

# **AVERY AND MASA**

PROTECTORS OF THE ENDANGERED

# **SHARK BULLIES**



WRITTEN BY  
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AND  
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ILLUSTRATED BY  
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This book belongs to an Avery  
All-Star named . . .

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*Our mission is to entertain and  
educate children with movement  
driven content to help protect the  
endangered planet.*

Avery and Masa: Protectors of the Endangered

Shark Bullies ® 2020

Steve Barrett and Mike Deeney

Written, Edited and Produced by Steve Barrett and Mike Deeney.

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Avery and Masa: Protectors of the Endangered®

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**AVERY AND MASA®**  
**PROTECTORS OF THE ENDANGERED**

*Shark Bullies*

*Written by*

*Steve Barrett and Mike Deeney*

*Illustrations by*

*Erle Tompkins*

**Avery and Masa:**  
**Protectors of the Endangered®**

*For our family*

*This book is dedicated to Robert,  
Chuck D, Linda and Annie. To  
Kathleen, Frank, Mikayla and Allana.  
To Cynthia, Steve, Lyndsay, Kelsey,  
Hayden and Camden.*

*With love for Sterling and Betsy. To  
Lily and Dylan, you are never alone.  
We will always be there to help you  
stand up to bullies and protect the  
endangered.*

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## Prologue

*Ever since Avery and Masa escaped the evil clutches of Nukie Bluff and his band of poachers, they have been on a journey, to protect the endangered and find Avery's home. Their adventures have introduced foreign lands, uncovered exotic creatures, and revealed the many dangers and conflicts our world faces today.*

*Avery and Masa invite you to join their adventure. Only with your help, can they make a difference.*

*"One person can change the tide, but two friends can change the world."*



## Chapter 1

# *Vacation Migration*



*“Aloha, Aloha nui loa,”* Nova’s mother sang as the pod of North Pacific humpback whales finally reached the warm waters of Hawaii. It was Nova’s first big trip. The eight-week migration was tough, but now she felt even closer to her pod.

Nova had met so many new and unusual creatures. She danced with the gooey jellyfish and played with the puppy dog looking sea otters. But the best part was that her mother’s voice led the pod the entire way, motivating their tired flukes with beautiful songs. As they reached the last leg of their journey, Nova was getting hungry.

“I’m so hungry I could eat a whale!” Nova giggled.

“Okay silly, it’s almost time,” her mother said. “Stay close now.”

Nova’s mother spotted thousands of plankton ahead. The tiny organisms of bacteria, algae, and protozoans, were tasty to the tummy. The other whales joined them as they opened their huge, gaping mouths, and scooped up gallons upon gallons of water, filled with delicious plankton.

While Nova was eating, she noticed a large ship coming toward her pod. She was used to

seeing smaller boats with groups of people pointing at them, and taking pictures. But this was different.

Soon, loud sound waves echoed from the ship. It was as if the ship was screaming at them. Nova's ears were ringing, so she swam to the surface. She looked up to the ship, and saw men holding large blubber piercing spears. Quickly, she dove back under and watched as her pod scattered in all directions.

Nova swam underneath the ship to hide, scanning the waters for her mother. She tried to listen for the *Danger Song* her mother had taught her.

There she was! Her mother huddled with the pod too deep to be seen. However, they would soon need to come up for air. *Should I go to her?* Nova thought.

“Don’t move, Nova,” her mother commanded. “I will distract them and then you must race as fast as you can.”

“But mother, I want to come with you,” Nova said. “I can’t survive on my own. I can’t even breach.”

“There is no time,” she said. “You must be ready.”

Nova’s mother swiftly swam to the surface, circling the ship as harpoons shot through the water.

She zigzagged back and forth,  
dodging each one.

“Now’s your chance, Nova.  
Go!”

Nova closed her eyes and swam as fast as she could, away from the terrible ship. She kept going until the water was calm. When she opened her eyes, she was entering a cove with black jagged rocks. For the very first time in her life, she was alone.

Lost and scared, Nova floated around the cove until it became dark. Suddenly, a deep voice startled her.

“Who enters our cove  
without permission?”

“Uh-hello? Is someone there?”  
Nova asked.

Nova quickly turned back as several murky figures circled around her. She gulped in gallons of water as five brutish bull sharks rose to the surface. Their broad, flat snouts splashed water at her as they came around.

Their leader came forward and stared at the young, scared whale. His unfriendly stare revealed a gold hook, pierced just above his left eye.

“Looky, looky, what do we have here?” Rocky said. “It’s a big, slow, sea slug.”

The shiver of sharks all  
laughed.

“Are you lost?” Rocky asked.

“Yes, yes I-I am and I need  
help,” Nova replied.

“You sure do. You need  
help with all that blubber,”  
Rocky snorted.

“Ha-ha blubber. Good one,  
Rocky,” Toro repeated.

