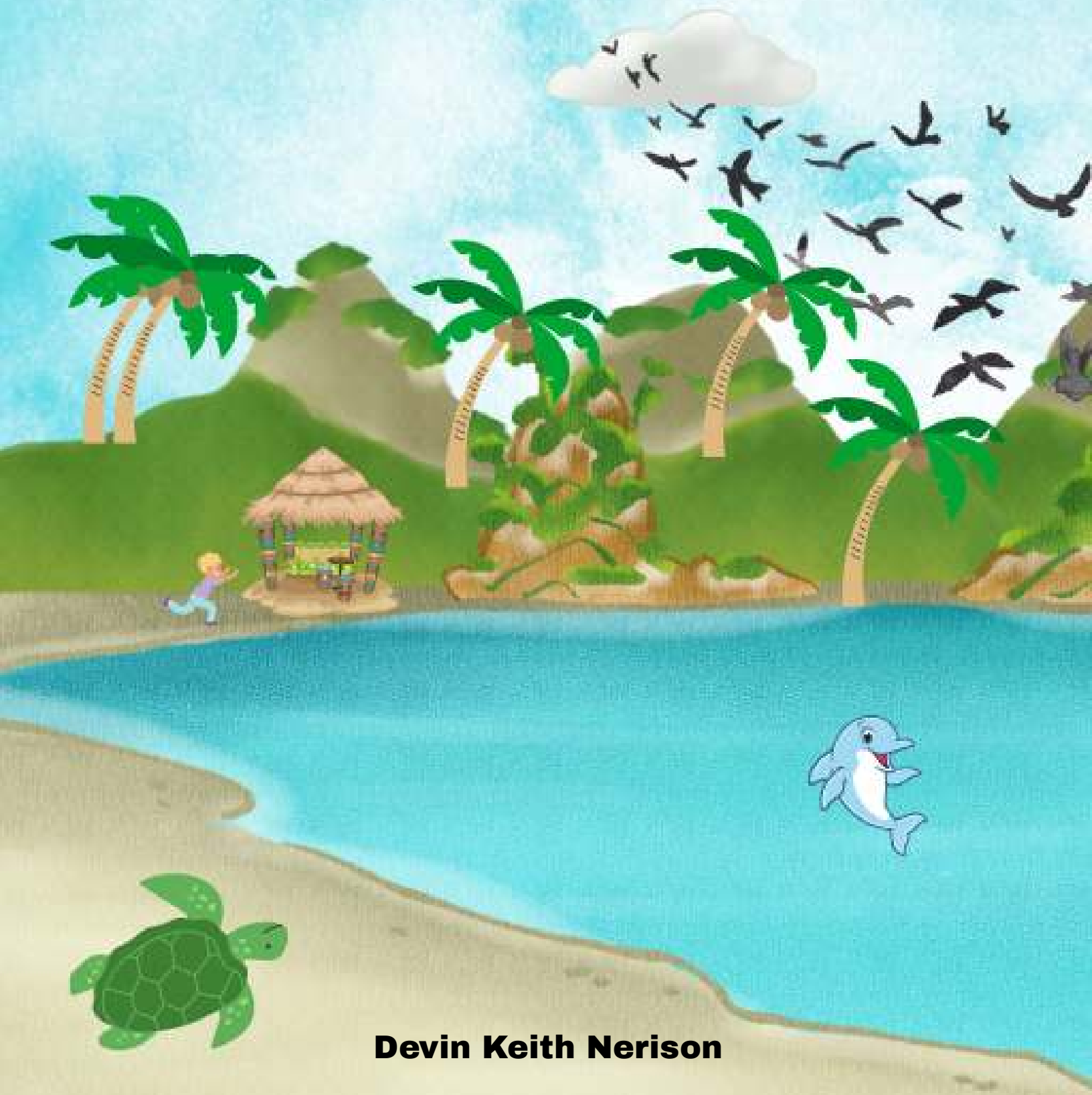


# **Snickers!**

**Bobby's First Adventure.**



**Devin Keith Nerison**

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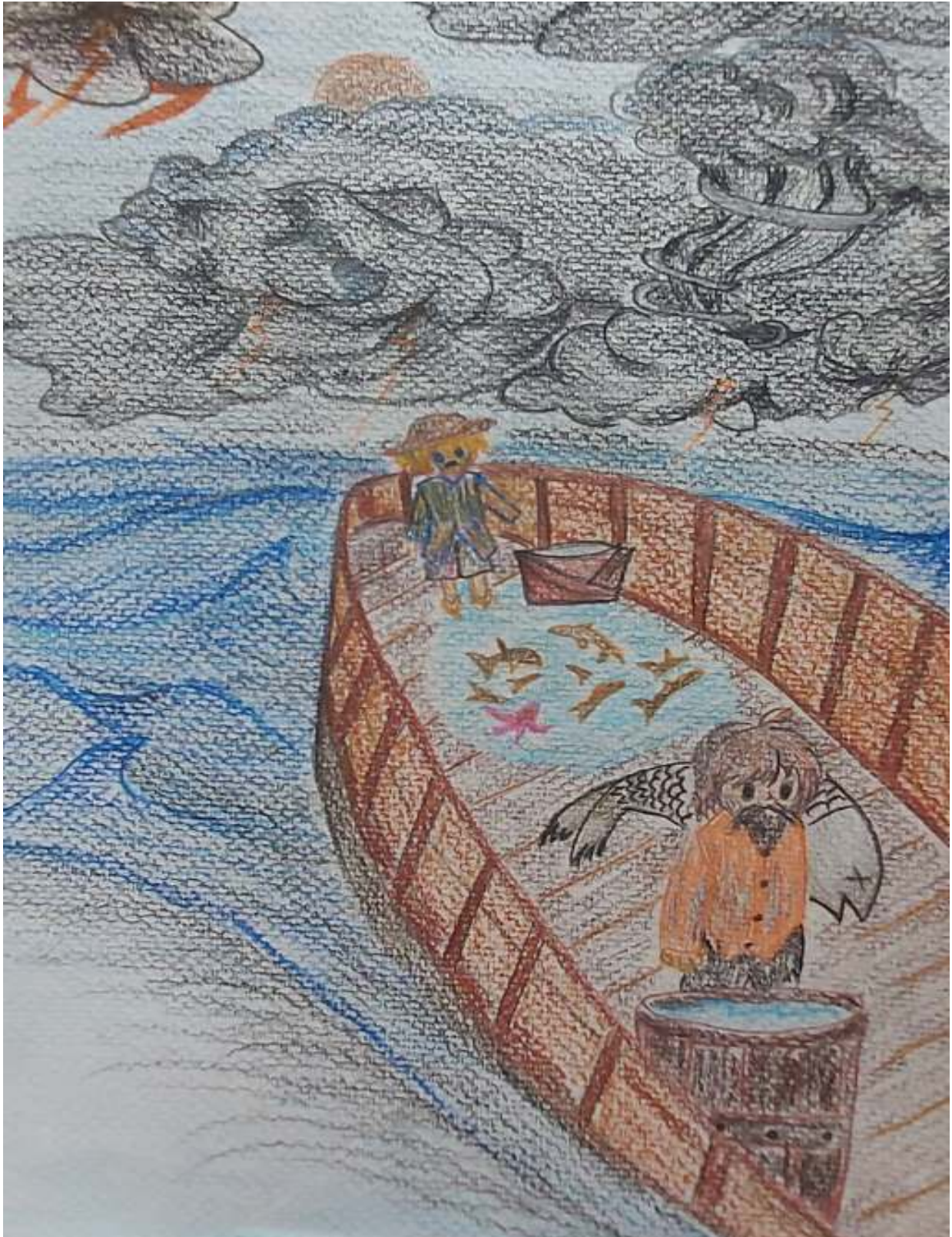
**Devin Keith Nerison**

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Illustrations by:

**Suratchawadee Sierra Nerison**



**“Bobby! Get below deck!” His father yelled.**

**Bobby came out of his daze watching the weather turn into a storm and ran to the steps that led below deck of the old boat. Below there were portholes where he could see the water splash against them. The boat thrashed back and forth like a toy. He was scared but over the years he has been through similiar situations. But it seemed different. He went to a locker and pulled out a life jacket and put it on for safety. Then he thought about his father out there without a jacket, so he grabbed one and ran up the stairs to find his dad.**

