

# ***OCEAN ADVENTURES***



A Story Studio Anthology  
by Young Authors  
(Ages 5-13)

Story Studio is a charity that inspires, educates and empowers youth to be great storytellers, transforming lives and strengthening communities. We create innovative, 'fun-first' workshops that develops narrative capacity in youth, and celebrate young writers by crafting beautiful publications from their words.

This anthology is composed of stories written by children and youth between the ages of 5 and 13 as a result of our June 2020 creative writing contest. The task was to write a short fiction story involving the ocean, from the deepest seaweed jungles to underwater volcanoes.

Published in Victoria, British Columbia

Graphic provided by Freepik

Story Studio Writing Society

2020

# ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

The Uniwahl.....	4
Secrets of the Ocean.....	11
Under the Ocean.....	76
Story of Jeffo.....	79
Hero’s Shadow: Help from a Sea Angel.....	91
Delphi the Lost Dolphin.....	102
Why There Are Stars in the Sea.....	111
The Adventures of Michael & Dale.....	118
The Pillar.....	121
The Unknown.....	128
To The Ocean.....	147
Alice and the Magical World.....	194
Place Under the Waves.....	212
Lost and Found.....	230
Hero of the Sea.....	235
My House.....	242

# ***THE UNIWAHL***

by  
Abby

It was a dark and stormy night. I was walking through the forest and then I saw it. It was white and it had a rainbow tail and an amazing purple horn. It was a unicorn! She picked me up and put me on her back and then she started running. She said her name was Violet.

When she got to the ocean, she told me to close my eyes for one second and she turned into a narwhal! “Violet, is that you?”

“When I’m a narwhal, I am a boy named Buddy.”

“Bye Buddy,” I said. And I headed home.

When I got home, I asked my parents if I could go back into the forest, but I wasn't going to tell them about the Uniwahl. That is a Unicorn mixed with a Narwhal. My Mom and Dad said we should all go for an after-dinner walk in the forest. I was not happy because I thought Violet wouldn't show herself when adults were there. I was surprised when suddenly Violet came trotting out from behind a tree.

“Look, look! There's the unicorn I wanted you to see,” I said.

When my parents said I had a ‘wonderful imagination’, I realized they couldn’t see the unicorn. And Violet couldn’t see my parents either!

The next morning I snuck out of the house before my parents were awake to look for Violet. When I couldn’t find Violet in the forest, I went to the water to see if Buddy might be there. And he was! Buddy said, “Do you want to come with me in the ocean?”

“But I can’t swim under the water like you.”

“Come on, just get on my back.”

“Fine,” I said and with that I was in the water.

Suddenly Buddy dove under the water and I went with him. I thought I wouldn't be able to breathe, but Buddy went deeper. I was out of air, so I took a breath. I realized I could breathe underwater! I looked down and saw I had a tail. I was a mermaid! “What's happening, Buddy?”

Buddy said, “On land you are a girl, but in the ocean you are a



mermaid. Just like when I'm on land I'm a unicorn, but when I'm in the ocean I'm a narwhal." All of a sudden we saw a pod of orcas. "We have to go deeper," Buddy said.

"Why?" I asked.

"Because orcas can hunt and kill narwhals." We swam deeper.

"Tell me some more narwhal facts," I said.

"Narwhals communicate with clicks or whistles, like dolphins.

And we can live up to fifty years. Only male narwhals have tusks. But now I should guide you home so your parents won't worry about you.”

As soon as we got to the shore I turned back into a girl. And Buddy was a unicorn again. As we walked through the forest, Violet told me that now that I knew I was a mythical creature, I must help all animals on the land and in the sea, and tell people to take better care of the animals.

***THE END.***

# ***SECRETS OF THE OCEAN***

by  
Annika

The headline jumped out at Bella: a \$10,000 prize for the winner of a surfing competition and a summer in her best friend Haileigh's hometown. This was going to be the best summer ever!

“Haileigh will be here in ten minutes,” Bella's mom called out.  
“Are you all packed up?”

“Just one more minute!” Bella called from her bedroom. Ever since Bella had heard about spending a summer with her best

friend Haileigh two days ago, she had been so excited that she got to go to one of Florida's best beaches.

Bella was looking in her closet for her wetsuit when her sister Allie walked into her bedroom. "Why do you get to go and have fun at the beach while I'm stuck having to go to a camp to learn about nature?" Allie asked angrily.

"Because Haileigh invited me and it would be rude to refuse. There's a surfing competition where if I win I get \$10,000 and

maybe I'll get you something if you stop whining," Bella replied.

"Fine... but it's still not fair!" Allie said as she marched out of the room.

Bella went back to looking for her wetsuit and found it as soon as Haileigh got to her house. After Haileigh's dad got Bella's surfboard and bags into the car, they set off for Haileigh's beach house.

After a two-hour drive, their journey was over. “We’re here!” Haileigh’s mom said. Bella and Haileigh grabbed their bags and walked into the beach house.

“We only have two bedrooms so we’re gonna have to share a room,” Haileigh said.

“I’m fine with that,” Bella replied. As Bella walked into the room she was amazed. There were two walk-in closets, two beds and an amazing ocean front view with a balcony. “Wow!” Bella exclaimed as she dropped her bags. “This is amazing! I can’t

believe I get to spend a whole summer here!” Haileigh laughed. Sometimes Bella forgot that her friend was rich.

After they put their things away, Bella and Haileigh walked to the kitchen to get a snack before practicing for the surfing competition. They changed into their wetsuits and walked down to the beach where Haileigh’s dad was waiting for them.

After a few hours of practicing, Bella and Haileigh had lunch and then decided to go scuba diving. Bella, Haileigh, and Haileigh’s family went down to the dock and Haileigh’s dad



drove everyone in the boat to the best scuba diving spot, while Bella and Haileigh got their scuba gear on. “Remember: you guys only have enough oxygen for about fifty minutes to an hour, so be careful,” Haileigh’s dad warned.

“Don’t worry, we’ll be fine. I promise, and you don’t have to worry about Bella because she’s experienced with this kinda stuff,” Haileigh reassured him.

Bella laughed. “Yeah don’t worry, we’ll be careful.”

“Why can’t I go scuba diving with them?” Haileigh’s little brother Henry asked.

“Because you're too young! Besides, we’ll have some more fun up on the boat and maybe your father and I can teach you how to swim,” Haileigh’s mom replied.

“Okay!” Henry agreed as Bella and Haileigh dived into the water. That’s when their underwater adventure began.

Bella and Haileigh had been scuba diving for only about ten minutes when they came upon a turtle. Once it saw them, it swam forward and wouldn't leave them. "He's kinda cute!" Bella said, laughing.

"What should we name him?" Haileigh asked with a smile on her face.

"Hmm... What about speedy?" Bella asked.

"Uh, I'm not sure. What about Pedro?" Haileigh suggested.

“Wait! I have the perfect name!” Bella exclaimed eagerly. “What about Tucker?”

“Ooo I love it,” Haileigh said. After they named the turtle Tucker, they played with him for a long time.

“Hey Haileigh, we have to go back up for air. We don’t have much oxygen left,” Bella said. So the girls waved goodbye to Tucker and swam to the surface.

When Bella and Haileigh emerged from the water, they found Henry floating on his back. “Wow good job Henry!” Haileigh said.

“Wait, look at me Haileigh! I can do the doggy paddle too!” Henry announced. Henry started dog paddling around the girls. They all started laughing.

“Henry, where’s mom and dad?” Haileigh asked.

“Dad’s making supper on the boat and mom was just blowing up a floaty for me,” Henry told her.

“Okay. Oh, I see mom coming. Come on, Bella. Let’s go get changed for supper,” Haileigh said as she started swimming to the ladder.

“Okay. What are we having?” Bella asked as she followed Haileigh.

“We’re having my dad’s famous homemade pizza!” Haileigh told her.

“Yum!” Bella said as her stomach growled. The girls laughed. Once they were changed, they went into the mini kitchen on the boat.

“Pizza is almost ready, girls. Just a few more minutes,” Haileigh’s dad said.

The next day they practiced more. As they were about to go back to shore, they saw something in the water. It was Tucker! “What are you doing here?” Bella said with a laugh. Tucker looked at them and then swam a little bit forward. Then he swam back and did it again.

“Does he want us to follow him?” Haileigh asked, giving Tucker a strange look.

“Tucker, we have to go back to shore,” Bella replied. “We can’t come with you.”



“What if he needs help?” Haileigh said, looking at Bella with pleading eyes.

“Well, we don’t have our scuba gear and I doubt your dad would want us to go right now,” Bella said, obviously not giving in.

“Fine, I’ll ask then,” Haileigh replied with a little edge in her voice. “Dad, come here quick,” Haileigh called out.

Haileigh’s dad came over quickly. “What’s the matter Haileigh? What happened?”

“This turtle looks like he needs help. Can we put our scuba gear on and help him?” Haileigh pleaded.

“We have to go and have lunch first,” Haileigh’s dad replied.

“But I guess after lunch I can take you guys out there. Henry has been wanting to go swimming again.”

“Okay,” Haileigh agreed, looking at Bella with a little smile.

Bella rolled her eyes but then gave out a little laugh as she gave in and they surfed back to shore.

As Bella and Haileigh dived into the water, Tucker was there waiting for them. “Well that was fast,” Bella said, obviously suspicious about how the turtle got there so fast.

“Whatever, maybe he knew we would be here. But right now, let’s focus on how we are going to help him,” Haileigh said, not really thinking about it. Tucker kept going deeper and deeper until Bella finally stopped. “What’s wrong?” Haileigh asked.

“If we go any deeper, the water’s pressure will be too strong,” Bella warned.

“Okay, but maybe the thing Tucker needs help with is just a little deeper,” Haileigh urged.

“Okay fine, but we have to be really careful or we’ll either be crushed by the water pressure or we won’t have enough oxygen to get back to the surface,” Bella pressed on. They swam a little deeper until Tucker stopped at a rock. “See?” Bella said, “We came down here for nothing.”

“Sorry Bella. I thought Tucker did need help.” Haileigh said, hanging her head down.

“Wait Haileigh! Where did Tucker go?” Bella asked, a hint of fear in her voice. The girls looked at each other and started swimming around and calling Tucker’s name. Then Tucker appeared out of nowhere.

“Wait, where did he come from?” Haileigh asked, a bit agitated. Tucker then swam right into the rock.

“Did you just see that?” Bella asked, wide-eyed.

“Um yeah. That was strange but I guess we got our answer,” Haileigh said, startled by what just happened. “Should we follow him?”

“Well what choice do we have?” Bella asked as she swam straight through the rock. Haileigh followed right behind her and what they found on the other side was amazing.

“Wow!” Haileigh exclaimed as she emerged from the other side of the rock. “What is this place?”

“I’m not sure. It looks like a secret underwater world,” Bella responded.

“Well it’s super cool! We should explore!” Haileigh said eagerly, starting to swim away.

“Wait Haileigh, we’re almost out of oxygen and besides it’s getting late. Your parents will be worried. We can’t stay here,” Bella cautioned, starting to turn back.

“But Tucker brought us here for a reason. Just one more minute, please?” Haileigh begged.

“Fine,” Bella said looking at her watch. “Just one more minute... that’s all. Then we have to leave. It’s 4:44 right now.”

“Okay then, let’s hurry. We don’t want to lose Tucker,” Haileigh urged as she started following him. Bella rolled her eyes and started following behind them. Tucker stopped in front of a bunch of rocks that looked like a throne.



“Do they have a king or queen?” Haileigh said, taking a look around the throne. As soon as she said that, a strange creature that looked like a cross between a human and an octopus stood towering over her. It seemed to be wearing a crown.

“I guess you got your answer,” Bella said as Haileigh backed away from the creature.

“Is that your queen?” Haileigh asked Tucker with fear in her voice. Tucker seemed to have nodded at the question.

