

A magnifying glass is held over a corkboard. The corkboard has several items pinned to it: a black and white photograph of a person's face, a photograph of a large, rounded object, a photograph of a stone wall with a dark rock in the foreground, and a photograph of a white lattice structure. There are also several yellow sticky notes. One sticky note has the text "UFO?" and another has "giants?". The magnifying glass is positioned over the text "MYSTERIOUS OBJECTS" which is written in large, bold, red, 3D-style letters. The background is dark, and the corkboard is light brown.

MYSTERIOUS OBJECTS

UFO?

giants?

EMILY SCHLESINGER

A magnifying glass is held over a corkboard. The corkboard has several items pinned to it: a black and white photograph of a mountain range, a photograph of a rocky landscape, a photograph of a stone wall, and a photograph of a metal structure. There are also several yellow sticky notes. One sticky note says "UFO?", another says "giants?". The magnifying glass is focused on the text "MYSTERIOUS OBJECTS" which is written in large, bold, red letters with a 3D effect. The background is dark, and the corkboard is light brown.

MYSTERIOUS OBJECTS

UFO?

giants?

EMILY SCHLESINGER

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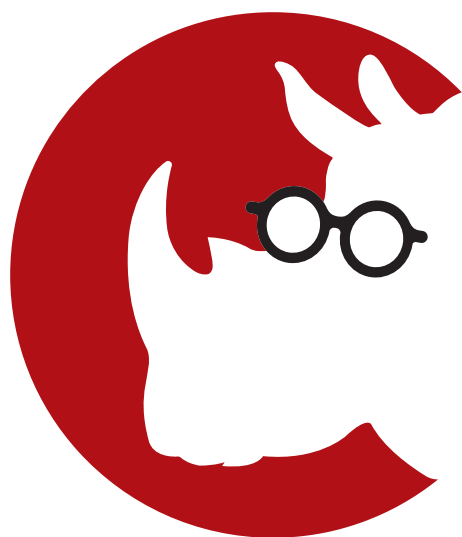




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A wooden plank with text on it, set against a background of a boat's interior and the sea. The plank is dark brown and has a rough, weathered texture. The text is white and blue. The background shows a dark interior of a boat on the left and a bright blue sea on the right. A fishing rod is visible on the right side of the image.

Chapter 1

ALIEN POD

A man went out fishing.
The sea was calm.
His boat bobbed.
Then he saw something.
An **orb** rose from the water.
It floated far away.

Maybe it was a boat.
But that did not seem right.
The shape was odd.
It looked more like a large balloon.



