For Dad,
who loved the ocean.

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THE GREAT BEAR

ANNIE BOOKER

TWO HOOTS

Once upon a time, in a place far to the North,
there was an ocean full of life.

The water grew thick with towering forests of kelp.
Seals played among the fronds and whales
sang as they fed in the deep below.

Far beneath the waves there lived a bear.
As old as the sea and just as wise,
the Great Bear watched over every living thing.

And for a long time, all was as it should be.

Until one day, something new arrived.

It was a creature the Great Bear had never seen before.

A man.

And behind the man trailed a shadow.



Every animal has a shadow, even you and I.
But this shadow was different.
It spoiled the air and stung the eyes,
and as it grew it chased the birds from the sky.

Below,
the Great Bear watched, unsure what to do.
And still the shadow grew.

When the man reached the heart of the ocean, he cast a net.
The net was so strong and so vast it snared everything it touched.

It seemed that nothing would stop him.