Nova tried not to show fear,  
but she trembled at the sight of  
row after row of razor sharp teeth.  
*Ignore their teasing and be brave,*  
she thought.

“I-I lost my mother. Can you help me?” Nova asked.

“I knew it,” Rocky said.  
“Weak and useless. You know what we do to weak whales around here?”

“Head-butt!” the sharks all screamed as they splashed around in the water.

Nova ignored the sharks as they all laughed. She began to sing the *Strong Song* her mother taught her. *There must be someone who can help me*, she thought.



## Chapter 2

### *Turtle Beach*

The island of Oahu had been very kind to Avery and Masa. It was much needed rest, following their clashes with their nemesis, Nukie Bluff. Each morning, they walked to their favorite beach, where they would spend the day looking at the ocean.

This morning, they walked a bit further and discovered a welcoming path of stones. They followed the stones, all the way to the sand. At the end of the path was an unusual group of

jolly, green sunbathers. They found dozens of green sea turtles relaxing on the sand.

“Wow, how many turtles do you think there are, Avery?” Masa asked.

“Hmm, if my mental math is correct, I’d say fifty,” Avery counted.

“Nectar! Can you teach me to do that?” Masa asked.

“Of course. You’re helping me find my family. I think I can teach you some math,” Avery said.

They sat down and counted the sea turtles, but Masa kept

counting rocks, so he had to start over several times. On the third try, Avery noticed a shell moving toward them.

The largest of the bunch, slowly crawled over, using his flippers like paddles in the sand. As he approached, they noticed special Hawaiian markings, covering his shell. He also wore an odd, plastic necklace.



*“Aloha,”* he said. *“I am Honu, Kahuna of Turtle Beach.”*

My *ohana*, or family, is honored to have you.”

“Aloha, dude. I’m Avery, and this is Masa.”

“Cool necklace, buddy,” Masa said.

“This is no necklace. These are trash rings,” Honu said.

“They got stuck on me years ago, and now it’s a lesson for our kids to avoid these plastics.”

“You know, we could help you take that trash off if you’d like,” Avery said.

“The message is too important,” Honu said. “Now,

our kids know to keep the beach clean.”

“Our friend, Sudan, told us about this problem,” Avery said.

“Sudan, the Great Sage of the sea?” Honu asked. “I thought he was just a child’s fairytale.”

“Oh no, he’s real. But you know, some people are telling tales about us too,” Masa said.

“Ha-ha okay *hoalohas*, my friends,” Honu said. “Tell us your tales over some food. We welcome all guests here.”

“We would love to. You wouldn’t happen to have any fresh bamboo?” Avery asked.

“Or chocolate milk?” Masa pleaded.

“No, just coconut milk. But we are booming with bamboo. We have fields of it here. My specialty is spicy, sea grass soup with a bamboo broth,” Honu replied.

“Sweet bamboo!” Avery said as he licked his lips.

Avery and Masa joined Honu at a turtle luau. They laughed all afternoon, and shared stories about the challenges of animals and humans. They had important discussions on how to make things better.

The *Greenies* were very welcoming and humble. Honu even offered to take them on a sea tour aboard the Honu express, for which they gladly accepted. Avery and Masa were excited to discover the beauty of Hawaii, on their first turtle tour.



## Chapter 3

### *Operation Sea Storm*

From the bow of the ship, Captain Nagata scanned the waters with his binoculars. His Japanese whaling ship was well equipped with a stern ramp and a strong pulley system used to handle humongous whales. The words *Ōkina ijime* (Japanese for *big bully*) were written in red on both sides.

Although his quiet nature often clashed with Nukie Bluff, Nagata had always delivered. This was his furthest expedition

into illegal waters, and this time he was desperate. He could not go home empty-handed. He lowered his binoculars and pulled out a whale pendant necklace from under his shirt. He slowly rubbed it with his fingers for luck. Then, he pointed to the starboard side.

“That one,” Nagata quietly nodded.

The whalers tossed a massive drift net onto a large humpback whale. The whale circled the ship, dragging the large yellow buoys that kept the net afloat. It was no use — Nova’s mother was trapped.

Weighing in at over a ton, the humpback whale had to be pulled up the stern ramp in the back of the ship. Once on the ramp, she could not survive long without much needed water.

Nagata's whalers struggled to bring Nova's mother closer, so they could secure her tail and pull her up. This would take time and energy. Nagata nodded with approval and nervously retreated to the bridge of the ship.

As Nagata reached the bridge, he sat down near a large console. Above him was a world map with flashing red lights. He turned on a monitor and Nukie Bluff faded into screen.



“How’s the fishing, Captain?”  
Nukie asked.

“We have an adult female. Her calf escaped capture, but she will not go far from her mother.”

“Good. Find her,” Nukie ordered.

“We may have gone too far this time,” Nagata said.