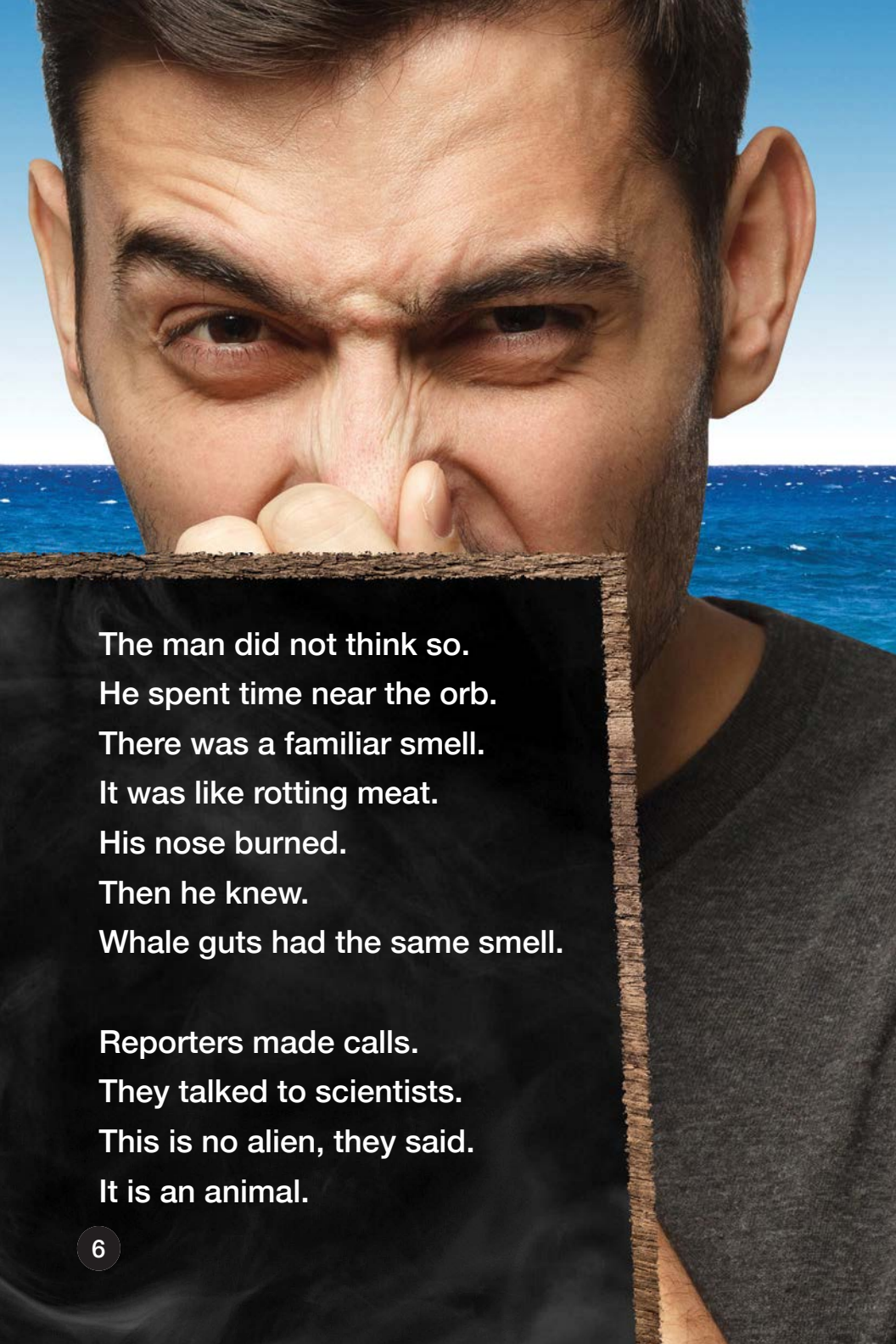
The man slowly rowed closer.
He got a better view.
The object was like nothing he had ever seen.
Delicate ribs lined it.
They were ghostly white.
Inside, a faint pink glowed.
It looked like a giant brain.



He took a photo.
It made headlines.
Some said he found an *alien* pod.

