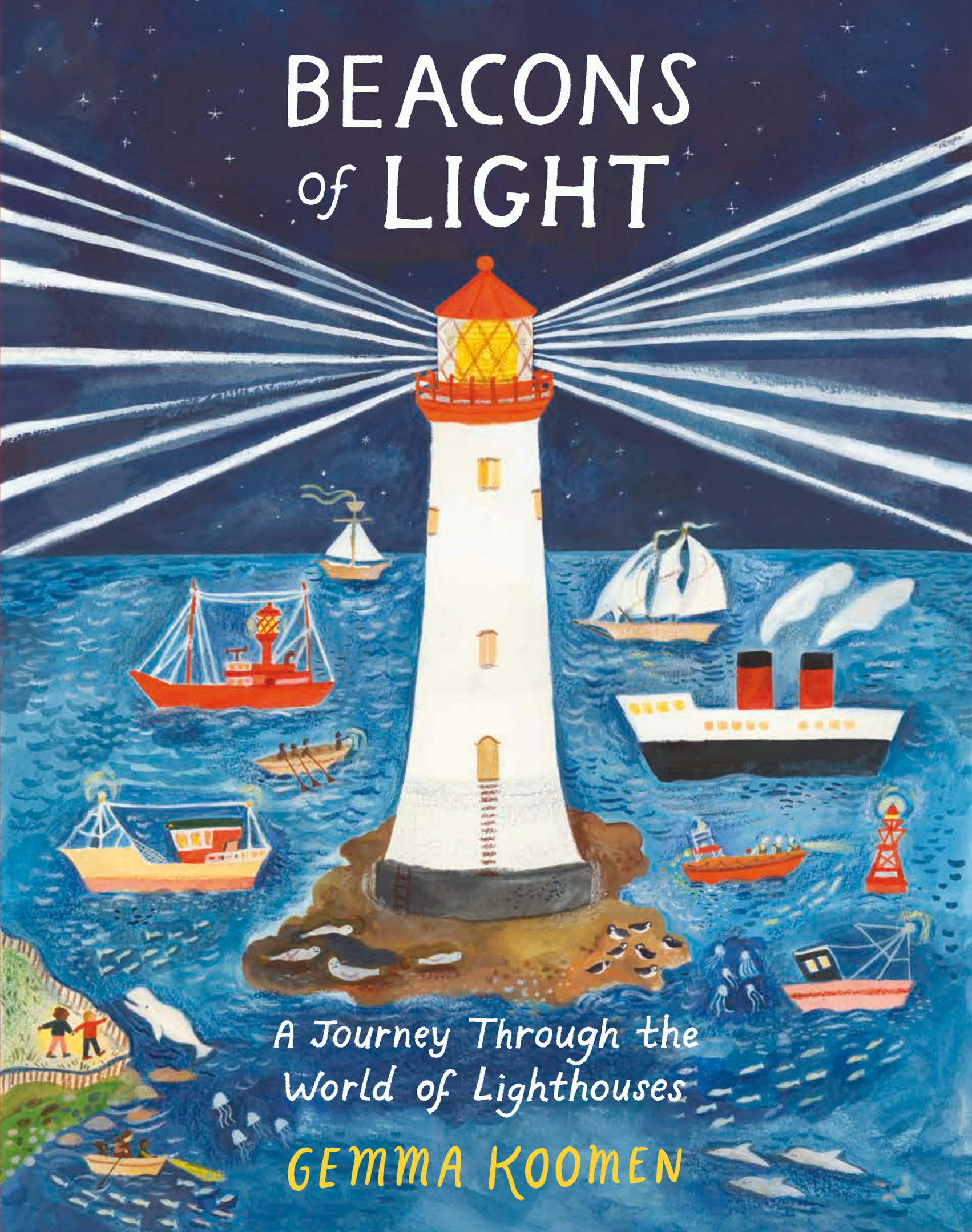

BEACONS
of LIGHT
A Journey Through the
World of Lighthouses
GEMMA KOOMEN

BEACONS of LIGHT

A Journey Through the World of Lighthouses

GEMMA KOOMEN

post wave
berlin studio

Long ago, beneath a starlit sky and above the wild, wild waves, a fire blazed brightly. This fire was a beacon, sending a message to travellers at sea, guiding them home through the darkness.

