GILL LEWIS



THE ISLAND VET

Pirates and Sea Monsters

Illustrated by
IRINA
AVGUSTINOVICH

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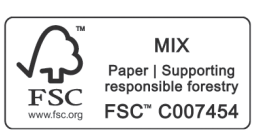
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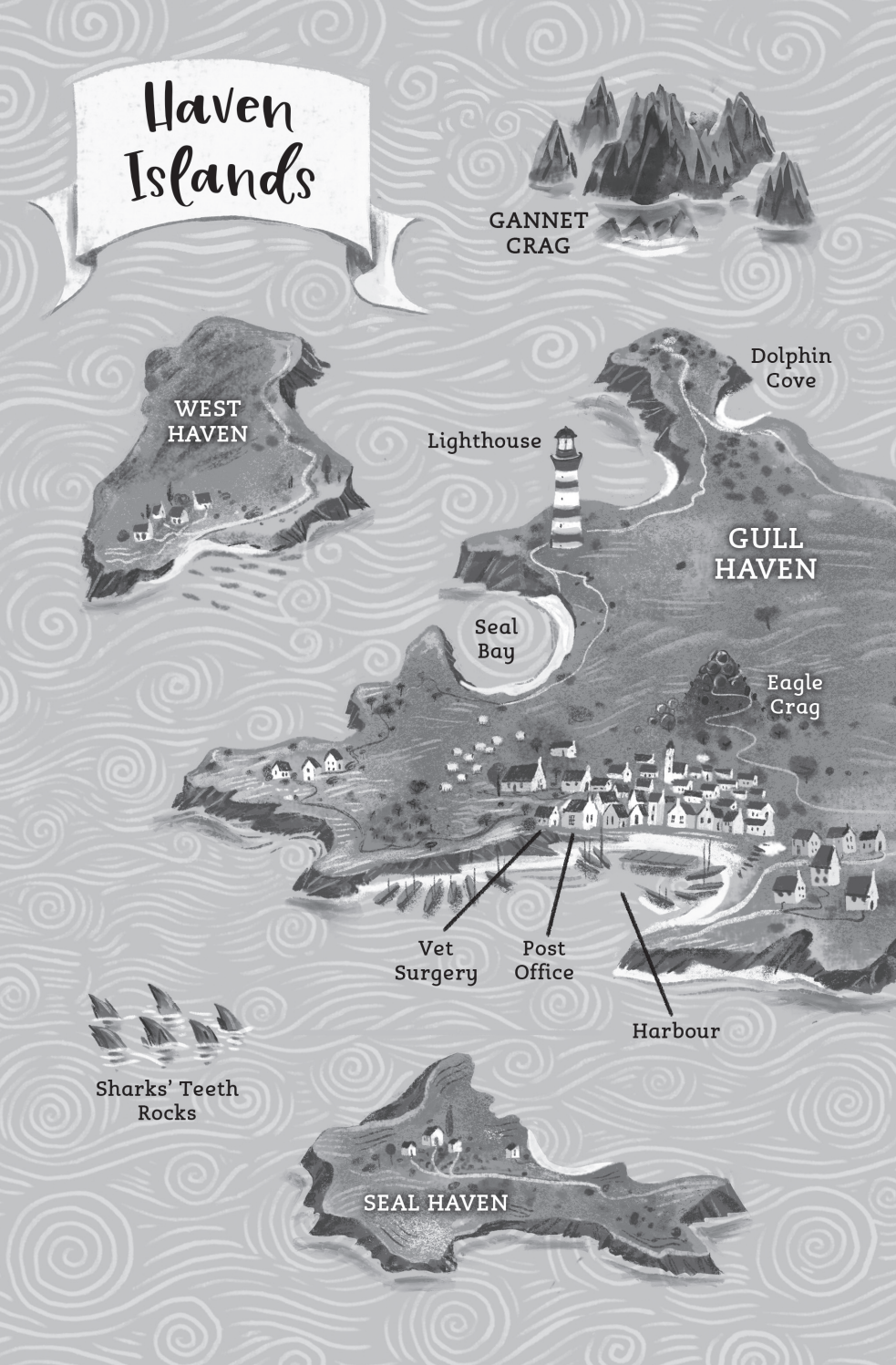
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For the brave folk of the RNLI
who save lives at sea

