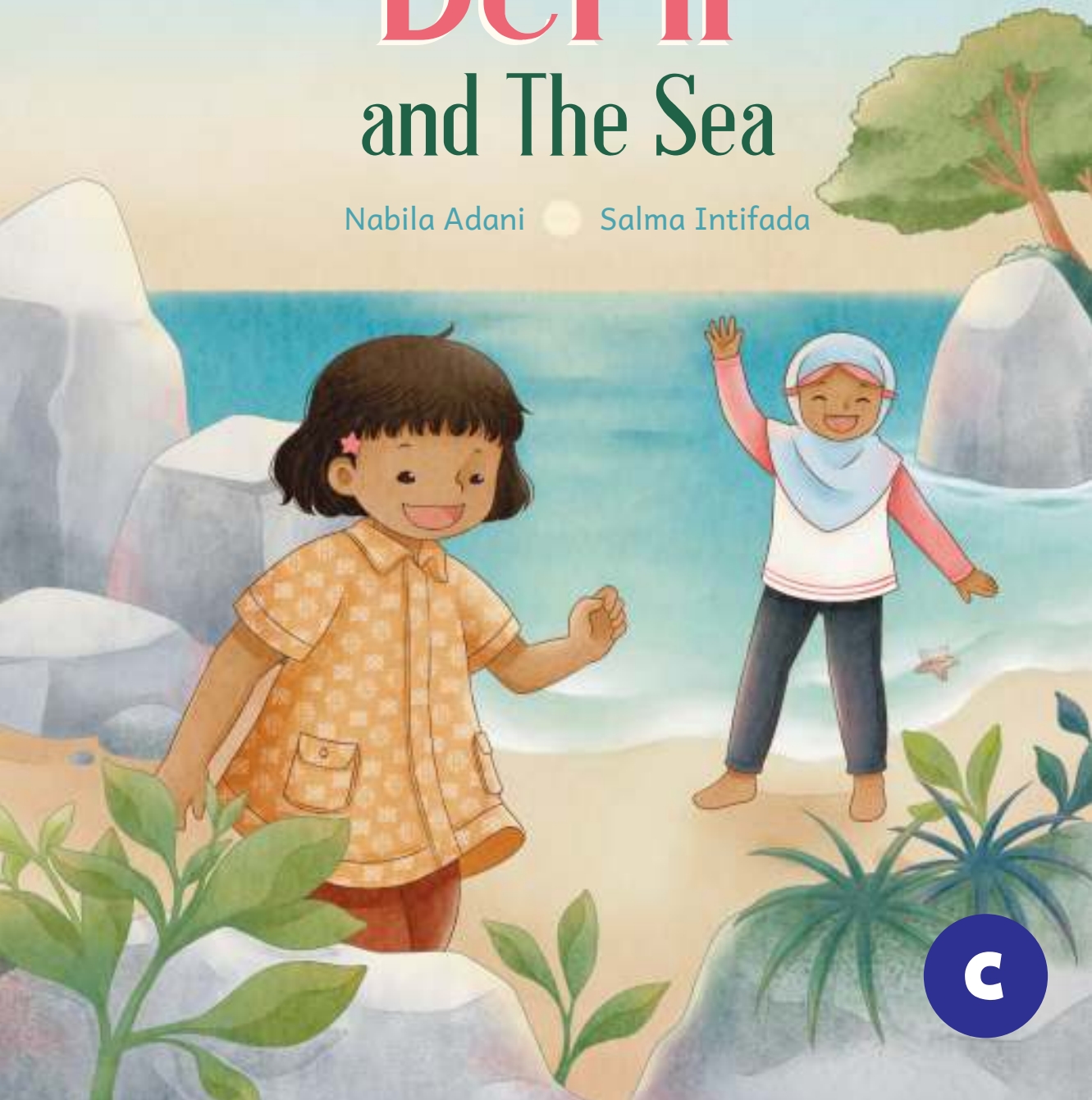




MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, RESEARCH, AND TECHNOLOGY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
2024

Berli and The Sea

Nabila Adani ● Salma Intifada





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OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
2024

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Nabila Adani & Salma Inthifada

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Message from the Head of Center for Book Affairs

Hello, My Dear Readers! Greetings!

This awesome book is especially for you.

You can listen to or read the interesting story in this book and also in the other books that are available to you. These books will help you be active, make friends and share as well as learn from your surroundings. The stunning illustrations will help you understand each storyline. Hope you enjoy reading these books and become more passionate about reading.

Happy reading!

Head of Center for Book Affairs

Supriyatno, S.Pd., M.A

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Chapter 1

My Bestfriend, Rasi

School tie, check! Pencil case and notebooks, check! All are ready and safe in my backpack. Oops, I almost forgot the most important thing! My favorite snack to bring to school, shrimp paste flavoured seaweed pilus! It's made of tapioca flour mixed with seaweed and of course shrimp

paste. It's a little spicy and a little savory, but sweet at the same time. Crunchy! When you eat it, it makes a sound like crunch-crunch-crunch! It's so tasty that I often don't realize I have eaten a whole jar!

