

LIBRIS

We know
books

PEARL

WRITTEN BY
SHERRI L. SMITH

ILLUSTRATED BY
CHRISTINE NORRIE



An Imprint of

 **SCHOLASTIC**

LBRIS

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AMA

PEARL DIVER




1886



MY GREAT-GRANDMOTHER
WAS AN AMA, A PEARL DIVER
FROM THE SHORES OF
HONSHU IN JAPAN.

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I LOVED THE STORIES
MY FAMILY WOULD
TELL ABOUT HER.

OF MERMAIDS AND PIRATES
AND CITIES UNDERWATER...

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AND THE PEARL SHE FOUND
WHEN SHE WAS A GIRL --
IT WAS ROUND AND PERFECT,
THE SIZE OF HER FIST.

I KNEW THE STORIES WERE
ONLY HALF TRUE, BUT I LOVED
THEM JUST THE SAME.

My sôsobo was a slip of a girl who could dive down a quarter of a mile, hold her breath for ten minutes, and surface again.

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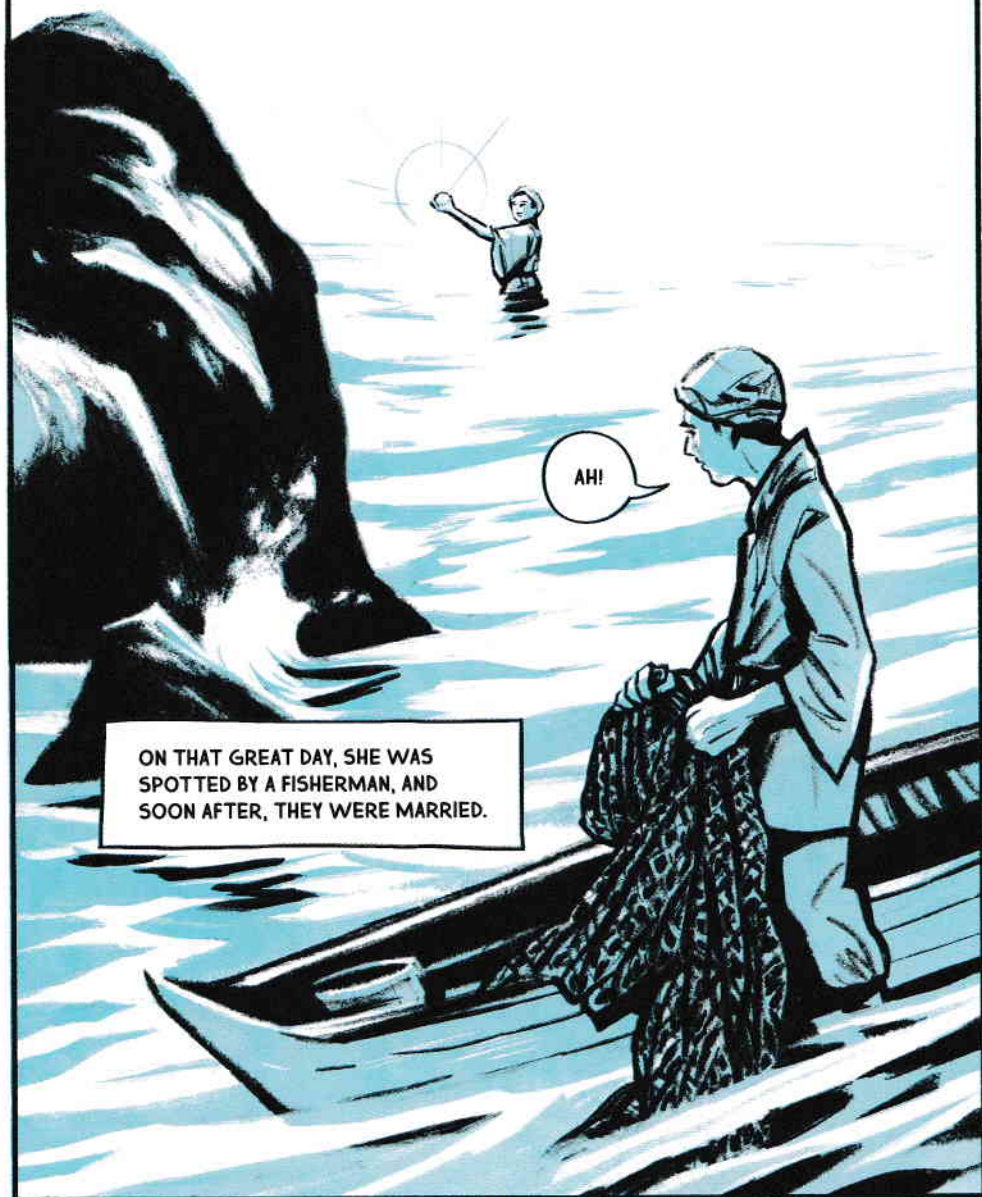
She'd rise into sunlight, knife in one hand, prize in the other.