**All he could hear was the men yelling back and forth and pulling ropes and tying things down to the boat. He finally found his father tying things down on the port (left) side and ran towards him. With the sound of the angry ocean and wind it was hard to hear anything! The visibility was very low. As he ran towards his dad a wave tipped the boat on the starboard side and Bobby went over the rail and into the water. After yelling for help for what seemed like hours the boat faded away and Bobby bobbed in the sea with his life jacket holding him out of the water as he rode up and down in the furious swells of the sea. Hours went by as Bobby fell asleep from exhaustion when the sea finally calmed. He was on his own.**

**Lost at sea.**

**Bobby woke up to a bump in his side. He was unsure where he was until he was awake enough to figure it out. The weather had changed as the once bad storm had disappeared leaving a clear sky and a bright sun burning down on him. He was lucky that his hat had stayed on! Then he felt the bump again in his side and spun around to look but saw nothing. He saw a small island not far away so he started swimming towards it.**

**In this area not far from his home there were hundreds of islands and some were small and some were big like the one he lived on. This one was fairly small with many other smaller islands nearby. He started kicking his way towards the island as he felt something pushing him in the direction of the island. Spinning around he saw what it was.**

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**Bobby was a boy that was 10 years old. He lived on Melville Island in Northern Australia on the Timor sea. Bobby and his father Robert were fisherman. Bobby was young but when you grow up on a boat it's like walking on land. The teetering back and forth with the waves becomes something expected where the ground only stays still. He enjoyed it.**

**Bobby would swim with his friends in his small little town and they all knew how to fish and when to fish to get the biggest ones. One time he hooked a fish so big off the dock out over the water that it was pulling him in. He finally had to cut the line after hours of trying to bring the fish in. His muscles were on fire and he had to rest and hope to catch that fish another day.**

**One early morning Bobby and his father went out to their fairly large boat with a few other men to go fishing. Sailing out off the island heading starboard (right) the sun was just beginning to come up. By the time the sun had risen and was getting high in the sky, clouds started forming and there was like a dark curtain lowering taking the day away. Soon the wind was increasing and the waves were growing higher and higher.**

**Little did he know the adventure that laid ahead. He was alone in the sea.**

**With its head out of the water it made a snickering sound at Bobby. He was confused. A dolphin had saved him from the sea and pushed him towards an island? At ten years old you have fear about a lot of things. How to react to this? Why would something that did not know him try to save him? Why would this animal care?**

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**Bobby followed his first feeling and reached out to the dolphin. He didn't know how to describe the dolphin except rubbery with a powerful inner being. The dolphin allowed him to touch him and seemed to enjoy it. He made one last snicker and then swam away. Bobby headed towards the beach with all the energy he had left.**

**Bobby laid on the beach for many hours. He had gone through things he couldn't understand. But these thoughts faded away as he got sleepier. Soon everything went darker as he lost all understanding and believed he was going to die. He didn't realize this; but felt this. It was a peacefulness of sorts but not one he liked.**

**He wanted to live!**

**He laid there for an eternity it seemed and then he wanted to wake out of this fog but as in a dream the blankets were around his legs, he could not. The imaginary blankets were tightening as all went black and he fell off into a deep sleep.**

**Something was licking him. Yes! He felt something! This strange feeling was slowly waking him from inside himself. It was very slow and felt like it was unreal. He felt like he was swimming up a tunnel to light. After hours or seconds, he had no idea, he woke up on the beach coughing.**

**He looked up to see a huge **turtle** staring at him.**

**Looking up at a turtle is not normal. A small turtle is okay but this one was humungous! Why was it here? I was laying faceup on a beach and I was lucky to be there. I looked around seeing sand. I was laying on her underground sand nest, which I could see she was guarding her eggs. I had a respect for this turtle but I knew I had to move on to live. I grew up to survive. I got up and walked inland smiling back at the turtle.**



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The turtle slowly walked off as I was watching her. I like to name stuff and she saved my life along with Snickers the dolphin. Roxy was a good name I think. She saved me in a way out of my deep sleep. I went back further into the island where I saw something.....

Someone was here before! No one was there now but there was a hut, with four sides, with a bird on top. Why was the bird there? Soon a few more showed up fighting over something. Colorful they were but it meant something. This was home to them and there was something to eat!

That didn't work out like I planned. The birds were eating stinky fish while my stomach was growling. I slept in that little hut until I saw the sun coming up the next morning. I was hungry but to see the sun come up I was so excited! Not that I knew I would get out of here but that I made it another day.