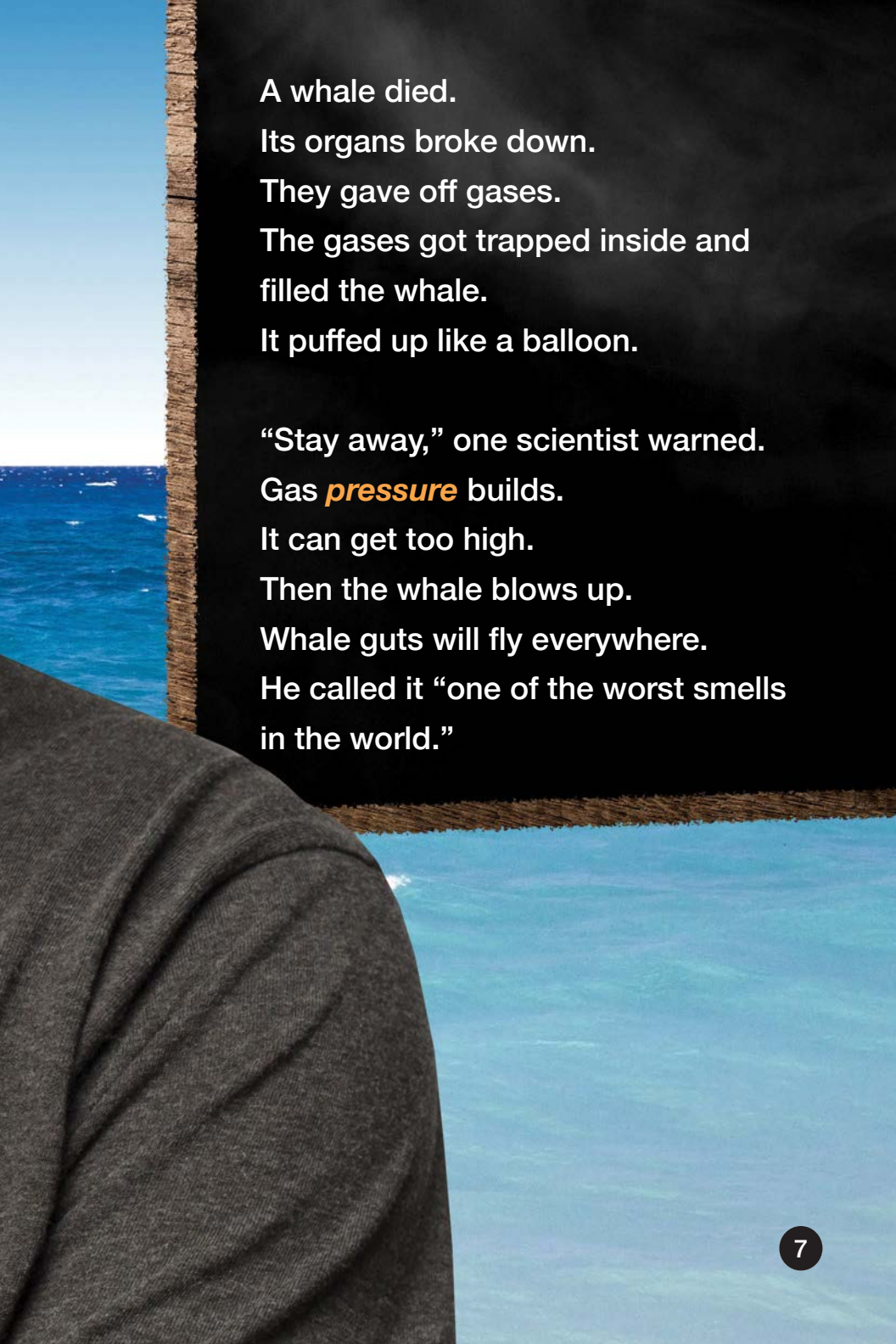
People around the world saw it.
They wanted to know more.
Was it really an alien?



A close-up photograph of a man's face, showing a look of intense discomfort or pain. He is holding a wooden plank horizontally across his nose, with his fingers pressed against it. His eyes are squinted and his forehead is wrinkled. The background consists of a clear blue sky and a bright blue ocean. The text is overlaid on a black rectangular area in the lower-left portion of the image.

The man did not think so.
He spent time near the orb.
There was a familiar smell.
It was like rotting meat.
His nose burned.
Then he knew.
Whale guts had the same smell.

Reporters made calls.
They talked to scientists.
This is no alien, they said.
It is an animal.

A person's shoulder in a grey sweater is visible in the bottom left corner, looking out at the ocean from a boat. The background is a bright blue sky and a deep blue ocean. The text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular area.

A whale died.
Its organs broke down.
They gave off gases.
The gases got trapped inside and
filled the whale.
It puffed up like a balloon.

“Stay away,” one scientist warned.
Gas **pressure** builds.
It can get too high.
Then the whale blows up.
Whale guts will fly everywhere.
He called it “one of the worst smells
in the world.”