The vast and powerful sea can never be tamed.

As people found new ways to sail across the waters,
they still needed a safe way to reach the shore.

Stone by stone, they built the first
towers to contain the beacon fire.

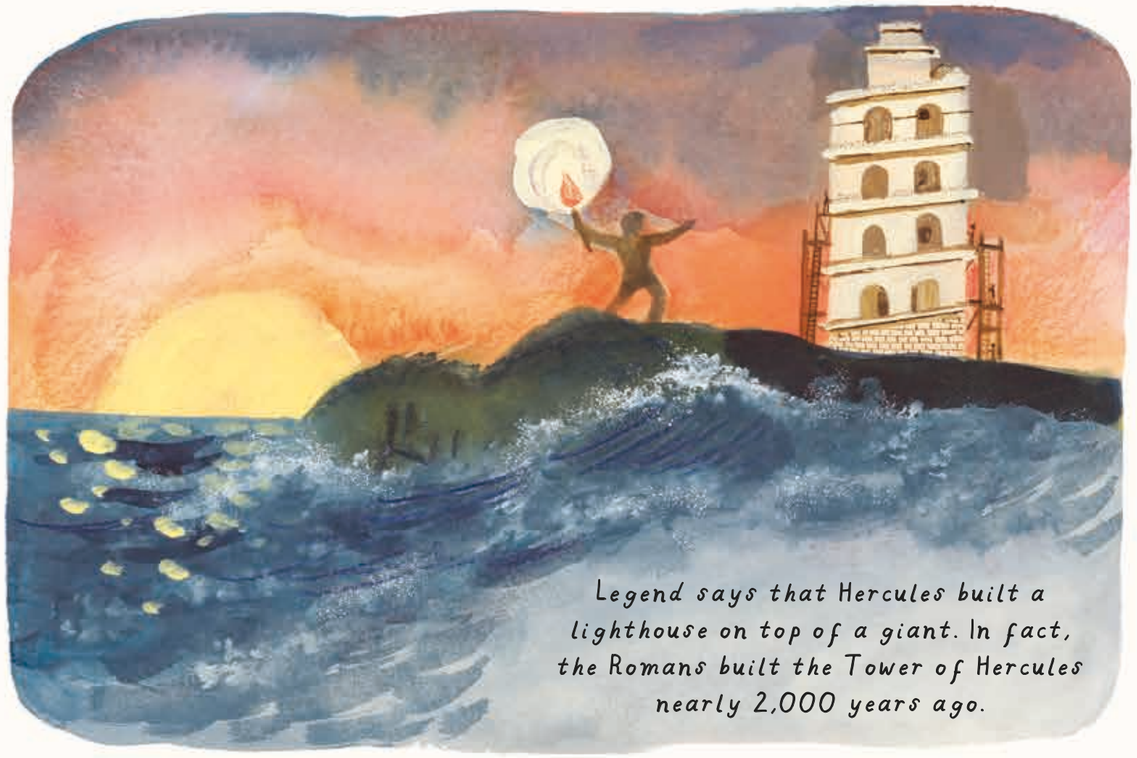
The oldest known lighthouse was the Pharos of Alexandria, built in Egypt around 280BC. During the day, mirrors reflected sunlight, and at night, a huge fire blazed at the top of the tower.

These guiding towers became known as lighthouses.
Over time, they inspired tales of mystery, from
ghostly ships and legends of giants . . .



