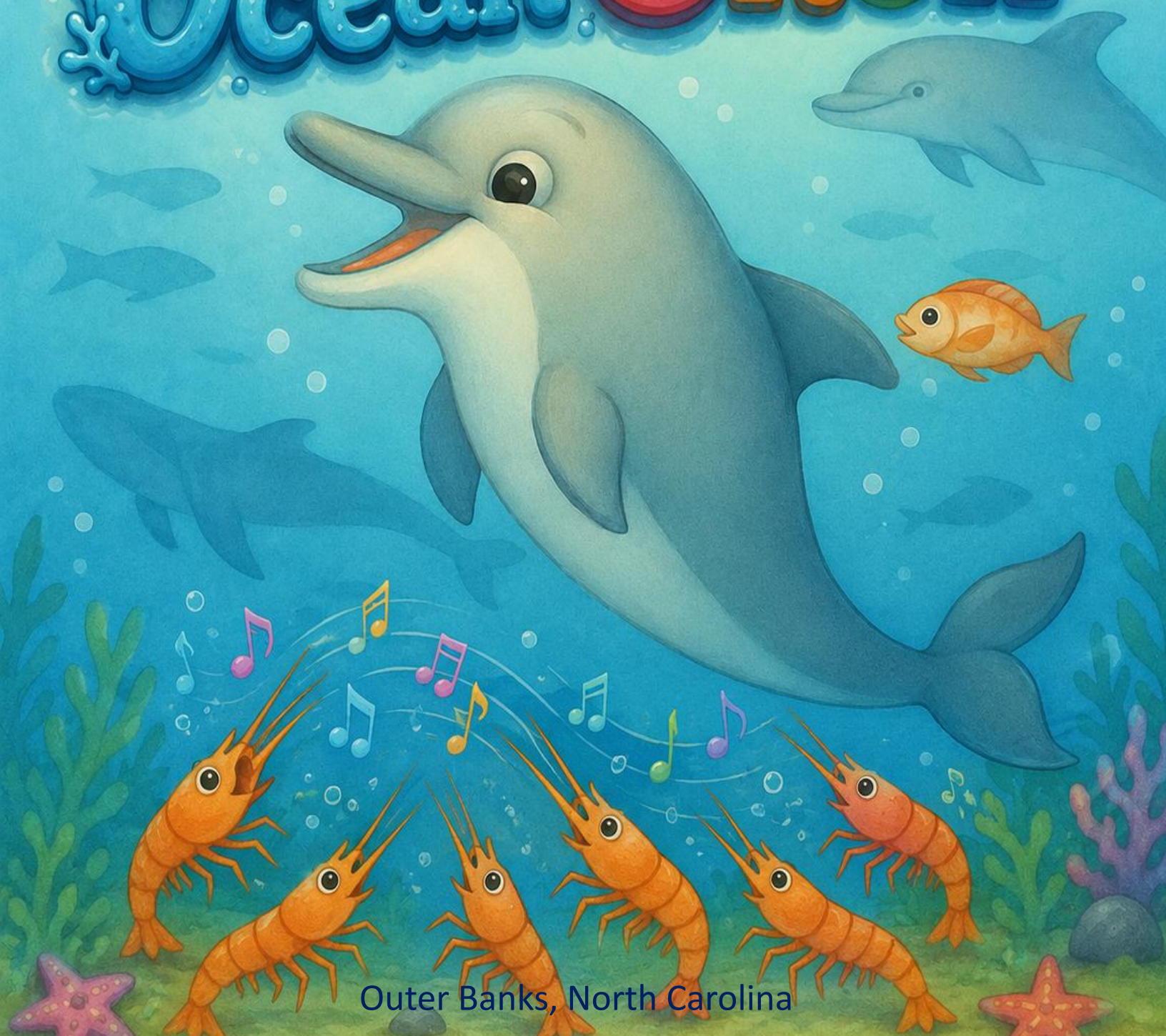


Echo

and the

Ocean Choir



Outer Banks, North Carolina

Echo and the Ocean Choir

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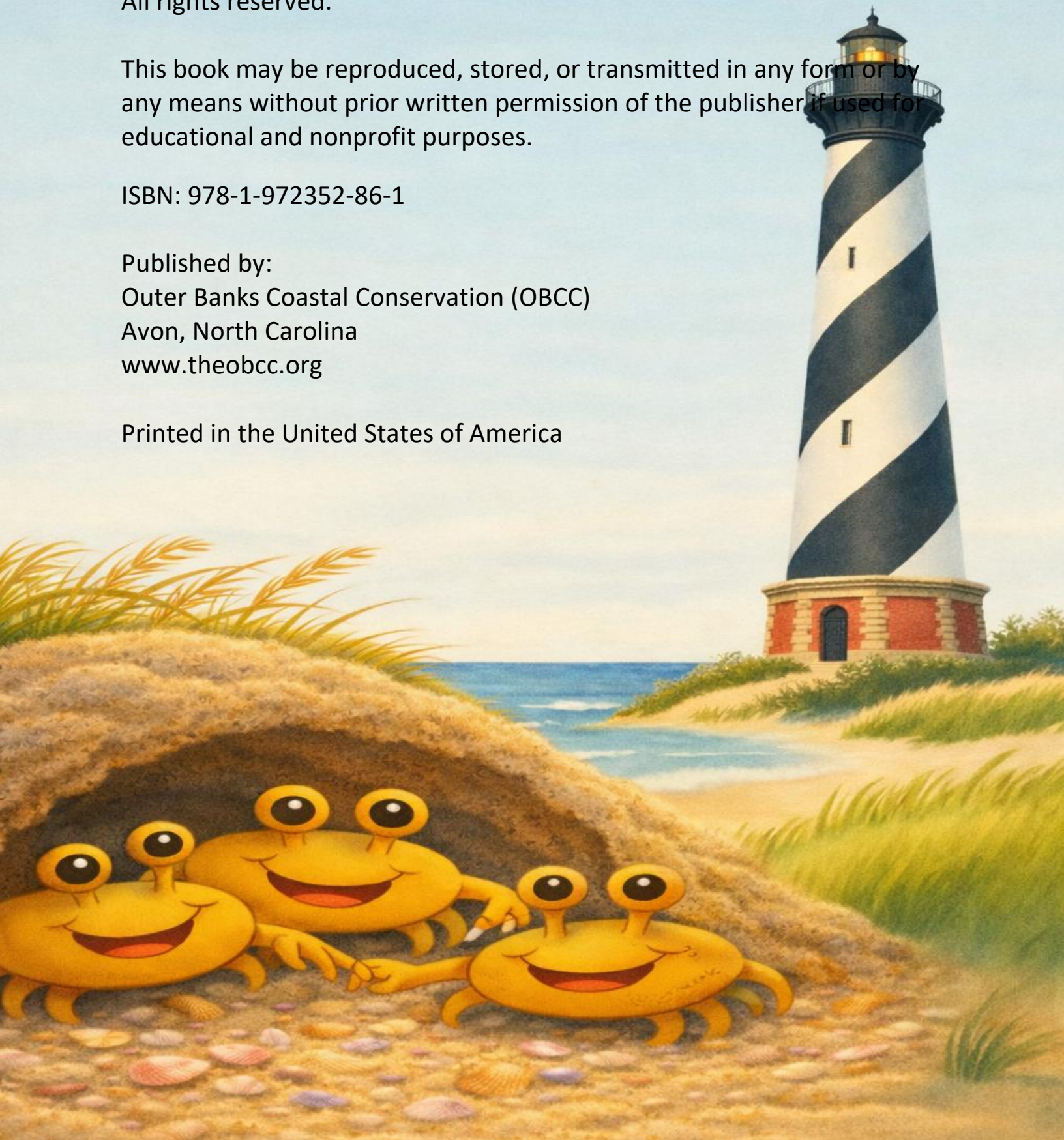
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About This Book

This storybook was created by the Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the Outer Banks of North Carolina through outreach, education, and conservation efforts.

We believe that small stories can spark big change. That is why we have made this book available as a free resource for parents, teachers, and community members.

All materials in this book may be freely downloaded, shared, printed and used for educational or nonprofit purposes.

