





## On the Shore of the Caribbean Sea

It is a beautiful sunny Saturday at the pink house on Juan Dolio beach. Nanín and Alyssa came from Santo Domingo to spend a weekend with their grandparents. Nanín is a happy and cheerful seven-year-old boy with big and expressive hazel eyes. He loves to draw and loves dinosaurs. Alyssa, on the other hand, is ten years old. She is a healthy, lively, curious, and intelligent girl. She has brown dreamy almond-shaped little eyes. She likes drawing, math, and playing with modeling clay.

Both children look forward to seeing their grandparents, whom they affectionately call Mamina and Papino. Once they settle into the endearing and exquisitely decorated little house, they decide to run free like the wind on the white sand on the shores of the calm and blue Caribbean Sea. The house pets, Nina, a roly-poly cat dressed in an impeccable black and white tuxedo, and Druppy, a calm and goofy caramel-colored dog, accompany them.

As their grandparents rest on the balcony, they tenderly watch the children enjoy themselves. Little by little, the children unknowingly drift away from the house. After a while, tired and dazed after so much running and jumping on the beach, they fall exhausted onto the sand.

The sun looks like a pat of melted butter, and the thick white clouds resemble whipped cream.

“Uff,” sighs Alyssa, and she tells Nanín that she is hungry.

The boy touches his sunken belly and, laughing, as usual, replies that he is hungry too.


Nanín kept a pack of chocolate chip cookies in his pocket, and Alyssa had a bottle of lemonade, some cheese sticks, a green apple, and different-shaped gummy candies — strawberry, cherry, and banana — in her pink sequined purse.

“Yummy!” craved the two rascals.

With much love and complicity, the cousins share their precious snacks with Nina and Druppy.

“Ahhh, it’s so great to be here!” says Nanín.

Alyssa sighs as she nods her head. The fresh Caribbean breeze and the smooth and soothing sound of the sea lull them as they fall asleep on the beach’s clean sand.



An old man, who is walking along the shore with his fresh catch of the day, interrupts docile Druppy's sleep. Then, the dog's barking wakes Nina and the children, stunned.

"Oh my God!" cries Alyssa.

"What was that? What was that?" asks Nanín, bewildered.

"Look at the horizon!" she replies with a worried expression. "It's very late. The sun is about to go down. We must hurry back home. Besides, it looks like it is going to rain."

"Get up! Let's go!" The only thing Alyssa can think about is being scolded by her grandparents'.

As they run with all their might, it begins to downpour. Alyssa and Nina are about to cry: one, worried about the scolding, and the other because of her aversion to water. Meanwhile, Nanin and Druppy are looking at the sky, delighted with open mouths, trying to fill them with the heavy drops of rain.

