

Hueber Lektüren

# Racing the Tide

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# Contents

Chapter 1	Another beginning	4
Chapter 2	Neighbours	10
Chapter 3	The new girl	15
Chapter 4	Crazy Dora	20
Chapter 5	Missing	25
Chapter 6	The search	30
Chapter 7	The Pinctada Maxima	36
Chapter 8	A conversation	40
Chapter 9	A night ride	45
Chapter 10	Jenny	50
Chapter 11	Eddie	55
Chapter 12	Deep water	62
	Activities	66
	Glossary	74
	Key	77

## Another beginning

Ella lay on her bed and looked at the map of Western Australia. She looked at Margaret River in the south and at Broome in the north. She counted the kilometres between them – she was 2,496 kilometres from the place she wanted to be. She was in Broome.

Broome felt like another country. It was on the coast, but it was hot and flat and dry. It was full of impossible colours – the dusty red desert became fine white sand that disappeared into the blue-green waters of the Indian Ocean. To see it for the first time was amazing, but Ella felt as if she had come to the end of the Earth.

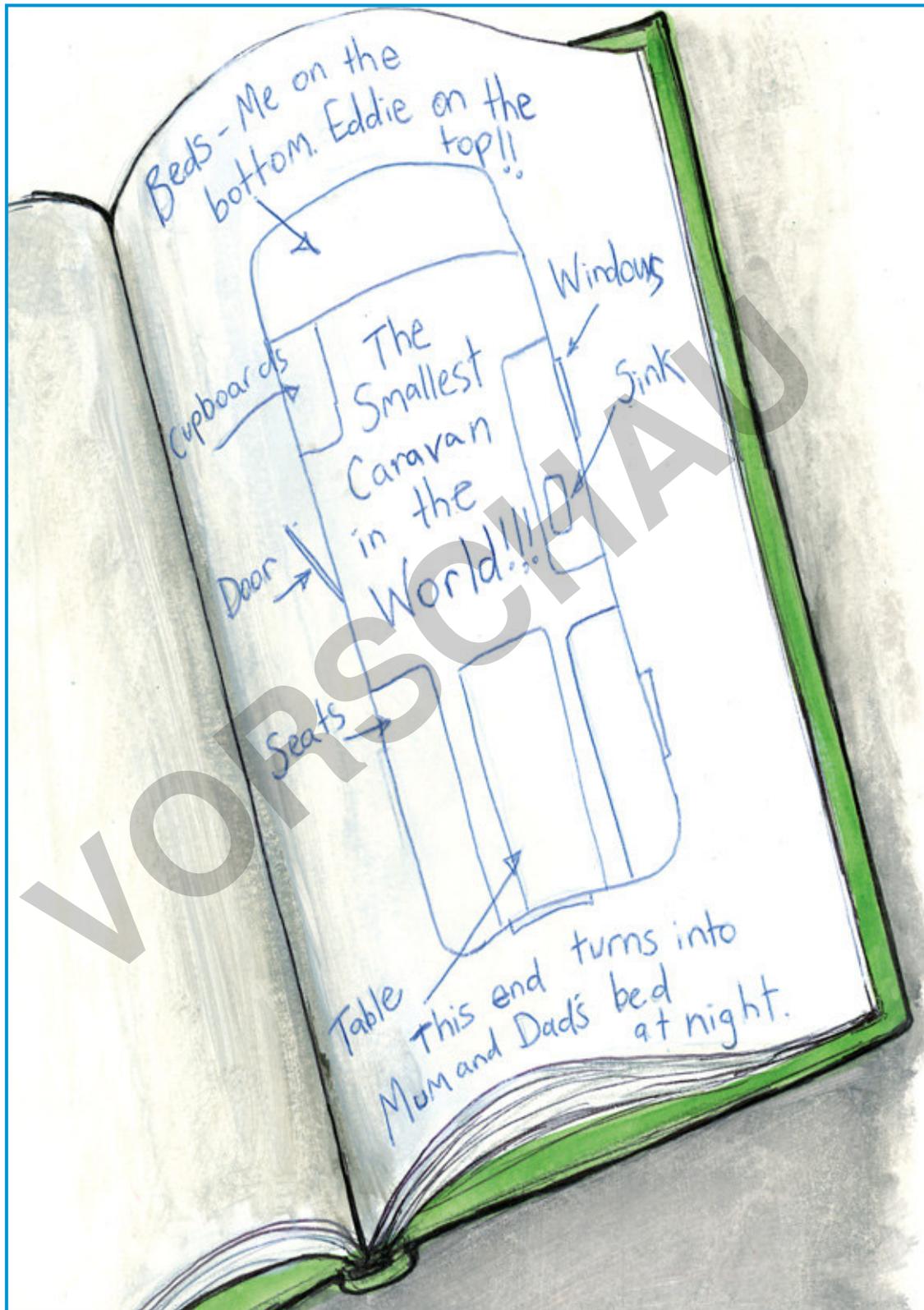
She lay on her back on the bed. Why did her father have to change jobs again? She had been happy in Margaret River. All the things she wanted – her plans and her dreams – were there. She liked her school there. She had great friends. And she had her own room – her family wasn't in this stupid caravan. Okay, the caravan was not her father's fault. They were supposed to move into a house. But somebody had made a mistake – the people were still living in it and weren't going to leave for two weeks.

