

The background is a watercolor illustration of a sunset. At the top, there is a horizontal band of pink and purple. Below this is a large, bright yellow semi-circle representing the sun. The bottom half of the image is filled with various shades of blue and green, representing the sky and water. The colors are blended and have a soft, painterly texture.

The Journey Of Green Island

Winners:

Milla S, Eliza H, Jess H, Jada P, Sophie R, Sophie P, Isabella S,
Laura W, Charlotte L

Contents Page

Chapter 1 Adventure Awaits:

Chapter 2 The Resort:

Chapter 3 The Sunrise:

Chapter 4 A New Friend:

Chapter 5 Shallow Waters:

Chapter 6 Reality:

Message of Goodwill

Even though everything may seem hard right now, you will be able to get through this. We have written this book to hopefully brighten up a child's day, a child who is going through a rough time. We wish them all the best and to get better soon. Though every day may not be a good day there is something good in every day. You will not be in this situation forever. You just need to dig deep and keep fighting. You will be able to overcome this, and you have the rest of your life to experience things that are similar to what happens in this book. You are so strong you have got this! On behalf of the Loreto College Community we wish you a bright future!

Chapter One- Adventure Awaits

I am sitting on the top deck of the shining new ferry with my dad, slowly gliding across the ocean to a little-known island just off the coast of Cairns, called Green island. The wind is brushing softly against my face splashing droplets of water on me. I peer over the horizon to see an island coated with white sand and lush green forests. I hear my dad's voice, "Cleo, please be careful near the rails, you don't want to get hurt. Our adventure hasn't even started yet." I back away from the railing and slide along the perfectly oiled deck until I reach my father. I sit down next to him and lean on his arm. His warm coat warms up my cold face. I can hear his heart beating, and by the smile on his face, I can tell he is excited for the days to come.

My dad is an astronomer and a very proud one. He always reminds us of how little we know about our universe and what lies out there waiting for us to discover. He is also an incredibly proud dad to my sister, Emma and me. Our mother left us when we were just toddlers, and so my dad has to look after us by himself. Unfortunately, this means he is a bit overprotective of us. It's always "don't get too close Cleo!" Or "make sure to call me after!" Each day is filled with countless moments of me being too young to do things myself. I'm always determined to prove to him that I am responsible and that I don't need him protecting me, but I guess he just doesn't want to lose me like he lost my mum. I'm not going to make a big deal about it for the sake of this holiday, because this is an excellent chance for dad and me to bond. I **skipped** school to come

here on this adventure and look at the stars with my dad, and I don't want anything to ruin it.

As we near the long and sturdy jetty and get closer to land, I can distinguish more and more objects on the island such as the seashells, which are scattered along the pure white sand that forms the beach. The grains are so intricate and carefully placed around the outside of the island. Paired with the bold green trees and shrubs, it is the perfect painting amidst a crystal blue **canvas**.

We disembark the ferry and take our first steps onto the grey wood, a strong wave of heat and the smell of the salty seawater hits me, and our adventure begins.

Chapter Two- The resort

We arrive at our resort. It is a beautiful building. Everyone seems so relaxed and happy. The entrance is surrounded by glass windows, and the outside pool is as transparent as the sea at the nearby beach. We find our room and unpack our small bags. I have my own room! It is clean and smells just like the ocean. Through the large windows, I can see the green trees creating a barrier around the resort, it is like a hidden oasis. After I finish putting away my clothes, I grab my dad's phone and begin going through my well-prepared list of things to do on the island. I check off unpacking and move onto the next item on the list; snorkelling. I put on my bathers and tell my dad to do the same.

We leave the resort at around three o'clock, making our way through the beautiful island forests to the beach. The hum of the birds and insects is loud and continues to get louder as we walk further into the lush, green forest. As we enter the secluded beach, I can only see a few people. It is

so sunny and warm. Even from a distance, I can see the clear water and the stunning coral reefs. We are met by the snorkelling instructor, who has a son that looks to be around my age. The snorkelling instructor introduces himself, and then the son does. “Hi, I’m Sebastian,” the boy says to me, and I reply awkwardly with my name. We stare at each other for a few long seconds before we are interrupted by his dad calling me over to get my snorkel.

