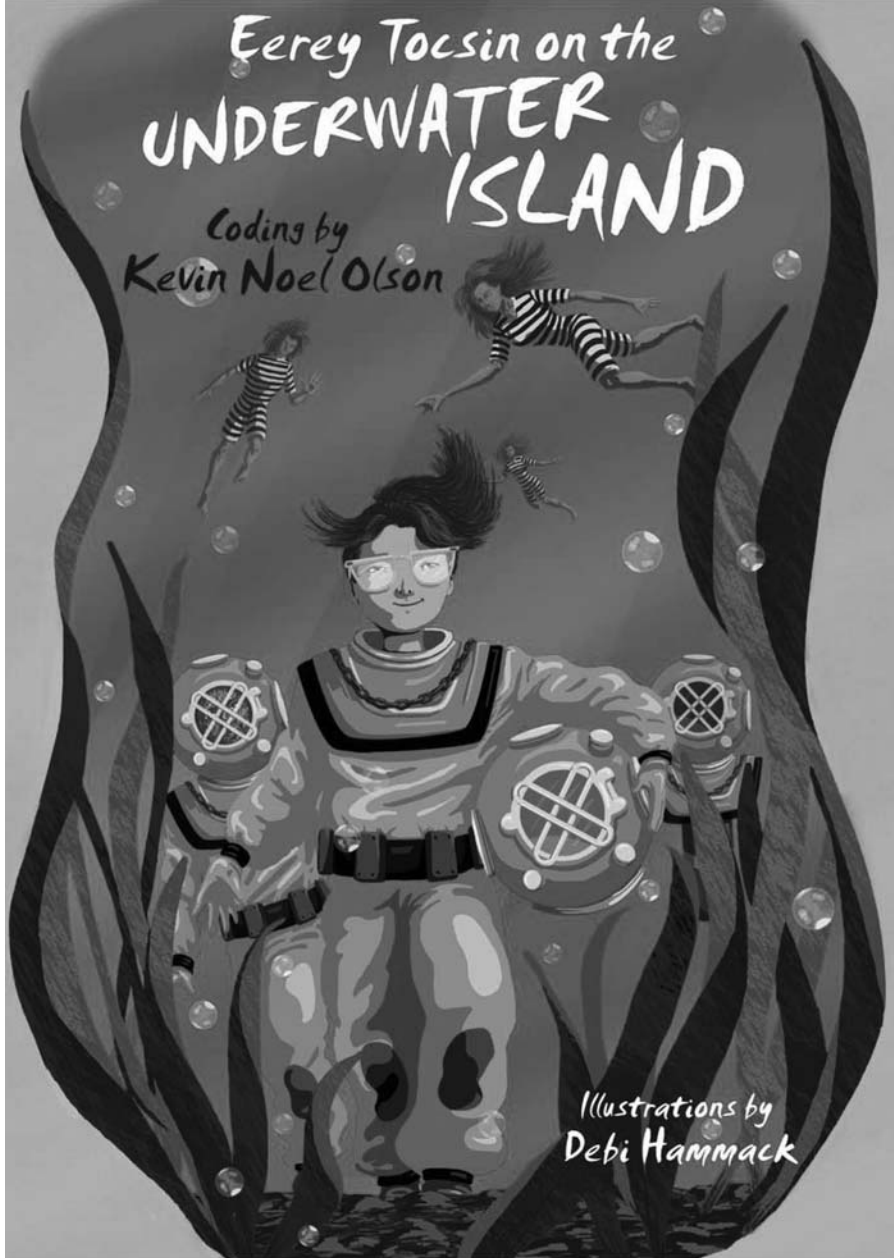


THE TOCSIN CODEX: Book II

Eerey Tocsin on the  
**UNDERWATER  
ISLAND**

Coding by  
Kevin Noel Olson



Illustrations by  
Debi Hammack

Eerey Tocsin on the Underwater Island  
by Kevin Noel Olson

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# Dedication

This book is for Aiden, Dylan, and all those who are to come. You  
fill the world with hope.

-K.N.O.

*What do you build with sails for flight?  
I build a boat for Sorrow,  
O, swift on the seas all day and night  
Saileth the rover Sorrow,  
All day and night.*

-W.B. YEATS



# Introduction

One thing I discovered while researching the accounts this book is based on is that jellyfish hurt when they sting you. My experiences with that don't matter. It's just an observation. I would strongly recommend avoiding jellyfish. Never, ever, never-even-  
ever in Neverland get one stuck inside your diving helmet.

Unfortunately, I must report my investigation did not yield results that entirely confirm nor deny the testimony from Eerey's diary. However, I was able to confirm some relevant information and many of the facts relayed in the account.