The creature started talking and it sounded like the creature was trying to speak but it sounded strange to the girls.

“Um Haileigh, you’ve read all kinds of books. Were there any scary human/octopus people?” Bella asked.

“Um uh, I think so. I remember a book about ancient creatures but the book said they went extinct hundreds of years ago,” Haileigh said, overcoming her fear. “They also talked in an ancient language that sounded like mumbling to humans.”

“Okay, well I’m out. I am terrible at learning new languages and this seems even harder than learning French or Spanish,” Bella responded.

“Well we have to try. I think Tucker brought us here for a reason,” Haileigh said, sounding determined. “Maybe if I read the book again I can learn their language.”

“Okay, but you don’t have your book right now, so let’s just look at their facial expressions and movements to help them now,” Bella suggested.

“Okay, I guess we could try,” Haileigh said.

The queen led them into a strange room with crumbling walls, but there didn’t seem to be any water in the room. “I think we can take our masks off now,” Bella said, taking hers off and putting it on the crumbling floor.

“Is this place safe?” Haileigh asked as she also took off her mask.

Bella started running her hand against the walls. “It feels pretty stable for the most part, but it could probably fall apart in a few days, maybe a week if we’re lucky,” Bella replied, studying the walls more closely. Architecture was one of Bella’s specialties.

“Okay, well this should only take a few minutes, right?”

Haileigh asked, glancing up at the queen. The queen made a grumbling sound that made no sense to Bella or Haileigh. “Let’s just hope that was a yes,” Haileigh decided.

“Oh shoot. We forgot we have to go back up to the surface now,” Bella said, frantically putting on her mask. “Your parents will be worried!”

“Oh yeah!” Haileigh said, slapping her forehead, “How could we have forgotten? What time is it?”

Bella looked at her watch. “It’s still 4:44. That makes no sense. We’ve been down here for like 5 minutes.” Again, the queen made a strange noise.

“Maybe your watch stopped working?” Haileigh suggested.

“Maybe,” Bella said, not sounding convinced. Then both girls swam through the rock and up to the surface.

The next day, Bella and Haileigh pleaded to Haileigh’s dad to take them scuba diving again after lunch. “You girls sure do love your scuba diving,” he said. “It’s like you guys found a cool secret palace or something. I guess I could take you for a quick little while after lunch.”

“Yes, thank you dad!” Haileigh said as she fist-bumped with Bella. Just like the day before, Tucker was waiting for them in the same spot. It only took a few minutes to get to the rock and they soon found themselves in the crumbling room again.

“Did you read the book yesterday?” Bella asked Haileigh.

“No, I didn’t have enough time. But let’s try what you wanted to do yesterday,” Haileigh suggested.



Bella agreed. They watched the creature's movements and face expressions until they came up with an idea of what was wrong. "I think something is missing from this room and that's why it's crumbling," Bella decided. The creature made some facial expressions that looked like what Bella had said was wrong. "Oh, that's not what happened? Haileigh, do you have any idea what is wrong?" Bella asked. The creature slapped its face.

"Um, I'm not quite sure," Haileigh said, studying the creature's face. "Maybe the water's pressure is causing the room to crumble," Haileigh said.

“But why wouldn’t the other rooms be crumbling too?” Bella asked, looking around for an answer.

“You're right, it sounds strange,” Haileigh said, sounding disappointed. Then all of a sudden, the queen started walking away. The girls gave each other a strange look and followed her.

The queen led them into another room much like the other one but it looked more unstable than the last. Bella ran her hand against the wall again. “It’s definitely more unstable than the other room. Probably only two to three days before it

completely falls,” Bella said with a worried expression on her face. Then the queen led them into another room. Bella once again ran her hand against the wall. “This one only has one day left. We have to fix it before it completely falls,” Bella said, even more concerned. All of a sudden, the room started shaking violently. “Take cover!” Bella yelled. Haileigh ran under an old rusty thing that looked like a fountain. Bella ran under a pile of old chairs. The queen just stood there looking from Haileigh to Bella until the shaking stopped. “Okay we have to fix this right now,” Bella said urgently.

“I agree, and fast,” Haileigh admitted. The girls started piling up the old chairs to hold up the ceiling. After they finished the ceiling started shaking even more.

“Why won’t this work? Wait I know! Haileigh go into the first room where the rock is and see if you can find anything better than these old chairs to hold up the ceiling,” Bella remarked.

“Okay, I’ll be back in a sec,” Haileigh said, running into the other room. A few moments later Haileigh returned with some old pillars. “Will these work?” Haileigh asked.

“Perfect!” Bella agreed. “But those look really heavy. How are you holding them?”

“I’m not sure. I just tried to pick them up and they were really light. I just hope they can hold the ceiling up,” Haileigh said.

“Which room did you get them from?” Bella asked.

“From the other crumbling rooms. They were also holding up the ceiling but I thought this room needed them more. We can

find something else to hold up the other ceilings once we are finished with this one,” Haileigh announced.

“Um okay, sure,” Bella said, a bit worried. The queen started running around the room and it sounded like she was yelling but Haileigh and Bella weren’t sure.

After Bella and Haileigh were done putting the pillars on, the queen started taking them off and putting them back in the other rooms. Bella started running after the queen with Haileigh at her heels.

“What are you doing?” Haileigh asked, “We need those.”

The queen once again made a strange noise that made no sense. She then took Bella and Haileigh’s hands and led them to the first pillar. She pointed at a little hole that looked like a diamond in the pillar. Then she led them to the second pillar. It again had a shape but this one was a circle. She led them into the room where the rock was. There were human/octopus people walking everywhere. She then led them into the middle of the room where there was now a tree.

“Wait, that wasn’t there before,” Bella said suspiciously. The queen seemed to snap her tentacles and everything in the room vanished.

“Wow!” Haileigh said, amazed. Then she snapped her tentacles again and everything reappeared.

“Okay Haileigh, you need to read that book to understand them. Let’s come back tomorrow. We can help them once we know how to understand them,” Bella said, still stunned.



“Okay,” Haileigh agreed, as she turned to go back.

Later that night, Bella and Haileigh were in their room when Haileigh’s mom walked in. “Hey girls. I just came in here to tell you something. The surfing competition had to get moved to a new day,” Haileigh’s mom said.

“What day?” Haileigh asked.

“Tomorrow,” Haileigh’s mom replied. The girls looked at each other with worried expressions on their faces.

“What’s wrong?” Haileigh’s mom asked.

“Nothing,” Bella said quickly.

“Um okay then,” Haileigh’s mom said as she left their room.

“Uh oh. That’s when we have to help the strange creatures,”  
Bella said, sounding concerned.

“We’ll have to hurry then,” Haileigh said.

The next day the girls were back in the secret underwater world. “Haileigh, please tell me you read the book last night,” Bella asked.

“Don’t worry, I did,” Haileigh assured her. The queen started talking. “Okay, she’s saying that this is the tree of life. If this room gets destroyed and it crushes the tree then our world will be destroyed and any human population will be wiped out,” Haileigh said, troubled. “She’s also saying that the pillars we had yesterday hold up the different parts of the world. The diamond one is water. The circle one is the Earth of course, and

the last pillar went missing. So the pillar in the most crumbled room... that one is for the sky.”

“Um okay. So does she have any idea where we could find this lost pillar?” Bella asked.

“She says that the pillar, diamond, circle, and cloud are missing in the ocean. But I don’t know what that means,” Haileigh continued.

“Maybe the holes in the pillars hold the different shapes,” Bella thought. The queen made a few mumbling sounds again.

“You’re right, Bella!” Haileigh said. “She says we have to go in the ocean and find the different shapes and the lost pillar.”

“But we have to go to the surfing competition. We won’t make it if we have to find these missing objects,” Bella argued.

“First of all, if we don’t do this, there probably won’t be a surfing competition to go to. She also says she’ll lend us a

bubble that slows time down in the real world so we won't be late," Haileigh argued back.

"Fine," Bella said as she gave in. The queen snapped her fingers and a bubble big enough for both Bella and Haileigh to fit in, appeared. "Thank you," Bella said as she and Haileigh stepped into the bubble and found themselves in the ocean. "Where should we start?"

"Let's go look in the reefs," Haileigh suggested. After about ten minutes (or at least it seemed that way to Bella and Haileigh),

they found the first shape. “Hey Bella, doesn’t that fish look like diamond?” Haileigh asked, laughing.

“Haileigh that’s not a fish. That’s the diamond or water one,” Bella said as she reached down to grab it.

“Yay. One down, two to go, plus a pillar!” Haileigh said excitedly.

“Where should we look next?” Bella wondered.

“Where would the Earth be?” Haileigh asked.

“I think if they got scattered around in the ocean then the Earth would be at the ocean’s floor,” Bella said.

“Okay, good idea.” Haileigh acknowledged. The girls looked around until they found a blue circle at the ocean’s floor. They almost missed it because it matched the sand. “Hey Bella, there it is!” Haileigh yelled excitedly. Haileigh picked it up and put it in her pocket.



“Okay, now let’s go look at the top of the ocean because that sounds like the sky,” Bella said.

As the girls reached the surface of the water they found Haileigh’s dad in mid dive. “He looks so weird in slow motion,” Haileigh said as she laughed.

Bella agreed as she started laughing. “Okay, but right now let’s focus on finding a white little cloud.”

They searched the top of the ocean for a long time but couldn't find anything. “Where could it be? We’ve been searching around forever,” Haileigh complained.

“What about the sea foam?” Bella wondered.

“Oh yeah, good idea Bella,” Haileigh responded.

The girls searched the sea foam but still couldn’t find anything until Bella spotted something. “Haileigh, that looks like the other pillars!” Bella said as she grabbed it out of the sea foam.

“Oh yeah, it is! Check if it has the cloud in it,” Haileigh said.

Bella checked but didn't find anything. “Nope, nothing in here,” Bella said, sounding sad. They looked for a long time until they saw something shining bright on the boat. It was the cloud! But it was also in a seagull's mouth. *‘How are we supposed to get the cloud out of that seagull’s mouth?’* Haileigh wondered.

“Let's try scaring it,” Bella suggested. They made lots of loud noises and hand movements but the seagull just stood there looking at them.

“This is never going to work,” Haileigh said, feeling annoyed with the seagull. Just then Haileigh realized something. “Wait Bella, we can just grab the cloud out of its mouth because remember, it’s in slow motion right now,” Haileigh said, slapping her face.

“Oh yeah,” Bella said as she started laughing. Haileigh got up out of the bubble and time moved on like it was supposed to. Haileigh got scared and ran back into the bubble. Bella was still laughing when Haileigh got back. “Your face was priceless!” Bella said, clutching her stomach from laughing too much.

“Oh, shut up. Now we have to figure out a plan to get that cloud without getting out of the bubble,” Haileigh said, trying to change the subject.

“Can we lift the bubble up with some sort of controls?” Bella wondered.

“We only have pedals to move forward. How are we supposed to get controls?” Haileigh asked, glad to have changed the subject. Just then controls sprouted out of the bubble. Bella smirked and pulled on the controls. The bubble went up.

Haileigh snatched the cloud, and Bella made the bubble dive into the water. When the girls got back to the secret underwater world, the queen grabbed them by the arms and dragged them into the farthest crumbling room. Bella ran her hand against the wall and said, “We only have a few minutes, hurry!”

Haileigh grabbed the pillar they found in the sea foam and with the queen and Bella’s help they got it up. Haileigh got the cloud out of her pocket and put it on the pillar. “Okay next room!” Bella yelled as she ran to grab the next pillar. Once they got it upright Haileigh put in the diamond for water and they ran to

the next room. They put up the last pillar and Bella went to grab the circle that was in her pocket, but she couldn't find it.

“Haileigh, I can't find the earth one. Do you have it?” Haileigh checked her pockets.

