

Monty's Island

Beady Bold and the Yum-Yams



Sea of Wonders
Emily Rodda

Illustrated by Lucinda Gifford

SILVER STREAM

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*Somewhere far away, there's a sea that
ripples with magic. And if you were a bird
flying high over that sea one fine day,
you'd be able to look down at the tiny
green-and-gold dot that's Monty's Island...*



The Islanders

Monty



Tawny



Sir Wise





Bunchy



Clink

Marigold







Bring-and-Buy Day

It's still dark, but already Monty's pulling his Pick-up Sled and its trailer along the beach, with Tawny the Fearless Lion padding behind. They're up early and they're in a hurry. Today, Trader Jolly's floating shop, **Jolly's Bring-and-Buy**, is due to arrive on the Other Side of the Island.

Jolly only visits three times a year, and the Islanders need the supplies he brings. For

one thing, the Island Cafe is nearly out of flour. And without flour, Marigold the Clever Cook can't make **pancakes**.

Tawny thinks about pancakes and licks his lips. He's very fond of pancakes – especially with maple syrup.

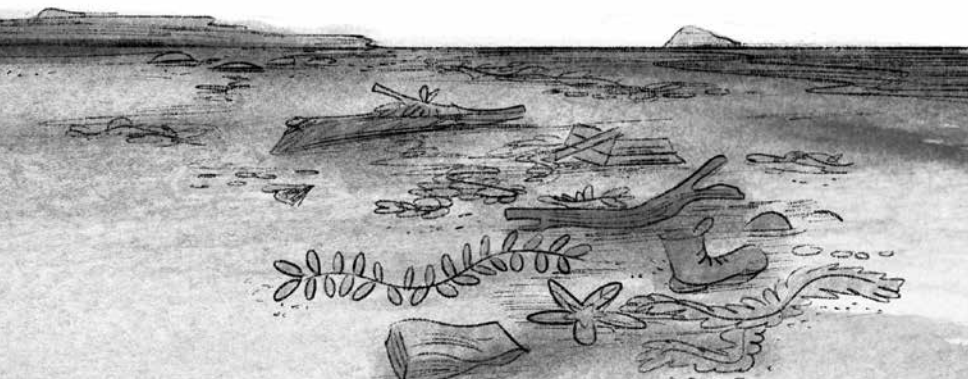
'There are the others!' Monty pants, pointing ahead.

Three shadowy figures are moving out of the trees at the end of the beach. **Marigold**



and **Bunchy the Magician** are loaded down with boxes, bags and the breakfast picnic basket. **Silent Sir Wise** doesn't seem to be carrying anything, but Tawny knows he is. There'll be a small case of beautiful feathers tucked under Sir Wise's wing. He collects the feathers and trades them for books every Bring-and-Buy Day.

The tide is very low and the beach is littered with driftwood and other things the waves have brought to the Island overnight. As he jogs along, Monty glances longingly from side to side. 'I hope we aren't missing any **Special Finds**, Tawny,' he calls back over his shoulder.



Tawny doesn't bother to answer. Monty says the same thing **every** Bring-and-Buy Day. Monty hates the thought that something really useful might float back out to sea before he can find it.

It can't be helped. They have to get around to the Other Side while the tide is low and the rocks are dry. It would be quicker to trek through the jungle in the Island's centre, of course, but the jungle's too **scary** for happy walking.

'Marigold!' Monty shouts, tooting the Sled's horn. **'Bunchy! Sir Wise!'**

The three shadowy figures turn, and at that very moment the sun pops up and the beach is bathed in golden-pink light.

'Merry Morning, you two!' Bunchy yells, putting down her bundles and waving wildly.



Just then, one of Tawny's front paws hits the end of a **black tube** sticking out of the sand. The tube flips into the air, and as it sails past Tawny's nose he snaps at it and catches it.

It's a very good catch, but Tawny didn't really mean to make it. The tube's cold, hard and gritty with sand. Tawny's just about to spit it out when he thinks again.



The tube might be what Monty calls a Special Find. If it **is**, it will make Monty feel better about missing out on all the other things lying on the beach this morning.

So Tawny holds on to the tube and runs on.