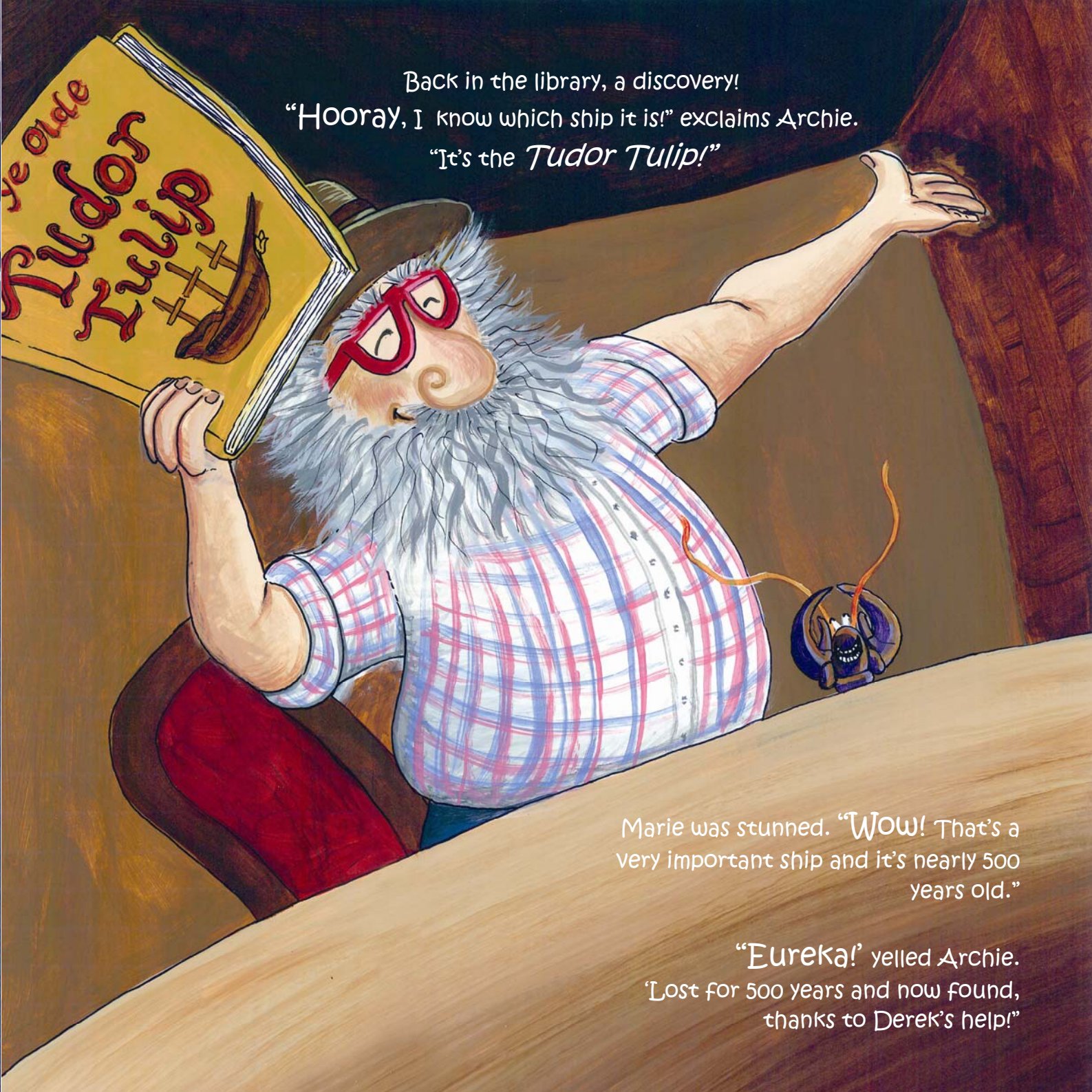


All night long they looked in old books to see if their underwater drawings and measurements matched any of the ancient sunken ships from history.

