



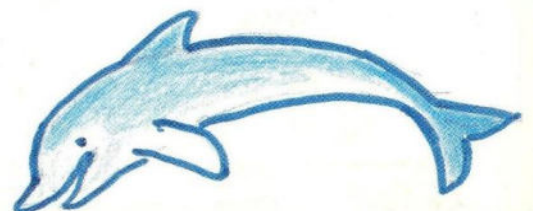
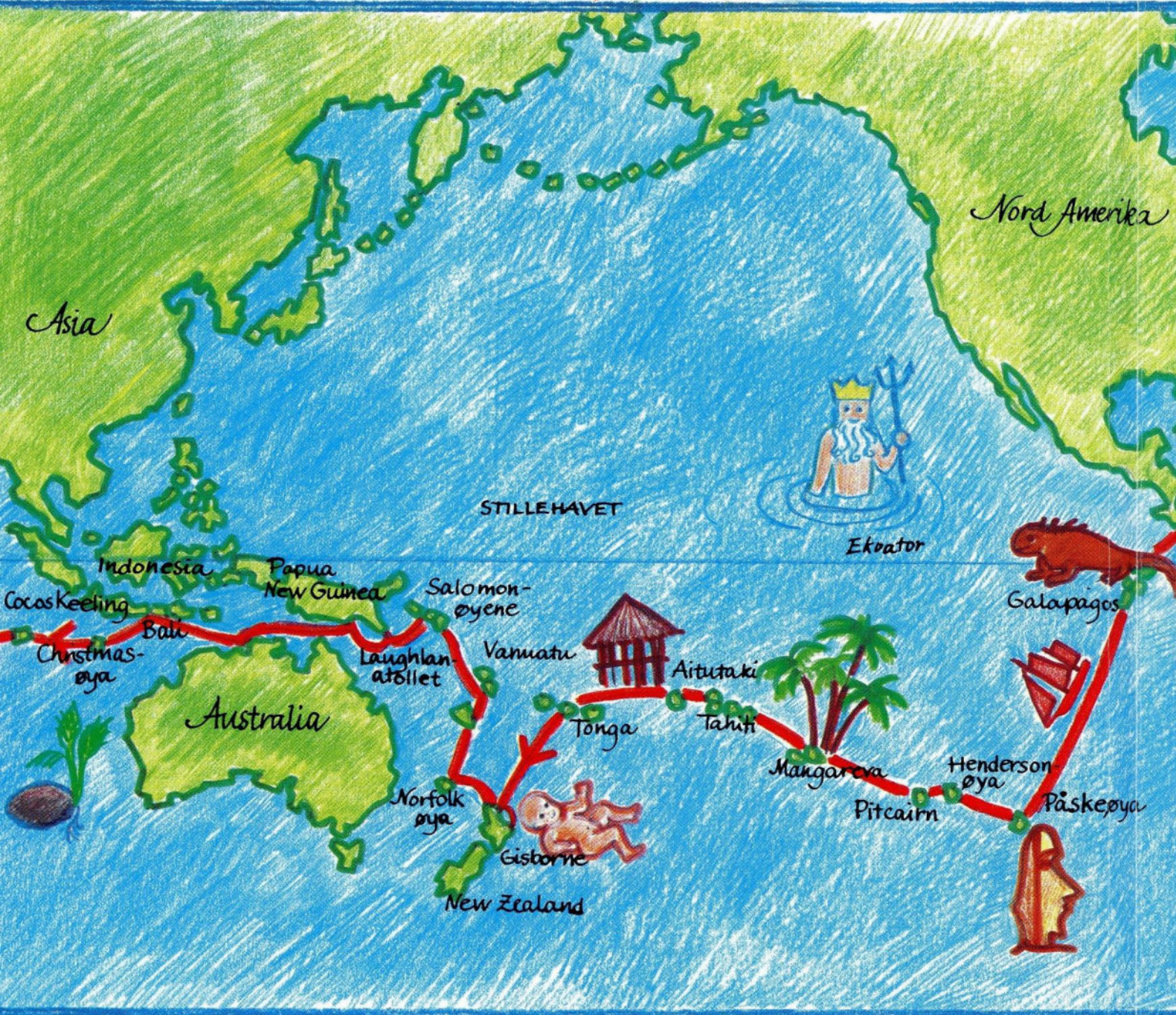
Around the World

with

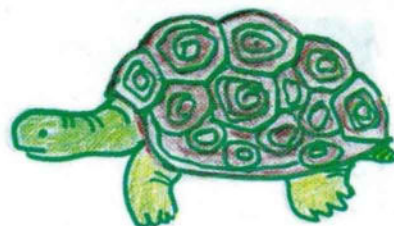
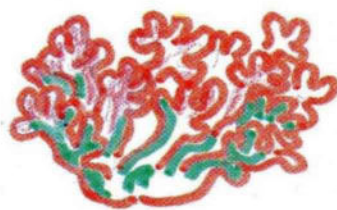
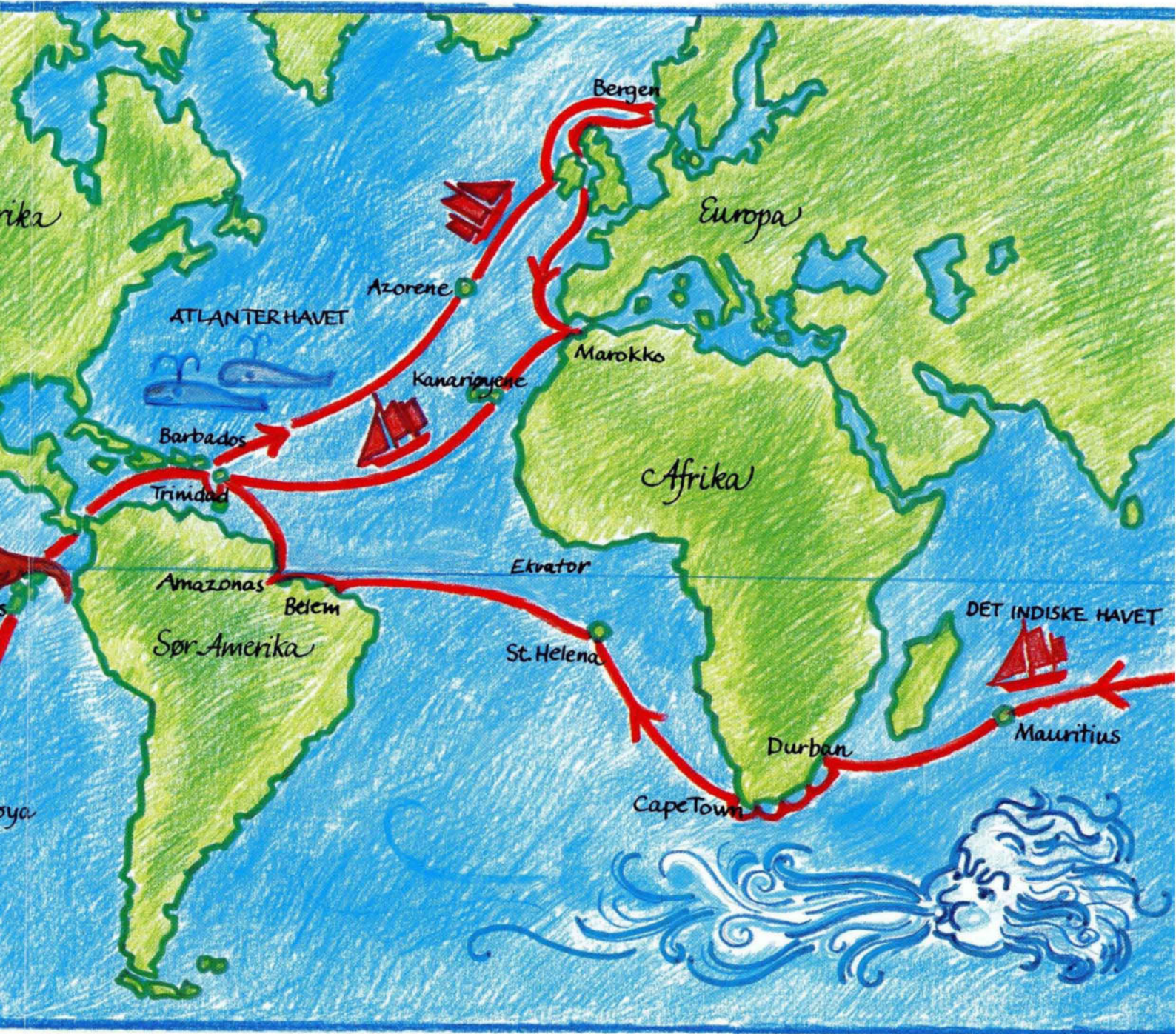
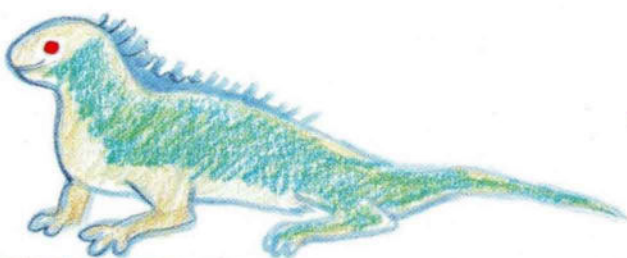
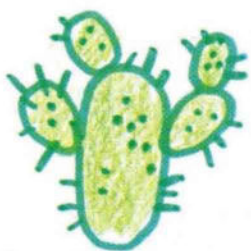


Elisabeth, Martin and Robert

by Diana and Stein Hoff



Equator (*Ekvator*) is the line across the middle of the map. On a globe you find the equator drawn as a circle around the middle. This line divides the Earth into the Northern and the Southern hemisphere. When you are anywhere on the Equator, you are always the same distance both to the North Pole and the South Pole. The Tropics is a large area stretching around the globe like a belt, the Equator being in the middle of this belt. This is the warmest area on Earth.



Norway - Scotland - Wales - England - France - Spain - Portugal - Morocco - Barbados - Canary Islands - Barbados - St Vincent & the Grenadines - Grenada & the Grenadines - Trinidad & Tobago - Martinique - Dominica - Guadeloupe - Antigua & Barbuda - Anguilla - St Maarten/St Martin - St Bartholomew - British Virgin Islands - American Virgin Islands - Puerto Rico - Panama - Galapagos (Ecuador) - Easter Island (Chile) - Pitcairn Islands - French Polynesia - Aitutaki (Cook Islands) - Tonga - New Zealand - Norfolk Island - New Caledonia - Vanuatu - Solomon Islands - Papua New Guinea - Australia - Bali (Indonesia) - Christmas Island - Cocos Keeling - Mauritius - South Africa - St Helena - Brazil - Azores - Ireland



The original book was first published by Grøndahl & Søn Forlag A.s. in Oslo, 1985 with the title “ Jorda rundt med Elisabeth og Martin”.

The original layout was by Øyvind Skagemo.

The map and other illustrations were by Bjørg Omholt and we are grateful for having her permission to use them in this English edition.

Also a big thank you to Hans Petter Rasmussen for technical help with this book.

Printed by LKT Digital AS, Lier, Norway.

Copyright Diana and Stein Hoff, 2022.



The Hoff family set out from Norway in their own yacht in 1977. The parents, Stein and Diana, are both doctors. The children are Elisabeth and Martin. They were five and three and a half when they left, and when they came back Elisabeth was ten and Martin nearly nine. Now they also had a little brother, Robert, who was born on the way. He was two years and one month old when they returned home.

This is the story of their adventures.



Around the world with Elisabeth, Martin and Robert

By Diana and Stein Hoff







Chapters

Setting Sail 10

When the Water Vanished 13

Africa 16

Across the Atlantic 19

Barbados and the West Indies 23

Galapagos 29

Birthday at Sea 36

Pitcairn - Mutiny Island 42

Heroes for a Day 45

Robert Joins the Crew 50

South Africa 64

Napoleon's Island 67

The Amazon 69

Homeward Bound 73

Epilogue 80



Setting Sail

It is a grey summer day. A newly painted yacht rocks gently on its moorings in Bergen harbour in Norway. Elisabeth is sitting on deck. She is five years old and for a long time she is going to live aboard this boat. The others on board are her brother, Martin, and her parents, Diana and Stein. For several years they have been planning and talking about sailing round the world. Now they have sold their flat, their car and all their furniture, and they're ready to go!

Elisabeth is half sad and half excited - mostly excited. Although it's sad to say goodbye to friends, it will be fun to visit far-away countries like Africa and America. Perhaps they will make new friends, see strange animals and swim from long, white beaches. They will be together all the time. Elisabeth is especially happy about that, because lately Stein and Diana have been so busy building the boat and getting it ready, that she and Martin have hardly seen them.

"Once we get going we'll have lots of time together," they have promised.

"It's not much fun yet, though," Elisabeth is thinking, looking at her parents. They are busy loading endless crates, boxes and bags aboard. Elisabeth wonders where they're all going to go.

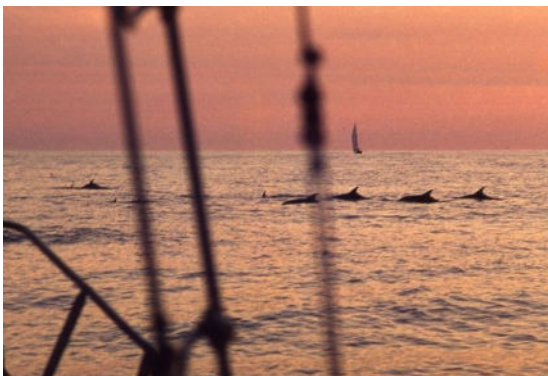
On the jetty there are lots of people who have come to say goodbye.

"Come and wave," shouts Diana to Martin, who is sitting in the cabin. He is nearly four and only interested in playing with his Lego.

Soon they are motoring out of the harbour. The yacht is called Red Admiral, which is the name of a butterfly. Stein is steering and the others stand in the stern and wave. It's not long before they are out on the open sea. Then it starts to rain and blow and the waves get bigger. Red Admiral begins to roll up and down and from side to side. Elisabeth and Martin both feel sick and have to throw up.

Diana soon is also sea-sick. Stein is shivering from cold as he sits on the cockpit edge and complains of being desperately tired.

"Well, I don't think it's much fun sailing round the World," grumbles Elisabeth...



Diana spots these dolphins on the first day west of Norway.

She uses a radio-direction finder to find the safest and shortest way to their first stop on the island of Fair Isle.



The next day, spirits are rising. They are getting used to the boat's movement, the sickness is nearly gone and they have seen their first pod of dolphins. Martin gets out his Lego again and Elisabeth is lying reading.

After two days sailing, they see land, a little island to the North of Scotland called Fair Isle.

"Land ahoy!" shouts Elisabeth like a real sailor. They drop the anchor in a small bay and gaze up at the cliffs where seabirds are perched on every ledge. Never have Elisabeth and Martin seen so many birds at once. They think the puffins are the best, with their big colourful beaks. Flocks of them fly back and forth around the boat.



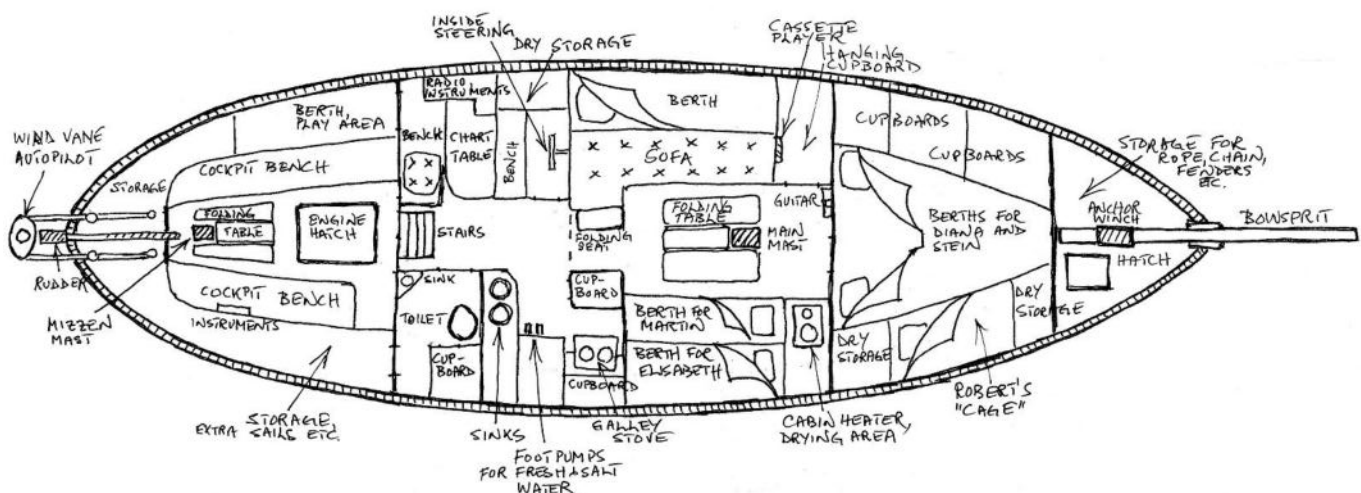
Aboard Red Admiral there is a rubber dinghy which has to be blown up. Soon they are rowing along under the high cliffs and in and out of caves and passages which the sea has carved out of the rocks. Everywhere birds are perched, some looking curiously at the children.

Look, a seal!" Stein calls suddenly. Elisabeth and Martin get a quick glimpse of two big brown eyes, before it dives down into the water. Suddenly it pops up again somewhere else. This happens several times and Elisabeth and Martin have fun trying to guess where it will appear next.

