Island of the Blue Dolphins

by Scott O'Dell
Chapter 1...........What will happen to Karana's Island?
Chapter 2-3.......Karana wants to keep her island safe.
Chapter 4-5 ......Karana's life has changed forever.
Chapter 6-7.......Karana's life will change again.
Chapter 8-9.......Life is hard on the Island.
Chapter 10-11...Karana is alone.
Chapter 12-13...Karana learns to survive.
Chapter 14-15...Wild dogs live on the Island.
Chapter 16-17...Karana and Rontu live on the Island.
Chapter 18-19...Karana loves the Island of the Blue Dolphins
Chapter 20-21...Karana feels safe on the Island.
Chapter 22-23...Karana makes a new friend.
Chapter 24-25...The animals are Karana's family now.
Chapter 26-27...Karana has a new pet.
Chapter 28-29...Karana wonders if she will ever leave the Island.
Chapter 1 Vocabulary

Karana

island

Ramo

girl

brother

father
Chapter 2-3 Vocabulary

dolphins

fish

village

east

north

safe.
Chapter 4-5 Vocabulary

men

women

winter

spring

sister

family

ship
Chapter 6-7

food

weather

stormy

beach
Chapter 8-9

dogs

weapons

small

Life
Chapter 10-11

fall

fire

alone.

stars

otters
Chapter 12-13

tools

survive

tusks

Review:
Chapter 14-15

water

wild dogs

Review:

weapons

food

fish
Chapter 16-17

Rontu

friend.

pet

octopus
Chapter 20-21

feathers

cooking.

Review:

food

fish

fall
Chapter 22-23

Review Words

friend.

large

ship

otters
Chapter 24-25

animals

moon

time

seasons

night
Chapter 26-27

- drink
- hot
- thunder
- earthquake
- Rontu-Aru
Chapter 28-29

wonders

leave

walks

cloud
Chapter 1

Karana is a young girl who lives on the island of Ghalas-at. She has a brother named Ramo. One day, Karana and Ramo see a ship coming to their village on the island. A group of strangers land on their island. The leader of the strangers is Captain Orlov. He is a Russian who has come to the island to hunt otter. Karana wants to know more about the strangers.

What will happen to Karana's island?
Karana's father is the chief of the village. His name is Chowig. Karana finds a place to listen to Chowig talk to the Russian captain. When Chowig introduces himself to the Russian captain, he tells him his secret name. Karana is surprised that her father tells Orlov his secret name.

The people of her tribe believed that telling your secret name was bad luck.

What will happen to Karana's island?
All of the people in Karana's tribe have a secret name. They use one name in everyday life and they keep one a secret. Her tribe believes that if you use the secret name too much, it will lose its magic. Karana's name for everyday use is Won-a pe-lei meaning "the Girl with the Long Black Hair." Karana is sad that her father told Orlov his secret name.

What will happen to Karana's island?
Chowig begins to argue with Orlov. Chowig is angry about another hunting trip that caused problems on Ghalas-at. Chowig and Orlov finally agree that they will share the otters. Karana has been listening to them from a spot on a cliff above the beach. Suddenly, a rock falls from the cliff, and Karana runs back to the village. Now, Karana is sad and worried about the island.

What will happen to Karana's island?
Karana loves her island. She names it the island of the blue dolphins. It is shaped like a fish. The winds on the island are strong. Because of the strong winds, the hills are smooth and the trees are small and twisted. The village of Ghalas-at is east of the hills.

The Russian hunters, named Aleuts, set up their camp to the north of the hills. Karana hopes that the hunters will not harm her island. Karana wants to keep her island safe.
Chowig warns the people of Ghalas-at that they must be careful around the Aleuts. He says that many years ago they caused trouble on the island. The villagers always have someone watching the Aleut camp. Karana and the people of the village do not want trouble on their island.

Karana wants to keep her island safe.
One day, the people of Ghalas-at discover a school of large bass that had washed up on the beach. Large bass are fish that people can eat.

The Aleuts come and ask for a share of the fish, but Chowig says, "No." Angry and disappointed, the Aleuts return to their camp. Seeing how angry they are, Karana thinks that there will soon be trouble on the island.

Karana wants to keep her island safe.
The Aleuts have come to the island of the blue dolphins to hunt otter for their pelts. Pelts are otter skins that people use for clothing.

