

Teddy Bear Tales 14

*Where will we go? What shall we see?
Who will we meet? How shall we be?*

**Christine Muir
& Keith Hunt**



Teddy Bear Tales 14



For Emily, Rob & Charlotte

Text, photos and illustrations
Copyright © Christine Muir and
Keith Hunt

Teddy Bear Tales 14

**Christine Muir
& Keith Hunt**



Where will we go? What shall we see?

Who will we meet? How shall we be?



Emily, Rob and Charlotte
each had a teddy bear.
When they left home the bears remained,
in their Daddy's care.
Jerra-Mary wore a red bow tie
and checks in every hue.
She dreamed of going to sea one day –
and now her dream came true.

Where will we go? What shall we see?

Kes is Rob's bear –he wears stripes
and a black bow tie.
He too dreamed of sailing ships –
white sails against the sky.
Charlotte's teddy, the smallest,
is known as Little Bear.
Shorts of stripes and top bright blue,
is her summery gear.



Who will we meet? How shall we be?

The children's daddy owned a yacht
Poco Andante was its name.
The three little teddies joined the crew
adventure was the aim.

Poco is a Spanish word –
it translates to 'little' or 'small',
Andante from Italian 'to walk' –
together they read 'to crawl'!



poco andante



The bears had been joined by S'bastian, who,
Became the fourth member of the teddy bear crew.
A barbary ape from Gibraltar he came.
He always looks sad – oh, what a shame!

Where will we go? What shall we see?

“From the Galapagos Islands it is time to depart
For the Marquesas Islands – look at the chart;
Nearly three thousand miles – our longest leg yet.
How long will it take us? Three weeks is my bet!”



Who will we meet? How shall we be?

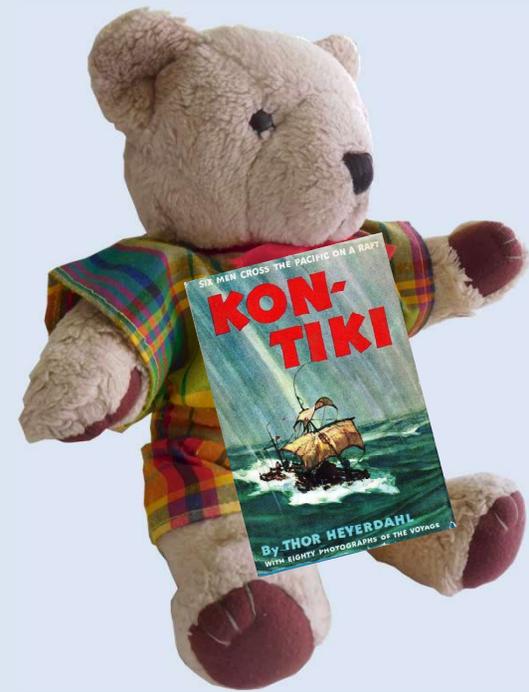
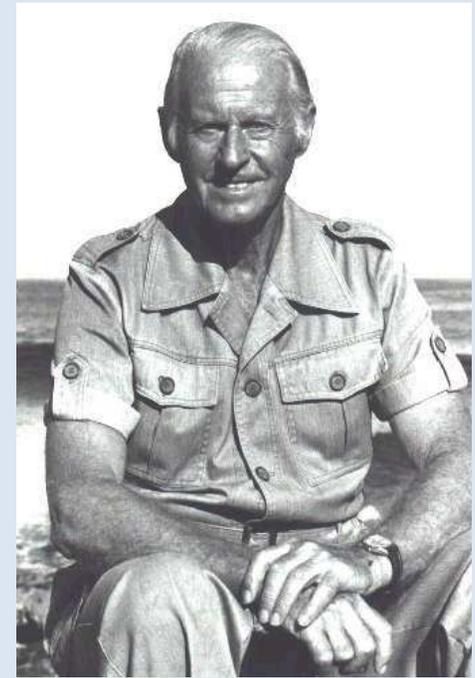
The bears looked at the chart and turned rather pale.
S'bastian reminded them "Now we know how to sail!
We've already done fourteen thousand miles..."
"So we have!" said Kes, which brought back their smiles.



Where will we go? What shall we see?

And so, *Poco Andante* set out, heading west.
The days passed quietly and turned into weeks.
Jerra-Mary read them Thor Heyerdahl's book,
About the *Kon Tiki* raft and the route that it took.

“Thor had a theory
that the Indians of Peru
Built a raft and sailed
west to Tuamotu,
More than eight hundred years ago,
long before
Christopher Columbus and
modern history records.”



