

A PLACE LIKE THE SEA

一個像海的地方

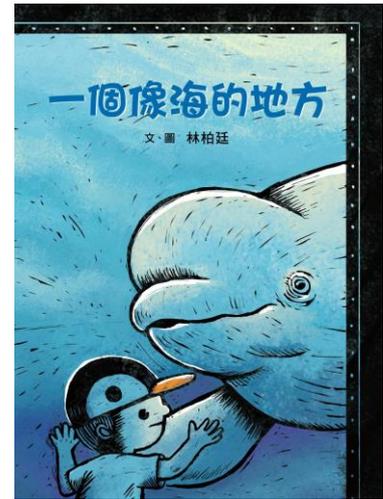
A little boy goes with his parents to a place that seems like the sea. When he turns around, he finds his parents have disappeared. Lost in the aquarium, he feels all alone and helpless, like the sea creatures that have been brought there from the sea.

A little boy goes with his parents to the aquarium. Like the sea, it's a place with whales, dolphins, starfish and many different kinds of fish. He walks around slowly, feeling as though he is in the sea too, and as though humans can talk to animals. At one point, he loses his parents. On his own in the aquarium he feels sad and helpless, like the animals that have been brought from the sea to the aquarium. When will they all see their parents again? The little boy will soon find his parents, but the creatures in the aquarium will probably never be able to go back to the sea.

Lin Po-Ting cleverly associates the child's sadness with that of the sea creatures at the aquarium. In the first few pages, the text is in the voice of the little boy, but as the story develops, the boy's inner voice seems to join that of the animals. The book is presented in a printed style with swathes of blue like the ocean. It is attractive, though tinged with sadness. The ending encourages readers to think about aquariums and why they exist, and the importance of marine conservation.

Lin Po-Ting 林柏廷

Lin Po-Ting is an accomplished illustrator, a coffee addict, and a lover of children. An accomplished artist in traditional media, he produces work through digital illustration. His children's titles have won the Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Award and the Hsin-Yi Children's Literature Award.



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A PLACE LIKE THE SEA

Translated by Helen Wang

p.6-7

It took a very long time
To come to this place far from home.

p.8-9

It's blue like the sea.
It has that salty sea smell.
It really is a place like the sea...

p.10-11

You come to see me,
and I watch you

I watch you so closely.
I can hear the secrets inside you.

p.12-13

Where are Mum and Dad?
I can't hear their voices,
and they can't hear me!

p.14-15

Mum and Dad have gone.

This place suddenly feels strange.
I'm scared, and look everywhere.

p.16-17

I wander through the crowd. I feel worried.

p.18-19

There are all these people, but I feel so alone.

p.20-21

When the show finishes,

will I be able to find Mum and Dad?

p.22-23

Are you worried too?

p.24-25

So many people come and look at me.

But I don't like strangers touching me. I want to go home.

p.26-27

Everywhere looks the same. I can't find the way out.

p.28-29

If Mum and Dad can't find me, they'll be very upset.

I want to cry.

p.30-31

Aah!

p.32-33

There you are!

p.34-35

At last, I can go home.

p.36-37

[newspaper]:

Ocean Daily

Shark returned to the wild disappears without trace!