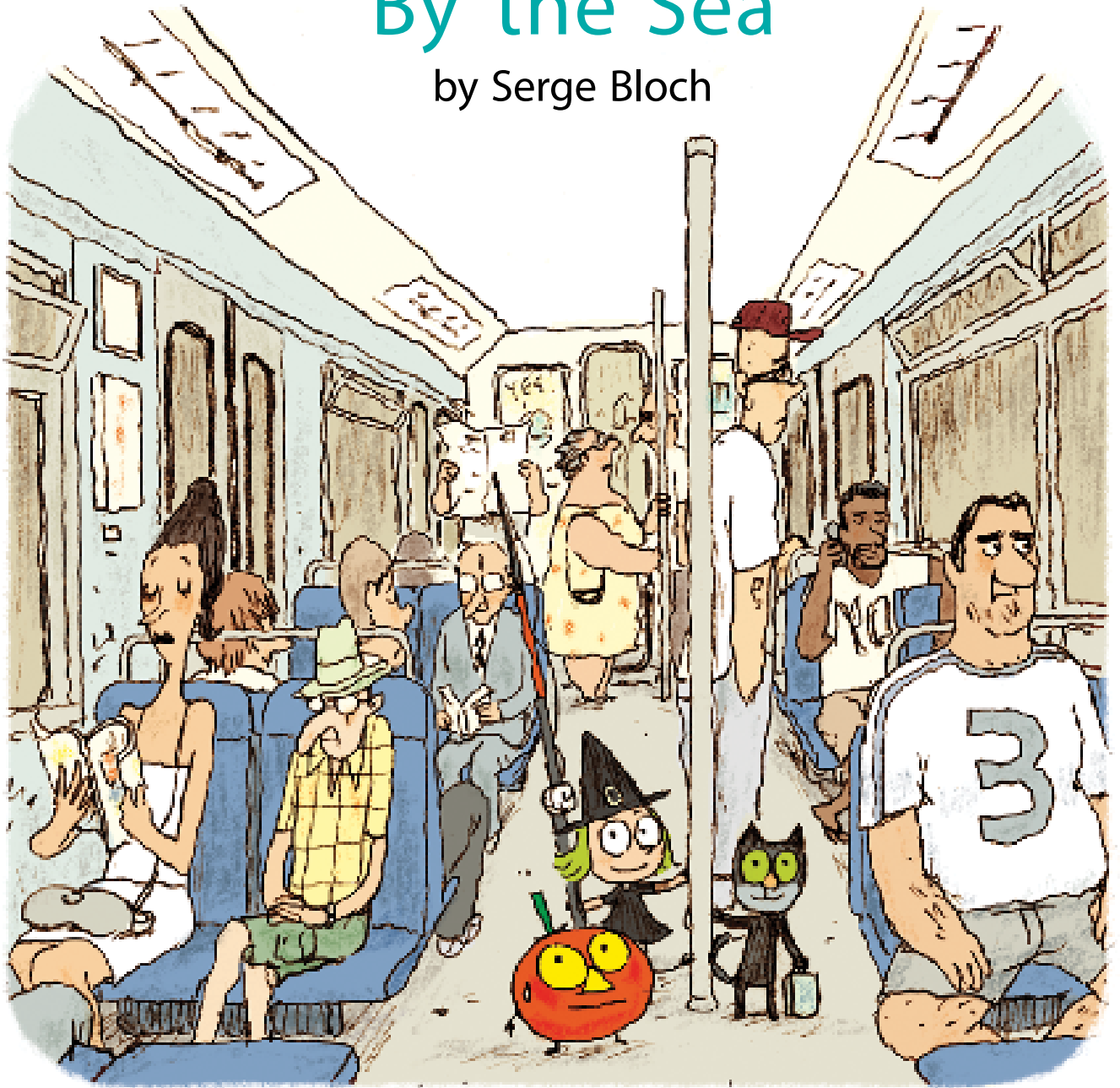


Zouk

By the Sea

by Serge Bloch

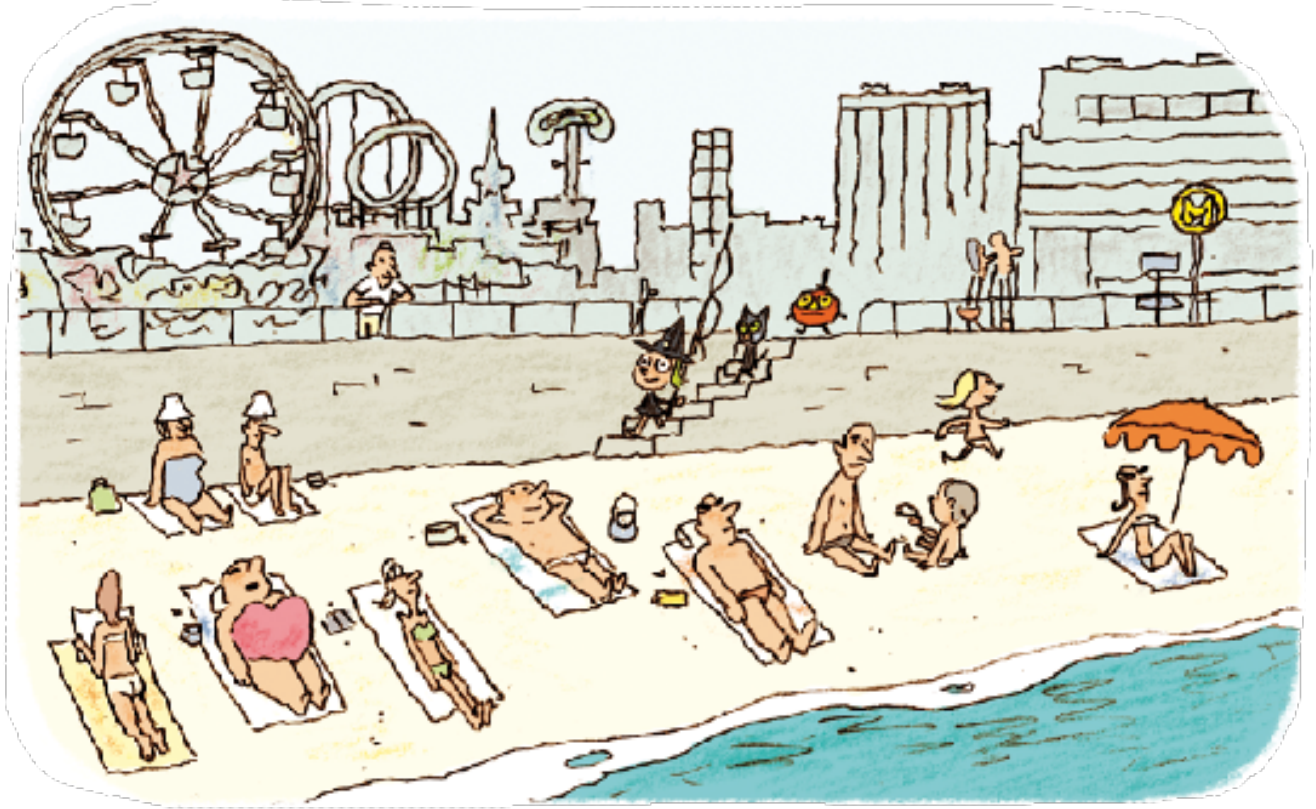


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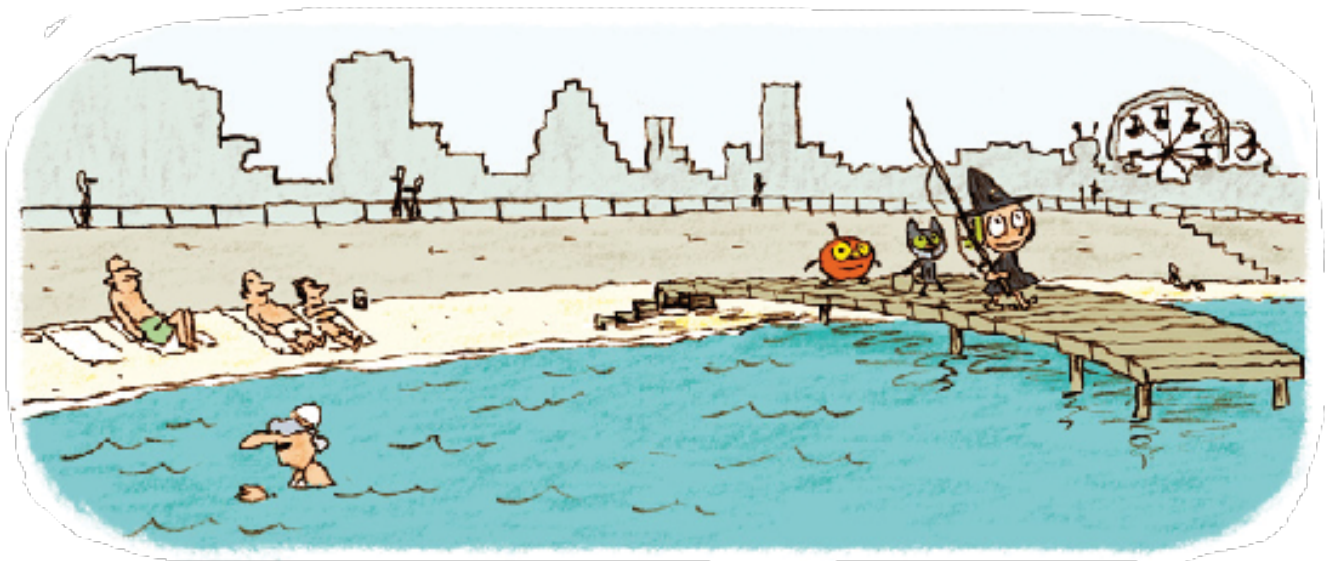
It's terribly hot in the great big city. Zouk and her friends, Pit and Mr. Pumpkin, have decided to go to the seashore. How