

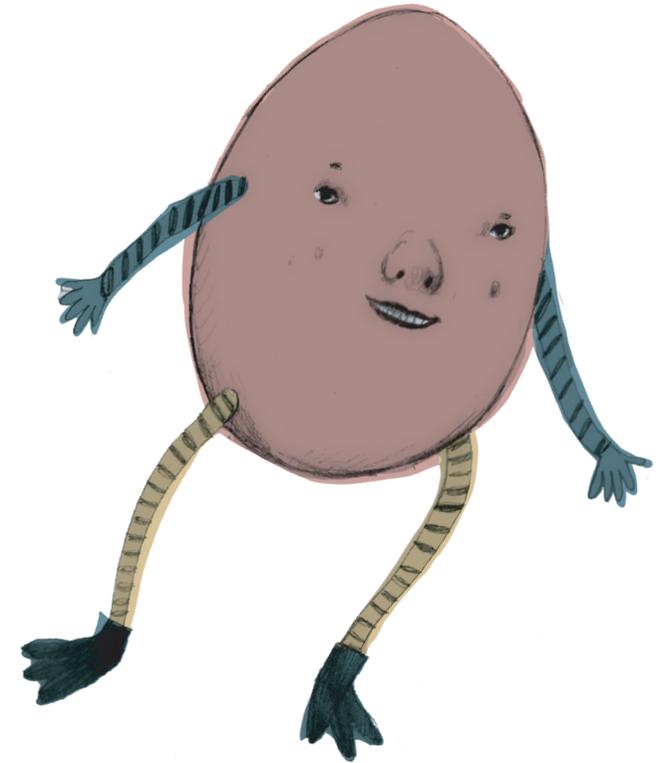
## THE ADVENTURES OF A LITTLE EGG

Among the dense branches of a bush, near a beach, a small egg yearned to come out of the nest. It dreamed of adventure and could not wait. His greatest desire was to swim and travel by sea. The crystal blue sea whose waves had cradled his dreams. For many nights he had imagined himself floating away to unknown islands and exotic lands. But since it was really cold, he had preferred to stay warm under his mother's wings.

One morning he was awoken by the warm rays of the sun; spring had finally arrived and with a leap he rolled down to the shore, diving into the waves. Scared and coughing, cold and wet the little egg barely managed to regain the shore, propelled thankfully by a gentle fish. He had not floated as he had thought, but immediately his body had gone to the bottom. Although frightened the Little Egg tried again, but this time too the water seemed to open up under him until once again he found himself at the bottom of the sea. The gentle fish who had stayed behind to watch the Little Egg's exploits helped him again.

"I think," he told him, "that this sea is not for you! Many years ago someone told me about a distant sea, a sea that even looks dead, where no fish could ever live.... Maybe that's what you need to look for."

Little Egg thus set out, and in every sea he encountered, he dived, but each time he went down to the bottom where, he encountered fish, jellyfish, dolphins and whales who told him that "no, thankfully their seas were not dead and that he must keep looking..."



Little Egg was really heartbroken he had gone far and wide without success.

One day, while he was crying disconsolately, a turtle approached him: "I think you have been given the wrong directions: in fact, what you are looking for is not a real sea, but a salty lake...very salty. That's why they call it that"

"Really?" said the Little Egg, pulling up with his nose.

"Of course, you can find it by following that direction, go straight ahead and you can't go wrong."

Little Egg waved goodbye to the turtle and all heartened and happy he set off until he saw the crystal-clear waters of the much sought-after 'sea' in front of him. With a leap, he dived in and was surprised he did not sink to the bottom as he had done countless times before, but the water, which looked like a smooth silk cloth, supported him and he finally floated.

