


Violet sat down on her favourite sand dune. She felt so lucky to have Granny Ba. But she wished more than anything that she had a friend her own age, too. If only she wasn't so terribly shy. The clouds came closer and hung low over the beach, right above Violet's head! She stared up at the sky. Those clouds look very strange she thought, perhaps it's going to rain. The clouds shifted, swirled about and took the shape of a face. A face with big round eyes. Then, one of the eyes winked!



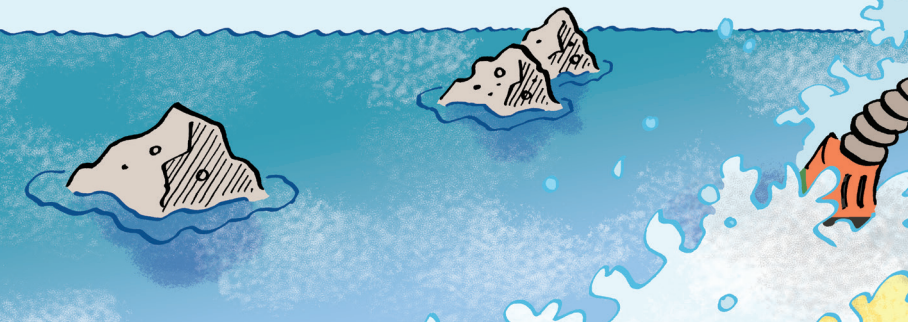
There was a rumbling sound. Oh no! Now it's going to thunder, thought Violet. The sea swelled and swirled, waves broke and a huge head pushed up out of the water, followed by massive arms and legs.



A giant emerged from the sea, made of flotsam and jetsam! It had: cockleshell cheeks; hair of seaweed; a nose made from the mast of a ship; gleaming eyes like pearly shells; a chest made from broken wood; crab claw fingers; legs made of whale bones and fishing rope, and feet made from bits of sailing boats. Violet screamed and hid behind a rock! The giant waded out of the water, thrashing and crashing its strange arms and legs. All the bits that made up its body wobbled about, the giant rocked from side to side as if it was about to topple over. The giant called out,

“Ssssh! Never fear! It’s me!”

Clattering and shaking, the giant staggered onto the beach.



The illustration at the bottom of the page shows a blue sea with several brown, jagged rocks floating in it. On the right side, a crab claw is visible, holding a piece of orange and white striped material. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds.

“You know me. Puddle, cloud, rain,
sea! I’ve been following you. I saw you
taking care of the sea creatures, and I need
to talk. It’s urgent!”



Violet peeped out from behind the rock.

“Don’t be afraid. I sssshaped Giants Cove!” The giant’s voice echoed, sloshing and surging, like waves breaking.

Violet gazed up at the cliffs circling the beach.

“So you really did make all this?”

“Yes!” boomed the giant. “And many other things. Can I tell you my story?”

Violet stepped out from her hiding place.

“I used to talk to humans, and they listened. But it doesn’t happen anymore. I have tried. I dressed up, so that humans could see me. First, I wrapped myself in sails and nets, they made such a loud flapping noise everyone was scared and ran away. Then, I built a body out of wooden barrels, but I couldn’t stand upright. I rolled around and everyone just laughed.”

“Hey! I know those old legends,” said Violet. “I thought they were just stories!”

“This time, I tried to make myself look like you!” said the giant.

Violet came closer, she touched the giant’s hand and foot.

“Well, you look - crazy! And amazing!”

“Who are you?” asked Violet.

“I have been given different names in different places. In the Arctic, I’m Sedna, Goddess of the Sea, all the sea creatures came from my fingers. In Japan, I’m Susanoo, God of Storms, raging on the sea bed. In Africa, I am mermaid Mami Wata, half woman, half fish, my waves protect the world.



In New Zealand, I'm Tangaroa, controlling the tides. And I'm Saraswati in India, sailing on a swan, my sparkling waters bring life."

"Oh! I know, I know!" cried Violet. "In ancient Greece you're Okeanos, the one great ocean that circles the earth, the forever sea, from which everything came."



"That's me! And a hundred other names across the world. You can call me Eko, if you like! That's what everyone calls me beneath the waves. Partly because of my echoey voice, but mainly because I keep everything alive."

"Ok! Eko! I like that," said Violet. "I'm Violet."