

The background is a watercolor illustration of an underwater scene. It features various shades of blue and green, creating a textured, aquatic feel. There are several white fish swimming in different directions. At the bottom, there are white and dark blue seaweed-like plants. The overall style is soft and artistic.

Mangalvilles: Stories from the womb
of the coast...

Minu, mangroves and the Great
hermit Crab

STORY AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY
MAFAZIYA NIJAMDEEN

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Once upon a time, there was a beautiful island called Mangalvilles.

Mangalvilles was full of mangrove trees, corals and sand dunes.

There were lots of little fishes, little crabs and little shrimps dancing and singing near the mangroves.

They all had their best friend from the village, a little boy called Minu and his pet monkey Kadi.



Minu loved his friends:
little fish, little crab and
little shrimp.

They had lots of bird
friends who often came for
holidays.

One day when Minu and
his friends were playing
outside, the big wood cutter
of the village came to the
mangroves and started to
cut all trees to sell.



Minu's friends started to cry.

They lost their home and
they had nowhere to go than
the deep blue sea.

They were really afraid to go
into the deep blue sea.

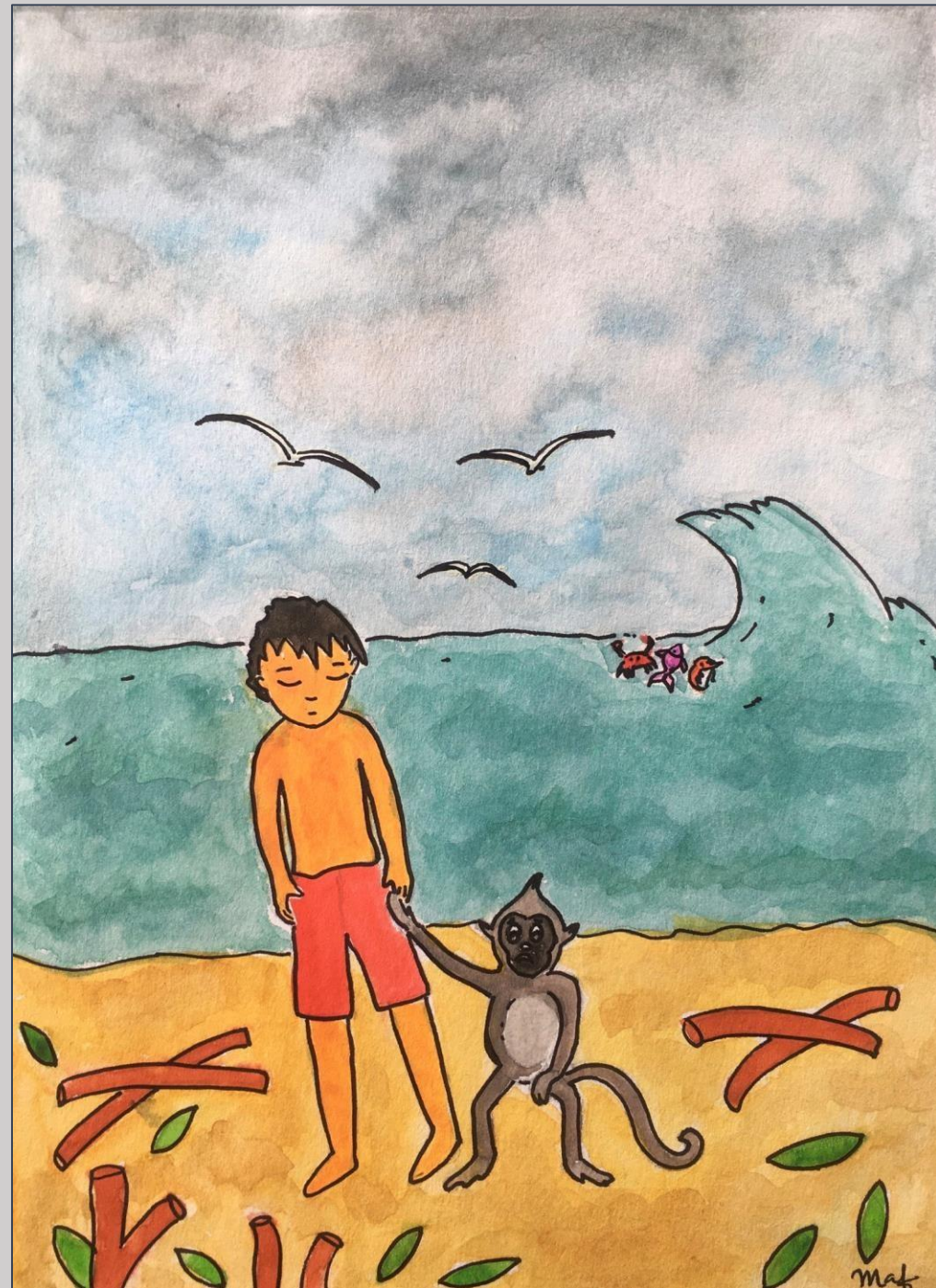


The waves were so big in the deep blue sea. But, little fish, little crab and little shrimp went into the ocean sadly.

Their bird friends also didn't have a place to have fun and they left too.

Minu was helpless and sad seeing all his friends go far away.

Minu and Kadi felt so lonely without their friends



The big wave was very angry with the village for chasing away little fish, little crab and little shrimp from their home.

Therefore, the big wave came in to the village and took away all belongings of the villagers.



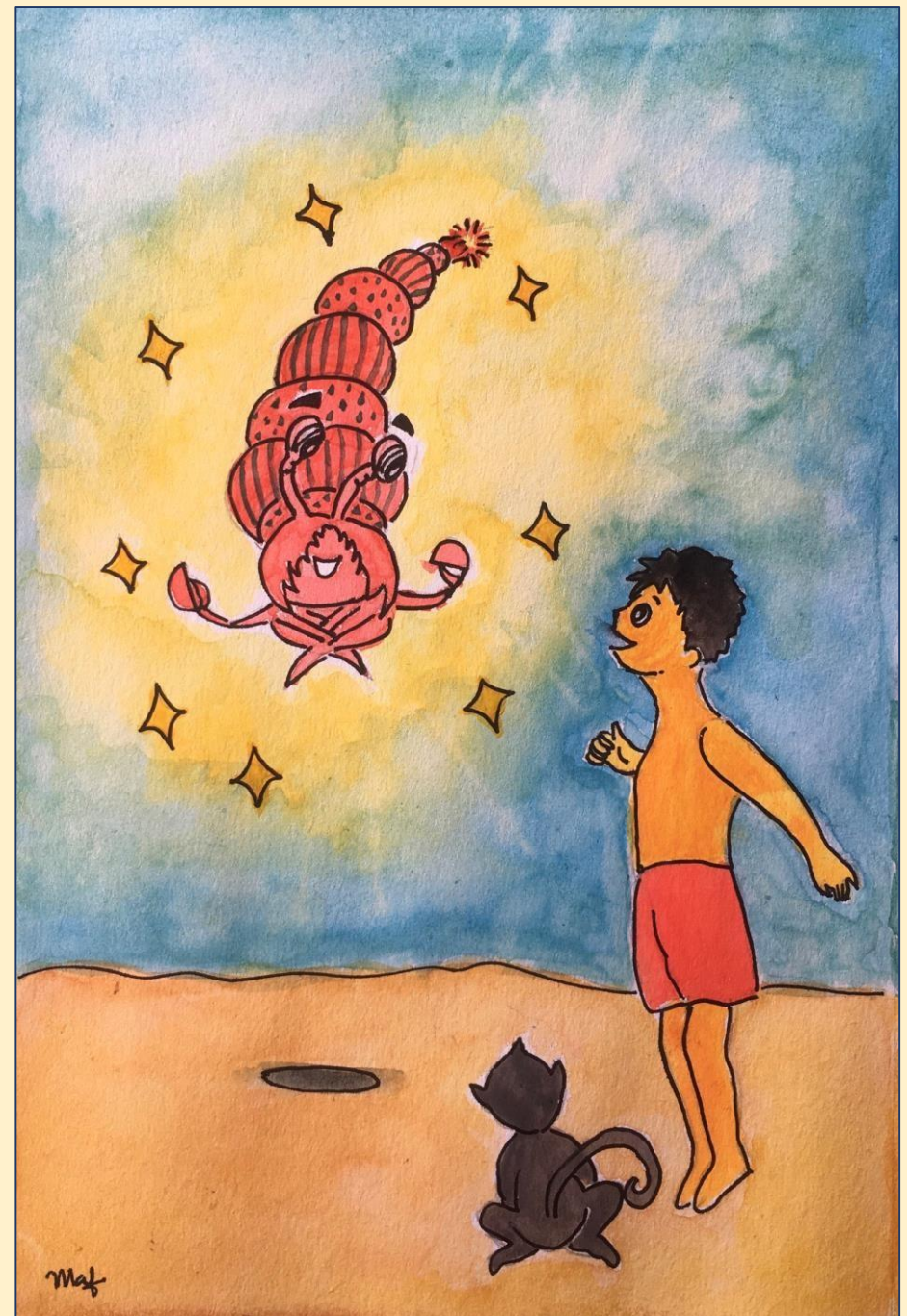
Minu cried on the beach thinking of his friends.