LIBBIS
A GIRL OF MAGIC, CLUTCHING
THE MOON AND GLINTING
WITH THE SEA.

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GASP

A stylized illustration in shades of blue and white. A large, glowing white moon is the central focus, partially obscured by a massive, curling wave of white foam that dominates the right side of the frame. In the lower center, a girl is depicted from the chest up, her arms raised and hands clasped together, holding the moon. Her mouth is open in a gasp. The water around her is rendered with dark, expressive brushstrokes, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall composition is dramatic and fantastical.



ON THAT GREAT DAY, SHE WAS
SPOTTED BY A FISHERMAN, AND
SOON AFTER, THEY WERE MARRIED.

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SHE GAVE BIRTH TO MY GRANDFATHER,
WHO HAD A SON AND A DAUGHTER.



THE SON WAS MY FATHER,
WHO MOVED TO AMERICA.



HE MARRIED MY MOTHER,
WHOSE FAMILY HAD LIVED IN
HAWAII FOR FOUR GENERATIONS.



THEY HAD TWO CHILDREN:
MY BABY BROTHER, HENRY
HIROSHI HAKATA...

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AND ME,
AMY.



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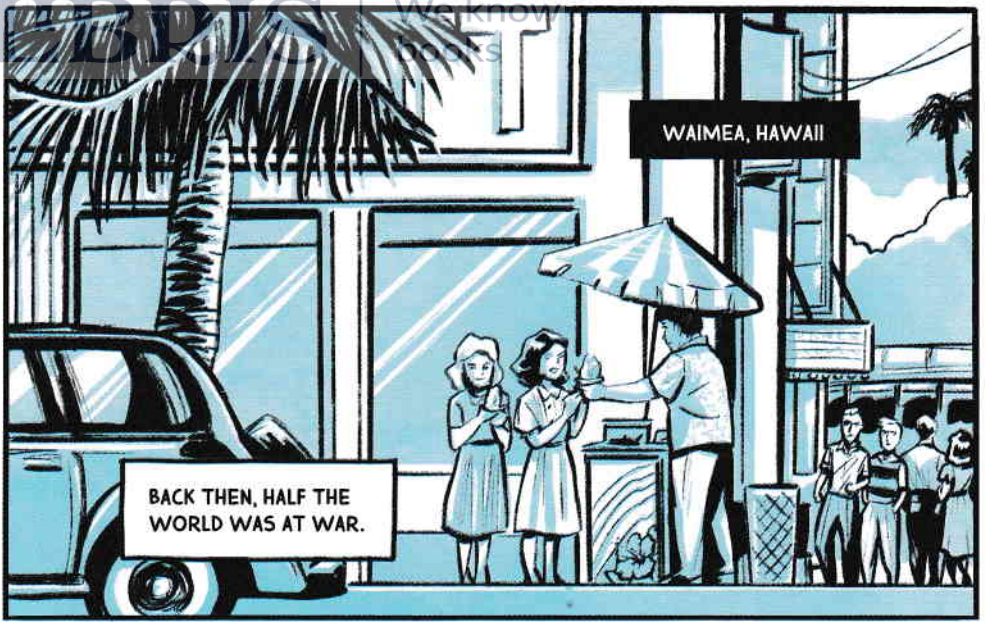
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AMY

1941





BACK THEN, HALF THE WORLD WAS AT WAR.

WAIMEA, HAWAII



BUT, HERE IN THE UNITED STATES...



MY PROBLEMS WERE NOTHING I COULDN'T HANDLE.

