

SAGE COOKSON'S

Fishy Surprise

SALLY MURPHY



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Fishy
Suprise

First published in Australia 2016
by New Frontier Publishing Pty Ltd
ABN 67 126 171 757
48 Ross Street, Glebe NSW 2037, Australia
www.newfrontier.com.au

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Illustrations by Celeste Hulme

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National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry
Creator: Murphy, Sally, author.
Title: Sage Cookson's Fishy Surprise / Sally Murphy ; illustrated by Celeste Hulme.

ISBN: 9781925059755 (paperback)
Series: Murphy, Sally. Sage Cookson.
Target Audience: For primary school age.
Subjects: Fishes--Juvenile fiction.
Motion pictures--Juvenile fiction.
Cooking--Juvenile fiction.
Other Creators/Contributors:
Hulme, Celeste, illustrator.

Dewey Number: A823.4

Cover illustration and design by Celeste Hulme

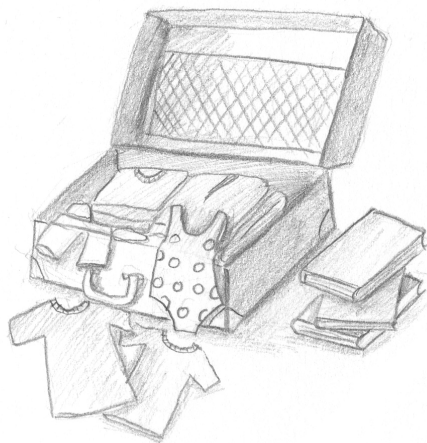
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CHAPTER 1



But I don't know what to paaaaack,' my friend Lucy wails down the phone.

I laugh. 'Don't panic. You can always borrow my stuff if you forget anything. I'm just so glad you're coming with us!'

I switch the phone to my other ear as I look around my bedroom, making sure I haven't forgotten anything in my own packing. 'It will be nice and warm at Crystal Bay, so you won't need much.' I glance at my

suitcase. 'I've packed my swimmers, shorts, t-shirts, pyjamas ...'

'Sounds good,' Lucy says. 'But how many books can I bring?'

I laugh. Lucy loves reading, and I know she never goes anywhere without one. It is typical of her to be more worried about books than clothing.

'Just a couple,' I say. 'You'll be too busy having fun to have much time for reading.' I glance at the pile of books I have next to my own suitcase. 'Better make it three,' I add. 'One for each plane trip and one for in between. If we run out, we can always read each other's.' We love to swap books.

'Good plan,' says Lucy. 'So that's three books and a bunch of clothes. Anything else?'

'Just yourself!' I say, jumping up and down with excitement. 'It's so cool that

your parents said yes. We are going to have the best time ever.'

As the daughter of the famous Cooksons, from the television sensation *The Cooksons Cook On*, I get to travel a lot. Pretty much wherever my parents go, I go too. Usually this means that my best friend Lucy and I spend a lot of time apart. But on this trip, for the first time ever, Lucy is coming with us.

Her parents weren't too keen at first, but Mum convinced them that we would take good care of Lucy. Plus we're on school holidays now anyway, so Lucy won't be missing school. So she is busy packing, and soon we'll be busy having fun together, instead of keeping in touch by email and text message like we usually do.

Thinking of text messages makes me remember something. 'Make sure you pack

your phone charger,' I tell Lucy. 'You don't want your phone battery to go flat.'

Lucy laughs. 'Thanks. But this time I won't need to message you.'

I smile. 'That's true. But isn't there anyone else you'll want to stay in touch with?'

Lucy starts to say 'no' then giggles. 'Oops. Almost forgot about my folks. I guess Mum will be waiting to hear from me –'

'Lucy!' I hear her mum calling in the background, right on cue.

'Speaking of which ...' says Lucy down the line. 'Looks like I'd better go and spend some time with them before it's time to go. See you soon.'

I hang up and turn back to my packing. This is going to be the best trip yet. And I'm sure that nothing will go wrong this time. On the last trip I was accused of stealing a ring, and on the trip before I got lost in the