So for two weeks, Ella and her family had to stay in this stupid caravan, a long way out of the town. They had only been here two days and already Ella hated it. Couldn't her father and mother have found somewhere else to stay? There was no space and nothing was private. It was very possible that she would kill her brother, Eddie, before the two weeks were over.

She reached under the pillow and pulled out a small green book. Across the middle was written the word 'Private'. She



opened it. Yesterday she had drawn a picture of the inside of the caravan. She looked at it.



## The new girl

*Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – the first day at my new school*

*Dear Diary*

*It's lunchtime and I've survived the first half of the day. The beginning was as bad as it always is:*

*'Class, we have a new girl today, Ella Harrison.' Thirty pairs of eyes turn to look at me. I smile at them, but I feel stupid and uncomfortable.*

*I had five different classes this morning, so I was introduced five times. Lucky me! Some of the students were the same in each class, but I can only remember a few names.*

*There's one group of girls who look nice. I was going to ask them if I could sit with them to eat lunch. But I lost my courage. So I'm sitting under a tree by myself, eating my lunch on my own, writing*

*'What are you writing?'*

Ella looked up to see two girls standing in front of her. She recognised them from class. They were sharing a packet of crisps.

Quickly, she closed her diary. 'It's nothing,' she said.

The two girls stood there.

'Well, it's a diary. You know,' added Ella.

The girls nodded.

'I'm Tayla,' said the taller of the two, 'and she's Meg.'

'I'm Ella.'

'Yeah, we know,' said Meg. 'You were introduced about twelve times this morning!'

They all laughed. Tayla and Meg sat down on the grass. Tayla offered Ella a crisp.

'So where are you from?' she said.

Ella told them. They had never been to Margaret River and as she talked about it, she began to feel comfortable with these girls. She liked them. And she found herself telling them all about the metalsmithing course she had wanted to do. 'There's something special about handmade jewellery,' she said.

'Not another one!' said Meg, and Tayla laughed.

'What do you mean?' said Ella.

'Our friend Jenny likes making jewellery too,' Meg explained.

Ella sat forward eagerly.

'Really?' she said. 'Proper jewellery?'

Meg nodded.

'Yeah. With metal and things,' said Tayla. 'She spends hours doing it.'

Ella jumped to her feet, her words coming out in a rush. 'Where is she? Can I meet her? Is she in our class?'

Tayla and Meg looked up at her and laughed. 'Take it easy,' Tayla said. 'Calm down. Yeah, she's in our class but she's not at school today.'

'Oh,' said Ella. And she sat down again. Tayla offered her another crisp.

'I can't believe it,' said Ella. 'There's *really* a girl in my class who's interested in metalsmithing?'

'It's not so strange,' said Meg. 'Her dad works in the pearl business, like lots of people in this town.'

Ella looked at her blankly.

'You do know,' added Meg, 'that you are now living in the pearl capital of the world?'

'Broome?' said Ella. 'I mean, I knew that pearls were found here, but I didn't know —'

Tayla interrupted. 'They don't *find* them now. They *grow* them. The biggest and the best.'

'Oh,' said Ella slowly. But her mind was racing. Perhaps moving to Broome wasn't a bad idea after all. 'So, does Jenny

## Eddie

'I need a jar, Mum,' said Eddie.

'What?'

'I'm supposed to take a jar to school today.'

'Oh, for heaven's sake,' said his mother. 'I haven't got time for this now.' She looked in the cupboard for a jar that was nearly empty. She found one. 'Here. You can have this,' she said. 'But you'll have to wash it.'

Eddie took the jar and went to the sink.

His father came into the caravan with a towel over his shoulder.

'Did you see Ella up at the shower block?' asked his mother.

'No,' said his father. He started to get dressed for work.

'Where is that girl?' said his mother. 'She can't still be having a shower. Has anybody seen my mobile phone?'

'No,' said Eddie.

'Where are my socks?' said his father.

'I thought I put it in my bag last night,' said his mother.

'My socks?' said his father.

'No, my phone,' said his mother.

'But where are my socks?'

'Oh, for heaven's sake, here they are!'

Eddie watched the socks go flying through the air and hit his father on the head.

'Good shot, Mum,' he said.

'Are you sure Ella said she was going to have a shower?' his mother asked.

Eddie put the clean jar in his school bag.