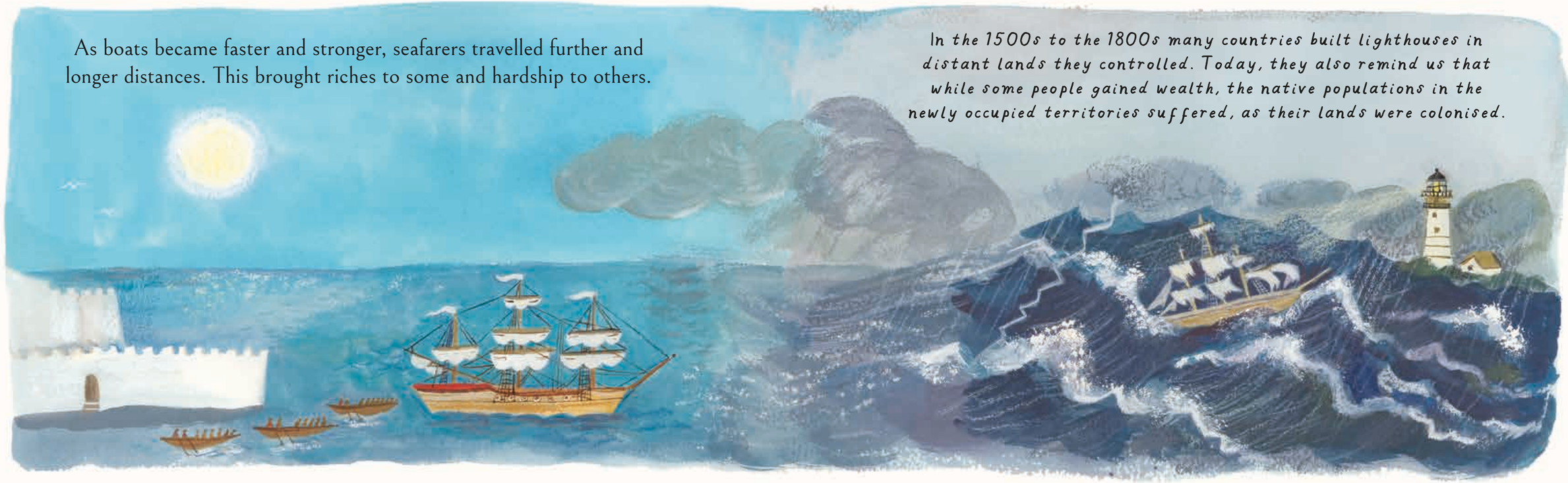


. . . to sea monsters that haunted the waters.



As boats became faster and stronger, seafarers travelled further and longer distances. This brought riches to some and hardship to others.

In the 1500s to the 1800s many countries built lighthouses in distant lands they controlled. Today, they also remind us that while some people gained wealth, the native populations in the newly occupied territories suffered, as their lands were colonised.



But even the sturdiest ships were no match for the ferocity of a storm. Lighthouses rose along the coastlines to prevent the loss of life and goods.



FACTS ABOUT LIGHTHOUSES

What is a beacon?

A beacon is a signal that stands out to guide or warn. It can use light, sound or even fire to draw attention.

What is a lighthouse?

A structure or tall tower near the sea, a lake or a harbour. It shines a powerful beacon of light to warn sailors about dangerous rocks, shallow water and reefs.

How does a lighthouse work?

A lighthouse shines its beam across the sea, and many also sound a foghorn in thick fog. By day, the shape and colours of the lighthouse make up its 'daymark'. By night, it flashes its own pattern of light, called a 'light character'. No two lighthouses are the same.

Where are they found?

They are found on coastlines, islands, headlands, lakes, cliffs, canals, rivers and harbours.

Are there lighthouses around the world?

There are about 18,000 lighthouses across every continent, even Antarctica. Countries with long coastlines may have hundreds, in many shapes, sizes and colours.

What do lighthouses remind us of today?

