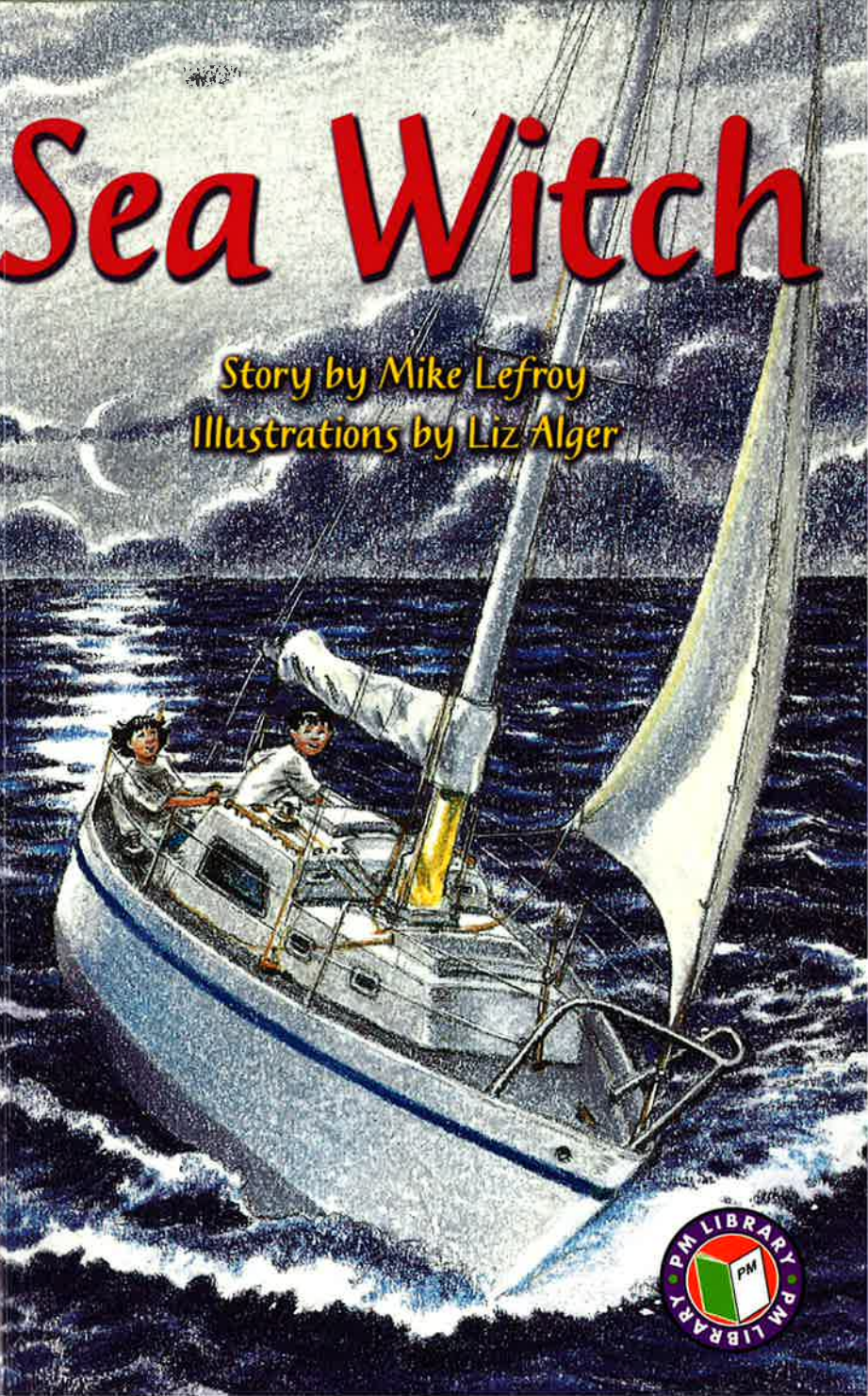
Sea Witch

Story by Mike Lefroy
Illustrations by Liz Alger



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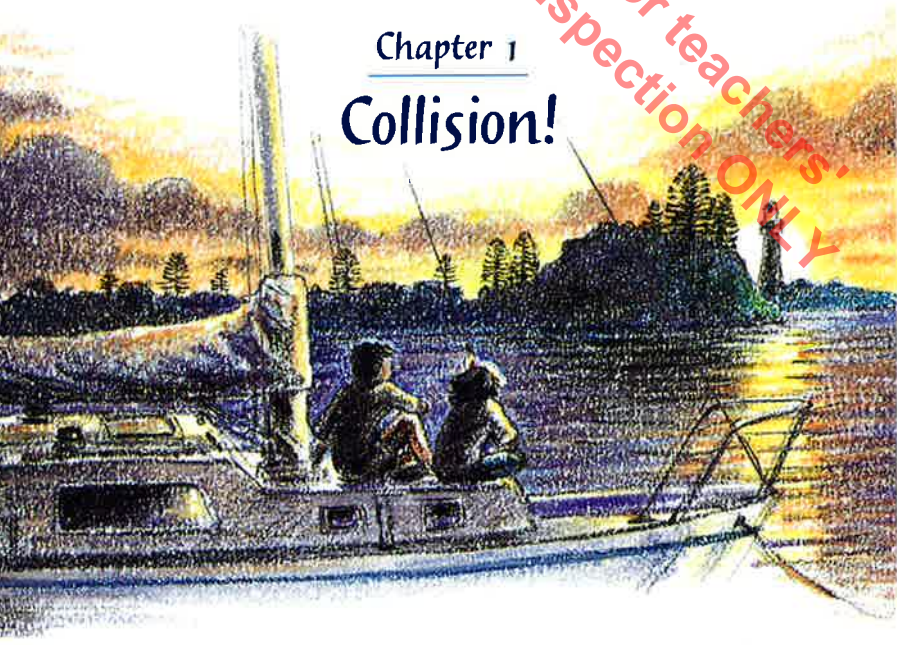
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Chapter 1

Collision!

"We won't be long... and don't use the tape deck, the batteries still aren't charging properly."

"Okay, we won't," said Kristie, throwing the bowline to her mother. Her twin brother, Jeremy, joined her on deck. They watched the little dinghy merge into the shoreline.

