

The town was on a yellow-sand beach. Early in the morning, Kino and Juana came slowly down the beach to Kino's canoe. Juana put Coyotito in the canoe. Juana prayed for a pearl to pay the doctor. Now Kino and Juana pushed the canoe down the beach to the water. Juana climbed in. Kino pushed it into deeper water and then got in, too. Beautiful wooden canoes lay across the beach, painted blue and white. The canoes were very important to the fishermen. Juana went to the water and walked in. She picked some plants from the sea and placed them on the baby's red shoulder. This was her people's usual way with scorpion bites, and it was probably as good as the doctor's medicine. Their canoes were far out in the sea, above the oyster bed. If the sand is caught in an oyster, it will, in time, change into a pearl. For hundreds of years, men have searched the sea for pearls. Kino had two ropes. It was the only thing worth money that Kino owned. And Kino's father gave it to Kino.