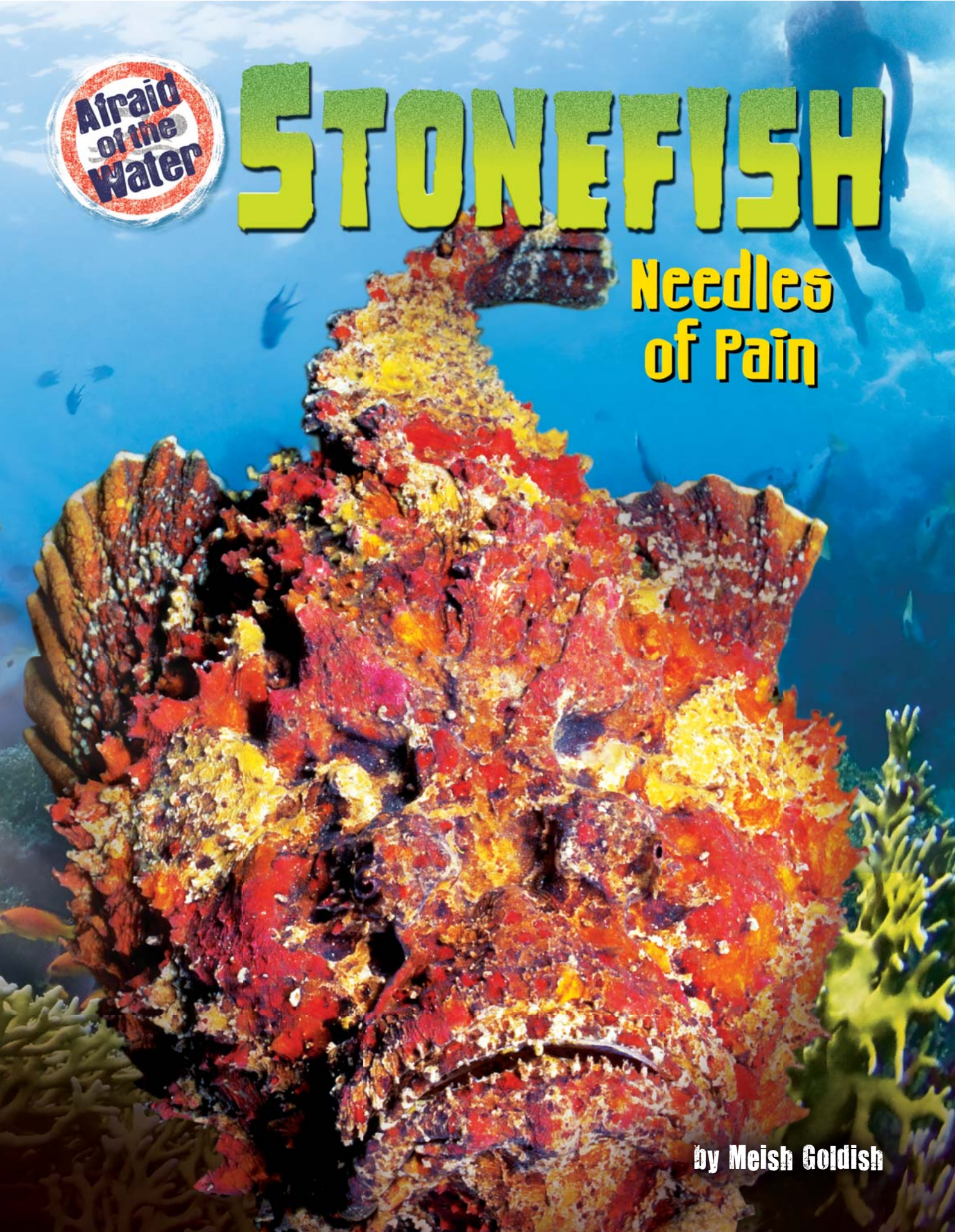




STONEFISH

Needles
of Pain



by Meish Goldish

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Needles of Pain



by Meish Goldish

Consultant: Brian Nelson, Senior Aquarist
New England Aquarium
Boston, Massachusetts