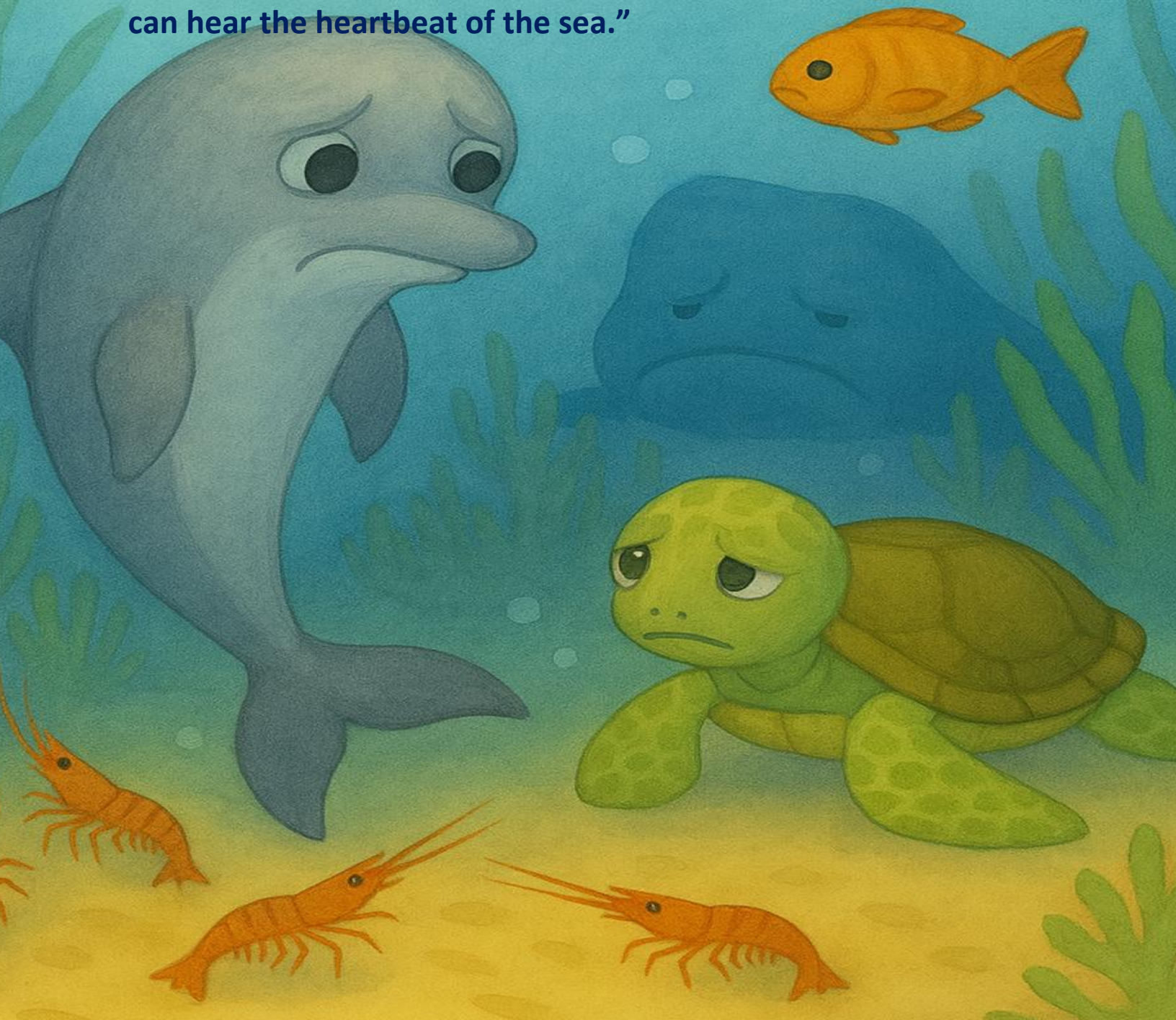
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Echo and the Ocean Choir

In the wide, glittering waters of the Outer Banks, a young dolphin named Echo loved to sing. Each morning, he twirled through the waves, chirping and whistling to his friends. The ocean was alive with music — snapping shrimp, croaking fish, and the deep songs of whales echoing across the Sound.

Echo's mother, Marina, taught him how to listen carefully. "Every creature has a song," she said. "If you listen closely, you can hear the heartbeat of the sea."