Karana is angry with the Aleuts, because they are mean to the otters when they hunt. Karana does not like to see the otters get hurt. She does not want the Aleuts to take all of the otters from the island.

Karana wants to keep her island safe.
Chowig knows that Karana is upset. He tells her that the Aleuts will go away soon. He says that when they go, the otters will come back to the island. Chowig and the other people of the village notice that the Aleuts are starting to pack up their camp. They are happy to see them go. But, Chowig thinks that the Aleuts will try to sneak away in the night without paying for the otter they took. Karana does not want the Aleuts to steal the otters.

Karana wants to keep her island safe.
Chapter 4-5

The Aleuts pack up their camp and prepare to leave the island. The men of the village go to the beach to make sure the Aleuts pay them for the otter pelts. The women stay in the brush along the shore. The Aleuts give them 1 trunk of trinkets. Chowig says they must give 3 trunks. Chowig steps in the way of one of the Aleuts carrying pelts back to the ship, and a fight breaks out. Karana's father is killed and the Aleuts get away.

Karana's life has changed forever.
Now, only 15 men are left in the village. Before the fight, there were 42 men. The council chooses a new chief, Kimi, to take Chowig's place.

Kimi says that women must do the jobs that were once left only to men. Karana and her sister must now gather fish to eat.

Karana's life has changed forever.
The women are so good at their duties that soon they have gathered enough food for the winter. The men of Ghalas-at are mad because women are doing the work of men. Soon Kimki decides that men will go back to their old jobs again. Karana misses her father.

Karana's life has changed forever.
Winter makes the villagers very sad. They remember their friends and family that were killed by the Aleuts. Their sadness grows during the winter. In the spring, Kimki decides to go east. He wants to find a new place for the people of the village. He goes alone, but the people wonder if he will ever come back.

Karana's life has changed forever.
Chapter 6-7

The people of Ghalas-at wait for Kimki, but he does not return. Spring passes and comes again, but still Kimki does not return. The people have a new chief named Matasaip. Matasaip is worried that the Aleuts will come back. The people of Ghalas-at plan to escape if the Aleuts return. They put food and water in canoes and leave them at the bottom of a cliff so that they can get away quickly.

Karana’s life will change again.
One night, the people of the village think that the Aleuts have returned.

The villagers go to the canoes, but the man who gave the alarm says that the ship does not belong to the Aleuts. Matasaip goes with a few other men to see who is on the ship. Soon, a man returns with a message from Matasaip. He says that Kimki sent the ship to take them away from Ghalas-at. The villagers prepare to leave the island.

Karana's life will change again.
The villagers must hurry to pack for their journey. Soon the weather will be stormy and the ship will run into the rocks. As they go toward the beach, Ramo remembers that he has left his fishing spear at the village. Karana knows there is not enough time to go back to get it. She tells him he must leave it behind. When Karana first gets on the ship, she does not see Ramo. Then, Karana sees him on the island with his spear in his hand. Karana jumps off the ship and swims back to the island.

Karana's life will change again.
Chapter 8-9

The storm has grown strong. Karana and Ramo find rocks to keep them safe. In the village, they find wild dogs creeping in the huts.

The dogs have eaten most of the food. Karana and Ramo find a little food.

Life is hard on the island.
The next day, Karana and Ramo go to the beach to find food.

They wonder if the white men’s ship will ever return for them. Ramo put a canoe on the beach. They needed it to escape.

Life is hard on the island.
The next morning, Ramo is gone. Karana looks for him on the beach and in the village. Ramo is not there. Suddenly, she hears dogs barking. Karana goes toward the noise and finds that Ramo is dead. The bad dogs are all around him. She carries Ramo back to the village. Karana sits up all night by her brother's body. She is angry with the dogs. Karana is very sad.

Life is hard on the island.
Karana decides to leave the village forever. She waits for the white men's ship by the beach. She finds a rock to keep her safe from the wild dogs.

Karana looks for weapons to protect herself from the dogs. Then she remembers the black chest from the Aleuts. She finds it in the sand on the beach. The chest has bracelets and earrings, but no weapons. The chest reminds Karana of the fight with the Aleuts. Then, she throws the jewelry into the sea.

