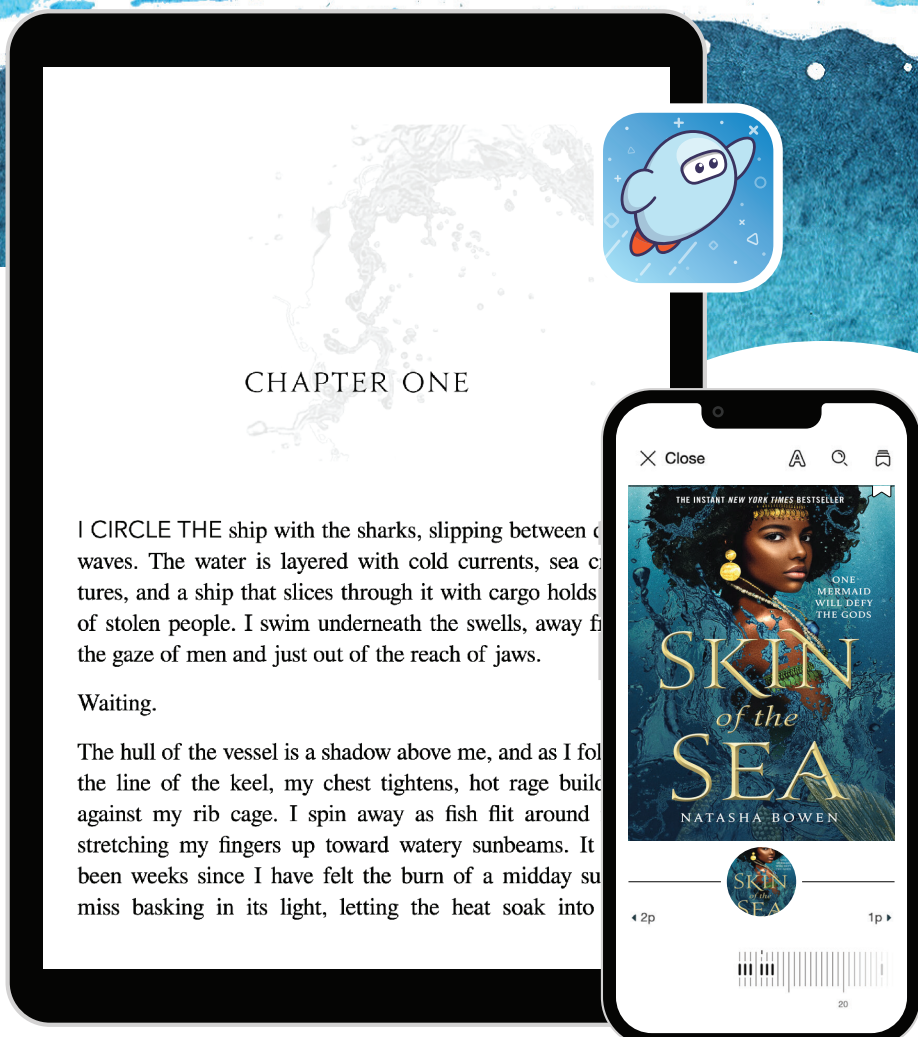


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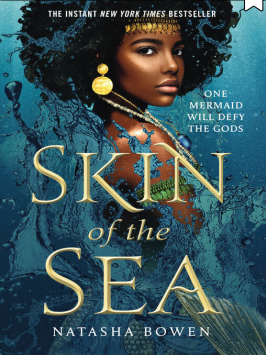
## CHAPTER ONE

I CIRCLE THE ship with the sharks, slipping between waves. The water is layered with cold currents, sea creatures, and a ship that slices through it with cargo holds of stolen people. I swim underneath the swells, away from the gaze of men and just out of the reach of jaws.

Waiting.

The hull of the vessel is a shadow above me, and as I follow the line of the keel, my chest tightens, hot rage building against my rib cage. I spin away as fish flit around stretching my fingers up toward watery sunbeams. It has been weeks since I have felt the burn of a midday sun, miss basking in its light, letting the heat soak into

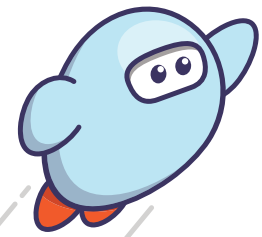
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