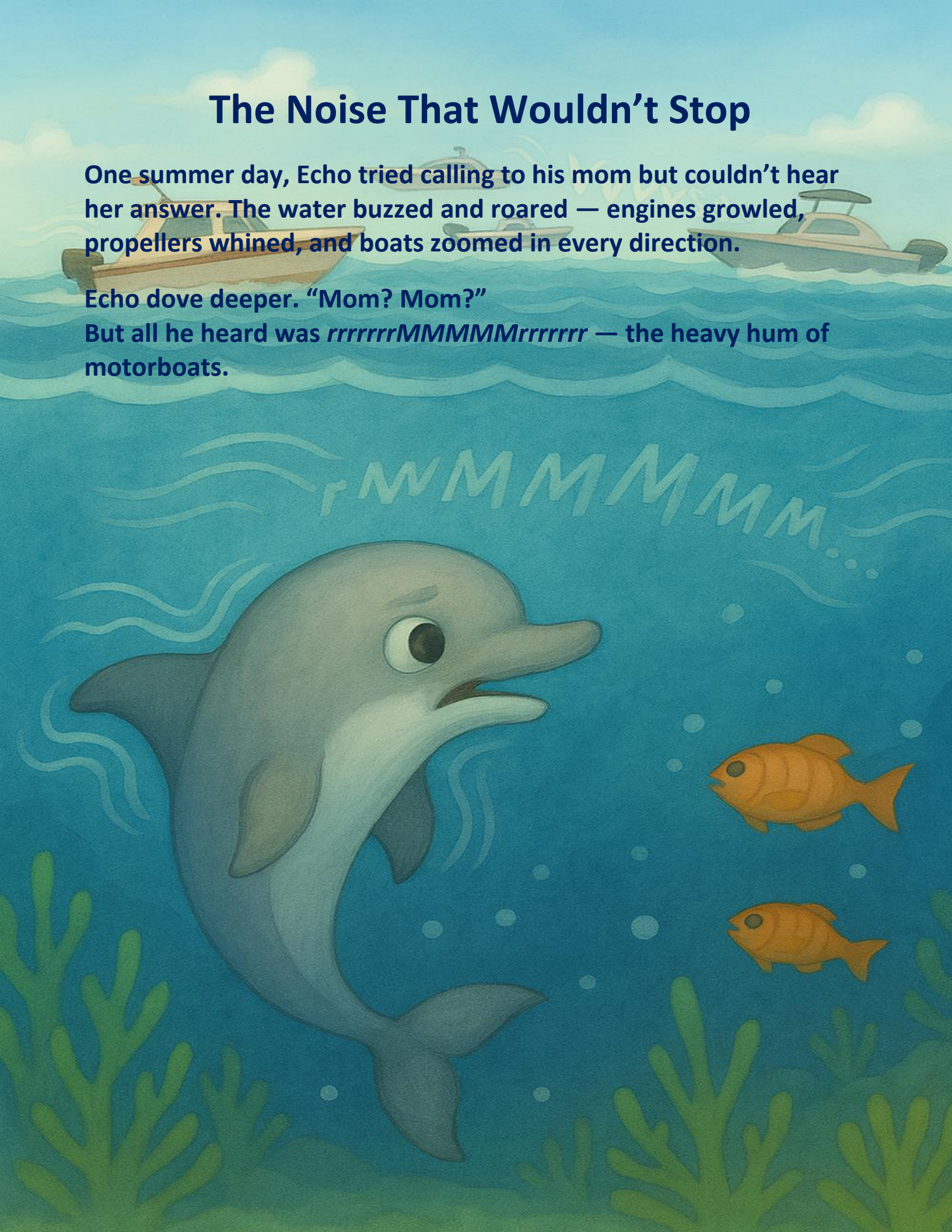


The Noise That Wouldn't Stop

One summer day, Echo tried calling to his mom but couldn't hear her answer. The water buzzed and roared — engines growled, propellers whined, and boats zoomed in every direction.

Echo dove deeper. "Mom? Mom?"