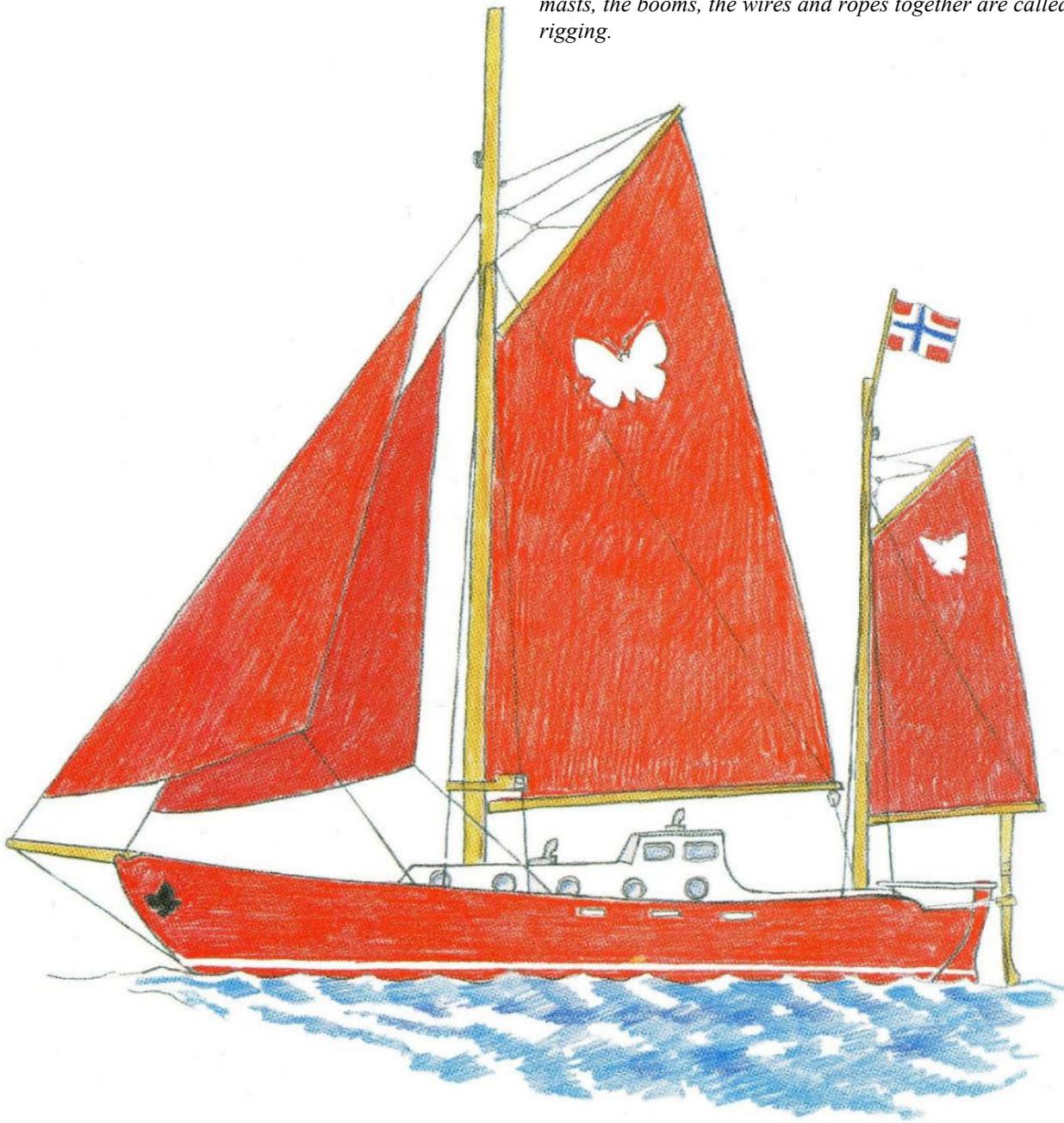


After the rowing trip, the children want to have a swim. It becomes no more than a quick dip as the water is like ice, even though it is the middle of summer.

"Brrr, it's colder than at home," says Martin, as he runs up and down the beach trying to get warm. "I thought we were going to warm countries," Elisabeth mutters.



The boat is called Red Admiral, named after a butterfly. The sail far forward is the jib, next the forestay sail, the main sail and at the back is the mizzen sail. The main sail and the mizzen are attached below to the booms. In light winds, a small sail called the top-sail can be raised above the main sail. Steel wires support the masts. The two up from the front are called the stays, the ones from the sides are the shrouds. The masts, the booms, the wires and ropes together are called the rigging.



This is how the boat looked for the last half of the voyage. In the beginning the hull was white and the cabin and cockpit red. When sailing in the Tropics, the red areas often became extremely hot, also making it hot inside, so in New Zealand the red areas were painted white and the white hull became red.



When the Water Vanished.

Time to set sail. First East through the Orkney Isles and down the West coast of Scotland. Gran and Grandpa live in Glasgow, so a few days are spent with them there before sailing further South along the coast of England and Wales.

To begin with it feels rather strange to be living on a small boat all the time, but Elisabeth and Martin soon get used to it.

Unusual things can happen when you're living on a boat, and not always very pleasant; like the day when the water vanished!

It happened on a chilly night in Wales. All day they had sailed through really unpleasant, rainy weather. The children were so looking forward to

stopping because Mum and Dad had promised to find them a fish and chips shop in the evening. What could be better than a warm paper bag with deep-fried fish and tasty chips on a day like this?

It was foggy and pitch dark by the time the anchor dropped in the port of Milford Haven. They got the dinghy ready in a hurry, rowed ashore to the nearest jetty and started on a long walk to town. Finally they found a fish and chips shop which was still open. It was close to midnight as they strolled back, happily munching the greasy food.

As they walked out on the jetty they stopped and gazed in amazement.

The water had gone!

Where there had been deep water was now only mud and seaweed. Further out near Red Admiral there was still a little water left, but the yacht had fallen over on her side. She looked like a toy boat in a bathtub after someone has pulled out the plug!

Stein and Diana had quite forgotten that in Wales there is a much bigger difference between high and low tide than they were used to back in Norway. The water had fallen six metres (20 feet) while they were ashore! Now they had to spend most of the night sitting on the jetty waiting for it to rise again. Right then Elisabeth and Martin wished that they lived in a nice comfortable home on land. But they cheered up a bit when some kind fishermen let them sit close to their primus-stove and sip from steaming mugs of hot, sweet cocoa.



In England, our friend Inger Dolve from Bergen joined the crew. But after a couple of days the main boom broke and they had to make an extra stop in Camaret, France to repair it before crossing the Bay of Biscay. But Elisabeth and Martin thought stopping in Camaret was a great idea because one could buy the most delicious pancakes!

So far it has been quite cold and rained a lot, but there has not been any really bad weather. Elisabeth has wondered what it would be like to be out at sea in a storm. She gets a chance to find out when they have to cross the Bay of Biscay between France and Spain. This is an area where it blows a lot and many boats have been lost in storms.



It is raining, the wind is increasing and Martin is not at all sure that this is fun.

Soon the five aboard Red Admiral find out what a real gale at sea is like.

First the wind begins to blow hard. Soon it makes the rigging whistle, howl and moan. The waves get bigger and are topped by white, rumbling crests.

To begin with Elisabeth and Martin

think it is good fun to see the big waves roll up behind Red Admiral and lift her up high. At the top of each wave it's as if the boat is left hanging in mid-air for a moment before she rushes down bow first between the waves. Diana and Stein are a bit worried, and when a particularly big wave fills the cockpit with foaming water they become quite frightened. But they try not to show the children that they are afraid. Together the adults take down all the sails, stuff them in the sail-bags, tie the rudder in one position and fasten anything on deck that is loose. Then they all go inside and shut the door to the cockpit.

Red Admiral is now drifting sideways in waves which seem to be getting even bigger all the time. Down in the cabin the family can feel the boat being tossed about. Elisabeth and Martin hold on tight, and listen to the knives and forks rolling in the drawers, and cups and plates rattling in the cupboards. There is nothing else to do but wait for better weather.

Stein gets out his guitar and they sing "A life on the ocean waves" and other songs they know well. Fortunately, nobody is seasick and they soon realise that they are hungry. It's not so easy to eat when the boat is rolling so much, and cutlery, bread and soft-boiled eggs have all been on the carpet before the meal is over!

After two long days the storm dies out. Elisabeth doesn't think that she has been frightened. But poor Daddy Stein looks awfully tired even though he says he is very happy now that it is all over.



Every day it seems to get warmer. The children want to jump in for a swim, but how can they do that out at sea when they cannot swim, anyway?

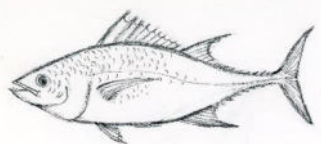
Elisabeth solves the problem by putting on floaters and a safety belt and hanging alongside the boat attached by a strong rope. As an extra safety she holds on to Diana with one hand. She surfs along and splashes in the warm water and thinks it is great fun.

Diana and Stein also have a swim, but Martin prefers to "swim" in a bucket of sea-water on the front deck. "Much safer!" he says.





Shortly after that a big tuna fish bites on the line trailing behind the boat. Fresh fish for dinner!



It is not only fish they get on the line. One day a flock of seagulls come visiting, looking for something to eat. One of the hungry seagulls dives for the line and gets caught on the hook. Stein stops the engine and pulls in the line carefully. Fortunately, the

seagull is not badly injured. The hook has just caught the skin on its breast and the wound is hardly bleeding. Stein gently pulls out the hook while the bird is pecking at his fingers. Then, with a loud cry, it flies back to join the other gulls. Stein is left with a sore finger and decides that he doesn't want fish for dinner that day after all.

One day Red Admiral anchors off the beach in front of a small village in Portugal. There is quite a big swell and the boat rolls from side to side. It's not easy for either children or adults to get into the rubber dinghy. Slowly they row towards the beach, where they soon can see how the waves are breaking heavily in surges of white foam.

"I wonder how we'll get to the beach without getting wet," Stein shouts above the noise of the breakers. Just at that moment a large wave picks up the dinghy and sends it at full speed towards the shore. Stein tries to hold the little boat upright while Martin yells with joy. He thinks this is great fun! But suddenly he is not so sure when the dinghy rolls over in the foam, and people, oars and bags are washed ashore! He and Elisabeth yell with fright, but still manage to crawl up to the dry part of the beach without help from the grown-ups. Stein and Diana grab all the things which are floating around, throw them up to the children and pull the upside-down dinghy far beyond the reach of the waves.

There they take a look at each other, all dripping wet with splashes of yellow sand on their clothes and in their hair. Suddenly they all burst out laughing! It all ended well; nothing was seriously damaged by the drenching, although it was a frightening moment.

Soon passports, money, clothes and towels are lying out to



dry in the sun. The guests at an out-door restaurant wave and smile to them. They think the whole show was great entertainment. Martin decides that this was fun despite the fright. "Can we do it once more?" he asks, jumping up and down and grinning broadly.

Behind and above the beach with the big breakers, they are dry again and think that in Portugal they have finally arrived in a warm country!



Africa



Portugal is the last country they visit in Europe. A new and exciting part of the World is ahead: Africa.

"I want to see lions and elephants," says Elisabeth, looking up from her drawing-book. There is no wind and Red Admiral is motoring across a mirror-like sea. Stein shakes his head from where he sits steering in the cockpit. They are in an area with a lot of shipping, and must keep a constant watch so as not to collide with any ships that cross their path. Diana gets out the atlas and explains:

"Look here, Elisabeth and Martin, Africa is an enormous continent, much bigger than Europe. Just as there are no reindeer in most parts of Europe, even though we have them up in Norway, there are no wild lions and elephants in Morocco where we are going. But they do have lots of camels in Morocco, though."

"Goodie! Camels! I want to ride on a camel!" Martin jumps up and down with excitement at the thought.



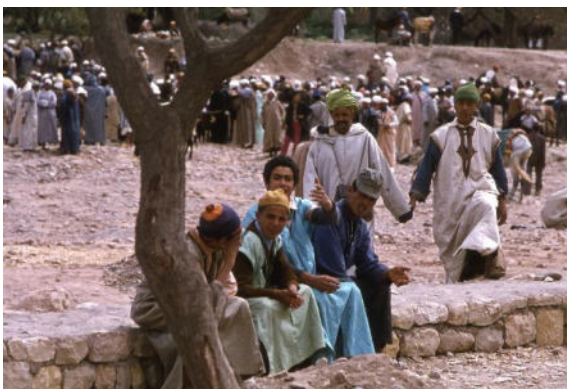
Morocco looks quite different from anywhere else they have visited so far. The city they first arrive at is called Casablanca; one of Africa's largest ports. The harbour is full of all kinds of large and small boats with people who are busy loading and unloading goods.

The town itself is just as busy as the port. People everywhere. Most are dressed in full length robes with wide arms. Many of the women also cover their faces so that only their eyes can be seen.



Most men have either a moustache or a beard and everybody seems to cover their head. Some wear a turban, which Elisabeth and Martin think looks like a giant bandage. Others have a fez which is just like a flower-pot upside down! Stein explains that this kind of hat is used all over North Africa, and is named after the city of Fez in Morocco, not too far from Casablanca.

At the marketplace there are endless rows of stalls with people trying to sell clothes, leather goods and brass ornaments. Elisabeth and Martin each get a tunic and a pair of sandals. They think it is exciting to walk about in this busy town, but there are also some sad sights. Lots of people are very poor and many seem to live just from begging. Even children about Martin's age are beggars. Their clothes are in rags and filthy and some of them look sick. They stretch out skinny hands and look with pleading, big brown eyes in the hope of getting a few coins. Stein gives a couple of dirhams to some of them, but that makes many others come running up so that Elisabeth and Martin become a little frightened.



Stopping at a market place for animals on the way to Marrakech were lots of men and boys, but very few women.

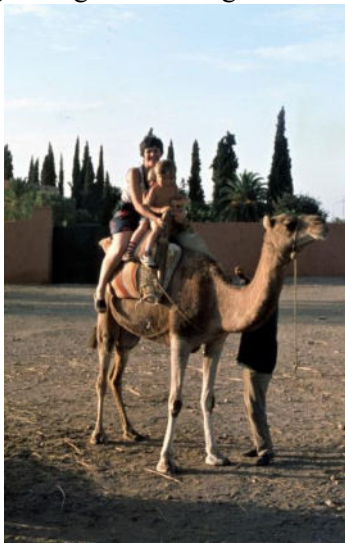
One day the family hire a car and drive inland across mountains and deserts. The landscape is dry and stony, with an occasional oasis. This is a place where there is a natural spring of water and where plants can grow.

Behind white walls, even in tiny gardens, people grow banana trees and tall palm trees with bunches of yellow dates. They also see fig trees and discover that this fruit is really like a pretty pear and quite different here from the dried, black and flat figs in shops back home.

Marrakech is a large town which lies around a huge oasis. Here it is just as busy as in Casablanca, with crowds of people moving slowly even in the smallest alleys.

Shopkeepers keep shouting to the four visitors, trying to sell them anything from boiled snails to gold jewellery.

At the town square there are various kinds of entertainers. Some do acrobatics, some tell fortunes, but the one the children like best is the snake-charmer. They hold Diana's hand tightly and move slowly up to him. He holds out one of his snakes for them to look at. They come from the great Sahara desert, he tells them, and explains by pointing and grinning and shaking his black face that this snake is very poisonous.



In Marrakech Martin at last gets to see camels. The man who owns them offers them a ride. First he helps Diana and Elisabeth onto the back of a large one. It seems a long way down to the ground and Elisabeth holds on as tightly as she can.

Suddenly they hear a howl from Martin, who comes running towards them with a young camel chasing him. Stein takes him up in his arms. In between sobs Martin tells him that the little camel kicked him in the stomach when he tried to pat it.

Fortunately, it wasn't very painful and it is not long before Martin is also sitting up on the large camel grinning from ear to ear.



On the beach in Agadir, some people are dressed like Europeans, others are covered in black clothes from head to toe.

They spend three weeks in Morocco. During that time they celebrate Martin's fourth birthday before Inger Dolve has to fly back to Bergen. A few days later the family sail off to the Canary Islands.



In the Canary Islands they spend three busy weeks visiting several islands and getting the boat stocked up and ready. Gordon Johnson from Glasgow joins them as an extra crew and added safety for what will be their longest sail so far - the one across the Atlantic Ocean to the American continent and the West Indies! Lying at anchor in the bay of Los Cristianos, Tenerife, the hull needs painting, but otherwise the yacht is in good shape and well prepared.

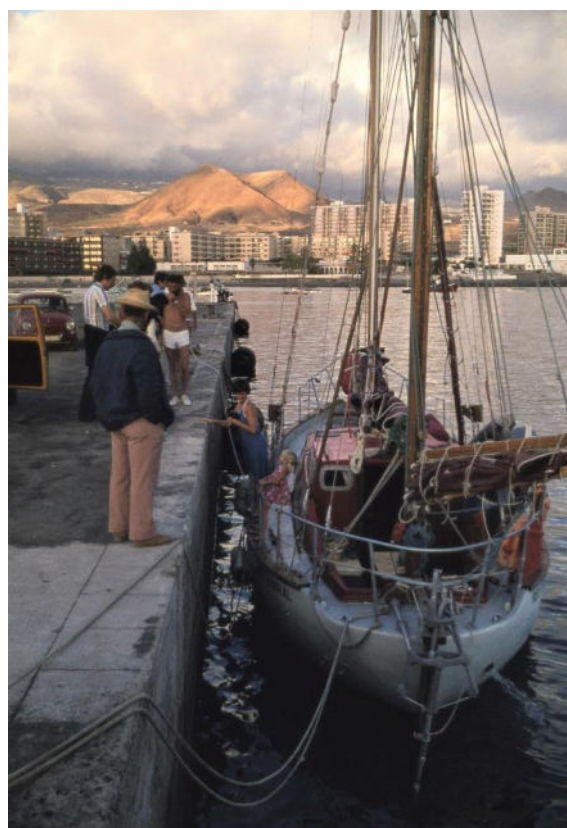


The children saw this familiar butterfly on the leaf of a banana palm tree in one of the islands.

This insect is a lot tougher than it looks! It is known for its ability to fly very long distances. Red Admiral actually migrates from North Europe to warmer places in the autumn, just like a lot of birds do. The next generation will fly back north the following year. The Hoff family now hopes to behave in a similar way and that was one reason why naming the boat after the butterfly seemed like a good idea.

Elisabeth knows that the scientific name for Red Admiral is Vanessa Atalanta. And right here is Atlantic Ocean waiting for them!

Red Admiral is alongside the quay in Los Cristianos after the last stores have been brought aboard. The new crew, Gordon, is ashore for his last cigarette. He has decided to quit smoking and with a journey of several weeks and no shops ahead, this is a good opportunity.