Dad taught me the rules many years ago. You can go without food but not water. I was really hungry but dad said water first. I headed deeper inland. I walked keeping my eye on my sort of hut. I did not have a line like a rope or string to tie to it and be able to follow it back to the hut if I got lost. So I kept looking over my shoulder every minute to make sure where it was.

There was a hill I was going up so I could see down below. I could see where I needed to go back but what if I made an error? I was only ten years old. I kept going up the hill, looking back every few seconds. I was lost! How could this be any worse up here? I didn't even know what island I was on. I was hungry and thirsty. But I could see where the ocean was so I could always make it back to the beach. My confidence grew stronger.





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Further up the hill I could hear sounds. It sounded like water gurgling .....

Bobby climbed up that hill knowing there was the sound of water he was praying for. The sound was about thirty meters up so he kept climbing. There were many large rocks so he had to move to the left or to the right. He knew there was the sound of water so he kept climbing up towards the sound.

After climbing which seemed to be hours he saw the source! There was fresh water coming out of a hole in a big rock. Bobby was so happy he screamed.

**“Water!”**

Bobby cupped his hands and drank as much water as he could. It was fresh and tasted so good and temporarily stopped his hunger pains. But not for long. Soon it would be growling again.

Water was found but he needed food. A person could live on water for 2-3 weeks. But he needed food if he was on the island for more than that. He drank as much of the water as he could then looked out at the view. It was beautiful! He could see out for miles on the ocean. Islands dotted the ocean.

But he did not see any boats.....

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He was thinking. I got water, can I live on coconuts for food? There is no fruit on the trees except coconuts that he saw so far. I need to make a spear to get fish. Making a fire to cook them? Let's see if I can do what my father taught me. I didn't have anything to fish. I was good with a fishing pole but I had nothing! I had to think about this. Catching a fish seemed easy before but now it was going to be difficult.

Bobby climbed down the hill to the beach.

He found the hut and the birds had left fish skeletons all over the roof. He was hungry but the bones didn't look real tasty to him, hungry or not. At least he knew where water was now so he could empty out some coconuts and fill them up and bring them down. Or! I could make a hut up there next to the water and see out far over the ocean if a boat came! He was encouraged!

First thing he had to do was find food. It had been a day since he ate, so food was at the top of the list. Should I go look for coconuts then make a spear to get a fish? Being as hungry as he was coconuts seemed easier.

Walking the beach for a few minutes he found some **coconuts** under some trees. Bobby was happy until he tried to open one. There was a thick husk around the coconut way inside that he had to get to. He ran back to the hut remembering he saw some old tools in there. There was an old large knife, a fork, a spoon, a coconut bowl, and a makeshift hammer. Outside there was a sharpened stick in the ground that seemed very used and strong.

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**Bobby remembered seeing a television show of people in Fiji splitting coconuts on these sharp sticks. He started doing what he saw and realized it was very difficult. What if he slipped and hurt himself? No one was here to help him. So he slowed down so not to hurt himself by moving too fast.**

**An hour or so had passed and he could see the coconut inside. A smile broke out on his face. He reached the real coconut! Now how to crack it open? Smash it on a rock! Wait! Then I will lose the juice inside to drink. Coconut juice is very healthy so he didn't want to lose that.**

**The hammer!**

**Bobby went back inside the hut and got the old hammer. There was a big rock outside the hut with broken coconut shells around it. This is where someone cracked coconuts before! He put the coconut on the rock and hit it a little. He didn't want to lose the juice inside. He hit it a little harder. This was not easy, they were very strong! So he would hit a little bit harder and then even more. Then it cracked and Bobby tried to drink all of the juice coming out.**

**He had eaten many coconuts before that were ready to eat in the stores. This was not an easy task to do now. Buying in the stores was a lot easier. They were ready to eat.**

**His muscles ached, his skin was feeling **sunburnt** and all he could think of was jumping in the ocean for a swim and thinking how he was going to catch a fish. He was not picky. Any fish that was edible was not a problem. He could even eat a **shark** at this point!**

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The water was great. His stomach was not so bad, being in the water made him forget how hungry he really was. The bottom of the ocean in the shallow water was sand with a few places with coral and rocks. It was harder to see because he did not have a facemask and was looking into clear water but a bit blurry without a mask. But he saw some lobsters and fish below lurking under the rocks and coral.

He was swimming back to shore when he felt the familiar bump. He knew this time what it was. He had felt it two times before. He turned around to see a dolphin jumping out of the water snickering at him! Like he was playing and inviting Bobby to be with him.