Meanwhile, Derek was still out dredging at sea. And the storm he had spotted earlier was getting closer and closer, bigger and bigger...



The rain was stinging Derek's face and the ferocious waves seemed to be grabbing at him as if to pull him to the depths below.



Back in the library, a discovery!

"Hooray, I know which ship it is!" exclaims Archie.

"It's the *Tudor Tulip!*"

Marie was stunned. "Wow! That's a very important ship and it's nearly 500 years old."

"Eureka!" yelled Archie.
"Lost for 500 years and now found,
thanks to Derek's help!"

But out at sea, Derek needed more than thanks. He needed help! The winds were howling, the rain was lashing down and the waves were like white-tipped angry giants.

Derek was scared of becoming a ship wreck himself! He gritted his teeth, stared at the moon and said under his breath "be brave Derek, hold on in there". He needed to find a place to hide from the storm.



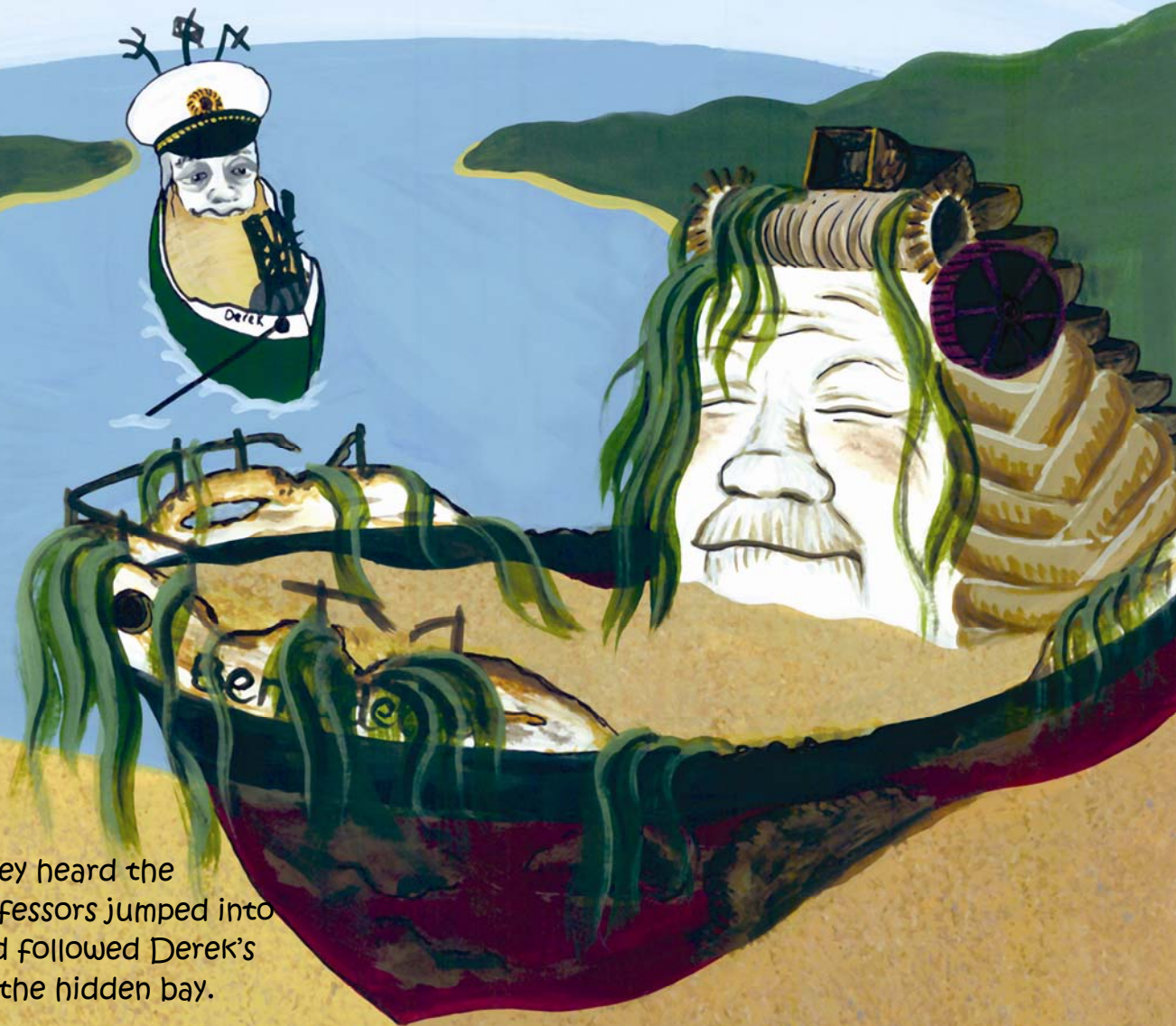
Suddenly, through the rain he spotted a tiny sheltered bay in the far off distance .