“Too far? You can never go too far ha-ha!” Nukie laughed. “In fact, I’ve just ordered more ships. I told you, I want all the whales. There’s lots of money to be made.”

“We are in illegal waters, Bluff. I must leave before alerting the authorities,” Nagata said.

“I’ve paid you to worry about the mission, not the authorities,” Nukie scolded. “I’ll report you myself if you don’t deliver. Now, send out the drone and find that young whale.”

Nagata nodded and slid his chair over to a joystick by the console. He flipped on the switch labeled, *Drone Cam*. On the bow of the ship, a white drone with small circular blades came to life. It slowly hovered above the ship and flew into the sky.

“Good, gooood,” Nukie said. “I sense a strong current of money rolling in ha-ha-ha.”

## Chapter 4

### *Sharks Cove*

The turtle tour brought Avery and Masa to a cove with jagged rocks and vibrant sea life. *Shark's Cove* was located on Oahu's famous North Shore, where human surfers rode epic waves, gliding and cutting through them like water poets.

“This place is nectar!” Masa shouted. “Look at all the cool sea sculptures.”

“It’s coral, Masa. They are living organisms and home to

many beautiful fish. Take a look underwater," Honu suggested.

"No way!" Masa said.  
"There must be sea serpents under there."

"These are endangered waters," Honu said. "But there are no serpents. Just a few good friends."

Avery quickly dipped his tail *and* Masa into the water. Masa took a deep breath and marveled at the underwater city of exotic fish. As Avery pulled him back up, they spun around and watched in awe as many colorful fish swam around them. Then, two of them came to the surface.





“Aloha!” they said in unison.

“I’m Perry Parrotfish and this is Wren Wrasse,” Perry said.

“Whoa, you look like a super cool rainbow,” Masa said.

“Thanks. We’re all training for a big race. You should come watch. Newman Needlefish always wins, but not this year!” Wren shouted.

“*The Raging Reef Race* is an annual event. The fastest fish put on a wild show. You both would love it,” Honu said.

“Count us in. We would love to cheer you on,” Avery said.

“See you there!” They shouted as they quickly swam away at top speed.

“This place is so relaxing. I can almost hear music in the water,” Masa said.

“No, I think you’re right, Masa,” Avery said as he listened closer. “I do hear singing.”

“Nectar, let’s go check it out,” Masa said.

Honu paddled them toward a soft melody. As they floated past the jagged rocks, they could see a whale, singing and sobbing. Honu brought them closer to the young humpback.

“Is everything okay?” Avery asked.

The young whale opened her huge mouth and let out a big sob, “I lost my mother after a big ship attacked us. I tried to find help, but everyone just made fun of me.”

“Who would do such a thing?” Masa asked. “How rude.”

“Bullies, that’s who,” Avery said. “What is your name?”

“Nova,” she said.

“You don’t have to be afraid anymore, Nova. I’m away from my family too,” Avery said. “So,

we will do everything we can to help you find yours.”

“It’s no use,” Nova cried. “I’m weak and useless, just like they said. I can’t even breach.”

“That’s not true,” Avery said. “You just need a little confidence.”

“Yeah, you sing like a star,” Masa said. “That’s a cool skill.”

“Really, a star?” Nova asked as she stopped crying.

“A super, duper star,” Masa said. “Like me.”

“Nova, bullies try to make you feel small, weak and alone,”

Avery said. "But you are strong and powerful. And most importantly, you are not alone."

*"Ohana,"* Honu said.

"Right. Friends are family," Avery agreed. "Now, let's go find that ship and your mother — together."

## Chapter 5

### *No Pass*

The new friends began searching for Nova's mother. Masa's big eyes scanned the ocean, while Avery looked out for bullies. Nova sang as loud as she could with the hope that her mother could hear her.

It was not long before shark fins began circling around them. Their grey, sandpaper skin emerged from the water as they splashed and laughed. Soon, their leader with the pierced, gold hook swam over to them.



“Sea serpents!” Masa screamed. “I told you!”



“So, where do you think you’re going?” Rocky asked as he flashed his rows of teeth.

“Aloha, friends, we are searching for a very big ship. Any chance you can help us?” Avery replied.

“Looky here, we run this island. You need our permission to pass,” Rocky said.

“That is no way to welcome guests,” Avery said. “We are only trying to help this young whale find her mother.”

“Not our problem, brah. Locals only,” Rocky said. “No pass.”

“No pass!” Toro yelled.

“Like, what *is* your problem buddies?” Masa asked. “You’re definitely not going to be featured on Shark Week with that attitude.”

“We’re tired of you land chum taking stuff from us,” Rocky said as he turned to Honu. “You know better than to bring these *haoles*. They don’t belong here. Now, be gone or be eaten.”

“There is no honor in your behavior, Rocky,” Honu said. “Land and ocean are one body. When one hurts, the other suffers. We must be one *ohana*.”