After a brief introduction, we swim out into the sparkling water, surrounded by colourful coral reefs and schools of fish. The sights are breathtaking. We are so close to all the bright and beautiful fish who are swimming amongst the coral reef. Then suddenly, I spot a turtle. The way it moves through the water is mesmerizing. We watch it, captivated as it swims past. I never want to leave the water. It is warm, quiet and incredibly peaceful. I feel as if I’m drifting through the sea, part of an incredible underwater **community** full of enchanting sea creatures. My dad signals to me that it is time to leave. Though I don’t want to, I come up to the surface, the warm afternoon sun rays touching my face, and I swim back to the beach alongside my dad.

Chapter Three- The Sunrise

We head back to the resort; snorkelling was a life-changing experience. The resort is beautiful at night with bright fairy lights lining the building. The pool looks like it is glowing in the dark and as we pass it while walking back to our room, I dip my toes in, feeling the warm water. I ask dad if I can go for a swim and after a long pause he finally says, “I’m tired and I want to go to bed, but just this once I’ll trust you to be responsible and go swimming by yourself.”

I still have my damp bathers on from snorkelling earlier, and I am so excited to get into the glowing water that I don't even bother getting a towel from upstairs. I jump straight in with a big splash. The pool water is warm and relaxing, a great way to end the day. After an hour of swimming, I finally get out with wrinkles all over my skin. I have no towel to put on, so the soft night breeze is cold on my wet skin. When I'm somewhat dry, I walk upstairs through the quiet and empty resort to my bedroom and have a shower to rinse off the chlorine from the pool water. I sneak into my bed as quietly as possible to try not to disturb my dad's sleep. I am so lucky to be on this island with my dad, and I can't wait for another fantastic day tomorrow.

I wake to the sound of my alarm blaring loudly in my ear, causing my heart to jump out of my chest and my ears to have a monotone ring. It's five o'clock in the morning. The sky is jet black with only a faint blur of light on the horizon, but it is precisely the time I wanted to get up. I step out onto the cold flagstones of the balcony outside and feel the fresh, warm air. I lean against the white picket barrier awaiting the sunrise. Eventually, in what seems like no time at all, the sky is filling with soft shades of light purple and blues which turn into orange and pink. I sit peacefully and contently watching it, studying it. The colours are so angelic. This sunrise is a perfect example of **magic**, and I don't want the spell to wear off. Alas, not everything can last forever. I sit for a few minutes just taking in all the natural beauty around me. Then I wander inside and grab my dad's phone again. I sit on my bed and plan the day ahead.

Chapter Four- A New Friend

Still overcome with drowsiness and sleep, I run through the itinerary with Dad. The first thing we do is get breakfast. We trudge down to the café across from the resort. I devour my serving of pancakes, eager to start the day and get ready for our next item on the list; hiking. I am incredibly excited for the day ahead, and I am looking forward to a challenging walk filled with beautiful scenery. I rush to put my best hiking outfit on and get ready to tackle the hardest of hiking trails. We continue walking for a long time, passing many unusual animals and plants, which my Dad is especially interested in.

Eventually, I get bored of strolling and decide to run ahead. I jog along the trail for a good 5 minutes until my heart is thumping, and my legs feel as if they are about to fall off. I stop, catching my breath and turn around trying to see if my Dad has followed me deep into the forest, but as I try and spot him, the tall, strong figure is no-where to be seen. As I call out his name repeatedly and run back a few metres in a state of panic, no answer is replied. I stop and bend down to place my hands on my knees and try to calm myself down for a second. When I reach a fork in the road that I remember running past before, I breathe in and out deeply, trying to remember which path I took. As hard as I try, I can't remember which one it is. I stare blankly and try not to worry. 'He'll come' I reassure myself, and I wander around, panicking. I start running down one of the paths, as fast as I possibly can, yelling out my Dad's name. When I finally come to a stop, I look all around me for any sign of another person, but there is no one. It is now that I realise that I am no longer on the path, and I'm surrounded by huge trees.

Panic sets in quickly as I become aware that I have no idea where I am. I have entirely lost all sight of the path and don't know which way I came

from, or which way my Dad is. I look around everywhere for a sign that will remind me of the way that I came, of a similar plant that I remember, but it all looks the same to me, the forest around me looks big and daunting. "Dad!" I yell, with no response, starting to get scared. "Hello! Help!" but no one replies. I start walking, and I see the sunlight dimming as it is slowly beginning to set, disappearing from my view and making it harder to see where I am walking.

The realisation of what is happening settles in. I am all alone. I am completely lost. Darkness is rapidly approaching, and I need to find my Dad before the sunsets. I can't help but be scared. Somehow, after walking through the forest for a long while, I see a glimpse of orange light through the cracks in the trees. The sun! I quickly make my way to where the light is coming from and find an opening in the forest, revealing the beach. It is a different part of the beach than where we went snorkelling yesterday. It is completely empty, apart from the fishes and sea creatures. I keep on walking, trying to focus on finding someone to help me find my Dad.