Who will we meet? How shall we be?



In order to prove
that his theory was right,
Thor built a raft
from balsa that's light.
Nine balsa trees
lashed together with rope,
And more tied athwart –
for strength, was the hope.

A cabin with sides
made of plaited bamboo,
Banana leaf thatch
made a waterproof roof,
Mangrove wood
gave a long steering oar,
For guiding the raft
when they headed offshore.



Where will we go?

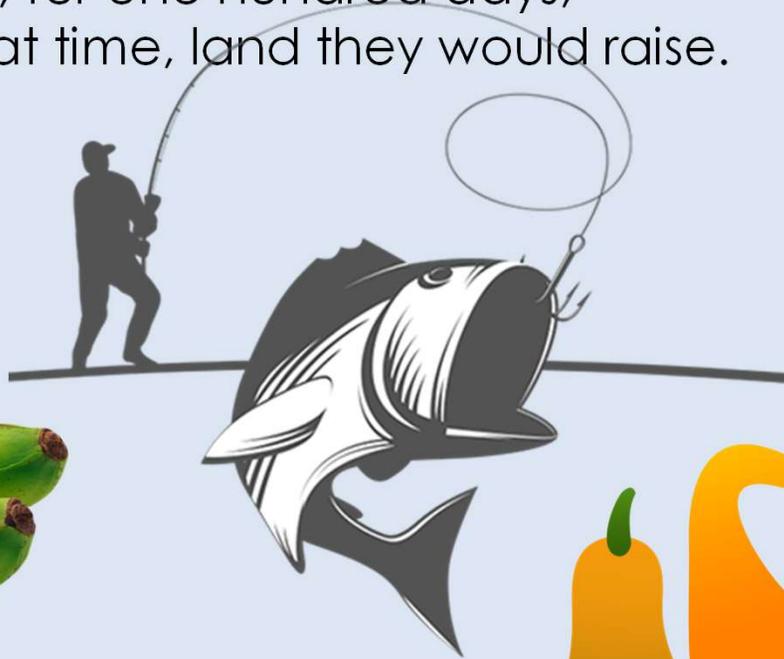
What shall we see?

More mangrove wood fashioned into a mast,
And sails of bamboo – they hoped to go fast!
One thousand litres of fresh water they stored,
In hollowed bamboo, sealed with wax and cord.



Who will we meet? How shall we be?

Sweet potatoes, coconuts, fresh fruit and gourds
Fishing line and hooks – they'd catch lots, of course!
Enough for six men, for one hundred days;
Thor thought by that time, land they would raise.



Where will we go?

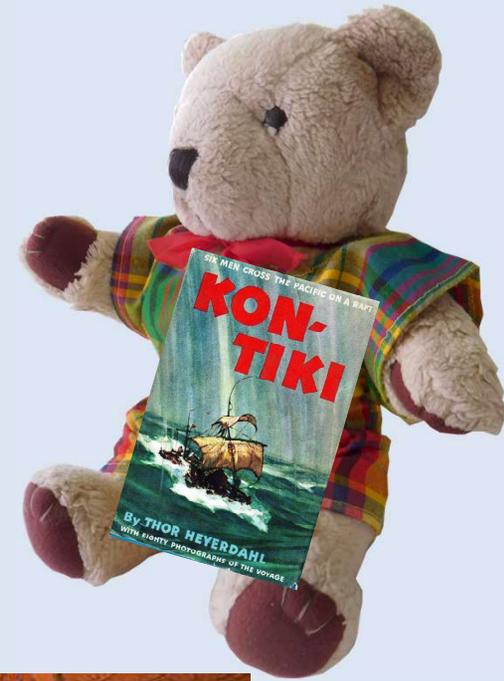
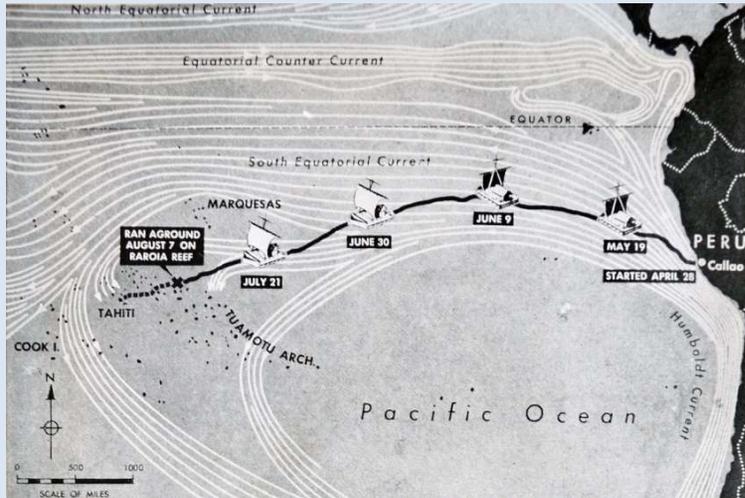
What shall we see?

