

## Julia - The Wave of Marinetta Aya

"Hurry up slowcoach!" Zuzo called down the road to Volpina who was now speeding up to catch Zuzo. Volpina ran past Zuzo and called, over her shoulder, "Who's the slowcoach now? Eh?" Volpina and Zuzo loved racing. Zuzo always got a head start as he was much more organized. He was also a very well-read character unlike Volpina who wasn't into reading as much. She was a very in the moment sort of character and always had a messy room. One thing they had in common, though was their long for adventure and mystery. They were very imaginative and curious. They were always using their imagination.

They were very slender and had slick, gaunt hair. As they ran down the hill the sun shone brightly on their silky skin.

"Ha I win!" shouted Volpina.

"No draw!" argued Zuzo, "Wait a minute. It's our trip today!" It was a warm summer's day and their class were going on a trip to the beach, to study the sea life.

They briskly walked inside. Everyone was getting ready for the trip. As the children prepared themselves, the teachers all seemed very excited.

After a swift walk to the beach everyone put on their swimsuits and dived into the ocean. The teachers started whispering in hushed tones. Why? Was it a surprise for the children? Volpina and Zuzo noticed but continued playing. The sun shone down on the glistening, turquoise lagoon

The water glistened in the light. The children all were enjoying themselves in the hot, shining sun. Laughing. Splashing around. All of a sudden, the teachers started shouting, "Children, out, out!" None of the children except Zuzo heard, who also had exceptional hearing. He started warning everybody after he noticed some dead fish on the beach. The small town of Syrena-Ondine had only just got their breath after an earthquake.

Everyone thought it was just a small earthquake on their way to the coast. But, no. As the class rushed back to school more fish, derived from the ocean was being thrown on the beach.

In the classroom, posters were on the floor. Windows had shattered. The tsunami was coming. The building shook slightly.

"Under the desks!" Zuzo shouted.

"Grab something!" Volpina screamed. They hid under the tables and hugged their knees to their chests as tight as they could. Their hearts were beating as loudly as a drum beat. The books flew off the shelves like water spewing from a tap.

All around the children were frozen in fear. Volpina's eyes widened. A tear was shed. Frightened, terrified expressions were plastered across the children's faces. Even Maisy, who was always bright-eyed and joyous was in a frenzy. Even the teachers who were always so calm and sensible were hiding under the desks. The tsunami was coming. But how close was it? How long would they survive? Was this the end? Volpina and Zuzo huddled in a corner together. This was the final wave.

Suddenly, Zuzo screamed, "Look!" In the direction that he was pointing the, once soft burgundy carpet had curled up and underneath was a hatch! There was a droning sound in the near distance.

**CRASH!**

The Orellyous had fallen down under the weight of the tsunami.

"Run! Under the hatch. Bring food," the teachers were shouting over the sound. It was closer than ever.

In five minutes, the whole school was filling in; the bustle was louder than ever. The ground trembled and shook violently.

CLICK!

Everyone was safe! Then, they heard a deafening roar as the waves thundered over the latch. They had made it.

After a day, or so, the school emerged from their hidden safe room. Unlike the hard, rough, rocky ground of the safe room the safe-room, the classroom was just a plate of barren ground. The wave that had soared above them had gone. Had destroyed everything in its path. Only an eerie, lifeless wasteland was accessible to the eye. The boats had been pummelled and tossed by the brutal power of the black world of the deep, delirious ocean. The oily air filled Volpina's nostrils.

All the children were taken home. To safety. Across three years, Zuzo and Volpina helped rebuild the school. There were earthquake and tsunami drills now. There was barely any more water on the land. The sea had turned into a crystal clear, turquoise lagoon, filled with tropical, multi-coloured fish. All was calm once again in the little town of Syrena Ondine.

"After three whole years we can finally go to school again! I'm sick of Miss. Alston. She doesn't even laugh at my jokes!" moaned Volpina, on the way to the new school. It was called Sarajevo. But little did Zuzo and Volpina know, they were in for a big surprise!

"Wow!" Zuzo gasped. In front of their very eyes was a huge, scarlet bow around the new school gates. Mrs. Rose was holding a pair of magnificent, blue scissors clutched in her fragile, frail right hand. Volpina and Zuzo opened their mouths to speak but closed them again thinking it was best not to argue with the headmistress. Volpina grabbed the scissors with one hand and Zuzo held the other side in his hand. Together they snipped the red ribbon and Sarajevo Primary School was officially open!

Everything was perfect again. The routine went back to normal. Next time something happened they would be prepared for it. Life was perfect again. The children learnt how to swim and every day Volpina and Zuzo went to the beach and played with the other children. Volpina became a much more organized character. The water wasn't polluted with oils any more. It wasn't chocking, filthy water. It was clean. The sand was foamy and golden. The taste of fear and death that once lingered in the air had disappeared. Only fresh, clean air remained. Everyone was joyous, just like Maisy. The water was a friend not a foe.