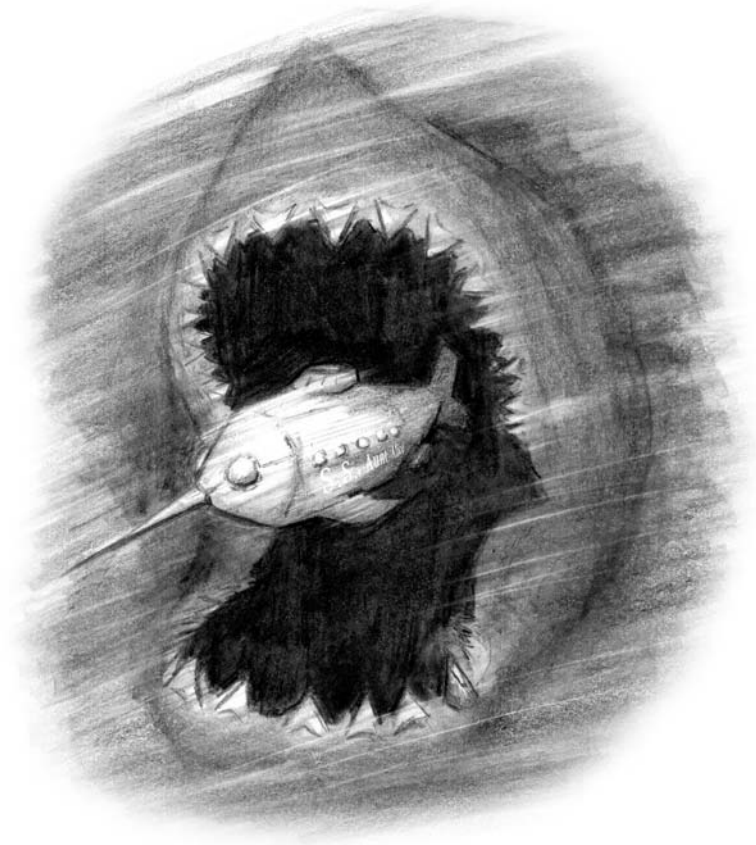
The underwater city does exist, as confirmed by a Kanutian I found attending a nearby college. He would speak only on the condition that I not reveal his identity in any greater detail than I have already done. He described the city in detail, all in agreement with diary. He allowed me an undersea voyage by submarine to confirm some important points. I remained locked in my room on the submarine to protect the location of the underwater island. The visit was not approved by the Kanutian government, and I only saw the island from a distance. It did appear to have the reed forest, returning quickly from the damage done to it by the nuclear Kraken. Green people swam in the city, as far as I could tell through the periscope. A young kraken swam by, confirming that portion of the diary. I saw an Otterman as well. I pleaded to see the gigantic creature you will learn about near the end of this book, but fear from the pilot allowed only that I see the lights.

As to where the island is, I might offer only a guess. It comes to mind it may be the Sunken Land of Buss. That particular island was reported by sailors for centuries. Unfortunately, the warm climate where I saw the island does not support exactly Buss Island, as it seemed to be off the coast of Iceland according to reports. A friend suggested it may be the lost city of Atlantis or the

sunken continent of Mu. Without more specific details it is hard to judge which of the many, many sunken lands it may be. Only one thing is for certain-jellyfish hurt when they sting you. Take it from me, you don't want one in your diving helmet.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Noel Olson

**Eerey Tocsin  
on the Underwater Island**



## Chapter I

# GIANT TEETH

A strange, antique and unique submarine floated slightly below the ocean's surface. The shape of a gigantic swordfish, with round viewports decorating its riveted sides, the ship glided effortlessly through the water. The words S.S. Aunt Alice ran along its iron surface. A pair of large, bubble windows stared like eyes behind its long metal snout. In the metal fish's belly, Eerey Tocsin sat at a desk. She crouched over dismantled pieces of a laptop computer and what appeared to be some kind of antique typewriter.

Many of you will remember Eridona 'Eerey' Tocsin dressed in her long, white dress of a bygone era from her adventures in the Cryptoid Zoo. Some of you will be pleased to meet this unusual girl here. A single, five-watt light bulb swung above her head. It dimly illuminated the metal walls. Despite the weak light, she wore stylish-at-some-point-in-the-past sunglasses. Even the scant yellowish wane from the bulb hurt her sensitive eyes. You might wonder where Eerey's parents were. The exact same thought played on her mind as she worked.

Eerey's parents disappeared along with Mr. Cryptic for a test flight of the old cargo plane meant to return them home from the Cryptoid Zoo. Mr. Cryptic went along to offer pointers and directions. The three never returned; with or without a trace. The plane did not return by itself either.