“That adventure sounds fun – but scary, too!

Did the raft float? Where’d they get to?”

After a hundred and one days the journey came to a close,

When the raft struck a reef in the Tuamotus.



Four thousand plus miles
the Kon Tiki had sailed;
The winds and sea currents
had more than prevailed.
Thor's theory was proved
– and the raft was rescued.
Today, in an Oslo museum,
can be viewed.



Who will we meet? How shall we be?

Kes asked the crew “Well, what do you think?
Do you reckon a raft we built would float – or sink?”
S’bastian responded “Of course it would float!
It shouldn’t be too hard to make such a boat...”



“We’ll have to undress
– we mustn’t ruin our clothes.”
“What will we wear?”
Little Bear asked. “Those!”
First Mate Christine showed them
how a pareo is wrapped;
One strip of cloth held in place
by ends that are trapped.

Where will we go? What shall we see?

At the next atoll the crew went ashore.
“Look over there – timber - and palm trees galore!”
“Let’s check it out,” Jerra-Mary suggested.
“It needs to be strong – and not ‘bug infested’!”



Who will we meet? How shall we be?

“We’ll choose the best,” Kes told Little Bear,
“And look – there’s some rope, lying just there!”
S’bastian said “I can climb that palm tree.
I’ll cut fresh fronds. Don’t forget - I’m a monkey!”



Where will we go? What shall we see?

They worked on the raft
for the rest of the day,
Tying and testing
each knot on the way.
Jerra-Mary and S'bastian
wove a sail from the palm,
And desperately hoped
that the winds would stay calm!



Who will we meet?

How shall we be?



Kes said "We'd better take the raft for a test.
Prepare for the worst – but hope for the best!"
So the three bears and S'bastian clambered aboard,
And gingerly poled the raft out from the shore.



Where will we go? What shall we see?

“Yipee, it floats!” Little Bear shouted aloud.
“Aren’t we clever – I feel very proud!
Poco is anchored in the lagoon over there
Do you reckon we can sail to her from here?”



Yipee!



And so they began
their own expedition,
Pleased with themselves
and their commission.
“I don’t think I’d like to go
outside the lagoon;
Our *Kon Tiki* raft
wouldn’t survive a monsoon”

Who will we meet? How shall we be?

The water beneath them got choppy and deep.
“I don’t like this!” Little Bear began to weep.
Jerra-Mary hugged her and said “We’ll be fine.
Hold onto me tight and I’ll hold this line.”



Where will we go? What shall we see?

At last *Poco Andante* was not far away
But suddenly they caught a brief glimpse of grey.
“Oh dear, what was that?” Little Bear cried.
They all peered around to see what they’d spied.

It's a shark!



S'bastian pointed and
shouted “I see it!
It's a shark! I must say,
I don't like this one bit!”
Jerra-Mary told Kes
“Scull that oar a lot faster,
And I'll shout for help
or we'll have a disaster!”

Help!



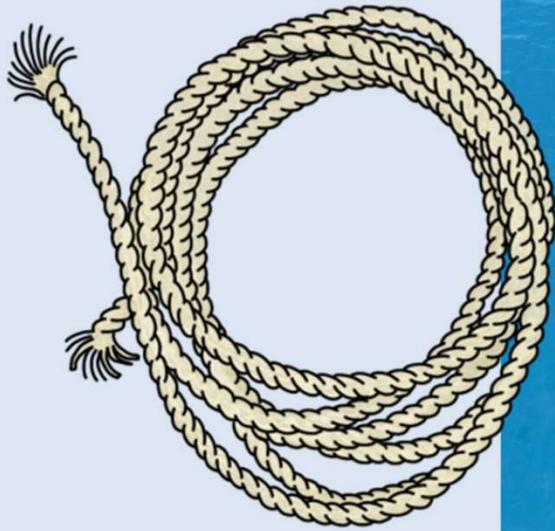
Who will we meet? How shall we be?

“Captain, oh Captain, please throw us a rope;
I think that a tow’s our only hope!”
Before he could throw a line to the bears,
Another shark joined the first “Say your prayers!”



Where will we go? What shall we see?

“Kes, catch this rope and I’ll tow you to me.
Hold tight and I’ll pull you to safety.
Stay on the raft; the First Mate will reach you.
Don’t rock the boat, whatever you do!”



