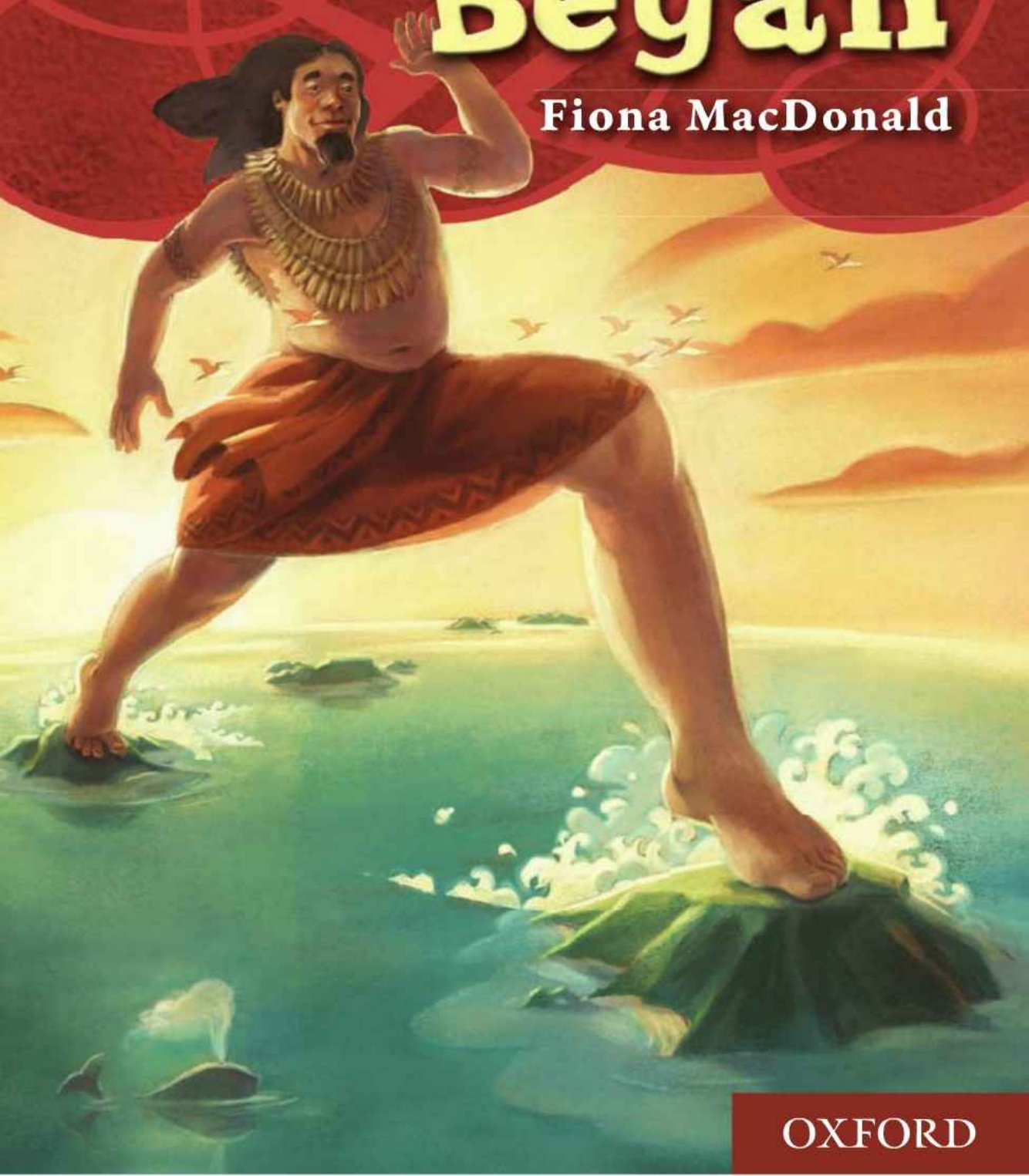




How the **W**orld Began

Fiona MacDonald



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About this book

These five stories from around the world are creation myths that attempt to explain how the world began.

Talking points

- Look at the front cover and ask your child to read the title and then the list of contents. Briefly look through the book at the illustrations. Ask your child to suggest what sort of stories these might be.
- Look at the illustration on page 9 and ask your child what they think Pan Gu has created. Compare that with the illustrations in *Moon and Morning Star* and the other stories. Do the pictures give any clues about what is created?

During reading

- On page 11, ask your child how the giant's body might be part of our world today, before turning the page.
- Read pages 27 and 28, ask your child how the sentences differ between these two pages.
- Read *Tagaloa's Rock*, encourage your child to read the words in upper case using an expressive voice.

