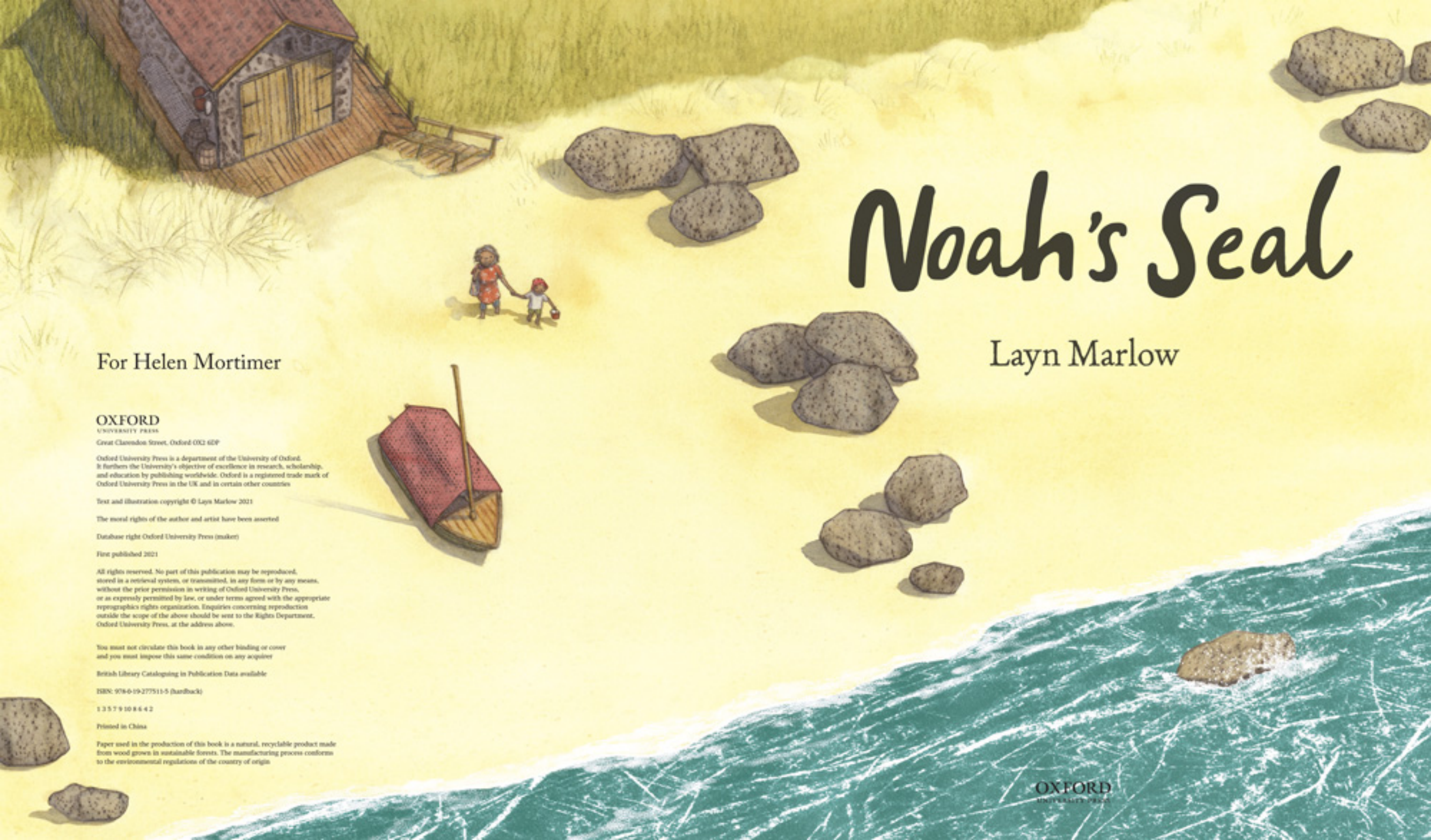


The background of the entire page is a watercolor illustration of a beach scene. In the top left, there is a small, rustic house with a red roof and wooden walls, situated on a grassy dune. A wooden path leads from the house down to the sandy beach. In the center of the beach, a woman in a red dress and a small child in a red hat are walking hand-in-hand. To their left, a small wooden boat with a red canopy is beached. The beach is scattered with several large, dark, rounded rocks. In the bottom right, the ocean waves are depicted in shades of green and blue, with white foam. The title 'Noah's Seal' is written in a large, black, cursive font on the right side of the page.

