



*text and illustrations
by Anna Schönhof*

SS Park Victory
- a story of Utö

SS Park Victory

This project was inspired by my visit to Utö and the lighthouse tour I participated in. It is based on a real event that happened in 1947, when an american ship sank near the Island in the outer Archipelago Sea. A special thanks to the guide Hanna as well as to Kaisa and Leka for organizing the excursion!



*heavy with coal, a ship from far away
on the way to Turku, carrying 48.
a change of route and the captain decides to stay,
as it was windy and swiftly getting late.*



An illustration depicting a ship being dragged by an anchor. On the left, a large black anchor is firmly planted in a sandy beach, with a heavy chain extending from it. A thick rope with multiple blue and white stripes is attached to the anchor and extends across the frame, pulling a ship towards the left. The ship is shown from the front, with a grey hull and a red superstructure. The ship's bow is marked with the number '014'. In the background, two more similar ships are visible, also being pulled by the rope. The scene is set against a dark blue night sky with a few stars. The foreground consists of dark grey rocks and a sandy beach.

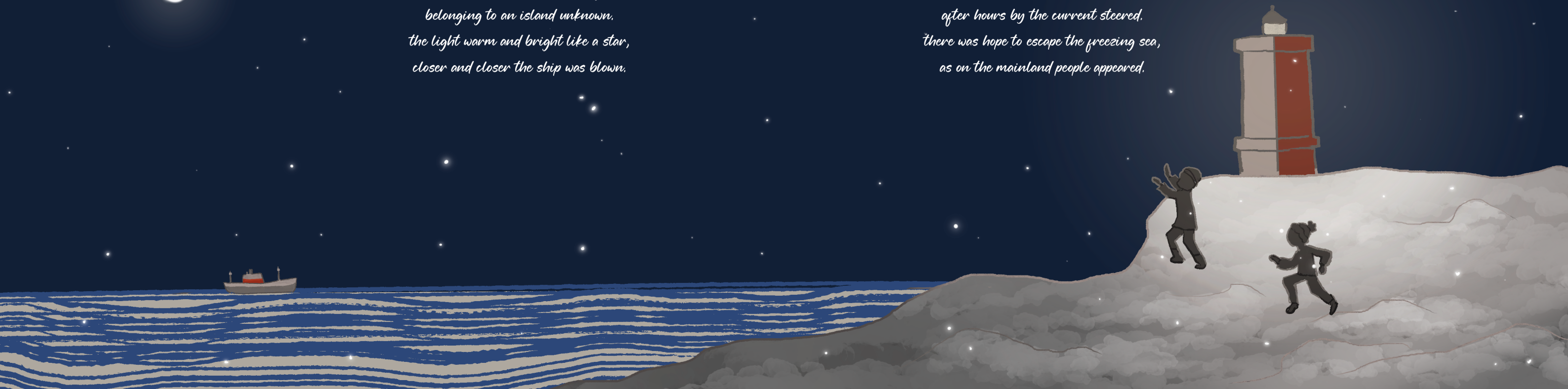
*the anchor was heavy and strong,
but could not hold any longer onto ground.
merciless wind, dragging the ship along,
as suddenly there was to hear a cracking sound!*



*behold, the ship was sinking!
and the air was filled with anxious thinking.
on christmas night the snow was falling,
and the crew stood outside, for help calling!*

*there was a lighthouse not too far,
belonging to an island unknown.
the light warm and bright like a star,
closer and closer the ship was blown.*

*oh, what luck it was to see,
after hours by the current steered.
there was hope to escape the freezing sea,
as on the mainland people appeared.*



*through the thick white snow they walked,
with warm blankets and in hurry,
and in a foreign language they talked,
helping the remaining crew in flurry.*





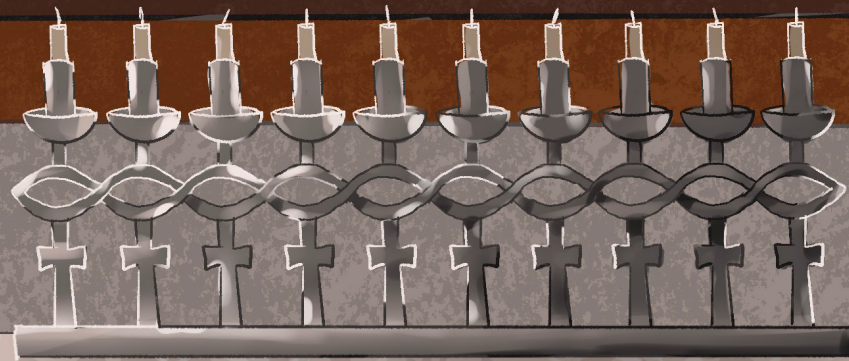
*they brought them into homes of their own,
lending dry clothes, offering food.
outsiders like the crew were never known,
but gratitude and warmth eased the mood.*





*38 of the crew had returned to their land,
and time was passing like flowing sand.
presents for the rescue were send to young and old,
through many generations the event was told.*

*and every year on christmas night,
candles are lit to honor those that died.
today the islands story is known far and wide.
- a story of Uto*



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