THE WOLF
KNOWS THE
MAGIC
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ILLUSTRATED BY TATIANA MININA

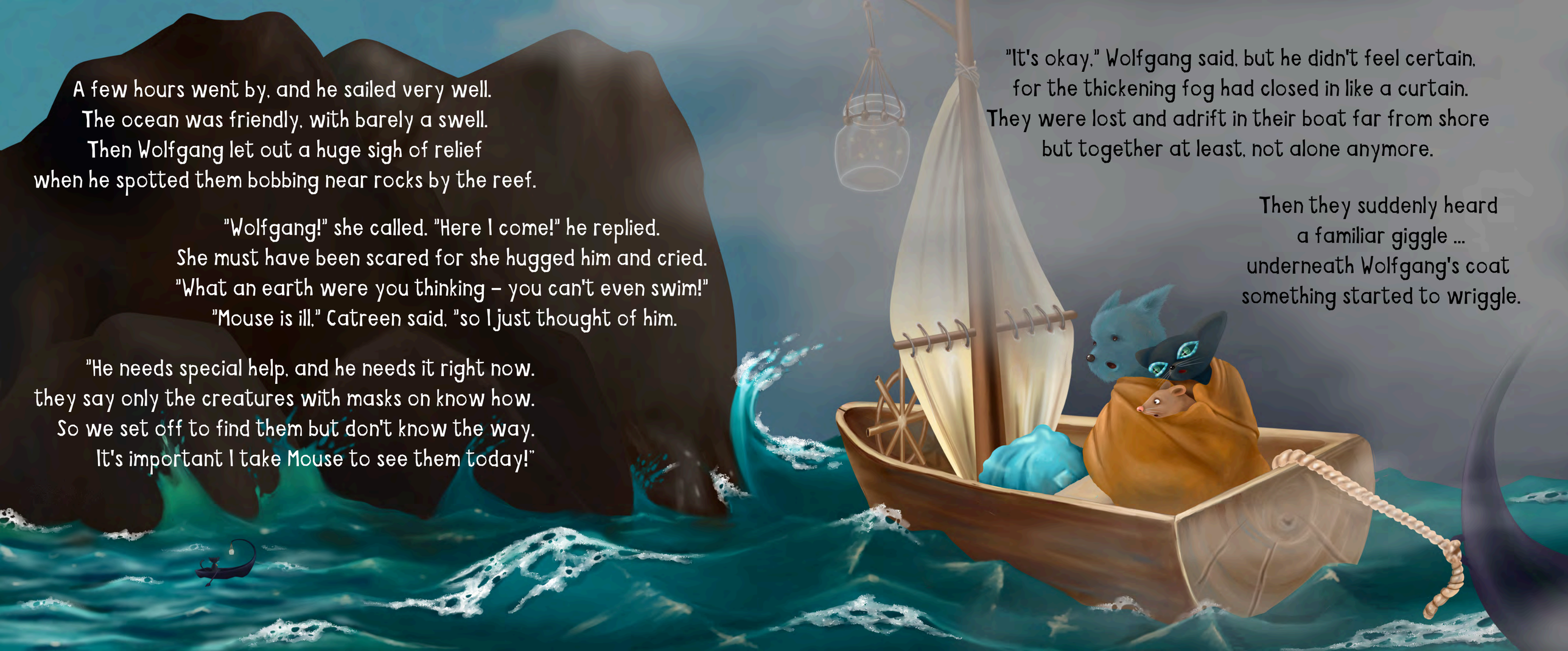
It was strange that Catreen
didn't come out to play.
Wolfgang had made
such great plans for that day.
So he went off to find her –
she really should know
that it's rude when invited
to simply not show.
There was nobody home
when he got to her house.
She must have been out.
with her darling pet mouse.
He guessed they were riding
her bike in the sun –
and felt jealous to think
of them having such fun.

Wolfgang's day had been lovely
and quiet until
all his friends turned up shouting.
"Catreen's Mouse is ill!"

'Catreen's gone." Daisy yelled.
"She sailed off in a boat."
"She can't swim," he yelled back.
"she can only just float!"

He quickly ran home –
he'd come up with a plan.
He wheeled out his boat.
Now his journey began.

He'd been sailing beforehand,
but not on his own,
so what might happen next
was mostly unknown.



A few hours went by, and he sailed very well.
The ocean was friendly, with barely a swell.
Then Wolfgang let out a huge sigh of relief
when he spotted them bobbing near rocks by the reef.

"Wolfgang!" she called. "Here I come!" he replied.
She must have been scared for she hugged him and cried.
"What an earth were you thinking – you can't even swim!"
"Mouse is ill," Catreen said, "so I just thought of him.

"He needs special help, and he needs it right now.
they say only the creatures with masks on know how.
So we set off to find them but don't know the way.
It's important I take Mouse to see them today!"

"It's okay," Wolfgang said, but he didn't feel certain,
for the thickening fog had closed in like a curtain.
They were lost and adrift in their boat far from shore
but together at least, not alone anymore.

Then they suddenly heard
a familiar giggle ...
underneath Wolfgang's coat
something started to wriggle.

"SURPRISE" Lottie shouted,
like nothing was wrong –
she was always annoying
and tagging along.

"Lottie, that costume is MINE!"
Wolfgang howled.
"No, it's MINE!" she roared back,
as they tussled and growled.

"STOP" Catreen yelled.
You're both rocking the boat!
You know I can't swim –
I can only just float!"

"Well, I'll save the day,
Lottie said with a smirk.
She'd a plan up her sleeve
that might possibly work.

then she pulled out a fog horn
and blew very hard –
five short sharp honks
to alert the coast guard.

In the distance they saw
a huge bright light appear.
"Look, that way!" they yelled.
Now the island was near.