“I am one. Number one,” Rocky said. “Take this as a warning, if you try to swim past this cove, be prepared for a feeding frenzy.”

“Wow, you sharks must be really tough,” Avery said.

“The toughest!” Rocky yelled as the sharks head-butted.

“But are you fast?” Avery asked.

“The fastest!” Toro added as the sharks reluctantly nudged each other.

“Well, I don’t know if you know this,” Avery said. “But

Nova is so fast, she could beat any of you in a race.”

“Beat *us*? Ha-ha! You’ve been eating too many sea urchins,” Rocky said.

“Well then, prove it. We challenge you to race Nova in *The Raging Reef Race*,” Avery said. “If Nova wins, you leave her alone and let us pass. If you win, then we will leave the island for good.”

“Unless you’re scared,” Masa said.

“Scared of a sea slug?” Rocky asked. “You’re on. She won’t last a mile at our speed. We’ll chomp this chum bait.”

“Right!” the sharks snapped.

“Then, we’ll see you at the starting line,” Avery said.

“This is gonna be easy as algae,” Rocky said as the bull sharks swam away head-butting each other in excitement.

Nova immediately turned to Avery, “Are you crazy? I can’t win a race against them.”

“It’s not about winning. It’s about standing up to those bullies,” Avery said. “Besides, this is how we are going to help search for your mother. The race covers most of the island.”

“Holy termites, you’re a genius, Avery,” Masa laughed. “I was thinking the same thing though.”

“Now, we need a plan,” Avery said.

“No, we need a miracle,” Masa replied.

“I’ve got both,” Honu assured.

## Chapter 6

### *Jett Set*

Back at Turtle Beach, Honu shared his knowledge of the island and drew the spectacular *Raging Reef Race* course in the sand, slowly. Nova tried to concentrate from the water but her thoughts drifted towards her mother.

“If the sharks win, I will have to leave the island,” Nova interrupted. “I can’t do it. I’m just too big and slow.”

“We believe in you, Nova,” Avery said.

“You think I can win?” Nova asked.

“I think you can try and that’s enough,” Avery said. “If you stand up to the bullies, others will too.”

“And I’ve sent for the best teacher to train you,” Honu said. “If anyone can get you ready, he can.”

Just then, a dazzling dolphin shot out of the water. He flipped backwards and forwards, diving in and out of the waves. His slick silver skin sparkled in the sunlight. It was North Shore’s most famous bottlenose dolphin — Jett Dolphino.





“Supersonic liftoff!” Jett said as he launched in the air.

“Jett, it’s good to see you, *hoaloha*. How are the waves treating you?” Honu asked.

“Cool as a catfish my tortuga brother,” Jett replied. “Word around the water is you needed the best.”

“Whoa, those were super cool flips.” Masa said as his eyes widened with admiration. “You’re awesome.”

“It’s okay little fella, I get that a lot. Just don’t drool in my water,” Jett said. “Now who needs a lesson in slicing waves?”

“Jett, this is Nova. A ship attacked her pod and we need to search for her mother. We tried

but those bull sharks won't let us pass," Avery said.

"Oh yeah, those sharks have always been mean," Jett said.

"They make the shallow waters miserable for everyone."

"Will you train Nova to beat them in a race?" Avery asked.

"Uh-thanks, but no thanks," Jett replied. "I don't know if I want to get involved. I just ride the tide and mind my own crab cakes."

"I need your help, Mr. Jett," Nova said. "My mother is in danger."

“But how is a race going to help?” Jett asked.

“The plan is for Nova to distract those sharks while we search for her mother. Besides, the ship that came for her will eventually come for all of us,” Avery said.

“That does sound like a rad plan. But it totally goes against my way of avoiding small waves and negative energy,” Jett spouted.

“Jett, we can’t keep looking the other way,” Honu said.

“Whether its shark bullies, big ships or ocean trash, we are all

responsible for taking care of each other.”

“One *ohana*,” Avery said.

“You’re right. Bailing out on bullying is not cool,” Jett said.  
“You’ve got yourself a teacher.”

## Chapter 7

### *Water Wizard*

Avery and Masa sat on the rocks overlooking the water as Jett danced in and out of the waves. Honu brought all the turtles to watch Jett perform his amazing aquatics. Perry and Wren even came to cheer him on from the coral.

In the middle of a trick, Jett unexpectedly froze. He began bobbing up and down in the water for what seemed like an eternity. He made these odd clicking sounds on his way up

and low hums on his way down. Avery and Masa looked at each other, confused.

“Are you sure this guy knows what he’s doing?” Masa asked. “That’s not how I meditate.”

“Maybe he’s just warming up,” Avery said.

Suddenly, Jett opened his eyes. His calm, cool attitude was replaced with an intense stare, “Nova, I need your complete attention and focus. Do as I say without question or quit.”

