

HOW MA-UI FISHED UP THE GREAT ISLAND

A PLAY BASED ON A HAWAIIAN FOLKTALE • RETOLD BY PAT BETTELEY • ILLUSTRATED BY CHRISTIANE KRÖMER

Characters: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Narrator 3, Ma-ui, Brother 1, Brother 2, Mother (Hina-of-the-Fire), Sister (Hina-of-the-Sea)

Narrator 1: Now, Ma-ui (MOW-ee) had done many great deeds, and he was a hero to many. But in his very own house, his brothers did not think very much of him.

Brother 1: Why do we bother bringing you along when you never catch any fish?

Brother 2: That is my fish, Ma-ui. See my hook in its mouth? How did you manage to get it tangled in your line?

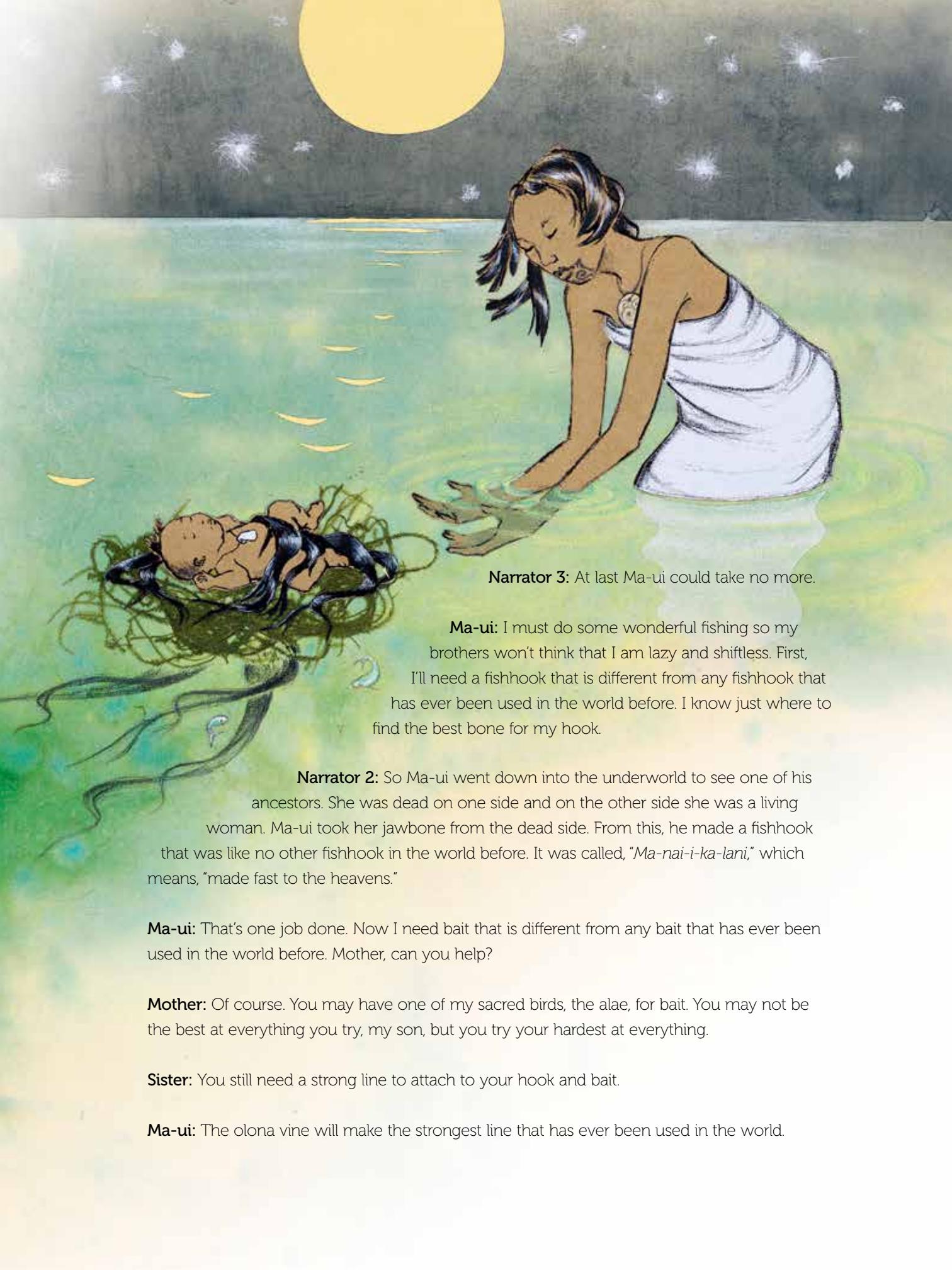
Narrator 2: Although he wasn't a great fisherman, Ma-ui had discovered many of the tools his brothers used every day. For example, fish could often wiggle away from the smooth spearheads men once used. Ma-ui put barbs on his spearhead that held the fish. After that, his brothers could catch many more fish than before. Still, they complained about Ma-ui to their mother, Hina-of-the-Fire.