With all his remaining energy, he pushed through the waves, struggling towards the bay.

Finally he arrived and exhausted, he lowered his anchor to wait until the storm was over.

The next morning the storm was finished and the sun was shining brightly. Derek blinked through blurry, tired eyes and saw something on the beach.

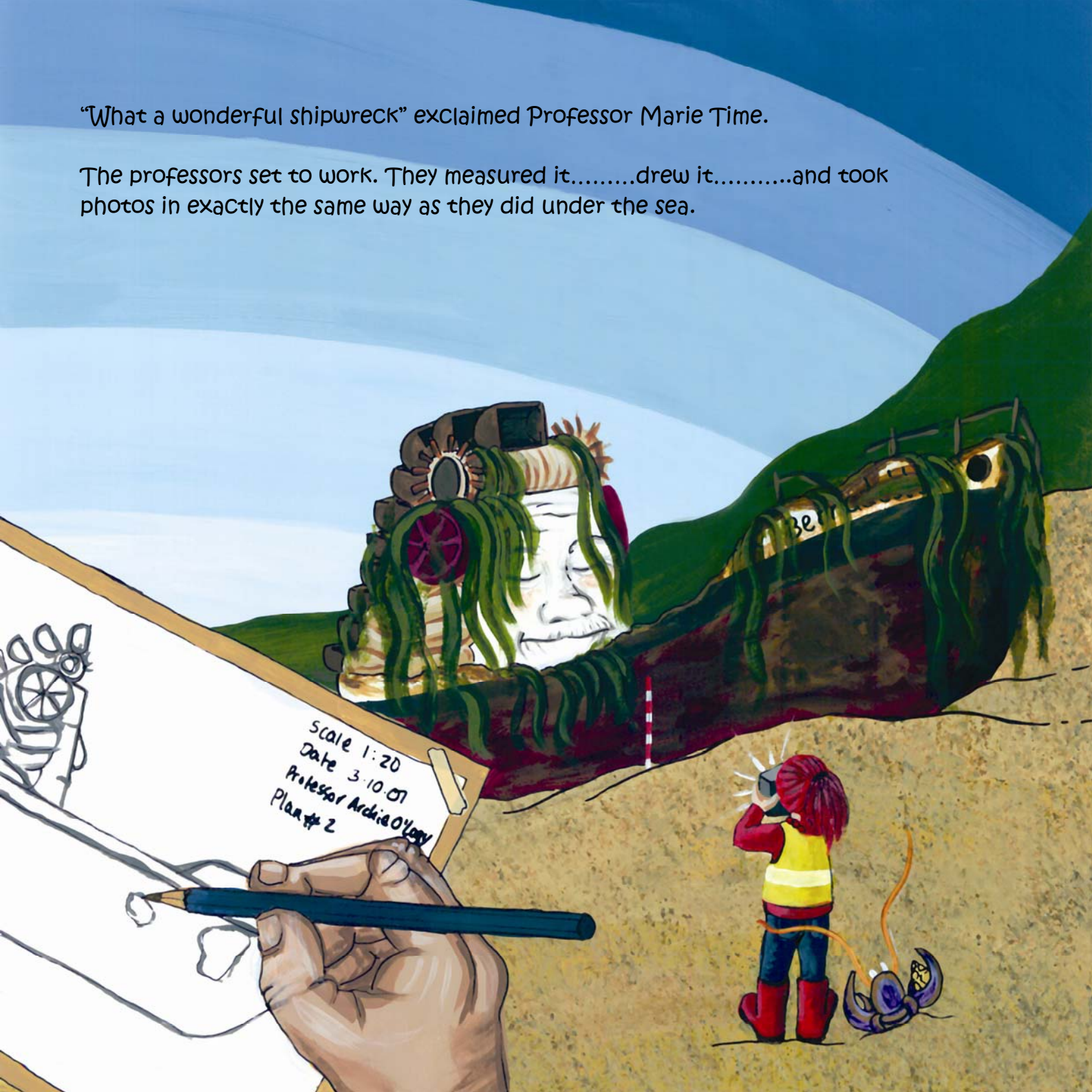
Derek was puzzled and moved a little closer. "What could that be?" he thought. "It's a shipwreck! I will call my friends the archaeologists!"



