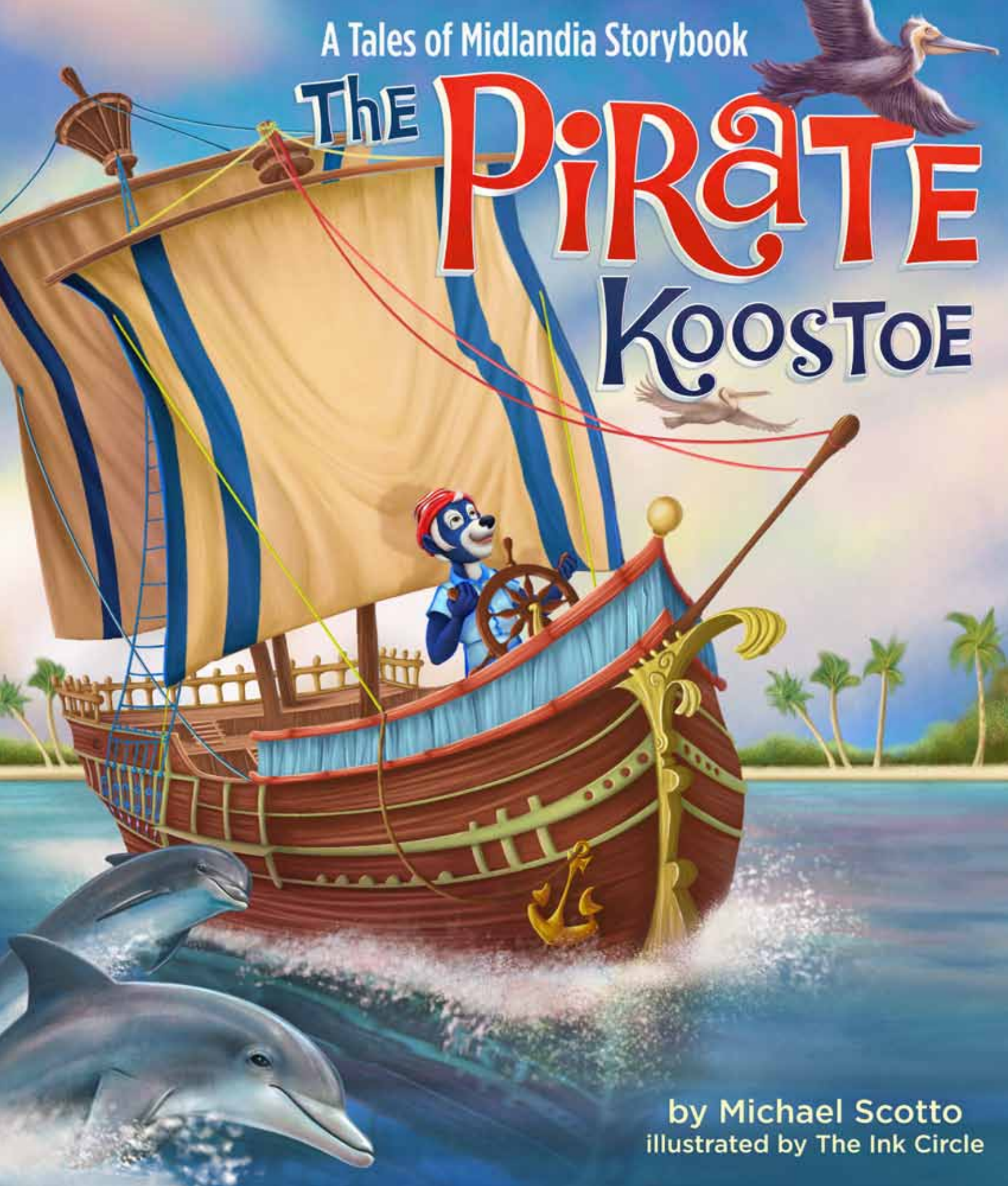


A Tales of Midlandia Storybook

The PIRATE KOOSTOE



by Michael Scott
illustrated by The Ink Circle



Even more, though,
Koostoe enjoyed sharing the
sea's treasures with others.

“A starfish!” Koostoe bubbled. “He would be a perfect fit for Wilda’s saltwater aquarium at the zoo.”

Koostoe had not always thought this way, however. He had always loved the sea. And yes, he had always loved treasure. But he had not always cared about sharing. **In fact, when Koostoe was a boy...**



“I want to be a pirate!” cried young Koostoe. He and some other Midlandians had been sharing what they wanted to be when they grew up.

“A pirate?” Nueva asked curiously. “What do pirates do?”





“Whatever they want!” declared Koostoe. “Pirates get to sail on the ocean all day long. But the best part about being a pirate is that it’s your job to search for treasure!”
“That sounds perfect,” said Buck.



