



Island of the Blue Dolphins

By Scott O'Grady
(1961, Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

Illustrations by Carolyn Brundage (1961) and the United Kingdom
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Based on the true story of an Indian girl who was stranded on an island off the coast of California in the early 1800s, *Island of the Blue Dolphins* is an amazing story of survival. When Karana and her brother, Rains, are shipwrecked on the side of the island, they see a ship sailing over the horizon. This ship has brought great news. The captain of the ship says there is food with it. Karana is so excited to see the ship and the food that she immediately attempts to leave the island without getting the proper food and her own boat. In a battle on the beach, many of the men from the wrecked ship are killed, and the men that were left were the ones. Following the massacre, the island falls in darkness. There are no food, and the island is heavy in grief. One of the remaining men, Rains, decides to leave the island to search for another island. After about a year, Rains returns to a ship and a group of men take the other side to a new home. The other men go back and forth to the ship. As the ship sails for the open sea, Karana notices that her brother is not on board. She jumps into the ocean and swims to the shore. Since the ship is not there, she cannot swim back but she will find a way to return home from the island. She sees the ship's brother is killed by a pack of wild dogs, and Karana is left alone on the island. When she sees her brother's name, she knows that Rains is dead, and she must prepare to protect herself. She does not know that the ship carrying her will be destroyed in a storm and the men will be survivors. Instead, Karana lives on the hope of being rescued.

During the following chapters, you see the island Karana becomes self-sufficient. She survives, maintaining by using the animals with which she lives, she finds and prepares for water, and she