

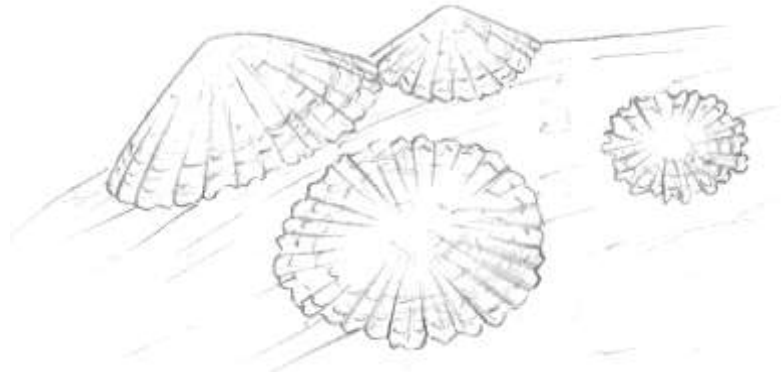


Tales of the tides

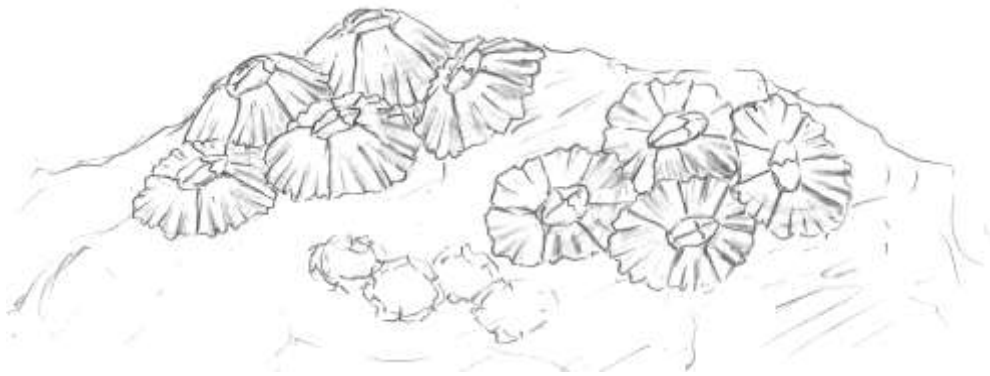
C D Pressdee

Two thirds of our planet is covered by the sea; two thirds of the planet remains largely undiscovered. Hans Haas

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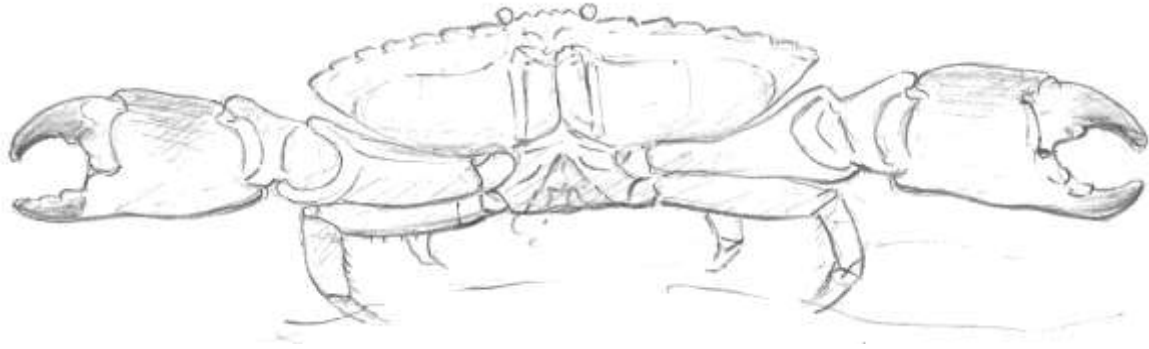
In the 1950s a shy young boy Jason arrives for a holiday in a seaside village... He has never seen the sea but has heard fascinating stories of catching prawns and crabs on the low tide. With a present of a new prawning net he sets out to discover the creatures of the sea shore.



*It was my thirtieth birthday to heaven
Woke to my hearing from harbour and neighbour wood
And the mussel pooled and the heron
Priested shore
The morning beckon
With water praying and call of seagull and rook
October – Dylan Thomas*



He finds a mentor in Joe, an old man who was once the local expert crab fisher, and company of Abby, a young Australian girl on vacation. She suspects something is amiss with her new friend and makes him open up on his worst experiences. He becomes adept at catching crabs, prawns and even a lobster.



'He thought: Poets live and walk with their poems; I must go home and sit in my bedroom by the boiler. But he was not a poet living and walking, he was a young man in a sea town on a warm bank holiday, with two pounds to spend; he had no visions, only two pounds and a small body with feet on the littered sand; serenity was for old men ...'

'one warm Saturday' - Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man – Dylan Thomas



I have been taught the script of the stones, and know the tongue of the wave.
Vernon Watkins

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Back / inside cover

In the 1950s a shy young boy Jason arrives for a holiday in a seaside village to stay with middle aged relatives. He has never seen the sea but has heard fascinating stories of catching prawns and crabs on the low tide. With a present of a new prawning net he sets out to discover the creatures of the sea shore. He loves the freedom and solitude of the low tide, as secretly, he is escaping from his nightmare life, having been bullied in school. He finds a mentor in Joe, an old man who was once the local expert crab fisher, and company of Abby, a young Australian girl on vacation. She suspects something is amiss with her new friend and makes him open up on his worst experiences. They discover a secret place that's inhabited by a huge conger eel and a large lobster, and establish a friendly protective relationship with these marine creatures. He becomes adept at catching crabs, prawns and even a lobster. But his holiday is soon over, and reluctantly he has to return home to the Midlands and face another term in school.

C D Pressdee was brought up in Mumbles and spent his childhood on the shores of the Gower peninsula. After university he established some very successful restaurants specialising in fresh seafood. He progressed into broadcasting, partaking in many series on the BBC, ITV and UKTV. He wrote regularly for the Western Mail, Daily Post, The Times and Financial Times and many others. His food books include Streetwise Cookery, Welsh Coastal Cookery, Food Wales and London Oyster Guide. Earlier fiction titles are Devil's Recipe and Reflections of a Vampire. This is his first work of fiction for children and younger people.