“I'm hungry and I need to catch fish!” He said to the dolphin.

The dolphin dove and was gone for a few minutes. Bobby turned around to swim to shore. Then he heard a noise and turned. The dolphin was a meter away with a big fish in his mouth!

“Huh?”

The dolphin swam towards him and dropped the fish in front of Bobby. Bobby's mouth was open in awe not knowing what to do or think. The dolphin saved him from the sea and pushed him to this island and now this dolphin was catching him fish?

Bobby was very hungry so he grabbed the fish and got to the beach and got back to his hut. He kept looking back to see the dolphin. The dolphin had saved him twice now. I really began to respect him. That snickering sound in his ears.

“Snickers!” A perfect name for the dolphin! He named him before but now it really stuck!



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**Bobby was wondering how to eat the fish? How to make a fire? How to start a fire? How do I cook him? Bobby was ready to eat the fish raw! He was so hungry!**

**The old knife. He picked it up and cleaned it on the rock then took it to the ocean and took some coconut husk with sand and cleaned the blade as best as he could. The steel looked good so he sliced the fish. He saw his father do it many times to make a good fillet of steak. He cut through the fish the best he could with the old dull knife.**

**Bobby was so hungry he ate it without cooking it! It was very good! He had only eaten raw fish twice but he had never been stranded on an island before without a kitchen. He needed to learn that this may be the beginning of a long stay on this island. Who knows where I am at? How would my dad know where I was? I had to pretend I would never be rescued.**

**It was up to me now.**

**With the fish in his now quiet stomach he decided to climb up the hill and drink some water. He took the bowl he found in the hut, washed it in the ocean, and headed up the hill. Now that he knew the direction he was going, the water source was found fairly quick.**

**He drank as much water as he could with the bowl then filled it to carry down to the beach. Most of the water spilled out but he had a few swallows for later. His idea was to find some vessels to carry water so it would not spill. He wanted to walk around the entire island and see what he could find.**

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The island didn't seem really big. There were beaches but there were also some parts that looked rocky. I still had my shoes from the time I was on deck on the boat. He started thinking of when that was. He was not sure how many days. He thought maybe three or four days? He was not sure. From now on he would carve a line on a piece of wood every evening so he could remember. Why did he not think of that? This was all new to him so he had to plan.

The beach went on for a few hundred meters before there were rocks, lava, and washed up wood and debris. When he got to the rocky part he noticed it was crawling with small crabs! Some in seashells and others climbing around eating the washed up seaweed and the very small creatures in it. He had to step carefully not to smash the crabs.

The island turned a corner but was very cylindrical; round. It was like the beach went on and on. He could see other islands in the distance but they all seemed the same. Lots of sand, palm trees, and nobody waving a red flag! He was on his own and he knew it.

After an hour Bobby thought he was on the other side. It was still sand with some coconuts laying under tall palm trees. Time to sit down and think what he was looking for. Some hope? A boat to get him out of here to go home to mom and dad?

As he was pondering this and feeling depressed he heard a familiar sound. He was so lost in survival he forgot who saved him.

**“Snickers!”**

The dolphin jumped out of the sea! He had followed Bobby around the island to watch him and see what he was doing.



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**Bobby headed towards the water laughing. This dolphin was his friend that saved him twice. He was so worried about surviving on this island that Snickers was only a second thought. He got into the water and swam towards Snickers.**

**“Snickers!” Bobby screamed.**

**He hugged the dolphin remembering his rubbery skin. He was so grateful to this Dolphin for saving his life and catching him the fish. All this overwhelmed him and made him cry. This dolphin was the reason he was alive! He loved this dolphin!**

**Snickers swam around him several times. Bobby was not sure but he grabbed his dorsal fin and Snickers took off like a rocket! Snickers went forward along the island in places new to Bobby. He kept going and going until he stopped and made his snickering sound.**

**Bobby looked towards the island and saw what looked like a raft like boat. Snickers guided him over towards the island and turned around and swam off when the water got to shallow. Bobby walked on to the beach and looked at the craft. Looking around he didn't see anybody. Someone had built this raft on the beach but he could not see them.**

**Bobby figured that whoever built this was gone. Saved from a ship passing by? Where were these people? A hut on my side of the island and now this over here? Why this?**

**“Currents!”**

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