After reading

- Talk together about what happened in each story. Ask your child which story they enjoyed most.
- Talk about what the stories have in common. Ask your child if they can think of any other stories they have read that talk about how the world began.

How the World Began

Fiona MacDonald

Illustrated by
Emma Shaw-Smith
Yannick Robert
David Eaton
Scott Plumbe

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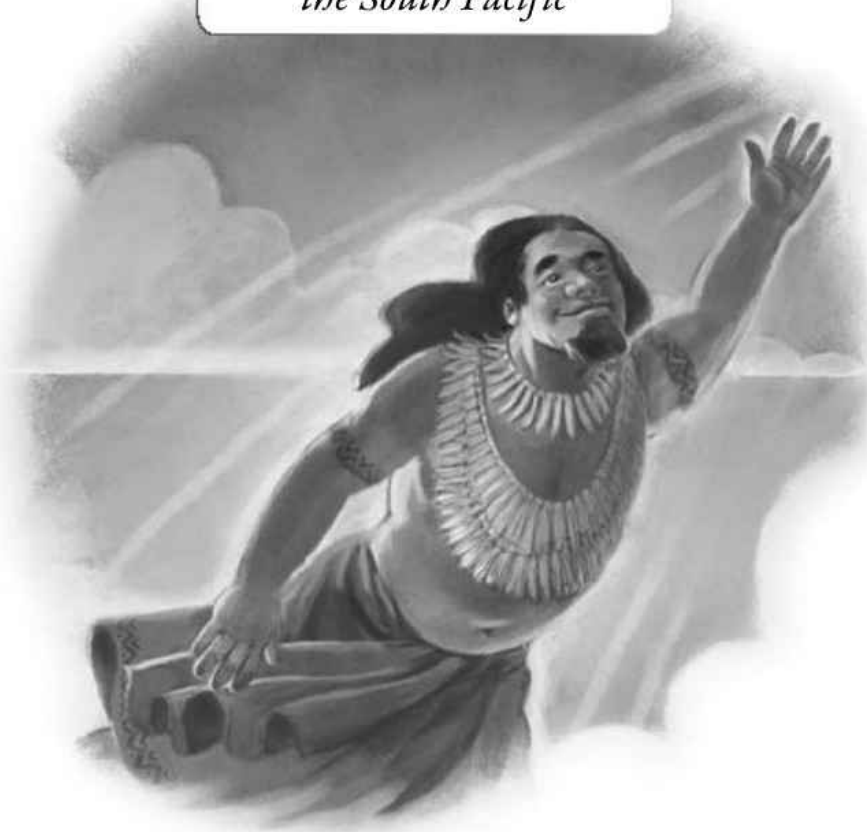
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Tagaloa's Rock

*A myth from Samoa, in
the South Pacific*



Tagaloa made the sky. It was high and wide, bright and clear. ‘I like it!’ said Tagaloa.

Tagaloa made the sea. It was deep and dark, mighty and mysterious. ‘Amazing!’ said Tagaloa.

Tagaloa soared through the air, flying up, up, up to see more.



Tagaloa swam through the sea, diving down, down, down to explore.

Tagaloa was pleased with the world he had made: 'It's wonderful!' he said.



At last, Tagaloa wanted to rest. He could not fly and dive for ever. Where could he stand, or sit, or lie down? There was nowhere.

So Tagaloa summoned up all his energy. With a fearsome frown he gave a giant cry – LAAAAAAAAAAAAAND! – and forced solid rock to heave itself up from the depths of the ocean.



At first, the rock was smoking hot.
Foul-smelling gases swirled round it. But
soon it cooled, and the air around it cleared.
Tagaloa nodded, approvingly.

‘Ha! The first island in the world,’ he said.
‘Welcome, dry land, welcome!’





The island was so good that Tagaloa wanted more. ‘I could use them to stride across the sea,’ he said to himself. ‘They’d be like stepping-stones.’

Before long, he’d made them. Hundreds and hundreds.

A rocky island is a great resting place for a god, but it needs something to cover it. So Tagaloa made green, leafy, creeping plants – and water to keep them growing. With his huge right hand, he smashed into the cliff on the side of his first island.

‘Make me a river!’ he commanded.