“No, I don't have it.” Bella frantically started looking around for the circle. She saw it in the sky room. She ran as fast as she could, grabbed it, and ran back to the Earth room. As soon as she put it in its place, the walls and ceilings in each room solidified. The walls then showed the octopus/human people all over them, protecting their home. But on one wall was Haileigh

and Bella and what they had done on their journey to help the octopus/human people.

The queen started making a mumbling sound. “She’s saying thank you for saving her people and for saving the Earth. She couldn’t have done it without us. She also says we shouldn’t call her people octopus/human people anymore. They are called the creatures of the ocean but each individual is called a scalar,” Haileigh translated.

Bella and Haileigh bowed to the queen.



The queen snapped her fingers and they suddenly found themselves back on the boat. Bella looked at her watch, “It’s 1:30 right now. The competition starts in thirty minutes. Where is your dad?”

“I’m not sure,” Haileigh replied. They walked around the boat for a few minutes but couldn’t find him. Just then, he emerged from the water.

“Oh, hey girls. We must have just missed each other. I went scuba diving trying to find you. You guys kept wanting to come

out here so I thought you found old ruins or something cool like that,” he said as he walked up the ladder.

“Oh no we just found Tucker the turtle again. He was taking us exploring through the reefs,” Haileigh said as she smiled at Bella.

“Oh okay. I’m just going to get changed and I’ll get you guys to the competition as soon as possible,” Haileigh’s dad said as he walked to the bathroom.

They got to the competition just as it was about to start. “Okay first up is anybody ages ten or eleven,” the announcer called.

“You guys will be up next,” Haileigh’s dad said, giving them the thumbs up. “Have fun.”

“We will,” Haileigh said, also giving him the thumbs up as he went to sit down and watch.

“Ugh, I’m so nervous.” Bella said looking at the competition.

“Don’t worry. You're an amazing surfer. The only person you have to look out for is me,” Haileigh said with a laugh.

“Yeah right. We’ll see,” Bella said, also laughing.

“Next up are the twelve and thirteen year olds,” the announcer called on the speaker.

“May the best person win,” Bella said as she started towards the water. And just like that, the competition began.

“You girls were amazing!” Haileigh’s dad said.

“Haileigh, Bella, Haileigh, Bella, Haileigh, Bella!” Henry started to shout.

“Thank you, Henry!” Haileigh said as she ruffled his hair.

“The competition is not over yet,” Bella reminded them. “We still have to see if we get into the finals. Also, if we do, then we still have to beat the other four contestants.”

“Okay everyone, this is one of the moments you’ve all been waiting for,” the announcer announced.

“Oh, it’s time. Let’s see if we get to move on to the finals,” Haileigh said as she ushered everyone forward.

“If you are twelve or thirteen, listen closely,” the announcer said. He announced four people's names. Haileigh and Bella crossed their fingers. “And our final two contestants are Bella Tate and Haileigh Johansen,” the announcer said into the microphone. The girls jumped up and down, celebrating.

After they finished the finals they had to wait a few minutes before they knew who won. “Bella, that was probably the best you’ve ever done before,” Haileigh said.

“But the other people could have done better than me,” Bella said afraid as she looked around.

“Bella, you have to stop worrying,” Haileigh insisted, “You were really good and even if you don't get first place, who cares? I still think you were amazing. You will probably get second place if not first.”

“Okay this is the second moment you’ve all been waiting for,” said the announcer. There were some laughs from the crowd. “Third place goes to... Haileigh Johansen. Come on up here Haileigh,” the announcer said. Haileigh hugged Bella and walked up onto the stage.

“Second place goes to... Maddison Smith. Come on up here Madison,” the announcer continued. The girl that would've been Maddison walked onto the stage and stood beside Haileigh. Haileigh waved and smiled at Bella.



“And first place for the Florida surfing competition goes to... Bella Tate,” the announcer called. Bella couldn’t believe she won! “Congratulations Bella!” said the announcer as he handed her a cheque.

“Everyone smile!” the photographer called. And Bella did as she stood beside her best friend holding up her cheque with a big smile on her face.

“Way to go, Bella!” Haileigh’s mom said excitedly, “Should we celebrate with some ice cream?”

“Yes!” Henry called, “Ice cream, ice cream, ice cream!”

“Yeah sure, that would be great,” Bella said as she laughed. “Did you win anything Haileigh?”

“Uh, you know, nothing much. Just a couple coupons to the best ice cream place in town,” Haileigh said sarcastically.

“Yay!” Henry shouted, jumping up and down clapping his hands. As Haileigh and Bella headed home with their celebratory ice cream, they saw the queen of the creatures of the

ocean waving at them and they couldn't help but smile at the thought that they had saved the world, even if it was their own little secret.

***THE END!***

# ***UNDER THE OCEAN***

by  
Charlee

Once upon a time under the ocean, there was a mermaid with rainbow scales, a whale shark, a blue tang shark and a clown fish. The mermaid meets a blue tang fish, the blue tang fish meets the clown fish. The fish are excited they found a mermaid.

A whale shark and everyone play at the underwater park. A giant squid shows up and steals the mermaid's scales and swims away.

They have to get the scales back! They run into the squid and ask why he stole the scales. The squid stole the scales because his dark cave needs the shiny scales to light it up. He's lonely and no one will come visit him.

The fish, whale and mermaid invite some glow-in-the-dark jellyfish to come to the cave. They all play together in the cave after the squid returns the scales.

***THE END.***

# ***STORY OF JEFFO***

by

Charlie and Troy

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Jeffo and he had no friends. He was sad that he had no friends. He tried to make friends, but people didn't like his personality. He also looked weird; he wore a diaper, and had a pencil in his nose. He had a shirt with his name on it and he wore a helmet when he was not biking or doing anything that even involved a helmet. He had major anger issues. He broke stuff all the time. He didn't care about what he was doing. He didn't care about anything or anyone. And those were most of the reasons why he had no friends.



Jeffo was a water bender. It meant he could bend water with his mind and move it. He lived in Atlantis with his father. His mother died when a shark went crazy and ate her. He was one of those creatures that were half-fish and half-human. Recently, King Neptune's (Jeffo's dad) trident got stolen and they didn't know who stole it. Jeffo wanted to help his dad but he kept saying, "No it's too dangerous."

If Jeffo wanted to help his dad get his trident back, he needed to go searching without his dad knowing, because then he would get in BIG trouble. He would be going out today to get his dad's

trident back so he needed to sneak out without him knowing. So, a little bit later he tried to sneak out but his dad saw him trying to sneak out. King Neptune asked Jeffo, “Hey, what are you doing?”

“Uhhh, nothing Dad, I was just going to play with my friends.”

King Neptune exclaimed, “But I thought you had no friends!”

Jeffo responded with, “Well I do down by the dock where the boats are.”

King Neptune responded with, “Oh, okay have fun.”

Jeffo's response was, “Okay, bye Dad.”

King Neptune said, “Bye son.” And Jeffo set out to get his dad's trident...

He started looking in shark town for the trident. He looked in the sunken boat, he looked in the shark houses, and he looked under rocks and stuff, but he did not see any sign of King Neptune's trident.

Then he started to go over to mermaid city but he saw something shiny in the distance, so he went over toward it. He saw it... King Neptune's trident. He swam over to it and then he was snagged by the thief of the trident and made the lucky escape. He went back home to tell his dad what he saw. When he got back, they started talking.

King Neptune said, "Did you have fun?"

"Yes dad, I did have fun."

King Neptune asked, “Well, what did you do?”

“I played with my friends down at shark town.”

King Neptune said, “Now what did I tell you? It’s dangerous in shark town.”

Jeffo said, “Yes I know, but when we were in there we saw the thief of your trident. I’m not lying.”

King Neptune shouted, “MY TRIDENT!”

Jeffo replied, “Yeah, and I tried to get it back but he grabbed me and I luckily escaped.”

King Neptune said, “Wow, that sounds like it was a fun day.”  
Then King Neptune and Jeffo went to sleep.

The next morning Jeffo woke up to being kidnapped by the thief. He tried to escape but his grip on him was too hard. When King Neptune woke up, he noticed that he was gone. King Neptune said, “Wait, where did Jeffo go? He's probably in the bathroom.” And he fell back asleep.

When he woke up, Jeffo was still gone and he was worried for the child. King Neptune said, “Where did Jeffo go!?!? I’m going to go look for him.” He started to look in shark town. He saw a note on the ground. It said, “*Dear King Neptune, if you want your child back, you have to give me your throne, and if you don't in the next week, I will never give him back!*”

King Neptune said, “Oh no, I need to give up my throne to get Jeffo back. Ohhh no, I don't know what to do.” So he went home to decide what he should do.

Jeffo shouted, “LET ME GO.”

The thief said, “No, not until your father gives me his throne.”

Jeffo said, “He would never give up his throne.”

The thief said, “Then he isn't going to get his stupid child back.”

Jeffo said, “Hey, I’m not stupid, I’m just not smart.”



The thief said, “That’s what being stupid means.”

They stopped arguing and Jeffo and the thief went to sleep, but Jeffo didn't really. He was waiting for him to fall asleep and then when he did, Jeffo started the escape. He started by breaking the thick glass window with a rock he found and he smashed the window. It made a very loud noise but the thief didn't wake up. He was scared that he wouldn't make it out alive. Then, he remembered his dad’s trident, so he went out of the window and went to get the trident. He got it, then he started to head back to his dad’s castle.

He found his dad crying on his bed. He looked over and saw Jeffo and was crying even more but in happy tears. He was very scared and happy... scared that he was missing, and happy that he was back. They spent time together and talked about what happened. After they talked, they sent an article to the news about the boy that escaped a kidnapping, and everybody from now on wanted to be Jeffo's friend from that.

***THE END.***

***HERO'S SHADOW:  
HELP FROM A SEA ANGEL***

by  
Elise and River

Willow is forty-two years old and a hero in Karls' city. But today she found herself elsewhere. Willow's powers include intangibility, telekinesis and x-ray vision.

*'I'm still alive, but for how long?'* Willow thought as she was trying to get up. It appeared she was wounded. What was she going to do? Just lay there and die?! She couldn't. There must be a better way. There is always a better way! Then, she fainted.

She woke up suddenly. She could hardly see at all and for some reason, she felt as though she was drenched in water. But she

didn't have time to think about that, she had no idea where she was! It was no longer dark; she saw what she thought was a human with a fish body holding her left leg. She could barely keep herself up at this point and she fainted again.

When she woke up this time she had a lot more energy and was able to sit up and so she did. Through a hole in the floor, the creature she saw earlier appeared. This time she was scared and backed up. "Don't worry I'm here to help you," the creature said.

“Who are you?”

“Who am I? Sorry, I forgot my manners. My name is Atlas Grayman, daughter of John Grayman and I’m a siren!” Atlas said with great pride. "And who might you be?"

“Me? I’m Yerg, Willow Yerg. But where are we?”

“Oh yeah, I forgot to tell you. We are at the bottom of the Indian ocean,” Atlas explained to Willow.

"What? How did we get here?" Willow was in shock.

"Well, see, there is a bubble around your head with air, so don't pop it," Atlas said calmly.

*'It can pop?!'* Willow thought while panicking. Atlas grabbed Willow's hand and said, "Let's go. I'll show you a place to stay."

"Uh...okay?" Willow said while following Atlas slowly. As Atlas and Willow were swimming for what seemed to be ages, Willow

looked up to see a giant coral filled with little homes and bright lights all around. With her eyes widened, she stopped to stare.

Atlas turned around and said, “No ones here so don’t get your hopes up.”

“Wait. Then who bui-” Atlas pulled Willow quickly and swam as fast as she could. “Wha... What are you doing?!” Atlas turned her head to Willow and put her finger over her mouth as a sign to be quiet. Willow looked behind her and just as she was about to scream she saw a humongous white creature with eerie



humanoid features turning its head towards them at full speed. They swam off as quickly and silently as humanly possible. But it seemed the creature was fast... maybe faster than them. They found a dark place to hide in the empty city.

