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opening extract from

Gilbert the Great

written by

Jane Clarke

illustrations by

Charles Fuge

published by

Simon and Schuster

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please print off and read at your leisure.

Martin, forever in our hearts.
J.C.
For Chris, with thanks.
C.F.



The great white shark is one of the supreme predators of the ocean. White sharks can grow to about 6 metres, the females being a little bigger than the males, and can weigh over 3 tonnes. But, in spite of their size, white sharks can leap clear out of the water!

White sharks are found in parts of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and in the Mediterranean Sea. Because of their rarity and secretive behaviour, there is much we do not know about great white sharks.

In warmer waters sharks are often accompanied by a small fish called a remora. Remoras can have a close relationship with a shark, scavenging for leftover food and nibbling off shrimp-like parasites that grow on the shark's body. The remora may stay with a single shark for a while, hitching a lift by sticking to the shark's underside with a special sucker found on its head.

The Shark Trust is the conservation agency dedicated to the study, management and conservation of sharks. To find out more about sharks, become a member, or adopt a shark like Gilbert simply visit www.sharktrust.org or write to The Shark Trust, Rope Walk, Coxside, Plymouth PL4 0LF.



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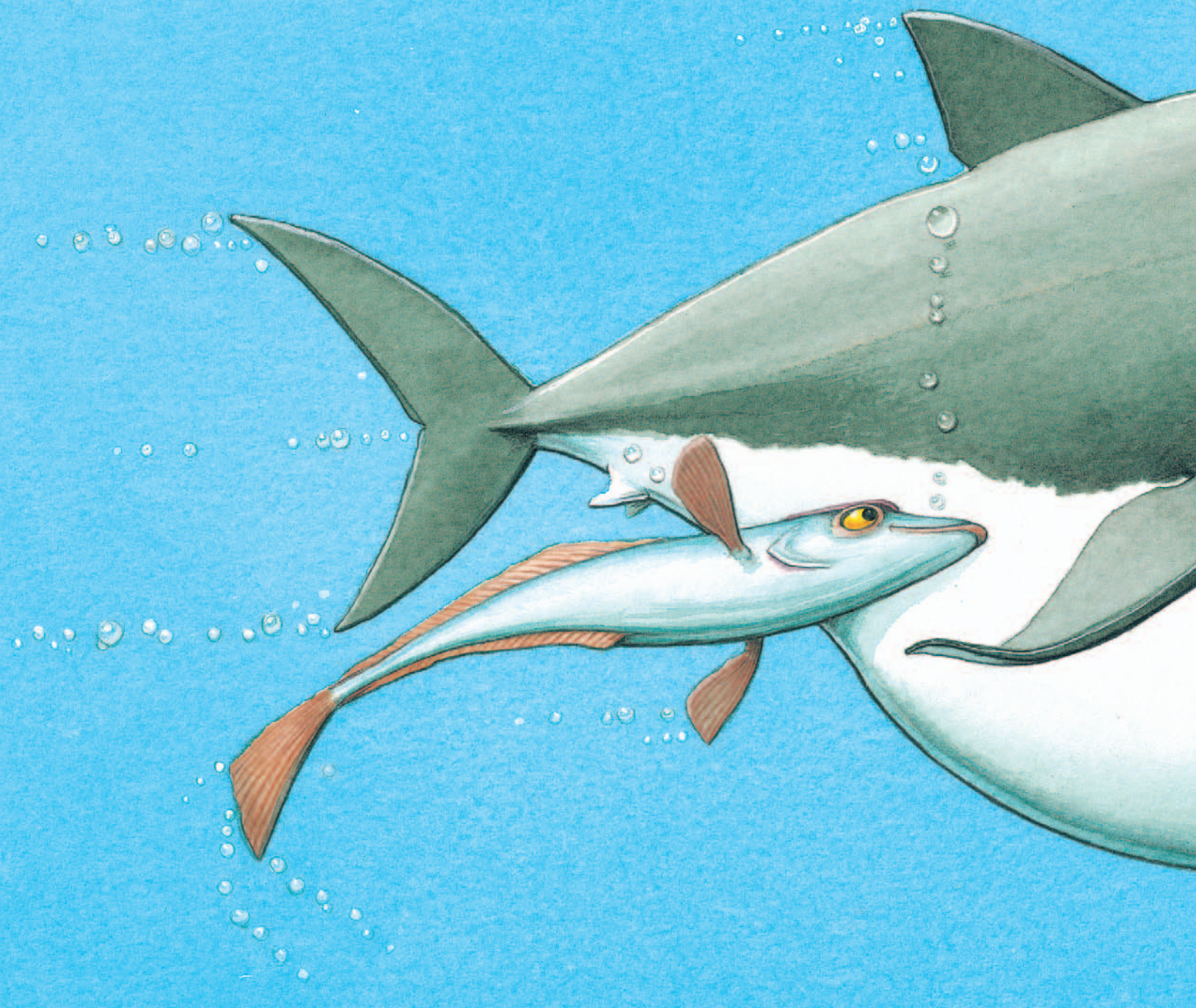
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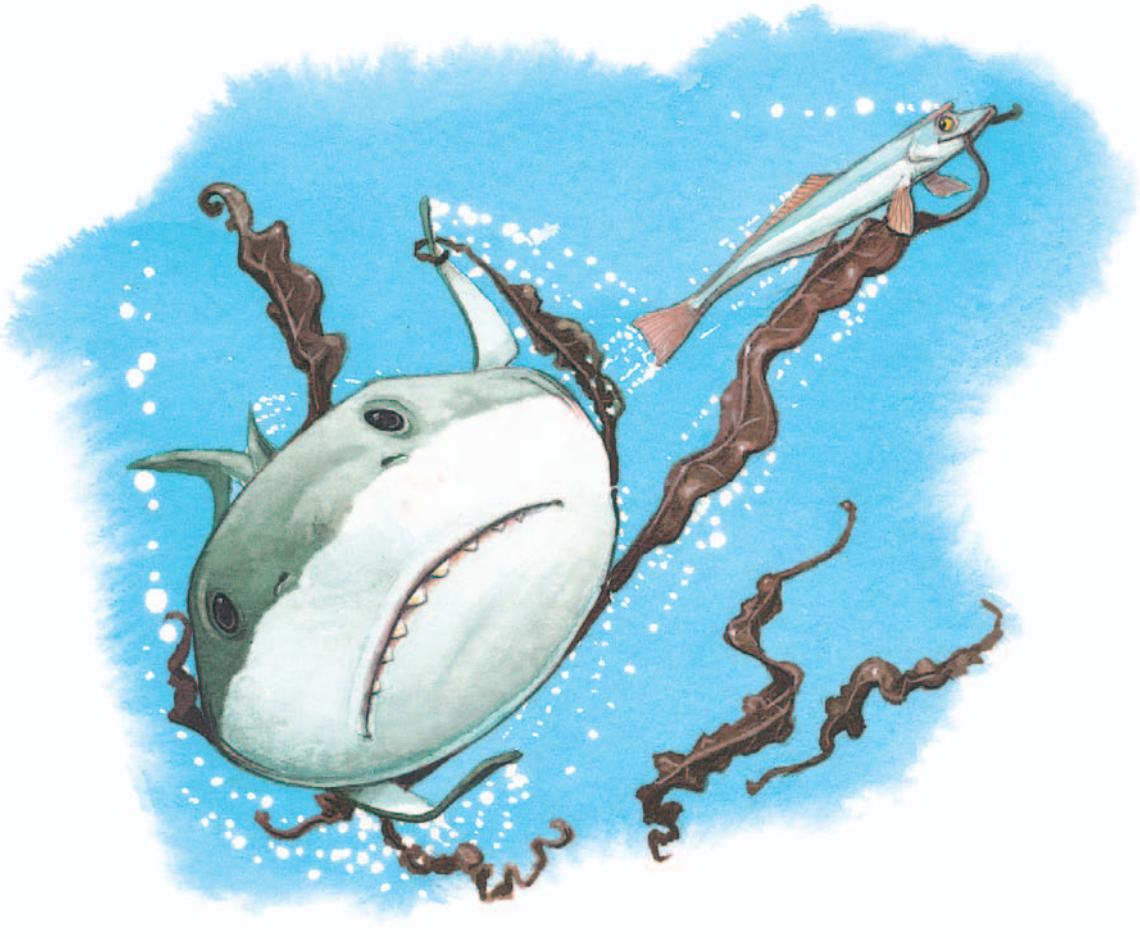
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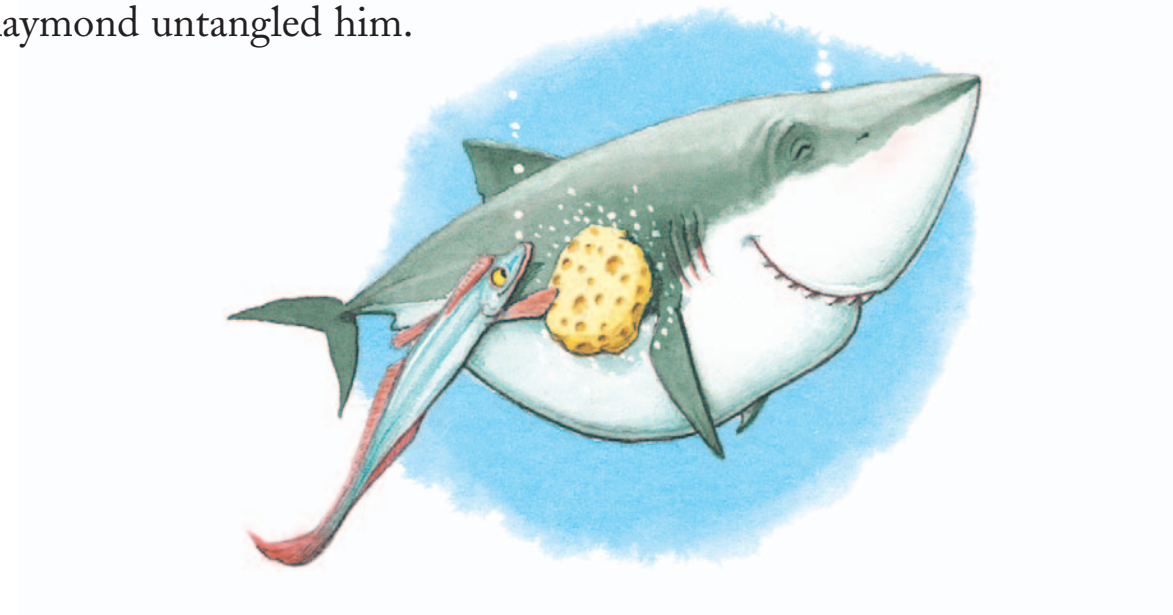
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From the time Gilbert the Great White Shark was a tiny pup, Raymond the Remora stuck to him like glue. Raymond was always on Gilbert's side.