“Yes, Mr. Jett,” Nova responded.

“Three lessons. Each harder than the next,” Jett said. “There will be struggle. There will be doubt. But if you focus, you will become a water wizard.”

“Looks like we’re going to need a training montage,” Masa laughed.

The first lesson began — *Stamina*. Jett challenged Nova to swim against the rough current of the North Shore for hours. Nova swam against wave after wave. She wanted to give up each time, but she thought of her mother and pushed harder.



“I almost pulled a muscle just watching,” Masa said. “Honu, got any popcorn?”

“Just seaweed,” Honu replied.

“Never mind,” Masa said.

The second lesson began – *Super Sonar*. Jett revealed his magnetic sense that was the secret to his echolocation. Nova learned the best routes and how to plan for unexpected danger. Her visions of the ocean became clear and focused. Jett was almost able to see things before they happened. He showed her how to slow her thoughts and calm her mind.

“Whoa, Jett truly is a water wizard,” Masa said.

It was time for the third and final lesson – *The Pipeline Punch*. It was the big wave launch that Jett was famous for on the North Shore. Jett showed Nova how to use the current and waves to gain an advantage. At first, the size of the waves frightened her.

“Focus your thoughts and outsmart the wave,” Jett instructed.

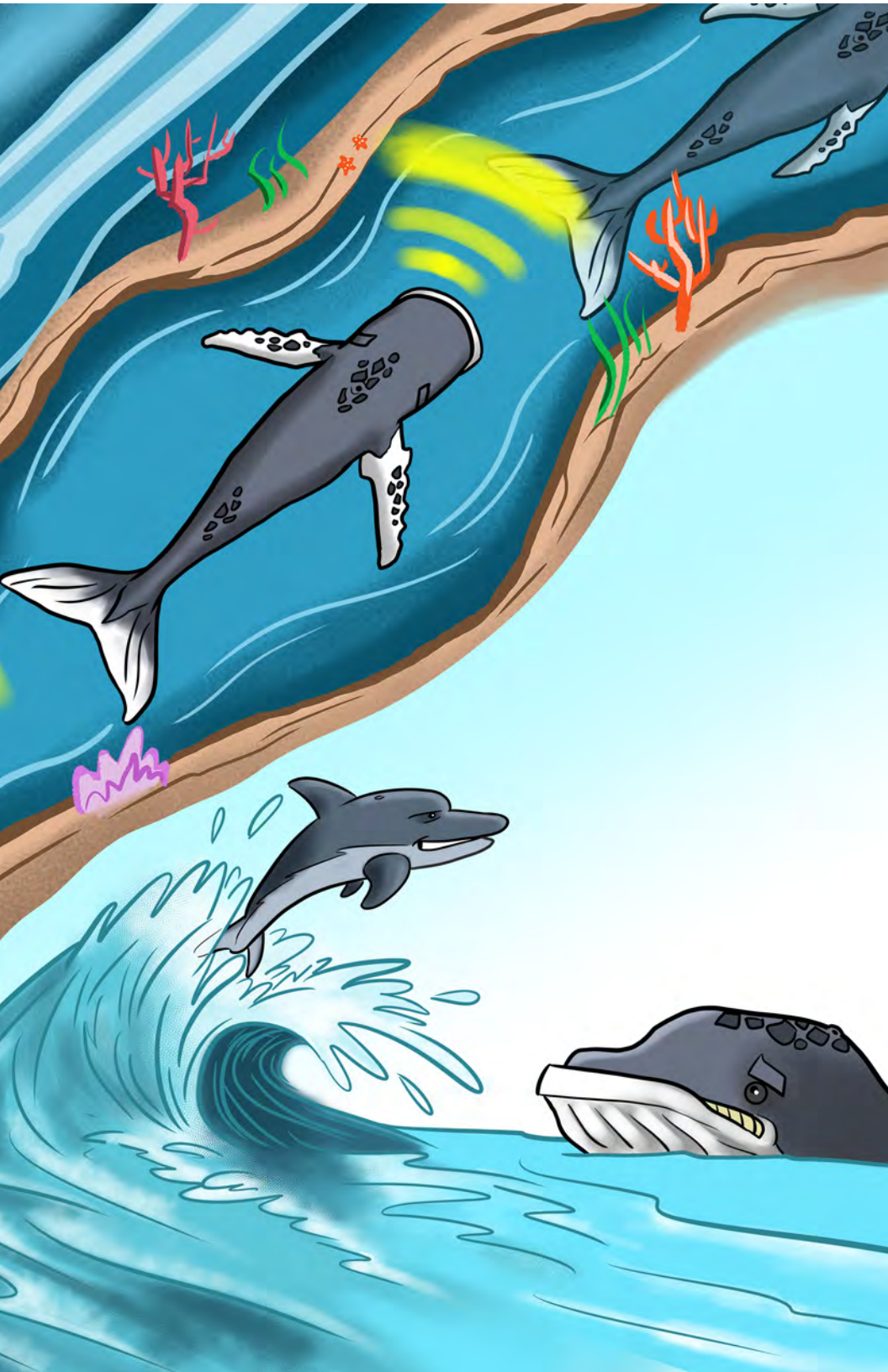
Nova closed her eyes and examined the current of the ocean. She focused on the rhythm of the flowing water. Then she thought of Avery’s

encouragement as she confronted the crest of a massive wave. *You are strong and powerful. And most importantly, you are not alone.*