This seaweed pilus is even more special because it is one of the favorite snacks in our shop, *Toko Andalan*.

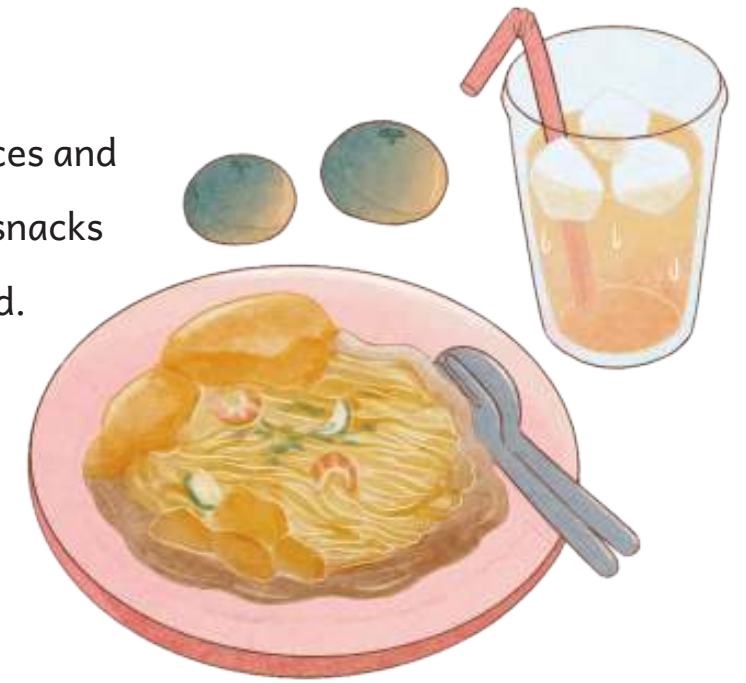
Our shop produces and sells processed snacks made from seaweed.

My dad usually buys seaweed directly from the seaweed farmers around where we live, in Belitung. He also helps develop recipes for processed seaweed snacks.

As for my mom, she is the accountant, making financial plans for production and sales targets.

Lately, Mom and Dad often talk about reduced seaweed production and its declining quality. I don't know why it's happening, but I'm not worried. This shop has become a pillar of the community as its name, *Andalan*, suggests, so there must be a way.

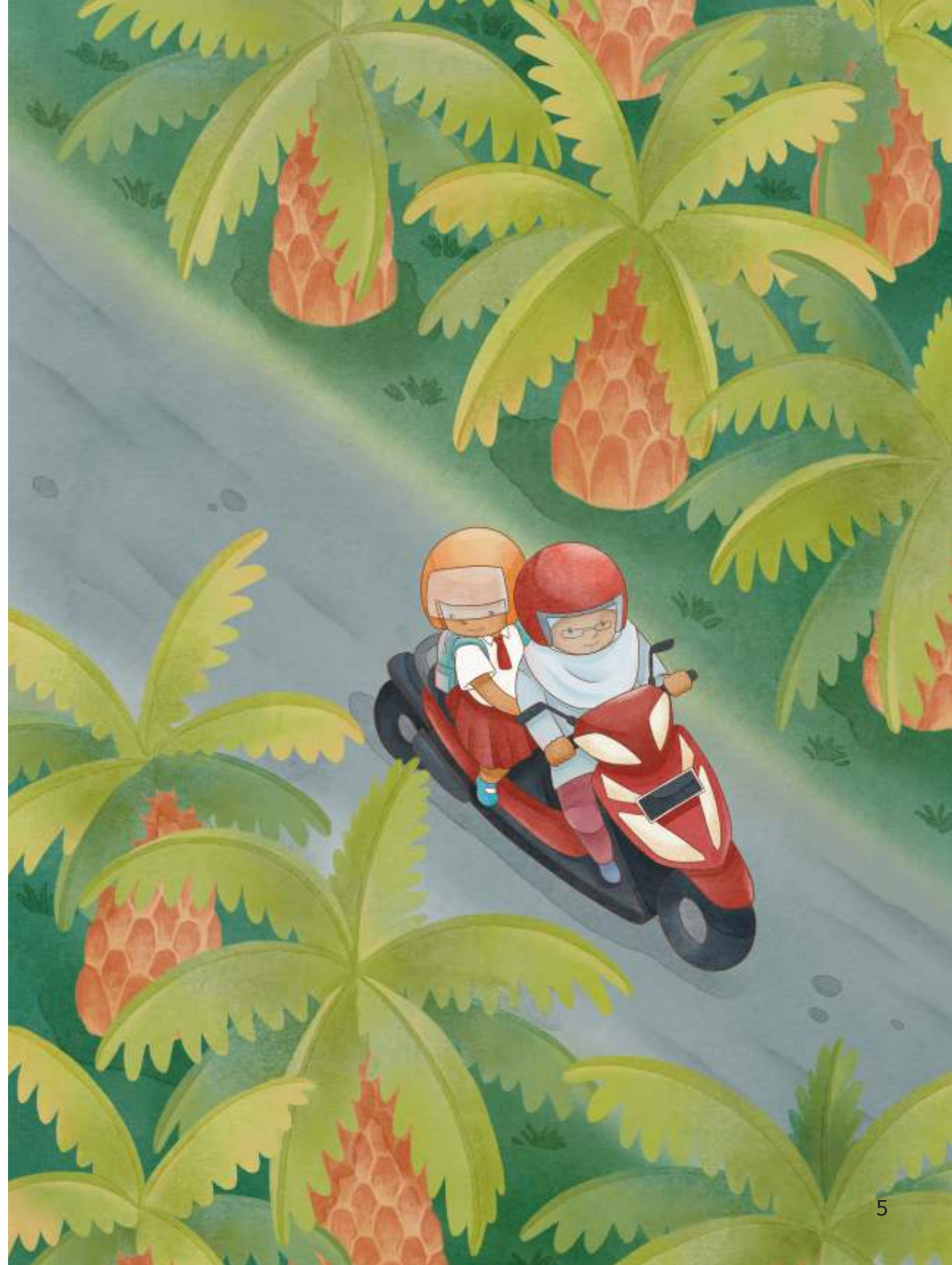
Slurp-slurp. After eating Belitung noodles and drinking my favorite iced Calamansi juice, I kiss Mom and Dad's hands and leave for school straight away.