Life is hard on the island.
In her village, women were not allowed to make weapons. But now, Karana decides that she must make weapons to be safe. She makes a small spear and a bow and arrows from wood she finds on the island. Karana feels safe with her new weapons. She waits for the ship in the summer and the winter, but it does not come.

Life is hard on the island.
Chapter 10-11

During the long days of summer, Karana sits on the cliff, looking for the ship. Fall passes, then the first storm of winter comes. Now, Karana knows that the ship will not come until spring. The winter storms blow onto the rock where Karana sleeps. The dogs come the first night she sleeps there. She makes a fire to keep them back.

Karana kills three of them with her bow.

Karana is alone.
During the storm, Karana decides to look for her people. When the storm ends, she finds the canoe that Ramo put near the beach. Then, she leaves the island of the blue dolphins. The sea is rough and Karana is afraid, but she uses the stars to find her way. Then, her canoe begins to leak. Karana must get back to the island. Dolphins follow her canoe. The dolphins make Karana happy. For her people, dolphins are a sign of good luck.

Suddenly, she sees her island. She reaches the island, crawls onto the beach and falls asleep.

Karana is alone.
The next morning, Karana returns to the rock that kept her safe. She is happy to be back on the island. The island may have sad memories, but Karana knows she is safe there. Karana also knows that she will stay on the island until a ship takes her away.

Karana decides that she must build a house and a place to store food. She decides on a place where the otters are very noisy. She decides that the first thing she needs is a fence to keep her food supply safe from the dogs. Karana goes to the beach to find materials to build her new home.

Karana is alone.
Chapter 12-13

To build her fence, Karana uses the ribs of two whales that were on the beach. The house takes longer to build. There are so few trees on the island that grow straight or tall. After searching for a long time, Karana finds enough poles to build her house.

Karana learns to survive.
Karana feels safe in her new house. When animals come at night, they cannot get through the fence. Once her house is finished, Karana makes some tools from rocks. She makes a basket to hold water. She also makes shelves that will keep her food safe from gray mice. She has a place to live and food to eat.

Karana learns to survive.
Now that Karana's home is finished, she begins to think about the wild dogs. She has to kill them or else they will kill her, just as they killed Ramo. She makes a heavier bow and arrow. Now she needs a spearhead.

Sea elephant tusks make the best spearheads on the island. Karana needs the tusk of a sea elephant, but does not know if she will be able to get one. She must hunt for a sea elephant.

Karana learns to survive.
In the morning Karana goes to the beach. She watches the sea elephants, then tries to shoot the smallest one. She sneaks up and gets her bow ready. Karana takes her shot. The arrow misses. The small sea elephant is tackled by a larger sea elephant. They begin to fight. Karana tries to move out of their way and hurts her leg. As the sun sets, Karana's leg begins to hurt even more. She goes home to take care of her leg.

Karana learns to survive.
Karana cannot leave her home for five days. She must take care of her leg. Then, she runs out of water. She has to crawl to the spring, dragging her weapons behind her. On the way, the wild dogs begin to follow her.

Wild dogs live on the island.
Karana's bow scares the wild dogs. She reaches the spring, but the wild dogs come back. Then, Karana crawls into a cave to be safe from the wild dogs. She stays in the cave for six days. Next, Karana's leg gets better and she is able to go back to her home. She carries her weapons to keep her safe.

Wild dogs live on the island.
Karana makes the cave into a second home where she can stay if she is injured or sick. She knows her ancestors used the cave because it is filled with drawings. Karana makes shelves, baskets and a bed in the cave. Now, she has two homes to keep her safe from the wild dogs.

Wild dogs live on the island.
Karana returns to the beach. She finds the skeleton of a sea elephant. She uses the teeth to make spearheads. Karana makes new spears and arrows. Now, she is ready to attack the wild dogs.

The wild dogs on the island are very mean. Their leader is a large, gray dog with yellow eyes. This dog is bigger than the rest. Karana believes that the gray dog is an Aleut dog left on the island after the battle that killed her father. Now, Karana must try to attack the wild dogs.

Wild dogs live on the island.
Karana attacks the wild dogs. First, she builds a fire outside the dogs' cave. Second, she pushes it inside to fill the cave with smoke. Next, the dogs run out of the cave. Karana saves her arrows for the leader of the pack. When he comes, Karana hits him in the chest with an arrow. Then, she kills two other dogs with her arrows. Finally, Karana looks for the leader. He is gone, but Karana finds part of an arrow on the ground. She must find the leader of the wild dogs.