“What was that?” Willow said quietly with shivers down her spine.

“It’s a Ningen. It’s believed to be a myth, but I guess it’s more than a myth now. I don’t know where it came from or if there’s more but they’re all over the place, so be quiet.”

“Wait, maybe these creatures are the reason no one is here. Though it doesn’t look like they can eat, they don’t have mouths,” Willow murmured.

“What did you say?” Atlas said, looking confused and tilting her head at Willow.

“Nothing,” Willow said quickly. As Willow started to get up, she remembered she was underwater so she started to float up. Atlas quickly grabbed her leg so she didn't float away.

“Let’s get going I think we’re good.” Atlas and Willow were swimming through the underwater village, being careful about not being seen. Atlas pulled Willow past an alleyway but Willow looked down it and saw a Ningen staring at her. She stopped Atlas and slowly pointed at the dark figure. Atlas’s eyes widened as it started charging at them with great speed. Before they could escape it, it tackled them and rolled them around vigorously. “Aaaaahhhhhh!” Atlas screamed.

“I-I goot thiiiis,” Willow said whilst struggling. She used her telekinesis power to move the big Ningen off of them, but she

had too little energy to move it far enough away. Atlas grabbed Willow and they swam off into a dark cave.

As they were looking around the cave, Willow felt something under her. As soon as she sat down she realized she squished at least two hundred gumball sized Ningen eggs, and two car-sized, soon to be Ningen mothers came charging at them about to rip them to shreds! Before they knew it, the creatures had already grabbed Atlas. “Willow, swim while you still can!”

***THE END.***

# ***DELPHI THE LOST DOLPHIN***

by  
Emily

One day a pod of dolphins had five calves. But as they grew, one of them was, well... different than the others. Delphi likes staying in the open ocean, but the others like staying near the coral reef near the island of Maui, and right now while you are reading this, Delphi is playing with her friend Squirt, a silly seahorse and Sid, a kind octopus.

“Why do my sisters not like it out here?” Delphi wondered.

“Umm, I don’t know. Ask one of them, Delphi,” Squirt suggested.

“I tried that, Squirt,” said Delphi.

“Darn!!!! I was sure that was the right thing to say, sorry Delphi,” Squirt said.

“It's okay, Squirt,” said Delphi.

“Huh,” Sid thought out loud.

“What Sid?” Delphi asked.

“What if you asked the sea dragon?” Sid suggested (that was a joke because the sea dragon was known to eat visitors - Ekkk!)

“Oh, good idea, Sid,” said Delphi. “Let’s go... RIGHT NOW!!!”

“Hey,” protested Sid, “I was just joking!”

“Well too bad for you,” said Delphi in a voice that told Sid not to argue with her.

“Oh fine!” Sid said. “But do NOT, and I mean do NOT say I did



not warn you, okay?”

“Agreed,” said Delphi. So together they set off to find the MYSTERY sea dragon. As they swam, the day was turning into the night and Delphi was still gone. Her mother was getting very worried, but Delphi was so lost in their ADVENTURE that she did not see the darkness of the night seeping into the sea behind her. She started to feel sleepy, as did her friends, so they looked for a spot to sleep for the night.

In the morning Delphi, Squirt, and Sid set off to find the sea

dragon's home. He lived in the sunken shipwreck that was his home for three hundred years, but his age was three hundred and five, which meant he was five when he moved to the shipwreck.

It took them three days to get there. One, because Squirt and Sid needed food and rest time. Two, because Delphi gave in and said they could take a ten hour sleep break (that Sid and Squirt were grateful for, but Delphi spent that time exploring because she thought sleeping when you have to get somewhere is lazy, and Delphi is also a bit too ambitious).

When the trio set off again, they turned to the left and saw the shipwreck. “Woah,” Delphi said in excitement. They had found the sea dragon’s home. They found his room and saw a letter. “Hmm, what is this?” Delphi muttered. Here was the letter:

*‘Hi, I am sorry I am not here. I am in a meeting with some sharks. See you all soon.’*

*From the sea dragon.*

“Oh no,” Delphi cried, “We can’t let him see Harpoon. He’s the shark king! Come on guys. We’ve got a sea dragon to save!”



But when they found him, they battled for one hour.

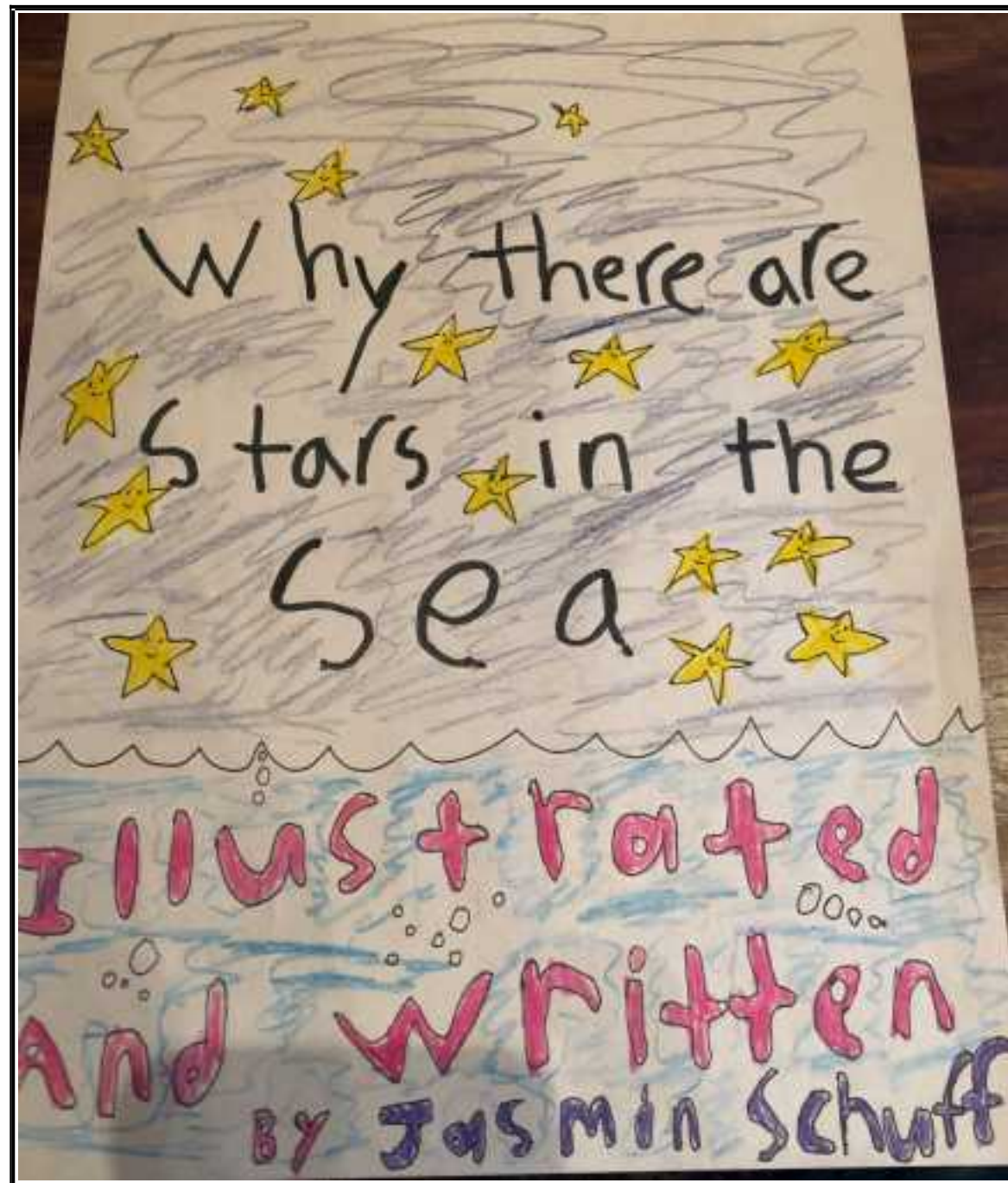
“Sorry you got into this mess,” said the sea dragon. Delphi was almost done hoping when... The rest of her pod came over the edge!!! Seahorses, urchins, they all came and saved them! When they got home, they celebrated, and they lived happily ever after.

***THE END.***

# ***WHY THERE ARE STARS IN THE SEA***

by

Jasmine



One night, the sky was twinkling beautifully and peacefully, and Sally Star was happy. Down on Earth the ocean was jealous of the lights in the sky. “I wish I had sparkles like that,” she complained. Just below, a Kraken named Lilac overheard what the ocean had just said.

So, Lilac came up to the surface and said, “Why don’t we go get a star?” The ocean thought that was a great idea. She sent a flying fish up to get one, but it couldn’t fly high enough. Next, they made a huge pile of crabs, but they all fell on Lilac’s head. “Ow!” she cried. “That hurt!”



They thought for hours. Finally, Lilac said, “Why don’t you send a big wave with me on it so I can grab a star with my tentacles!”

The ocean said, “That is a great idea, Lilac!” They tried three times and failed.

Lilac said, “If we don’t succeed this time then I guess we will have to give up.” The big wave carried Lilac very high and her purple tentacles grabbed Sally Star!



All of a sudden, Sally was in an underwater cave. Her fire had been put out but still she started to glow! Sally told the ocean and Lilac that she had a glow-in-the-dark chemical in her.

“Would you like to stay here and help us sparkle?” the ocean asked Sally.

“I’d love to!” Sally cried. “Can you invite my friends?”

“Okay,” said the ocean.

Sally wrote a letter to them and asked them to come live with her but they said, “No way!”

Sally wrote another letter and said how beautiful it was in the water. She got another letter back and this time her friends said, “Yes, we will join you and sparkle below.” They finally came to the ocean. They were all very happy. That is why there are stars in the sea.

***THE END.***

# ***THE ADVENTURES OF MICHAEL & DALE***

by  
Joe

One day two little fish named Michael and Dale were playing tag at the Coral Reef when they saw Vilnius Jack, the shark. They swam and swam as hard as they could for their lives. They swam and swam until they reached an underwater volcano.

The two little fish were cornered, nobody was there to help them. They heard the volcano go BOOM and Vilnius Jack got closer and closer! Then they heard a sound that sounded like a whale.

Jeremy the Whale scared off Vilnius Jack. While Vilnius Jack was running away, the little fish, Michael and Dale, were relieved. Jeremy the Whale was a very friendly whale and ever since Jeremy saved Dale and Michael they have been friends. Now they meet at the same spot every day to play a safe game of tag without worrying about Vilnius Jack the shark.

***THE END.***

# ***THE PILLAR***

by  
Johann



The lightning struck and the earthquake hit. A stone column under the island snapped. The island went down, down, down into the ocean depths. The trees were shrivelled up and mostly broken. One tree was still standing, and it was halfway sticking out of the water. Years later, a sailboat came floating by. Then all of a sudden, a big black cloud came right over the tree. The rain started to come, and a lightning bolt struck the ocean. The sailor thought it would be a good idea to tie his boat up to the tree. Many sailors had come and tied up to that tree and eventually, it was called “The Pillar.”

A whirlpool started to form and lots of logs started to circle around the boat. Bang! A huge log hit the boat and rammed a hole in the side. The boat started to go down and the sailor knew he only had a few more minutes. So, he climbed up The Pillar. He saw his boat go down all the way till he couldn't see it anymore. He just sat there hoping someone could save him.

After a while he gave up and started shouting for help. But all he heard was a humming noise. He looked behind him and saw a human-like figure standing on the water. The sailor said, “Who are you?”

“I am the spirit of this island. You must leave.”

“But I don't have a boat.”

And with that, the spirit disappeared. “You must leave,” the voice said again.

“I can't.”

“Then you must die!”