Beep beep! I hear *Mak Ute*'s motorbike horn. She's a middle aged woman who works at our shop. *Mak Ute* is getting ready to take me to school. After dropping me at school, *Mak Ute* will deliver goods to our distributors and customers.

Off I go! It's a beautiful sunny day. Along the way, *Mak Ute*'s motorbike drives right between the palm trees on our left and right.

Oh no, I forgot to bring the school hat for the flag hoisting ceremony! I left it to dry under the sun yesterday. It should be the dry season, but it's been raining for the last few weeks. Hopefully, the rainy season will end quickly so that my best friend Rasi and I can play on the beach again.



After I arrive at school, I immediately run to the class to meet Rasi. I see her smiling at me.

“Berli! Hurry up. Let’s go to the courtyard. The ceremony is about to start!” Rasi urged me.

“Wait a minute. I want to put my bag away first. And I forgot to bring my hat again!”

“Jeez, not again...! Let me see. I think I have a spare one in the drawer. Here it is! Wear it.”

“Aw, thanks! You are truly my best friend, my absolute best friend in the world!”

“Pay me back with a pack of seaweed pilus, okay?”

“What? I thought you were being sincere. So, there’s a string attached?” I joked, “But, for you I’d do anything!”



Chapter 2

Panning for Tin

Brrring! The school bell rang. Rasi and I immediately got ready to run out of the classroom. We just couldn't wait. Ever since the class started, we really wanted to play and swim on the beach.

Rasi's father was already waiting in front of the school gate. He works as a laborer in a tin mine, but he always makes time to pick her up. After that, he will go back to the mine to pan for tin ore.

Rasi's family used to grow pepper, cassava and other vegetables in their garden. However, since tin mining began to operate on the island, their garden was often flooded. The floods ruined their garden.

Finally, Rasi's father had to go to work in the tin mines. His job was to pan for tin or wash the tin chunks with a bamboo sieve.

Rasi came over to where her father was working and asked for his permission to come to my house this afternoon, and he nodded in agreement.

Yeay! That made me so happy! "See you at four, okay?" I shouted.

It doesn't take long and I hear *Mak Ute's* familiar motorbike horn "Beep beep!"

"Berli! Come on!"

I quickly hop onto *Mak Ute's* motorbike, and she starts to drive away.



Chapter 3

A New Friend

Eighty divided by two.... Hmm... division.... always confuse me.

“Forty!”

I look around searching for the person who has just given the answer. She is apparently a customer in the shop, a young girl. She looks like a university student because she’s wearing a jacket with a university logo on it.

She’s smiling at me, and I smile back at her. Not simply believing her answer, I use the calculator on the counter. Uh, she’s right! I then write down a four then a zero next to it.



“The total is one hundred thousand rupiah,” Mom said, smiling across the cashier’s counter. The young lady opened her wallet.

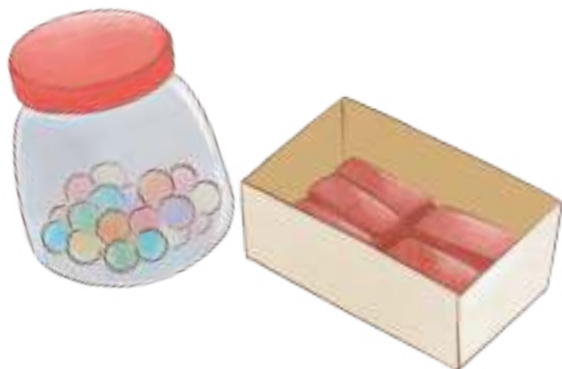
“Apart from cash, you can also pay with electronic money or transfers,” Mom explained with a big smile.

