



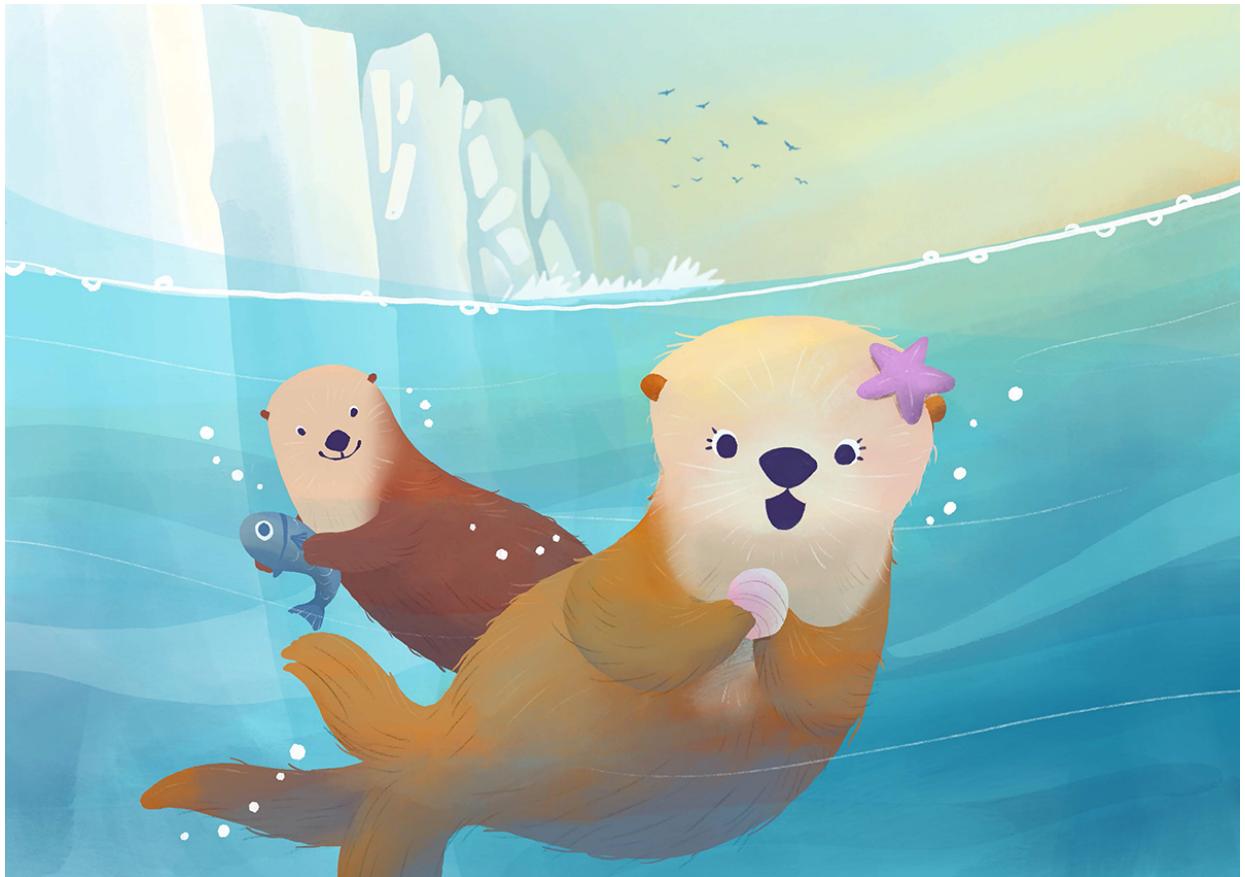


Holding Hands

Mawani Gultom



The Asia Foundation



Kimi is good at swimming now. Mom said that soon Kimi will be able to hunt without her. Kimi is very happy. She will finally get to hunt for food with her friends.



Mom tells Kimi to be careful. She must watch for danger around her. She also has to keep an eye out for predators, including great white sharks. Suddenly — Grrrr. What is that sound? Kimi wonders. “We have to swim away! It’s dangerous!” Mom

says. Bam! Kimi hears another voice.
The iceberg in front of Kimi
collapses. All the sea otters
scatter. Kimi has to swim fast.



The falling ice was
terrifying. Fortunately, it's safe
now. "Mom!" Kimi shouts. Kimi calls
for Mom many times, but she is
nowhere to be found.