Contents

1.	A New Start	1
2.	The Ferry	7
3.	Work to be Done	13
4.	Storm	20
5.	Sea Monster	29
6.	After the Storm	32
7.	Pirate	39
8.	Pirates and Sea Monsters	47
9.	A New Story	54


Haven Islands
GANNET CRAG
WEST HAVEN
Dolphin Cove
Lighthouse
GULL HAVEN
Seal Bay
Eagle Crag
Vet Surgery
Post Office
Harbour
Sharks' Teeth Rocks
SEAL HAVEN


DEVIL BIRD
ISLAND
Shell
Bay
Campsite
EAST HAVEN
N
W
E
S



CHAPTER 1

A New Start

Tia loved animals.

She loved everything from tiny ants to big elephants. She loved cute fluffy bunnies to hungry tigers. She loved them all.

Her mum loved animals too. She was a vet and Tia wanted to be a vet one day just like her mum.

Tia's mum worked in a busy veterinary hospital in a city. Tia always wanted to help

her mum look after the poorly cats and dogs in the hospital but she wasn't allowed. So instead Tia always looked forward to bedtime, when Mum would tuck her up and tell her stories about all the animals she had seen that day.

Mum's animal stories were the best.

Tia cried happy tears at the story about a stray puppy left all alone in a school car park. The caretaker had found him and taken him home. After that the puppy always came into school in the mornings and followed the caretaker around as he opened the classrooms up.

Tia laughed at the story about a woman who wanted to know how to stop her pet parrot making loud burping noises every time her friends came to visit.

Every bedtime had a different story.

But Tia's mum often had to work late into the evening and so then Tia's childminder would have to read a storybook instead.

Tia was sad that Mum often had to work long hours and even some weekends.

And Tia's mum was also sad that she didn't see Tia as much as she wanted to.

So one day Tia's mum told Tia she was going to leave her job in the city.

"What will you do?" asked Tia. "Will you stop being a vet?"

Mum smiled. "No. I'm still going to be a vet," she said. "But it's a different job, so that I can spend more time with you."

"Where are you going to work?" asked Tia.

Mum held Tia's hands in hers. "I've found a new job where we can live in a flat above the

vet hospital. When you're not at school, you can help me if you like."

Tia grinned. "Really?" One of Tia's biggest wishes was to help Mum to look after the poorly animals. "Where are we going?"



"To an island," said Mum. "There isn't a vet there at the moment, so they really need my help. And you're coming with me."

Tia's eyes opened wide. "We're going to live on an island? A real island? Will there be pirates? Will there be sea monsters?"

Mum laughed. "No, but there will be sandy beaches and ice creams. It will be like being on holiday every day."

"And what kind of animals will you be looking after?" asked Tia.

"All sorts of animals," said Mum. "There are farms on the island, and people have pets, and there's lots of wildlife too."

"What about school?" asked Tia. "What about my friends?"

"We'll still keep in contact with them," said Mum. "But you'll go to a new school and meet new friends there."

Tia felt a bit nervous about that but then she had a wonderful idea. "Can we get a kitten?" she asked. Another of her biggest wishes was to have a cat of her own. They weren't allowed to keep a pet in their flat in the city.

"We'll have to see," said Mum. "Looking after a pet is a lot of work."

Tia sighed. Lots of her friends had pets. It didn't seem fair. Her mum was a vet but even so, Tia couldn't have a pet of her own.

But she would see more of Mum if they moved to the island, and she'd help her look after the poorly animals too. And best of all, Mum would be able to tuck her up in bed and tell her stories every night.