Across the Atlantic



Diana gets out a large chart. She shows Elisabeth and Martin where the Canary Islands are. They look like a few small dots off the coast of Africa on the right-hand side of the chart.

Far over on the left side is America. Between Africa and America is an awful lot of blue.

"That's the Atlantic Ocean," explains Diana, "and that's what we have to sail across."

Elisabeth munches an orange and takes a peep at the cross which Diana draws on the chart just outside the Canaries. That shows where they are right now. It is

two days since they set sail and she doesn't think they have come very far. "I think we'll be sailing across the Atlantic forever," she sighs.

For a few days there isn't much wind, so they have to use the engine.



Then the wind increases and a good breeze fills the sails. Red Admiral builds up a good speed and the waves get bigger. Nobody is sea-sick any longer as they are now all used to the movement.

The sail across the Atlantic is nearly 3.000 nautical miles (about 5.000 km). Their sailing speed is about 5 knots (5 nautical miles each hour), like a slow ride on a bicycle. Even so, because they sail night and day without stopping, they cover a fair distance each day.

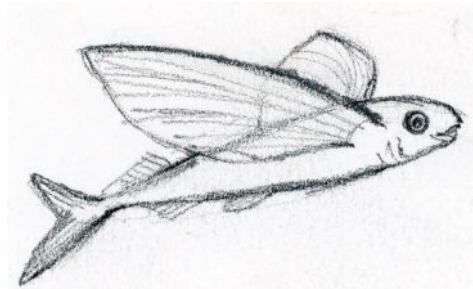
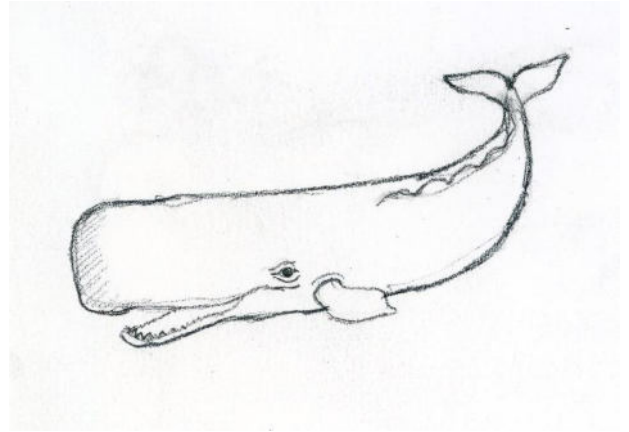
Stein's guitar broke during the storm in the Bay of Biscay, but he has repaired it, and is now playing it nearly every day. After dinner the family often sits out in the cockpit and sing to the guitar. When it gets dark they usually go into the cosy cabin. Here Elisabeth and Martin have their bunks. Martin sleeps on the sofa on starboard side, and Elisabeth has her bunk above him right under the deck. Alongside each bunk is a piece of canvas which gets tied up at night so that they cannot fall out when the boat is rolling. Elisabeth also has a little curtain which she can pull across so that no-one can see her. She enjoys lying behind the drawn curtain with her eyes closed, listening to the different sounds. Along the sides of the boat she can hear the rushing of water as Red Admiral glides through the sea. From the other side of the curtain she can hear the grown-ups singing and chatting. Martin is sleepy but he wants to hear "Red roses for a blue lady" one more time. "What funny songs he likes," thinks Elisabeth as she lies there half asleep.

Sometimes Elisabeth hears whistling noises from the water outside. Then she knows that dolphins are nearby. They often see these animals during the day too. Sometimes they come in large groups of more than a hundred, other times just three or four together. Elisabeth thinks they seem to be happy, good-natured

animals. She loves to see the babies swimming close up to their mothers, and even better when several dolphins jump high up into the air together. Before she falls asleep, she hopes that lots will come to play around the boat tomorrow.

Other members of the whale family are far bigger and it's a bit frightening if they come for a visit. One morning only Stein and Elisabeth are awake. Elisabeth is inside drawing and Stein is outside in the cockpit, reading an exciting book. The sea is calm and there is not much wind. Red Admiral glides slowly through the water.

Suddenly Stein hears a splash and a blowing noise. He looks up and to his horror sees two huge whales right beside the boat. They are two sperm whales, who were probably lying sleeping and woke up when Red Admiral nearly sailed over them. Stein is scared because the whales are nearly as big as the boat. What if they should attack? Stein has heard that whales can sink yachts. Fortunately, they disappear into the deep with a splash. Elisabeth comes running out to the cockpit. When she sees them they are already well behind the boat. Stein tells her that sperm whales are the largest of the whales with teeth. They can become more than 45 feet (15m) long.



Gordon is holding the huge dorado.

They get quite a lot of fish on the trailing line too. One day they catch a dorado fish. It weighs about 14 kg (30 pounds) and is longer than Martin! As they don't have a fridge or a freezer on board, they now have to eat fish for every meal for two days. Afterwards they are all quite happy to forget about fishing for a few days!

On the sail across the Atlantic, Elisabeth and Martin have to begin school. Diana shall teach them to read and write, and also to speak English better. Stein's job is to teach arithmetic and to tell the time.

Elisabeth and Martin never seem to be bored, even though the boat is not very big. They always find something to do. When they are at sea the grown-ups also have more time to chat and play. One of the favourite games is hide-and-seek. Although the boat is only 39 feet (12 metres) long there are plenty of good hiding places. One day they take a long time to find Martin. Diana begins to get worried that he has fallen overboard, but then a little voice calls out: "Here I am"! Martin has climbed into a sail-bag and is well hidden among the other bags with sails on the front deck!





Diana is in charge of most of the teaching, but Stein does arithmetic and telling the time.

The fruit and vegetables which they bought in the Canary Islands are almost used up when they are only half-way across the ocean. They have eggs and onions all the way and catch some fresh fish, but otherwise the meals are mostly made from tinned foods, rice and spaghetti. There is plenty of flour and dried yeast aboard, so fresh bread or rolls are on the menu every second day.

Stein or Diana often do the baking during their long night watches. It's nice waking up to the smell of fresh bread.

Milk has to be made from milk powder and water. It is not as good as ordinary milk, but tastes fine made into cocoa or added to their corn-flakes.

When the dinner dishes are being washed up it is Elisabeth and Martin's job to dry them. It takes a long time, one reason being that it is more difficult to dry



dishes washed in salt water. Another of their jobs is to tidy away all the toys. Everybody walks about bare-footed and it is no fun stepping on Lego bricks!

"Why is it only the grown-ups who take the night watches?" Elisabeth asks one day. "I want to be on duty, too!"

So Diana wakes her up at two o'clock that night so they can be on duty together. Elisabeth rolls out of her bunk and lands right on top of Martin! Just as well he is a heavy sleeper. Even though it is the middle of the night it is still warm and Elisabeth just puts on a T-shirt and shorts. She sits beside Diana at the chart table. Now and then a little gust of wind comes in through the open door.

Diana reads and Elisabeth draws. They talk in whispers so as not to disturb the others. Every ten minutes they go out into the cockpit to check that Red Admiral is keeping a steady course. They look round to make sure there are no other boats, but all they can see is darkness. The only light comes from a paraffin lamp hanging in the rigging beside the cockpit. Elisabeth holds onto Diana and thinks it is rather eerie to sail along in the darkness without seeing anything ahead.

After half an hour Elisabeth cannot keep her eyes open any longer. Diana lifts her into bed and tucks her in. The next day Elisabeth tells her parents that now she understands why they are often a bit tired in the morning!



The crew is starting to talk about ice-cream and cold drinks.

Each day Diana puts a new cross on the chart. Not so long to go now. Elisabeth and Martin are beginning to look forward to

palm trees and beaches and ice-cream and cold drinks. After 28 days Diana announces "tomorrow we'll see land". "Hurrah!" Elisabeth and Martin shout one after the other, "Ice-cream tomorrow! Hurrah!"



Land ahoy! – The island of Barbados is the first land they see after more than four weeks at sea!

Barbados and the West Indies.



After four weeks at sea, they can at last see land. Soon they can make out palm trees, houses and long, white beaches. They have reached Barbados, an island in the West Indies where the Hoffs are going to stay for more than a year. They have used up all their money and now have to earn some more before they can sail on. Stein and Diana have been lucky enough to get jobs at the main hospital in Barbados. It would be difficult to live in the boat while working, so the family move into an apartment on land. It is just two minutes' walk from Rockley Beach, the most beautiful beach imaginable.

Stein has dreamed of sailing to warm countries where coconuts grow since he was a boy!

Six months have already passed since they left home, so Elisabeth and Martin think it is lovely to live on land again. Although they like living on board Red Admiral, it can get a little cramped at times. They particularly look forward to having a big garden to play in.



A few days after they arrive, Elisabeth is ready to go to school for the first time in her life. They are still living aboard Red Admiral at anchor in Carlisle Bay.



She is a bit nervous at the thought of beginning school in a strange, new country where she doesn't know

any children.

The school is called Saint Gabriel's School. Black children, white children and brown children play together in the school grounds. They all think it is fun to have a new girl in the class, especially one who comes from a faraway country like Norway. Nobody knows where that is at first, so Elisabeth explains as best she can.

Martin is too young to go to the ordinary school, so he goes to a Montessori pre-school instead. He is the only white child in his group and feels rather shy to begin with. But it does not take long before he plays football and is rolling tyres along with others and having lots of fun.





Most people who live in Barbados have black skin. They are descendants of slaves who were brought out from Africa to work on big sugar farms called plantations owned by white people from Europe. Fortunately, there are no slaves any longer. Black people and white people are equal. But sugar cane is still the most important crop on the island, and they sell sugar to countries all over the world.

One day Martin's group puts on a show for parents

and friends. They do a dance to show the sugar cane being harvested. Martin is dressed as a sugar cane plant and he and his friends sing and sway back and forth trying to look like real sugar canes.

Almost every day the family walk down to the white beach nearby to swim. The water is nearly lukewarm! They can spend hours swimming and jumping in the breaking surf. To begin with Elisabeth and Martin use rubber rings around their arms, but they are soon swimming like fish in the blue-green water. Funny to think that back home in Norway, it is now winter with snow everywhere!



So much to see and do in Barbados! Many white beaches, large orchids in the parks, huge queen conchs among the corals. Elisabeth learns to swim soon, Martin not long after.

Red Admiral is newly painted and lying safely in Carlisle Bay while the family live mainly ashore for a whole year.



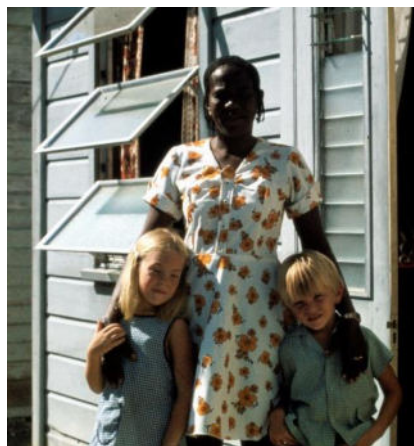
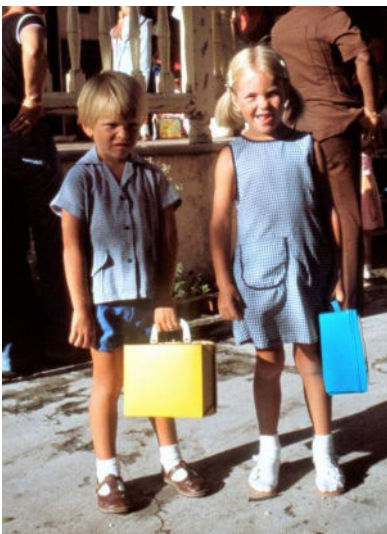


In July, Elisabeth is six years old and has a party at home, next week Diana and Stein celebrate being married for ten years.



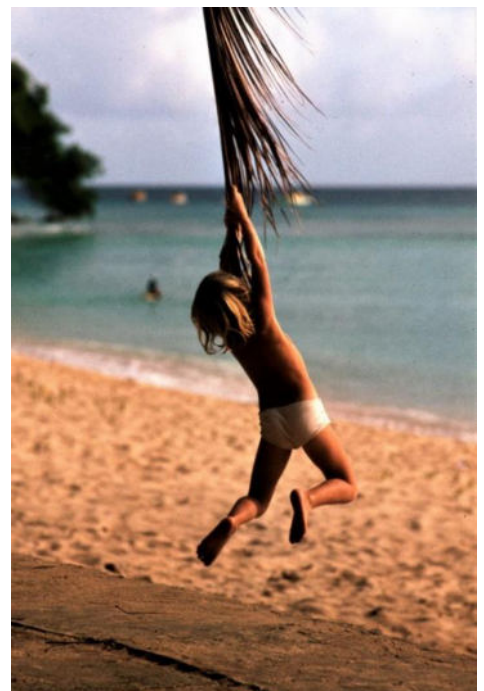
Eli and Gunner, Stein's parents, in October fly from Norway for a visit. Diana has to work, but Stein takes the children and his parents for an overnight sail to the island of Bequia. In another island, Mustique, it is Martin's turn to be celebrated: He is now five years old.

Returning to Barbados, Martin is now old enough to join Elisabeth at Saint Gabriel's School.



Jean works for the family while they live ashore. She collects the children at school and does some housework. Here she is in front of her own house.

Elisabeth is swinging from a coconut tree.

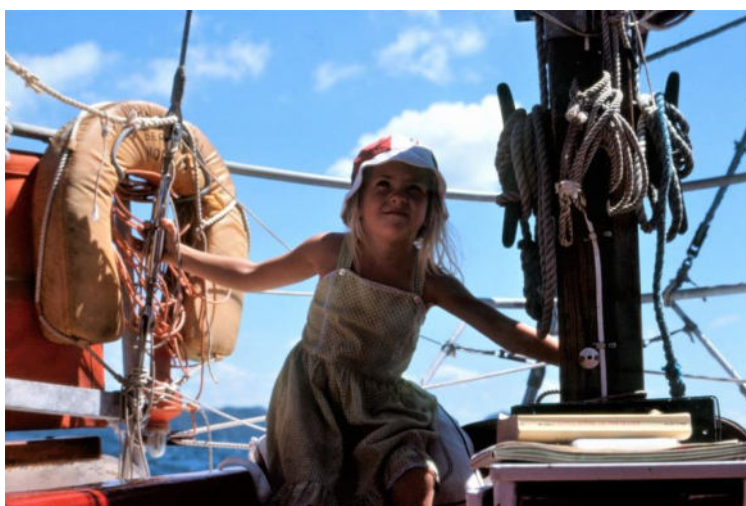




Elisabeth and her class shortly before leaving Barbados in February 1978. A bit sad to be leaving, but also exciting to be sailing again!

The year in Barbados and the West Indies goes by all too quickly. Time has come for the family to carry on with their

journey around the World. They say goodbye to their many new friends and move back aboard Red Admiral again. Stein and Diana have loaded her with food, water and diesel, and they are ready for new adventures.



Elisabeth is now strong enough to steer the boat, or "take the helm" as it is known on a ship.



A few days after leaving Barbados they visit Tobago Cays, famous for its many coral reefs with colourful fish, perfect beaches and lots of coconuts

but is this really a coconut lying on the beach?



One of islands south of Barbados is called Trinidad. Here there is a large carnival once a year. Everybody dresses up partying, singing and dancing in the streets for several days. This is something the Hoff's have to see. They sail to Trinidad with Red Admiral, and never before have they been to such a celebration! Thousands of people take part, many dressed in the most fantastic costumes with feathers, glittering sequins and colourful make-up.



"Look at that," shouts Elisabeth, pointing to a hundred knives, forks and spoons dancing past, their silver costumes sparkling in the sunshine. Behind them come different types of food. Elisabeth and Martin have to laugh at people dressed up as eggs, cheese sandwiches and plates of meat and potato! So it goes on the whole day, with singing, dancing and calypso music. Steel band after steel band march around the town, all playing as loud as they can on their steel drums.

The first prize for the best costume of the day goes to a man dressed as a large red coyote.

"How can he bear to carry that huge costume around all day? And in burning sunshine?" Elisabeth feels tired and hot just thinking about it.

North in Puerto Rico, another island, Martin is catching some small fish with a net before putting them in a bucket.



There something very strange happens to the fish: They puff themselves up into a white, floating balloon with spikes sticking out from the skin around their bodies. Elisabeth helps Martin catch more fish. All the fish do the same. They must be trying to look big and dangerous, but Elisabeth and Martin cannot help laughing at them. After a little while they suddenly let out the air with a burp and become small, swimming, grey pufferfish again. Then they put them back into the sea.



Haircutting at sea.

Now they are going to sail across the Pacific, the largest of all the oceans. To get there they first have to sail across the Caribbean Sea and through the Panama Canal. This is a large canal between North and South



America, dug through the narrowest part of the land. Elisabeth and Martin have heard that there are both alligators and snakes in the area.

But the wildest creatures they manage to catch sight of are birds and a few large, blue butterflies.

Exercising at sea.



Housebuilding at sea.



Magicians at sea!

Galapagos



"Dolphins!" Elisabeth shouts. "Come and see! There are lots around the bow!" Martin rushes out of the cabin and together they hang over the rail and admire the little whales which are playing round the boat. They have seen dolphins before but never as big and fat as these ones.

The animals jump high into the air, often several at a time. They usually dive elegantly back into the water, but some do a belly flop which sends the spray flying. Sometimes they come at full speed towards the boat so that Elisabeth and Martin are sure they will crash into it, but they always manage to swing away at the last moment. It is just as though they want to show how clever they are.



Elisabeth and Martin have been looking forward to visiting the Galapagos Islands because they have heard so much about all the interesting animals that live here.

Because so few people visit the Galapagos, particularly the smaller islands, the animals here have not learnt to be afraid of humans. But sailing from Panama was not as fast as they had thought and took three weeks instead of two because of a lot of headwind. Sometimes they had to give up and drift back towards Panama for many hours at a time.



Lying "hove to" (almost still) at night with an amazingly warm and strong wind like a hair-dryer is quite pleasant at first.

But towards the end of the sail, when they are once again hove to, Elisabeth and Martin are really looking forward to arriving in the famous islands.



Red Admiral has now come to Marchena, one of the smaller islands, and Elisabeth and Martin cannot get ashore fast enough. They help Stein to get the rubber dinghy blown up and into the water.

