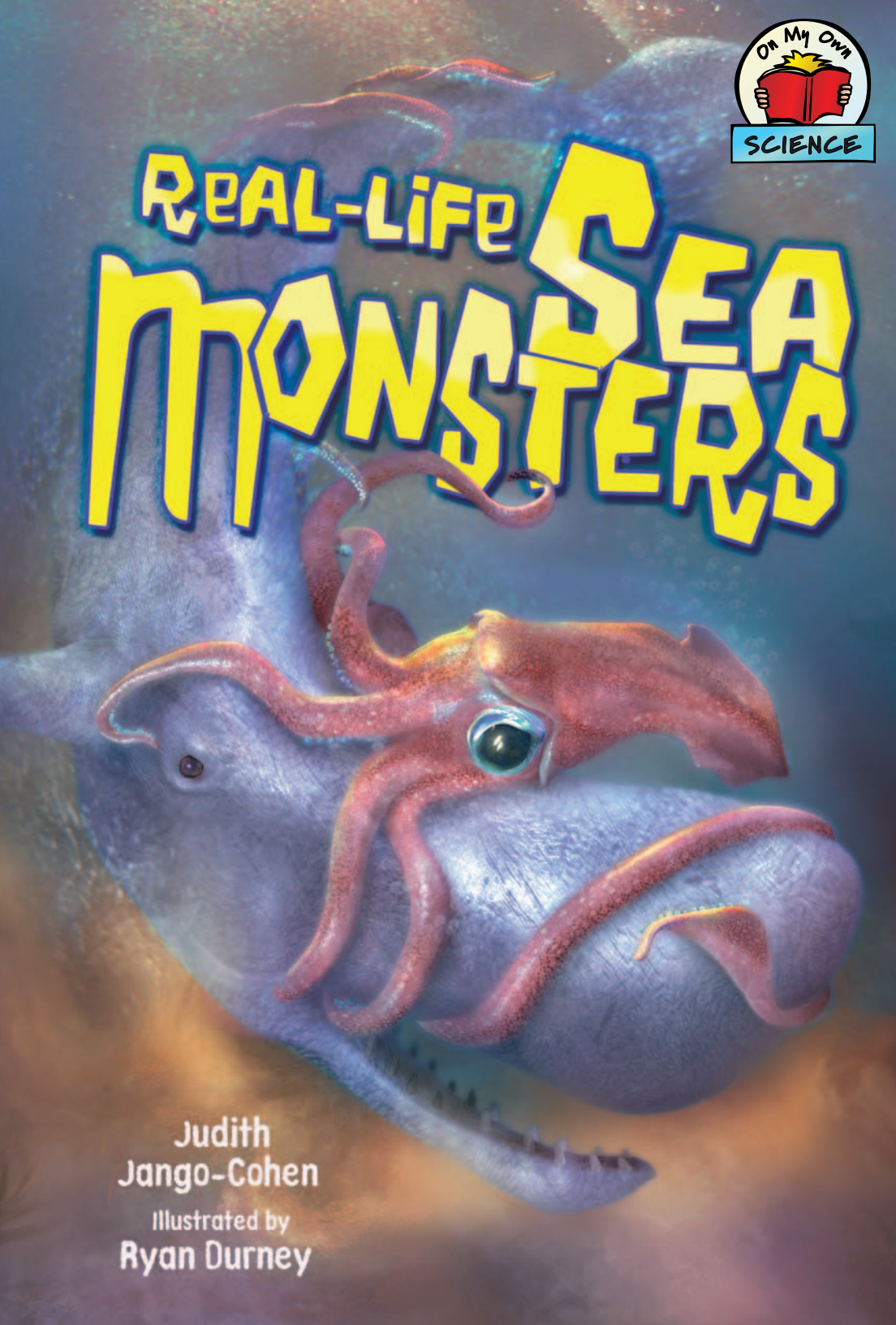




# REAL-LIFE SEA MONSTERS



Judith  
Jango-Cohen

Illustrated by  
Ryan Durney

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**M** Millbrook Press/Minneapolis

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*To Eliot—who helps me slay my monsters*

*Thanks to Professor John Olney, ichthyologist at  
the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point,  
and to Carol Hinz, editor, for her enthusiastic partnership*