Kimi waits. But Mom doesn't come. Kimi is alone now. Who will tell her a story and hold her hand? Kimi is sad. She is also getting hungry. "Come on, Kimi." Hmm, whose voice is that? "Let's go find something to eat together."



Oh. These are Kimi's friends. They ask Kimi to hunt with them. Kimi must prepare her tools. Mom once taught Kimi to put stones in the pouch on her stomach. She can use the stones to open clams.



Splash! Kimi dives into the water. She tries to hide her sorrow from her friends. “Let’s hunt together,” say Kimi’s friends. “We will tell you what to do.” Kimi is happy to be included, but a little bit annoyed. She doesn’t

like to be ordered around by her friends.



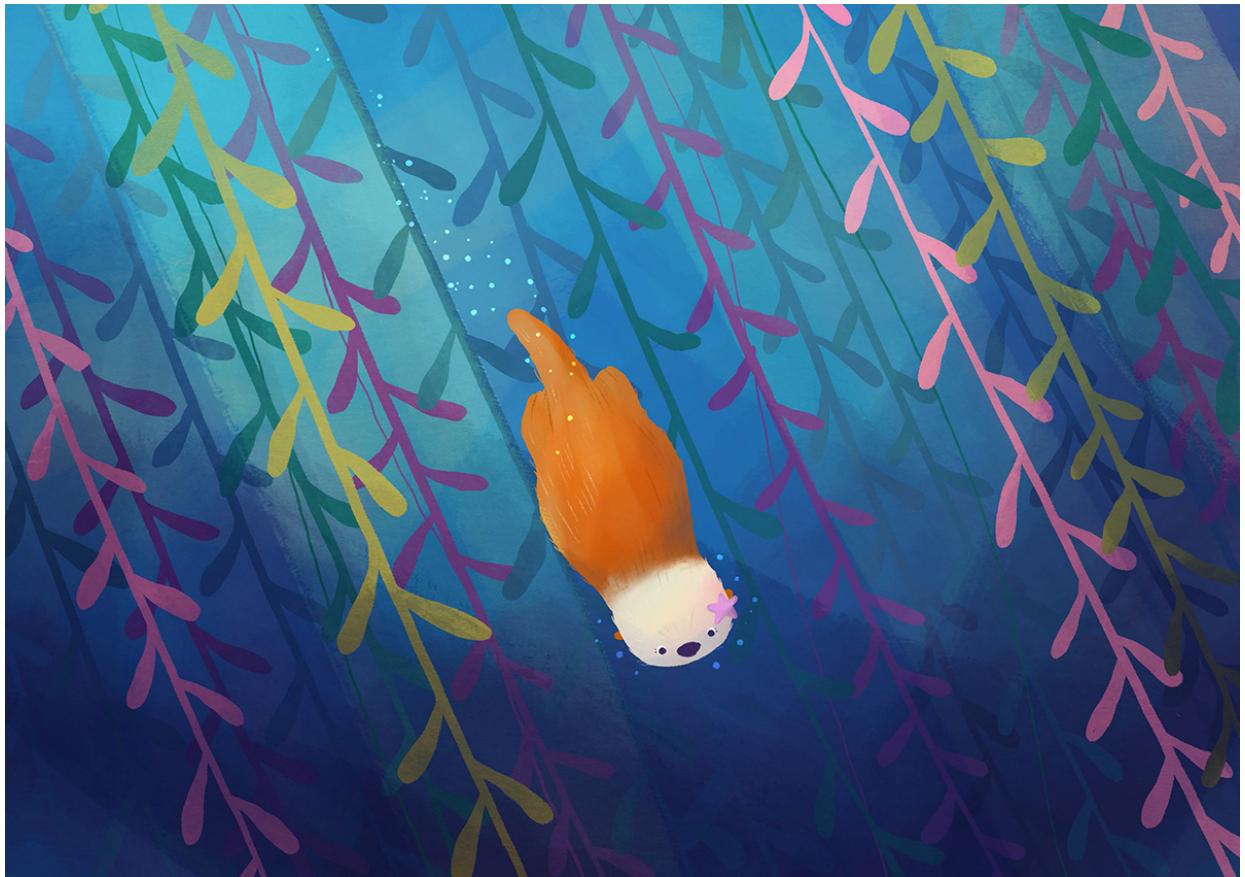
Her friends tell Kimi to watch how they hunt. But Kimi already knows how to hunt. Mom taught her.