will they get there? Quite simply, by taking the metro train marked "SEASHORE."

Art by Nicolas Hubesch

A little later, the three friends arrive at the beach. The Ocean is enormous!



Pit and Mr. Pumpkin would prefer to visit the amusement park . . .



. . . but Zouk wants to go fishing. So all three go out onto the pier.

Zouk feels something tugging. Quickly, she pulls on her pole. . . . *Zut*, it's just an old shoe!



Zut, word meaning "darn" in French, 'ow did I end up at zee top of zee page?



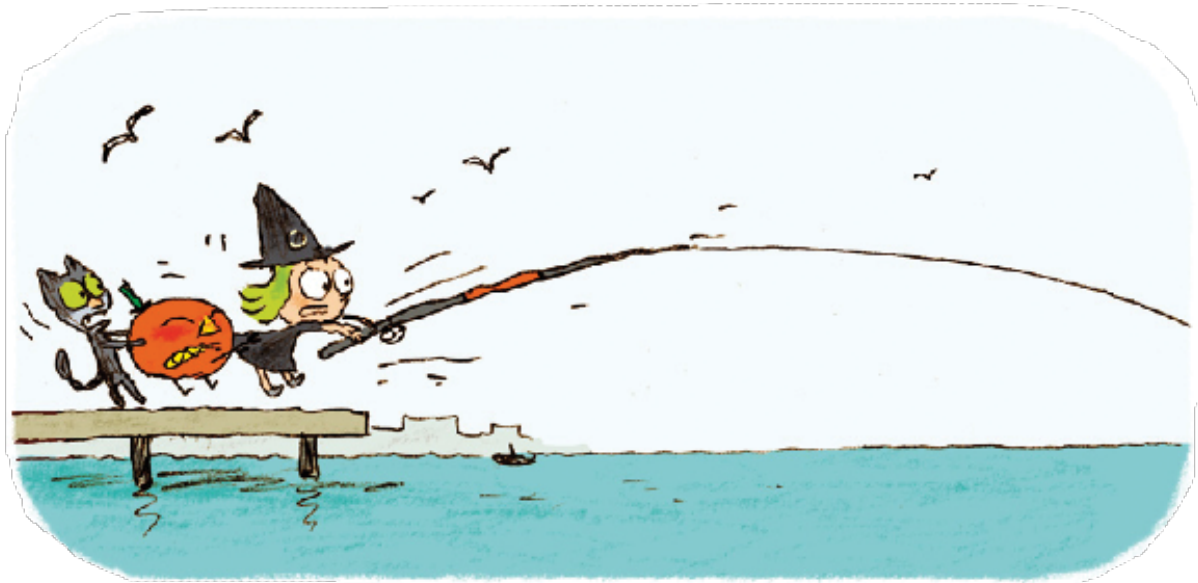
"Let's try again," says Zouk. Once again something tugs on her line. She pulls, and this time, she catches . . .