Noah's Seal

Layn Marlow

For Helen Mortimer

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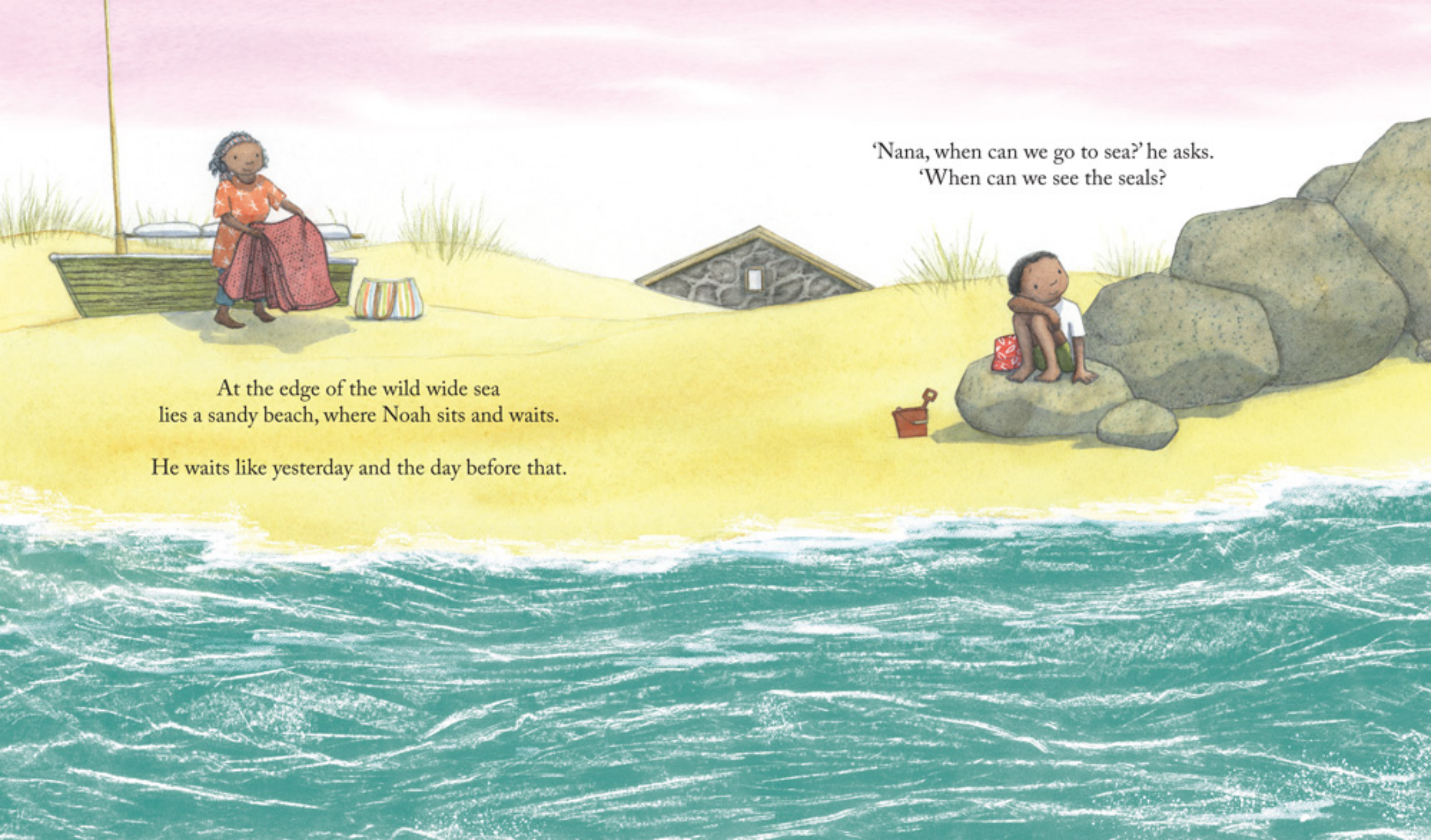
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'Nana, when can we go to sea?' he asks.
'When can we see the seals?'

At the edge of the wild wide sea
lies a sandy beach, where Noah sits and waits.

He waits like yesterday and the day before that.

'One day soon,' says Nana, as always,
'I still need to fix the boat,
before we set sail.

Why don't you play in the sand
again while you wait?

Noah looks out to sea again,
hoping to see a seal,
but Nana says they don't like
to come ashore here.