“Oh can I? Ok, ma’am. I’ll use QRIS. Is that OK?”

Cha-ching! Mom handed me a tiny piece of paper with a QR code printed on it. The young lady scanned the code with her cell phone.

“Do you need a cardboard box to put everything in, Miss?” asked Mother. “Oh yes, Ma’am, please,” she replied.

“Berli, please help load all the groceries into the box,” Mom asked me, and I quickly obeyed.



“Where are you from, *Kak*?” I asked, calling her *Kak* as she’s older than me, while helping to load the groceries and arrange them in the cardboard box.

“I’m from Bandung,” she answered.

“Ooh, are you on holiday here, *Kak*?”

“Ha-ha-ha I wish... I’m doing an internship here, *Dik*,” she replied, calling me that since I’m younger.

An internship is when university students apply what they’ve learned in a work setting. It is a kind of on the job training so the students will be ready to work after graduation.

I handed her the cardboard box that had been neatly wrapped and taped.

“Here are your groceries, *Kak*,” I said, handing over the box.

“Thank you, *Dik*. See you soon!”



“Berlii!!” I heard the voice I’d been waiting for. I smiled expectantly at Mom.

“Mom, I’ve finished my homework. Can I play with Rasi, please?”

As soon as Mom said yes, I got up and ran to meet Rasi, who had been waiting outside, and we hurried to the beach.



Chapter 4

What Happened to the Sea?

Finally, it's the weekend! I pull up my blanket and plan to continue sleeping, but then I heard my Dad's voice calling me... "Ber, Berli...!"

Oftentimes Dad and I go for morning walks on the beach and greet the seaweed farmers.

"Come on, Ber, it's late already and it's a very hot day. Let's go for a healthy morning walk. Come on!"

"Ok ok" I reluctantly and slowly get out of my bed.



While walking along the beach, Dad came up to the seaweed farmers who were working, while I took shelter under a coconut tree. Suddenly I saw a familiar face waving her hand at me.

"Hi, Dik. We meet again!"

I tried hard to remember who she was.

"I shopped at Toko Andalan yesterday!"

"Oh, yes I remember!"

"My name is Alin," she introduced herself.

"Nice to meet you, Kak Alin. What are you doing here?"

I blurted out.

"I am measuring seawater temperature at the moment."



“Seawater temperature?”

I asked, eager to know more.

“Yup, because I’d like to find out whether the sea is healthy or not.”

“Huh, can the sea really get sick?” I asked in surprise.

Kak Alin laughed. She then explained that the temperature of the seawater greatly affects the life in it. An ideal sea surface temperature for this area ranges from 27 to 31 degrees Celsius.

“At those temperatures various types of plants and animals in the sea can live well. Good sea temperature conditions also make the ecosystems

more balanced so that the risks of storms, erosion, and other disasters is reduced,”

explained Kak Alin.



“Oh I see. What’s the temperature of the sea now, Kak?” I asked curiously.

“Right now it’s an average of 31.5 degrees Celsius.”

“That’s only a 0.5 difference from the ideal one. Which means it’s still safe, right?” I said confidently.

Kak Alin looked at me seriously. “Marine biota, such as coral reefs and seaweed, is very sensitive to changes in temperature, even if it’s only half a degree.”

Uh, seaweed? No wonder seaweed harvests have been decreasing lately and the seaweed quality has been poor.

“Well, then what should we do, Kak?” I asked, feeling confused.

Before she could answer me, Kak Alin was called away by someone who looked like her lecturer. Before she left, she promised to answer my question the next time we met.

In the meantime, I still found it hard to accept the fact that the sea near my hometown was unwell.

Chapter 5

Promoting Environmental Awareness?

When I got home, I quickly turned on my tablet to find out more about the increase in sea temperature. During the pandemic last year, I had to do distance learning, and Dad gave me this gadget as my birthday present.

Wow, it turns out that even a slight increase in seawater temperature is very dangerous! The increase will endanger not only marine animals and plants, but also humans. I just have to tell my friends about this!

I remember helping my mother and Mak Ute make advertisements for promoting our shop on social media. Aha! I can do the same thing to let people know that they need to take care of the sea and warn other people about the rising temperature of the seawater.

“*Mak Ute*, about yesterday’s photos, what are they for?”

Mak Ute looked at me with a confused look on her face.

“You know, when we took photos of the snacks that we had arranged and decorated.”

“Oh, those are product photos for promoting our shop.”

I then asked *Mak Ute*’s advice on how to promote environmental awareness, making people aware of the danger of the rising seawater temperature.





Mak Ute suggested I create a social media account first and give it a unique name to attract attention. She told me that after I created the account, I had to start writing messages to educate people about the sea. These messages are called content.

To make the content and the account more interesting, I needed to provide a profile photo and also a simple logo which is a combination of images and writing.

“That way, people will find it easy to remember both your account and the content you make!” advised *Mak Ute*. After that, I spent all day making a logo and a name for my account, drawing and scribbling them on paper. It turned out that choosing a name was difficult.

