



PEARL SEA

SWEET TREE ISLAND



Pirates



Rocky Island

MAZE OF SHARP ROCKS



SWEET TREE ISLAND

*For my fellow voyagers,
Wendy, Scott and Stephanie.
With deep gratitude to Andrea, Lauren, Eric and Terry.
– D. S.*

*For Kirsten Hall, our North Star.
With special thanks to Andrea, Lauren and Dashka.
– T. F. & E. F.*



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THE ANTLERED SHIP



written by
Dashka Slater


illustrated by
The Fan Brothers



**Lincoln
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The day the antlered ship arrived,
Marco wondered about the wide world.

A fox with a white chest patch stands in a forest, looking towards the right. To its left, a porcupine is visible. In the background, a squirrel sits on a tree branch, and a woodpecker is on a tree trunk to the right. A small yellow bird is in a hole in the tree on the left. In the foreground, there are mushrooms and a frog.

He had so many questions.

Why do some songs make you happy and others make you sad?

Why don't trees ever talk?

How deep does the sun go when it sinks into the sea?

But when he posed these questions
to the other foxes, they grew silent.

“What does that have to do with
chicken stew?” they would ask.



So Marco went down to the harbour without them.
Three deer greeted him at the gangplank.
Marco wasn't surprised to learn that they were lost.

“We hope to hire a seaworthy crew,” explained Sylvia, the captain.
“I’m afraid we aren’t very good sailors.”



“I will join you,” Marco said. He thought to himself, *I will search the seas for foxes who know the answers to my questions.*

A pigeon named Victor also volunteered along with his entire flock.
“We want to have adventures,” they cooed.



“Welcome aboard,” Captain Sylvia said. “We’re going to a *wonderful* island, with tall, sweet grass and short, sweet trees. When we get there, we’ll eat a delectable dinner.”