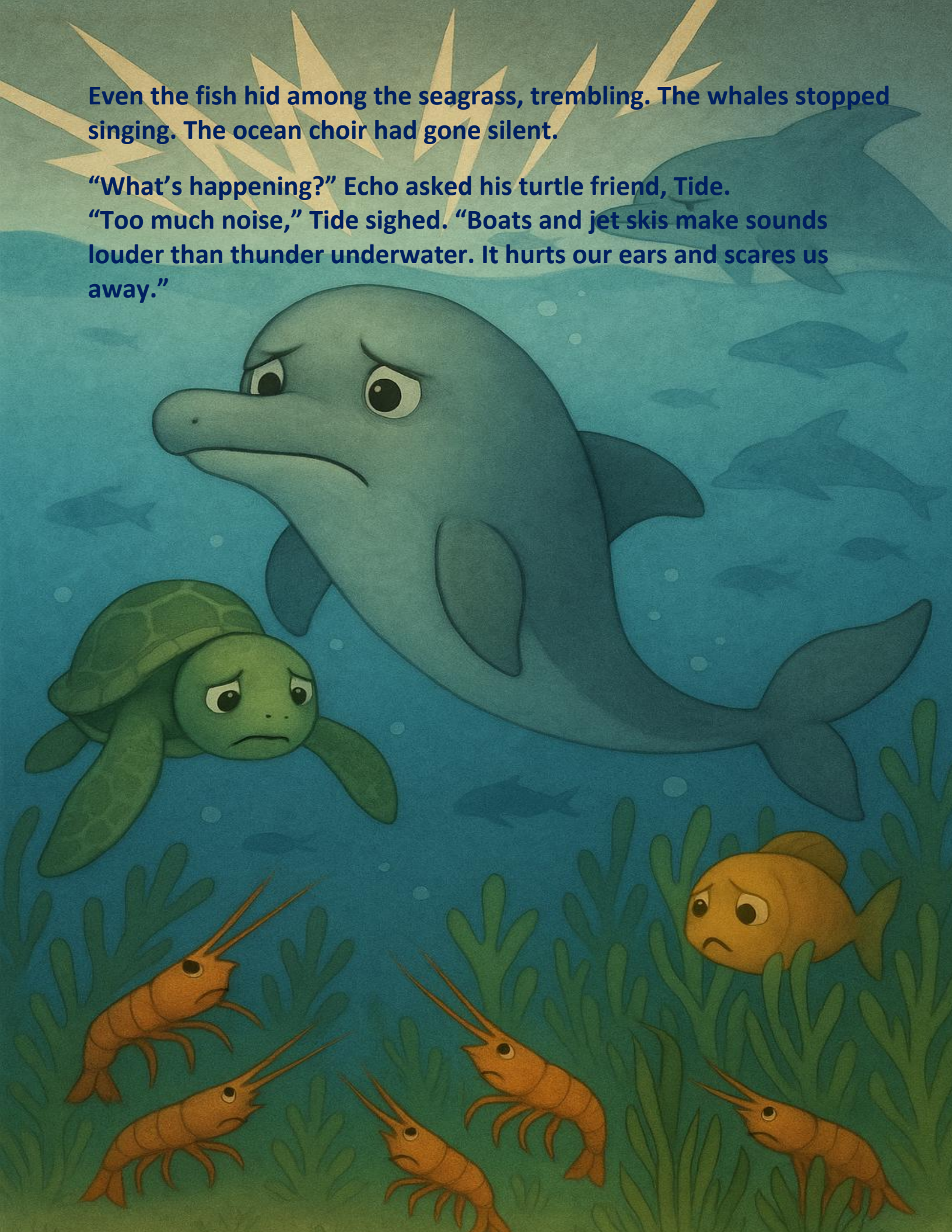
But all he heard was *rrrrrrrMMMMMrrrrrrr* — the heavy hum of motorboats.



Even the fish hid among the seagrass, trembling. The whales stopped singing. The ocean choir had gone silent.

“What’s happening?” Echo asked his turtle friend, Tide.

“Too much noise,” Tide sighed. “Boats and jet skis make sounds louder than thunder underwater. It hurts our ears and scares us away.”