. . . a magnificent alarm clock (only a tiny bit broken).

Well, the alarm clock pushes Zouk over the edge! She has had enough! As Zouk casts her fishing line one last time, she shouts the magic words:





But what she catches isn't a fish. . . .



It's a whale, who drags the three friends up into the air and immediately swallows them!

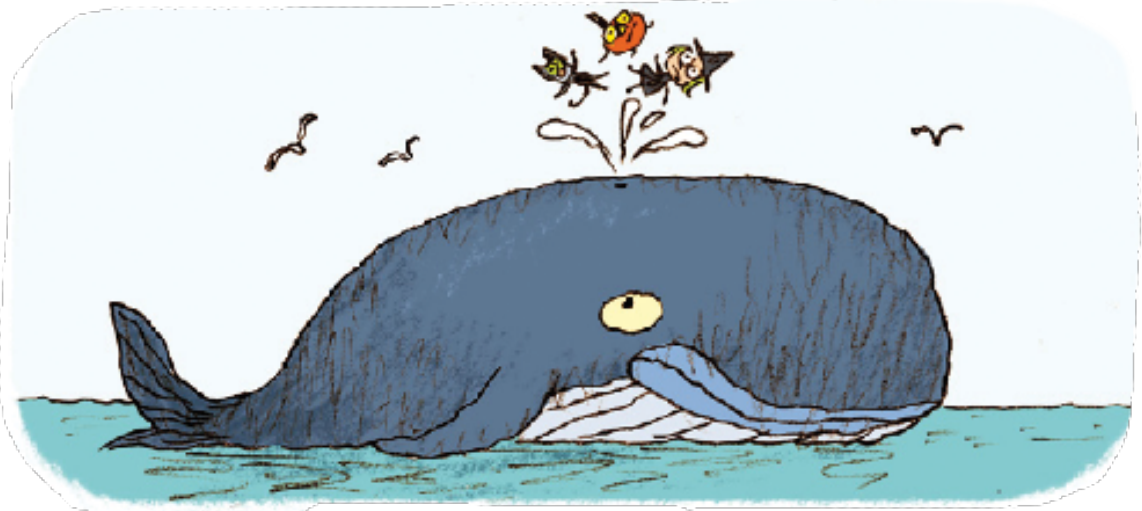
It's completely dark in the belly of the whale. "I'm afraid!" whimpers Mr. Pumpkin. Zouk shouts another magic spell:

ABRACADABRA, GET US OUT OF HERE!



All at once, the three sillies are sucked up some kind of huge tube . . .

... and find themselves tumbling on top of the whale's spout!



But the whale isn't mad and he plays with them. This is so much better than the amusement park!



Later, the whale takes them back to the beach and says good-bye. The three friends have had a wonderful time, but they also had quite a fright—especially Mr. Pumpkin!



Zouk promises never to do such a thing again ... until the next time!