

## The last chick



Otto was so busy during the next few days that he didn't have much time to miss Claudius. As the ladies came back from the sea to feed the chicks all the fathers disappeared one by one to feed themselves. Otto had to look after all his huddle. Often he had to huddle the chicks together when the grown-ups were still walking about. They had enough blubber to keep them warm but the chicks hadn't yet.

When they began to feel the cold Otto and Leo collected all the chicks together in a tight huddle, the little ones in the centre where it was warmest. When he had finished making the very first chick huddle of this kind, Otto noticed a chick standing all by himself some way away, looking out to sea.

'Oh dear,' he said to Leo. 'Look, we've left someone out. I must go and fetch him.'

Leo looked across at the chick.

'Oh yes, that's Alex. He was the last chick to hatch so he's only a baby. We must keep him warm.'

Otto hurried off. As he got nearer to the chick he could see that Leo was right. Alex was just a baby. He wasn't really big enough to be off his father's feet. He looked so cold and miserable standing there that Otto knew