Nova approached the wave and shot forward for a *Pipeline Punch*. She glided smoothly on the crest of the wave but was unable to breach out of the water. Jett could sense her fear, but proudly clicked in approval.

“Nova, you will breach when the time is right,” Jett said. “You are ready to face a bully.”





## Chapter 8

### *Bully Bluff*

Back at the ship, Nova's mother was still struggling in the nets. She thrashed about as the whalers placed a thick rope around her tail. She knew being dragged up into the ship was not the scariest part — it was that she would be without much needed water.

The whalers began to haul the forty-ton beast up the ramp when suddenly, a strong gust of wind whirled around them. They turned to see a black

helicopter whiz past them and circle the ship several times before landing on deck.

Captain Nagata and his whalers came over to greet the guest as the chopper blades slowed their rotation. Large green boots stepped out of the chopper and stomped on deck. The guest spit out red licorice as Nagata bowed to him. It was the world's most infamous poacher — Nukie Bluff.

“We are glad to see you have made it safely back to the *Ōkina ijime*, Mr. Bluff,” Nagata welcomed.

Nukie ignored him as he inspected the ship. He walked over to the stern and looked down on Nova's mother being hauled up the ramp.

"I see you still only have the mother, Captain," Nukie said. "Where is the young one you promised?"

"We haven't caught her yet," Nagata replied.

"What? I knew I couldn't trust you. I have some new buyers on the West Coast that want to put that small whale in a tank and make lots of money," Nukie responded. "You failed, Captain."



“Not exactly. Take a look at this,” Nagata said as he handed Nukie a handheld tablet.

Nukie watched video footage from the drone camera. It showed Avery and Masa riding on Honu’s shell right next to Nova.

“Well, well, well, it must be my lucky day,” Nukie said as two additional ships arrived behind him. The ships lined up to form a blockade along the shore. He placed his hands on his hips and chuckled as several large nets were cast into the ocean.



“I got you, you sneaky little Firefox,” Nukie laughed.

## Chapter 9

### *Raging Reef Race*

The time for *The Raging Reef Race* had come. The shoreline bustled with activity as flocks of birds hovered above to watch. Various schools of fish arrived to witness one of the greatest collections of sea life ever assembled.

Avery and Masa looked on as the racers started to line up. The course would pass through sea caves, coral mazes, huge waves and even underwater volcanoes. The sea turtles acted

as markers for the racers to follow.

Among those at the starting line, were Perry Parrotfish and Wren Wrasse. The favorite, Newman Needlefish, nudged his narrow body in between them. He snickered with excitement as he snapped his scissor-like jaws.

From the back, five shark fins rose to the surface. The line of fish quickly parted down the middle to let them in. However, Nova and Jett were still nowhere in sight.

“Where are they?” Masa asked.

“Relax dude, they’ll be here,” Avery said. “I hope.”

“Where’s the wimpy whale?” Rocky laughed. “She must be too scared to show.”

“Oh, blow it out your gills,” Masa retorted.

“Masa, be cool,” Avery said.

“Sorry,” Masa said. “I just got a little excited.”

Just then, Nova and Jett made their way through the wave of racers and were treated to slow claps from the crowd. Jett escorted Nova to the starting line as an 80’s song from *The*

*Karate Kid* blared from a nearby boat.

“Jett, I haven’t seen you since we banished you five years ago,” Rocky said.

“Keep telling yourself that, Rocky. I used to avoid bullies like you. But not anymore, I’m here for Nova,” Jett said.

“Whatever, brah,” Rocky snapped. “Even you can’t help this wimp.”

Avery proudly smiled at Nova as she took position at the starting line. Standing on Honu, Avery raised a seaweed vine into the air to signal the racers. Masa anxiously stood by his side.



*“Raging Reef Racers... are you ready?”* Masa shouted.

The rows of racers began to splash about. Rocky flashed his teeth at Nova but she was too focused to notice.

“On your marks. Get set. GO!” Avery said as he swatted the seaweed flag onto the ocean surface. And they were off. The water surged forward so hard that it forced Avery and Masa to hold on as Honu ducked under the current.

*The Raging Reef Race* had begun.



## Chapter 10

### *Pipeline Punch*

“Your plan worked, Avery,” Jett said as he stalled at the starting line and came over to them. “Now, hop on and let’s find that ship.”