It was a perfect evening. The sea breeze still had a faint summer warmth. The twins sat on the cabin roof of *Sea Witch,* watching the sun thread its way through the pine trees and disappear behind the lighthouse.

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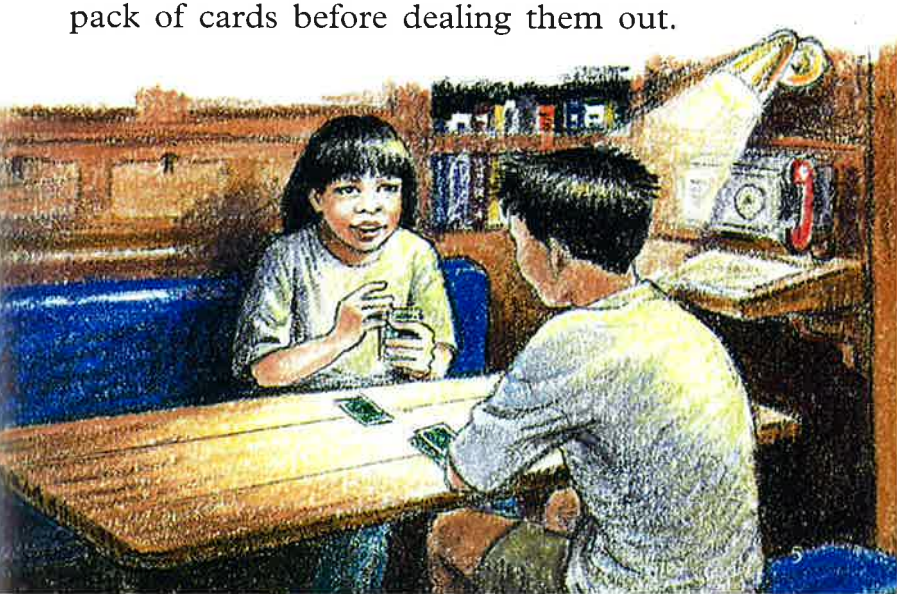
They had been at the island for a week. This was their last evening before heading back to the mainland. A new school year was about to begin—their first year in high school.

