



The Stone

written and illustrated by Julia Rants

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Once there was a young man named Edward who sailed the seas and tried to find new places. He was a loner, because his family had gone on a trip and he hadn't seen or heard from them in over two years. He thought they had abandoned him. He was sad and wanted to be alone. He sailed for a long time, looking for a place and a reason to live.

One day, he saw an island with a rock shaped like a skull. He sailed over to it because he was curious. There was no one on the island, but as he docked his ship, he remembered hearing people talk about an island shaped like a skull. They said that inside the skull's eyes, there was a red stone that was so beautiful a person wanted to touch it, but if the person touched the stone, they turned to a stone statue.





He climbed up the cliff to the skull cave and looked in the eyes and saw crystals growing all over the walls of the cave. He slowly walked in. It was pretty light in the cave from the glow of the crystals.

Then he saw a red glow between the rocks. Curiously, he walked toward the pile of rocks and was shocked to see a shadow that almost looked human.

When he looked more closely, he saw a face! Ahh! It looked exactly like his little sister. But no, it couldn't be. The closer he looked at the statue, the sadder he became.

When he looked around, he saw lots of shadows who turned out to be statues. He looked at each one of them and found the rest of his family, and others he didn't know.

He got very upset and angry, but a little relieved because now he knew his family didn't abandon him. So he kept searching the cave for the red stone. Suddenly, he saw a red glow underneath a statue's hand.

He ran out to his ship and grabbed an axe and...wait!

He had to think about it. What could he do? So, he spent several days and nights on the island trying to figure out what to do. He took an axe to the statue, but decided he couldn't chop the arm off. He poked at the red stone with the axe handle, but it didn't move. He threw salt water on the stone, but nothing changed.



Finally, one day another ship arrived. It was his Uncle Bob and Aunt Susie. They had been out looking for him and his family for years.



Together,
they searched
the island.
They climbed
up the
mountainous
island and
found it was
volcanic with
steam coming
out from the
hole in the top.

They had an idea. Together they carried the statues out of the cave. When they moved the statue holding the red stone, it fell to the ground.

Aunt Susie used a rake to get it in a backpack and set off for the volcano. It was very long hike over six miles uphill. They had to climb rocks that were sharp and pointy, and cross lava creeks. Finally, they arrived at the top and grabbed the backpack and through it into the volcano.

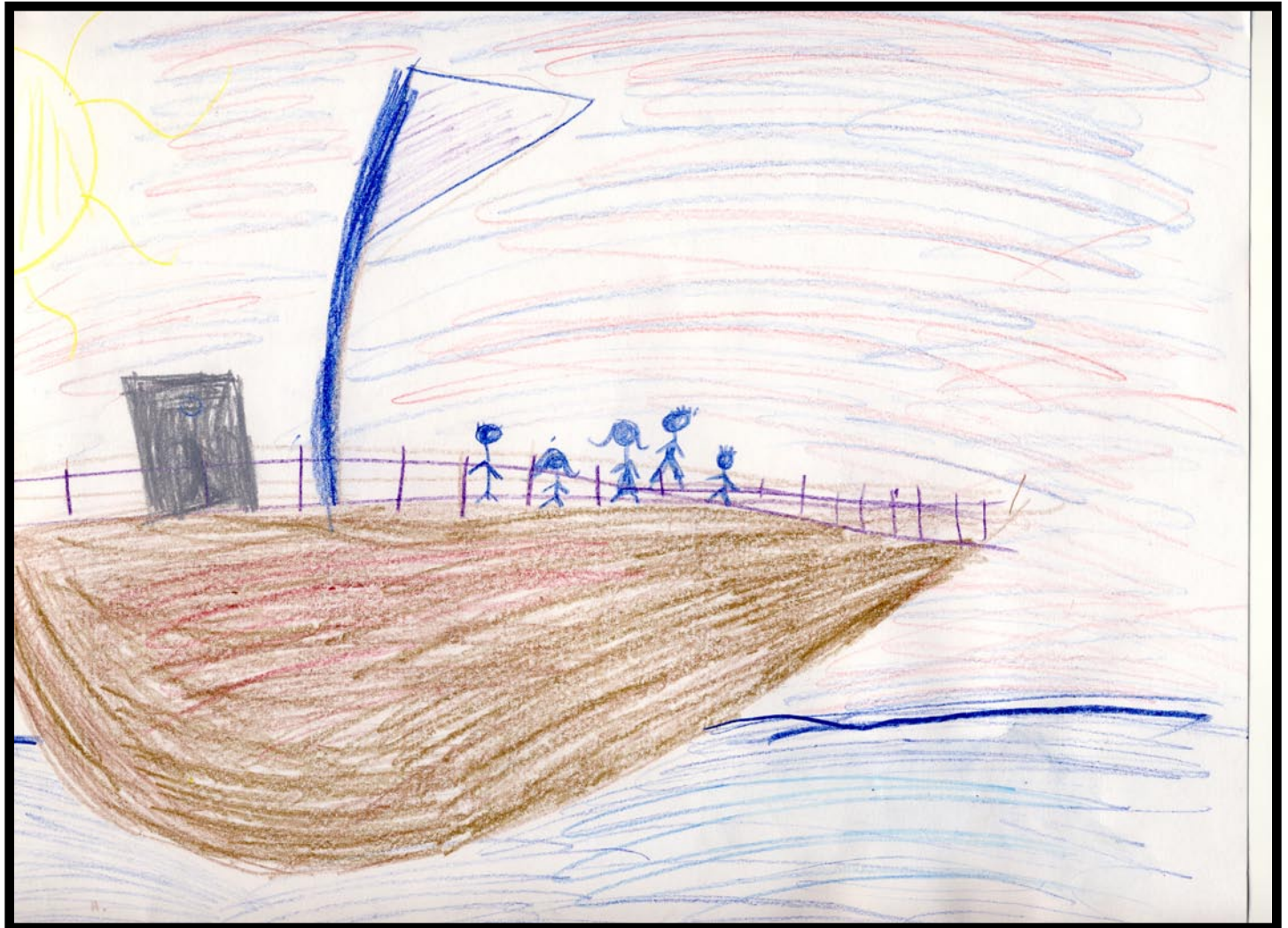
They started downhill, but had trouble because it was slippery and they had to take it slow so they didn't slide down the cliff.

When they arrived back at the beach, the statues were turning and moving. Suddenly, they got to see color in their faces.

They ran and hugged their family, who were confused because they didn't know they had been statues for a couple years.

Aunt Susie and Uncle Bob let the other people borrow their boat to sail home, while they went with Edward and his family.

They lived happily ever after.





About the Author

Julia Rants is a 9-year-old 3rd grader at Junction Elementary. Her favorite color is black and she likes to play basketball and to go fishing.

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