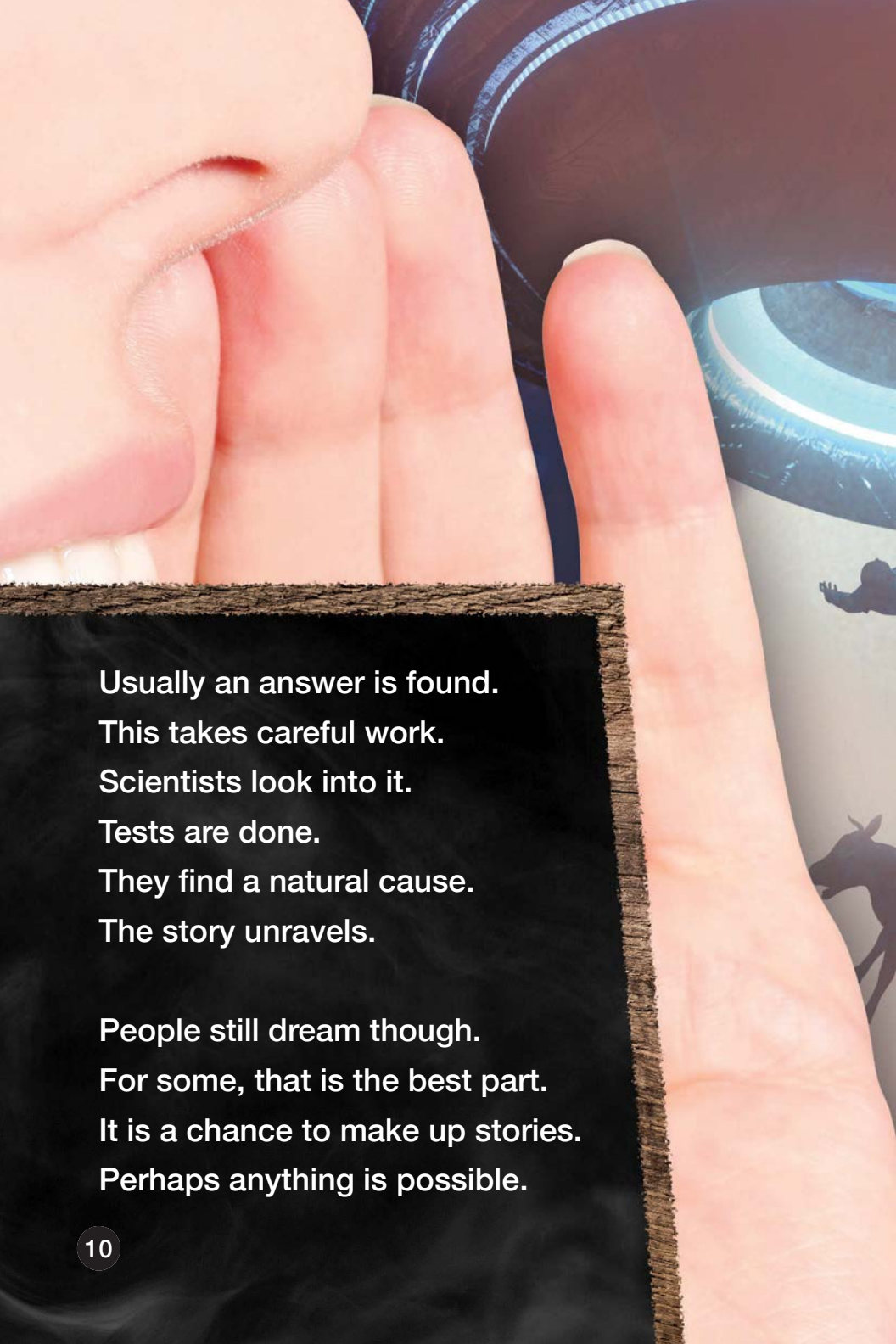
Chapter 2
MYSTERIOUS POSSIBILITIES

The pod did not come from aliens.
Some people were relieved.
Others felt let down.
Many dream of other worlds.
This idea has a pull.
People crave a good story.
It is a break from everyday life.



Mysterious objects turn up.
This happens all the time.
Someone digs up an odd item.
A disk may appear in the sky.
No one can explain it.

A **mystery** can last for years.
People are stumped.
Wild stories spread.
“It is an alien.”
“There is a ghost.”
“I saw a UFO.”



Usually an answer is found.
This takes careful work.
Scientists look into it.
Tests are done.
They find a natural cause.
The story unravels.

People still dream though.
For some, that is the best part.
It is a chance to make up stories.
Perhaps anything is possible.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a brown folder. The folder has a white note pinned to it with a silver paperclip. The background is a collage of images related to UFOs, including a blue circular object in the sky, a person falling, and a dark, elongated object.

CASE FILES

UFO stands for
“unidentified flying object.”
There have been reports of
UFOs all over the world.