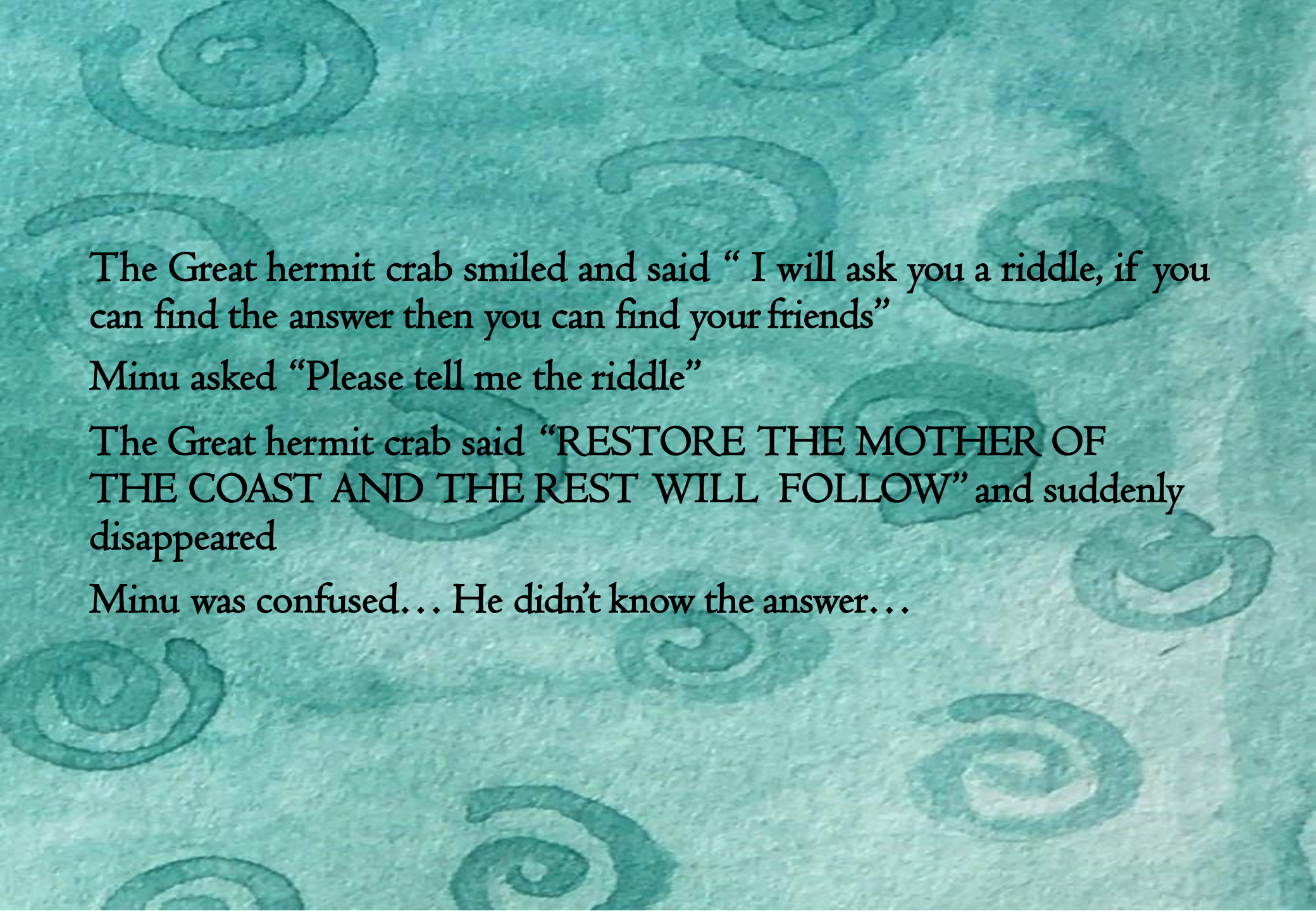
One day the Great hermit crab appeared in front of Minu.