As soon as they approach the stony beach, the crew of Red Admiral realise that what they have heard about the Galapagos animals must be true. Golden brown seals and sea-lions play along the water's edge, bright red crabs are scattered on the rocks and all around are black marine iguanas, staring at the visitors.



A baby sea-lion suckling milk from its mother.



Martin walks up to one of the iguanas. It looks like a cross between a little dinosaur and a crocodile, and has long, sharp claws. Martin knows that they only eat sea-weed and are not at all dangerous to humans. He wonders if he dares to touch one. He stretches out an arm, but when it turns its head and looks suspiciously at him, he loses courage and runs back to the others. They are busy looking at a large hawk which has landed only a few feet away. It tilts its head and looks curiously at the people. Difficult to say who is the most amazed!

The next island, called Genovesa is also uninhabited. Every year thousands of birds come to this island to lay eggs and rear their chicks. The Hoffs are really lucky because they have arrived right in the middle of the mating season. Birds of all kinds sit on their nests in the low bushes or on the ground, many with eggs or chicks.



Elisabeth and Martin walk very carefully so as not to disturb the nests. They have never seen so many strange birds at once.

"Look at that one," says Elisabeth. "He has a big balloon on his chest!" She has caught sight of a frigate bird. He has a red pouch under his beak and puffs it up when he wants to attract the lady birds.

"Here's one with a blue beak and red feet!" Martin laughs as he peeps into the bushes. A gannet - also known as a booby - is sitting near a nest. It doesn't seem to worry about the two curious children. It just moves slightly and the fluffy head of a small chick pops out between mother's red feet and stares at the visitors.

On the way back to the beach they pass a family of sea-lions. Daddy sea-lion looks dangerous as he raises himself up on his front flippers and roars at the intruders. It is as if he is warning them not to come too near his children.

Elisabeth and Martin try to keep as far away as possible from him, but there is not much room between the water and the bush, which is full of prickly cacti. In the end they take Stein and Diana by the hand and they all run as fast as they can past the fierce-looking animal.

A few days later, when Red Admiral is anchored at another island, Elisabeth finds a young sea-lion with both its back flippers bitten off. There are many sharks in this area and although they hardly ever attack people, they are fond of a young sea-lion for dinner. This is what must have nearly happened to this poor little fellow.

"Poor thing," sniffs Elisabeth. "How will it manage to look after itself?"

Later, Stein is having a swim. As he dives down into the clear water, a small group of sea-lions come to see what he is doing. They are curious and want to play. If Stein dives down, the sea-lions follow him. If he does a somersault, they do the same. Elisabeth and Martin watch the funny ballet from the side of the dinghy. Suddenly they see the injured sea-lion. He is swimming about, rolling around and nipping at Stein's flippers and looks just as quick and lively as the others.

Elisabeth and Martin feel much happier. "It will be able to look after itself," they agree.

The next day the whole family go off on a butterfly expedition to the interior of the island. Stein suddenly stops in his tracks and

whispers, "look at that!"

Behind a bush he has seen a strange animal which makes them all gasp in amazement. It is about the size of a big cat and its body is covered with scales and spikes. It has long claws and looks at them with red eyes, moving its head up and down. Suddenly two streams of water shoot out from its nostrils!

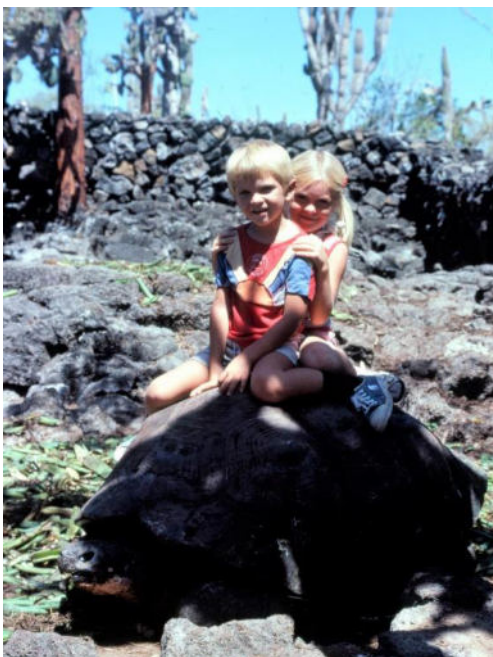
Fortunately, this land iguana is not any more dangerous than the sea iguanas they have already met. It only eats



plants, and the inside of its mouth is so tough that it can gobble up cactus, spikes and all!

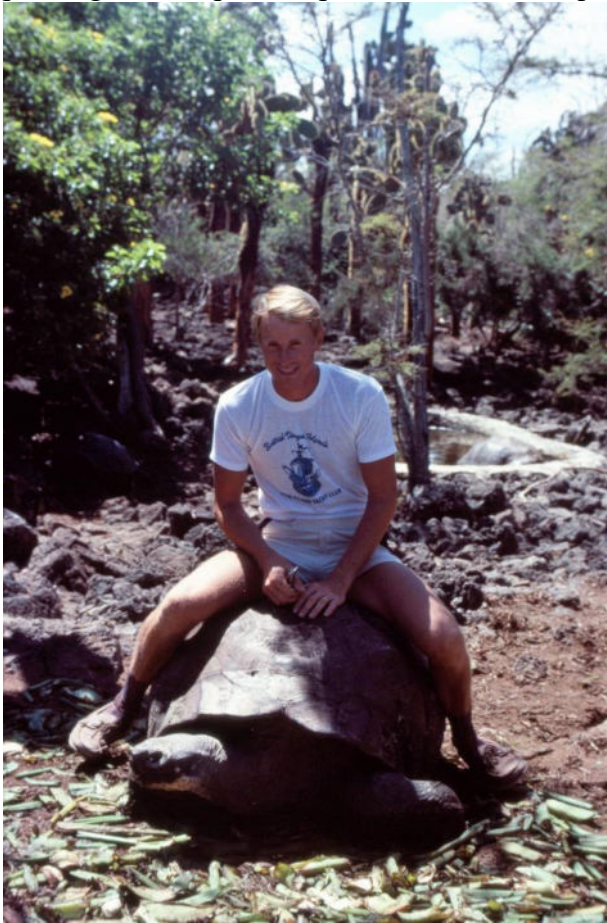
Even though the iguanas are peculiar animals, Galapagos is better known for its giant tortoises. When seamen first came to the islands about three hundred years ago, there were tortoises everywhere. Unfortunately, so many were caught and eaten that today there are very few left. Some are now being reared at a special zoological centre on one of the inhabited islands, and here there are some very big ones. There they can lay their eggs in peace, and when the babies are big enough to look after themselves, they are put out into the wild.

The great tortoises move slowly and carefully. When one of these giants wants to move, it sucks air into its lungs with a loud hissing



noise. Then it takes a few paces and falls back down to the ground with a thump.

"Can I ride one?" asks Martin, timidly patting the shell of one of the giants. Diana lifts him up onto its back and Elisabeth climbs up behind him. But they don't get any ride; the tortoise refuses to budge with the passengers on top. Perhaps he thinks he has quite enough weight just carrying himself around!



Stein also wants to try this!

The capital of Galapagos is on the island of San Cristobal. It doesn't look much like a capital city. Most houses are rickety wooden buildings and the streets are made of sand. There are donkey-carts, a few old-fashioned cars and some small lorries which are used as buses.



While getting some groceries on the first day ashore in San Cristobal, the shopkeeper tells them about two Norwegian ladies who came from Europe with their

father more than 50 years ago. They have a farm high up on the grassy slopes in the middle of the island. Here they have more than a thousand cattle which they manage mostly alone. Stein is also Norwegian so the family from Red Admiral are made very welcome when they go to pay them a visit. Karin and Snefrid Guldberg live in a little concrete house with a corrugated iron roof. Elisabeth and Martin think it is a shame that they have no water or electricity in the house. The sisters explain that they collect fresh water from the stream and they don't need electricity. They get up with the sun and go to bed when it gets dark, and in this climate, there is no need for heating.

Along the road back down to the coast there are banana groves and rows of orange trees. The children shake down oranges and come back to the boat with two bags full.





Here Martin, Diana and Elisabeth visit the Kastedalen family on Santa Cruz. Alf was only 10 when he arrived here with his parents in 1935. Corina and Alf are now the parents of eight-year-old Maria and nine-year-old Thorbaldo. There used to be many more Norwegian settlers, but this is the last family on Santa Cruz.

On the sail between two of the islands, Red Admiral crosses the Equator, and has therefore travelled from the Northern half of the World into the Southern half. It is the custom that King Neptune comes up from his castle on the ocean floor to visit ships passing the Equator. This time is no exception. Suddenly he climbs over the rail in his diving suit and flippers. He has a silver crown on his head and a long white beard. Elisabeth and Martin each get a medal hung around their neck, and he wishes them a good trip and disappears. Afterwards they wonder why he wasn't very wet, and where was Stein all this time...



The island of Fernandina is the last stop in Galapagos. On this island is a large, extinct volcano. "Imagine if it erupts now and pours hot lava all over us!" says Martin. He looks anxiously up at the peak which pierces the clouds above. Diana tells him that there hasn't been any big fire or smoke from the volcano

for several years, and there is very little danger of it erupting just today.

The shore on Fernandina is very unusual. It is made of black lava which has stiffened into weird formations as it cooled. "It looks like a giant troll has thrown away his porridge," says Elisabeth. "Black porridge! Yuck!" says Martin.



Close to the water are often mangrove trees with roots and branches like labyrinths for small children. But there are few plants higher up on the black lava, just a few bushes and cacti. Even so, there are plenty of animals and birds.

It is quite difficult to walk on the jagged lava, so the family take the dinghy and row around the shallows to get a better look at the animals.

"There's a penguin," whispers Elisabeth suddenly. It is the first time she has seen a wild penguin, though this one doesn't look very wild. When the dinghy bumps into the rock he is sitting on, he just opens his eyes, looks at the intruders, closes them again and goes back to sleep.

"Hey! Go away, you cheeky bird!" shouts Martin. A cormorant is swimming round the dinghy, pecking at the rubber and the oars. Stein rows a bit faster but the cormorant follows. It dives under the boat, comes up on the other side, shakes the water off its head and starts to peck again. Stein puts out his hand, and the bird swims up and bites it.

"Ow!" he shouts, while the others can't help laughing at the cheeky bird. Does it want to play or is it angry at being disturbed?

The Galapagos cormorant has only got tiny wings and cannot fly. But it is a good swimmer, which is more important, because all its food comes from the sea. It doesn't need to fly because there are no other animals which want to catch it.





Elisabeth and Martin provide the last dinner before leaving Galapagos. The water is full of fish and they are easy to catch. They only need to throw in a line and hook with some bait and pull out a fish. Even Elisabeth, who is not very fond of fish thinks it is fun to eat a meal she has caught herself!



This is the way Stein usually catches dinner. Many of the fish that live in these waters are not found anywhere else in the World. This is a geographical grouper.

And nowhere else on their long journey will lots of brown gannets come and settle on their boat.

The time comes too soon when they must weigh anchor and put to sea again. Goodbye Galapagos, goodbye strange birds and animals! But ahead lie new adventures.



Birthday at Sea



A week has gone since they left Galapagos. It is the middle of the night and all is quiet aboard Red Admiral. Stein, Elisabeth and Martin are asleep in their bunks while Diana is on watch. Every so often she looks out to make sure that the sails are set properly and that there are no boats around. They have not seen any ships for several days and all she can see are the stars blinking above. She sits down at the chart table again and picks up her sewing. It is a doll that she is making out of an old sheet and some pieces of cloth. She embroiders its eyes and mouth, makes hair from dark red wool and a dress from a blue tunic that they bought in Morocco.

Tomorrow is Elisabeth's birthday. She will be seven years old. Diana packs up the doll in tissue paper, and makes a birthday card. Now it is 2 o'clock and time to let Stein take over the watch.

"Hi, wake up," whispers Diana, shaking Stein gently. He is sleeping heavily but eventually opens his eyes and crawls out from the cosy bunk. He sighs and stretches and yawns several times before he is properly awake. Then he realizes that he too has a present to finish. Martin has said that he will help and Stein wakes him up, too.

"Be quiet so you don't disturb Elisabeth," he reminds Martin.

They bring out a newly painted red box. It is a jewel box for her birthday. Diana has sewn little cushions to put inside. Now Martin and Stein decorate it with brass edges and a name-plate. They are as quiet as they can be, but it is difficult not to make a noise when they hammer in the letters ELISABETH HOFF. Martin polishes the brass so it sparkles in the dim light at the navigation table. Then they wrap it up in silver paper, adding the finishing touch with red ribbon. Finally, Martin makes a birthday card. He draws Red Admiral, iguanas, penguins and sea-lions.

Elisabeth wakes up early to the smell of freshly baked rolls. She has ordered them for breakfast. Soon they are all out in the cockpit eating porridge, scrambled eggs and the fresh rolls.

Elisabeth has decided the menu for the whole day. The morning is used for baking. Diana makes the birthday cake, Stein small sponge cakes and Elisabeth and Martin make burnt gingerbread men: "Black people," says Martin.



At last the party can begin. The cake has seven candles and everybody is dressed in their cleanest T-shirt.



Elisabeth blows out the candles with one puff and they sing the Happy Birthday-song. Elisabeth is really pleased with the presents.

She arranges her jewellery and small trinkets in the box and decides to call the doll Charlotte. That is the name of Laura's doll in the book "Little House on the Prairie." Afterwards there is a treasure hunt. Elisabeth and Martin each get a bit of paper with a clue to a hiding place. When they have discovered the first hiding place there is a new piece of paper with a new clue. After ten of these they come to the treasures - comics! Now they are happy to relax and read for a while, until



the dinner is ready. For this Elisabeth has ordered sausages and noodles with tomato sauce; fruit salad with grated chocolate for dessert; and to finish, more cake!

The rest of the evening is spent singing to the guitar and reading aloud. Before she goes to bed Elisabeth declares that it is even more fun to have a birthday far out at sea than on land.



Little House on the Prairie - a very popular book across the Pacific Ocean.



Waffles and pancakes are always popular. This is only a week after leaving Galapagos when they still have bananas. Elisabeth and Martin have to do some "galley duty" like washing dishes.

Weeks later a new island appears on the horizon: Easter Island.

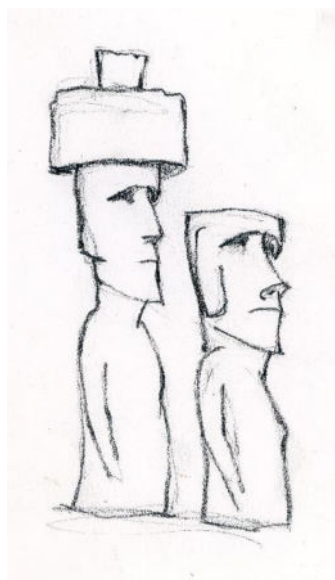
The last few days have been rough and they are now all looking forward to finding a safe anchorage and getting ashore. Elisabeth and Martin are sitting at the inside wheel pretending to steer the boat. As they sail close to land and imagine they will be sheltered by the tall mountain, a gale-force wind comes howling down the cliff-face. Red Admiral is blown right over on her side so that the main boom and the main sail drag in the sea. Water gushes into the cockpit and down into the cabin. Books, instruments and a radio get thrown onto the floor and slosh about in the water.

"Are we sinking?" Martin shouts very scared. Then the gust of wind is over and the boat rights itself again.

"There's the pump for the dinghy," yells Elisabeth. She can see several things which have been washed out from the front deck and the cockpit, floating about in the sea. Stein and Diana are busy getting down the main sail. It is important to get all the sails down quickly so that the wind cannot blow the boat over again.

At last they are safe. They pick up a wooden stool floating nearby, but leave the rest behind and motor quickly away from this dangerous place.

What a mess! Now there is a big job to get the boat dried out and tidied up. Stein lights the paraffin cabin heater for the first time in months. Clothes and books, cushions and carpets, have all to be hung up to dry. It has begun to drizzle so room has to be found inside, but no one complains. They are all so glad to be safe, realizing how near they were to real disaster.



Easter Island is a strange place. It is famous for all the mysterious giant statues which are found around the island. There are several hundred of them, some more than 10 meters (33 feet) high.

The four Hoffs take a trip to the Rano Raraku mountain-side where the statues were cut out a long time ago. Elisabeth and Martin are impressed when they hear that the people who made them only had stone axes.

People who have studied the statues believe that they were made to decorate the graves of priests and other important people. The largest statue was never finished. It lies on its back on the hillside and is almost 20 meters (66 feet) long.



When Martin stands on its throat he only reaches up to the tip of the nose.

"What a job!" he says, thinking what hard work it must have been to be a stone carver in Easter Island.

"It is even more amazing that they managed to transport, them such a long way," says Stein.

"Some of the statues have been moved 35 km (22 miles) from where they were made. That one you are standing on would have weighed about 200 tons!" Martin thinks he knows how it was done. He has noticed that there are lots of horses all over the island. He is a little jealous when he sees children younger than himself galloping along at full speed. "Maybe they used horses," he suggests, but Stein tells him that horses were first brought to the island long after the statues were made.



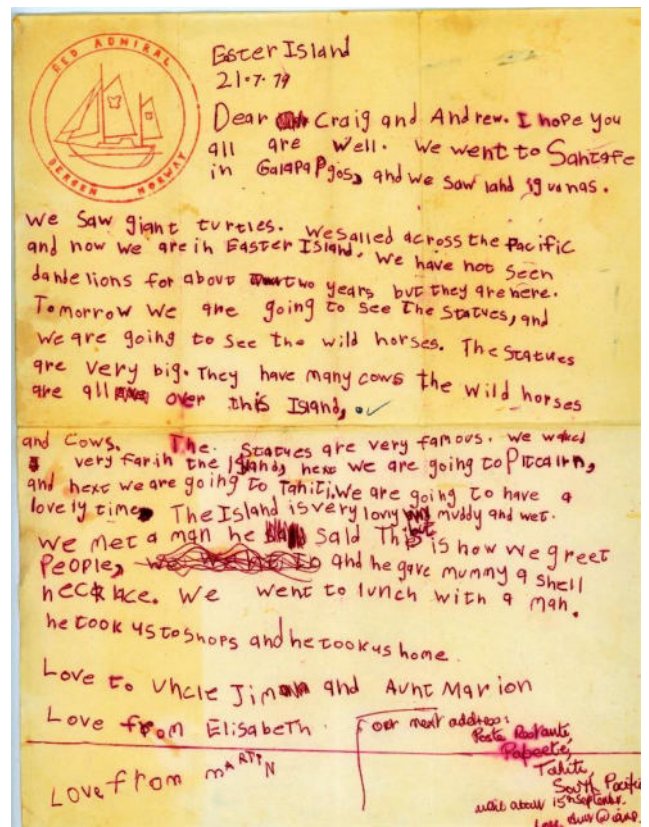


At Anakena they find a white beach and a good anchorage. Red Admiral is now in need of some fresh paint! On land, close to a collection of coconut trees, Elisabeth is standing in front of a statue first restored by Thor Heyerdahl from Norway.