As soon as they tied up
their boats on dry land,
a large creature said, "Welcome"
and held out his hand.

It was hard with the mask on
to sense any danger,
but Catreen had been told
they could trust this kind stranger.

Then more creatures came,
wearing blue hats and masks,
working away on their own
clever tasks.

Little Mouse had been coping quite well
he was brave –
but a panic rushed through him,
It came like a wave.

Then they suddenly heard
a familiar giggle ...
From under the blanket
they saw something wriggle.

"SURPRISE" Lottie said,
with a wand and a hat,
then she pulled out three rabbits ...
well, what help was that?

But it gave Mouse a thrill
and a mighty big smile,
and it took away some of his fears
for a while.

""Wait, there's more!" Lottie said, as she set up her show.
"All the creatures with masks on are magic, you know!
And I'll tell you what some of them do if you like.
Gather round, everyone – Wolfgang, pass me the mic!"

The lights all went down
and a spotlight came on.
Lottie started the show
with a cute little song.

Then with "Abracadabra"
and one puff of smoke,
the first creature appeared
out from under her cloak.

"This is Eve Lottie said, she has magical hands,
she knows just what to fix when she looks at your scans.
Scans are like photos they take with machines
that can see what's inside us on magical screens".

Then POOF!
a Giraffe appeared
out of thin air
"This is Bob" Lottie said,
"He's the cleaner in here.

And if you are hungry,
there's Brian the cook,
He has written a magical
recipe book.

"Liz makes the medicine for you to heal.
And Moth can make sense of the things you might feel ...
because sometimes we feel but don't know what to say,
We can set feelings free when we paint, dance or play.

"Sometimes to get well, you need certain things,
that might prod you or prick you, and often that stings.

But there's Nessie for that
with the best magic trick –
she knows just what to do,
So the stinging is quick.

"You'll notice it's loud here,
with noises that beep,
and you might have to go
for a magical sleep.

But whatever you need, or might have to go through,
You can trust these magicians have always 'got you'."

And with that they were done,
They gave Mouse a brave shell –
To acknowledge his journey
and show he'd done well.

Mrs Spice gave him ginger
in case he felt sickly,
And Mac fixed their boat up
to help it sail quickly.

Then they set off for home,
each with thoughts in their heads,
Of how good it would feel
to be back in their beds.

They got home and it looked
like the fairies had been,
for their beds had been made
and their rooms were all clean

Their friends had done that
to show that they care,
and to quietly say
that they'd always be there.

And as Wolfgang's mum hugged him
and kissed him goodnight,
He suddenly cried,
so she pulled him in tight.

His day had been hard,
and she seemed to just know,
That he needed a cry
to help let it all go.

The creatures with masks on
also felt weary –
even magicians can
sometimes get teary.

But the love from their families
they feel in their hearts,
gives them strength to keep playing
their magical parts.

As the days and weeks passed
they made sure Mouse got rest –
The creatures with masks on
had said that was best.

And they'd said Mouse would need
to go back for more care,
which was fine because now
they knew how to get there.

And that day had come round –
it was time to sail back.
They knew what to expect
and the things they should pack.

They took Lottie's fog horn
to guide them to land,
some food and warm clothes –
they had everything planned.

But they couldn't have planned
for the nasty surprise
That they got when the waves
caused their boat to capsize.

Though the water looked calm
when they'd left and set sail.
They got caught in a storm
that brought wild winds and hail.

Their little boat rose
and crashed down with the motion
of the rolling of each
angry breath of the ocean.

Out they fell and sank down
to the deep ocean floor.
Now, how would they ever
get back to the shore?

Then something swam by them,
it bubbled and giggled.
There was something familiar
with how this thing wriggled ...

It was Lottie of course –
how did she get down here?
And where did she get
all that deep-diving gear?
There was no time to think.
Lottie signalled "Let's Go!"
And she led them towards
a spectacular show!
One by one they came out
all these marvellous creatures,
with beautiful colours
and wonderful features.
They all had such fun,
they forgot where they were,
their rough day had turned into
this magical blur.

Then four seahorses carried them
safely to land.
The large creature said, "Welcome"..
and held out his hand.

Mouse was given his treatment
and one more brave shell.
to acknowledge his journey
and show he'd done well.

Mac found their boat,
and the calm seas returned.
They weren't scared, they felt brave,
thanks to all that they'd learned.

Then they set off for home
sipping warm ginger tea.
It felt peaceful together
out there on the sea.

It's not easy to learn that life's not always fair.
After all that they'd been through, they'd have one more scare.
For as much as they'd learned now about how to sail,
a new problem arose on a whole different scale.

Their boat hit a rock
and it started to sink,
their small trusty sailboat
was gone in a blink.

They felt more than unlucky –
they felt they'd been cheated!
They were lost for ideas,
and were feeling defeated.

They looked round for Lottie
but she'd disappeared.
Then they heard a great BOOM!
and a bright light appeared.

Clever Lottie had lit up
the sky with a flare,
In the hope that somebody
might rescue them there.

And that's when they saw it. That's when they knew.
When you really need help, just what others will do.
The whole forest had quietly been working together,
on a ship built for sailing whatever the weather.

With a fog horn so loud you could hear it for miles,
and a crew of strong sailors with warm friendly smiles.
Now they'd have no more worries on journeys ahead.
When Mouse needed care, they'd sail safely instead.

They all felt so loved, being so well looked after.
Their day ended with stories and bellies of laughter.
And then just as they hugged and were waving goodbye,
something shimmered and sparkled and caught Mouse's eye.

Around Lottie's neck,
he saw lots of brave shells.
Now he knew how she knew
all those magical spells!

Lottie saw that he'd seen them
and darted off quick ...
For magicians will never
reveal a good trick!