After waiting a good while, Eerey and her hair-covered cousin Edict decided to search for them. They used the flight plan her father left as a guide. They took the Aunt Alice from the dock. Three talking gorillas manned the submarine as crew. They took along Loofah the orangutaur. An orangutaur was and is a half-orangutan and half-horse. They also took Guy Guess, an invisible boy.

The sound of feet running down the hallway ruined Eerey's concentration. She looked up as the large, metal wheel in the center of the metal door twisted. The rusty hinges creaked loudly. The door swung open. It slammed against the wall with a clang. Loofah and Edict rushed in. Loofah's orangutan body and head seemed misplaced on his Shetland pony body and legs. Seawater dripped off him in pools. His horseshoed-hooves clanged against the metal floor.

Edict came in wearing a pair of swim trunks. The hair that covered his body grew back in short tufts after he lost it during their last adventure.

"Don't!" Eerey shouted as Edict and Loofah rushed over to her. "You'll get the computer wet and ruin it!"

"Eerey!" Edict exclaimed as he and Loofah stopped short. "Is that the laptop mom gave you for our birthday? Mom's not going to be happy that you pulled it apart."

Nodding, Eerey picked up a soldering iron and sighed. "Yes, it is the laptop mom gave me for my birthday. I'm not doing anything wrong with it, and I can explain it all when we find them."

"What are you doing to it?" Loofah asked.

Eerey furrowed her brow as she soldered a circuit board to the old typewriter. "Improving it."

Loofah laughed. "Improving it? You're soldering it to a rusty piece of junk typewriter!"

Eerey looked up, her darkish-red hair falling around the olive skin of her cheeks. She imitated Loofah's laugh. "Shows what you know," she snorted. "Typewriter!"

"It's not a typewriter?" Loofah asked. "What is it?"

Eerey walked toward them. "Look. You two just burst in here like there's something important. Is there?"

Edict nodded excitedly, all but forgetting about the typewriter. "Giant teeth!"

Edict pulled a rag off the desk and wiped water off his face. "Have you two been swimming?" Eerey asked.

"Yes," Loofah replied. "That's what we came to tell you!"

"You came to tell me you've been swimming? That's nice."

Edict shook his head. Black ink now covered his face as Eerey used the cloth to clean the typewriter. She stifled a laugh at the purple hue it gave his face. "No, no! We came here to tell you what happened to Guy while we we swam!"

She removed her glasses. "Something's happened to Guy?"

Edict nodded emphatically. "Yes! That's what we've been trying to tell you! We were swimming outside the ship because we're close to the surface and it's dark so we wouldn't burn."

Eerey walked out the door. "If that's what you've been trying to tell me, why is it the first time I've heard of it since you two walked in? Where is he now?"

Loofah and Edict followed her down the hallway. "He'll be okay," Loofah assured. "He's in the infirmary with the talking apes. They are trying to bandage up his wound."

"Wound!?" Eerey walked a little faster. "What wound?"

"He cut his arm on the giant teeth!" Edict shouted as he tried to keep up. Eerey stopped at the open infirmary door. Three go-

rillas dressed in navy attire gathered around an empty chair and wrapped gauze around the empty air over the chair. One gorilla wore a captain's suit and hat. The other two wore white sailors' uniforms. All of the gorillas wrapped a figure on the hospital bed. The thickly-piled gauze took on the rough shape of a young boy. Eerey looked at the paper-Mache mess wriggling under their attempts.

Eerey waved the gorillas away. "I'll take over from here." The gorillas grunted as they walked out of the room, pushing aside the gaping Edict and Loofah.

Resting her hands on her hips, Eerey looked at Guy Guess, the invisible boy. He was wrapped up haphazardly in gauze. She began to unravel the mess.

"Hello Guy. What happened to you?" Eerey looked into Guy's bright, blue eyes that only she could see. Eerey feared the dark. So much so she spent a great deal of time in darkness to hone her vision. The practice helped her see what lurked in the night. It also helped her see Guy.

Guy smiled at Eerey, quite pleased to see and be seen by a friend. "The talking gorillas meant to take care of me. Since they can't see me they didn't help much."

Eerey tore off a piece of gauze and wrapped it around Guy's invisible arm. "It doesn't look bad, Guy. You're just bleeding a little. I'll get it wrapped up. Edict said something about giant teeth. What on earth is he talking about?"

Guy nodded, but only Eerey saw. "I hope I'm not buzzing too loudly," he shouted. Eerey shook her head.

"Not much more than a quiet hum in this light," she assured. "It's pretty dark inside the ship."