After spending quite some time, I finally decided to use the name *Jaga Laut*, or *Sea Defender*, because I wanted to defend the health of the sea and keep the water temperature safe.

Now that I had a name for the account, I needed a profile picture. What would be a catchy picture for the account?





Rasi and I love eating seaweed snacks. I also really enjoy looking for starfish with Rasi. Ah, that's it! I will use a starfish here.

I also added eyes and a smiling mouth on the starfish. Ha ha ha, that's just too cute!

Now, what should my message be? Oh, I remember there are pictures of the beach across from our house. Whoa, there is also a photo of hatchlings, or baby turtles. Alright, this is good! I added the words "Let's Love Them". Click! I pressed the upload button.

A familiar voice greeted me, "Berli, what are you doing?"

"Hi Rasi, come here quickly. I have just created a social media account. Follow my account, please?"

I told her about my new account, Jaga Laut. She quickly made an account for herself and followed mine. I also invited Mom and Mak Ute to follow Jaga Laut. I was pretty sure there would be a lot of followers tomorrow! Ah, the joy!

Chapter 6

Clicked and Uploaded!

This morning I woke up feeling excited and immediately checked the account I made yesterday. I also made some very cool posts with awesome photos. Surely I have more followers now.

I hit the follower button, uh... only three followers? Rasi, Mom, and Mak Ute. Geez, I made such cool posts with very important information!

Huh, what is this? I'm looking at another account. It only contains sleeping cats, but it has more than ten thousand followers! I just don't understand. I feel pretty disappointed.

But, I'm not discouraged at all. I immediately remember that the social media account for our shop also had very few followers at first. However,



Mom and Mak Ute used various strategies so that many people saw the account.

I returned to consult with Mak Ute. She gave some suggestions for making my posts different from others with unique post titles to attract attention. Aargh, that's difficult! Making posts that people like is certainly tricky.

I think I'll just go and play on the beach first.

"Hello, *Dik!* We meet again!" It was *Kak Alin*.

"Hi *Kak!*" I replied happily.

I immediately told her about the social media account I had made. She was very happy to hear about it.

She told me again about the warming seawater temperature caused by excessive mining, and other offshore activities that were not properly controlled.

I then remember the many mines on Belitung Island. There are tin and sand mines, but tin mining is definitely the biggest. Aha! I just had another great idea!



“Kak, I’m going home now.”

I quickly ran home. At home, I started looking for photos about tin mines that I could upload onto my account.

There it is! Wow, look at the ground! It’s so brown!

Several years ago, it used to be an orchard with lots of durian trees. Rasi and I sometimes liked to play there. But now, there are no more durian trees.

No wonder Rasi’s family garden was damaged and flooded. Alright! I will just upload it with a red X and bold red writing STOP TIN MINING. I also added some photos of landslides, floods and erosion to go with the first one.

I added several lines of hashtags on the posts such as #eastbelitung #stoptinmining #dangerous #seadefender #globalwarming Clicked and uploaded!



Bab 7

A Commotion!

At school, I couldn't wait to share my brilliant ideas with Rasi.

"Rasi!" But, why did she frown like that at me? She even looked away!

"Rasi, what's wrong with you?"

She kept quiet. I saw a lot of notifications on my tablet. Wow, finally! My social media engagement increased a lot. Huh, wait a minute. How come there were so many bad comments? I was just telling the truth.

I heard some friends talking about my account, Jaga Laut. But, they didn't say anything good about my posts. They were against them.

It turns out that a lot of my friends' parents work in tin mining,

and their lives depend on it. I guess that's why they are upset about my posts. I feel so guilty.

"Hey Berli! Why did you upload content like that? I am so disappointed! I followed your account just like you asked me to. But, you're even against my father's work!" She was so angry at me.

I tried to defend myself. I told her not to be selfish. I told her about the rising sea temperature that had caused the decreasing harvest of seaweed. I told her that because of that, my parents found it difficult to produce seaweed snacks. The mining has also damaged the environment and threatened marine plants and animals.

Rasi's face immediately turned red, and her nostrils flared! I have never seen Rasi that angry. She ran to the front of the class and shouted, "Everyone listen, that Jaga Laut account belongs to Berli!"

Immediately, the students, especially those whose parents are miners, greeted this news with boos and hisses. My face was hot, and my heart was beating so fast.





Luckily the school bell rang soon after the commotion, and the teacher entered the class. I felt like I wanted to disappear.

Today's school felt unusually long! I quickly ran out of the classroom, staying away from Rasi! I could see her out of the corner of my eye while waiting to be picked up. We both looked away and avoided each other. After I arrived home, I put away my bag and went to sit down on the beach to calm myself down.

I feel so sad. My best friend Rasi only thinks about herself! I do regret creating that account! But, I just wanted to help. My parents look so worried nowadays because the seaweed production is below target because of frequent harvest failures.



“Hi!” I heard a familiar voice.