Who will we meet? How shall we be?

Safe aboard *Poco*,
the crew watched their raft,
Drift off to sea –
pursued by the shark.
“You have to admire
Thor Heyerdahl and his crew.
That was only a taste
of what they went through!”

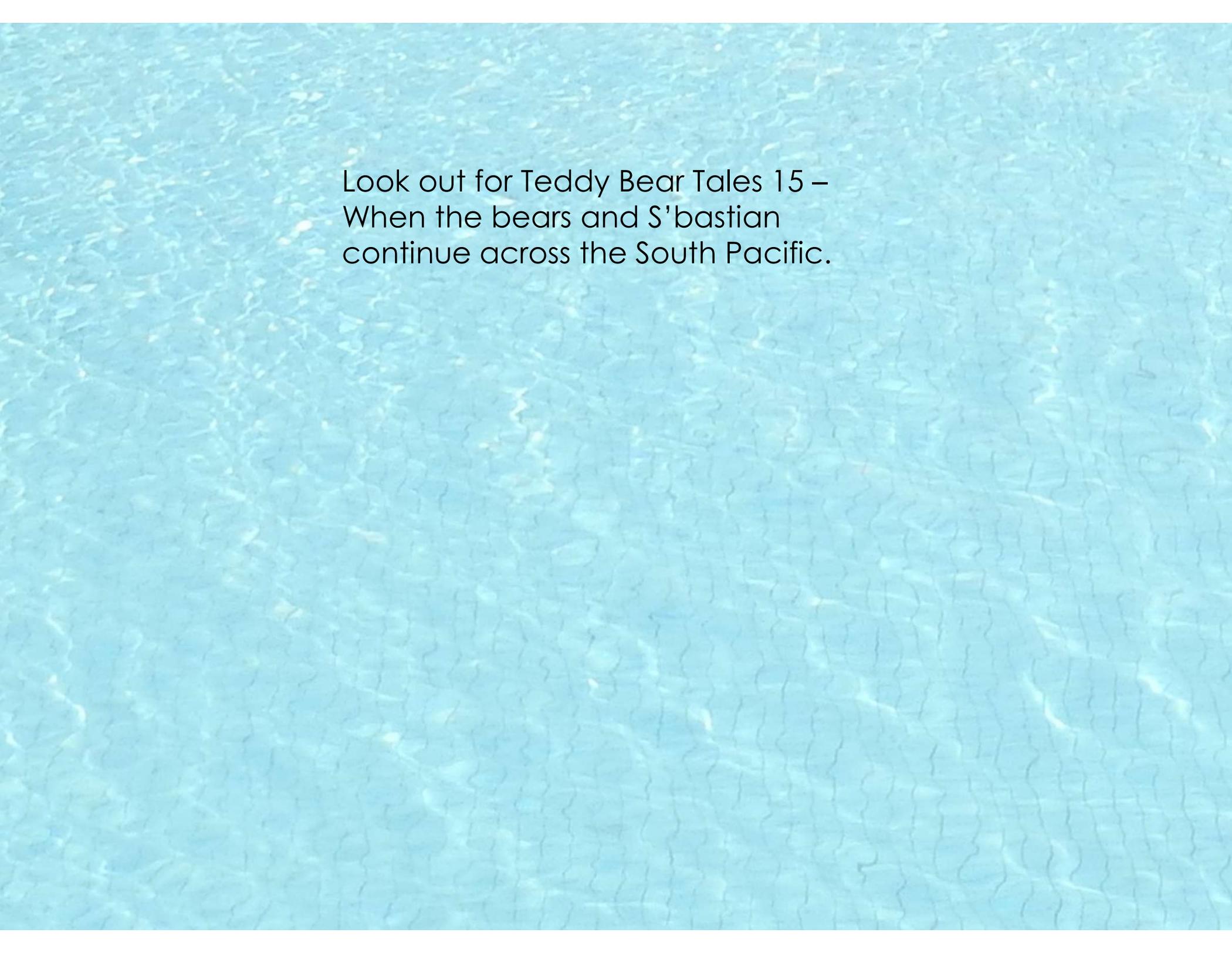


Where will we go? What shall we see?

Who will we meet? How shall we be?

Where will we go? What next is our quest?

Will we go East? Or will we go West?



Look out for Teddy Bear Tales 15 –
When the bears and S'bastian
continue across the South Pacific.

Back Cover

Three teddy bears and their friend go on a big adventure – this is the fourteenth of their tales.



Jerra-Mary



Kes



Little Bear



S'bastian