*ZZZZAAAAPPP!* And a lightning bolt hit the man. He went plunging into the water. Then he went floating up into the air. He said, “Why did you zap me? Why?”

“I did it because you went to the area of the Island of the Beasts.”

“But I didn't mean to.”

“You can be free if you get the island raised up out of the depth.”

The sailor's ghost went down into the ocean and found the island. He saw a big bubble around the whole island and inside there were animals. He saw a lot of broken segments of a stone column. He pushed one of the pieces out of the way. To his surprise it moved very easily. He found all the connecting pieces and stacked them up.

Finally, he was done and he went to the island. He used all his might and lifted up the island until it came out of the water. The big bubble shattered, and all the animals were free.

He saw something else on the island that he did not expect. It was his boat! He looked at it for a bit and noticed there was no hole. He heard the voice again. “I promised you could go if you raised up the island.” A lightning bolt hit the ghost and turned him back into a living human. He pushed his boat into the water and sailed away.

***THE END.***

# ***THE UNKNOWN***

by

Lilly and Kaia

In the deepest depths of the ocean, there is an unknown world full of mythical creatures. The rulers are King Poseidon and Queen Lilith. And one day, Kathalu awoke and was causing chaos and destruction to the merpeople kind. Inside the palace, fear lingered in the air, but in one small room, there was hope. The queen was having a baby. Once the child was born, she knew that to keep the baby safe she had to trust humankind. So she swam to a beach in Mexico and left the baby on the wet sand and then left to protect her kingdom.

Then came a couple who saw the baby, and picked up the child.



They asked all the other people around, “Is this your baby?” But after everyone on the beach said no, they took the baby in as their own, not knowing she was a baby queen. And that night, all merpeople fell but one.

A distant volcano, far away, was erupting and destroying a crescent-moon-shaped island. That island was called Atlantis. The island caved into the ground, down deep into the depths of the ocean. All of it crumbling into the depths, never to be seen again. Screaming was muffled, cries were drowned out, but somehow, some way, there was a single survivor.

Four years later, Amora touched the water when she went for a swim, and suddenly she grew a tail! Amora thought it was a dream so she slapped herself to wake up. “*This isn’t real. Mermaids don’t exist!*” she thought. Then it all made sense... that she was adopted and her parents' story of how they found her. She was a real mermaid! And maybe even the queen of mermaids.

One early morning, twelve years later, Azul was continuing her search for the new Atlantis when she was caught in a nearby fishing line. She was dragged in by it and she flung herself up

onto the beach to see who had caught her. “Anatahadare!?” she screamed, “Ato, nani o shite iru no?!”

“Qué estás diciendo, y eres una sirena?!” Amora screamed back.

“Nani o itte iru?!” Azul retorted, looking offended.

“No hablas español, verdad?” Amora asked calmly.

“Īe, watashi wa nihongo o hanashimasu,” Azul said, closing her eyes and looking smug.

“If I speak English, will you too?” Amora asked, crossing her arms.

“Fine,” Azul sighed.

“So there are more mermaids than just me! I thought they all died,” whispered Amora.

“They did, you and I are the last,” Azul said.

“Oh,” Amora hung her head. “Have you been on land before?” she asked, brightening up.

“No,” Azul said in disbelief.

“Okay,” Amora smiled. “I’m going to make it so you can!”

“Okay?” Azul said cautiously. “Are you sure you can do that?”

“My mom did it to me when I was young so when I touch water, I’m a mermaid and when I’m dry, I’m human. Plus, mom left

me with this book that she wrote spells and why she left me and all sorts of stuff,” Amora explained excitedly, while holding a book.

“Okay, if you say so,” Azul said.

“Uhh... OH! Here it is,” Amora exclaimed, “On land, in sea, make sure not to be seen, now take my hand to be on land!””

*POOF!*

“Nanite kotoda! I HAVE LEGS AND... wooow, Ooof!” Azul screamed.

“Now come with me,” Amora laughed and helped Azul up.

“Where?” Azul asked, getting her footing.

“My house,” Amora answered. Amora and Azul walked to Amora’s house, and by the time they reached her house, Azul was walking like a pro. “Hola mamá, hola papá!” Amora yelled to her parents.

“Hola cariño!” they chorused back.

“Traje una amiga.”

“Okay, cariño,” mom replied.

“Come with me, Azul,” Amora pulled her in her room.

“Wow, this is where you sleep, not in the water?” Azul asked with curiosity.



“Yup, it's where all humans sleep,” Amora said. “Anyway, I was wondering if you would help me?”

“With what?” Azul wondered.

“Finding SCP 3000,” Amora said boldly.

“WHAT!!??” Azul screamed at the top of her lungs. “You want me to stop my search for new Atlantis to help you find the mermaid KILLER!?!?”

“Umm... yes,” Amora said a bit shyly.

“No way, not happening,” Azul said heading for the door.

“Watashi wa koko o hanaremasu yo!” Amora sighed as she saw her only friend and the only one left of her kind leave.

“Estúpida, estúpida, estúpida,” Amora repeated. “Why would she help me anyway?” Then, Amora got an idea. She ran as fast as she could, dived into the ocean, and swam until she found Azul sitting on a rock mumbling Japanese to herself.

“Hey,” Amora smiled weakly.

“What do you want?” Azul sneered, looking away.

“I think I have an idea you'll like,” Amora stated.

“I doubt it,” Azul said unimpressed.

“We'll see,” Amora shot back. “If you go with me and find SCP 3000, I will help you find new Atlantis.”

“REALLY!?” Azul screamed. “Wait a minute, why do you want to find this.... Monster?”

“Well, you remember that book? I was reading it and my mother said, ‘When I, the queen Lilith of merpeople, had my baby I knew I had to trust humans with my baby girl, Amora,’ which means I am the queen of merpeople!” Amora exclaimed.

“That is unbelievable, but it still doesn’t explain why...” Azul continued.

“Kathalu was the one that destroyed my home, my family, and my kind! He’s too dangerous to find so SCP is safer,” Amora explained. “So are you in or out?”

Azul thought carefully about her options. “It’s a deal!” And it was sealed with a handshake. So the two mermaids happily went back to Amora’s house and enjoyed a delicious dinner from her parents and then said goodbye and went to sleep. They got up nice and early to start their journey.

“I was researching, and I think SCP-3000 is in the Bermuda triangle... it's certainly big enough,” Amora said, looking at her book.

“Okay then, destination: the Bermuda triangle,” Azul said, taking in a deep breath. Amora and Azul swam through the ocean's depths for hours. Amora got to see all types of new creatures that came from the deep dark depths (also occasionally swimming into the ocean pillars). After ten hours of swimming, they saw a large shadow creep over them, then the sound of thirty whales calling, echoed from the creature.

“Uhm, I think we found it,” Amora said, stopping and looking right into SCP-3000s blank dead eyes. Then slowly, very slowly, its jaw unhinged with a crack that rumbled through the water and sent Amora and Azul back. What came from the creature’s jaws next startled them. Static and garbled roars came from SCP-3000’s throat then echoed out into the water from the mouth of the creature. Then, a poor little unsuspecting angler fish wiggled right in front of SCP-3000’s snout and in a millisecond, the fish was gone and SCP-3000’s face was even closer than it was before.

“Uh, time to swim away?” Azul asked, turning to Amora.

“Uh, yeah,” Amora responded as she grabbed Azul’s arm and yanked her away to hide. “Welp, guess we found him, now time to get out of here!” Amora said, rushing to get away with Azul. They rushed behind a rock, terrified.

“We need to get out of here!” whispered Amora

“Good idea,” Azul said back. So they swam from rock to rock to seaweed, till they were far enough to swim away and as soon as



the time came, they swam as fast and hard as any mermaid has before. After hours and hours of non-stop swimming, they reached their destination and flung themselves up on the beach.

“Tomorrow, we go and find new Atlantis,” Azul said happily.

***THE END.***

# ***TO THE OCEAN***

by  
Olivia

Soft winds rustled the tall cherry blossom trees, petals danced in the wind, dew clung to the tree leaves and hugged tight on to the grass. Dust rose up as little feet raced against the cold stone roads. The sun slowly crawled up from the mountains and into the pink morning sky and shone up against a small boy's tawny brown hair which brushed against his rosy cheeks. Tears pushing from his eyes, he had no idea where he was running, but he would keep running until he could run no more.

Such a place seemed to be getting close, as the lush fields began to melt to sand and the smell of salt water grew less and less far.

It continued to close in, and the child let out a sharp breath as his bare scraped feet began to slide in the sand. His knees were growing weak and the sand slithered into his cuts. The water was just in front of him, and his legs collapsed. With a thump he tumbled down, the waves now just barely gracing his head. He no longer had the strength to get up. A 'possessed' had killed his parents. Just a child, he had no home, no family, and not enough strength to find his friends. Everything felt so... hopeless. It felt as if his heart had been replaced with an empty hole.

Sinking deeper into despair, he failed to notice the rippling waves coming his way. It wasn't until the feeling of a touch, but not a human touch, that he gently tilted his watering eyes up. It was about now he noticed a hideous odour clogging his nose... something so bad his eyes had dampened even greater.

“Hey uh kid, I’m not very good with this sorta stuff but uh... you good?” A deep voice muttered sheepishly. Though it sounded like he was trying to pull out whatever sympathetic tone he could, it wasn’t turning out so well.

The child squinted through his tears. It looked as if a giant blue blob was speaking to him. Lacking the desire to try to peer into its details, he slouched back into the sand.

The blue stranger took his own seconds of awkward silence before pushing on. “Uh well, my name’s Jeff... and uh...” he trailed off. His bright yellow eyes shot over at the boy with an annoyed glare. “Oi kid, I’m trying to be nice here! Could you at least try listening!” he snapped loudly. If he had eyebrows, they’d be tilted up in rage.

The little boy let out yet another sob, curling into a tight ball as if trying to hide. “M-my family’s dead!” he cried out, another wave of tears leaking from his eyes and down his cheeks.

The blue blob's eyes widened “O-oh...” Jeff muttered. It hadn't been the answer he expected. He instantly began scraping his brain for what to say next. ‘*What do you tell a kid whose parents just died?*’ “I uh... well um... my parents are dead too... so uh... we're in this together! Right little buddy?” he sputtered out awkwardly.

The child didn't reply. Jeff merely sighed. He wasn't the best with words, so what had he been expecting anyways? It was when he heard soft snoring that he decided to look back over. The little runt had fallen asleep. Letting out a loud groan, he rose to his flippers, waddling over as he gently picked the child up. The boy was a lot smaller than Jeff, so it wasn't that difficult for him to toss the kid over his scaly back. That's right, Jeff was a half-beast fishman.

*6 years later...*



“Alright! Calm down! Calm down! Just a second, sir!” Tobe remarked loudly, hoping that the whole crowd would hear.

The sand boiled under his toes, the sun blazing down and making everything sticky. After their meeting on the beach, Jeff and Tobe had begun living together. Jeff was basically the father Tobe lost, even if he was a giant stinky fish. The two of them soon found their common interest: the ocean. It was a slightly ironic interest though. Tobe was an element conductor who had never even been in the ocean before meeting Jeff, plus his element wasn't even water, it was earth, while Jeff was a

fishman that couldn't swim. Which is where their snack cart had come into play. They were saving the money for a ship to ride away from the world. But with a legitimate seafood restaurant nearby, it wasn't that easy. Today though, it was exploding with customers.

Running off, Tobe slipped behind the supply room to find Jeff lounging about. The blue man raised an eyebrow at the adolescent before returning to his newspaper. A low growl rumbled in Tobe's throat as he stomped over to Jeff. "You were supposed to bring over the supplies! The customers have all

gone crazy!” He scowled, snatching the newspaper from Jeff’s hand.

Jeff huffed. “Do you know why?” he stated seriously, in a tone that showed *he* obviously knew why.

