




Kā Roimata

Retold by Charisma Rangipunga



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◆ *Retold by Charisma Rangipunga | Illustrated by Remy - Design by Ariki Creative* ◆

An illustration depicting a scene from a story. In the center, a young woman with long black hair, wearing a black feathered dress with white feathers at the waist, is running through a shallow stream towards a waterfall. She has a red feather in her hair. To the right, a man and a woman stand watching her. The man is wearing a large, dark, feathered cloak and a white feathered headdress. The woman is also wearing a dark feathered cloak. They are both looking towards the young woman. In the background, there is a dense forest of dark green trees and foliage. A small waterfall cascades down into the stream. Two birds are flying in the sky above the forest. The overall scene is set in a lush, natural environment.


Ka Roimata was the daughter of the great Ngāi Tahu chief Te Maiharanui and his wife Te Whe. She was the apple of her father's eye.



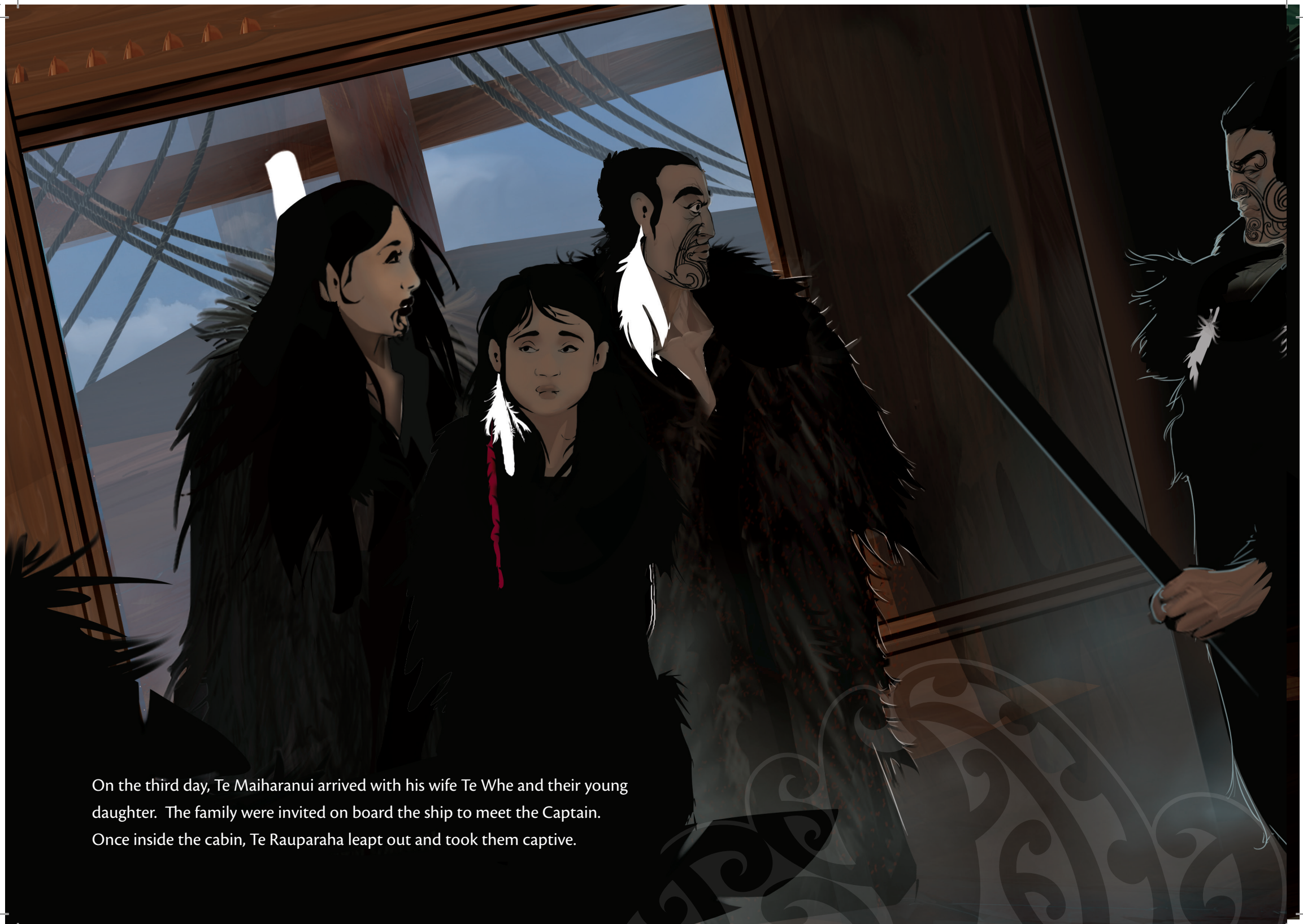
For a long time there had been battles between Ngāi Tahu and Ngāti Toa. Led by their chief Te Rauparaha, the northern tribe would attack Ngāi Tahu and try to take over their lands and precious resources. Many people lost their lives during these battles on both sides.



From his home on Kāpiti Island Te Rauparaha continued his plans to attack Ngāi Tahu. He made a deal with Captain Stewart who agreed to take him and his warriors on board his ship the Brig Elizabeth, to Akaroa, the home of Te Maiharanui.



When they arrived in Akaroa they soon learnt that Te Maiharanui was away.
Messengers were sent to find Te Maiharanui and invite him to come and see
the ship with promises of food, gifts and muskets




On the third day, Te Maiharanui arrived with his wife Te Whe and their young daughter. The family were invited on board the ship to meet the Captain. Once inside the cabin, Te Rauparaha leapt out and took them captive.

On the shores and in the surrounding
villages, Ngāi Tahu were unaware of the
capture of their chief.






That night Te Rauparaha's warriors quietly paddled to shore. No one heard them coming and the warriors attacked, killing and wounding lots of people and burning down their villages.



Te Maiharanui heard the screams from the attack. He saw the flames from the fires and he knew what Te Rauparaha had planned for him and his precious daughter Ka Roimata. The ship had lifted its anchor and was setting off for Kāpiti. He had to act fast.




Knowing he would never see Kā Roimata
again, Te Maiharanui and his wife
Te Whe made the decision to give up
their daughter to Tāwhirimātea god of the
winds, to save her from Te Rauparaha.



Tāwhirimātea gathered the sleeping Kā Roimata and flew her down over the land to the southernmost point of Te Waipounamu. When they arrived at Te Ara a Kiwa Kā Roimata woke and asked Tāwhirimātea where her parents were. Tāwhirimātea responded, “They are on their way to Kāpiti.”

Kā Roimata knew what would happen to her parents on Kāpiti and began to weep. Tāwhirimātea thought that her tears were so beautiful, he encased them in shell and sunk them to the bottom of the ocean, where they were transformed into tio or oysters.



The background is a dark teal ocean with white, stylized waves. In the upper center, a glowing white mask-like figure with long, thin, flowing lines extending from its sides is positioned in the sky. The mask has three pairs of eyes and a central mouth. In the bottom right corner, there is a large, glowing, golden-brown teardrop shape with intricate swirling patterns inside. The overall mood is mysterious and spiritual.

Tāwhirimātea left behind Te Hautonga Mauri, the biting south westerly wind, to look after the tear drops of Kā Roimata and remind us all not to be greedy and to not take too many oysters and to take care of one another.