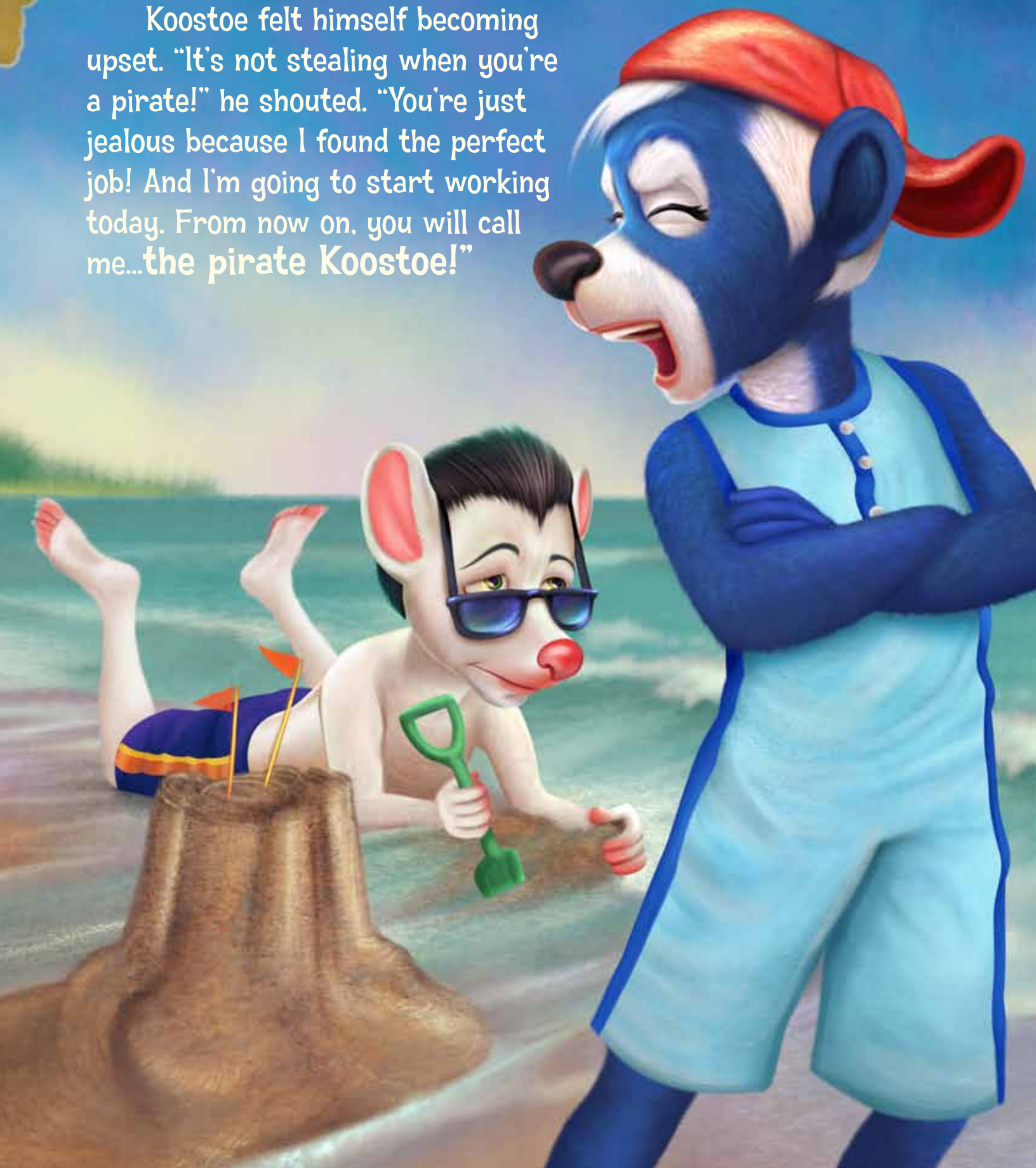
"I'm not so sure being a pirate is a good idea," said Dewey.

"Oh, really?" Koostoe replied with a smirk.

"I've read about pirates at the library," said Dewey. "They are not very nice. They get their treasure by taking it from others."

"That sounds like stealing to me," observed Nueva.

Koostoe felt himself becoming upset. "It's not stealing when you're a pirate!" he shouted. "You're just jealous because I found the perfect job! And I'm going to start working today. From now on, you will call me...**the pirate Koostoe!**"



Since he did not have a ship, Koostoe first tried to be a pirate on land. "Arrr!" he would growl, waving his little wooden sword. "I am the pirate Koostoe! Surrender your treasure!"





But nobody found him to be very convincing.

“What a darling costume!” raved Sew the seamstress.

“Your voice sounds funny,” noted Doc Fixit. “Are you getting a cold?”



Koostoe began to grow sad, and a little angry, too. "All I want is to get some treasure," he sighed. But then, Koostoe had an idea.



"A ship!" he exclaimed. "That's my trouble. To be a real pirate, I need a ship. **And I know just the one....**"



Every weekend, Chief Tatupu took his boat out to go fishing. Chief worked hard as the leader of Midlandia, and fishing helped him to relax.

“Such a perfectly peaceful day,”
he thought as he rowed.