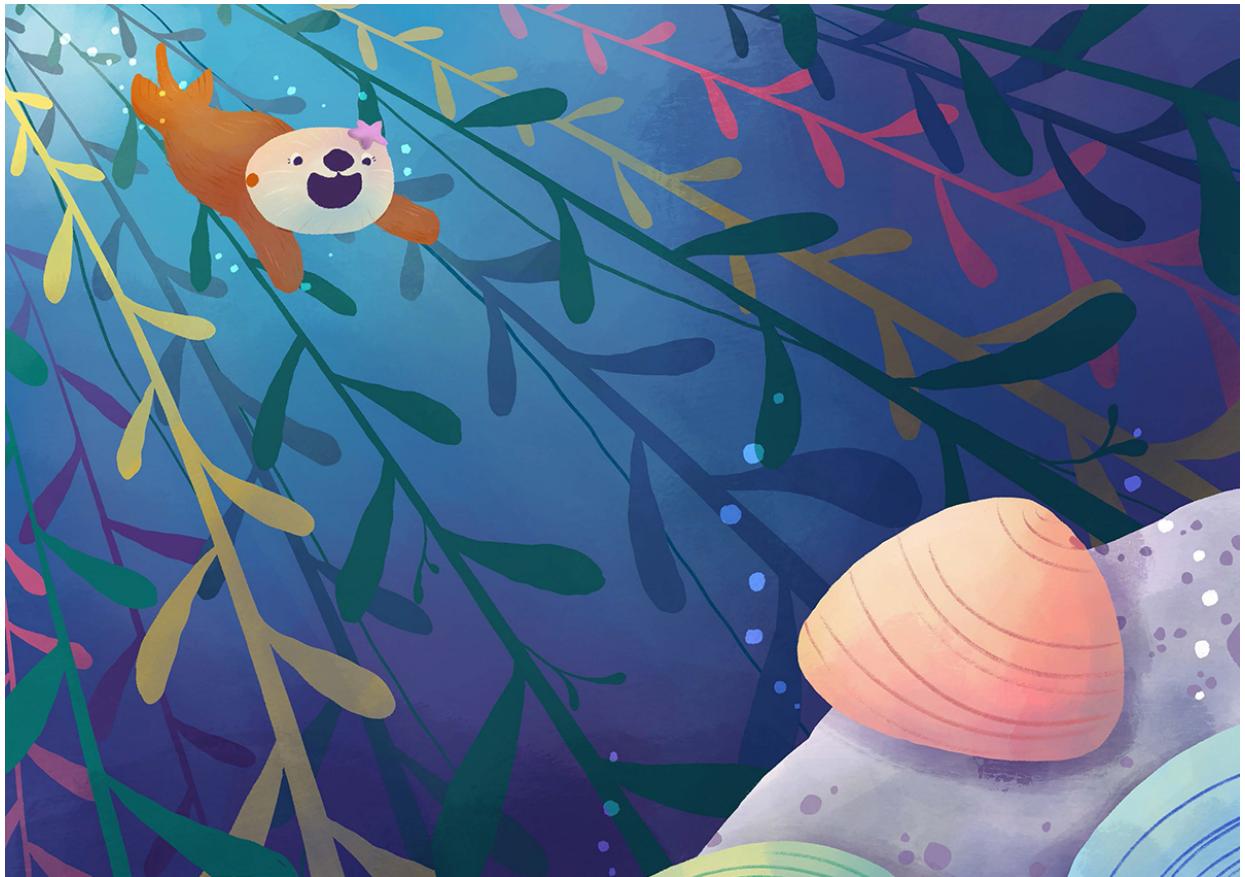
Now her friends tell Kimi to wait in a safe place and not go too far away. Kimi is getting more annoyed.



Hmm... Kimi is tired of waiting.
What does she see down there? It
looks like something interesting.
Maybe it will be okay to dive just a
little bit, she thinks.



Oh! Isn't that my favorite food that
Mom usually brings me? Kimi
decides to dive a little deeper to see it
better.



Aha! It is Kimi's favorite: a clam.
Kimi decides to take it before the
others see it.