Brother 1: That Ma-ui is lazy.

Brother 2: If it weren't for us, Mother, you and our sister, Hina-of-the-Sea, would go hungry!

Sister: Don't be cruel. He is a great inventor.

Mother: No man can be the best at everything he tries. But he can try his hardest at everything!



Narrator 3: At last Ma-ui could take no more.

Ma-ui: I must do some wonderful fishing so my brothers won't think that I am lazy and shiftless. First, I'll need a fishhook that is different from any fishhook that has ever been used in the world before. I know just where to find the best bone for my hook.

Narrator 2: So Ma-ui went down into the underworld to see one of his ancestors. She was dead on one side and on the other side she was a living woman. Ma-ui took her jawbone from the dead side. From this, he made a fishhook that was like no other fishhook in the world before. It was called, "*Ma-nai-i-ka-lani*," which means, "made fast to the heavens."

Ma-ui: That's one job done. Now I need bait that is different from any bait that has ever been used in the world before. Mother, can you help?

Mother: Of course. You may have one of my sacred birds, the alae, for bait. You may not be the best at everything you try, my son, but you try your hardest at everything.

Sister: You still need a strong line to attach to your hook and bait.

Ma-ui: The olona vine will make the strongest line that has ever been used in the world.

Narrator 2: So Ma-ui hid his hook, bait, and line and went down to his brothers' canoe. The three brothers set off to fish.

Ma-ui: Paddle farther out, brothers. That is where the best fish, the *u-lua* and the *pi-moe-e*, are.

Narrator 3: The brothers paddled out farther. They let down their lines, but caught no fish. Ma-ui urged them to paddle farther, but still they caught no fish.

Brother 1: Where are those great fish you promised us, Ma-ui?

Narrator 1: Then Ma-ui had an idea. He put a sail on the canoe. They sailed and they sailed farther out to sea. Finally, Ma-ui let down his line with the magic hook baited with the alae bird. The hook, named "*Ma-nai-i-ka-lani*," went down, down, down.

Narrator 3: Ma-ui's sister, Hina-of-the-Sea, was near at the time. She had floated out on a calabash, for she knew Ma-ui would need her help.

Narrator 1: When Ma-ui let down the magic hook, Hina-of-the-Sea dived down and put the hook into the mouth of Old One Tooth who holds fast the land to the bottom of the sea. Then she pulled on the line to let Ma-ui know that the hook was in his jaws.

Narrator 1: When Ma-ui felt the pull on the line, he tied the line to the canoe.

Ma-ui: Paddle your hardest, brothers, for the great fish is caught.

Narrator 2: Ma-ui and his brothers paddled their hardest, but a great weight grew behind the canoe. It became harder and harder to pull. Ma-ui chanted a magic chant, and the great weight came with them.

Narrator 3: Finally, one of Ma-ui's brothers looked back. He screamed out in fright at what he saw. A whole land was rising up behind them, with mountains upon it. He dropped his paddle and the line that was tied to old Ka-uni ho-kahi broke.

Narrator 1: Ma-ui had fished up what would have been a mainland. But because his brother dropped the paddle and the line broke, only an island came out of the water. Had more land come up, all of the Hawaiian Islands we know would have been joined as one.

Narrator 2: And in spite of what his brothers say, everyone on every island in the Great Ocean knows that Ma-ui fished up a great island for men to live on.

