



THE BRILLIANT DEEP

REBUILDING THE WORLD'S CORAL REEFS

KATE MESSNER

MATTHEW FORSYTHE

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THE STORY OF KEN NEDIMYER AND THE
CORAL RESTORATION FOUNDATION

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CRF
CORAL RESTORATION FOUNDATION

For Abby and Will, with love –KM

For Lauren –MF

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It starts with one.



One night, after a full moon, the corals begin to spawn—releasing first one, then millions of tiny lives—until the waters swirl like a snow globe.



Some become food for hungry fish.

Some are washed into the deep sea.

Some drift in the currents until they come to rest, not too deep,
on the ocean floor.

If one is lucky, it lands in a place where it can grow.

This one will begin a coral reef.

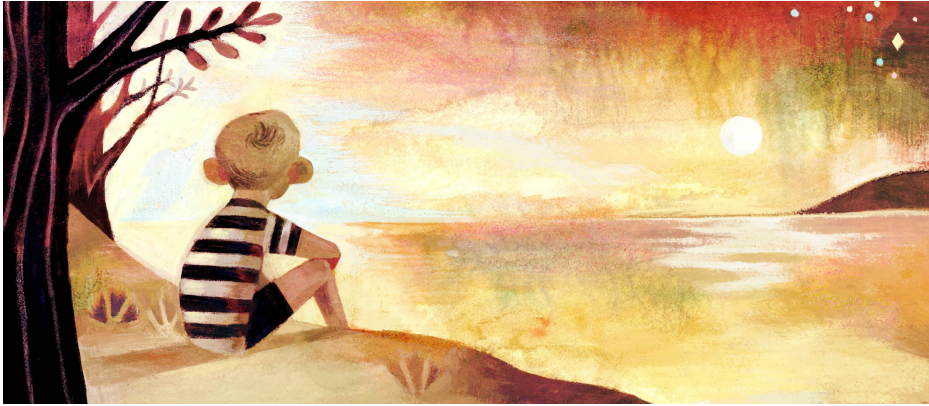


KEN NEDIMYER grew up near Florida's Kennedy Space Center, watching America race toward the moon.

Before men took off in rockets, Ken's father worked at NASA as an engineer.

Ken watched his father's team send unmanned rockets—Little Joe, Redstone, Atlas—toward the stars. Men followed—Alan Shepard, John Glenn.

It seemed like just about anything might be possible if you set your mind to it.



But Ken's dreams weren't in the stars.

He loved the ocean.



He watched TV shows about underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau.



He visited the beach whenever he could, swimming far out to a world of angelfish and sea stars.

The reefs of the Florida Keys teemed with life.

They painted the ocean floor fire red and murky gold.

How could the reefs grow so large?

What made all the different colors and shapes?

How could such tiny creatures build such elaborate homes of
rock?



Ken learned to scuba dive and began collecting fish to keep and study at home. At one point, he had thirty aquariums in his bedroom, all bursting with life.



Ken's favorite place was always out on the reef . . . until things began to change.