

CALLAO, PERU

Crossing Pacific on a wooden raft. Stop. Will you come? Stop. Only guarantee is free trip to South Sea islands and back. Stop. ---Thor



COMING.
---Torstein

THOR RECRUITED FOUR NORWEGIANS AND A SWEDE TO JOIN THE ADVENTURE. NONE OF THEM COULD SWIM!



THEY BUILT THE KON-TIKI USING ONLY THE TECHNOLOGY AND MATERIALS AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE OF THE TIME.



LOADED WITH SUPPLIES, THEY SET SAIL, TAKING A SPANISH-SPEAKING ARROT ALONG FOR COMPANY.

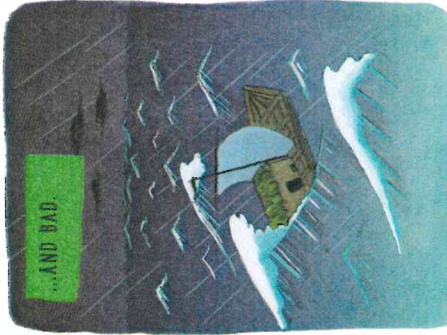
¡Adios, amigos!



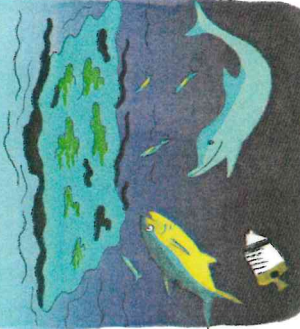
THE RAFT GROANED AND CREAKED AND DRIFTED THROUGH GOOD WEATHER...



...AND BAD.



SEAWEED AND SHELLFISH GREW ON THE RAFT'S UNDERSIDE, ATTRACTING SARDINES, TUNA AND DOLPHINS.



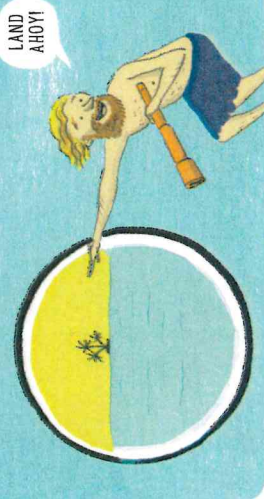
EACH MORNING, THE COOK COLLECTED FLYING FISH THAT HAD FLOPPED ONTO THE DECK OVERNIGHT.



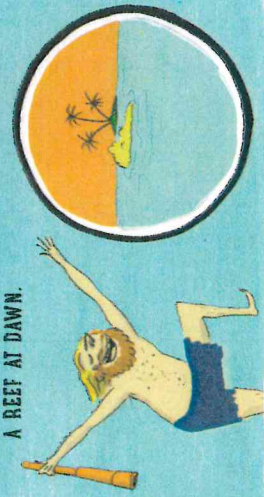
ONE DAY, A 10-METRE WHALE SHARK CIRCLED THEM FOR AN HOUR BEFORE MOVING ON.



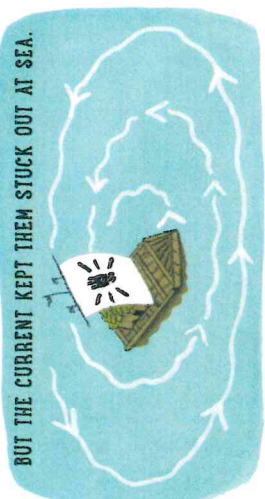
AFTER 85 DAYS, THEY SPOTTED PALM TREES.



MORE THAN A WEEK LATER, THEY SPOTTED A REEF AT DAWN.



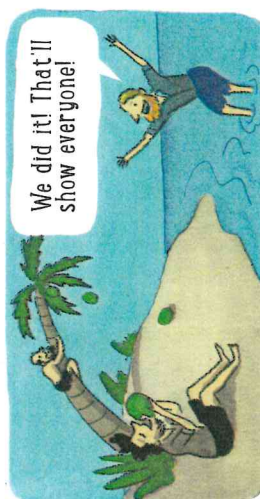
BUT THE CURRENT KEPT THEM STUCK OUT AT SEA.



AT LAST THE RAFT RAN AGROUND ON A REEF. WAVES CRASHED OVER THEM AND THE RAFT SNAPPED. BUT THEY HAD MADE IT SUCCESSFULLY TO LAND!



We did it! That'll show everyone!



Why Thor Heyerdahl Inspired Me

Thank goodness for stories like the Kon-Tiki! Everyone told Thor that he was mad. When I began planning adventures of my own, I encountered many people who liked to tell me that things were impossible. Some people who have never done anything exciting urge you not to do anything exciting with your own life. Don't let them stop you - get going!