"Good," he said a little quieter. "I think he's talking about the set of giant teeth that came at me, but I don't think it was actually after me. I tried to swim away, and one of the teeth nicked my arm."

“What kind of teeth were they, and how ‘giant’ were they? Were they giant cow’s teeth?”

Guy shook his head. “No. They were sharp as razors and like a shark’s. There were a bunch of them and they were about the length of my head.”

“Were they attached to anything?”

It was Edict’s turn to shake his head. “It’s dark out there, and all we saw was the sharp teeth floating like a huge set of carnivore dentures. It could have swallowed us whole.”

Eerey shrugged. “Could it have been a gigantic black shark you couldn’t see because it was too dark?”

Loofah pulled at the hair on his orangutaur chin. “It’s possible.”

Sounds like you would have been lucky to have been swallowed whole. Teeth like that could tear you apart! They must have been like razors. The cut on Guy’s arm is straight.” She stood back to examine the bandages. “I’ve stopped the bleeding, Guy. You’ll be okay as long as it doesn’t get infected.”

Eerey sighed. “You shouldn’t have been swimming in the dark. If it was a black Megalodon shark, that’s extremely dangerous. They can be a hundred feet long. That’s a third of a football field!”

Edict sneezed as he pulled a navy jacket off a hook on the wall and put it on. “We’re way smaller than that! What would something that big want with us?”

Eerey smiled at the thought of Loofah and Edict wrapped up in candy wrappers. “Bite sized snacks.”

“Ewww!” Loofah protested. “You’ll give me nightmares!”

“It’s just like a Rorschach test,” Eerey shrugged. “I just say the first thing that comes to mind.”

An alarm bell began to ring. “What’s that?” Edict asked as he ran into the hall. Loofah and Eerey rushed after him as he ran to the control room. They entered the room to find the talking

gorillas looking out the bubble windows. A set of enormous teeth headed for the submarine. A pen attached to a mechanical arm sketched a picture on a stack of paper strapped to a table with metal wires.

Loofah looked at the paper. "That's what the radar's picking up!?" he asked. The arm quickly created a picture of an enormous shark coming toward their submarine. The device drew the sub as tiny in comparison to the shark.

"Sharks can sense blood from a long ways away," Eerey informed. "The shark must smell Guy's blood and came back."

"It's big!" Edict exclaimed. "It could swallow us whole!"

Eerey burst Edict's hopeful fantasy with her reply. "No, it could eat us a little at a time. The sub would get stuck in its throat."

"The hull will protect us," Loofah stated.

Eerey prepared to break this little pair of rose-colored glasses, although she would prefer not to. "Given time, those teeth could slice the hull. If it's hungry, it could continue to spit out the metal until it found the meatier morsels inside this can of sardines."

"I'm not a sardine!" Loofah protested.

Edict shook his head in agreement. "No, you're not. Still, you do offer the most food out of all of us for a hungry giant shark. It won't matter, because we'll drown before that."

During the conversation, the talking gorillas prepared to fire the air-driven torpedo tube.

"Wasn't Eightball nesting in the tube?" Edict asked. The gorilla captain prepared to pull the lever.

Eerey's eyes grew wide. "Don't!" she pleaded. The gorilla pulled the lever. They watched the dark water as Eerey's bowling-ball-sized pet spider burst from the torpedo tube and headed for the giant teeth. The white, figure-eight symbol on the spider's

belly grew rapidly smaller. Eightball, with his extremely tough skin, headed for the shark teeth.

Eerey wiped a tear as she watched her beloved, enormous, and possibly poisonous pet spider disappear into the inky blackness. She turned a dark expression to the talking gorilla. "I hope you aimed for its nose at least. Eightball doesn't deserve to die for no good reason."

The gorilla blinked its black eyes at her.

"Wow," Edict whispered to Loofah, "those talking gorillas sure are surly."

"I don't know about that," Loofah said, "but how do we know they actually talk? I've never heard them say a word!"

Edict shrugged. "Mister Cryptic called them 'talking gorillas'. He told our parents we'd be safe with them if we had to take the sub."

Loofah examined the back of one of the gorillas from a distance. "I hope Mister Cryptic was right. They're the only ones who know how to run the sub."

Eerey paid no attention to the conversation. Instead, she watched the pen furiously portray the radar readings. It drew a picture, showing the decreasing distance between the shark and the submarine. It showed a small dot meant to be Eightball.

Eerey nodded with satisfaction. "Eightball's going to hit the shark right on the nose!"

Loofah rolled his eyes. "So what? It'd be like being hit on the nose with a bb gun!"