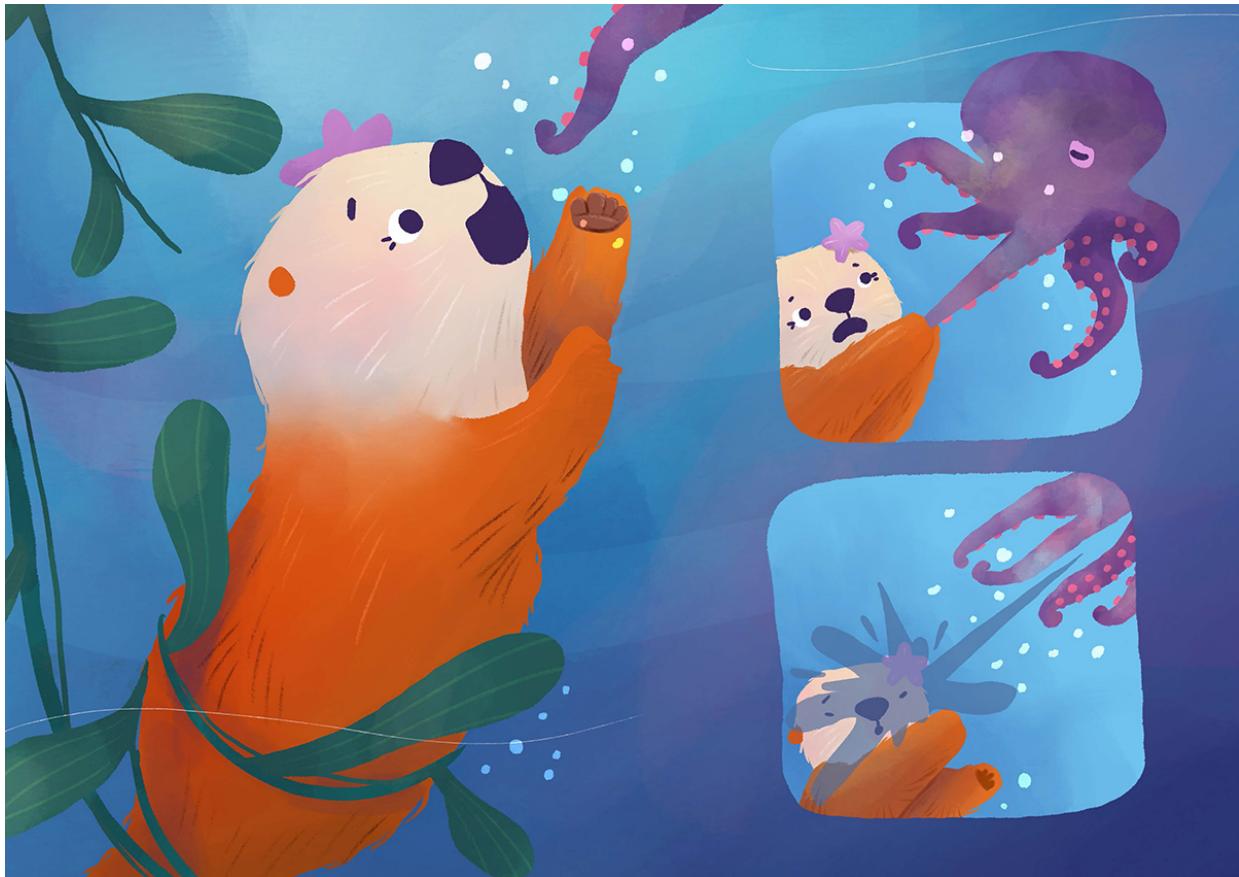
Kimi wants to collect a lot of clams to stock up. She will keep them in the pouch on her stomach. And then she will share them with her friends.