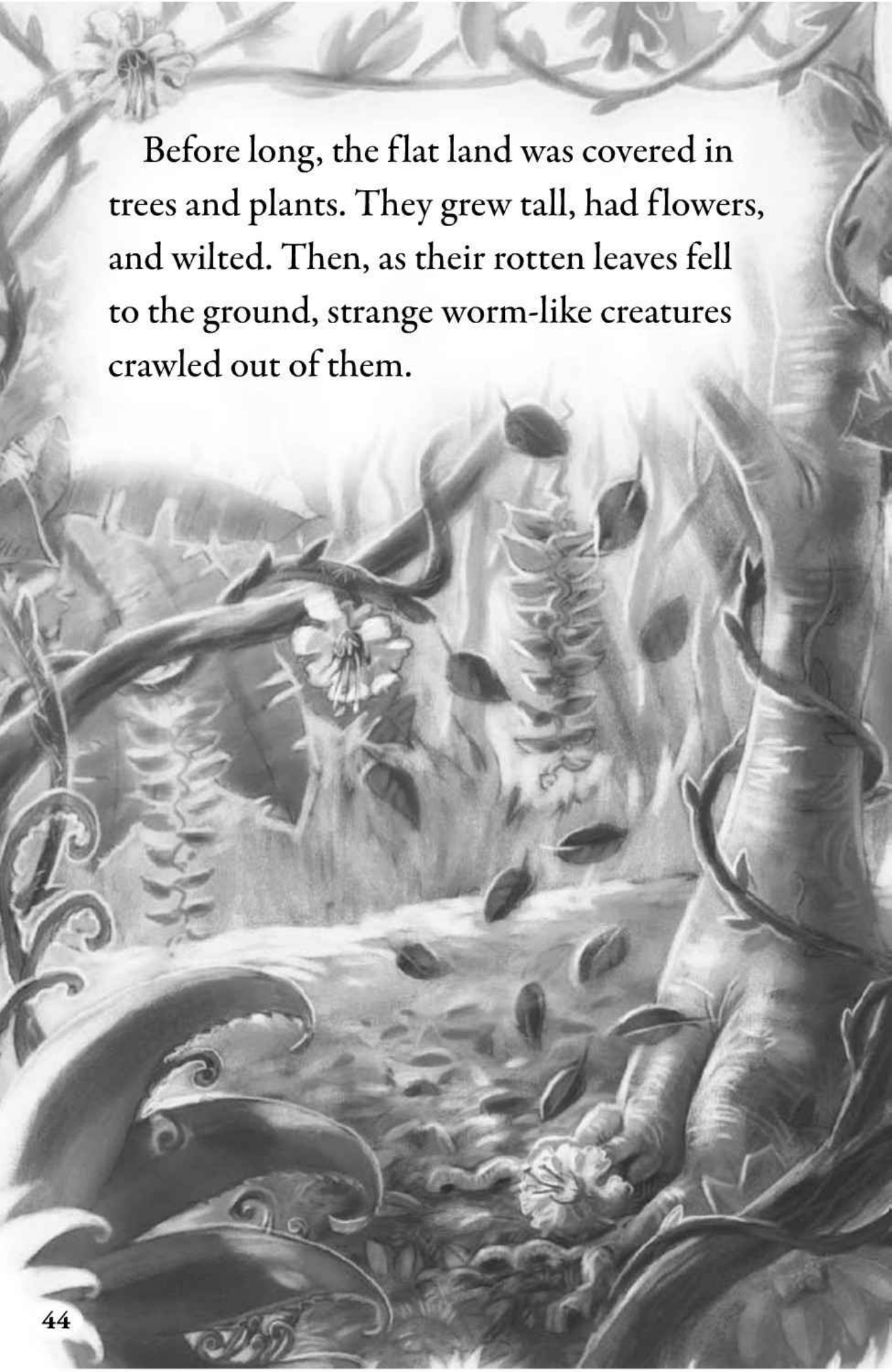
With a deafening **CRAAAASSSH!** the cliff split in two, and cool water came gushing out.





Next – **CRRRUNNCH, CRRRRRACK!**

Tagaloa jumped up and down on his island's highest mountains. 'I'm sorry to squash you,' he said. 'But I must make some flat land where my new trees and plants can grow.'



Before long, the flat land was covered in trees and plants. They grew tall, had flowers, and wilted. Then, as their rotten leaves fell to the ground, strange worm-like creatures crawled out of them.

‘Ho! What are these?’ asked Tagaloa, surprised and very curious. He picked some up, turned them over, and sniffed them, thoughtfully.

‘Hmm! Well ... they look interesting. They have definite possibilities. All they need is a head, and two arms, and two legs ...’



Tagaloa got busy.

After a while, he paused, scratched his head, and muttered, ‘I must not be too hasty. They will need more than bodies to survive. Now, let me think carefully ...’