They remind us of safety at sea and the lives they helped save. But some also remind us that during the Age of Exploration, lighthouses were built in colonised lands, where local people lost their homes and freedoms.

LIGHTHOUSES IN THIS BOOK

Endpapers
1. Cape Lookout Lighthouse, North Carolina, USA
2. Cape Reinga Lighthouse, North Island, New Zealand
3. Iho Tewoo 'White Horse' Lighthouse, Jeju Island, South Korea
4. New London Range Rear Lighthouse, Canada
5. Livorno Lighthouse, Livorno, Italy
6. Cap d'Alprech Lighthouse (Phare du Portel), Boulogne-sur-Mer, France
7. Obereversand Lighthouse, Lower Saxony, Germany
8. Dwarka Point Lighthouse, Gujarat, India
9. Soya Gyoko West Breakwater Lighthouse, Wakkanai, Japan
10. Cabo Branco Lighthouse, Paraíba, Brazil
11. Nieuwe Sluis Lighthouse, Breskens, Netherlands
12. Port Shepstone Lighthouse, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
13. Rattray Head Lighthouse, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, UK
14. Bo'ao Lighthouse, Hainan, China
15. Kõpu Lighthouse, Hiiumaa, Estonia
16. Höfði Lighthouse, Reykjavík, Iceland
17. Jeddah Port Lighthouse, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
18. Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse, Delaware, USA
19. Santa Marta Lighthouse, Cascais, Portugal
20. Perdrix Lighthouse, Brittany, France
21. Stabben Lighthouse, Florø, Norway
22. Tourlitis Lighthouse, Andros, Greece
23. Punta del Hidalgo Lighthouse, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain

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24. Cape Blanco Lighthouse, Oregon, USA

Pages 6–7
25. Ostia Lighthouse, Ostia Antica, Italy (ancient Roman)
26. Pharos of Alexandria, Alexandria, Egypt

Pages 8–9
27. Tower of Hercules, A Coruña, Galicia, Spain

Pages 10–11
(Not a lighthouse: Gate of No Return, Ouidah, Benin)
28. Boston Harbor Light, Massachusetts, USA

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29. Eddystone Lighthouse, Devon, England, UK

Pages 14–15
30. Fastnet Lighthouse, County Cork, Ireland
31. Statue of Liberty (functioned as lighthouse), New York, USA

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32. Matinicus Rock Light, Maine, USA

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33. Portland Bill Lighthouse, Dorset, England, UK

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34. Nantucket Lightships, Massachusetts, USA

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36. Baishamen Lighthouse, Haikou, Hainan, China
37. Iho Tewoo 'Red Horse' Lighthouse, Jeju Island, South Korea
38. Alte Weser Lighthouse, North Sea, Germany
39. Jeddah Lighthouse, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
40. Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse, Maryland, USA
41. Faro de Ajo Lighthouse, Cantabria, Spain
42. Ban Tha Thewawong Lighthouse, Chonburi, Thailand

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(Not a lighthouse: Hassan II Mosque Minaret, Casablanca, Morocco)

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43. Yokohama Marine Tower, Yokohama, Japan

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50. Cape Byron Lighthouse, New South Wales, Australia

Pages 40–41
51. Beachy Head Lighthouse, East Sussex, England, UK

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52. Godrevy Lighthouse, Cornwall, England, UK

For my mum, thank you for infusing in me
a lifelong love of the sea.
-G.K.