“The turtles will meet you back at the finish line,” Honu said.

Jett nodded as he blasted forward past the shore into deeper waters. Avery and Masa’s wet fur blew back in the wind as they hung on.

Meanwhile, back at the race, the leaders passed the first marker. The favorite, Newman Needlefish, set the pace. The racers weaved in and out of the tunnels and through underwater sea caves. At each pass, eels took turns snapping at fish as they whizzed by.

Rocky was not far behind, head-butting each fish in his way. He squeezed through the jagged rocks, while Nova had to swim around. She calmed her mind and hummed as Jett had instructed. *Don't panic. It is a long race. Stay focused.* Slowly, her sonar was activated in a way she had never felt before. She

began to see all the obstacles seconds before they appeared.

Newman's long, narrow body was unbeatable going in a straight line but he could not make turns like the other fish. Rocky nudged his tail and he veered out of the lead. Nova pressed forward as hard as she could but she started to feel pain in her flukes. *Don't give up. Work harder. Your mother needs you.* Nova fought the current even harder and gained on Rocky.

Miles away, Masa continued to scan the waters. After a while, he finally spotted something.

“Over there! I think I see something, and it’s huge!” Masa screamed.

“You can see that far?” Jett asked. “You’re awesome little loris!”

“I get that a lot, Dolphino,” Masa said. “Now, full nautical speed ahead!”

“Hurry, we’ve got to warn the others before it’s too late,” Avery shouted.

Meanwhile, the race leaders finally reached the famous waves of Pipeline. Surfers paused as streams of fish whizzed by, wiping out into massive waves.

Nova examined the surface of the water to sense the rhythm of the waves. She moved in and out of the waves, using the current to gain momentum. She met Rocky at the crest of a wave and forced him inside the tube. They jockeyed for position in the tube as the surfers' jaws dropped in amazement.

They were fin to fin as Rocky tried to use his stocky body to push Nova into the whitewater. As Rocky was about to nudge her with a head-butt, Nova took to the current for a *Pipeline Punch* and breached way out of the water. The crowd roared with a thunderous applause.



“I can breach!” Nova screamed with excitement.

Nova was now in first place with the finish line in sight. She used her big tail flukes to swim faster than ever before. Honu waved his flippers in anticipation.

“You’re almost there! Come on!” Honu shouted.

Just as they were about to cross the finish line, they slammed into a huge underwater drift net. The harder they swam, the more the net closed in on them. They were both caught in front of the stunned crowd. The *Big Bully* arrived as Nukie Bluff shouted from the bow.

“The winner is... *me!* Nukie Bluff!” Nukie laughed as he waved his hands in victory. “I’m the king of the land and the sea!”

Jett raced Avery and Masa just behind the ship but they were too late. They reached Honu and watched as Nukie Bluff jumped up and down on the deck. One by one, all the racers finished, gathering around them as they watched the *Big Bully* haul their friends away.



## Chapter 11

### *Into the Bully's Belly*

Avery and Masa rode Jett back and forth in front of the exhausted racers. Avery could see the look of fear and confusion in their eyes. He pointed out to the ship as it anchored just past the shore.

“That poacher and his whalers threaten all of us... land and sea. They won't stop until all of our friends are in crates, cages or nets. We must stand together right now and stop those bullies. We've got to get on that ship!”

All the fish gave a rousing cheer.

“Nectar speech, but how are we all going to do that?” Masa whispered.

“Into the belly of the beast,” Honu replied. “That is the only way.”

“Count me in,” Toro said as he swam forward.

All the other fish followed in behind and volunteered to help.

“*Ohana*,” Honu said proudly.

“Well, alright-alright,” Jett said. “Now *this* is going to be a *Pipeline Punch*. Saddle up boys.”

“Let’s ride!” Masa shouted as the fish cheered.

Avery and Masa pulled back on Jett’s fin as he launched forward. The reef racers followed behind in a rush of water. Jett skimmed across the surface as Avery and Masa held on tight.

At the ship, Nagata stood at the top of the stern ramp directing the whalers. They hauled in the nets, pulling Nova and Rocky from the water. Nova’s mother lay just below, helpless.

Nagata’s eyes widened as he saw Avery and Masa followed by

many angry fish. He rushed up the ramp to the deck.

As they reached the ship, Jett bravely propelled out of the water and slid right up the slippery ramp. Avery and Masa quickly jumped off. Behind them, the bull sharks slid up one at a time as the whalers dropped Nova and Rocky back into the water and ran away. Nova was free from the net and popped up on the edge of the ramp.

“I brought help, mother,” Nova said. “You’re safe now.”

“I always believed in you, Nova,” she said.

The whalers soon returned carrying harpoons. It was a standoff on the slippery ramp as Avery stood up and drew his claws. Masa reached the rope around Nova's mother's tail and started to gnaw. The sharks surprisingly began to help him. Then, Nukie Bluff slowly walked down the ramp, carrying the biggest harpoon of all.