*—J.J.-C.*

*To my cousin, Danny Bardell, who was more like a brother  
to me. I will always remember the fun we had at the ocean,  
jumping the waves and running from jellyfish.*

*—R.D.*





## *Introduction*

Once upon a time,  
sailors whispered strange stories.  
They told tales about monsters  
with terrible tentacles that tackled ships.  
They warned of creatures that whipped  
waves into storms.  
They spoke of sea serpents with  
sharp fangs and bloodred eyes.  
Do sea monsters like this truly exist?  
Or do they live only in the world of stories?  
Read on and learn the truth behind the tales.



## *The Mighty Kraken*

*Curious sailors stare into the black,  
bubbling sea.*

*What kind of creature is hiding beneath?  
Suddenly, a beast rises from the waves.*

*The sailors freeze in horror.*

*It is the mighty Kraken.*

*The Kraken's glowing eyes glare at  
the sailors.*

*Its 10 slimy arms squirm like  
angry snakes.*

*The monster lunges and lashes out  
its arms.*

*It snatches the ship.*

*Then the mighty Kraken slowly sinks  
beneath the sea.*





No one has proven that this ship-sinking  
sea creature exists.

But scientists do know of a huge animal  
that looks like the Kraken.

This animal sometimes washes up onshore.



The largest body ever measured was  
57 feet long.

That's about the length of 10 adults  
lying head to toe.

This amazing creature is the giant squid.







What else may be living in the dark,  
deep seas?

About 250 years ago, a scientist said  
that the ocean hides many things.

That also means that there is much  
for us to find.

## Glossary

**calves (CAVZ):** baby manatees

**fin (FIN):** a thin body part that helps fish move, balance, and steer

**flippers (FLIP-purz):** wide, flat body parts that help underwater animals swim and eat

**mammals (MAH-mulz):** warm-blooded animals that have backbones, fur or hair on their bodies, give birth to live young, and make milk to feed their young

**marine (muh-REEN):** something relating to the sea

**oxygen (OX-i-gin):** a chemical that mammals need to breathe in the air

**predator (PREH-duh-tur):** an animal that hunts and eats other animals

**snouts (SNOWTZ):** noses

**species (SPEE-sees):** a type of animal

**tentacles (TEN-tih-kulz):** long, armlike body parts that animals use for feeling or grasping food and other objects

**whalers (WALE-urz):** people who work on a ship hunting whales

## Fun Facts about Sea Monsters

A squid called the colossal squid has swiveling hooks on its suckers. Scientists believe it may be even larger than the giant squid.

Scientists know more about many dinosaurs than they do about the giant squid.

In September 2005, Japanese researchers became the first scientists to photograph a living giant squid. Their robotic camera took the pictures almost 3,000 feet below the surface of the North Pacific Ocean.

Female manatees will adopt a baby manatee that has lost its mother. They will stay close to it, protect it, and feed it their milk.

Scientists believe that ancient relatives of manatees were land animals closely related to elephants.

Some kinds of manatees have elephant-like “toenails” on the tips of their flippers.

Part of the scientific name for the oarfish—*Regalecus*—comes from a Latin word meaning “royal.” Japanese fishermen call it king of the palace under the sea.

A relative of the oarfish scares off predators by producing an electric shock. Scientists do not know if the oarfish can do the same.

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Creature Feature: West Indian Manatees

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In Search of Giant Squid

<http://seawifs.gsfc.nasa.gov/squid.html>

Monsters of the Deep

<http://www.seasky.org/monsters/sea7a.html>

Oarfish

<http://www.amonline.net.au/FISHES/fishfacts/fish/rglesne.htm>



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LONG AGO, SAILORS TOLD TALES ABOUT TERRIBLE MONSTERS THAT LURKED IN THE SEA. Many of their stories may have been based on amazing—but real—sea creatures. Giant squid catch their food with tentacles and fight huge sperm whales. Manatees breathe air and must eat 100 pounds of food every day. Fifty-foot-long oarfish have silvery, snakelike bodies. What monsters could they have inspired? Find out more about these real-life sea monsters and the scary stories sailors told about them!



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