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Contents

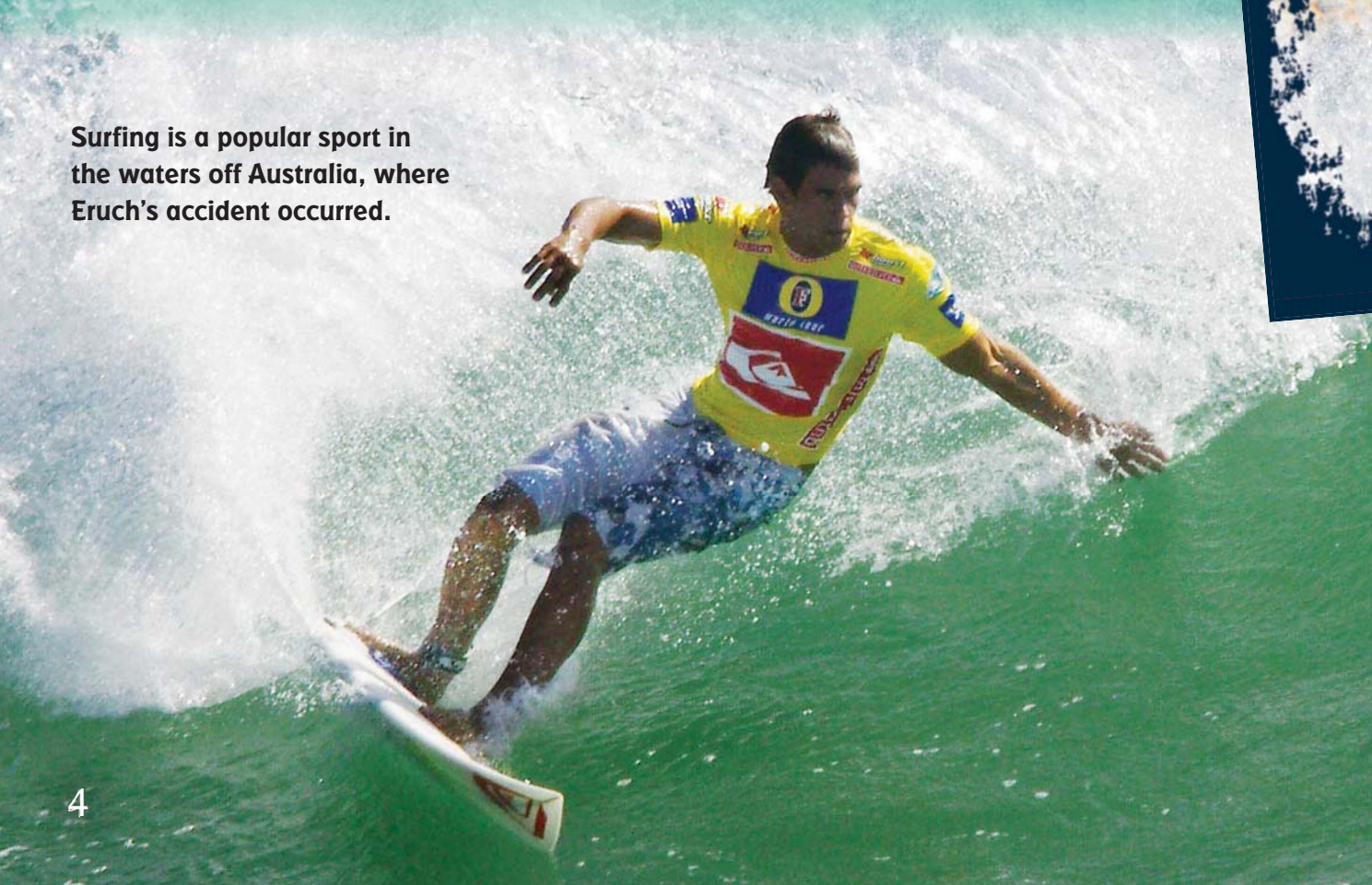
A Painful Step	4
Racing for Help.....	6
What's in a Name?.....	8
A Hidden Danger	10
Unlucky 13	12
Tricky Hunters.....	14
Stonefish Homes.....	16
Baby Stonefish	18
In Case of a Sting	20
Other Things That Sting.....	22
Glossary	23
Index.....	23
Bibliography.....	24
Read More.....	24
Learn More Online.....	24
About the Author	24

A Painful Step

In 2008, Eruch Rowan and a friend were **surfing** off the coast of Australia. After riding a wave, Eruch jumped off his board in a shallow part of the water. His foot landed on something hard and sharp. He looked down and saw that he had stepped on a stonefish—one of the most **venomous** sea creatures in the ocean. The needle-like points on the fish's body had **punctured** his middle toe.