It was *Kak Alin*. She said that she had followed my account, *Jaga Laut*. She was also very happy that the account had gained more and more followers. This made me feel a little better, but I told her I was going to delete the account. I had lost my best friend because of it.

Kak Alin told me she could understand the whole situation. But, at the same time she regretted my decision to delete the account.



Bab 8

A Cool Post

Rasi and I haven't said anything to each other at school for the last few days. It's a very unpleasant feeling. When I tried to look at her, she quickly turned her face away. Typical Rasi, only thinking about herself.

After school as usual I went to play on the beach. Ah, I found a starfish! Usually Rasi and I would count how many starfish we found. Whoever found more wins! Too bad, Rasi is not with me now.

Aargh, I've lost my best friend because of this account! I'll delete it as soon as I get home!



When I got home, I immediately took my tablet. I clicked open my social media application, Jaga Laut. I was about to click the delete button, but then I noticed...

Wow, there were a lot of notifications! A Lot of new followers! Their comments also made my heart feel better, unlike a few days ago.

I got excited again and started looking for ideas to make cool posts. I went back surfing in cyberspace looking for various ways to protect the environment, especially the sea.

I found a lot of information about plastic waste that pollutes the sea. Plastics can take anywhere from 50 to 100 years to decompose. The plastics thrown into the sea are mistaken for food by fish, and it's very dangerous for the fish to consume them! They can even be poisonous!



I have to tell Dad! Our store still uses single-use plastics.

When I told him about the dangers of plastics, he nodded in agreement. That reminded him of his friend who makes plastic from seaweed, which is called Biopac. This kind of plastic can decompose easily.

After our talk, Dad tried to order it because he wanted to start using it in our shop to replace the normal plastic bags.

Whoa, I'm in awe of technology. I never knew that seaweed could be made into plastic!

I began writing tips and ideas for alternatives to single-use plastic bags. One of them is definitely plastic made from seaweed, or Biopac. I also added clear and attractive images to decorate my uploads.



Fabric dyes and the fashion industry also contribute a lot of hazardous waste. But, I remember Mom once bought this traditional fabric, Batik, at a shop selling typical Belitung Batik near our house. The clothes sold there are very colorful, but the colors are made from natural ingredients from plants.

Oh, they are so beautiful! I will just upload photos of this colourful fabric with some informative messages. Clicked and uploaded!

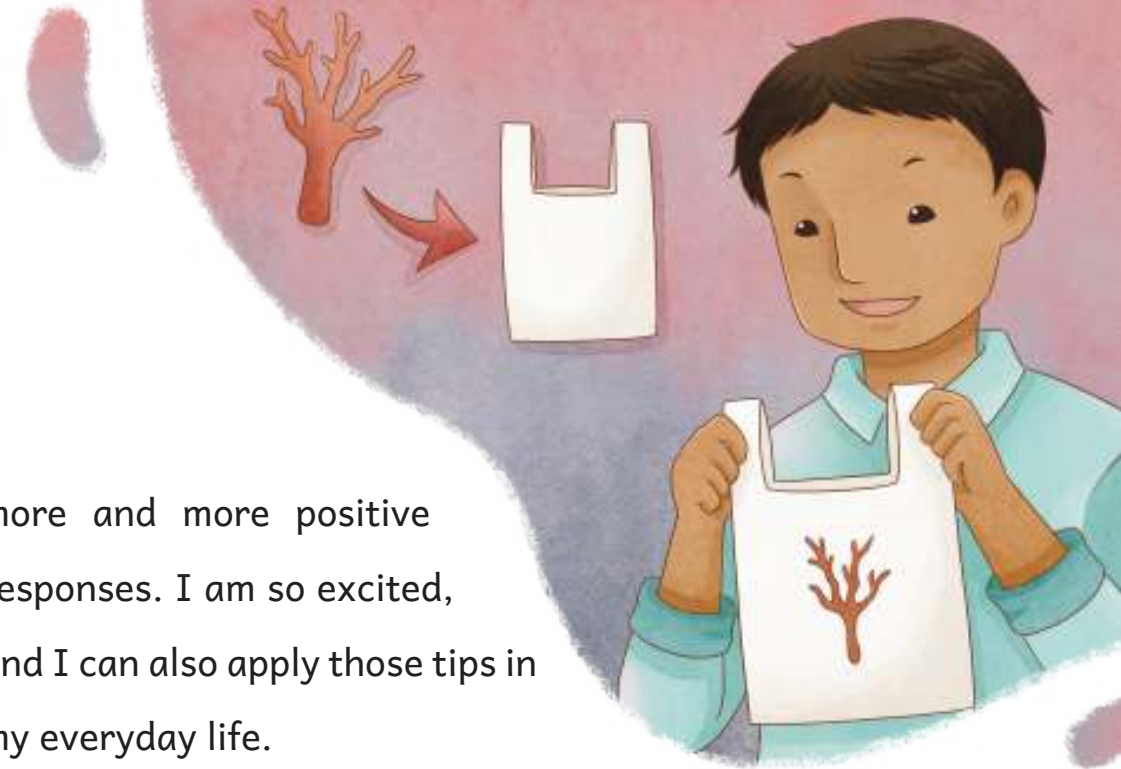
Since posting about those informative messages for protecting the sea, my account has received

more and more positive responses. I am so excited, and I can also apply those tips in my everyday life.