While I'm walking along the beach, I see someone walking towards me in the distance and hope desperately that it's my Dad, so I run over to him. It becomes apparent that it is not my Dad as I get closer and see that he is obviously a small child my age. As the boy comes into view, I know that it's Sebastian, the boy from the snorkel beach yesterday. "Hey, Sebastian!" I call out to him, he looks at me. "Hey, Cleo! You know you can call me Seb." he says.

"Have you seen my dad around?" I reply.

"No, I'm sorry, I haven't lately. Why?"

My stomach drops.

All I've wanted is to find him. I am so scared, and I don't know how to cope without him. I don't know where the resort is or even where I am for that matter. Seb seems to have picked up that I am lost, or at least that something is wrong. He asks if I am ok, I explain my situation, and he nods carefully with a concerned look on his face. He insists on helping me, but I feel bad, I am embarrassed that I'm lost, that I don't even know where my resort is. I think about it for a few seconds and realise that I really do need help and that he is my only hope, so I give in.

"I know where the resort is," he says. "Follow me."

I feel like I have been walking forever. Night-time is soon approaching, and the further I walk, the chance of finding my Dad seems to be decreasing. As Seb and I are walking along the beach with no sense of direction we chat. He tells me all about his life on the island, along with his passion for snorkelling. I tell him about my magical snorkelling experience yesterday, and how lucky he is to live on such a beautiful island. I also tell him about my life back home and how my mum left us alone with my sister and Dad. As the sun is setting, and the sky is becoming purple, dotted with bright shining stars, our hope of finding my Dad is becoming less and less.

Chapter 5- Shallow Water

We spot a **stingray** in the shallow water a few metres in front of us. The stingray appears to be glowing, it's magical. Seb and I enter the shallow waters, and all my worries of being lost in this unfamiliar place melt away. The stingray is friendly, and it stayed near us as we walk on down the beach. It seems to understand me, and I feel as if I understand it too. As we are wading through the shallow yet warm seawater, it follows us. Seb tells me that this is unusual for stingrays, as they are usually solitary animals.

Sunlight is rapidly decreasing, and at this point, all of the worries of being lost are becoming evident yet again. We begin walking, but because it is so dark, Seb can't guide us any longer. We feel defeated. I dig my feet into the sand about to give up when the stingray's glow

becomes strong enough to light the sand in front of us. It's a miracle. We keep going until we find the entrance to the main road. There, we say our goodbyes to the mysterious yet beautiful stingray and soldier on. We are walking along the side of the road in the pitch-black darkness. Flickering streetlights are the only thing that guides our way after that.

We find our way back into society, and from there, we walk around trying to detect a sign of familiarity. Confused and tired, we quickly realise that this is the wrong part of town and we are still lost in the dawning streets of Green island. I turn to Seb, who looks dreary and tired, "what should we do?" I ask.

"Maybe the stingray will still be there?" he replies doubtfully.

"How can we trust that he will lead us to where we want to go? He led to the wrong place this time, what if he does it again?"

"What other choice do we have?"

"Ok, true, I guess we will have to trust him again."

Sebastian nods and pivots in his place, turning back in the direction we came. There is no sound to accompany our trip but the echoes of the crickets and night owls. It's not awkward, though, as we are just determined to make it home, to our beds and our parents. The whole day of walking has left me dehydrated and tired. We eventually make it to the beach where the stingray left us. Our eyes scan the water looking for the fascinating blue glow that we remember from before and spot it swimming quickly away from us. "Run!" I yell loudly, and we run over to it and splash at the water, trying to catch his attention. The stingray stops suddenly and swims around us in a circle. I can feel a special connection between the stingray and us, and we can speak to it as if it understands our language. We ask him for directions, and for a way home to safety.

Within a minute, we are on our way jogging through the water behind it as fast as we can to reach our destination.

We come near a part of the beach that seems extraordinarily familiar and all of a sudden, the stingray stops swimming. Praying that this is where my dad can be found, we run to the shore and up the beach to familiar palm trees that surround our resort. I enter through the main entrance of the resort, and in the far distance, I spot a silhouette that appears to be my dad. I start to sprint as fast as I can even though there is a possibility that it may not be him. My heart is racing, pounding hard in my chest. As I approach the man, I start seeing his facial features. I have finally found him, I thought to myself. Tears of joy started streaming down my cheeks as I give the biggest hug I have ever given in my life. It feels so good to finally be reunited with him, words can't explain the relief and happiness that I feel. Dad looks over my shoulder to see my friend Sebastian. He pulls away,

"Who is that?" he asks.