Wild dogs live on the island.
Karana finds the leader. He is very sick. She gets ready to shoot, but cannot kill him. Karana carries him back to her house. She takes out the arrow and cleans his wound. She gives him water and looks for food. When she returns, the dog is still alive. He has drunk all the water. Karana cleans his wound again and gives him food. That night she sleeps on the rock. She is afraid that the dog might attack.

Wild dogs live on the island.
The next day, Karana goes fishing. Then, she returns to her house. She gives the dog some fish. That night she sleeps on the rock again. Karana feeds the dog for three days. On the fourth day Karana does not see the dog at her fence. To her surprise, Karana is sad. She misses the dog. Then, she finds the dog in her house. He is nice to her. That night she sleeps inside the house. Karana names the dog Rontu. In her language, Rontu means Fox Eyes.

Wild dogs lived on the island.
Chapter 16-17

Spring and summer pass, and the white men's ship does not return. Karana wonders if the Aleuts will come back. If they do, she must have some way to escape. She makes a small canoe. All the time she works on the canoe, Rontu is with her. He has learned his name and the words for pelican (zalwit) and fish (naip). Karana talks to him just like a person. Rontu is her pet and her friend. Now, she is not so lonely on the island.

Karana and Rontu live on the island.
When they finish the canoe, Karana and Rontu take it around the island. They explore a cave near the headland (where Karana's house is).

The cave is very dark. Karana wonders if this is where the angry Tumaiyowit (a god of her peoples' legend) lives. She finds a rock that is a perfect place to keep her canoe safe. If the Aleuts return, she will find her canoe in the cave. Karana is excited about the cave. She asks Rontu if he is happy,

Karana and Rontu live on the island.
Rontu is busy watching an octopus in the water. Karana raises her spear to kill the tasty octopus, but it shoots out a cloud of ink and escapes. Karana wants to make a special spear to catch octopus. She will make the spear in the winter. Karana puts her canoe away for the winter. She thinks of the spring. She will return to the cave. Then, she and Rontu go home.

Karana and Rontu live on the island.
During the winter, Karana made a dress and a new spear. She wants to catch the octopus. When spring comes, she goes to Coral Cove to fish.

The cave with the octopus is in Coral Cove. Rontu does not go with her.

During the winter, dogs came to her house. Rontu cried and wanted to go with them. Karana let him go with the dogs. Rontu did not return. Now, Karana misses Rontu.

Karana and Rontu live on the island.
When Karana is done fishing, she goes home. On her way home, she hears dogs fighting in the woods. She follows the sound to a meadow. There, she finds Rontu fighting with two other dogs. Wild dogs are all around him. Rontu is hurt. Karana tries to shoot the dogs. But, Rontu wins the fight. Then, he runs into the woods. When Karana returns home, Rontu is waiting for her. He never leaves again. The wild dogs never return to the headland. Karana and Rontu live on the island.
In spring, birds and flowers are everywhere on the island of the blue dolphins. Karana takes two baby birds from their nest and makes a cage for them. When they grow too large, she clips their wings and lets them loose in the house. When their wings grow back, Karana does not clip them, but the birds never fly away. Karana names the larger bird Tainor, and the smaller one Lurai.

Karana loves the island of the blue dolphins.
In the summer, Karana makes a new skirt and a pair of sandals. She braids her hair and wears her new clothes when she walks on the beach. She makes wreaths for herself and for Rontu. When the white men do not return in the spring, Karana is not disappointed.

Karana loves the island of the blue dolphins.
In summer, Karana wants to catch an octopus. She tries, but cannot catch one. While she is gathering fish in the coral reef, Karana spots an octopus. She throws her spear at the octopus. This time, Karana hits the octopus! Karana pulls it onto the shore. Once the octopus is on land, Rontu attacks it. The octopus wraps its arms around Rontu, and the two fight. Karana and Rontu are able to kill it. Battered and bruised, Rontu and Karana go home. Karana sees two more giant octopus that summer, but she does not try to catch them. She is happy that she and Rontu caught one! Karana loves the island of the blue dolphins.
Chapter 20-21

Karana catches enough fish to eat in the winter. She sets them out to dry. She makes a net of shells to keep her food safe from the birds. With her winter food supply safe, Karana sets off to explore the island. She and Rontu go to the beach, the Black Cave, and Tall Rock.

