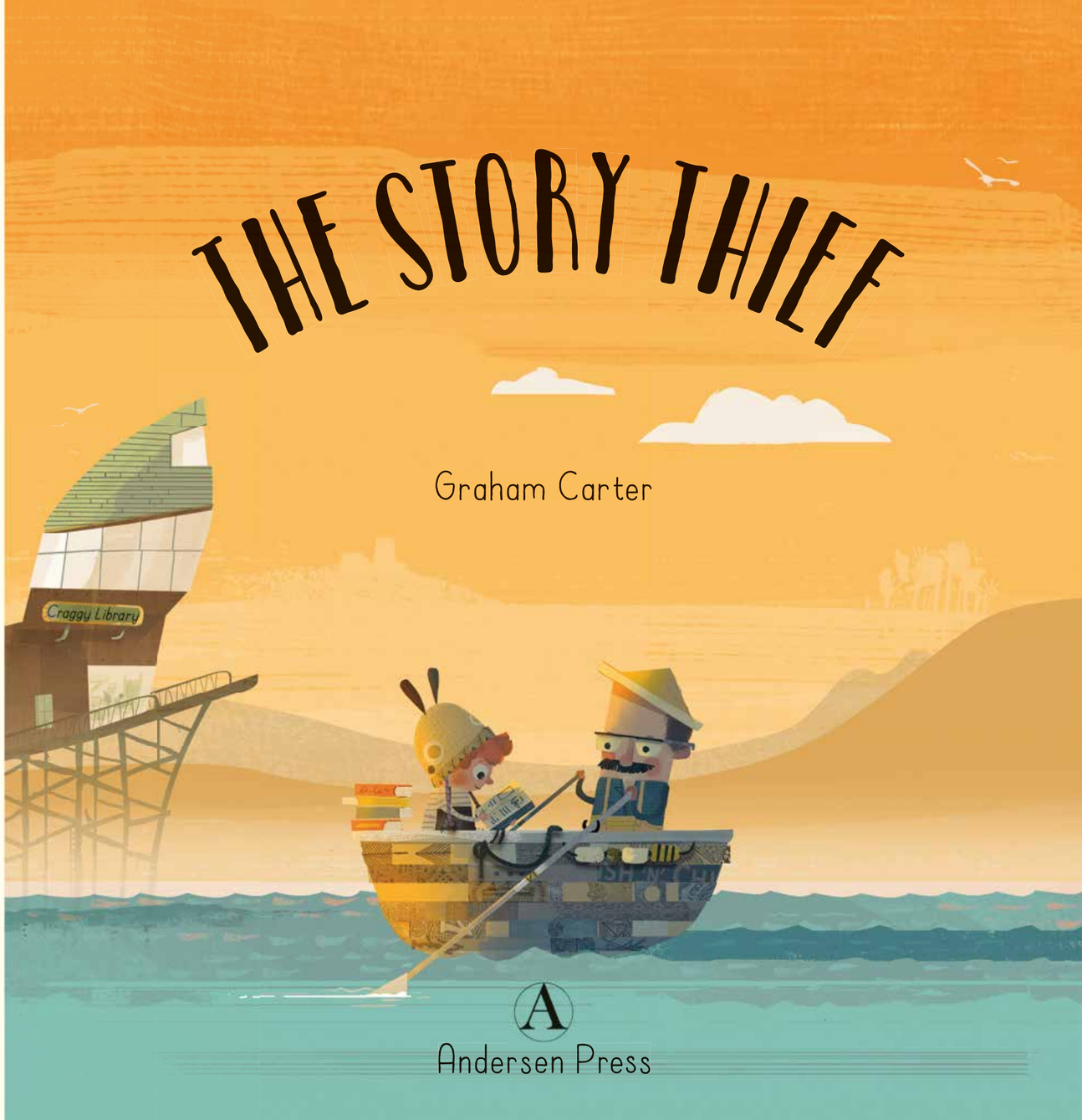
For Noah & Fin

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THE STORY THIEF

Graham Carter



Andersen Press

Olive was rather a shy girl.
She rarely left the house, except to visit the library in Craggy Bay with her Dad and borrow books. Olive LOVED books.



They were returning home from their latest trip when one of her books fell overboard and sank

SPLOOSH

down,
down,
down,
into the murky depths...



where it woke a strange creature.

What is this beautiful thing,
the creature wondered, and
what are you supposed
to do with it?



Wear it?



Eat it?



Bash it?

Sniffing more of the curious things,
he followed them to find out.

The trail led him to a glowing light,
high above the town. Inside,
he could see many more
of the strange things.
The little people
treated each one like
a precious treasure.

It made him more
curious than ever.



In her room it was Olive's favourite part of the day:
story time with Dad. What would they become tonight?
Fearless pirates? Famous detectives? Daring explorers?

As her dad read, the creature watched.
He was astonished to see how happy the strange thing made Olive.

He just HAD to have it. So, quick as a flash...



He snatched poor Olive's book away. "Story thief!" cried Olive.
But the creature was already long gone.