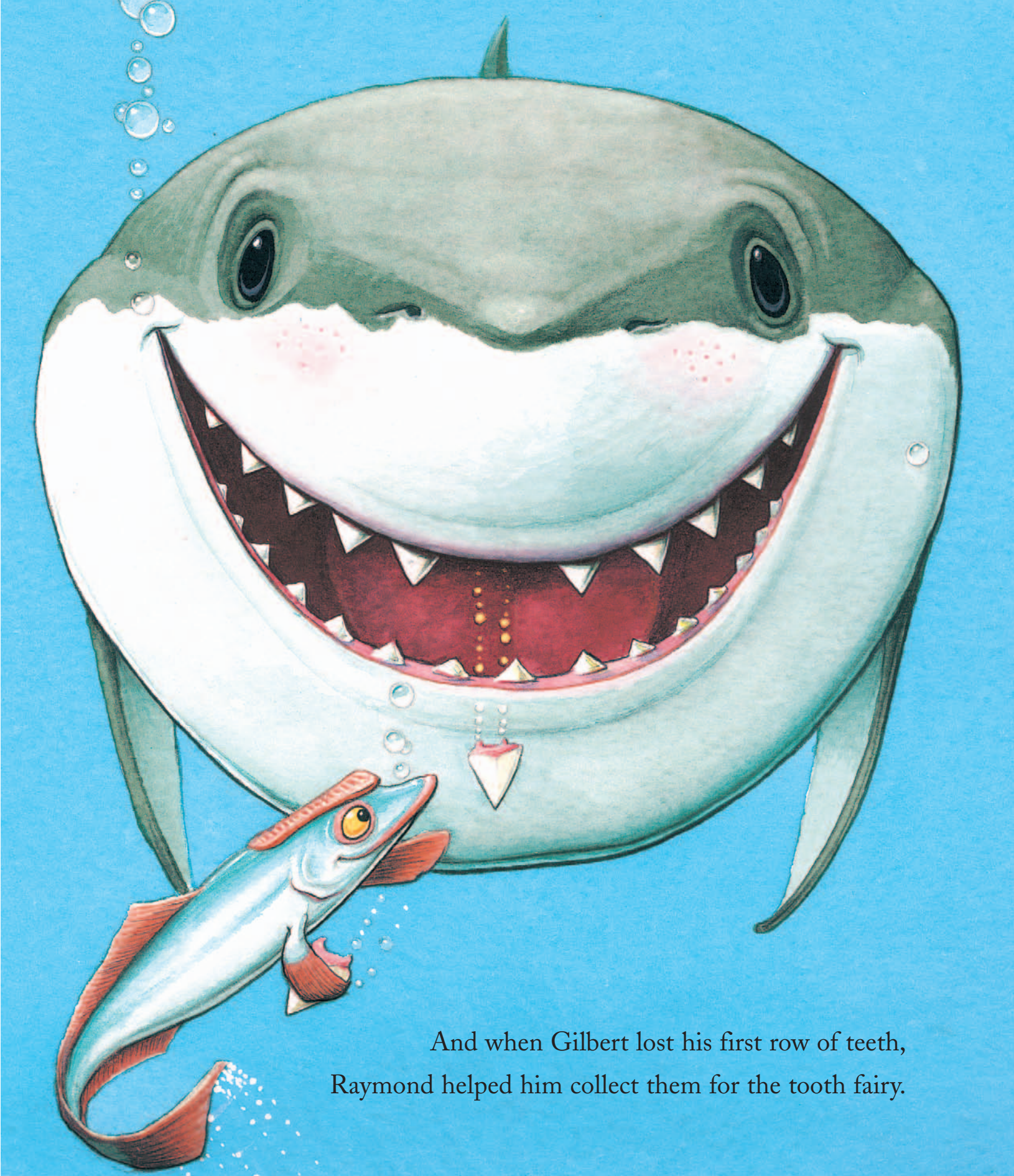




When Gilbert was stuck in the seaweed,
Raymond untangled him.



When Gilbert got dirty, Raymond cleaned him up.



And when Gilbert lost his first row of teeth,
Raymond helped him collect them for the tooth fairy.