Even now we use plastic bags made from seaweed for packaging in our family shop, Andalan.

But, something is still bothering me. I'm still not friends with Rasi.

I was munching on my favorite seaweed pilus snack, thinking of some ideas for my new posts which made me think about Rasi. This is her favorite snack, too. I remember one day before we went snorkeling, we finished three packs so quickly!



I also remember how Rasi used to remind me not to touch coral reefs and not to take starfish out of the seawater for too long.

It's not that Rasi doesn't care about the environment. Maybe my way of reminding her about taking care of the environment was wrong, making her feel annoyed.

I decided to post some tips on snorkeling and diving, and say 'thank you' to Rasi for reminding me not to disturb marine animals. Clicked and uploaded! Not long after, a notification appeared, "Rasi liked your upload".



Bab 9

Rasi's Smile

Looking at Rasi's like on my post yesterday gave me the courage to talk to her. I also brought a pack of Rasi's favorite snack, seaweed pilus. I apologized for what I said. I told her that I really felt guilty for accusing her of being selfish.

Rasi smiled! She also apologized for overreacting the other day. She told me that her father was no longer working in the tin mining industry because he had taken part in a protest.

Rasi's father said that since there was excessive mining, the price of tin has fallen. The tin supply exceeded its demand.

Because of the surplus of tin, it is being sold at a very low price. Instead of

reducing mining activity, tin mine owners even asked the miners to work harder. Working hours became longer, but their wages were also cut to cover the owners' losses.

The miners then became restless and tried to complain about their situation to the management of the mining company. Unfortunately, their complaints were ignored. Their treatment remained unchanged, even after a miner had an accident while working.

The miners then demonstrated against the tin company and went on strike. Unfortunately, this action caused the miners to be laid off.

The company believed that there were still many other people who needed jobs and were ready to replace the miners.

I got really sad when hearing that, but Rasi told me not to worry. Her father has now found a new and much better job.

Bab 10

The Sea Defender

One afternoon, while playing on the beach with Rasi, I met Kak Alin again. She said she would be going home tonight. She also advised us to continue to be passionate about protecting the environment through my account, Jaga Laut, because when nature is damaged, it is humans themselves who will lose.

“We need people who care about the environment, not only in Belitung and Indonesia but also in the whole world!” she continued. Rasi and I smiled broadly and agreed.

I saw Rasi’s father from a distance walking from the direction of our family’s shop, waving his hand. It turns out that now her father works as a tour guide. He is taking his guests to buy souvenirs at our shop.

Belitung is a beautiful island with many natural wonders that bring a lot of tourists to our island.

“How about if my dad posts messages of hope about taking care of the environment on the Jaga Laut account? Along with his hopes for the future?” Rasi asked suddenly. Without hesitation, I said yes.

At first her father was a bit reluctant because he felt it was inappropriate. However, he finally agreed after we explained it to him.

Rasi and I got ready to shoot a short clip and looked for a background with good lighting. I will interview Rasi’s father and she will record it.

“Okay, are you ready?” Rasi asked me “Ok!” I replied. “3, 2, 1.. Action!”





A Message to Our Readers

Dear readers, have you ever played on a beach and swam in the sea? Everyone everywhere is very dependent on the existence of the sea.

Did you know that even if you never see or touch the sea directly, the sea is always with you? With every breath you take! In every drop of water you drink! Even in every bite of your food!

All things in the sky and on earth, both on land and in the sea, are created in balance and are connected to one another. So, let's keep the balance on earth and keep loving our sea!

Regards,
Nabila and Salma





Nabila Adani is an illustrator and children's book writer. Apart from illustrating, Nabila is active in non-profit activities that focus on children's education and the welfare of the elderly with the Atamma Foundation.

Author & Visual Editor



Salma Intifada was born and grew up in Yogyakarta. Her love for manga (Japanese comics) led her to continue her studies in Kyoto, Japan. Returning from the land of cherry blossoms, Salma fell in love with the world of writing children's books. She was determined to continue practicing drawing, writing, and producing works, whether in the form of children's books, comics, or animation. Her daily life is now spent on entrepreneurship, creating new works, and occasionally traveling. She can be contacted through her Instagram account @s.intifadha.