Karana feels safe on the island.
One place that Karana and Rontu explore is Tall Rock. Tall Rock is covered with large birds. She kills many birds to get their feathers.

Karana wants to make a new skirt with the feathers.

Karana feels safe on the island.
Karana and Rontu also go to Black Cave. Black Cave is near the place where the people of Ghalas-at stored their canoes. Karana goes into the cave to explore. She and Rontu find a row of statues inside the cave. The eyes of the statues are made from sea shells. They look scary. When Karana wants to leave the cave, the water has covered the entrance. She and Rontu have to spend the night in the cave. The next day, Karana and Rontu leave the cave. They are happy to go home.

Karana feels safe on the island.
One day, while Karana is on Tall Rock, she sees a strange ship approaching the island. She knows that the ship will not land until morning. Karana goes to her cave and makes it look as if no one has lived there. The next day, she sees that the people have set up camp. She sees a girl cooking. Karana goes back to her cave and shuts the entrance. She wants the people to go away.

Karana feels safe on the island.
Karana goes out that night to watch the camp. She does not want the people to see her. Karana is afraid that the girl might find her house while looking for food or water. She collects some food and goes back to her cave. Karana is happy that the people have not found her.

Karana feels safe on the island.
When the people do not come to her cave, Karana moves outside to work. Then one day, a girl named Tutok wanders into the cave. Tutok speaks to Karana in a different language. The girl says "wintscha" to describe Karana's skirt. Wintscha means pretty. Karana lets the girl try on the skirt. Soon the girl leaves. Karana is afraid that she will return with more people. The next day, Karana finds a beautiful necklace made of black rocks left at the entrance of the cave.

Karana feels safe on the island.
Chapter 22-23

Karana does not take the necklace from the rock. She waits in the bushes nearby. Finally, Tutok appears. Karana calls out to Tutok. Karana compliments the beauty of the necklace. Tutok visits day after day.

Karana and Tutok become friends.

Karana makes a new friend.
Soon it is time for Tutok to leave the island. Karana makes a bracelet of shells for Tutok. The next day, Tutok does not return. Karana goes to the harbor to see if her ship is still there. She finds them loading up to go home. Then, Karana goes back to look for the ship. When she sees it is gone, she is happy. Now, she can roam freely on the island.

But she will miss Tutok.

Karana makes a new friend.
The hunters leave many hurt otters. Most die and float to shore. Karana finds a young otter that is hurt. She brings him to a tide pool that is safe. She feeds him with fish and he grows large. Karana names the otter Mon-a-nee. Mon-a-nee means "Little Boy with Large Eyes." After three days Karana returns to the tide pool. Karana sees that Mon-a-nee has gone back to the ocean. Karana is happy that Mon-a-nee is back in the ocean.

Karana makes a new friend.
Now that the hunters are gone, Karana moves back to her house. Karana makes a pair of earrings to go with the necklace Tutok gave her. On sunny days she wears them with her feather skirt and walks with Rontu by the cliffs. She misses Tutok and imagines talking with her.

Karana makes a new friend.
In the spring, when birds come back to the island, Tainro and Lurai build a nest near Karana's house. They have two babies and Karana trains them, too. Karana also finds a young gull that has fallen out of its nest and broken its leg. She mends the gull's leg, and as it heals, it starts to hobble around the yard. Karana is happy, but thinks often of Tutok. She also wonders what has become of her sister, Ulape. She wonders whether Ulape has a family.

The animals are Karana's family now.
Karana hunts to refill her food supply. If the Aleuts come again, she wants to have plenty of food ready. While fishing one day, Karana sees an otter following her. It is Mon-a-nee. Mon-a-nee has two babies. Karana renames her Won-a-nee, "Girl with the Large Eyes." She spends many days playing with Won-a-nee and her babies. Karana decides never to kill the animals again, "for animals and birds are like people, too, though they do not talk or do the same things."

The animals are Karana's family now.
The Aleuts never return to the island, but Karana still watches for them.

