

'Aren't I just the lucky Sandman,' he laughed. 'Bladderwrack sandwiches and milk. Can you manage that? And we all love milk, don't we, boys? Drink it till the cows come home.' And he shook so much when he laughed that I was quite sure some of the sand would fall off, but none of it did. 'We'll find the bladderwrack for ourselves, but maybe you'll take care of the bread and the milk.'



'All right,' I said, 'we'll do our best.'

He set us down again on the sand and we ran off up the cliff path. When we looked back, the Sandman was crouched down and talking to his turtles. 'What's bladderwrack?' I asked.

'Seaweed, dumbo,' Polly said – she always had a nice way with words did Polly – and we ran on home.

I knew you couldn't tell Polly anything, but I tried just the same. 'Best not to say a word,' I said. 'They won't believe you, not in a million years they won't.'

We met Dadci sitting in a deckchair in the back garden, his straw hat over his face. She ran right up to him and shook him awake. 'We seen him, Dadci. We seen him,' she said.

He was smiling patiently as he lifted his hat off his face. 'Who's that?' he said.

'The Sandman,' said Polly. 'And he's just like you said he'd be. He woke up, and we gave



him all our sausage rolls and things. He ate everything, didn't he, Mikey?

Dadci smiled. 'What, everything?' he said. 'Well now, and how tall was he? Was he as tall as your da?'

Polly stood on tiptoe and reached up as high as she could. 'Course he was,' she said. 'He was huge as huge, 'bout as high as you and Da stood on top of each other. Honest.' Dadci winked at me as Auntie Eleri came out into the garden with Barry behind her on his crutches.

'It seems like they've had quite a morning,' said Dadci. 'They woke up the Sandman and he ate their picnic.' Barry laughed out loud.

'He did too, pegleg,' Polly protested indignantly. Then she turned to me. 'Didn't he, Mikey?' I smiled weakly and shrugged my shoulders. I wished she wouldn't call me 'Mikey'.

'Course,' I said. Well, what else could I say?