

TUATARA

A Living Treasure



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SCHOLASTIC
AUCKLAND SYDNEY NEW YORK LONDON TORONTO
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The sun rises over a tiny, cliff-bound island,
where seabirds peek out of burrows,
skinks scoot across the forest floor,
and wētā watch from tree hollows.



No people live on the island.
No mammals at all.

Only thousands of birds, lizards,
creepy crawlies

and . . .



a living treasure.



Lying hidden in an underground nest,
where the soil is damp and cool,
nine soft, leathery eggs swell,
until they're as tight as the skin of a balloon.

Inside, a baby raises the spike on her snout,

and slices . . .

POP!

