

HOM



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For Owen, I hope you find a friend like Hom – P.D.

For David and Hermione Chambers – J.W.

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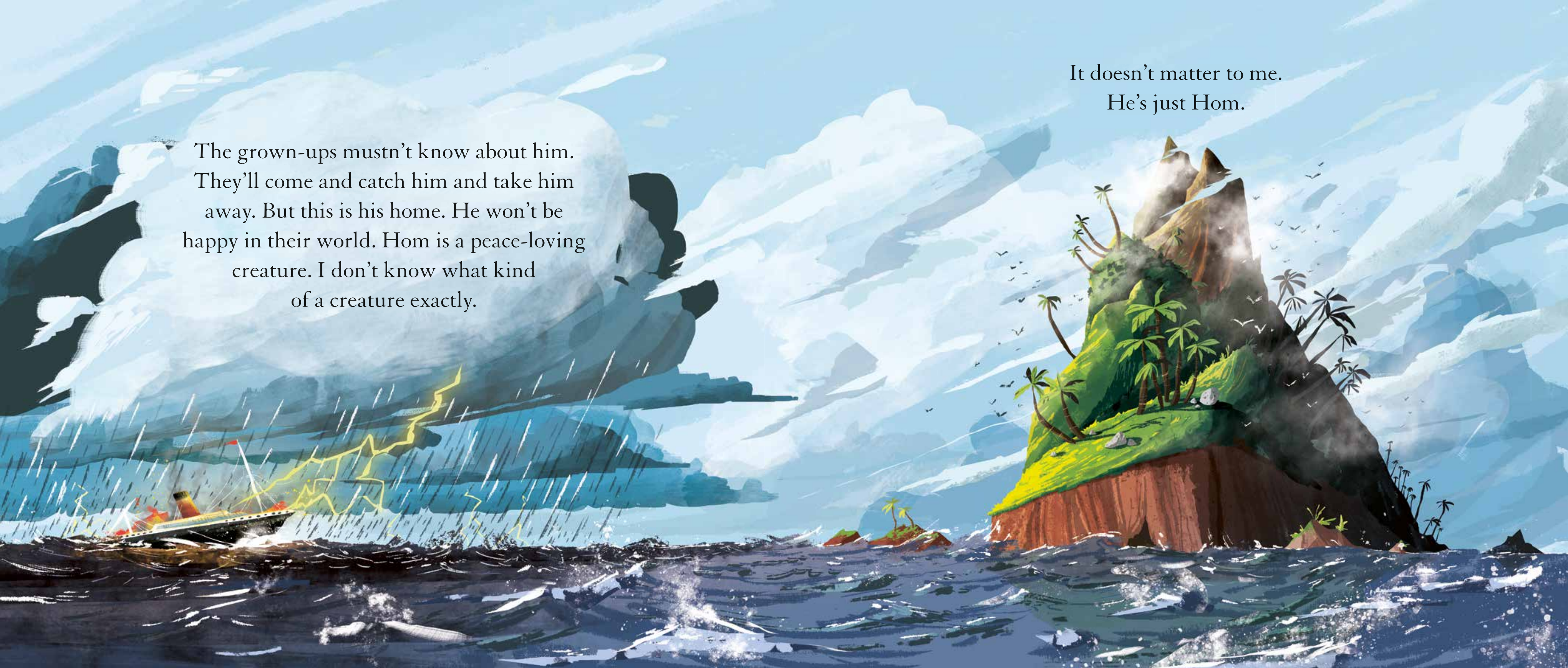
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I've never told anyone about Hom.
No one knows he exists. Only me.
And you – because I trust you.

A dramatic illustration of a stormy sea. In the foreground, dark, turbulent waves crash. To the left, a ship with a red and white hull is being battered by the waves. In the background, a large, dark, stormy cloud formation looms over the sea, with yellow lightning bolts striking down. To the right, a lush, green tropical island with palm trees and a small structure sits on a rocky outcrop. The sky is filled with white, billowing clouds, and many birds are flying around the island. The overall scene is one of intense natural power and conflict.

The grown-ups mustn't know about him.
They'll come and catch him and take him
away. But this is his home. He won't be
happy in their world. Hom is a peace-loving
creature. I don't know what kind
of a creature exactly.

It doesn't matter to me.
He's just Hom.

I met him after the shipwreck.
I swam to a deserted island,
far away.

Not one person came to
find me, but...





Hom did.

We'd never seen anything like each other. I'm not sure who was more scared – me or him! We laughed about that later.