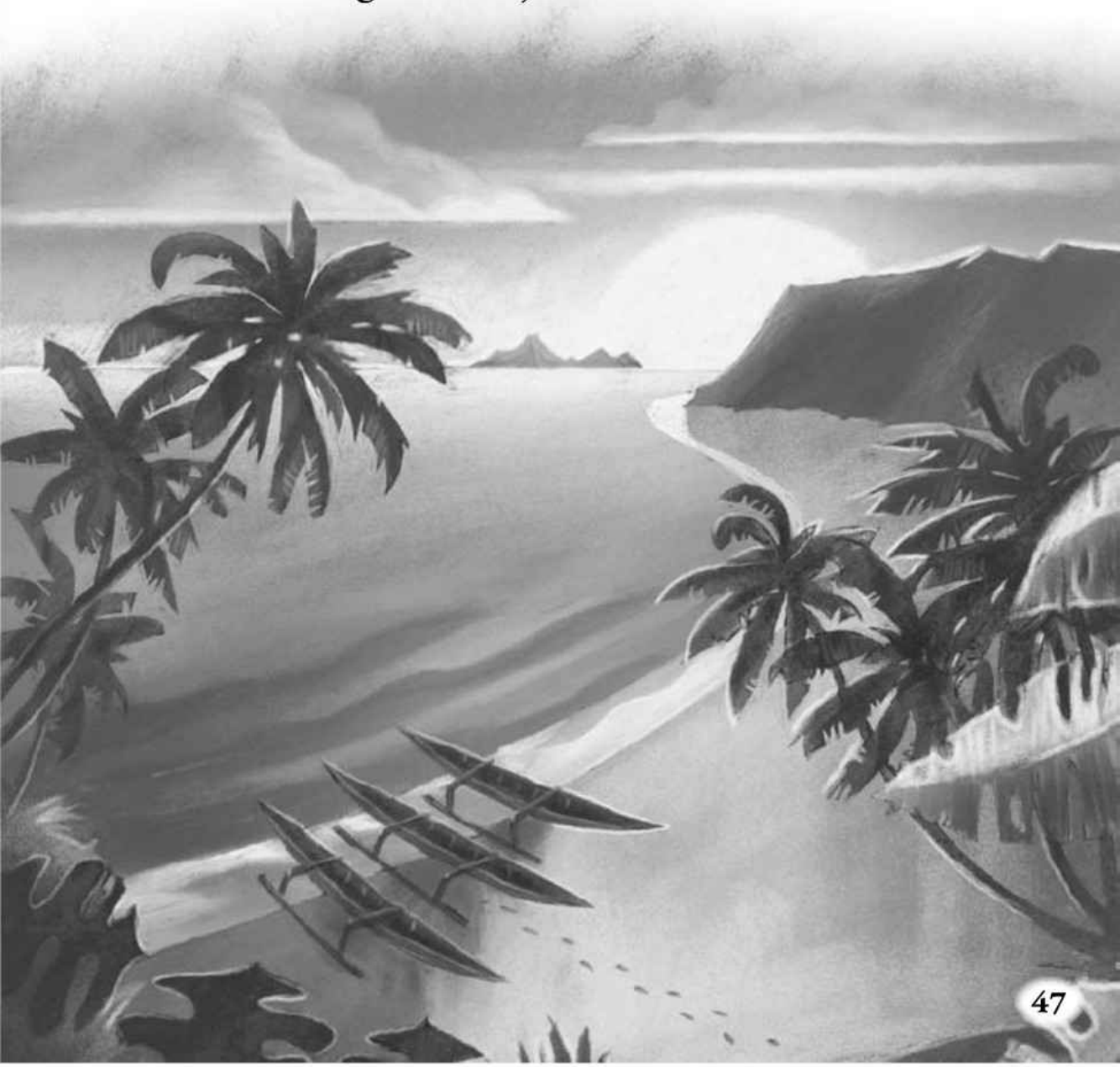


‘Each one must have strength. (I’ll put that in their hearts.) And a lively mind. (I’ll make sure they’ve got good brains.) And spirit ... and energy ... I’ll give them some of mine! That should help. I’m a god. I have plenty. Then I’ll send them all, to live and work and love, on my splendid new rocky islands.’

* * *

And that – so the stories say – is how the first men and women came to live on Tagaloa's rock, and all other dry land.

Today, you can still see Tagaloa's islands. They are far, far away from other countries, in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean. You may have heard some of their names, such as Samoa, Tonga and Fiji.



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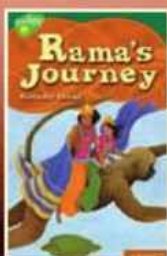
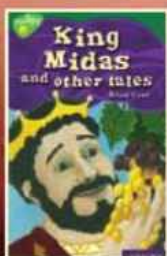
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How the World Began

Includes *Pan Gu and the Egg*, *Moon and Morning Star*, *Tagaloa's Rock* and more

For thousands of years people have wondered how the world began. Meet gods, goddesses and giants at the beginning of time as they create the earth in these myths from China, North America, Australia, Britain and the South Pacific.

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