The Lost Song

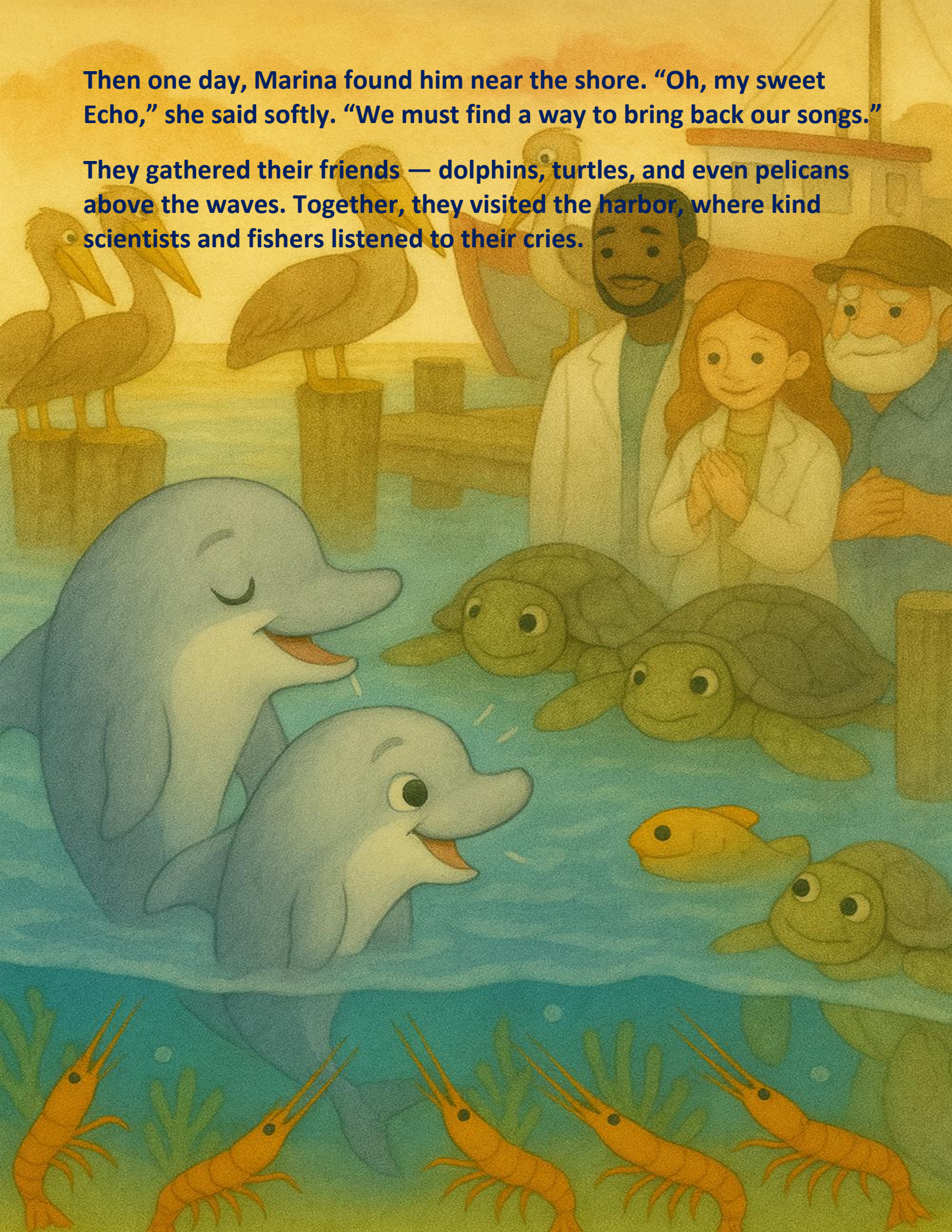
Echo missed his mother's voice.

He tried sending clicks and whistles, but the sounds bounced off in confusion. The underwater world felt lonely and small.



Then one day, Marina found him near the shore. “Oh, my sweet Echo,” she said softly. “We must find a way to bring back our songs.”

They gathered their friends — dolphins, turtles, and even pelicans above the waves. Together, they visited the harbor, where kind scientists and fishers listened to their cries.



The Quiet Zones

The people began to understand. They painted new signs along the docks:

