I set my story in the coral reefs around Okinawa Island, where I visited my daughter, Lia, and husband, Tom, both Marines, over a period of twelve years. Thank you, Tom and Lia!

I modeled the underwater seashell house after traditional Okinawan dwellings that have charming red clay tiles instead of seashells on their roofs.

The Ryukyu Islands are known for beautiful fabric made there. My octopuses, though, wear garb colored by indigo (blue). Mother octopus wears a hat modeled after traditional ones. Coincidentally they are much like the coconut shell covering octopuses in the wild use to hide.

In olden days walls made of coral rocks sheltered against wind.

Okinawa is one of the Ryukyu Islands. Formally a kingdom with royalty, and language, it is now part of Japan.

Baby has 8 Nudibranch wooden toys—my spin on the delightful wooden traditional toys of Japan.