As soon as they heard the news, the professors jumped into their boat and followed Derek's directions to the hidden bay.

“What a wonderful shipwreck” exclaimed Professor Marie Time.

The professors set to work. They measured it.....drew it.....and took photos in exactly the same way as they did under the sea.



After lots of talking and looking through their special shipwreck book, the professors worked out the name of the shipwreck. "It is Bernadette the Bucket Dredger. She is more than 100 years old!"



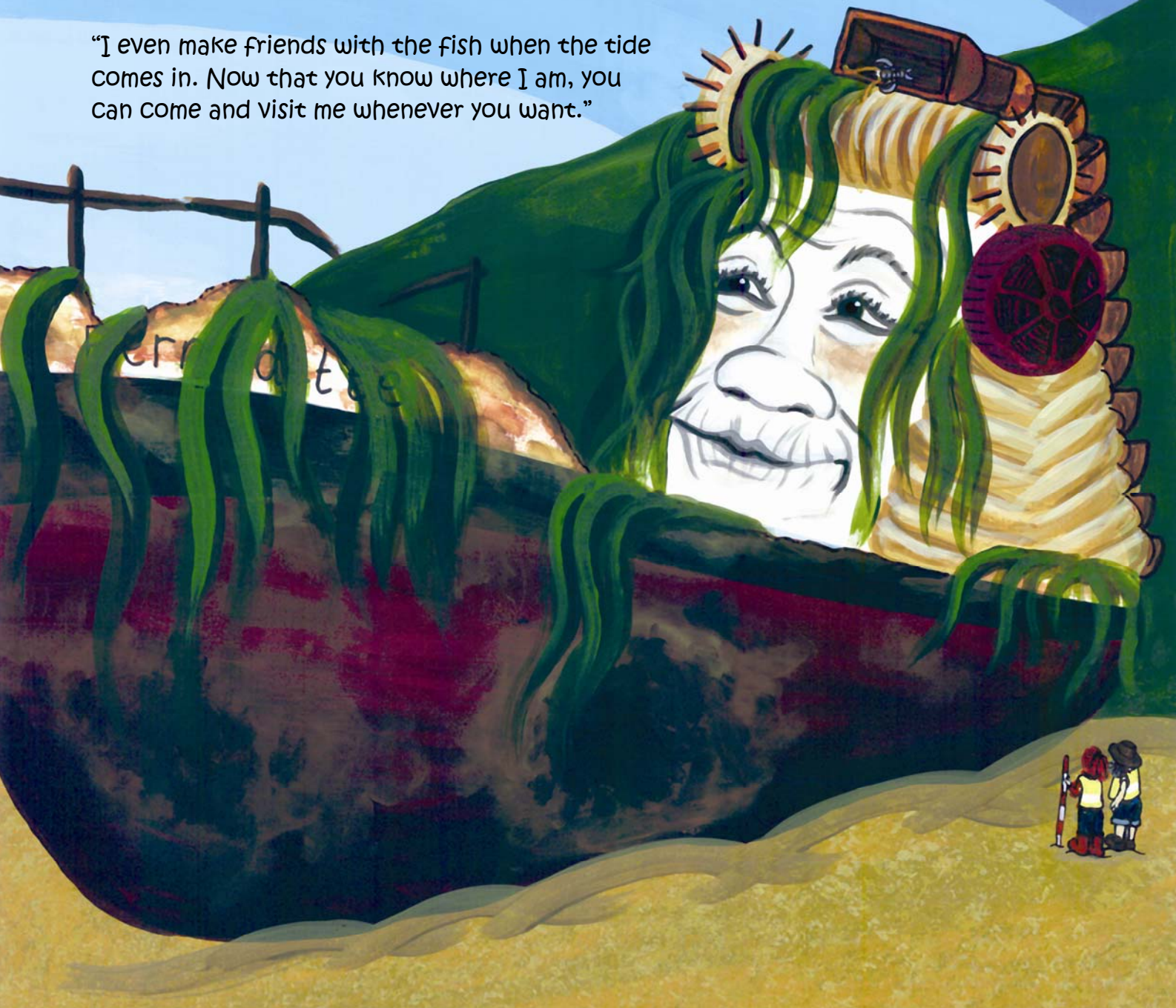
Suddenly Derek looked very sad and started to cry.