Tobe’s eyes sharpened to a glare as he leaned against the dusty, wood supply room door frame. As they continued to leer at one another, a staring contest took place between them. Jeff sighed, and realizing he wouldn't win, he finally let up. “Just last night, Cyan the Dragon Slayer burnt down our competitor’s shop,” he

grumbled, reaching down for his newspaper.

“Really!” Tobe chirped happily, smacking down the two-hundred-and-thirty-seven-year-old fisherman's newspaper once more.

Jeff gave him a pestered look but decided to push on no further. “You shouldn’t be so excited,” he remarked bitterly, rising to his flippers.

Tobe made a groan as he rolled his eyes. “You hated those three,

I hated those three, and they stole all our customers,” the teenage boy muttered.

“Who cares about that? This means that Cyan the Dragon Slayer is somewhere around here!” Jeff huffed. Old plank boards creaked under his flippers as he walked out the door.

Tobe’s eyes followed the fishman until he turned the corner, out of sight and into the bright clear-skied day. “Old geezer,” he muttered to himself. Reaching down, he picked up the supplies he needed. Everything new was running out and they were

having to resort to some older product. Luckily, they had a lot of older products. As he picked up the bag it made a disgusting swishing noise, and as the stench leaped out, it felt like holding a bunch of mush. Dropping it in disgust, he reached for a newer bag. They were going to have vermin problems because of all this garbage.

Turning the corner, sun still blazing, customers still squabbling, and Jeff nowhere to be found. Tobe sighed, dragging his tired feet back to the stand. The whole place seemed to get warmer by

the second as he approached raging customers. Taking a deep breath, he grinned at the horde.

“Hello! What can I get for you?” Tobe chirped with whatever positive attitude he could muster. His energy seemed to jump out from nowhere.

“I should be the one asking you that, but I already know what I can get for you,” an unknown and slightly eerie voice hummed. A slight chill rumbled down his spine as he looked up at a devilish woman. She looked like the kind of person you see on

wanted signs for lots of money, at least a foot taller than him, with long curly red hair, sharp green eyes and big red lips. Not to mention clothing that looked like the in between of a bandit and an admiral.

“And what’s that supposed to mean?” Tobe huffed.

The woman smirked, tilting her hip to show off the machete that hung from her hip, the knives wrapped around her waist like a belt. She was threatening him. The hot sun suddenly felt cold. Instantly, he regretted the snarky comment.



“You... you’re saving up for a boat, am I right?” She grinned.

He shuffled around in the pressure, gently nodding his head.

“Great, great, then I have a deal for you,” she led on, speaking slowly in the suspense. Tobe’s eyes widened as he leaned forward. She put her hands on her hip. “My name’s Carma, I have several ships and a problem with my old crew,” Carma spoke. “Help me dispose of those pirates and I’ll give you one of my boats, no cost,” she hummed softly, reaching for an apple that she then shined with her gloves. “You in, little boy?”

The midnight insects chirped melodies into the starry sky, streetlamps flickering through his window. But Tobe's mind was stuck... stuck on what Carma had told him. He didn't want to admit it, but even after all the business today, there was nowhere near enough money. By the time they could buy a ship... was it even possible? Yet here was a free one, thrown right at him for playing a little decoy. There was no longer a need to think it over, he had made up his mind.

As quietly as possible, he slowly shoved off the covers. Gently pushing off the bed, his toes touched against the wood planks, a

quiet creak echoing through the room. Throwing on a sweater and sweatpants, he began his tiptoe to the door. Sneaking through the living room, Jeff was in the same spot as always, asleep on the couch with that darn newspaper sprawled on top of him. Slowing the pace, he slipped by, sliding his feet into his slip-ons at the door. Here was the hard part... wincing, he felt as if he was going to explode. Fingertips wrapped around the doorknob, he quietly turned it open. The door let out a small whine. Tobe leaped outside, gently closing it behind him. The cool breeze blew into his face. The nighttime smell filled the air, accompanied by the scent of salt water. Their little cart leaned

against the house wall. But now wasn't the time for sightseeing. Fixing up his shoes, Tobe rushed off to the meeting spot.

Unable to keep running, he came to a stop, but it wasn't because he ran out of energy. His eyes widened as he marveled at his surroundings. It was the port. Giant ships and sailboats as far as the eye could see, the smells of the wood and of the nearby sea, and the clear twilight shining on masts and sparkling decks. Quaint little houses decorated across the worn streets.

“So you finally showed up, huh? I knew you wouldn’t let me down,” Carma’s familiar voice rang.

Tobe grinned as he turned around to face her. “So where are the swashbucklers, Captain?” He remarked excitedly, though still slightly second guessing himself. *‘Was this the right choice?’*

Carma had obviously seen the look as she patted his shoulder. “Don’t worry sport, you’ll do great,” she remarked. Seconds later her lips curled into a smirk. “Are you ready to ride a real boat?”

At this, Tobe looked as if he was going to pop, his eyes wide and gleaming. It was hard to tell if he was even breathing. “A real boat!” he managed to squeak out.

“A real boat, and a real crew,” she winked.

Unable to make out his next words, he merely followed Carma to the ship, and a beautiful ship it was. Detailed designs had been carved into the ship’s side, and it looked like it was newly swabbed, which made the fact that it was accompanied by such a rough crowd sort of odd. They were all scarred, tattooed, and

dirty. Some of them were grinning at him, but they didn't have a full mouth of teeth. Others looked as if they would rather see his head on a platter.

“Ah, don't mind them, they're all newbies! Also, don't make yourself too comfortable, it's a short ride,” she said out loud. As Carma led them away from the crowd, she leaned over her shoulder. “With this sorta gang, that's probably for the best,” she chuckled. Tobe merely nodded.

Carma took a deep breath of the salty air as she stretched out.

“Welp, I’ve got things to do! See ya sport,” she hummed, tucking her hands in her pockets as she walked back into the danger zone. He, on the other hand, wasn’t quite as gutsy. Walking over to crates and bags of supply, he cuddled up. Any other time, he would have stared into the ocean the whole ride. But if he wanted to be a decoy, he was going to need some energy, and at the moment, he had none. Sinking into slumber, he was out cold in minutes.

“Oi, sport! Wake up, it’s your time!” a voice yowled in his ear. Tobe let out a soft groan, rolling over. *‘What were they talking*



*about?* Letting out another groan, he squirmed around. It felt as if he was sleeping on wood planks. At the thought, Tobe's eyes popped open.

“The mission, right!” He stammered out loud. He swung his head up from the sack he used as a pillow, eyes tilted upward as he saw Carma looking down at him.

“Ya ready, lazy bones?” She questioned.

Tobe let out a yawn while stretching out. Placing his hands on the barrels, he tugged himself to his feet. “Mhm... born ready,” he muttered.

Carma sharply smiled as she tossed him a bottle of water. “Drink up, you’re gonna need it.” With that, she turned around and walked away.

Stumbling with the water in his hands, he finally got hold of it. The lid was easy to pop off before he took a long gulp of water. Wiping the remains from his mouth he spun the lid back on and

chased after Carma. Turning the corner, the crew was all leaving the ship, Carma included. He walked over to the ramp, almost sad to leave the ship. But soon he'd have his own, then he and Jeff could travel to wherever they wanted. Funny how it was all one little sprint away.

With everyone off the vessel, they came to stop. It was early morning, the sun still yet to rise. He was almost excited to see the island at dawn. From what he saw now it seemed to be a beautiful little island. A soft breeze rattling tall palm trees, birds

already waking. When he got his ship, they would find lots of islands.

Meanwhile everyone had circled around Carma and a map of the island. They were going over the plan. Wanting a front row seat for it, Tobe squeezed through the crowd. Carma grinned and said, “the plan will go something like this...”

Here they were, Tobe running as fast as his legs could carry. With every step, he used his prowess to send a fierce tremble through the earth, hoping that he would make it to the spot of

ambush, hoping he had used enough power to warn the men ahead. Before it all seemed as if it would all be easy, but now, the undeniable fear of death was all he could think of. But if he could survive, it would all be worth it. Avoid the rain of spears and barrage of swords and he'd have reached his dream.

He tried to keep that in mind, but the adrenaline was overpowering. It was just when he could go no further that he finally made it. The shuffle of the trees, the swing of the rope. As he collapsed down into the grass, he had never felt so relieved.

Taking a few more seconds to breathe, he then rose to his feet. He looked over at the two men who handled the trap. “So, what do we do with them?” he asked, smirking up at the captured men.

“We kill em,” a large gravelly-voiced man scowled.

Tobe’s eyes widened as he stumbled back. *‘Kill them? They were going to kill them!’* He stood there stunned.

The other one, a tall and lanky man snickered. “What did ya think we were going to do with them?” His voice was like nails on a chalkboard.

Tobe put his head down, dragging his foot through the dirt. To be honest, he had no idea. “I’ll... leave you guys to it...” he muttered, walking into the shrubbery. Blood had always made him uncomfortable. Bringing death into the mix made him sick to his stomach. Taking a deep breath, he tried to put the thought behind him. *‘Look at this island in the light of day. It truly was spectacular. Think of that ship we’ll be getting!’* His

train of thought trailed off. *‘But was it really worth taking the lives of others?’*

As he continued to ponder the words rushing through his head, something hit him. It was the smell of smoke. There was a fire. His head shot to the sky... it was coming from the direction of the ship! The other men must have noticed as well because there was a rustle in the grass. Stepping from the bushes, he saw them running towards the ship. He was hot on their heels.

Pushing through branches, roots, and leaves, he rushed towards



the fire. More plumes of smoke trailed into the bright blue sky, filled with panicked birds shrieking as they rushed away. He slapped away another branch so he could see bright blue light through the trees. There was only one person who could have done this: Cyan the Dragon Slayer. That fear from before crawled back up but he wasn't running from it this time... he was running at it. Everyone knew of Cyan the Dragon Slayer, he was the last of the Salamander tribe, a tribe of fire breathers that had single-handedly wiped out his own people.

The smell of burning flesh rammed at his senses as he made it to the clearing. Fire raged everywhere and as he counted the people, everyone... all seventeen other people were dead. It was over, this was a horrible idea... there was no way of surviving.

As his eyes continued to race across the grave, he saw *him*, Cyan the Dragon Slayer. He was easy to make out once Tobe spotted him. Messy purple hair, green eyes, eye patch, face mask, crutches, and wrapped in bandages to neck level. As he continued to stare at the murderous man, suddenly their eyes met. He felt as if he had been frozen in time. Fear glued Tobe

down, he was unable to move, unable to think. He could barely breathe.

“You, come over here! You’re caged in, there's no use running!”  
Cyan yelled.

He was right, where would he go? Why not just get death over with? With all the power he had, Tobe forced his legs forward. Cyan simply watched as he wobbled over like a stick man. It was when they stood face to face that he was hit with the most unbearable feeling... that it was over.

“I saved a boat. Paddle me out of here,” the young man said bitterly. Just looking death in the eye seconds ago, Tobe was shocked. But the ship was burning down. His memory then came flooding back. They had set up a small boat in case they needed a quick escape. Looking behind Cyan, he met eye to eye with the broken piece of junk. It didn’t look very stable, and there was no way they would all fit. Heck, it might not even hold the two of them! But what choice did he have? None. Not to mention, Cyan was getting impatient. Who knows, maybe he could shove the murderer off on the trip.

Rushing past Cyan, he jumped onto the boat. The unstable structure let out a yowl under his weight. Maybe he could have tried to make a run for it with the boat... but he would probably be burnt to a crisp. Pushing his crutches to his face, Cyan pulled his mask down. The left side of his mouth was fine, but the right had been stitched together. His old plan was just shot down the drain. One wrong move and he wouldn't be alive much longer. All he could really do was hope Cyan didn't mind being dropped off in the middle of nowhere, because he was asleep the whole trip here.

“What’s the hold up?” Cyan growled darkly. He had awkwardly made his way into the boat.