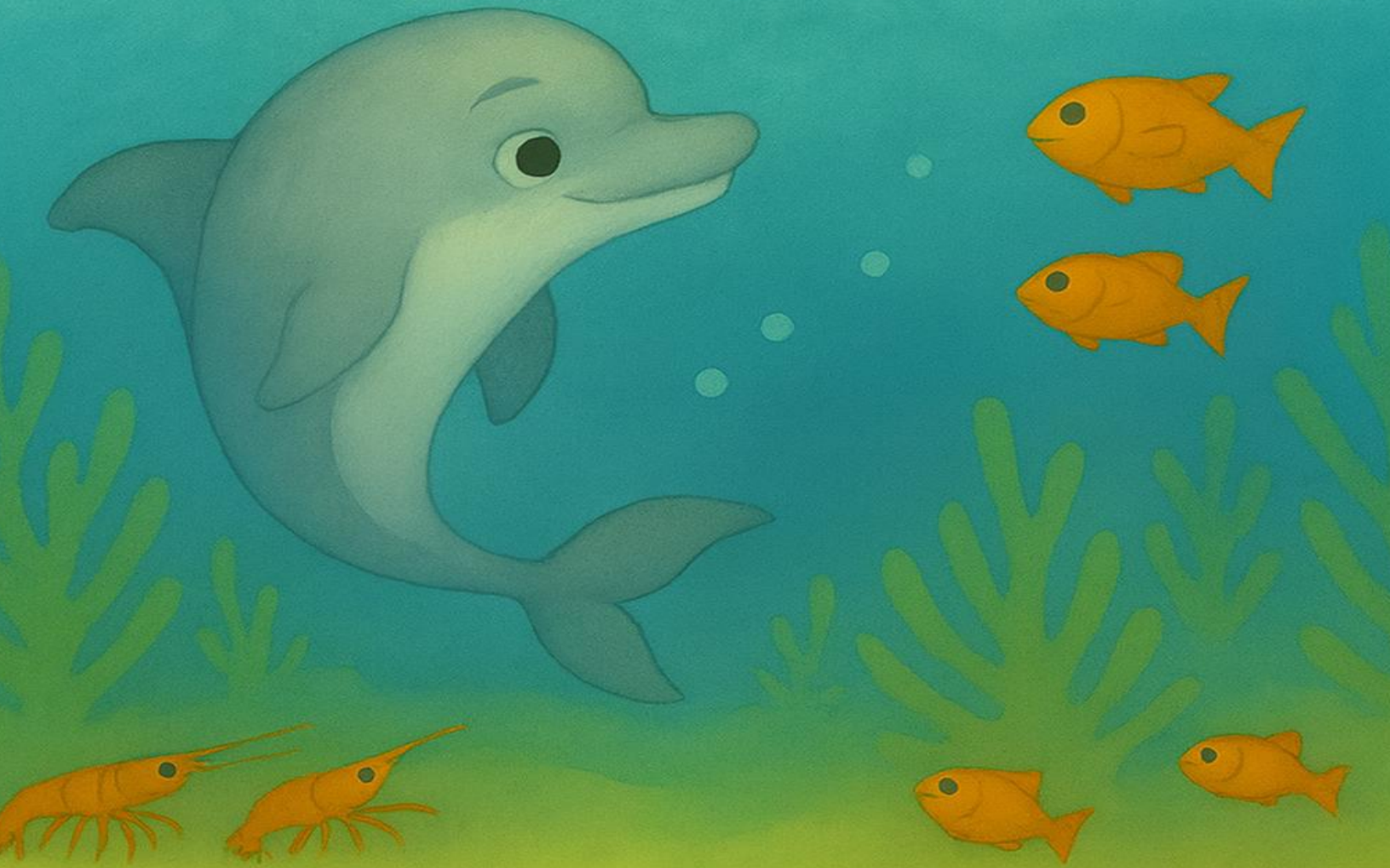
 "Quiet Zone – Protect the Sound."

 "Slow Speed – Wildlife Ahead."

 "Use Electric or Low-Noise Engines."

Bit by bit, the Sound changed. Boats slowed down. The roar faded to a gentle hum. The water began to sparkle again with laughter and life.

