The Queen of Spain

by Alan Bagnall illustrated by Freya Blackwood

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My friends and I dream of going to sea, too.

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"All aboard," calls Miri. "We're going to sail to Spain – around the world and back again!"

Grandpa's boat is called *The Queen of Spain*. Grandpa is old now, so *The Queen of Spain* sits on our front lawn. Grandpa sits in his chair and dreams of being out at sea.

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"I'll steer," says Miri. "I know the way to Spain. You can work the engine."

So Miri steers the boat, and I work the engine. Kane keeps a lookout.



It's a long way to Spain. Day after day, there's no land in sight. The hot sun beats down. "There's a storm coming," says Kane. "Listen to the thunder."

The storm whips our hair, and the sea is wild like a dangerous monster.

All of a sudden, the storm stops. We're moving very slowly.

"We need to put up our sail," I say. "The engine has broken down."

Miri leans over the side of the boat. "Look at all the dolphins – they're everywhere!" she shouts. "Look!"

The dolphins are swishing and splashing all around. The sea is a flood of dolphins.

We sail on across the sea to the sunny land of Spain.

"I can see castles," calls Miri.

"Look at the oranges on the trees!" yells Kane. Soon it's time to set sail for home. "And look over there," calls Kane. "I can see a whale! Over there. Look, a whale!"



At last, after many days at sea, we see land.

"Land ahoy!" I call out. "I can see the trees and the house!"

"I can hear the dogs barking!" shouts Miri.

"I can smell dinner cooking," says Kane as he climbs down the ladder and goes ashore.





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