

For Martha, who finally got me in the pool – A.F.-K
For SUPER YOU, the completely marvellous reader – P.B

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MARV

AND THE POOL OF PERIL



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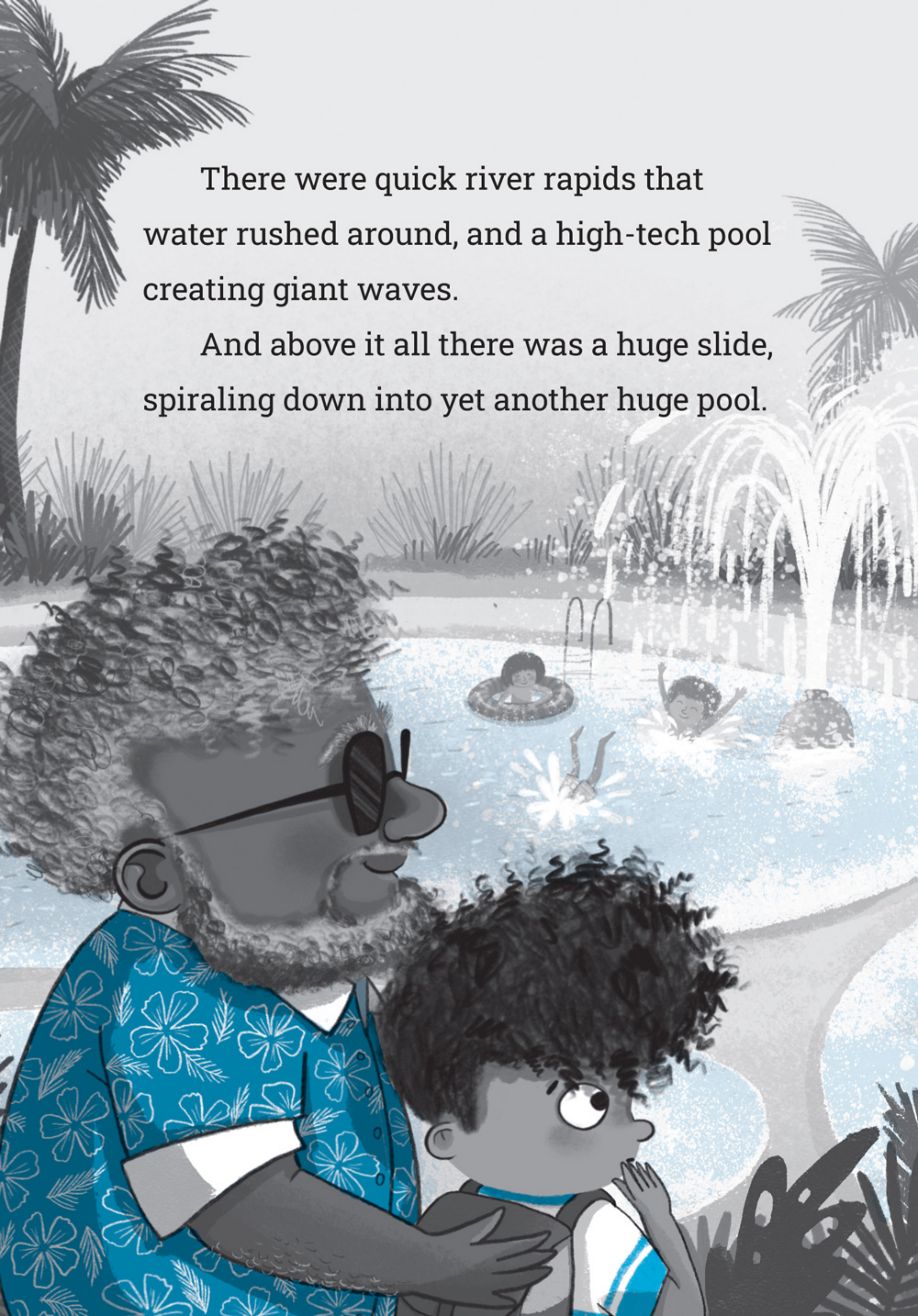
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CHAPTER 1




Marvin gulped. This was the most amount of water that he had ever seen in his entire life. He slowly turned around to take it all in. In front of him, there were too many pools to count. Big pools, small pools, round pools, and rectangular pools. Hot bubbly pools and icy, freezing cold pools.