"Bernadette was my granny," sobbed Derek, "she mysteriously disappeared over 30 years ago when I was just learning to dredge."



As if by magic, Bernadette suddenly opened her eyes, “Don’t cry Derek” said Bernadette. “I’m okay. I like to sit in the gravel on this beautiful beach with the seagulls and crabs to talk to.

“I even make friends with the fish when the tide comes in. Now that you know where I am, you can come and visit me whenever you want.”



Derek was so happy. With the help of Professor Archie O' Logy and Professor Marie Time, he could see his granny again.



He hoped too, that he and the professors would keep working together to make many more exciting discoveries.

GLOSSARY

Artefact

An object of historic or scientific interest.

Dredger

A large ship that sucks sand and gravel from the seabed.

Dredging/dredge

When a dredger is 'dredging' it uses a giant vacuum cleaner to suck up sand and gravel from the seabed. This is taken back to land and used for roads, buildings, beaches and to fill holes.

Flint

This is a type of rock. Thousands of years ago, past people used this type of rock to make tools.

Galleon

A type of ship often found in history.

Professor

Somebody that knows a lot about a subject and often teaches that subject.

Maritime archaeologist

A person that studies how humans lived in the past by what they have left behind under or near the sea.

SCUBA diver

A person that uses special equipment to breath underwater.

Shipwreck

A ship that has sunk to the bottom of the sea or has been broken and stranded on a beach.

Sonar

A machine that allows people to see pictures of the seabed by using bouncing sound. Wales, dolphins and bats use their own special sonar to talk to each other.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For their colourful contributions to the text, we would like to thank David RJordan, Ingrid Millar and Clive Barnes.

For his imaginative storyboard illustration ideas we would like to thank Rory Smith.

For their help and direction in writing for children, we would like to thank Caroline Hamer and Allison Mason.

The production of this book has been made possible thanks to funding from English Heritage and DEFRA's Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund.

Final picture to be painted of Professor Archie asking the Lobster why he has the flint and the lobster says 'that's another story'

EXPLORE THE SEAFLOOR!



When Professor Archie O' Logy and Professor Marie Time bump into Derek the Dredger, they realise that a great friendship could lead to some amazing new discoveries But they did not realise quite how dangerous the sea can be, or what sort of surprising things they might find!



ISBN



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Supported by English Heritage and the DEFRA Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund