

Sally Gardner & Lydia Corry

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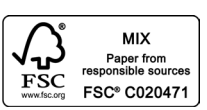
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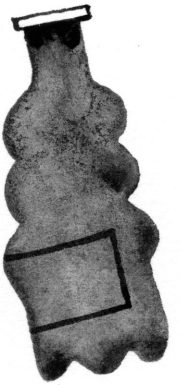
Head of Zeus Ltd
First Floor East
5–8 Hardwick Street
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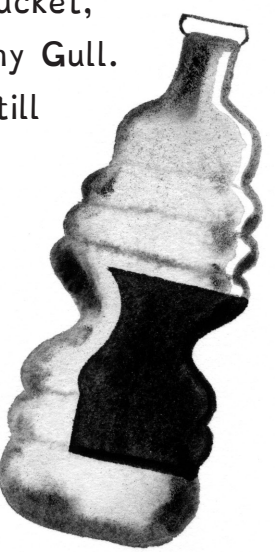
Chapter One

Where Granny Gull and Barnacle Bow find out they need ten green bottles to welcome a special visitor to Rubbish Island.



Granny Gull and Barnacle Bow had, that neeptide, been busily hanging wallpaper in their houseboat. Granny Gull had made it from dried-out pieces of wrapping paper that she and Barnacle Bow had scooped from the briny sea.

It was while Barnacle Bow was up a ladder, with brush and bucket, that a thought came to Granny Gull. She wondered if there were still ten green glass bottles on Rubbish Island. They had hundreds, if not thousands, of plastic bottles. But they were no use for a Bottlerama.





A BOTTLERAMA is a traditional musical instrument played to welcome a visitor to the island. It is made from ten green glass bottles and the music it makes sounds as if the clouds are singing. But as Rubbish Island hadn't had a visitor for ages, or maybe even longer, there hadn't been a need for one.

'Do you think,' said Granny Gull to Barnacle Bow, 'that we still have ten green glass bottles?'

Barnacle Bow said, ‘That is an excellent question. I don’t know.’

Granny Gull was looking through the window, out to the sea. She polished her glasses and looked again. ‘Because I think,’ she said, ‘we are going to need a Bottlerama today.’

Barnacle Bow laughed. ‘But we have had no visitors for years and years.’

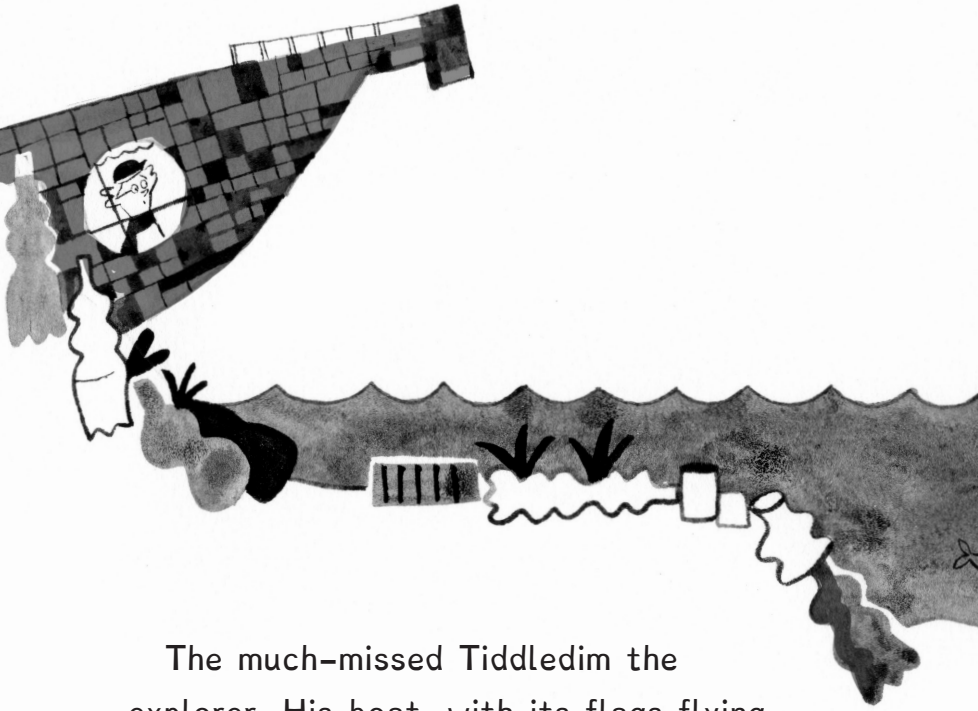
Granny Gull said, ‘Do you see what I see?’

Barnacle Bow scratched his head. ‘Yes, the new wallpaper looks grand.’

‘No,’ said Granny Gull, and she pointed out of the window.

In the distance was a ship. There was no mistaking who it belonged to.

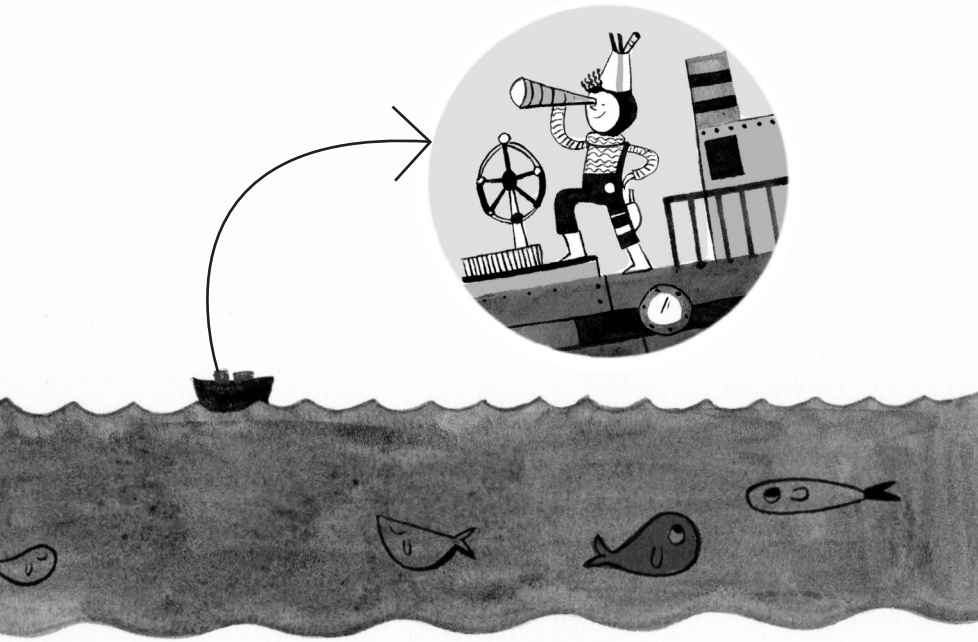




The much-missed Tiddledim the explorer. His boat, with its flags flying, was making its way towards Turtle Bay.

'Musical mussels! I don't believe it,' said Barnacle Bow. 'Now we most definitely need to find ten green bottles. Do you think we might have a glass bottle in the houseboat?'

They looked high and low. Not a glass bottle could they find. Barnacle Bow said he would ask Ethel B Dina.



After all, she was the last Tindim to play the Bottlerama.

Granny Gull said, 'We still have some time before Tiddledim is here. He has to weigh anchor before he comes ashore. I'm going to bake cakes and muflops,' which is a Tindim way of saying muffins. 'There's nothing better to welcome a Tindim home than a proper sit-down tea, one with a tablecloth and napkins.'