"How about a game of cards?" Jeremy suggested. "I still haven't beaten you yet!"

The twins went down the stairs into the small but cosy cabin.

"It should be all right with one light," said Jeremy.

"Yeah, Mum and Dad are only worried about the tape deck because it uses more power," Kristie replied, expertly shuffling a pack of cards before dealing them out.




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The twins sat huddled over the cards. This was serious. So serious that they didn't hear the *thump thump* of an approaching diesel engine.

Suddenly their world twisted violently. The cards spilt onto the cabin floor and the twins were jerked to their feet.

Kristie and Jeremy looked at each other in horror and then stumbled towards the stairs.

"Are you okay?" The anxious call came from a large fishing boat that was circling them.

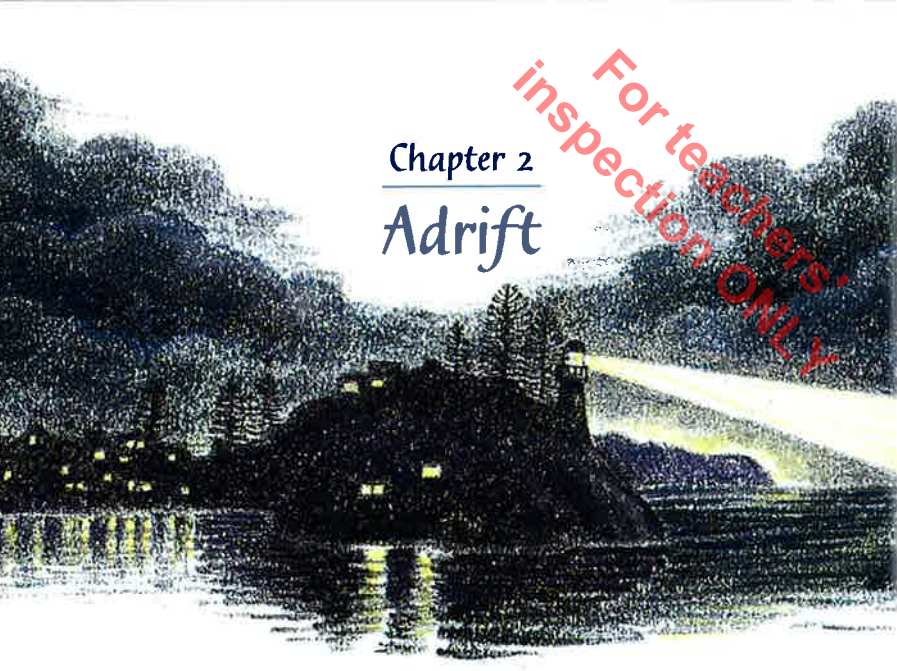
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"I... I think so?" Kristie stammered. The twins were shocked. They checked the deck. Everything seemed fine and, as the pitching of the yacht slowed to a gentle roll, they began to feel better.

"Yes... we're fine..." Jeremy called out. He looked across to the fishing boat that was now sweeping them with a bright searchlight.

"Sorry! We didn't see you. We hit your mooring buoy." The man at the end of the light was calmer now as he realised a major collision had been avoided. The light snapped off and once again the twins heard the powerful *thump thump* as the fishing boat headed out of the bay.





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Chapter 2

Adrift

"We'd better stay on deck," said Kristie, who was still shaken. "Mum and Dad won't be long and we can shine the flashlight on the mast when we hear them coming."

The twins sat on the cabin roof and looked over towards the settlement. Jeremy shivered, but he wasn't cold. He was ready for an adult to come back and take charge.

"Jez..."

"What...?"

"Look over to the lighthouse. It seems to be going behind the hill," said Kristie.