

opening extract from **Rita in the Deep Blue Sea**

writtenby Hilda Offen

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For Sean and Niamh

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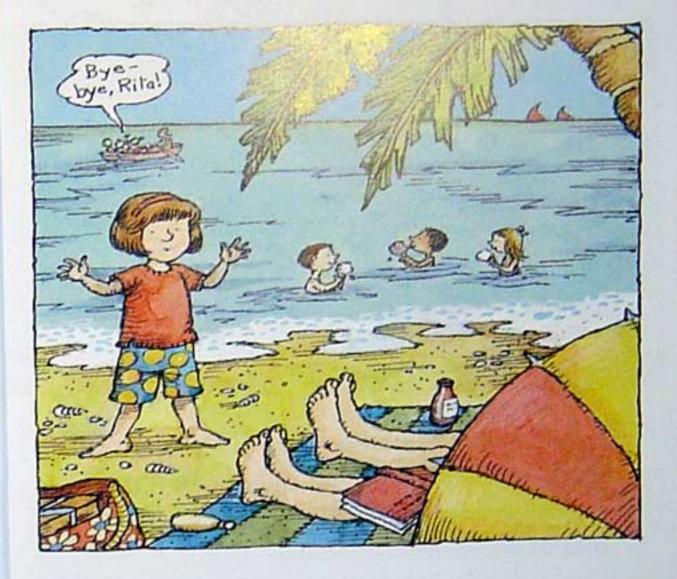
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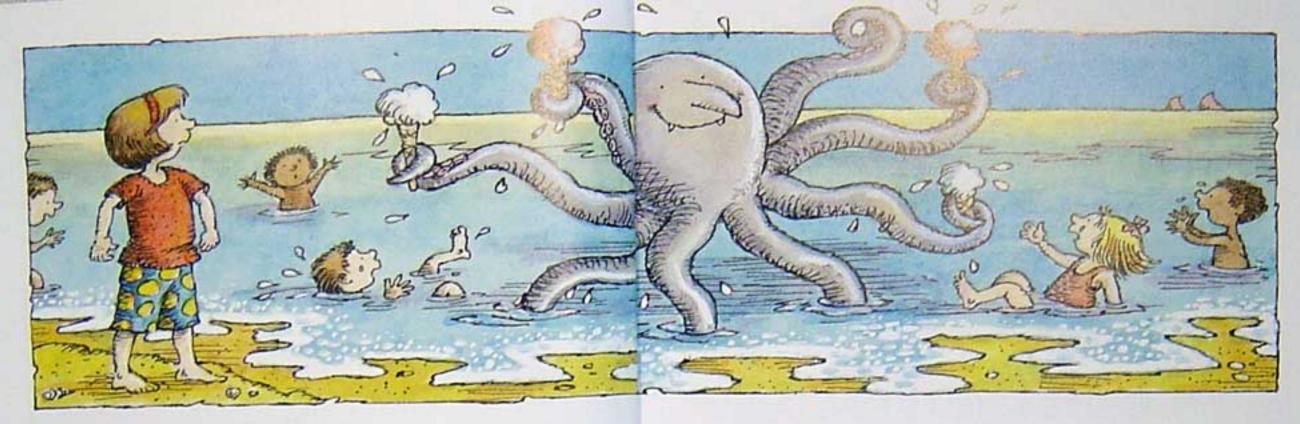
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"It's nice to be somewhere hot for a change," said Mrs Potter. "Where's Grandad? And Eddie and Julie and Jim?" asked Rita. "Oh - they've gone for a boat ride," said Mrs Potter. "I wanted to go!" cried Rita. "You're too young," said Mrs Potter. "You stay here and do some paddling."



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Rita watched the boat disappear over the horizon. Suddenly all the children in the sea started to cry. A big octopus had sneaked up and stolen their ice-creams.

"It's a good job I brought my Rescuer outfit," thought Rita. She grabbed her beach-bag and ran behind the wind-break. In the blink of an eye she'd turned into Rita the Rescuer. "Here I come!" she called and she dived into the water.