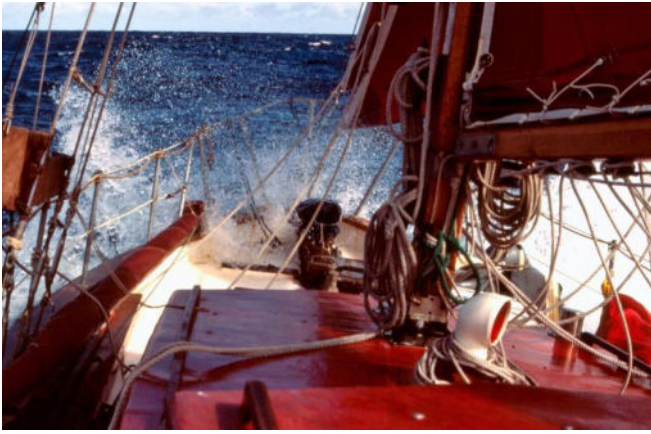


More stone carvings, these are on a rock in Hanga Roa, the main village on Easter Island. These carving were made after they stopped making the large statues, but they are still about 200 years old!

In Hanga Roa is a post office where Elisabeth and Martin post a letter to their cousins Craig and Andrew in Canada.



After they leave Easter Island they get a lot of bad weather, with periods of rain and strong gales. When the wind is strong and from straight ahead, there is nothing to do except take down all the sails and let the boat drift until the worst is over.



Sailing into the wind with spray flying is not much fun, but better than just lying a-hull and waiting.

There are some periods with no wind, but there are still big waves so that the boat rolls and rocks almost all the time. After three weeks of this everybody is anxious to get to land, especially as there is only the most boring food left.

There is great excitement when a new island appears ahead. Henderson Island is uninhabited. They anchor in front of a beautiful white beach, backed by a row of thick bushes and palm trees.

"Can we row to the beach tonight?" asks Elisabeth. Darkness falls fast in the tropics, and between the yacht and the beach is a long line of sharp coral just under the water - a reef. "It is too late and too risky to go ashore," says Stein, "but let's have a row in the dinghy."

By the time they have got the rubber boat ready, it is pitch dark. They can hear the rumble of the waves breaking on the reef. It is a little frightening to row so near the reef without being able to see properly. From the land there is a lovely smell of plants and trees. As they sniff in the good smell they talk about the fruit and nuts they will be able to pick tomorrow. Diana shines a strong torch light down into the water. Just then a large grey-blue shark glides under the dinghy. They all jump a little. "Now we'll row home and go to bed!" decides Elisabeth.



Early the next day they are ready to go ashore. Diana rows with the children along the reef, looking for an opening where they can get ashore. Stein is swimming beside them in his wet-suit and flippers. Soon they



find a narrow break in the reef. "I'll swim behind and push," he shouts to Diana. But just as they are approaching the reef, a big breaker lifts the dinghy up on its side. Diana and Elisabeth are thrown out and land in the shallows inside the reef. Martin holds on tight, the dinghy rights itself, and he safely rides up onto the beach.

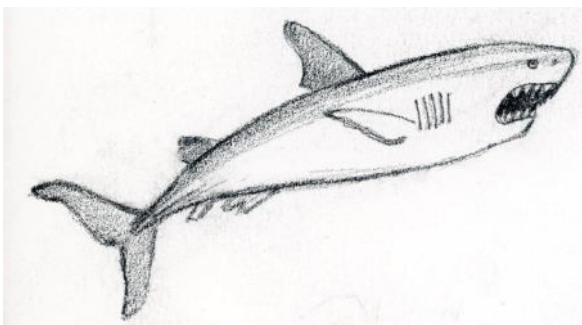
Sea Urchin Beach Monster!

Soon they are all ashore. It feels wonderful to be on land again after the horrible sail from Easter Island. Elisabeth and Martin run about, and shout to each other each time they find a pretty shell or some other exciting thing.

The sea urchins here are the biggest they have ever seen, so they have to be careful when they go paddling! Stein has found some fine coconuts. He opens them with a big knife and they all drink the refreshing water inside.



Soon the wind picks up yet again. Time to go. If the weather gets really bad it is safer to be out at sea than close to land. Diana rows the dinghy out between two waves and soon she and the children are back on Red Admiral.



Stein wants to swim back outside the reef with his spear-gun to see if he can catch some fish for dinner. After a few minutes he has speared a nice fish. But suddenly a large shark appears and starts to swim round him. Stein gets scared. He thinks that the shark probably wants the fish, but he cannot manage to free it from the spear. His heart is thumping as he swims towards Red Admiral, pointing his slender weapon towards the shark. He hardly dares to think what will happen if the shark attacks him. At last he sees the red keel ahead.

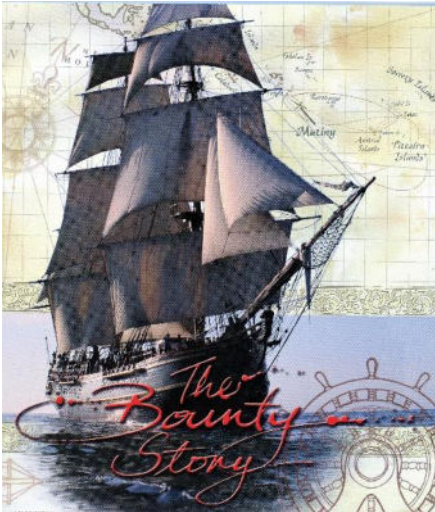
He scrambles aboard quickly and tears off his wet-suit and flippers. Now he just wants to pull up the two anchors and get away as fast as possible!

Pitcairn – Mutiny Island



The next island ahead is so small that the people who live there often call it “The Rock”.

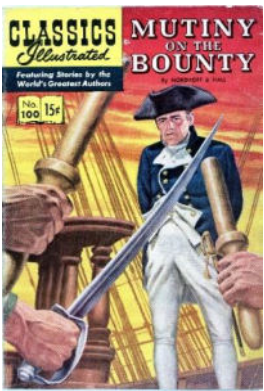
Its proper name is Pitcairn Island. It is a famous little island, because it was here that the mutineers from the “Bounty” settled.



H.M.S. (His Majesty's Ship) “Bounty” was a British ship which sailed

across the Pacific nearly 200 years ago. There was a mutiny on board, and the captain was put to sea in a lifeboat along with eighteen of the crew. The other twenty-four sailed to Tahiti where fifteen of them went ashore. The last nine led by Fletcher Christian took Tahitian wives and sailed off in search for a hiding-place. After nine months of searching, they found the tiny, uninhabited Pitcairn Island, and decided to settle there. They knew that if they were ever found they would be taken home to England and hanged, so to be quite sure no ship would discover them

if they sailed close by, they burned the “Bounty”. They also built their homes hidden between the tall trees on top of the steep cliff-sides.



Now there are 62 people on Pitcairn. Most of them are direct descendants of the mutineers and their Tahitian women. There also one lady from Norway, called Kari, who lives there. After seeing the film “Mutiny on the Bounty”, Kari decided that she wanted to visit Pitcairn. When she eventually got there, she fell in love with Brian, one of the Pitcairn men and married him and now they have a son named Timothy.

Red Admiral is still about two hours' sail from the island, when they suddenly hear the noise of an engine. A large open motor boat comes up alongside with about fifteen men and boys aboard. They wave and smile and some of them jump aboard Red Admiral. Elisabeth and Martin can hardly believe their eyes when they see baskets of oranges, mandarins and bananas being passed across. What a treat for a family who have been eating mostly rice and corned beef for the past two weeks!

Timothy (“Timmy”) and Kari.

There is no good harbour on the island, just steep cliffs most of the way round. They drop their anchor in the same place where “Bounty” was burned and sunk such a long time ago. Elisabeth and Martin peer down into the water to see if they can see any remains of the ship, but all they see is sand and big, black rocks.



In the bay, the waves are breaking heavily against the little stone jetty. The rubber dinghy would be no good here. They go aboard the motor boat which comes to take them ashore.



Stein looking out from Camel'sHead down to Red Admiral at anchor in Bounty Bay – not a safe harbour.

The Pitcairners have their own method of getting to land. The four visitors look anxiously at the breakers and hold on tight. The men stop the big motor boat just outside the breakers. Here they wait for the right moment, then suddenly let the boat shoot forward at full speed on the back of a wave and glide in behind the jetty. The Hoffs are impressed, but the others just laugh. "That was nothing," says one of them, "it's calm today. You should see it when it's really rough!"

The whole school can get into the little car with teacher Allen Cox (from New Zealand).



To their delight, Elisabeth and Martin are each placed on the back of a motor-cycle and everybody makes their way up the steep dirt road to the village. Soon they are sitting around a table, covered with different dishes of meat, fish and vegetables. They can hardly remember when they last tasted so much good food. Nowhere around the World have the Hoffs had such a friendly welcome as in Pitcairn. Elisabeth moves ashore and stays with various families. Martin prefers to sleep on the boat but he also spends the whole day with new friends.

The little island school has only nine pupils. The teacher's name is Allen and he asks the children if they would like to come to school. That sounds fun and for two weeks the school has eleven pupils. At school they often look at films about how people live in other countries. This is important because most of the children here have never been to any other country. Pitcairn is only about two miles long and one mile across. They have never seen planes, tall buildings, traffic or television. There is only one car on the island. One fine afternoon the teacher takes the whole school in the car and they drive up to a grassy field. This is the only good place on the island to play football.



Life on Pitcairn is nice and peaceful. There are no queues or traffic jams, no thieves or police, and only one small shop which opens now and again. Even so, the people are very busy. Every family has to fish, grow fruit and vegetables and keep hens, so that they have enough food.

Then there is a lot of work which the adults share. Boats have to be repaired, roads to be kept in order, church and school to be washed. Someone has to serve in the shop, someone in the post office. They get some pay for this kind of work, but to make enough to buy food and clothes they also have to make souvenirs. The men do wood carving and the women basket work. When a ship stops to bring them post, food and other supplies they go out with their souvenirs and sell them to the crew.

Martin likes the fierce-looking sharks they make. Their bodies are carved from dark, heavy wood and their teeth are real shark's teeth. Elisabeth thinks the colourful, woven baskets are the prettiest.

One day everybody is excited. They have heard on the radio that there is a supply-ship from New Zealand on the way. It is nearly six months since the last one so they are short of lots of things.

Everybody has to help with the supplies, so the children get the day off school. They are all up early looking for the ship and trying to be the first to see it. As soon as it is sighted, one of the adults ring the big bell outside the church.

Now the island comes to life. Everybody hurries to the jetty and soon three of the long boats put out to meet the ship. Most of the adults are aboard with baskets of fruit and souvenirs. When the ship has anchored, everybody climbs aboard using rope ladders.

The women do the selling while the men get started on the heavy work of loading the goods onto the boats and taking them ashore. It takes many hours of work and several trips back and forth through the breakers before everything is ashore. Then the jetty is packed with sacks of flour, cement, mail, boxes of tinned food and diesel drums. There are also wooden planks and materials to do house repairs.

After two weeks the family are all sad to say goodbye to their new friends. Diana and Stein have used their doctor skills, examined most of the adults and treated the few who are sick as a small return for all the hospitality and presents they have been given: Baskets of fruit, small pictures painted on dry leaves, beautiful wood carvings and special postage stamps. For the first time Elisabeth is really sad at having to leave a place. "Why can't we live here?" she sobs, "I don't want to sail anymore!"

Heroes for a Day



It is a warm tropical evening. Elisabeth and Martin are playing cards, Diana is reading a book and Stein is strumming his guitar. They all think it is lovely to feel the boat lying absolutely still. It is a long time since Red Admiral was anchored in such a well-sheltered harbour. In Easter Island and Pitcairn there was always a swell even if there was not much wind.

They have come to Mangareva, an island in French Polynesia. This is one of the world's most beautiful island groups. Red Admiral is lying outside the only town in Mangareva, a picturesque little village called Rikitea. Tonight they can sleep without having to worry about wind or waves.

French Polynesia is full of white beaches and warm sunshine. Elisabeth and Martin are already looking forward to the next day when they want to swim, swim, swim!

When they wake up, the sun is shining from a clear, blue sky, but it becomes grey later in the day. Then black clouds roll in and it begins to rain. What heavy rain! All evening and all night it pours down. Elisabeth lies awake for a while listening to it drumming on deck, and to the wind howling in the rigging.

The next morning they are awakened by a strange noise from the jetty. They look out and see a man standing there shouting and waving with both arms in their direction. Stein takes the dinghy and rows up to him to find out what he wants.

The man is partly Polynesian, but speaks good English and even a little Norwegian after many years as a seaman. His name is Henry Gooding. He looks very worried and tells Stein what the problem is. Before the bad weather started, three of his friends went out fishing in a small boat. They should have been back a long time ago and now everybody is worried about them.

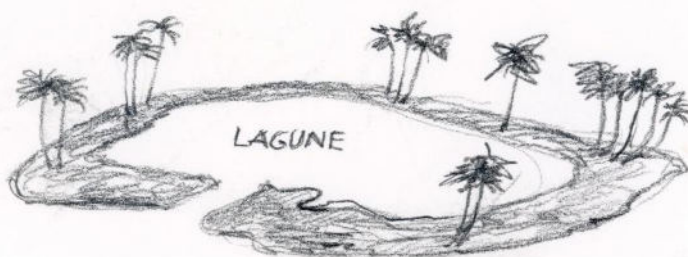
They might have landed on Temoe," says Henry. It is a small, uninhabited atoll about 30 nautical miles from here. Could you take me there to look for them? None of our boats are strong enough to go out in this weather."

Certainly the family wants to help! Henry brings some food and clothes and comes aboard with his friend, Patrice Carlson, who

knows Temoe well. Patrice's grandfather was Swedish, but he only speaks French and Tahitian.

Before they leave Mangareva, Diana and Stein arrange with the local policeman to keep in touch by radio.

The ocean swell is heavy outside the sheltered lagoon. By the time they reach Temoe it is nearly evening, but they still manage to sail once around the island. Using the engine Stein steers as close as he dares to the reef which circles Temoe like a necklace, white and pretty at a distance, but very dangerous. All the time



Henry and Patrice look for signs of their friends through the binoculars. Soon it is too dark and they have to wait for morning before the search can continue.

They don't see signs of life or a wreck the next day either. On the radio Henry gives the bad news to the policeman.

A snake mackerel has bitten on the hook during the night.



When they return to Mangareva everybody thinks that the men have drowned. Meanwhile the air-force in Tahiti have sent a plane to search the sea. This is their last hope.

Another day passes with no good news. The policeman is unshaven and has hardly slept for three nights. He gives the Hoffs a tired wave as they walk to the baker's for some fresh bread.

On the way back everything is changed at the policeman's office! People are shouting, laughing and hugging each other. The big, Polynesian policeman is grinning all over and comes running up to the Hoff's. "They have been found, they have been found!" he yells. "They are drifting in their boat far out at sea. They were seen from a plane. Can you collect them?"

Of course! Food and diesel are loaded aboard and off they go again. It takes Red Admiral sixteen hours to get to the given position, but here is no sign of any fishing-boat. Stein goes up in the mast with the binoculars, but still sees nothing but the sea.



"Here comes a plane," shouts Martin. It flies low over Red Admiral, dips its wings for a greeting and turns North. Diana pushes over the tiller and steers after it. At last they see the little boat with the three aboard. The plane dips its wings again and disappears.

Three happy, unshaven men climb aboard. Diana has food ready because she knows that they have hardly eaten for five days. Soon all three are munching large amounts of spaghetti bolognese and telling their story.



Dave, Tana and "Sicci" had fought for their lives for about 36 hours, bailing out continuously as large waves broke over their little boat. When the weather improved, they had very little fuel left and no idea where they were, so they just had to drift and wait and hope that they would be found. Towing the small fishing-boat behind, Red Admiral returns to Mangareva the next day. Almost the whole population is standing on the jetty! Even the schoolchildren have been given the day off. As soon as Red Admiral ties up people jump aboard. Everybody is so happy! The fishermen are surrounded by friends and family who want to hug and kiss them.

Now everybody on the island knows who the Hoffs are. As they walk around people smile and wave, and every evening they are invited out for dinner. When they want to leave for Tahiti, the boat

is loaded with far more bananas, paw-paws and vegetables than they can possibly eat!

Dave's family in Tahiti invite them to a big party.



Visiting the search plane that found the missing men is fun!



For the next few weeks they continue to have a great time. This part of the South Pacific is full of lovely tropical islands, complete with blue lagoons and waving palm trees. Elisabeth thinks that they also have beautiful names: Tahiti, Moorea, Huahine, Bora-Bora, Aitutaki, Tongatapu... Everywhere they swim in warm, blue water and build sandcastles on the beaches. What is even more fun is to put on a diving-mask and look at the many colourful little fish which live around the coral reefs.

One day Elisabeth is unlucky. While she and Martin are playing with some local children,



Elisabeth slips and cuts her thigh on a rusty nail. Sometimes it is good to have parents who are doctors! She lies still while Stein gives her an injection of local pain-killer and closes the cut with three stitches. Elisabeth hardly cries and is soon outside playing again as if nothing had happened.



A children's party aboard another yacht in Tahiti on Martin's 6th birthday.

In the old days there were kings on many of the Pacific islands. Today there is only one king left. He lives on Tonga in a white, wooden house with black and red turrets. The children think it is pretty and just like a small castle from a fairy story.

