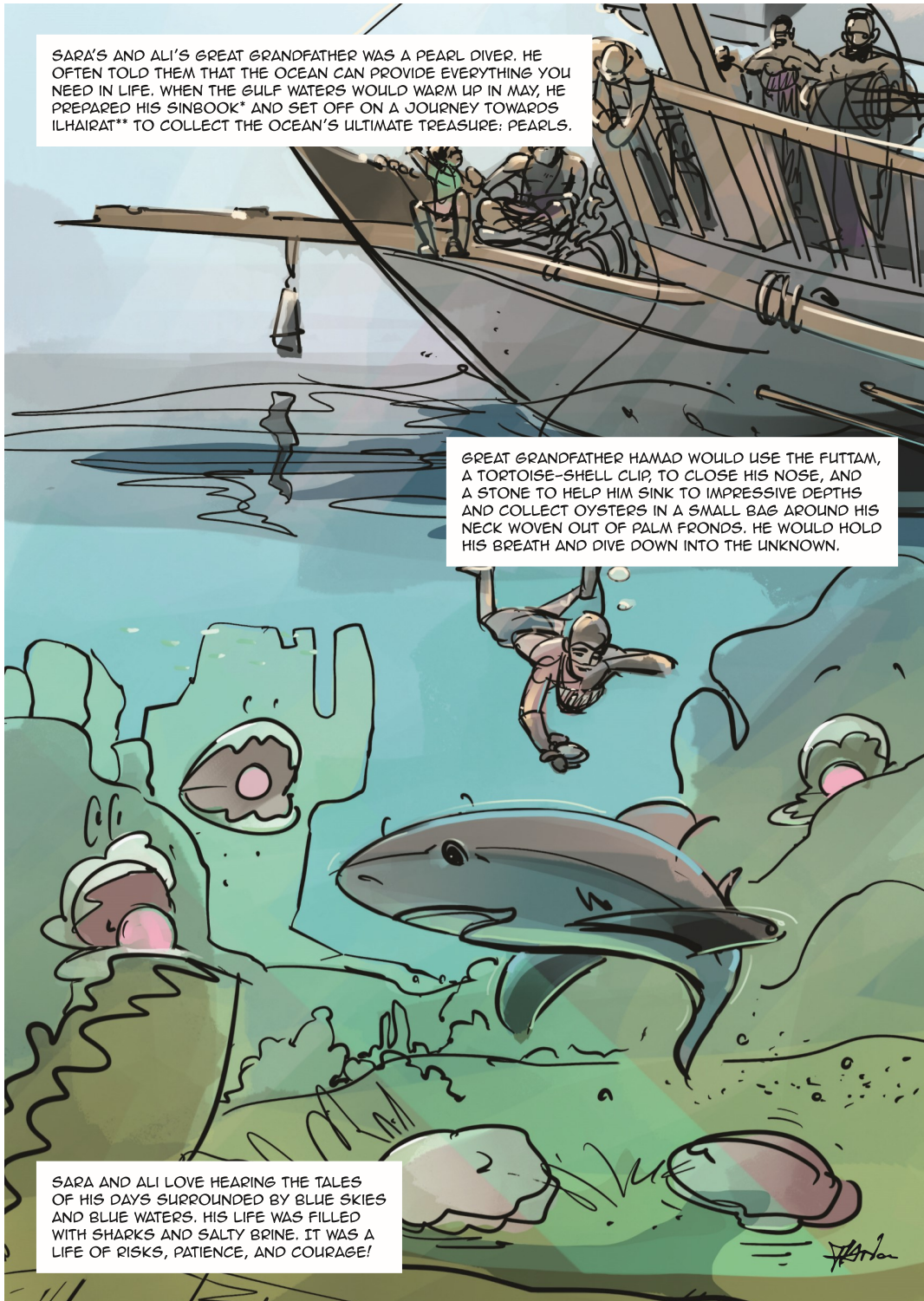




QATAR IS YOUR OYSTER



SARA'S AND ALI'S GREAT GRANDFATHER WAS A PEARL DIVER. HE OFTEN TOLD THEM THAT THE OCEAN CAN PROVIDE EVERYTHING YOU NEED IN LIFE. WHEN THE GULF WATERS WOULD WARM UP IN MAY, HE PREPARED HIS SINBOOK* AND SET OFF ON A JOURNEY TOWARDS ILHAIRAT** TO COLLECT THE OCEAN'S ULTIMATE TREASURE: PEARLS.

GREAT GRANDFATHER HAMAQ WOULD USE THE FUTTAM, A TORTOISE-SHELL CLIP, TO CLOSE HIS NOSE, AND A STONE TO HELP HIM SINK TO IMPRESSIVE DEPTHS AND COLLECT OYSTERS IN A SMALL BAG AROUND HIS NECK WOVEN OUT OF PALM FRONDS. HE WOULD HOLD HIS BREATH AND DIVE DOWN INTO THE UNKNOWN.

SARA AND ALI LOVE HEARING THE TALES OF HIS DAYS SURROUNDED BY BLUE SKIES AND BLUE WATERS. HIS LIFE WAS FILLED WITH SHARKS AND SALTY BRINE. IT WAS A LIFE OF RISKS, PATIENCE, AND COURAGE!

Artwork by: Marion Eisenmann

Written by Fatema Al-Malki

Qatar still celebrates the rich history of pearl diving in cultural events such as Al Muhamel, Qatar Marine Festival, and Senyar Festival.

*Boat **Shoals