"I may have lost the little whale, but she brought me the biggest prize of all," Nukie shouted. "Get that pesky Firefox!"

The whalers surrounded Avery and Masa. Nukie lifted his huge harpoon and aimed. The

whalers turned all their harpoons toward Avery.

“It’s finally over,” Nukie said. “This Firefox has been a headache ever since I laid eyes on him. Now, you and your little friend are fish food.”

Everyone stood in silence as Nukie and Avery stared into each other’s eyes. Then, Avery calmly turned back to the water and gave Jett a signal with his thumb. Jett bobbed up and down, making loud clicking noises.

“Now!” Avery yelled.

Suddenly, dozens of needlefish shot out of the water like darts. Their pointy sharp

jaws aimed right at the whalers. The whalers dropped their harpoons and ran away.

Nukie stood his ground as several needlefish tore through his safari hat. Finally, Newman shot out of the water and struck Nukie's hand. He dropped the harpoon and ran up the ramp.







Avery hurried over to help Masa free Nova's mother. She slowly wiggled down the ramp and back into the ocean. They had won. All the fish were free. Avery and Masa slid down the ramp as the reef racers cheered.

As Avery and Masa joined Jett, the Coast Guard finally arrived to capture the whalers. The *Big Bully* was surrounded. Captain Nagata had broken the law and had to face the music.

"It looks like you've lost your fishing license, Nagata," Nukie said. "Mention me and you'll be swimming with the sharks."

Nukie fled to his chopper. It lifted off the deck and hovered into the air. He pointed at Avery and Masa, who foiled his plans once again.

“You can’t save them all, Firefox! If I can’t catch you, I’ll find more just like you!” Nukie yelled as he disappeared into the sky.

## Chapter 12

### *Laniakea Luau*

Nova and her mother were finally reunited with their pod just beyond Turtle Beach. Nova breached into the air and landed to cheers from her pod.

“I’m so proud of you,” Nova’s mother said. “You saved me.”

“Thank you, mother,” Nova said. “But, I couldn’t have done it without Avery and Masa.”

Soon Rocky and his shiver of sharks humbly approached Nova and her mother.

“Looky here, little humpback, we’re sorry for calling you all those names,” Rocky said. “We bull sharks are sticking up for everybody in the cove from now on. Being bullies just ain’t cool.”

“I guess we all grew up a little,” Nova said.

“You’re all right, kid,” Rocky said. “You’re one of us now. A true local.”

“Head-butt!” Nova said as they all laughed.

They all swam together to celebrate with the other fish. A beautiful fish rainbow danced in patterns on the surface. The dolphins performed flips while the whales sang their hearts out. Nova even taught the sharks to breach with style as Jett clicked on with approval.

Avery and Masa joyfully watched the celebration with Honu from Turtle Beach at the luau held in their honor. They enjoyed all the bamboo, sugar cane and pineapple they could eat.

*“Mahalo, many thanks for protecting us and bringing our*

island family together,” Honu said.

“Land and sea. One *ohana*,” Avery said.

Honu smiled and turned to the crowd to give a coconut milk toast, “To Avery and Masa, the true protectors of the endangered. May you continue to bring hope to our world.”

Avery and Masa thanked the *Greenies* for their kindness and courage. The time to go had come.

Avery and Masa gave everyone a hang loose gesture as they climbed on the backs of their dolphin escorts. Jett led them up

to Nova and her mother. Masa reached out and high-fived her flipper.

“Keep singing like a little star, Nova,” Masa said.

“We will always be listening,” Avery said.

Nova and her mother smiled as their pod sang them off to sea. Jett surfed with our heroes into the open ocean with many of his dolphin friends as the Hawaiian sunset took a final bow.





## Epilogue

Far in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, a massive blue whale emerged from deep waters to join Avery and Masa. Jett and the dolphins clicked with joy at the majestic beast.

“The Great Sage of the sea,” Jett said. “The ancient one returns.”

“Sudan!” Avery and Masa shouted.

“It warms my heart to see you both again,” Sudan said. “Two friends, who together, have begun to change the world.”

“Masa, you are well on your way to becoming the greatest loris explorer of all time. Your family is very proud,” Sudan said.

Masa proudly beamed.

“Thanks, Sudan,” Masa shouted.

“Avery, you’ve been selfless and brave. You are now ready to learn the truth,” he said. “It is time to go home.”

“Home?” Avery said.

“Yes,” Sudan said. “Let’s go find your family.”



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It's a race against time! NUKIE BLUFF and his whalers have captured a humpback whale, and her daughter NOVA is now lost at sea. AVERY and MASA must help NOVA stand up to shark bullies, ride massive waves, and win a raging reef race! Will they save the day or become shark bait?

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