In Moorea.





Martin towing his boat during a sail between the islands.

On most of the islands people wear as few clothes as possible in the heat, but here in Tonga they notice that many of the adults have a heavy plated straw mat tied round their waist, *outside* other ordinary clothes! No wonder they need an umbrella to shade them from the sun. Diana finds out that the mat is called a *toa-vala* and wearing one is a sign of respect for the King. The older a *toa-vala* is, the more

it is valued. Many are passed down from generation to generation. Elisabeth and Martin think it is funny how the ones that look as if they are falling apart any minute also are the finest.



They seem to make friends everywhere they visit. In Tongatapu, the main Tonga island, they are invited on a car trip. As they stop at some big trees Elisabeth points up and shouts: "Look at the funny birds!"

"Take a closer look," says the man who owns the car. "Are you sure they are birds?"

"Well, they fly and they make whistling noises."

Elisabeth screws up



her eyes against the sharp sun. But suddenly she sees what they are. Bats! In addition to the ones flying, there are lots hanging upside down from the branches with their wings wrapped around like raincoats. The man says that these are special bats. While most other bats sleep during the day and fly at night, these do the opposite. Also, instead of insects, they eat fruit and vegetables. People in the Pacific like fruit bats for dinner themselves. "But nobody is allowed to hunt the ones you see here," he explains, "because all the bats living in these trees belong to the King of Tonga and his family."





Martin taking a new friend for a row in Tonga.



Outside a house in Tonga lie skeletons from whales caught in the past and the shells of giant mussels.



Robert Joins the Crew

New Zealand to Mauritius

It is Christmas Day. Martin and Elisabeth are sitting on a beach thinking about snow. It isn't often they long for home, but just for today it would be nice to have a trip back to their grandparents in Scotland and Norway.

Red Admiral has come to New Zealand. They have sailed round half the World and are in a country as far away from home as possible. Here they plan to live for a year.

Soon after they arrive in New Zealand, Stein is working in a hospital, they have a place to live ashore and it is time for Christmas.

Again they have to earn more money. Diana is also expecting a baby so it is safer to be on land for a while. Stein and Diana have once more managed to get jobs at a hospital. Elisabeth is now seven and Martin six. Both go to Mangapapa school in Gisborne. The school is a



bit stricter than the one in Barbados. Here the children are told to sit quietly in their places and only speak when the teacher asks them a question. One thing is like Barbados: All the boys wear short trousers the whole year. But the weather in New Zealand is quite different from the West Indies! When they get a few days' frost in July and August Martin complains that his knees are cold! The teacher says he gets tough that way.



Diana gets bigger and bigger round the middle. Elisabeth wonders if she and Martin can watch the new baby being born. Diana is happy about that but she has to ask the hospital first. She is told that it has never happened before that brothers and sisters are present at a birth, but after some discussion, they agree to let the children attend after all and Elisabeth and Martin are very excited. One day Stein collects them at school because Diana feels

that the baby is coming. Time goes slowly at the hospital, but at last Diana's bed is wheeled into the delivery room. Elisabeth and Martin follow, wearing green hospital gowns that are far too big for them. Careful; now is not the time to stumble!

The children hold Diana's hand while she pushes the baby out. A small, pink, slimy head appears first, quickly followed by the whole little body.

"A boy, a boy!" shouts Martin, "just like I said it would be!"



The new little brother is to be called Robert, but he is more often called Robby, Bobby, Robs or Bobs.

Diana and Stein wonder what it will be like to sail with a baby aboard.

Stein makes a bunk for Robert in the front cabin. Diana adds a mattress and soft cushions all round the inside so that he cannot get hurt when the boat is rolling. Since the bunk can also be shut with wooden bars, they call it "Robby's cage". A fishing net tied along the rails around the deck is another safety feature. It will stop the baby falling overboard when he crawls round the deck.



The Gisborne beach is a super place for a run.

Elisabeth becomes eight around the time of Robert's birth.



Robert is five months old when it is time to celebrate Christmas for the second time in New Zealand.



But before leaving Gisborne they want to see some of the large South Island of New Zealand. In many places the nature there reminds them of Norway



There are millions of sheep in New Zealand and sheering them for their fleece of wool is done once a year. A professional sheerer normally shaves the wool of 200 sheep every day, using 2 to 3 minutes on each animal. But in competitions the record for doing one sheep is less than one minute!





View towards Queenstown across lake Wakatipu.



Strange to be next to the Fox Glacier while feeding Kea parrots.



After more than 16 months it is time to say goodbye to the amazing New Zealand. This is a fern tree, it can grow to 20m (60feet) high.

Robert is eight months' old when they are ready to sail again. He can now crawl and pull himself up to a standing position. Elisabeth and Martin realise that he will have to be looked after all the time.



Leaving Gisborne, Diana has a lot of canned food to be stored away for the long sail ahead. Red Admiral now has a bright red hull and a white cabin top. A second-hand wind-surfer is tied on the outside and up front the wind fills a new jib.





Robert is eight months old when he moves aboard and quickly gets used to his new home.

The first stop after New Zealand is in Norfolk Island, an island that like Pitcairn also has many descendants from the Bounty mutineers.

Soon they are back among the westerly South Pacific islands: New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.



Fish caught in New Caledonia: Above is the biggest piece of tuna possible for the pressure cooker, on the left a barracuda.



Every stop seems to bring something new and exciting. The most exciting and unusual thing that happens is on Pentecost in the group of islands known as Vanuatu.

Here they are lucky enough to see something called land-diving.

Deep in the jungle the natives have built a tower of young trees bound together with strips of bark and vines. The tower is nearly 30 metres (100 feet) tall. From about the middle and up to the top there are fifteen boards sticking out. They look a bit like diving boards.

A young man, almost naked, climbs up to the first board. Round his ankles are tied two long vines. They hang down in loops with the other ends tied to the board he is standing on. The man is quite still for a minute or two. Below him women and children from his village are dancing back and forth. They also sing and whistle and wave colourful plants in the air.



Suddenly the young man falls forward and plunges towards the ground. Elisabeth and Martin close their eyes. They cannot watch! When they open them again, he is dancing happily with the others!



After several men have done the same dive, they understand what happens. The vines around the ankles work like giant elastic-bands. Just before the diver hits the ground the vines become fully stretched and stop him in mid-air.

Then he swings in close to the foot of the tower. Here other men are ready to cut him free. Imagine if the vines were a little too long or too stretchy!

Each new diver jumps from a little higher than the one before. Some hit the ground with a shoulder, but not seriously.

Finally the last man stands swaying back and forth at the very top. Just keeping his balance must be difficult, but he also manages to wave and clap and give a speech to the spectators far below him. Then he dives off



elegantly. Obviously this is the expert, and he is on his feet dancing almost right away. Lots of natives, old and young rush to join him, everybody singing and shouting with joy.

"Imagine doing that!" says Martin, "they must be mad."

"Well, I'd rather try that than ski-jumping!" says Diana.



Anchored in Vanuatu.

When they arrive at new islands, the local people often come rowing out in their canoes to greet the visitors. The children are always curious to see Martin, Elisabeth and Robert. Most of them have never seen white children before, except perhaps in pictures at school. The bravest climb aboard Red Admiral just to stare and giggle. Some also bring beautiful shells to give to the five on board. Diana gives them some sweets, while Martin and Elisabeth untie the sailboard. This is a good way of making friends. Soon the local children are playing on the sailboard while Elisabeth and Martin are paddling around in small canoes. They are mostly carved out of large tree trunks and are called dugouts.



The biggest canoes have outboard engines. On many islands these are the only machines to be found. Occasionally somebody may have a little radio, but hardly any villages have electricity, telephones or television. Most houses are made of bamboo with straw roofs. One place used to have corrugated iron roofs,

but the villagers discovered that it made the houses very hot inside and that there was an awful noise when it rained!



*Cheke Village,
Solomon
Islands.*

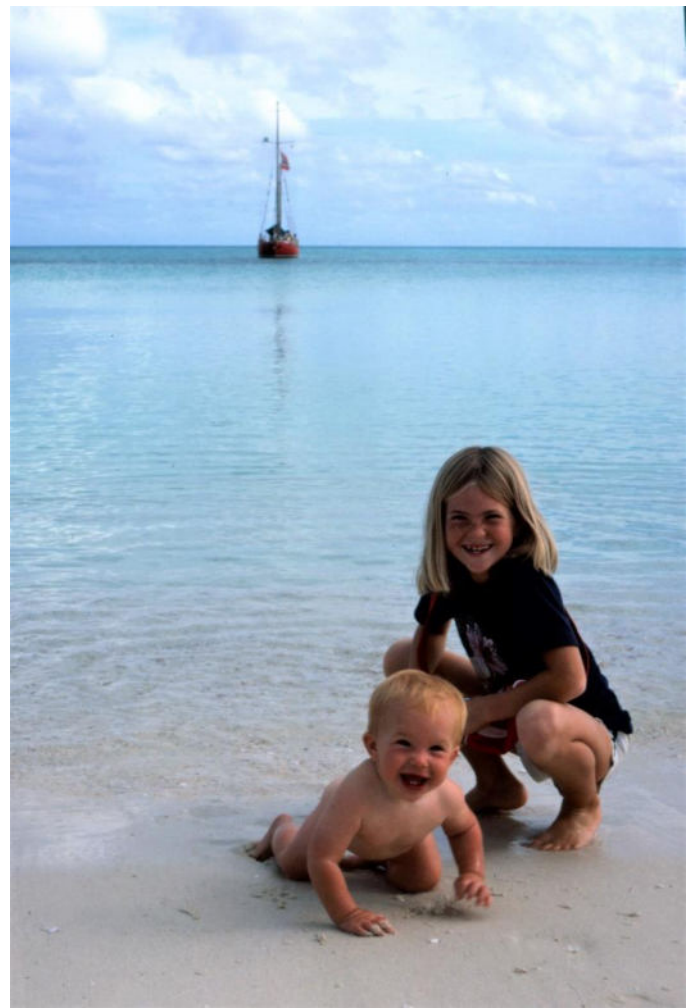
*Cheke visitors in
a dugout canoe.*

*Coconut crab on
the run!*

One night, before the children go to bed, the family are sitting inside playing cards. Suddenly there is a thump on the side of the boat: a canoe. A boy sticks his curly head over the rail. "You want pig?" he asks with a grin, "only five kenas." That is about five British pounds; a very cheap pig, but without a refrigerator they cannot possibly eat so much meat.

Stein shakes his head. "You might have asked us before killing the poor thing," he replies. Then they hear a loud grunt from the bottom of the canoe and they are happy to see that the pig is not dead at all. When the boy understands that he can't sell it, he takes it back to the beach and sets it free.

Another reason that they don't want to buy meat is that they have already caught two big coconut crabs. One has been cooked and eaten, the other is tied up in the bow. At least they think it is, until Martin goes to take a look at it. The crab is gone! They soon find it hanging on the cabin door, its big claws free. Martin becomes slightly pale when he realises he passed right beside it on the way out. Now they take no chances. Stein ties it up so well that it looks like a ball of string!

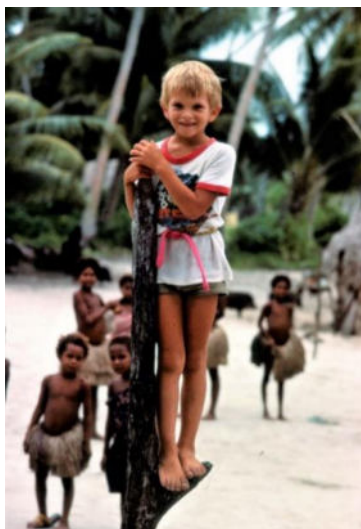


In Solomon Islands Robert has a fever and is comforted by a local in Maramasike. But a few days later he is back to normal and again enjoying the beach with Elisabeth.



On Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands are wrecks of planes from the fighting in World War II.

Diana feeding Robert and steering Red Admiral at the same time.



In the Laughlan Atoll in Papua New Guinea they have very little contact with the outside world. A white, blond boy is something new and Martin gets more attention than he likes!

Elisabeth and Martin get a lift ashore in an outrigger canoe. The sail is made of platted pandanus leaves.

Robert's first birthday is in Port Moresby. Stein has made him a chair and table which now needs painting.

After four months of sailing among the Western Pacific islands, and a short visit to Darwin in Australia to load up with food, Red Admiral sets sail for Bali in Indonesia.



Diana is the main navigator around the World. Here she is measuring the angle between the sun and the horizon with a sextant, takes a note of the exact time and works out the position using two thick books - an almanac and a book of tables.



Termite ants are tiny animals, but they can build large homes! In Darwin, Australia.

Across the Arafura Sea between Australia and Bali it is very hot with little wind for sailing and they often have to use the engine. Elisabeth and Martin play in the shade of the topsail in the bow. Towards sunset it gets a little cooler on the coach roof.

On the way to Bali they celebrate Stein's 36th birthday.





Bali is an exciting island. There are many beautifully carved stone temples and the people have lots of old traditions. Elisabeth and Martin particularly enjoy the dancing. The dancers wear colourful costumes, often with wooden masks. Some portray good spirits and some portray bad ones. The chief bad spirit is called Rangda. He really looks fierce.

In Indonesia rice is as important as potatoes in Europe. In Bali they see how rice grows under water. The rice fields are often in terraces looking like giant steps up the hillsides.

They visit villages where people specialize in various handcrafts. One village has many skilled painters, another village has gold- and silversmiths, other villages have wood carvers. And to become good you have to start early.

A lot of items are not expensive. Some people are desperate to sell and reduce the price further, so when Red Admiral sails away they have many new souvenirs aboard.

Bali is the last stop before a long sail across the Indian Ocean to South Africa. That will take several weeks, but fortunately there are some islands to stop at. Cocos Keeling is just the sort of island one would like to dream about on a cold winter's day in Europe: Warm and sunny, palm trees along the white beach, clear, shallow water. Little Robert who didn't think visiting temples in Bali was much fun, has a great time here. He crawls around at the water's edge, chases crabs and picks up shells. He also tries to catch some chickens which are wandering about in the bushes behind the beach.





Elisabeth dives in and swims ashore in Cocos Keeling, while Stein and Robert row ashore.

Robert is now just over a year old and can take a few shaky steps. Elisabeth and Martin spend more time in the water than out.

In the evenings they sit round a bonfire with friends from some other yacht, eating fish they have caught that day, chatting and singing. Often there is a freshly baked cake, too.

The days on Cocos Keeling go far too quickly. They could spend many weeks here, but after seven days it is time to move on. Even though they have sold their sailboard, money is getting low. They have to get to South Africa so that Diana and Stein can get some work for a few months. The distance from Cocos Keeling to Mauritius, an island east of Africa, is about 2.500 miles. Fortunately, there is a strong breeze or a near gale behind them the whole way and this



is a fast 18 days of sailing, if at times a bit rough.

Nobody on board enjoys their snacks like Elisabeth. By now she has become good at preparing treats for the family. One day she makes a delicious cake, another day popcorn. When she decides to make pancakes though, things don't go too well. A large wave coming up from behind suddenly lifts the stern of Red Admiral and the bowl of pancake batter flies across the galley and onto the floor. It runs down the walls and cupboards and ends up in little cream-coloured puddles on the carpet!

Instead of munching tasty pancakes, the next hour is spent cleaning the cabin. The carpet





has to be taken out and washed and dried. Anyway, the cabin then looks cleaner than it has been for a long time. Elisabeth decides to make pop-corn until



the sea is calmer!

During this sail, Martin also has a birthday. He is eight years old. As is now the custom on Red Admiral, the big day is celebrated from sun-rise to well after sun-set.

Martin also gets a home-made present. Stein has spent several days making a holder for his favourite comics. In addition, he gets a Lego-set which has been hidden away for several months.

This time the treasure hunt is a different type. The children get a proper map, burnt around the edges to look really old. The hunt begins on a "mountain-top". (That is the main mast.) There they meet a dangerous pirate with a cutlass and a patch over one eye. (That is Stein dressed up.) Then they take the path down the mountainside to the beach (the deck). Next is four steps to the East and then enter a big hole (the cockpit). There they must walk West and down the underground stairs past a horrible, pink Monster with freckled nose (Robert). The treasure is hidden under a trap-door guarded by hairy, child-eating cockroaches. (The cockroaches are real enough, but are less than an inch long and quite harmless.) And all the time there is a lot of howling from wolves, vultures and vampires...



Robert in his pyjamas hanging from the ropes in Mauritius, the last stop before South Africa.



Red Admiral, with nappies flying in the breeze, has her picture taken by friends on another yacht south of Madagascar. Only a few days left of the 17 days it takes to sail from Mauritius to Durban in South Africa.



South Africa

Diana and Stein both find jobs for three months in hospitals in Durban in South Africa. Robert has to go to a kindergarten for the first time in his life, something he does not like at all, but only for the first couple of days.

Elisabeth and Martin enjoy going to a proper school again. At Addington School there are only white pupils and teachers. Elisabeth and Martin think this is strange, because most of the people they see in the streets have dark skin.

Stein explains that in this country black people and white people must live separated from each other - apart - this is called apartheid. Even though most people are black, the whites make almost all the rules and laws for everybody. One law says that black and white children shall go to different schools. The schools for white children are the best and all the books are free. Black children often have to pay for their books. Diana tells them that there is a similar separation in the hospitals. The hospital where she works is for blacks and is not nearly as fine as the ones for the white people.

Elisabeth and Martin soon find out that this apartheid affects everything. Only white people can go to the best cinemas and restaurants or ride on the most modern buses. The blacks only get onto the best beaches to clean up after the whites.

"How unfair!" says Elisabeth, thinking of her friends in other countries with dark skin. "Why don't they complain?" "Because they get arrested," explains Stein. "Even white people who say that this is wrong, sometimes end up in jail."



*Diana works at the hospital for black people.
One day Robert comes to work with her.*

Even though people they meet seem nice enough, they all agree that this is a country they wouldn't want to live in for long. As soon as they have enough money they will sail on.