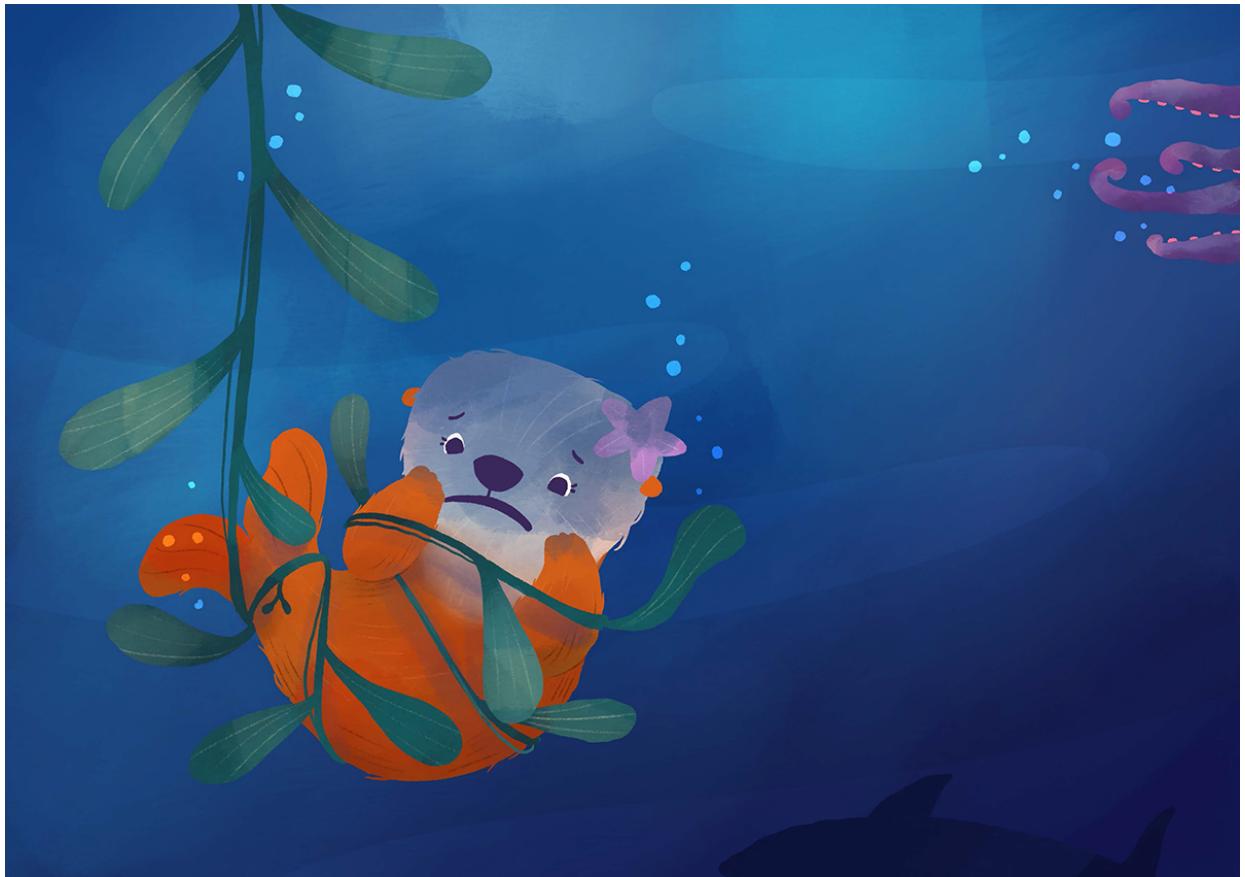
Uh-oh! Why can't Kimi move now?
“Ughhhhh.” Kimi's body is caught in
some seaweed.



The seaweed makes it hard for Kimi to move. How can Kimi free herself? She has to find something to hold on to.



Aha! There's a rope. Kimi tries to grab it. "Come on, Kimi!" Kimi tells herself.



Oh no! Kimi can't see anything! What happened? Ugh. The rope was actually an octopus, and it sprayed ink at Kimi. Kimi likes octopuses. But Mom never told her that an octopus's tentacle could look like a rope.



Yuck. Kimi's face is getting sticky. She has to clean herself up. Mom once taught Kimi how to clean off the dirt on her body with her claws. Oh! Her sharp claws cut through a strand of seaweed.



“Cut the seaweed, Kimi,” she tells herself. One, two, three! She did it!
Kimi is free!



After Kimi collects a lot of clams, she is tired. She has to go back to where she was before. Her friends must think she's missing. Kimi has to swim fast. Faster. Hey, why is it dark?



There is a big shadow. Kimi can see many teeth. Is this the great white shark that Mom warned her about? The shark must be hunting Kimi. Kimi is scared. “Mom!” Kimi is crying so hard. She doesn’t know what to do.



Suddenly Kimi feels something touch her body. She is even more scared. “Ahhhh, let me go! Do not eat me!” Kimi tries to pull her hand away. She thinks the shark has caught her. “Shh, don’t make noise,” a voice says. “The shark will find us.”



Oh! These are Kimi's friends. They tracked her down when they got worried about her. The shark swims off, and now they are all safe. Kimi's stomach is growling. Her friends are hungry too. "Come on! Let's eat these clams together."



Kimi is very happy. She is not lonely anymore. Kimi has good friends who will hold her hands. They will take care of her.



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