



# THE OLD VILLAGE AND THE SEA



QATAR AND THE SEA ARE DEEPLY CONNECTED, AND THERE ARE STILL OLD FISHING VILLAGES SCATTERED LIKE SHELLS ALONG THE NORTHERN COAST. SARA AND ALI DECIDE TO VISIT AL JUMAIL, AN ABANDONED VILLAGE THAT DATES BACK TO THE 19TH CENTURY.

THEY WANDER AROUND THE REMAINS, EXPLORING THE PROUD MOSQUE AND MINARET. THEY FIND SCATTERED FISH BONES, STONE FISH TRAPS, AND TRADITIONAL DOORWAYS. THE GROUND SPARKLES WITH BITS OF POTTERY, BEADS AND BROKEN GLASS - LITTLE ECHOES OF A LIFE LIVED MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY AGO.

THE VILLAGE WAS ABANDONED IN THE SEVENTIES, BUT SARA AND ALI CAN PICTURE THE PEARL DIVERS AND FISHERMEN WHO LIVED HERE BY THE SEA TO EARN A LIVING. THEY LOOK AT THE THICK WALLS, BUILT WITH LIMESTONE, CORAL ROCK, AND COMPRESSED MUD TO KEEP THE HEAT OUT, AND THE SURROUNDING TREES THAT GAVE THE VILLAGE ITS NAME, AND TAKE A DEEP BREATH. THE PAST SMELLS LIKE SALTY OCEAN AIR.

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Al Khor's harbor is still the country's center for pearl diving and fishing. There are other important fishing villages like Al Khuwair, Al Areesh, and Freiha (5 km north of Zubarah).