"I was shot in the nose with a bb gun once," Edict offered. "It hurt like the Chuck Dickens!"

"Shark's hate being hit in the nose too," Eerey said. "It might just scare him off."

The mechanical arm ripped away the top sheet. It started to draw Eightball hitting the shark in the nose. The next picture had the shark veering sharply and swimming away.

“Ah!” Loofah exclaimed. “It’s leaving!”

“Yeah,” Edict nodded. “Let’s hope it doesn’t come after us again.”

Eerey watched the radar device as it tore off another sheet and began scribbling furiously. “It might not have been coming after us after all...”

“What do you mean?” Loofah demanded. He looked at the picture the machine drew. He became mesmerized by it.

Edict nudged between Eerey and Loofah. “What? What are you looking at?” Edict gasped as he saw the unfinished drawing. It depicted a gigantic squid, with its arrowhead-shaped body. Long tentacles streamed behind it. In all, it was easily as long as the shark and looked far longer. They looked out the front bubble ports. They could see the creature removing the distance between it and the sub. It glowed with beautiful blue lights flashing around its body and down its tentacles. Eerey let out a breath at the terrible beauty of the creature.

“Well,” Edict said, “it could be worse. At least the shark’s gone.”

Loofah watched as a tentacle shot out and began wrapping itself around the ship. Brilliant blue lights flashed down the Squid’s enormous appendage and illuminating the control room. “Oh yeah,” Loofah said. This could be much, much worse.”

## Chapter II

# GIANT GLOWING TENTACLES

Nobody breathed as the long tentacles wrapped around the ship. One enormous tentacle, flashing its blue light like a police car, covered the front windows. Eerey allowed a gasp to escape her lips. "It's impossible," she said quietly. "I know certain deep-sea cuttlefish glow, but a squid this size has never been seen. Megaladon sharks have been reported before, but never confirmed."

"What about giant squids?" Edict asked.

Eerey nodded. "They've been reported and remains found of giant squids...nothing this big, though. The biggest found was about 66 feet. And nothing that glows like this one. The bioluminescence is amazing. I can't believe this occurred naturally."

"Bio-luminescence?" Edict said. "What's that?"

Eerey rolled her eyes. "It glows in the dark."

Edict smiled. "Oh yeah! Just like the lichen in the caves at the Cryptoid Zoo! This is weird, though."

“Weird things occur naturally,” Loofah replied. “Like orangutauurs and hairy brats.”

“Maybe something or someone created this,” Edict said. “Maybe orangutauurs don’t occur naturally either.”

Loofah laughed, but fell quiet as the enormous eye of the squid moved over the portal.

“That’s a HUGE eye,” Edict interjected with respectful awe. “I think that eye’s bigger than our homework table at home, Eerey!”

Eerey nodded at the suggestion. The round eye seemed to examine them through the glass. Perfectly round, the eye stared for a minute. Its light-blue surface surrounded a round, black iris the size of a car tire. The squid rolled its tentacles around the surface of the Aunt Alice like constrictors coiling around a prey. The eye fell backwards to reveal the squid’s razor-sharp beak.

“It’s going to eat us!” Edict exclaimed. Eerey and Loofah stepped backwards, watching the horrendous beak draw the bulbous glass window between it. This offered a front-row view of the beast’s dark maw. Tentacles constricted about the vessel. The squid pulled at the metal. The iron walls groaned.

Eerey clenched her teeth. “It will lose interest once it has a taste of iron, but it can certainly destroy the ship!”

“Can it squeeze the sub like a soda can?” Edict asked.

Eerey shook her head. “It’s not squeezing, it’s pulling the ship apart!”

“That doesn’t sound good,” Loofah mumbled.

“It doesn’t sound good for good reason,” Eerey said. “The Aunt Alice can probably withstand any pressure put on it by the squid. It’s designed for deep-sea trips. But if it tries to pull it open like a giant clam, that’s when there will be problems. We need to make it forget the ship as a meal, and pretty soon!”

Edict scratched his head. "I don't have my watch, but I think 'pretty soon' has come and gone."

The squid clenched its beak into the bulbous window. It caused a slight fracture around each of the sharp points, but it stopped at just a firm grip on the protruding glass 'eye' of Aunt Alice.

"We can't stand around looking at our watches," Loofah said. "Besides-some of us don't have watches. We've got to do something!"

"What can we do?" asked Guy.

The ship groaned in reply as it tilted to the side and sent all of them all tumbling against the wall. The iron hull began to fail. Rivets popped out of the seams and water trickled in.

"There's just one thing to do," Eerey sighed. "We've got to let Pen out."

Her companions had just one question. "What!?"