



ANTICIPATING

Today's
Gifts

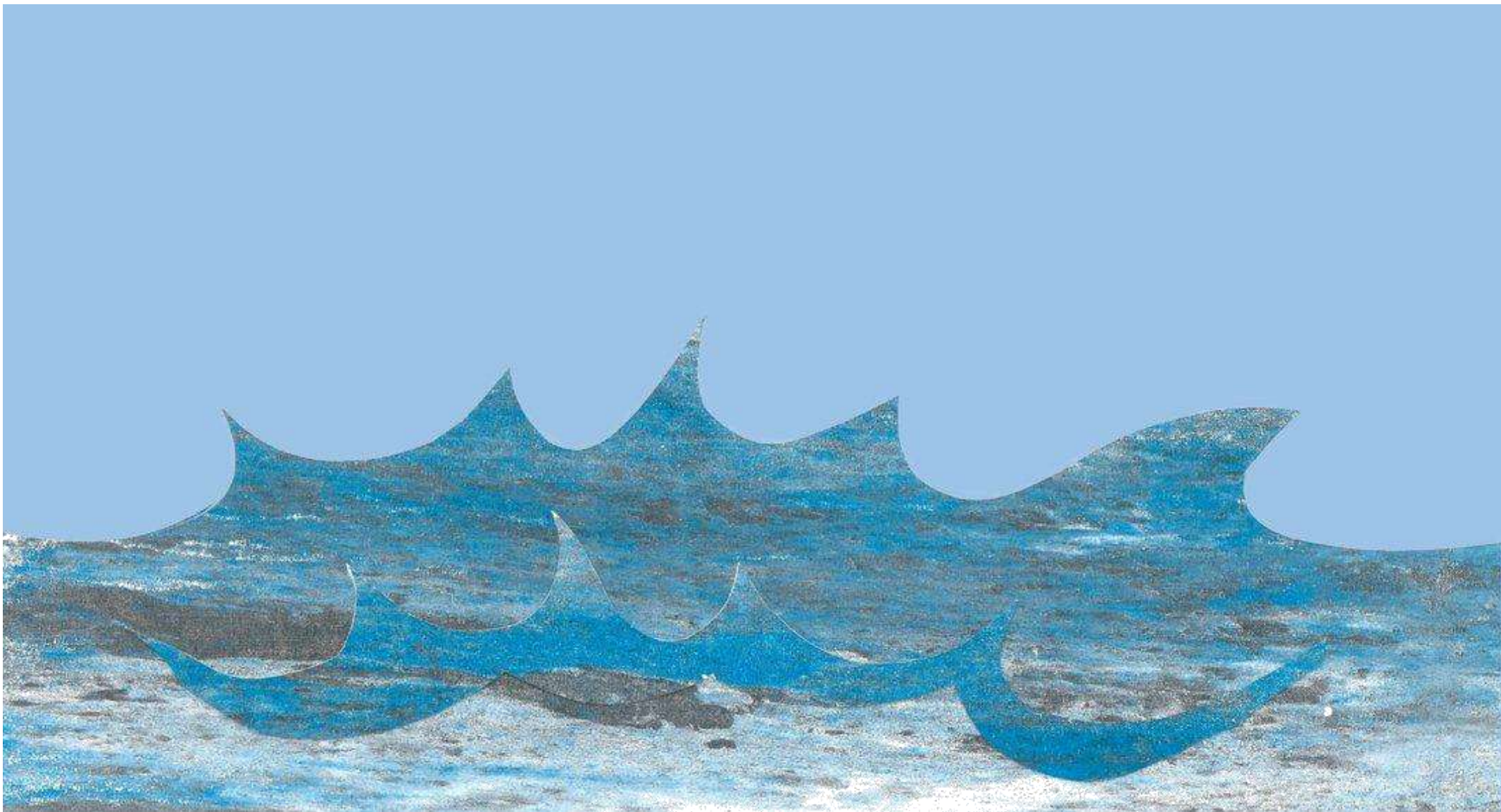


Something is burning my eyelids.
I open my eyes and look around. Where am I?
Sea, sun and hot sand. A beach?
What is all that noise?