“Sorry!” Tobe yelled, he untied the rope and began to paddle. As they continued to ride on, it got more awkward by the second. “So uhh... being all burnt up and all, how’d you get here?” Tobe mumbled.

The other boy glared up at him. “Snuck onto your ship,” he replied bluntly.

Tobe made an “Ah” sound to respond. The fact he could be so sneaky with crutches was amazing. Still, Cyan didn’t seem like the talkative type, or the bragging type. Trying to converse with him was probably a fool’s errand, but the silence had been killing him. “Why’d you sneak on?” Tobe pushed on further.

Cyan glared up at him once more, obviously losing patience. “I was sent to assassinate Carma, and to gather the item she went to steal,” he grumbled.

Tobe sat back, processing the information he just received.

“She didn’t tell me we were stealing... She said she was dealing with her old crew, and if I was her decoy, she’d give me a ship...” he trailed off. “She was a pirate!” he gasped, jumping up as the boat shook. Gaining yet another glare from Cyan as he sat down, Tobe’s fingers clenched around the paddles. “I bet she wasn’t even going to give me a boat!” he snapped.

Cyan rolled his eyes. “Correct,” he muttered.

Silenced, Tobe went back to rowing. It was a peaceful few minutes. Little islands off in the distance, a soft ocean breeze



blowing atop gentle waters. Only the sounds of birds and the splash of the paddles. But it was short-lived. “You said you were... sent? What do you mean by that?” Tobe questioned.

Cyan let out a loud groan. “This is your last question,” he scowled. “So, here’s your last answer... SHUT UP, IT’S PERSONAL,” he growled viciously. Tobe frowned, but wanted criminals weren’t exactly the kind of people you want to mess with.

They’d been out at sea for a little while now, but finally, they

were nearing land. It was definitely the main island (the size was an obvious giveaway) but where on the main island he wasn't sure. Despite his aching muscles, the closer they got, the faster he rowed. That was, until he realized what it meant to reach land... He would die. His hands came to a pause. *'Was there really any happy ending to this?'*

There was a huff behind him. "Just get us there, I'm sick of you," Cyan grumbled.

Tobe could feel his breath begin to hollow as they got closer to shore. It was at this point things flew by too quickly to remember. As the paddle boat thumped into the shore, Tobe leaped. It was mid-leap that something swung in front of him, and before he knew what happened, he was unconscious.

There was a throbbing in his head, a ringing in his ears, bright light shining in his eyes, and that same sleeping-on-wood-planks feeling as before. With a groan, he wormed around, but there truly wasn't anything comfortable nearby.

“Happy to see you’re not dead,” a familiar fish’s voice remarked in an oddly cheery tune. Raising up his hands he rubbed the sleep from his eyes. It was oddly breezy. Slowly opening his eyes, there was an endless land of blue, accompanied by soaring birds and what looked like masts.

“Jeff, I think I’m hallucinating,” Tobe moaned.

The fishman chuckled, “Believe me, at first I thought the same.”

He looked up at the fishman. He had his fins on a wheel. He looked down at his feet, and he was on a wood deck.

“JEFF, WE’RE ON A SHIP!” Tobe yowled. Pushing up to his feet, he rushed to the railing. The sea and the ocean came together in the distance, little islands spotted amongst it all. “B- But what happened?” he gasped in disbelief.

“Well, you snuck off and almost died, that’s what happened!” Jeff snapped.

Tobe huffed, leaning on the ship's rail. "I meant after that," he grumbled. The old vertebrata sighed.

"An absolute miracle," he scowled. "Apparently, you were found unconscious and about to die at the hands of Cyan the Dragon Slayer! Luckily some villagers came along, he said something about it 'being too tiresome' and then scurried off," he huffed in annoyance.

Tobe looked down at the ship, patting the railing. "Then how'd we get this?" he asked.

“Yet another miracle! Some pirates were reported dead, so a bunch of ships went on the market! Cheap ones too,” Jeff hummed happily.

“Huh, well isn’t that great!” Tobe cheered.

“Oh, it’s not great quite yet, you have some explaining to do,” the fishman chuckled.

Tobe groaned looking back out at the ocean. In the end, it was all worth it. But it came with some questions. *‘What next? What*

*islands will we find? Who sent Cyan?* But that was all for another day.

***THE END... OR IS IT?***



# ***ALICE AND THE MAGICAL WORLD***

by  
Ria

*BOOM!* Thunder pushed Alice back beneath the waves. “Help!” She managed to cry as yet another wave fell over her.

Two Days Earlier...

“Hahaha!” A tinkling laugh ran out through the quiet, chilling, and empty atmosphere. The culprit was Alice, a ten-year-old girl with light brown eyes, rosy lips, and wavy chocolate-brown hair. Now, do you remember when we told you that her neighbourhood was quiet, chilling, and empty? You may know

of such a neighbourhood. You know, the kind that doesn't know laughter, warmth, smiles, and good deeds for each other.

“Be quiet!” yelled a woman.

“Yeah!” shouted a man. “I used to have a good afternoon nap before these kids moved in!”

“Sorry,” Alice mumbled, kicking a pebble. “Sorry, we can't have fun in this town.” She had moved into Snoozefest a week ago. And don't get us wrong, the town IS called Snoozefest. So far,

she hadn't made one friend. But little did she know that she was going to have an adventure that would change her life forever.

It all started on the dock. “The Royal Jewel,” Alice whispered. The Royal Jewel as you might be wondering, is a grand ship. Tomorrow it will sail the Caribbean Sea. Alice’s grandfather, being the captain of the ship, knew that Alice would want to come. Her parents willingly agreed. So, while staring at The Royal Jewel, Alice said, “Tomorrow Caribbean, I'm coming towards you!”

Alice jumped out of bed. Today was the day! “Come on Alice. Come on!” she whispered to herself. After she was dressed, she raced down to the dock. “I’m here!” she yelled. The dock was unusually quiet. That was because it was three in the morning. The only ship getting ready to sail was the Royal Jewel.

“Ah, come aboard Alice my dear,” said her grandfather.

As Alice began to climb aboard, a crewman came up to her grandfather saying, “Captain Roberts? We’re ready to sail.”

“All right,” Roberts said, “I’ll be right there. I need to see my granddaughter first.” He walked over to Alice and studied her for a minute. Then he spoke, “Your parents tell me you’re still in doubt of what you’ll be able to do.”

Alice looked at the wooden deck of the ship sheepishly and said, “Well, it’s a little hard to explain. I kind of want to be a captain of a great ship like you, but then I want to be an adventurer at the same time.”

Her grandpa replied, “Alice, I know you are an extraordinary girl. Capable of many things. You have something in you, even if you don't know what.”

Alice nodded. Then another crewman yelled, “It’s time to sail!”

After the sun started to rise, the chef prepared a big breakfast of sandwiches, pasta, noodles, tea, and cereal. After everyone had eaten, they returned to their cabins tired and sleepy. Alice went to the cabin that she shared with her grandpa and immediately retired to bed. When she woke up, it was time for lunch.

After lunch, it was time for some dancing. Alice laughed and laughed while twirling around the deck. Then it was time for some dinner. But as the ship was reaching the Caribbean, disaster struck. An unpredicted storm appeared on the horizon. It caused a huge wave to wash over the ship. But before it happened, Captain Roberts shouted, “Turn the ship around!” But it was too late. Everyone onboard the ship fell overboard. But something was off. Everyone was being pulled inside the sea. Pretty soon no one except Alice was left on the surface.

And then... *BOOM!*



Thunder pushed Alice back beneath the waves. “Help!”, she managed to cry as yet another wave fell over her. But then she too was pulled beneath the waves. She looked behind her and saw a beautiful woman pulling her. And that’s all she remembered before everything went black.

When she woke up, she yawned and said, “Where am I?” Then she realized that she was on a bed. But the most bizarre thing was that she was breathing! Underwater! She looked around and saw that the beautiful woman that had rescued her was a mermaid! “Whoa...” she murmured, amazed.

“Are you feeling better?” asked the mermaid. Her voice was melodious and filled with concern.

Alice replied, “Yes. I am fine.”

“What’s your name?” asked the mermaid.

“My name is Alice,” Alice answered. “And what’s your name?”

“My name is Emerald,” Emerald replied. “But everyone calls me Emmy.”

“Well, it's nice to meet you, Emmy.”

Then Emerald said to Alice, “We have rescued everyone else that was onboard your ship too.”

“Thank you so much!” exclaimed Alice.

Then Emerald led Alice into another room. Alice saw Captain Roberts lying on his bed. “Grandpa!” she exclaimed. She ran over to him and hugged him.

Almost unconscious, he managed to hoarsely whisper, “Alice, do you remember when I told you that you had something in you?” Alice nodded. “Well, this could be your chance to figure it out.” Upon saying that, he fell asleep.

Emerald, who had been quietly watching, spoke up, “Why don't we let him rest Alice? He'll have more energy that way.” Alice nodded.

As they swam through the streets of the mermaid kingdom, Alice asked, “Do you have a plan to get us home?”

Emerald nodded and replied, “The queen’s workers are trying to fix your ship.”

Just then, a huge roar blasted throughout the kingdom.

Emerald, looking alarmed, shouted, “Oh no! The Kraken!”

As they ran to seek refuge, Alice asked, “What’s a Kraken?”

Emerald did not answer. She merely swam faster and pulled Alice along with her.

After they were settled behind the queen's army, Emerald told Alice all about the Kraken, "The Kraken used to be part of the queen's army. He was a big octopus that was devoted to his queen and his duty. But then people started to look at him as a monster. The queen listened to her people and banished him to a canyon that's on the outskirts of the kingdom. The Kraken, not being able to disobey his queen, left. Now we think he has turned against us."

"Or maybe he's just lonely," Alice thought. Just then a cry interrupted her thoughts. It was the guards.

“Attack!” they yelled.

Emerald and Alice looked up just in time to see a giant octopus!

“The Kraken!” Emerald yelled.

She tried to pull Alice along with her, but Alice wouldn't budge.

“You go on,” she said, “I'll be fine.”

“Okay,” Emerald said as she swam along with the other mermaids. The Kraken roared and pushed the army to one side. Then he slithered towards Alice.

“Stop!” Alice cried cowering, “I only want to be your friend.”

“Friend?” boomed the Kraken, surprised.

Alice nodded and continued, “I realize you might be lonely in the canyon. But if you stop behaving like a monster, and help me get back home, I, and everyone else here, will be your friend.”

The Kraken considered the deal and said, “I will do it.”



Over the next few days, the queen's workers, the Kraken, Emerald, and Alice, helped repair the ship. When it was ready, the mermaids helped raise it to the surface of the ocean, while the Kraken told them the plan. "So after the mermaids rise it up to the surface, I'll raise you, your grandfather, and your crew up to the ship with my tentacles and you can sail away okay?"

Alice nodded. And of course, that plan worked out perfectly. When Alice reached the dock she cheered, "Yay!" She'd never thought she would be this happy to see Snoozefest. But again, she'd never thought she would see a mermaid kingdom either.

Now she's living happily and has even made a new friend,  
Denise.

***THE END.***

# ***PLACE UNDER THE WAVES***

by  
Sabrina

Hey! My name is Nami, and this is the story of my time under the waves.

As a kid, I loved playing at the beach. I loved running up to the cold waves and running away laughing when they rolled over my toes. I loved mixing ocean water and sand to make the squishiest mud towers. I loved the beach. At seventeen, I was an accomplished surfer. I nearly spent all of my free time at the beach. I didn't really have any friends or much of a social life but I was okay with that since I didn't need friends to do what I loved.

The day started like any other. I put on my bathing suit, stuffed a towel and snacks in my duffel bag, tucked my surfboard under my arm and walked to my favourite spot on the beach. I was paddling out on my board when I saw a huge wave coming my way. It was purplish underneath, and you could see the fish and seaweed floating about inside of it. I hopped onto my surfboard and caught the wave. I'd been riding it for a while, when suddenly a hole opened up in the water and I was sucked down into the dark water below, board and all.