Elisabeth and Martin enjoy living on their boat in the harbour, as there are yachts here from all over the world, and they get a chance to meet other sailing children. They become good friends with Melanie from "White Rose of Lavingham", an English yacht, and Kevin from "Kiskadee", a Canadian

yacht. These two are both about the same age as the Red Admiral children and the four of them have lots of fun together. Sometimes they visit other yachts. They soon find out who are fond of children and are willing to play games or give them something good to eat!

One day, one of the yachtsmen gets a new outboard engine for his dinghy. It is packed in enormous amounts of polystyrene, which the children discover make excellent boats. Soon they are paddling about on large pieces of the white stuff, laughing and shouting to each other. Then a motor boat passes, and a wave upsets Elisabeth's boat. She lands with a splash in the dirty harbour water and comes up gasping. Luckily Stein has just looked out to see where they are, and quickly pulls her up onto the jetty. He orders the rest out of their boats too, and they all agree that this game is just a bit too dangerous!

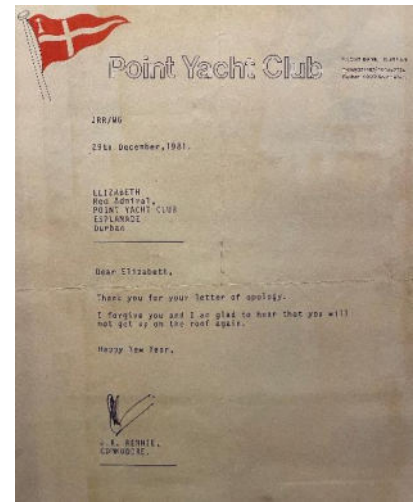
Another day, Elisabeth and Melanie explore the fire-escape on the back of the yacht-club. They climb all the way up onto the roof where they sit down enjoying a good view over the harbour. After a while a man is shouting at them, telling them to get down. They climb down as they are told, but when they see him standing stern-faced at the bottom of the steps, they get an attack of the giggles and run off before he has time to say a word. Unfortunately, it turns out that the man is the Commodore (the chief) of the yacht-club, and the girls are no longer very popular! Their parents are worried that this might give the foreign yachts a bad reputation. Elisabeth and Melanie are now a little ashamed of their behaviour, so they both write a

letter of apology. They feel better when they get a nice reply from the commodore saying that they are forgiven, but he hopes that he will not see them on the roof again!

Before they leave Durban, the family want to see some of the African animals that they didn't see in Morocco. They hire a car for a weekend and drive to a game park with the funny name of Hluhluwe.



The park is so big that it takes several hours to drive from one end to the other. Here at last they get to see wild zebras, giraffes, gnus, buffalos, antelopes, monkeys, one lion and lots of other animals. When they see a herd of rhinoceroses grazing under a tree, they are almost a little scared. They are much bigger than they had thought. "Don't drive too close to those monsters!" says Martin.



The trip to the game park is just as good as they had hoped, but in the evening back on the yacht Elisabeth can't help thinking about some of the children they saw along the road-side. They had such thin arms and big tummies, and they didn't look very happy.



Sailing south from Durban after three months and looking forward to visiting new places without apartheid.

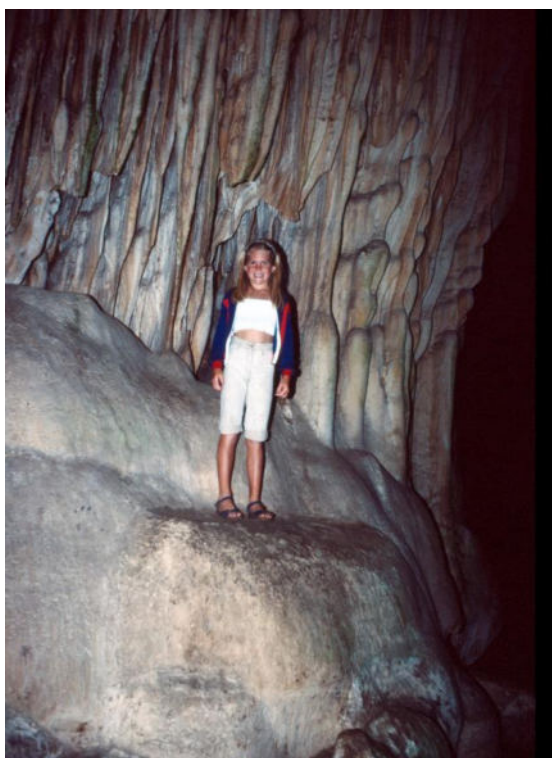


Checking the rigging before a new sail.



To get safely around the south capes of Africa they have to seek shelter from bad weather in East London, Plettenberg Bay and Mossel Bay before Cape Town on the Atlantic side.

While in Mossel Bay they visit the Canga Caves.



Robert looking for animals on top of Table Mountain, Cape Town.



In Cape Town, there is time for a climb up to the famous Table Mountain where the view is great. Behind Stein and Robert is the harbour where Red Admiral is getting ready for the long sail across the South Atlantic.

Napoleon's Island



Red Admiral is drifting in a storm. Three days ago they left Cape Town in South Africa and are now back in the south Atlantic Ocean. The first day out there was a nice fresh breeze, but

then it slowly got stronger and stronger and the waves bigger and bigger. At one point a big wave broke into the cockpit and filled it completely with water. Fortunately, nothing was damaged, but some water poured down into the cabin. Diana and Stein decided to repeat the storm-procedure they used in the Pacific: tie down all sails and the tiller, shut the door and let Red Admiral drift along sideways. Soon the songbooks and the guitar come out and they cheer each other up by munching chocolate and dried fruit. The wind is strong and steady so the boat is not rolling much, and they are drifting in the right direction, so things are not too bad.



It takes two days for the storm to die out. At last the sails come up one by one. The waves no longer have white tops and dolphins and flying fish reappear.

Most nights some flying fish land on deck. The fish make Robert very excited and every morning he and Diana walk round the deck looking for them. Diana feels rather sorry for the little creatures who have managed to land on a hard deck when there are miles of empty sea all around.

Sometimes Elisabeth and Martin try to spot the fish first, but this makes their little brother furious!

Robert allows the biggest ones to be put into the frying pan for breakfast, but keeps all

the small ones for himself. He can sit and play with them for hours.

Ten days after the gale they arrive at Saint Helena. On the chart this island is like a tiny dot in the middle of the South Atlantic. At a distance it looks rather unfriendly with steep cliffs all the way round. No wonder it made a good prison for Emperor Napoleon of France, who the British kept here for the last six years of his life. That was about 160 years ago. Today there is a museum in the house where he lived.

It is quite exciting to think that all these things were used by Napoleon. The camp bed that he used when he went to war is here. It is collapsible, but very short; more suited to a child than an adult, Napoleon was only five feet (152cm) tall. Elisabeth and Martin used his globe to see where they have sailed so far and what they have ahead before they are back in Norway.

"He was a little big man," says Stein. He and Diana could spend hours looking at the old things, but Elisabeth and Martin now want to go back to Jacob's Ladder.





Jacob's Ladder is the longest and steepest lot of steps that they have ever seen. There are 699 steps and it goes from near the sea to the top of the cliffs. When there is rain or mist it looks as if it goes up to the sky. "People here don't need to be good to get to heaven," laughs Elisabeth, "they can just go up the steps." The teenagers of Saint Helena have a lot of fun on these steps. They compete with each other to see who can slide fastest down the rails. They lie right across them, with arms on one side and feet on the other, and off they go at full speed. Elisabeth is not tall enough to stretch across the rails, so she cannot try it. "Just as well," she thinks, "it looks awfully fast." But she walks up to the top twice during their short stay to buy ice-cream in the little shop on top. Martin is not so energetic. "I'm not that fond of ice-cream any longer!" he says.



Martin enjoying the view down to Jamestown, the capital of Saint Helena. Red Admiral and other visiting yachts are anchored out in the bay.



The Amazon

From Saint Helena the little red ship sails west towards Brazil. They are getting near the Equator again, and day and night are about the same length. At six o'clock in the morning the sun rises like a slow rocket straight up from the horizon behind them, and twelve hours later it sinks back into the sea ahead. Already at half past six in the evening it is pitch dark.

Robert and his flying fish.

First stop in Brazil is the town of Fortaleza. Here they pick up Elizabeth Donnan, a good friend from USA. She is a chief librarian and has been sending them books regularly since they started to sail. As usual she brings books and other gifts for everybody.



Elizabeth Donnan helps Martin and Elisabeth painting Easter eggs.

Martin looking at the many Jangadas drawn up on the beach in Fortaleza. These sailing-rafts are easy to build and are popular with local fishermen.

It takes a week to sail from Fortaleza to their next stop. Long before they can see land, the water becomes cloudy and brown. This is because they are approaching the Amazon River delta. In the whole World, it is the river which pours most fresh water into the oceans; about 120 million litres each minute.



The Hoffs have decided to sail up the Rio Para river, the southern branch of the Amazon delta, to a city called Belem.

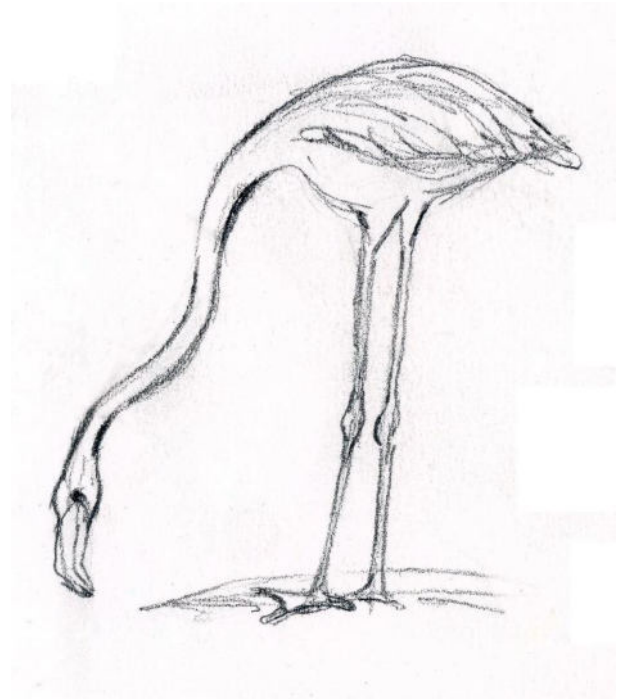
It is a dark and rather scary night and pouring with rain as they begin their sail up the great river, navigation is difficult because all the light-houses are not working, the current is strong and Diana, Red Admiral's main navigator, has a very busy night. But they avoid hitting any of the many sandbanks in the huge delta and when morning comes, the sun is shining again.

There are lots of unusual things to look at as they motor along in the windless morning. On portside there is dark green, thick jungle along the river bank. From the chart they know that there is also jungle on the starboard side, but that river bank is so far away that they cannot see it. That's how broad the mouth of the Rio Para alone is! Large, colourful butterflies and big, blue dragon-flies flutter past all the time.

As they pass a sand bank, a large flock of pink flamingos take off and fly into the jungle. They see several other birds whose names they don't know. Martin catches a glimpse of a white Amazon dolphin. He thinks he is very lucky, for he knows that this is one of the few rivers in the World where there are fresh-water whales.

After an overnight stop in Colares, it takes another day to sail up to Belem. As they get close to the city, the river traffic gets heavier. There are mostly small fishing boats and cargo boats, often painted in gay colours.

They also see large, flat-bottomed river boats full of passengers. These boats have several open decks on top of each other, and look like floating houses with huge verandas. There are some cabins, but most people sleep in hammocks hung up around the decks. It is possible to travel for hundreds of miles into the Brazilian jungle in these boats.



A lot of the people along the Amazon River live in boats they have made themselves. These boats are designed so that they can remain upright when they touch the bottom when the tide is out. Here is a family in their floating home in the village of Colares.



In Colares is a small restaurant that they visit.

Belem is a big, busy city. The harbour in the middle of town is full of boats bringing food and other goods to sell at the market. The family have never seen a market like it. They wander slowly in the narrow passages between the stalls. Here they can buy fish fossils, buffalo horns, dried sword-fish and sharks' teeth as well as all kinds of fruit and vegetables, most of which they have not seen before. Hens and ducks are sold alive, pigs and sheep are slaughtered on the spot. Diana and Stein wrinkle their doctor-noses at the bloody, fly-covered intestines thrown away with other

rubbish onto the ground. Skinny stray-dogs slink about, and big, black vultures watch the scene from the roof-tops. When the people are finished for the day, they will fly down and clean up.



In Fortaleza Robert had walked up to a young man in the post office. Carlos da Silva was very friendly, spoke English and since he comes from Belem he became their local guide. Here they are all gathered for dinner aboard while anchored in Belem.



The family would all like to see the animals in the jungle, but they really don't want to sail further up the Amazon. It is so terribly hot and humid here, with sudden rain squalls, and there are strong currents in the river. The simple solution is to visit the zoo with their new friend Carlos as guide.

Robert laughs at the cheeky monkeys and the chatty, brightly coloured parrots. The jaguars and pumas are elegant beasts, but Martin and Elisabeth wish they were given bigger cages. The manatees look like a cross between a fish and a walrus, and the electric freshwater eels can kill a person with their shock.



Riverboats at Ver-o-Peso, the old market in Belem



The fish for sale at the old market-place all come from the river. The catfish live on the bottom and have long feelers to find their way in the dark.



These pet parrots are caught near Belem.



However, the Hoffs soon notice that by far the most common animals in the Amazon are the little flying ones; the insects! Some of the insects are not only annoying, but may be dangerous if they carry illness. To protect themselves, Diana has fitted mosquito netting to the door and hatches, but then even less fresh air gets in. So after five nights of tossing and turning in the heat, Stein says: "Let's get out of this place!" Elizabeth Donnan moves ashore before flying back to USA and nobody complains when Red Admiral points her bow back down the river. Carlos joins them for the trip down to Colares where the next day he gets a lift back to Belem.

On the way Robert's nappy is being rinsed by trailing in the river beside the boat. A small fish with spikes gets caught in the nappy, Robert is delighted with his "nappy catch" and insists on having the fish fried for dinner!



The trip out through the mouth of the river delta becomes a bit of a midnight nightmare. Wind picks up from straight ahead making the river choppy. Several times greenish brown water sloshes over the bow. Even with the engine on full ahead they hardly move. Diana and Stein get very worried when they don't make it to the open sea before the tide turns against them at full force. There isn't much diesel left for turning back, either. Will it be possible to anchor in these wild conditions? They have to try and drop the biggest anchor close to a sand bank. There is an awful noise and heaving about,



Daddy!", but Stein is away this time too...

but it works! For several hours the boat pulls on the taut chain and jumps about in the choppy sea. The plates and cutlery rattle about and wake up Elisabeth who also gets quite worried. However, after six hours the current turns again, the anchor amazingly comes up easily and they motor-sail as fast as possible out to the safety of the open sea.

The following day they cross the Equator going North. It is the first time for Robert, so King Neptune pays them another visit. Robert gets his paper medal, but he is not at all happy about this strange man coming aboard. He clings onto Diana and shouts "Daddy,

Homeward Bound



Three years and three months have passed since Red Admiral left beautiful Barbados behind. When its familiar shape reappears on the horizon ahead, there are cheers of joy from those aboard. Now they have actually sailed around the whole World!

It is past sunset and pitch dark before they anchor in familiar Carlisle Bay. Even so, friends row out to Red Admiral to wish them welcome and give them some delicious things to eat. From a big basket Ian and Martin Smyth bring out papaya and bananas, fresh bread, Cheddar cheese, a fruit loaf, a coconut pie and cold Coca Cola. What luxury!

Just one thing was missing, as far as Martin is concerned. After going to bed he lies awake for a while looking forward to getting ashore in the morning, because he remembers exactly where there is a shop offering twenty-four different flavours of Barbados' delicious BICO ice-cream!

In Barbados they make several day-sail trips up to the west coast with friends. After swimming and fun on the beach they have lunch aboard. Trudi Smyth, Marsha and Alex Jordan, Eli and Martin are all enjoying Diana's pizza.



Red Admiral at anchor far out in the bay of Port Elizabeth, Bequia.



In Maria Galante they still hunt for the Queen conch snails.



Leaving Saint Lucia with the famous Pitons behind.

For the third and last time, Red Admiral is getting ready to cross the Atlantic. But first they will have five weeks of being with old friends, swimming and playing in Barbados and other West Indian Islands. Eli, Stein's mother, has come across from Norway to sail with them for a couple of weeks up to Antigua. Now they are really on their way home. In some ways Elisabeth and Martin wish the trip would never end. At the same time, they are looking forward to getting back to Norway.



Visiting the big light-house in Gustavia on Saint-Barthelemy island. Eli has gone back to Norway, instead Anne Johnson, holding Robert, has joined the crew for the sail across to the Azores. The other lady is from another yacht. This French island used to belong to Sweden, that's why it says "Välkommen" as well as "Welcome" and "Bienvenue" on the big sign.



Lovely Anguilla is the last West Indian island before the long sail to the Azores on the other side of the North Atlantic.

The four weeks from the West Indies to the Azores go very slowly. This is partly because they are all thinking about home, and partly because it is their gentlest ocean passage ever. One long sunny day follows another. There is very little wind, so the boat sails slowly.

Often the sea is so calm that they swim around the boat. Stein usually jumps in first with a diving mask, to make sure there are no sharks around, although they haven't yet seen one far out at sea. Sometimes they hang on a rope from the tip of the bowsprit. It is a great fun dragging through the cool water. Occasionally Stein hangs a long rope from the stern so that they can dive in off the bowsprit, let the boat glide past and catch the rope astern.



"Fish, fish!" shouts Martin one morning. The others come hurrying up on deck, and sure enough, there is a school of fish alongside the boat. Martin throws in a hook with a piece of bread as bait and catches one immediately. Then Stein puts out a small net and two fish swim right into it! Robert is fascinated by all types of animals and wants to have a good look at the four fish that end up on deck. They were so easy to catch that it almost gives the Hoffs a bad conscience, but how good they taste!

Elisabeth and Martin are making baggywrinkles. They are wrapped around wires that come in contact with the sails to avoid chafing.

In calm weather, with a light following breeze Martin and Robert practice climbing.

Elisabeth is particularly impatient to get to the Azores. Tomorrow is the ninth of July and her tenth birthday. This time she was hoping to celebrate on land. During the last few days, it has looked less and less likely that they would make it. But with only one day to go, the wind starts to



freshen. It is as if Red Admiral is waking up after a long snooze across the Atlantic. Now she is rushing through the water at a good speed.