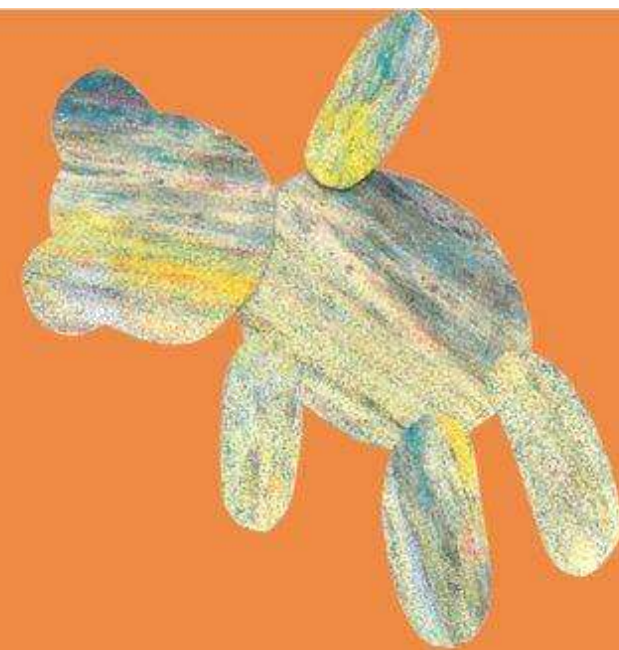


How did I get here? Where are Mummy and Daddy? Where is Hope?
The noise is getting louder and louder. I want to go home.

I close my eyes and imagine.



It all came back to me.
Broken houses. Broken people.
Trying to swim, in the water, clinging on... a piece of wood.
Mummy, Daddy? Hope?



What happened next?

I can't remember.

Who are these people? Why do I not understand them?

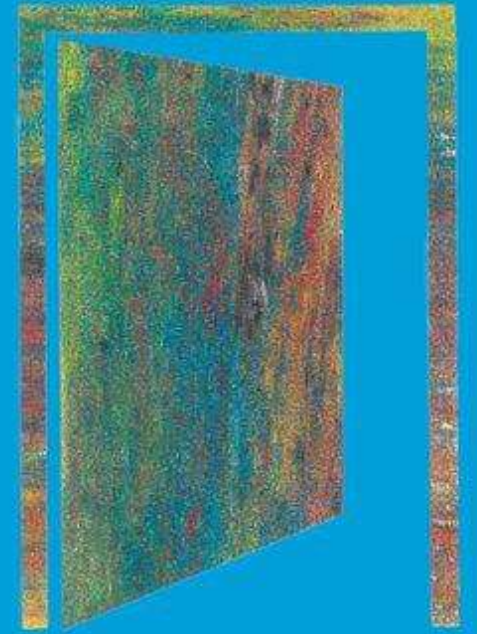
A little girl gives me her teddy.



I am holding on to teddy. With both hands.
I am looking around. And around.
Where is my Mummy? Daddy? Hope?
My eyes fill up, like the sea. They become the sea.



Where are we going?
I am in a room with pictures. Happy pictures.
Mountains of toys. Clothes. Food.
Girls and boys with sad eyes.



Where are Mummy and Daddy? Hope?
I still feel their warmth.
But they are not here.
I run out of the room.



I keep running and running.
No familiar faces. None.
People are crying, others laughing.
“We made it,” they shout.



