

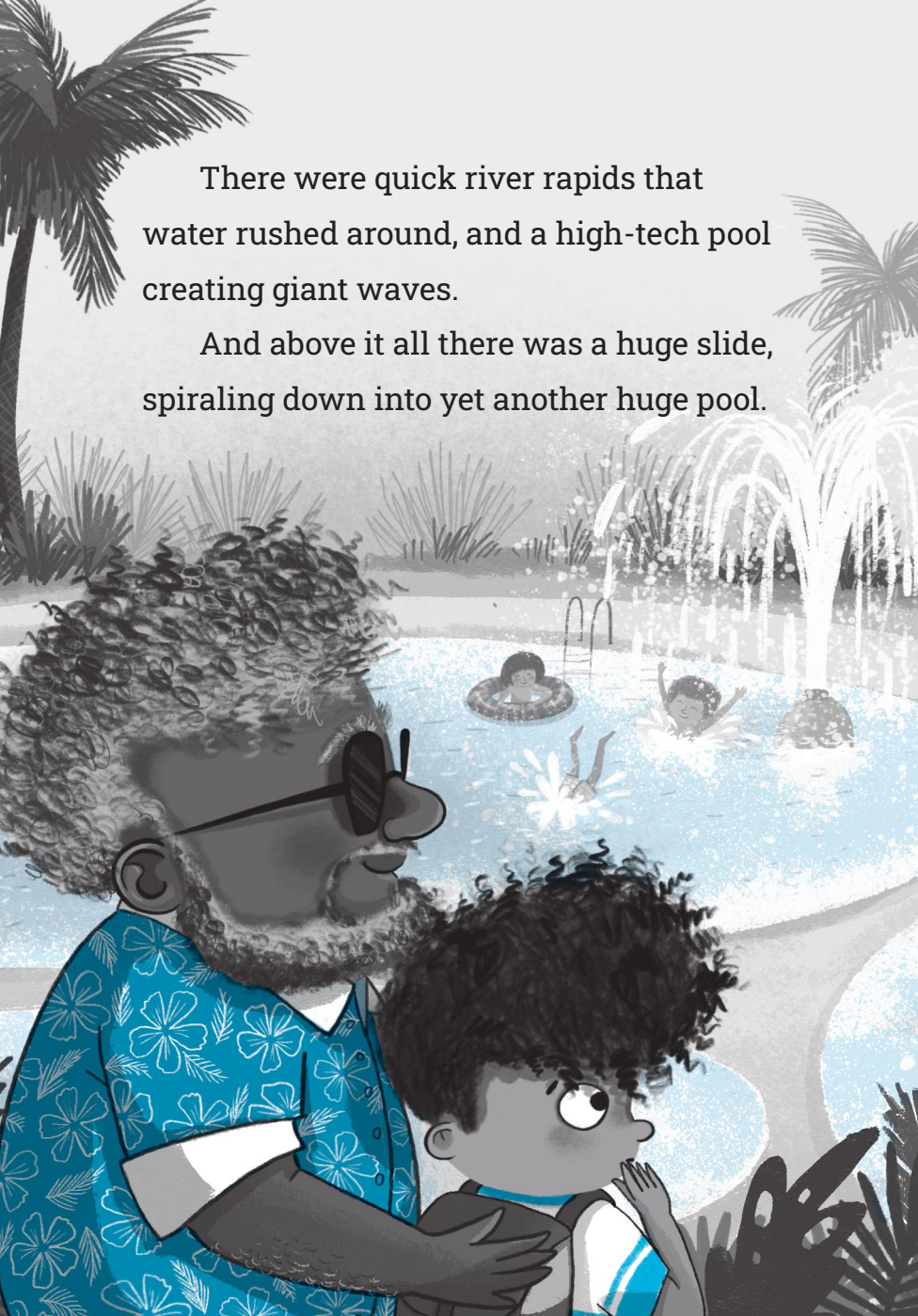
CHAPTER 1




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, two children are splashing in a pool of water, with large white splashes around them. The child on the left is a boy with short dark hair, and the child on the right is a girl with long dark hair. In the background, there are palm trees and a large blue and white striped inflatable ring. A large white speech bubble contains text. In the bottom right corner, a blue arrow-shaped sign points to the right with the word 'Entrance' written on it. The overall scene is bright and cheerful, representing a fun day at a water park.

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.

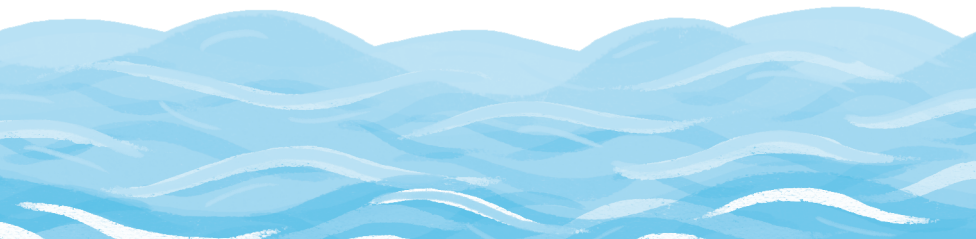
Entrance

'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.

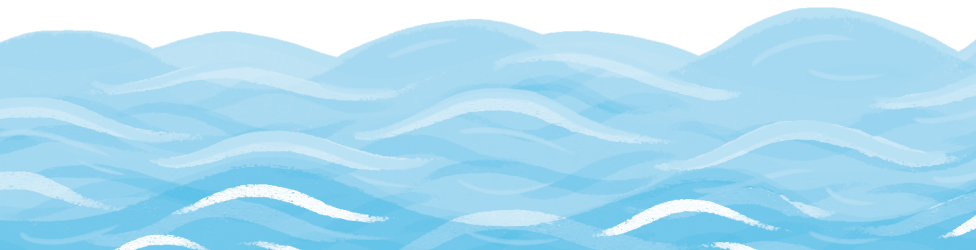


'It's okay to feel nervous or to be scared,' Grandad said.

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.

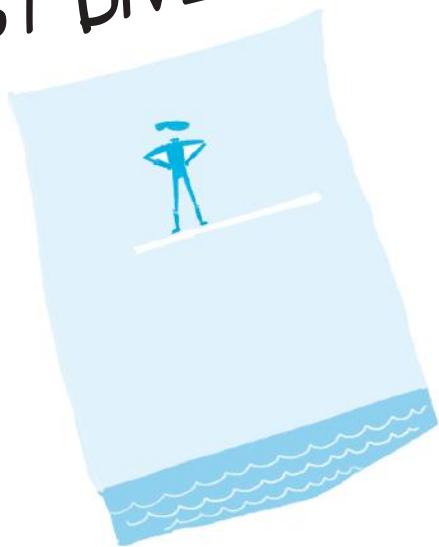


Marvin had a super-suit that transformed him into a superhero called Marv. He took the suit and Pixel everywhere with him, 'just in case', as his grandad would say. Today he felt like he needed them with him more than ever.



'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