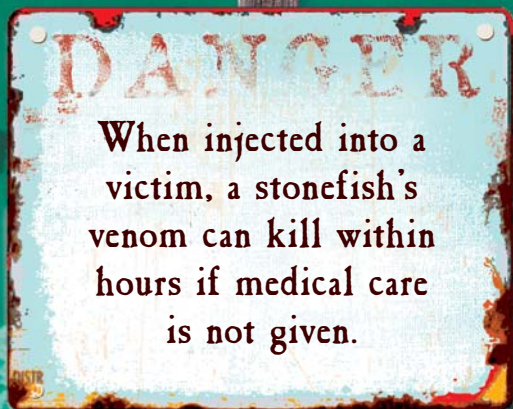
After about 30 seconds, Eruch felt a terrible pain. "It was like a burning sensation, and at the same time a feeling like my foot had been crushed by a sledgehammer," he said later. As the pain grew greater, Eruch knew he needed help fast.

Surfing is a popular sport in the waters off Australia, where Eruch's accident occurred.





Eruch stepped on a stonefish about 11 inches (28 cm) long, similar to the one shown here.



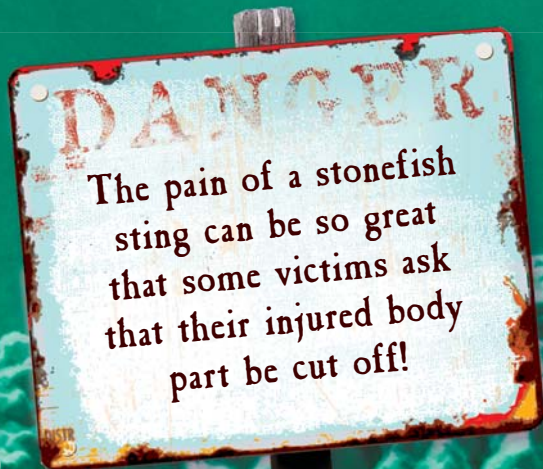
Racing for Help

Eruch got out of the water quickly. He was driven to a nearby building where lifeguard Rob Adsett jumped into action. He placed Eruch's foot in a bucket of hot water to break down and weaken the venom. He also gave Eruch **oxygen**. The great pain caused by a stonefish sting can make victims breathe too quickly and pass out. Giving the victims oxygen helps them control their breathing. Eruch then went to the hospital to be checked by a doctor.

After returning home, Eruch still had a swollen foot and chest pains for days. Yet he was lucky. The emergency treatment he received from Rob had saved his life.



Lifeguard Rob Adsett (left) was able to help Eruch (right) after he was stung by a stonefish.



Even a dead stonefish can pass on its venom to a person who steps on it.

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Learn More Online

To learn more about stonefish, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/AfraidoftheWater

About the Author

Meish Goldish has written more than 200 books for children.
He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

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Eruch Rowan and a friend were surfing off the coast of Australia. After riding a wave, Eruch jumped off his board in a shallow part of the water. His foot landed on something hard and sharp. After about 30 seconds, he felt a terrible, burning pain. Eruch had stepped on a stonefish—a dangerous, venomous sea animal.

A stonefish looks scary—and it is! Look inside for the surprising truth about how dangerous this fish really is. You'll also find out where it lives, what it eats—and how to stay safe if you meet up with one in the water.

BLUE-RINGED OCTOPUS
SMALL BUT DEADLY

BOX JELLYFISH
KILLER TENTACLES

MORAY EEL
DANGEROUS TEETH

PORTUGUESE MAN-OF-WAR
FLOATING MISERY

SHARK
THE SHREDDER

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