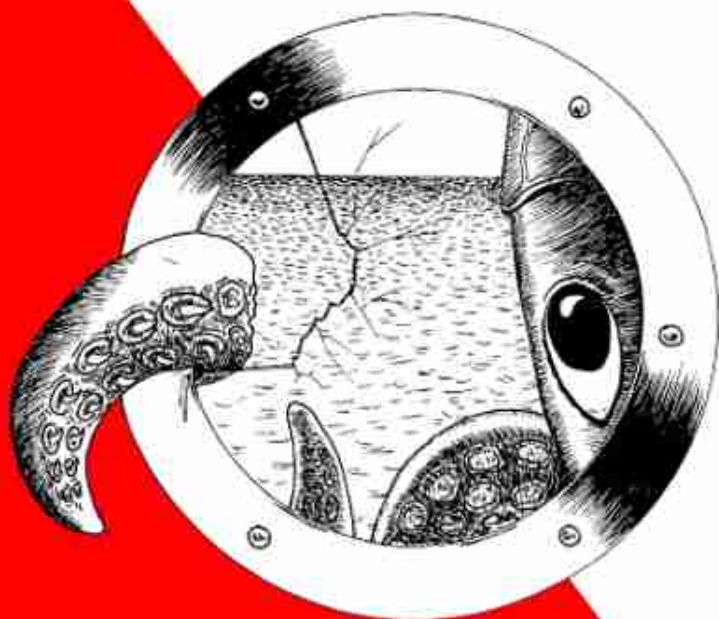


Sabira Stahlberg

The quest for Kraken



Lecti

book studio

Chapter 10 Tsunami

Hi Eric,
We are not going to Greenland at all.
The ship has its own will
or maybe the sea controls it.
There must be currents we don't know about.
The ocean is stronger than everything else.
We must follow the will of the water,
and that means we are not going to Greenland.

Yesterday we had dinner with the captain.
Captain Leonard likes spicy food.
Aunt started to sneeze because of the pepper.
'You cause the ship to rock,' Freddie joked.
'Nonsense,' hissed Aunt. 'It is not I...'
At that moment the plates fell on the floor.
The glasses were smashed.
We crept under the table. I hit my shoulder against
a chair. Freddie was wounded in the head.
'Tsunami! Watch out.
The second wave is bigger,' shouted the captain.
The ship almost made a somersault.
'There will be a third wave,' the captain cried.
'It is the biggest one.'
Surprisingly there was no third wave.
We waited for a long time, but nothing happened.
The cooks Lindberg and Lindsey started to clean up.

We are alive. My shoulder hurts.
Freddie has a bandage around his head.
But we cannot turn back to Greenland.
There has been an earthquake
in the middle of the sea.
We received the warning too late.
When the captain got it, the wave
was already throwing us into a current.
This current is carrying us to North America.

Salt water has got into an engine and damaged it.
The damage will take a few days to repair.
The sailors are working hard scouring the ship.
The deck is full of seaweed
and rubbish from the sea.
'Just imagine, three and a half per cent of salt
in the water can destroy so much,'
says first mate Bastian.
'It is almost four times the amount of water
in the human body,' adds second mate Moses.

'That is enough,' Aunt snorts.
'Turn the ship back to Greenland!'
'We must find the nearest port
as soon as possible,' says captain Leonard.
'Nonsense,' Aunt replies.
'The port is in North America, continues the captain.
'I shall go to Greenland,'
says Aunt with determination.
'Even if I have to swim there, I shall go!'

Chapter 11 North America

Hello Eric,

It was a good thing the tsunami sent us southward.

The ship is repaired.

But now we are sweating. The sun is shining.

It is hot in the cabin and on the deck.

The Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf Stream

lie behind us.

Around us float many fishing vessels.

Most of them come from North America.

Every day we pass enormous shoals of cod.

We can see them with our new fine echo-sounder.

The gulls see them without any sonar.

No big or small squid can be found.

I am fishing all the time and eat so much fish
that they must come out of my ears by now.

Fish balls. Fish patties. Fish in the oven.

Grilled fish. Fried fish. Fish with batter.

Fish soup. Fish stock. Fish in every way.

I am glad I still have some hidden sweets.

Aunt is against eating sugar and forbids it.

‘It is healthy to eat fish,’ says Aunt.

‘Phosphorus and other substances
are good for your body.

You can also eat jellyfish.'

'Awful,' I answer.

'I am happy you threw most of the jellyfish back into the sea yesterday.

Now, a good beefsteak would be nice.'

'Squid eat fish and become intelligent,'

Aunt shrugs. 'The food goes from the mouth through the brain and into the stomach.'

'How is that?' I ask.

'Its brain has the form of a wheel with holes in it,' explains Aunt.

'The food helps the squid to grow, hunt and reproduce.

There is a hard competition for food in the sea and the hunters must be fast and effective.'

'Does the giant squid hunt, too?' I wonder.

'The giant squid has sharp suction cups on its arms,' replies Aunt.

'With the arms it catches the prey.

In the middle of the body is a sharp beak...'

'A beak? I interrupt. They are not birds, are they?'

'No, but the squid are a species of their own,' Aunt replies.

'With the beak they tear the prey into small pieces. Then they chew the meat with the teeth, which are inside the beak.'

'Could the giant squid eat human beings?'

I ask cautiously.

'Very likely. They eat all kinds of
big animals in the sea,' replies Aunt.
I shiver. But I am glad, too.
Now Aunt is more kind to me.
Probably because the weather is sunny and warm.
'Can we eat Kraken?' I asked.
'The giant squid,' Aunt corrects me.
'How does it taste?' I demand.
'Nobody knows,' Aunt replies.
'Only dead giant squid have been found.
But it should taste nice.
It eats meat, just like the salmon.'
'Yuck, I don't want to have squid,' I say.

**Max is sent to Aunt Rina
after his parents die
in a car accident.**

**On a rusting ship they travel
over the Atlantic Ocean,
looking for a giant squid.**

**In the sea
many dangers are lurking,
among them a monster
called Kraken...**



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