She makes more weapons and puts them around the island, to be ready if they return. The otters in Coral Cove now leave in the summer to hide somewhere on the island; they do not return until winter. When, one summer, the otters do not leave, Karana knows all of the otters that remember the Aleut hunters have died.

The animals are Karana's family now.
Karana does not mark the time that summer. Up until then, she had cut a mark in her house for every moon that passed since her brother was killed. Later, she had only marked the passing of seasons. This summer she makes no marks at all. She follows the ways of the animals when the seasons have changed.

The animals are Karana’s family now.
Late in the summer, Rontu dies. He whines to go out one night, and when he does not come back, Karana goes out to look for him. She finds him in the cave where the wild dogs used to live and carries him toward home. On the way, Karana and Rontu see a flock of gulls. Karana puts Rontu down, but he does not want to chase the birds. Soon afterward, he is dead. Karana buries him on the headland, covering his grave with colored pebbles and a stick he liked to chase.

The animals are Karana's family now.
Chapter 26-27

During the winter, Karana makes a trap to get another dog. She had seen one with gray fur and yellow eyes. She was sure it was Rontu son. Karana catches a number of wild dogs with her traps, but none have yellow eyes.

She remembers how to make animals go to sleep. First, she grinds sea shells and wild tobacco. Then, she puts it in the pond. When the dogs drink the water, they fall asleep. Karana finds the gray dog with the yellow eyes among the sleeping pack and brings him home.

Karana has a new pet.
Karana names the dog Rontu-Aru which means "Son of Rontu." The two become good friends. Karana and Rontu-Aru chase gulls and go to Tall Rock just as Karana did with Rontu. Karana is happy, but still thinks of Tutok and Ulape. Tutok is her friend, and Ulape is her sister. She is happy to have Rontu-Aru for friend.

Karana has a new pet.
When winter ends, the weather becomes very hot. One hot day on the beach, Karana wakes from an afternoon nap. She hears thunder. The water level around the island is low, and everything looks strange and different. Far away, Karana sees the top of a large wave. Soon the wave is crashing around her. She scrambles up a nearby cliff as quickly as she can, and watches as a second wave towers over the first. The second wave crashes against the cliff, and then washes back out to sea. She is worried about Rontu-Aru.

Karana has a new pet.
On her way back to her house, Karana notices many sea animals lying dead on the island. Rontu-Aru is glad to see Karana return. He follows her everywhere. Later that day, the earth begins to move beneath them.

They hurry home, and that night they listen to the sound of falling rocks around the island. They had an earthquake! The next morning, the earth is quiet. Karana is glad to have Rontu-Aru with her.

Karana has a new pet.
There is little damage to the island. But, she must fix her canoe.

Karana looks at the sky as she walks to the beach. There are dark clouds to the east. Under the dark clouds Karana sees a ship. The ship does not look like it belongs to the Aleuts or the white men.

Karana wonders what strange visitors have come to her island.

Karana wonders if she will ever leave the island.
The ship sends a man in a canoe to the shore. Soon the man has found Karana's canoe and her fire. She hears the man calling out to her.

She goes back to her house and dresses, then goes to the shore with Rontu-Aru. The men are not there when she gets to the beach.

Karana calls to the ship, but they do not hear her. She watches the ship until it disappears.

Karana wonders if she will ever leave the island.
Two springs later, the ship returns. Karana cannot sleep. She thinks that she may leave the island this time. She gets dressed in her best clothes. She goes back to her house and makes food for herself and Rontu-Aru. Rontu-Aru eats all of it while Karana thinks of her family. Karana wonders if she will ever leave the island.
The white men come to Karana's house. Even though the language they speak sounds funny to her, Karana is happy to hear a human voice.

Karana and the white men use sign language to talk to each other.

Karana goes with them to their camp. The white men make her a dress from two pairs of their pants. Karana does not like the dress, but she wears it. The men have come to hunt otter, but there are none. The men make plans to leave the island.

Karana wonders if she will ever leave the island.
They sail on the tenth day after the white men land. Karana watches her island disappear into the distance. The last thing she sees of her island is the headland where she lived. She sits with Rontu-Aru and two birds she has brought with her on the ship. She thinks of the happy days she spent on Ghalas-at. Dolphins swim before the ship as it sails.

Karana finally leaves the island of the blue dolphins.

The End