'Yeah,' he lied.

When Eddie had woken up this morning and looked over the side of his bed, Ella's bed was empty. He had looked at his



B. Circle T for true or F for false for these sentences.

1. The tide came in fast at the beach where Ella swam. T / F
2. There was a bathroom in the family's caravan. T / F
3. Ella used to live in a place called Margaret River. T / F
4. Dora was called 'Wise Dora' by the girls at Ella's school. T / F

C. Complete these sentences.

1. Ella moved to Broome because her father changed his \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Ella and Eddie went to school on the school \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The handmade bracelet was made of pieces of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. In Dora's front yard there were metal \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Write short answers to these questions.

1. Who annoyed Ella by reading her diary?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many schools had Ella been to before moving to Broome?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What business did Jenny's father work in, like lots of people in Broome?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was the name of the neighbours' caravan?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

A. Use these words to make compound words from Chapters 1, 2 and 3.

1. metal            made
2. hand            paper
3. after            smith
4. news            noon

B. Write the missing vowels to make words from Chapters 1, 2 and 3.

1. pyj \_ m \_ s
2. sh \_ \_ s
3. dr \_ ss \_ ng g \_ wn
4. sh \_ rts

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Listen to Chapters 1, 2 and 3 on the CD. Do you think that Ella is happy about moving to Broome? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

B. Circle T for true or F for false for these sentences.

1. Dora kept her necklace because it was valuable. T / F
2. Eddie said that Ella could take his bike. T / F
3. The Hogans knew that Ella was following them. T / F
4. Jenny told the Hogans where to find Dora's necklace. T / F

C. Complete these sentences.

1. In the 1950s, Dora's father dived for wild \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Ella couldn't take Eddie's bike down the dirt \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The old boat was lying on the sand next to an old \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Bob pushed a biscuit into Jenny's \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Write short answers to these questions.

1. What did Ella put on after having a shower?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Ella have to take off Eddie's bike?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What colour were the tail lights of the Hogans' car?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Which room in Dora's house did Jenny tell the Hogans to look in?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

A. Write the correct prepositions in the spaces.

into along on over

1. Ella knocked \_\_\_\_\_ Dora's back door.
2. In the shower, Ella let the water flow \_\_\_\_\_ her.
3. Bob pushed Ella \_\_\_\_\_ the boat.
4. The Hogans walked \_\_\_\_\_ the jetty.

B. Match each word with its opposite from Chapters 7, 8 and 9.

1. day                      quickly
2. open                    inside
3. slowly                 night
4. outside                shut

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Listen to Chapters 7, 8 and 9 on the CD. Do you think that Ella and Jenny will be able to get out of the old boat?

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# Glossary

*adj.* adjective; *n.* noun; *v.* verb

<b>battery</b> /'bæt(ə)ri/ <i>n.</i>	Batterie
<b>be frightened</b> /bi: 'fraɪnd/ <i>v.</i>	sich fürchten
<b>be missing</b> /bi: 'mɪsɪŋ/ <i>v.</i>	vermisst werden
<b>bracelet</b> /'breɪslət/ <i>n.</i>	Armband
<b>brat</b> /bræt/ <i>n.</i> (colloquial: annoying, ill-behaved child)	Balg
<b>break in</b> /breɪk ɪn/ <i>v.</i> (to illegally enter a building or house)	einbrechen
<b>broom</b> /bru:m/ <i>n.</i>	Besen
<b>caravan</b> /'kærə,væn/ <i>n.</i>	Wohnwagen
<b>Christmas tree</b> /'krɪsməs tri: / <i>n.</i>	Weihnachtsbaum
<b>collect</b> /kə'lekt/ <i>v.</i>	sammeln
<b>constable</b> /'kɒnstəbl/ <i>n.</i> (a rank of police officer)	Polizist(in)
<b>crazy</b> /'kreɪzi/ <i>adj.</i>	verrückt
<b>creep</b> /kri:p/ <i>v.</i>	kriechen
<b>crisps</b> /krɪspz/ <i>n.</i>	(Kartoffel-)Chips
<b>darkness</b> /'dɑ:knəs/ <i>n.</i>	Dunkelheit
<b>diary</b> /'daɪəri/ <i>n.</i>	Tagebuch
<b>doorbell</b> /'dɔ:ɪ,bel/ <i>n.</i>	Türklingel
<b>dressing gown</b> /'dresɪŋ gaʊn/ <i>n.</i>	Morgenmantel
<b>feeling</b> /'fi:lɪŋ/ <i>n.</i>	Gefühl
<b>get away</b> /get ə'weɪ/ <i>v.</i>	fliehen
<b>glow</b> /gləʊ/ <i>n.</i>	Glühen
<i>v.</i>	glühen
<b>grab</b> /græb/ <i>v.</i>	greifen, packen, schnappen, grapschen nach

