

*Dedicated to my beautiful daughters, to Nick, Eleni, Sara
and the students of Saint Paul's and All Hallows Primary school.
This book is here because of you.*



It is a true joy to write this note for my dear friend and colleague, Hari Neodeous. Our shared path through mathematics and chess education has been defined by a mutual belief that learning should be as imaginative as it is logical, and Hari embodies this philosophy more than anyone I know.

For years, I have had the privilege of witnessing Hari inspire students and educators alike with her boundless creativity. From her innovative work at LogiqBoard to her numerous contributions to educational materials, she has a rare talent for transforming complex concepts into moments of pure discovery. Whether she is designing a logic puzzle or crafting a narrative for the classroom, Hari is in her element writing and creating resources, puzzles or stories.

This beautiful book is so special. It is the culmination of her years of experience in the classroom and her deep love for the magic of chess. By weaving the strategy of the game into a captivating story for children, she has created something that resonates with the heart as much as the mind. This is a must-have book for chess teachers, and anyone dedicated to nurturing young minds. It will spark a lifelong passion for the game and for storytelling in every child who opens its pages.

RITA ATKINS

*Secretary of FIDE Chess in Education Commission
and Co-founder of LogiqBoard*



The Gift of Chess

Written by

Hari Neodeous

Illustrated by *DIRIQ*

My chess journey began
when I was nine or ten,
my brother taught me
way back when.



A quiet girl,
shy and small,
my place in the classroom
was not to rule.

I liked to pause
and watch the world,
calm and strong,
hair all curled.

If you peered inside
my mind, you'd find,
a tangled web,
an inquisitive mind.

Thoughts and questions
laid out in a mess,
this is why I was
so perfect for chess.



I wrote this book to let you know,
that through this game you will **LEARN** and **GROW**.
Your mind, your skills, your spirit inside,
unfold the chessboard, look inside.



I wish you luck in your chess travels,
who knows how it will all unravel...

Play for **FUN**
or play for **medals**

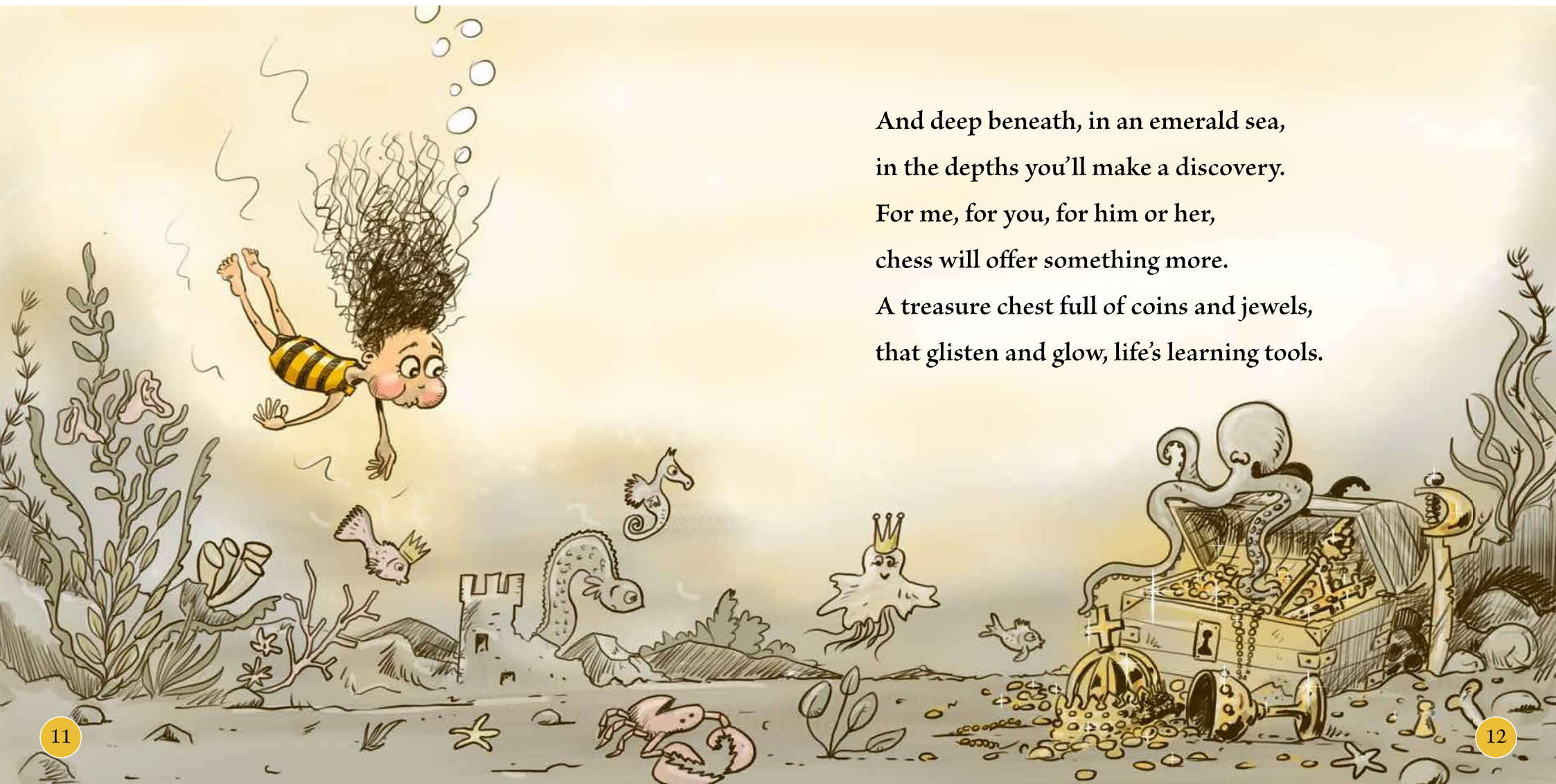
know that it's fine
if you step
off the **pedals**.

Chess will be there,
if you decide,
to pause and return
when it feels **right**.



Move back and forth, just like the tide.
Waves of water over gifts that hide.
Your flow will often change its speed,
depending on what precisely you need.





And deep beneath, in an emerald sea,
in the depths you'll make a discovery.
For me, for you, for him or her,
chess will offer something more.
A treasure chest full of coins and jewels,
that glisten and glow, life's learning tools.

Before I go on, I have to ask:
which chess piece is your theatrical mask?

The **PAWN**, the **ROOK**,
the **BISHOP** or **KNIGHT**,
the **QUEEN** or **KING**,
who leads your fight?

