



PEARL SEA

SWEET TREE ISLAND



Pirates



Rocky Island



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SWEET TREE ISLAND

*For my fellow voyagers,
Wendy, Scott and Stephanie.
With deep gratitude to Andrea, Lauren, Eric and Terry.
– D. S.*

*For Kirsten Hall, our North Star.
With special thanks to Andrea, Lauren and Dashka.
– T. F. & E. F.*



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THE ANTLERED SHIP



written by
Dashka Slater

illustrated by
The Fan Brothers



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The day the antlered ship arrived,
Marco wondered about the wide world.

A fox with a white chest and belly stands in a forest, looking towards the right. To its left, a small black hedgehog is visible. In the bottom left corner, there are several mushrooms and a small green frog. A large tree trunk is on the far left, with a small yellow bird perched on a hole and a squirrel sitting on a branch above. The background consists of many vertical tree trunks.

He had so many questions.

Why do some songs make you happy and others make you sad?

Why don't trees ever talk?

How deep does the sun go when it sinks into the sea?

But when he posed these questions
to the other foxes, they grew silent.
“What does that have to do with
chicken stew?” they would ask.

Two foxes are in a forest. One is a grey fox standing and stirring a large green pot over a small fire. The other is a red fox sitting next to it, looking on. A woodpecker is perched on a tree trunk to the right.

So Marco went down to the harbour without them.
Three deer greeted him at the gangplank.
Marco wasn't surprised to learn that they were lost.



“We hope to hire a seaworthy crew,” explained Sylvia, the captain.
“I’m afraid we aren’t very good sailors.”



“I will join you,” Marco said. He
thought to himself, *I will search
the seas for foxes who know the
answers to my questions.*

A pigeon named Victor also volunteered along with his entire flock.
“We want to have adventures,” they cooed.



“Welcome aboard,” Captain Sylvia said. “We’re going to a *wonderful*
island, with tall, sweet grass and short, sweet trees. When we get
there, we’ll eat a delectable dinner.”