"This is my friend Seb, remember, from snorkelling?" I reply

"Oh, yes, I remember. Anyway, how did you get lost? I was so worried!"

"It's a long story, but I will explain it. Let's sit down; this could take a while."

We walk over to a bench near some palm trees, and Seb comes with us. I explain how Sebastian helped find the way when it was daylight and then my friend, the stingray helped us in the dark, by using his great glowing powers.

Chapter 6- Reality

After the long and exhausting day was over, my dad and I lay on the grainy white sand looking up to the bright stars speckled across the sky. Dad points out all the different and exciting star formations that light up the sky. He tells me about the Northern cross, the Ursa Minor, the Little Dipper and the Scorpius. He loves the universe so much, and I understand why the sky is incredible. It is one of my favourite things to do, sit outside in the fresh air with my dad, experiencing nature and admiring our universe. I don't want this experience to end. This trip has taught me so much, it has made me realise how much I love my family and how I could never be able to live without them.

The next morning, we wake up bright and early because we have to go home. This is the worst part of the holiday, having to go back. I start to feel my eyes becoming heavy and being unable to keep them open for much longer. Only a few minutes later, I no longer saw the bright white speckles in the sky and am submerged into darkness.

It goes black in an instance. All I can hear is a little murmur of clapping in the background, which becomes a crescendo as the lights start to slowly come on again. All I can see are the outlines of smiling faces in the crowd and hundreds of pairs of hands clapping. I stand from my position on the sand and come to the front of the **stage**. My dad, Seb, the stingray and all the other extras stand next to me. We hold hands and take a bow. I nearly fall over as I do it because I am so disorientated. I was so immersed in my character that I thought that I was Cleo, the lost girl. I look out into the vast crowd that fills our school gym and the sight of this fills a special place in my heart.

Everyone standing there, smiling at us with pure joy. To finish off our massive school the combined year level choir **sings** one last song for our audience. It is divine. The harmonious sound flying through our ears makes us realise how lucky we are. From the sounds coming out of the audience from the claps I can tell that we have done a good job, but it isn't until the curtains shut that I truly realise. I am swarmed by people congratulating me. Apparently, I had the performance of a lifetime. I swear it was real, that I was been transported to the island, but maybe I was just so into my production that it felt like it. I guess I'll never know.

Recommended Age

The recommended age group of this book, "The Journey of Green Island" is 10 years -14 years old.

Roles and Responsibilities

Authors and Editors:

- Eliza Healy
- Milla Swain
- Jada Puglisi
- Sophie Rimes
- Isobella Sheedy
- Charlotte Laing
- Jessica Holliss
- Laura Williams

Illustrator:

- Sophie Poland

Acknowledgment to Sponsors and Helpers

We wanted to say a massive thank you for all the people who helped and sponsored us to get to this point. We are so thankful for all the donations going to this wonderful cause. The money we raised through sponsorship goes to The Kids' Cancer Project who fund vital childhood cancer research.

The published books, such as ours, will be distributed nationally to children suffering cancer in hospital. We have been able to raise over \$500 dollars and counting!

We have to say a big thank you to the following:

- Alex and Annabel Healy
- Anastasia Williams
- Annabel Holliss
- Robert Holliss
- Carylton Brown
- Anthony Laing
- Kim Laing
- Brett Swain
- Chris Swain
- Daniel Healy
- Geoff Lauder
- Jo Healy
- Josie Rimes
- Liz Healy
- Lois McMahon
- Mary Sheedy
- Mary-Anne Healy
- Rebecca Healy
- Roslynn Stubing
- Scott Swain
- Carolyn Puglisi
- Terry Muscat

Blurb

Cleo and her Father take a ferry ride to Green Island for a holiday getaway. They do many fun activities including snorkelling, swimming and walking. During the walk, Cleo runs ahead and ends up getting lost and going off the trail. Although she becomes lost, she manages to find many friends along the way. Follow her on her journey across Green island. Will she find her way back to her dad, or will she be lost forever.

Copyright

Published by Winners, Loreto College Marryatville, 316 Portrush Road, Marryatville, South Australia.

Copyright © 2019, Winners, Loreto College Marryatville

All rights reserved. This book is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission. Enquires should be made to the publisher.