Illustrator



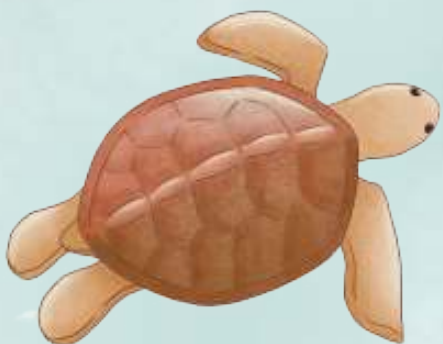
Bambang Trim has been an author and editor for children's books since 1995. He graduated from Editing studies, as well as Indonesian studies at Universitas Padjajaran. He still writes and edits children's book, a job that has become his passion. He can be contacted at bambangtrim72@gmail.com. Have a look at his work at www.penulispro.id

Manuscript Editor



Damar Sasongko has loved children's books and comics ever since he was young. In 2014, he decided to work in the publishing world. Since then he has helped with the publication of hundreds of books as a designer, art director, or editor. Right now, he is pursuing the art of printmaking. Say hello to him on Instagram @kaoskutang

Designer



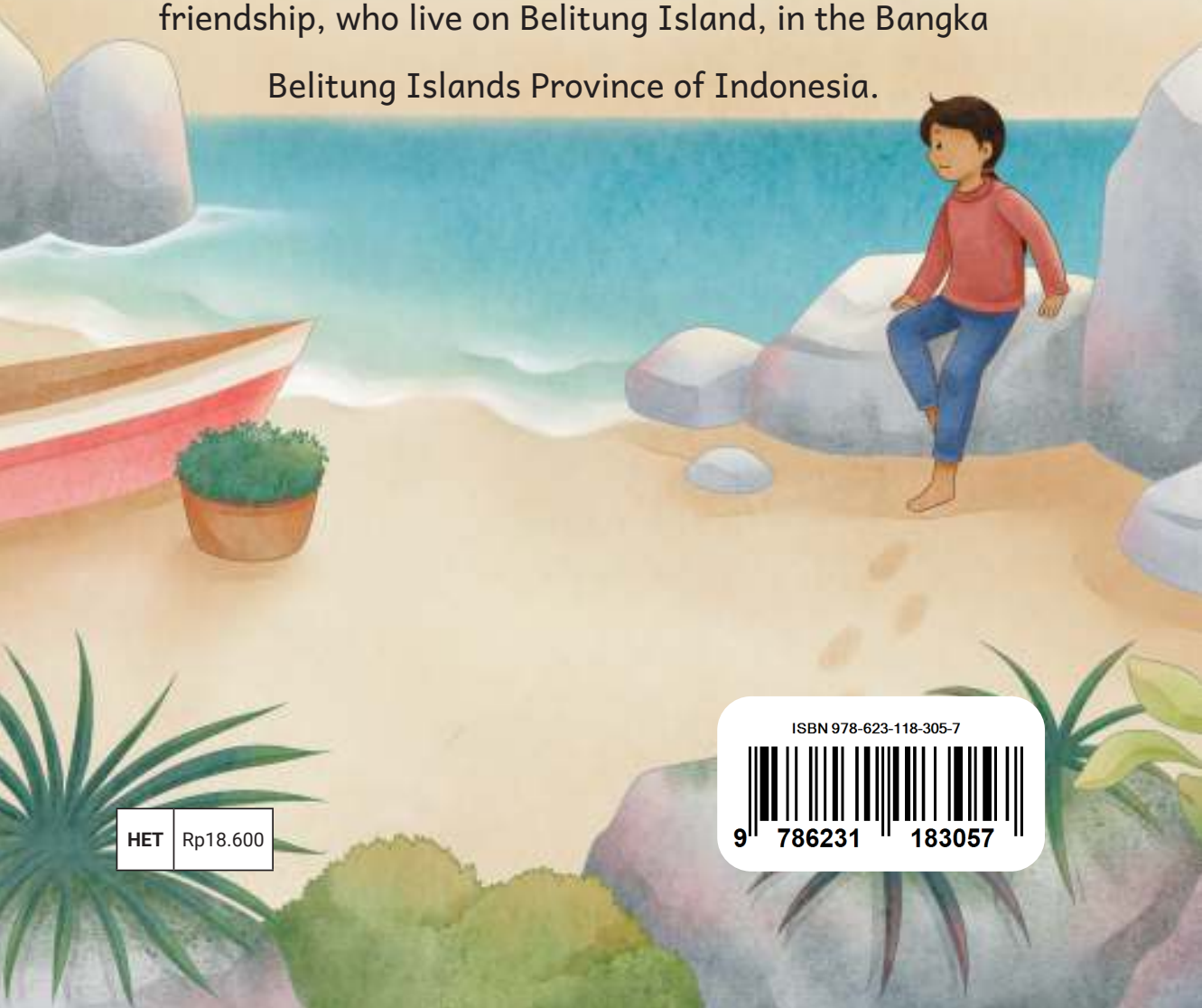
Well, isn't the story fun? You can read the other three books that are also fascinating.

These are the books. Happy reading!



Berli was worried because the seaweed harvest in her hometown was decreasing. She had an idea. She posted something on her social media. The post unexpectedly made her famous, but her best friend, Rasi, didn't seem to like it. What happened?

This story book will help you understand more about digital literacy. The book also tells about Berli and Rasi's friendship, who live on Belitung Island, in the Bangka Belitung Islands Province of Indonesia.



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