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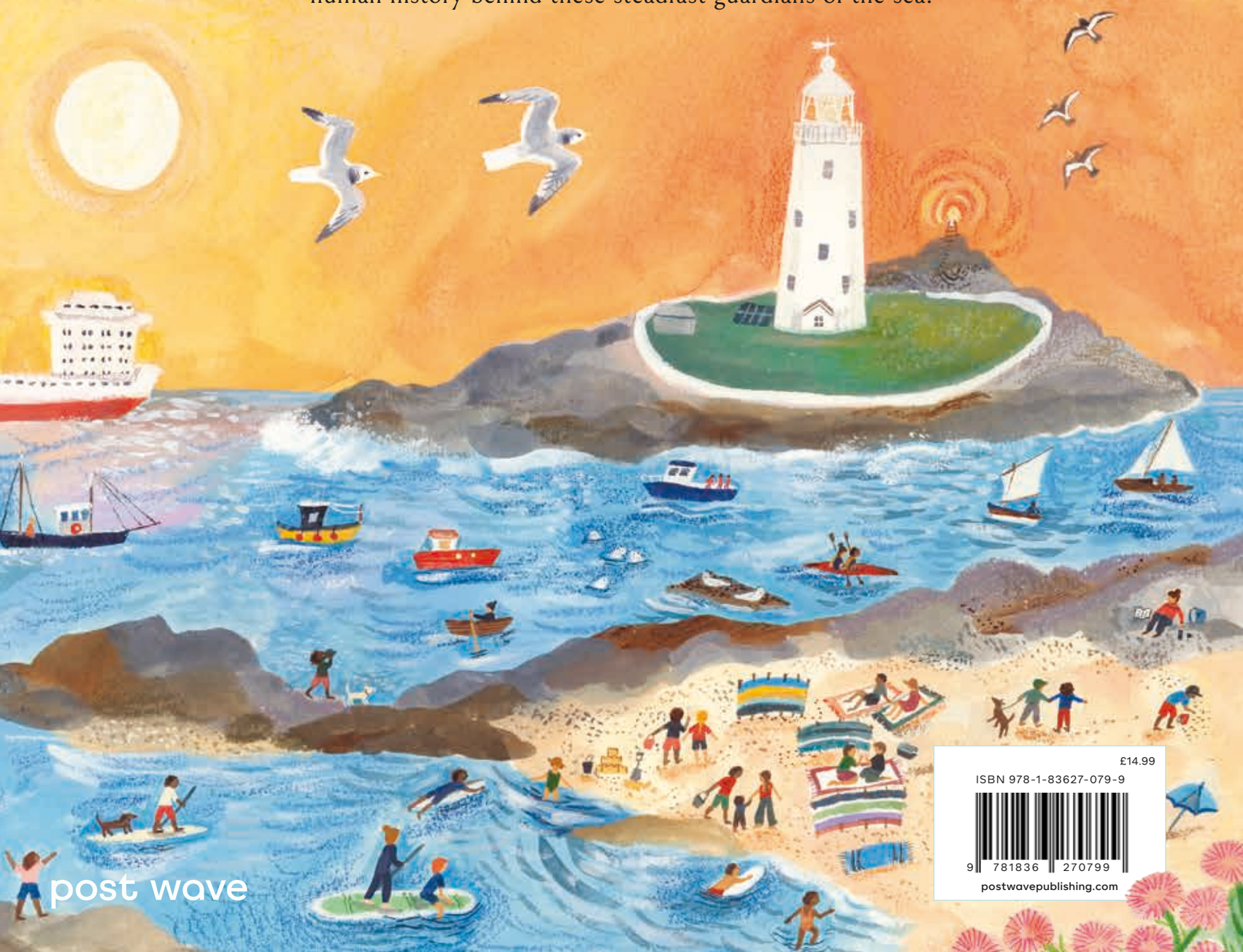
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Long ago, under starlit skies, sailors drifted through darkness, searching for a way home. Then – far off, a flicker. A flame. A lighthouse, a beacon of hope, pierced the darkness and guided them to safety.

This beautifully told narrative non-fiction picture book traces the extraordinary story of lighthouses – from fire-lit towers of ancient Greece to storm-swept cliffs in northern Europe, misty coastal cities in Japan and rugged North American shores where lighthouse beams still sweep the sea.

Along the way, discover the science, engineering and human history behind these steadfast guardians of the sea.



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