There were quick river rapids that water rushed around, and a high-tech pool creating giant waves.

And above it all there was a huge slide, spiraling down into yet another huge pool.

A vibrant illustration of a water park. In the foreground, a large blue arrow sign with the word 'Entrance' in white text points to the right. Below the sign are dark silhouettes of tropical plants. In the middle ground, two children are splashing in a pool of water. The child on the right is lying on their back, smiling, with water splashing over their head. The child on the left is also smiling and has their arms raised. The background shows a sandy area with palm trees and a large, light-colored circular structure, possibly a slide or a large umbrella, partially visible on the right side.

Grandad patted Marvin on the shoulder.

‘I think it’s time we moved forward,’ he said with a smile.

‘Oh, sorry,’ Marvin said. He glanced ahead. A space had opened up in the queue. The entrance to the brand new water park, Wave World, was only a couple of steps away now.

'So, little one, are you excited?'

Grandad said.

'Yeah, of course I am,' Marvin replied in a very quiet voice. He wasn't lying, part of him *was* excited. It was his best friend's birthday and Joe's birthday was always fun! It's just that having it here, at Wave World, made Marvin feel uneasy. It wasn't that Marvin didn't like the water (he could see Joe and his family now, and couldn't wait to join them) but at the same time, he didn't want to run into **THE PANIC** again.

THE PANIC made his heart suddenly thud in his chest. **THE PANIC** made him forget his swimming lessons. **THE PANIC** made him want to get out of the pool.



'It's okay to feel nervous or to be scared,'
Grandad said.

A high pitched
beeping came
from Marvin's
backpack, then
a small round
robot head poked out
of the top. It was Pixel, Marvin's
robot sidekick.



Marvin had a super-suit that
transformed him into a superhero
called Marv. He took the suit and Pixel
everywhere with him, 'just in case', as his
grandad would say. Today he felt like he
needed them with him more than ever.



'Grandad, were you ever a little nervous when you were in the water?' Marvin asked. Grandad reached into his pocket and pulled out his wallet. In it was a newspaper clipping.

**TALENTED DIVER
BEATS RECORD FOR
HIGHEST DIVE**



A boy who looked like a younger version of Grandad was photographed standing on the edge of a diving board, over a pool of water. 'So, you weren't nervous around water,' Marvin said, shoulders slumped.

Grandad pulled down his sunglasses and winked.

'Let me tell you the story. At our local swimming pool, they built this brand new diving board. 'And so, to promote it to the community they asked me, their local superhero, to show everyone that it was safe and fun. I've always been a good swimmer but I was terrified of diving. Still, I said yes—'

'And tried not to think about it until

it snuck up on you?' Marvin interrupted, thinking about what he had done when Joe had invited him to Wave World.

'Well, yes, I did do exactly that,' Grandad said with a sheepish smile. 'But, I ended up completing the dive.'

'So, you just beat your fear, just like that?' Marvin leaned forward and said.

'I wish! I had to train that whole week with a friend before I even felt comfortable getting on that huge diving board. But still, on the day of the dive my stomach was in a complete state, it was flipping all over the shop. I kept pushing back the time for my dive and ended up delaying so much that the news crew almost left.' Grandad and Marvin burst into laughter.

'But how did you do it? How did you beat your fear?'



Grandad chuckled and scratched his beard. 'I realized that *sometimes you just have to jump*. I knew that I really wanted to do that dive, and the only thing holding me back was my fear. Eventually, I found my courage and did it,' Grandad said.

Marvin gazed up at his Grandad and smiled.



'Tickets please,' said the man in the entrance booth.

They were now at the front of the queue. Grandad handed over their tickets and they walked through the gates. As soon as they got in, Joe came bounding towards them.



‘Happy Birthday, Joe!’ Grandad said.

‘Where are your parents? I’ll go say hello.’

Joe pointed behind him and Grandad moved off in that direction.

‘You’re finally here! This water park is so huge. It has everything. We’re going to have so much fun today!’ Joe said.

‘Yeah, erm, I can’t wait,’ Marvin said, crossing his arms over his chest and glancing around. The place was packed. ‘There are so many people here.’

‘Yeah, the queues for all the rides are super long.’ Joe sighed. ‘We’ll still have a ton of fun, but you know I kinda wish we had the whole place to ourselves. Imagine what that would be like!’