"I think we'll make it," says Diana in the afternoon, checking once more the position she has plotted on the chart: "Tomorrow morning, on your birthday we'll be there."

During the sailing ship period, many whaling ships called at the Azores. Whale-catching is still an important business in these islands. It is not difficult to find the whale-catching station. One only needs to follow the smell. When they visit with Filipe, a friend from another yacht, Elisabeth and Martin have to hold their noses. To their disgust they also notice that the sea around is deep red with blood. Up on land is the body of an enormous Sperm whale. "Poor whale!" says Martin and forgets the smell.



The children look at the jaw of a huge sperm whale.



The thick layer of fat called blubber is melted into valuable oil.

The people at the factory explain that the whales have valuable meat and blubber. The blubber is made into oil which is then used to produce margarine and soap. They also say that some whales must be caught because they eat so many fish. However, they can comfort Martin that there will soon be an end to whale-catching. So many people around the World now feel sorry for the whales that it is getting difficult to sell the oil. Red Admiral stays longer than planned in the Azores. This is partly because people there are so friendly and everything is so cheap, and partly because they meet up with other yachts they know from before. After a week though, they begin to get restless. Home is calling.



The Hoffs on the quay in the Azores with Brit, Wollert and Bryn from "Anna Christine". Anne with Robert up-side-down.

In the Azores they meet another Norwegian yacht called "Anna Christine". Since the two yachts are heading in more or less the same direction, they decide to sail together for a while. Elisabeth and Martin think that this is an excellent idea, because nobody makes such good cakes as Howard on Anna Christine.

The two yachts sail alongside for ten days. To begin with there is hardly any wind or waves. One evening the sea is so calm that the two boats tie up to each other and arrange a party; first on Red Admiral, then on Anna Christine. They eat a big dinner, followed by cakes and snacks, and sing and chat well into the night. On another calm morning, the sea looks like a mirror. As the two boats glide slowly through the water, it is



as if they are all alone in the World. "I'm going visiting," says Diana unexpectedly; she jumps into the water, and swims over to Anna Christine. Martin jumps in with a splash and follows her. Elisabeth doesn't want to be left out and is soon across, too. Last comes Stein with Robert in his arms. Aboard Anna Christine, Howard has just baked a big chocolate cake. What luck! They sit together in the sunshine, eating cake and watching Red Admiral sailing along all by herself. It's a little scary -

almost like watching a ghost ship.

As they approach Ireland, the two boats say farewell. Anna Christine has arranged to sail a different way from Red Admiral, which is now heading for Ireland and Scotland.



Red Admiral with the Hoffs waving goodbye as Wollert takes this picture. They will meet again in Bergen.

Between the Azores and Ireland this albacore tuna fish takes the lure. Martin can just lift it.



Robert becomes two years old between the Azores and Ireland. Great to have a celebration during the 14-day long sail!



Anchored in Blacksod Bay, Ireland, Robert can take his first steps ashore and pick his first flowers in Europe.

They go and stay with Gran Young in Glasgow for a few days. Needless to say she is delighted to have the three grandchildren safely back from the long trip.

Sailing between the Orkney Islands north of Scotland they see these two old sailing ships in a Tall Ships Regatta.



Across the North Sea, between Scotland and Norway, the weather is cold and windy. It pours with rain and the sea is choppy. The cabin heater is on the whole time.



Elisabeth and Martin stay mostly in their bunks, reading or playing. Robert goes from one to the other, demanding stories from his favourite books.

At last land appears ahead. "Norway!" they hear Stein shouting from the deck. Elisabeth and Martin jump out of their bunks. First they can only just pick out a faint, grey line ahead, but it is not long before they can see waves breaking on rocks. And there is the old Marstein lighthouse they know, showing the safe passage in between the islands to an anchorage in smooth waters.

A motor boat comes towards them; arms waving, familiar faces shouting and grinning. "Welcome home!" people shout and clap, and cakes and newly-cooked crabs are passed over

the rails.

Next morning as Red Admiral is getting close to Bergen, the town which they left five years ago, several more boats come to meet them. As they glide into the harbour, the sun peeps out from behind a cloud. There is a big crowd of people on the Jetty. Will the two Norwegian grandparents be there too? Robby has not met Stein's daddy yet.



Robert sees one familiar face among the big crowd – grandmother Eli.

Diana throws a line ashore and they tie up to the jetty. Elisabeth and Martin catch sight of more familiar faces. It feels good to be back in Norway! Stein lifts Robert over the rail into grandmother Eli's arms.

This is two-year-old Robert's first visit to Norway. For the others, five years and one month have passed since they last were here. During these years they have visited 43 countries and anchored in 157 different places round the world.



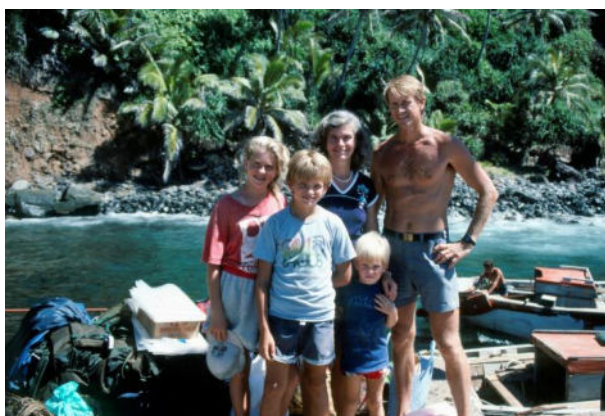
The jetty in Bergen is full of people who have come to welcome Red Admiral home to Norway. Five years and one month have passed since they were here last. The family in their floating home have covered thousands of nautical miles and gathered countless happy memories, and a few scary ones! And they agree that the best thing about the whole trip is that they did it all together. Now they are going to find out what it is like to be land-lubbers again...

Photos in Bergen: Anne Marit Klock

Epilogue

45 years have passed since we left Norway in 1977 to start sailing around the World with Elisabeth and Martin and returned with Robert in addition. We were the first Norwegian family to complete a circumnavigation with children.

Thanks to our British medical education we could work in hospitals in Barbados, New Zealand and South Africa. The children went either to kindergarten or to school. We visited many interesting countries, had many wonderful experiences and a few scary ones. And doing it together as a family was the best! We also became friends with people of all colours and education. The children's book was only printed in Norwegian. Since we have so many friends and family members who speak English, we have for a long time planned to make an English edition and with more pictures and more places mentioned than in the original book.



This way we hope that our own children, their partners and their children and maybe future generations will know more about when Red Admiral and her young crew had five amazing years of hardship and fun right around our precious blue planet.

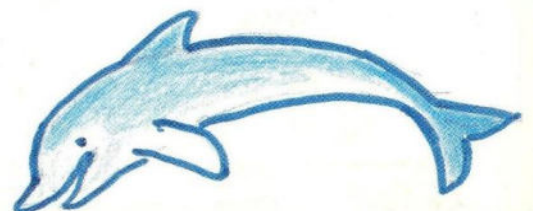
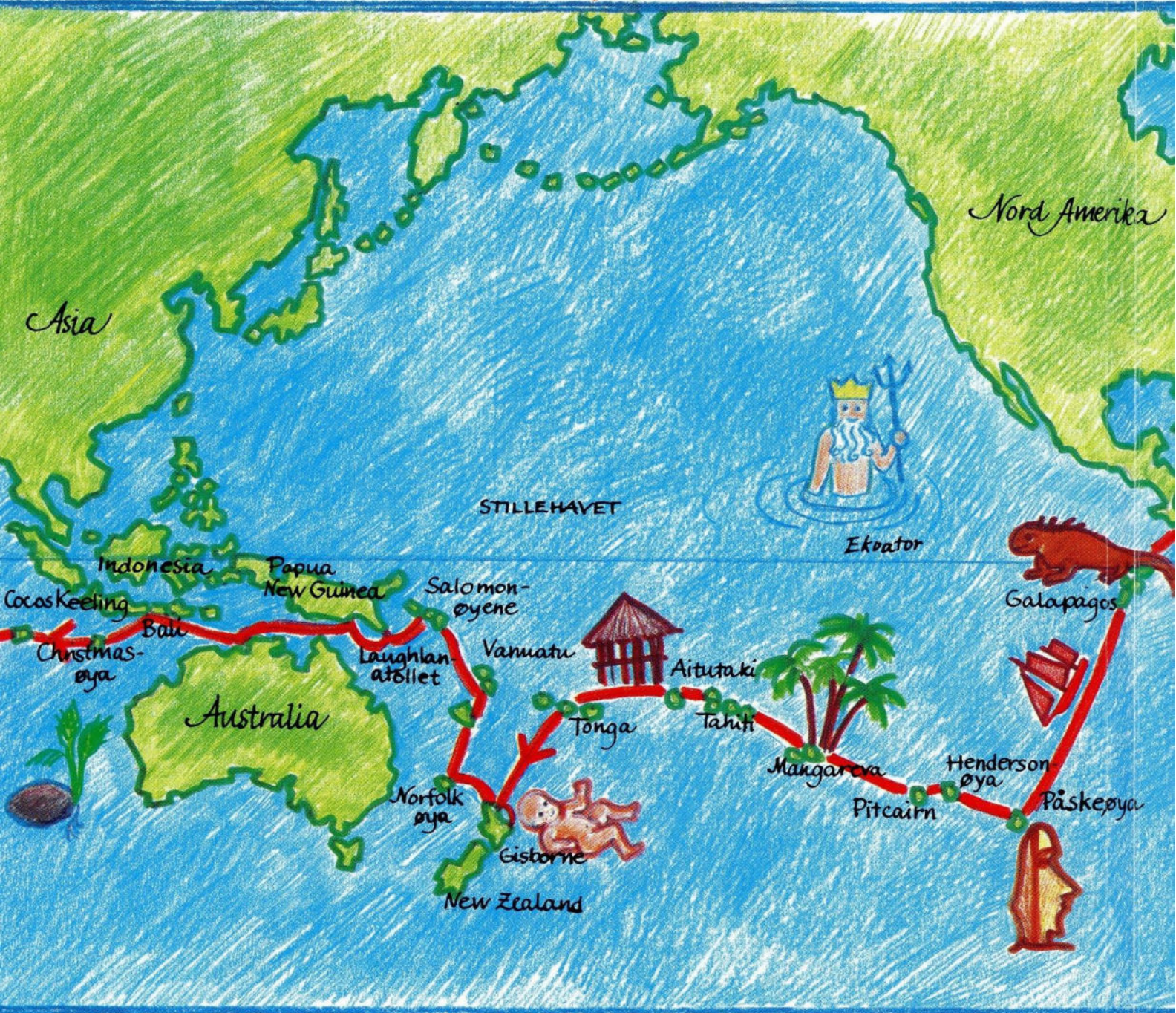
To bring you a little up to date, here are pictures from our family in Pitcairn in 1986, from Norway when Stein turned 70 in 2015 and during Johan's confirmation in 2019.



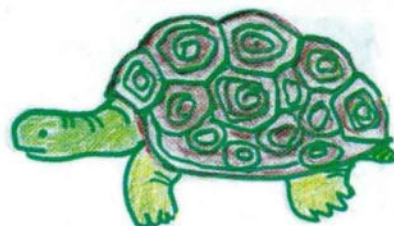
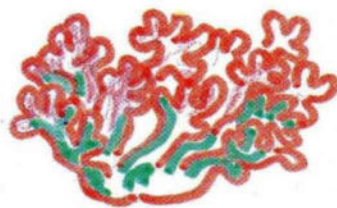
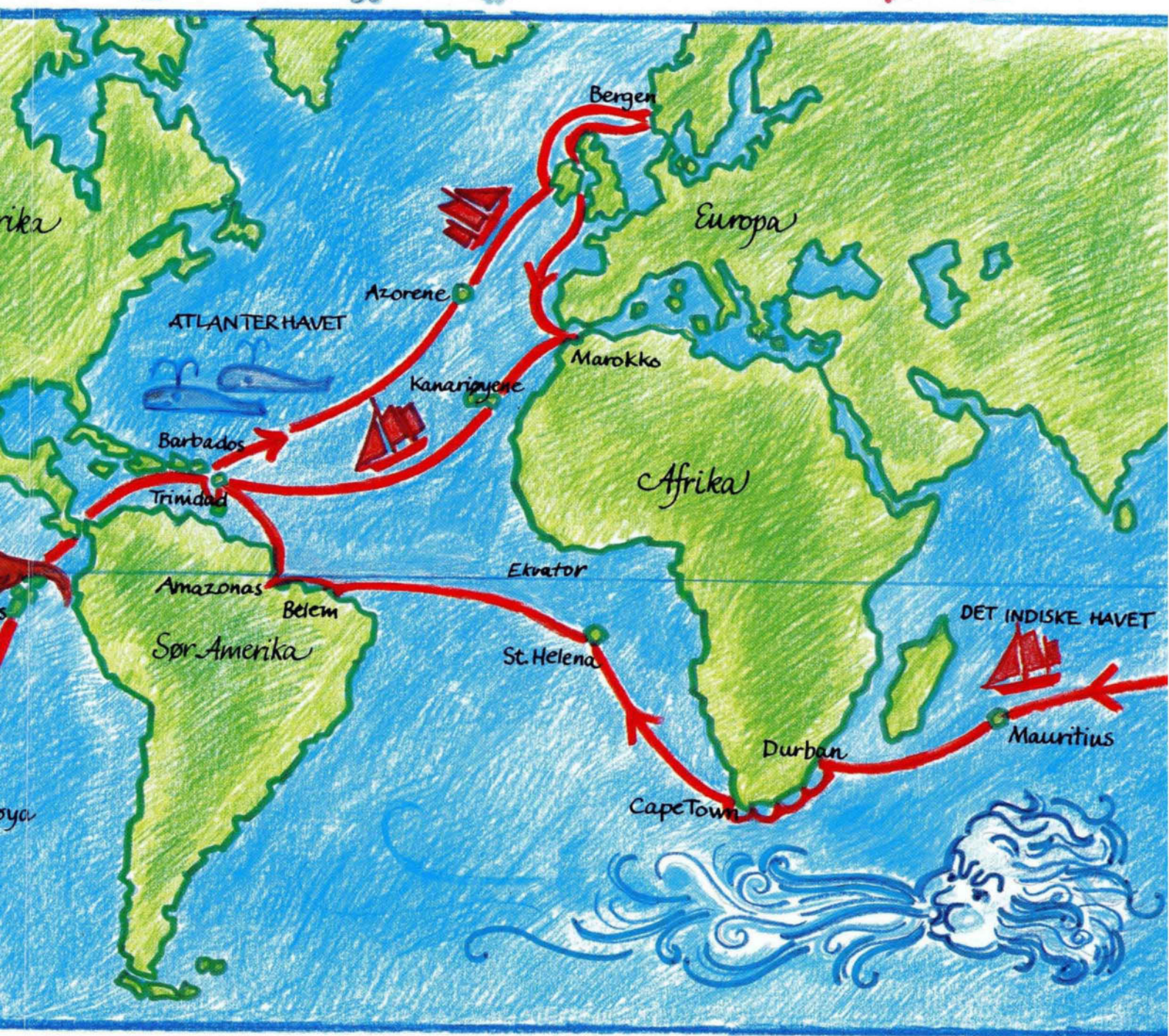
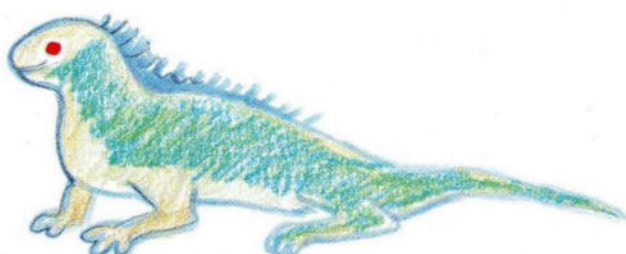
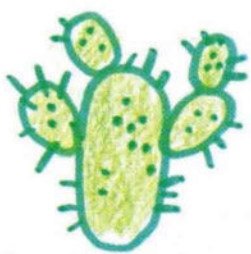
Hugh Chambers is married to Elisabeth, their boys are Finn and Soren, Martin has Hedda and Johan from his first marriage. He is now married to Tonje, they have Oscar together, Mekhola is married to Robert and are the parents of Hannah.







Equator (*Ekvator*) is the line across the middle of the map. On a globe you find the equator drawn as a circle around the middle. This line divides the Earth into the Northern and the Southern hemisphere. When you are anywhere on the Equator, you are always the same distance both to the North Pole and the South Pole. The Tropics is a large area stretching around the globe like a belt, the Equator being in the middle of this belt. This is the warmest area on Earth.



Norway - Scotland - Wales - England - France - Spain - Portugal - Morocco - Barbados - Canary Islands - Barbados - St Vincent & the Grenadines - Grenada & the Grenadines - Trinidad & Tobago - Martinique - Dominica - Guadeloupe - Antigua & Barbuda - Anguilla - St Maarten/St Martin - St Bartholomew - British Virgin Islands - American Virgin Islands - Puerto Rico - Panama - Galapagos (Ecuador) - Easter Island (Chile) - Pitcairn Islands - French Polynesia - Aitutaki (Cook Islands) - Tonga - New Zealand - Norfolk Island - New Caledonia - Vanuatu - Solomon Islands - Papua New Guinea - Australia - Bali (Indonesia) - Christmas Island - Cocos Keeling - Mauritius - South Africa - St Helena - Brazil - Azores - Ireland



"Dolphins!" Elisabeth shouts. "Come quickly! There are lots around the bow!"

Soon she and her brother Martin are hanging over the rail and admiring the elegant animals as they play beside the yacht.

The yacht is "Red Admiral" and is only 12 metres (39 feet) long. Elisabeth and Martin are on their way around the World together with their mummy and daddy. Until now they have had storms far out at sea and almost collided with two big whales. They have seen snake charmers in Africa, taken part in one of the World's biggest carnivals, and have swum from long, white, palm-fringed beaches.

Still they are only halfway around. Now they have just started the journey across the Pacific Ocean, the largest of all the oceans. Ahead lie new countries and lots of new adventures...