I stopped falling after what felt like two minutes, but instead of the seafloor, I was greeted with a city underwater. Not Atlantis or Bikini Bottom. A real city. Factories that were emitting fish instead of smoke, chimneys emitting ink instead of emberly smoke. I saw people. No, not mermaids and mermen, those are fictional. Just people. Two-legged people, just like you and me. They looked as if they'd drowned decades ago but were still alive. Their skin was dark teal and their eyes were white. They looked like something straight out of Minecraft, but not blocky. Most were girls, their hair was green and looked like snakes. They weren't snakes though, simply matted strips of hair.

I closed my eyes, hoping I'd wake up from this awful nightmare. I didn't, but when I opened my eyes again, a girl was standing over me, holding out a hand to help me up. She had long green matted hair and white eyes. Beautiful in her own way. She was wearing a brown torn rag for a shirt, and a blue torn rag for pants. She seemed worried but excited. "Are... You alright?" She spoke. Her voice sounded human. Now I was scared. What if I had drowned and this was an underwater grave?

“You’re safe and no harm will come to you,” she said as if reading my mind.

I took her hand and nodded, and she helped me up. I realized that I was still in my bathing suit, and apparently she could see the shock on my face. She laughed, "My name is Dekishi. What's yours?" She smiled.

"Nami," I responded, still slightly embarrassed.

"Don't worry. I have clothes for you to change into," she laughed. Dekishi grabbed my wrist and pulled me up.



As we walked I saw playgrounds with shells for slides. Houses made out of clams, shells and repurposed plastic bottles. It seemed we'd shrunken, too, if shells were houses and slides. They really were saving the environment down here... (WEAK, HUMANITY! WHY DON'T WE MAKE HOUSES OUT OF POLLUTION?! I BET IF WE CAN MAKE ISLANDS OUT OF IT WE CAN MAKE A HOUSE!)

Dekishi's house was located in a group of shells with ladders connecting them. Her bedroom was on the bottom floor of the contraption. When I walked through the opening to her room I

saw a huge mattress that took up most of the room with shelves and fairy lights surrounding it. Beautiful. Connected diagonally with a ladder was a walk-in closet with a lock and chains in front of it. It was high up and out of reach from below. Dekishi climbed up the ladder and unlocked the door, motioning for me to follow. She had all sorts of human clothes. They were somehow perfectly dry. Dekishi held up a black T-shirt and short jeans which, weirdly, matched my taste exactly and I quickly got changed.

Now that I was feeling much more comfortable, I was starving. Dekishi suggested we visit the market place close by her house. We walked down the sandy street to a market stall loaded with fruit. I tried to purchase an apple with a crumpled dollar bill left in the pocket of the short jeans I had put on, but the shopkeeper pointed to a sign above him that read, '*ONLY ACCEPTS SHELLS AS CURRENCY*'. Dekishi pointed to a shell sticking out of the ground and I picked it up and handed it to the shopkeeper who took the shell and handed me the apple. Dekishi bought a huge watermelon and we returned to her house. Dekishi sat on the edge of her bed and skinned the

watermelon. I sat beside her. I had to figure out how to get out of here. Maybe Dekishi could help.

"Do you have any idea how I can get home? And do you know where my surfboard is?"

She put her dagger and watermelon down behind her. She shook her head. "No, I don't know anything. But I heard the psychic a few shells away is good. Try asking her! Just follow the road and you can't miss her. She lives in a purple tent."

Dekishi pointed to a cluster of shells down the street. I headed

in that general direction and immediately spotted it. A purple tent with yellow stars in a corner behind a house. I ran over to it and saw a hooded girl inside. She didn't look too old, but was wearing ancient purple robes with yellow seams and trim. She looked up at me with those white eyes and motioned for me to take a seat. I sat on the wooden stool in front of the small table. On the table was a tablecloth that matched the robe and tent, and a purple crystal ball. I was ready to be disappointed. I told her what I was trying to do, and she stifled a laugh. She didn't need to look in the crystal ball to tell me that I needed to kill a giant squid they called the Kraken.

I laughed. "Nice one, but really, how do I get out of here?"

One look at her facial expression told me this was no joke. "Oh." I stopped laughing. "Okay, um..." I got up. "Thanks." I picked up a shell from the sandy floor and put it on the table.

I ran out of the tent to try and find the said Kraken. To my relief I spotted Dekishi outside waiting for me. I told her what the psychic said. "I'll help you." Dekishi said. I was relieved to have a partner and friend. We wandered around somewhat aimlessly when I suddenly spotted a soft transparent blue glow behind a

cluster of shell houses. Dekishi and I looked at each other and knew this must be the place. We walked up to the glowing wall and then slowly walked through. We had entered a battlefield.

A giant squid (I knew this was the Kraken) slithered out from a crater in the far side of the battlefield. He was an orange giant. Large tentacles and a beak-like mouth with sharp teeth made him a monster. I stepped backward through the glowing wall and backed away as fast as I could. I breathed and then stepped back in. I knew I had to face him. Dekishi and I looked at each other and then realized we were now both wearing full armour,

including massive swords. The Kraken noticed us and roared. I started questioning my choices. Dekishi gave me a nod and I understood that now was the time to attack. I ran up to the Kraken and stabbed it in the face with a flailing arm. I repeated this motion at full speed, but it didn't seem to affect the Kraken. I flopped over and gave up. Then I remembered that I had to defeat him or I would never be able to go home. Dekishi helped me up and we simultaneously slashed vertically down the Kraken's head. It winced. It looked at me. I froze. It lashed one of its tentacles at my head and grabbed me with another. It threw me onto the ground and slid me into the forcefield.



I crashed into what felt like brick. I got up... I limped towards Dekishi with a determined look on my face. “On the count of three...” I hissed at Dekishi.

She nodded and we both understood it was now or never. I counted to three and we jumped up on the Kraken and we climbed on his head. We stabbed our swords, hoping to hit his brain. Finally I slit the Kraken's head down the middle. It bled out orange goo. The mutant squid slunk back down into the ground for good. The battlefield collapsed and buried the Kraken.

Dekishi and I were slimy and exhausted. But ecstatic. We did it! We limped off the battleground and walked through the glowing wall when I saw a shape floating quickly toward me... And my surfboard hit me in the face. "Owh!" I exclaimed.

Relief hit me. I could return home. I turned to Dekishi and she understood. We hugged each other. "I'll make sure to write to you, okay?" I confirmed, smiling.

Dekishi smiled and nodded. She squeezed me tighter. "Okay, a little too tight." I let go and held her by the shoulders.

She sighed.

"I'm gonna miss you," I told her.

"Me too..." she said.

I waved goodbye and was immediately sucked back onto my board to catch the surface wave. I was not prepared and I felt vomit rising. I hopped off the wave and was back on dry land.

I cannot explain my adventure. Why I was chosen to fight the Kraken and discover the city below the waves. I don't know if I can ever return. But I had found a friend in a place I didn't know existed.

***THE END.***

# ***LOST AND FOUND***

by

Sheaen

Once upon a time there were three friends, Joe the fish, Ben the shark, and Jessie girl the blue whale. They were best friends. Summer vacation was getting closer and they were all looking forward to going on their school trip because they were now old enough to go alone this year.

They all went to their school bus which was the sub car, but first they had to pump some wafuel which was water fuel which made sea vehicles go fast. They stopped at Mr. Barnacles Wafuel station and pumped some wafuel.

They were singing songs and listening to the sea urchins when they realized they had forgotten to buy their seaweed and sea munchie snacks. They went towards the stingray shore but got lost because the road was hidden. They didn't get scared because luckily they had some extra wafuel. However they had not brought a map so they didn't know where to go.

After looking around and Ben and Joe trying to keep Jessie from crying, they found a glass bottle hidden behind the starfish rock. It had a note with a sign inside. It was a map. They were so happy to find it.

They followed the map and were able to find their way home. But the map also took them to a water park on the way. They went on the octopus circles and on a treasure hunt in the abandoned ship. Jessie found a lucky coin.

After playing at the water park, Ben realized it was getting very dark and they had to quickly head home. They all got back in the subcar and followed the map home.

When they got home they saw all their parents had got scared and were ready to go looking for them because they had gone



missing. They were all very happy to see them alive! Ben, Joe and Jessie had a wonderful day getting lost and then finding a map and going to the water park.

***THE END.***

# ***HERO OF THE SEA***

by  
Violet

Charlie was a thirteen-year-old boy who enjoyed spending time by the seaside. His grandma had told him magical stories about the enchanted sea kingdom and how land and sea had once lived together in perfect harmony. As the legend was told, there was a disagreement between the town and the sea kingdom, and a spell was cast that covered the sea with a dense mist.

Every day, Charlie would sit by the water and look through the mist in hopes of catching a glimpse of the mystical mermaids from his grandmother's stories.

One evening, Charlie was having trouble sleeping so he snuck down to the water's edge to listen to the relaxing sound of the waves. But as he was falling asleep, he heard a loud splash. He moved closer to the water and saw something flicker! He took a step into the water, but the thick mist tried to push him back onto land. Charlie suddenly felt like he was being pulled down by a force into the water. He tried to swim back up, but the mist was trapping him.

Charlie woke up and heard whispering. He tried to stand up and a hand reached out to help him. Almost instantly, he realized he

was floating underwater! Charlie looked to see who was helping him and he saw a young girl. When he looked down at her legs there was a fishtail and he realized she was a mermaid!

“Finally, a human just like the queen said! Have you come to save us?” the mermaid asked. Charlie was unable to answer so she continued on. “When the queen disappeared, she told us that we must try to reestablish trusting relationships with the humans! You’re a human right?” Again, before Charlie could even nod, she kept talking excitedly. “If you have come to make

peace, then please take this shell. It will allow us to talk to you while we are in the sea. Please, you are our only hope!”

Charlie’s eyes were wide, and he nodded his agreement. Then the mermaid used all her strength to create a small opening in the mist so Charlie could get out. The water from underneath his feet pushed him up and through the opening. He found himself magically in the town offices standing next to the Mayor!

Charlie stood unsure of what to do next when he heard a loud voice coming from inside the shell. “Dear humans, I am Titan, the king of the sea. Have you come to make peace?”

The mayor removed his jacket to reveal a dazzling cloak covered with sparkling sea creatures! “I have been waiting for this day for a long time! Yes, King Titan, we are ready to make peace!”

At that moment, the mist lifted, and the bright blue reflection of the water spread across the town. A bright light appeared under

the water and the queen emerged! Peace had been restored and Charlie was declared the hero of the sea!

***THE END.***



# ***MY HOUSE***

by  
Woojn

Once upon a time a rabbit and a tiger lived together in the forest. However, there were a lot of mosquitoes so they decided to go to the ocean to live. They got into the ocean but they found that the wind was so strong that the wind blew off their house!

So they decided to go to the desert. They noticed that it was too hot to breathe and that they could not find any water or food. Before the night came, they decided to go to the city.

When they arrived in the city, the police came to catch them. They ran away from the police.

The next morning, they went back to the forest. They said, “The happiest life is what we have right now.” Finally they fell asleep.

***THE END.***



Story Studio inspires, educates and empowers youth to be great storytellers, transforming lives and strengthening communities. We create innovative, 'fun-first' workshops that develop narrative capacity in youth, and celebrate young writers by crafting beautiful publications from their words.

Story Studio is a registered charity (807121504RR0001) based in British Columbia and rely entirely on grants, donations and volunteers. If you like what we do, please consider making a donation at [storystudio.ca](http://storystudio.ca)

*This anthology was made possible by individual donations  
and the following supporters:*

*The Viveka Foundation Fund (through the Victoria Foundation)*

*The CFX Santas Anonymous Society*