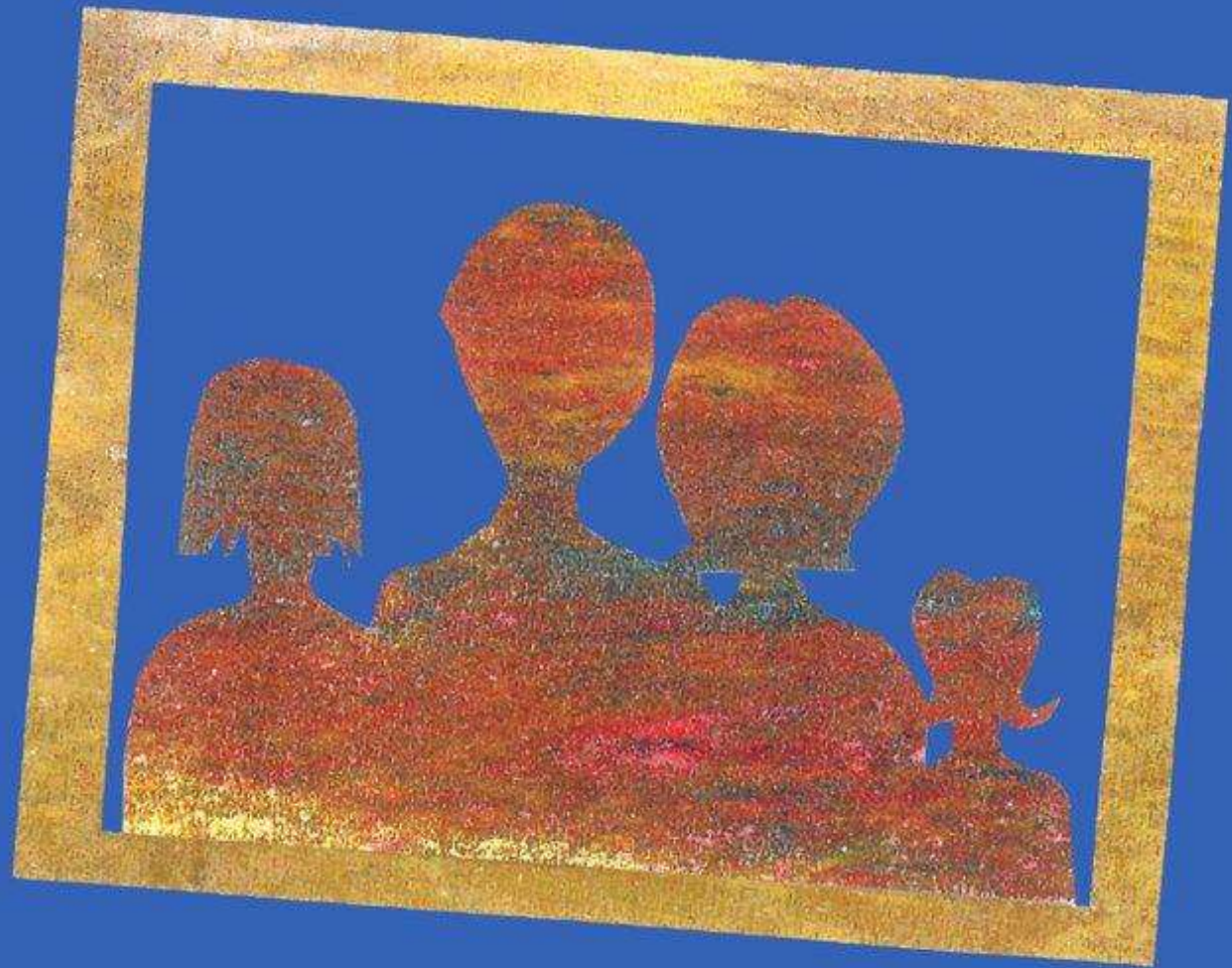
I hold on to teddy.
I hold on and look around.
It is just me.
Nobody I know.



Nobody.
Suddenly a familiar voice reached my ear...
I turned around.
My eyes lit up.



I run. With teddy. It was Hope.
My heart started beating again.
She squeezes me hard and doesn't let go.
We look out to the sea.



Hope shows me a picture.
We just sit there. In silence. With teddy.
It got dark and then light again.
“What will today bring?” I ask Hope...