The Great hermit crab has been meditating for thousands of years inside the deep blue sea and was full of wisdom.

He asked Minu why he is crying.

Minu said “Oh Great hermit crab... My friends are lost in the deep blue sea... please help me to find them”



The background is a solid teal color with several faint, darker teal spiral patterns scattered across it. The spirals are of varying sizes and orientations, some resembling ripples in water or stylized shells.

The Great hermit crab smiled and said “ I will ask you a riddle, if you can find the answer then you can find your friends”

Minu asked “Please tell me the riddle”

The Great hermit crab said “RESTORE THE MOTHER OF THE COAST AND THE REST WILL FOLLOW” and suddenly disappeared

Minu was confused. . . He didn't know the answer. . .

Minu went back to the village and asked everyone.

He could not find the answer. He went to nearby villages and asked all his friends... no one knew...

Finally, he came home crying and his mother asked him “Why are you crying my son?”












Minu told his mother everything.










Minu told her the riddle from the Great hermit crab “Restore the mother of the coast and the rest will follow”












Minu's mom smiled and said “it's okay for not knowing the answer. You can always be happy with me ... I will take care of you... I will keep you safe”





Suddenly, Minu felt so happy. He remembered his friends little fish, little crab and little shrimp dancing and singing near the mangroves. He remembered them hiding and having snacks around the mangrove roots... Now he knew the answer.



The answer is MANGROVES !! Those trees are the mother of the coast... They kept the little fish, little crab and little shrimp happy and safe and gave them food just like his mother does.

He ran to the village and shared the story with everybody. The big wood cutter also felt sad for the little fish, little crab, and the little shrimp.

The next day was a shiny beautiful day... All villagers started to plant mangroves along the coasts of Mangalvilles.



The great Hermit Crab
casted a spell and made
the trees grow bigger as
before overnight.

Suddenly little fish, little
crab and little shrimp
came dancing and singing
from the deep blue sea.



The big wave came along with them and returned all belongings
stolen from the village.



The villagers started to
plant more mangrove trees
and protected the beautiful
coasts of Mangalvilles.

They all lived happily ever
after!



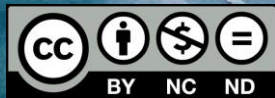


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