 USE ELECTRIC
or Low-Noise Engines



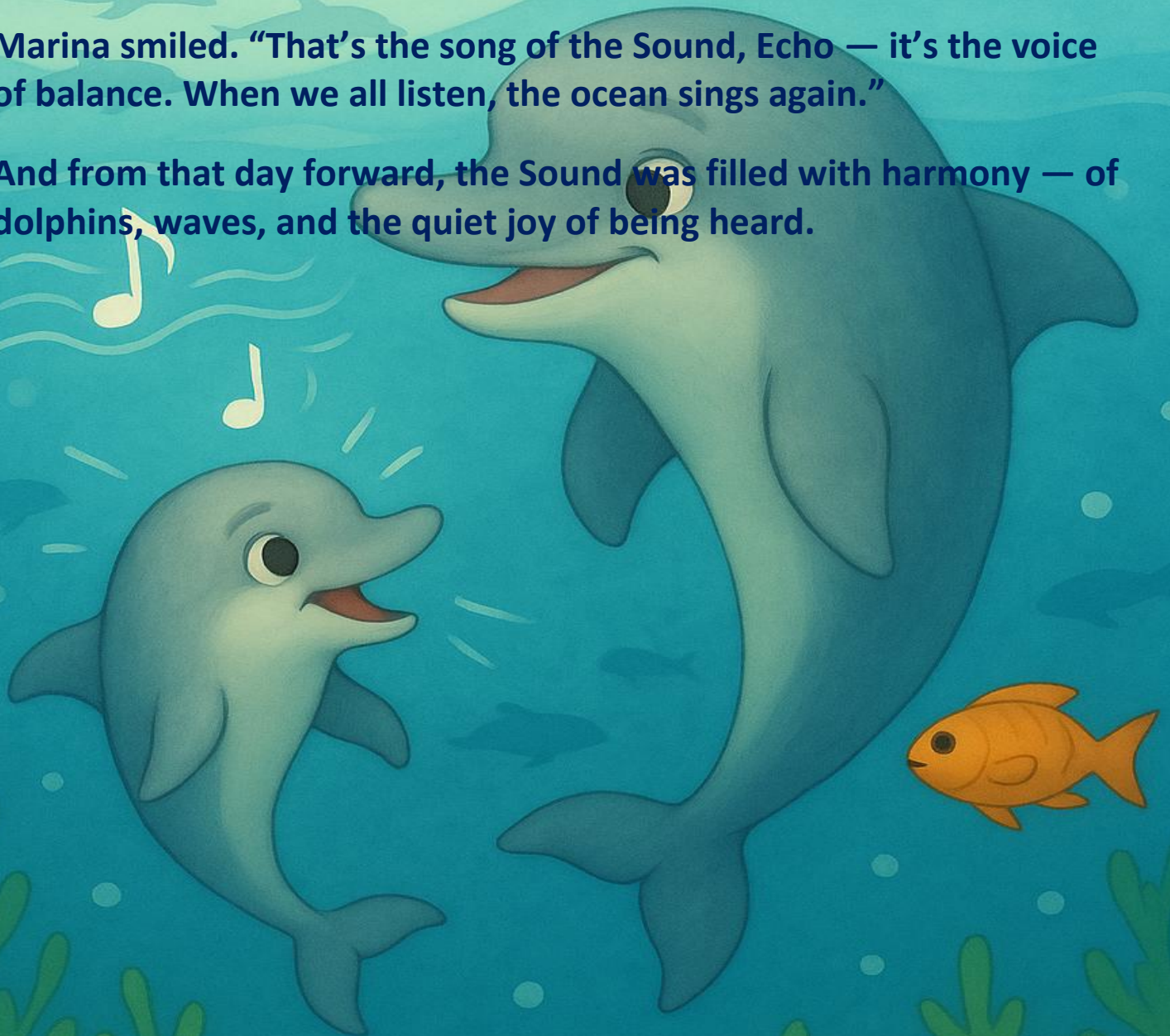
The Song Returns

Echo clicked happily, sending a high, spiraling note through the blue water. From far away, his mother answered — clear as a bell.

“Mom! I can hear you again!” he squealed.

Marina smiled. “That’s the song of the Sound, Echo — it’s the voice of balance. When we all listen, the ocean sings again.”

And from that day forward, the Sound was filled with harmony — of dolphins, waves, and the quiet joy of being heard.



Fun Facts About Ocean Sounds and Dolphins

1. Dolphins Talk with Clicks and Whistles

Dolphins use special sounds to “talk” to each other — each dolphin even has its own name made of whistles!

2. Sound Travels Super Fast Underwater

In the ocean, sound moves four times faster than in air — that’s why dolphins can hear each other from miles away.

3. Boat Noise Can Be Very Loud for Sea Animals

Engines, jet skis, and propellers make sounds louder than thunder underwater. This can confuse dolphins and whales trying to communicate.

4. Quiet Zones Help Marine Life

Signs like “Slow Speed” and “Quiet Zone” protect animals by reducing underwater noise and keeping the water peaceful.

5. The Sound Is Full of Songs

Every creature makes its own music — snapping shrimp, croaking fish, chirping dolphins, and singing whales all add to the ocean’s symphony.

6. Dolphins Use Echolocation — Like Nature’s Sonar

By sending out clicks and listening for echoes, dolphins can find food, friends, and even tiny fish in dark water.

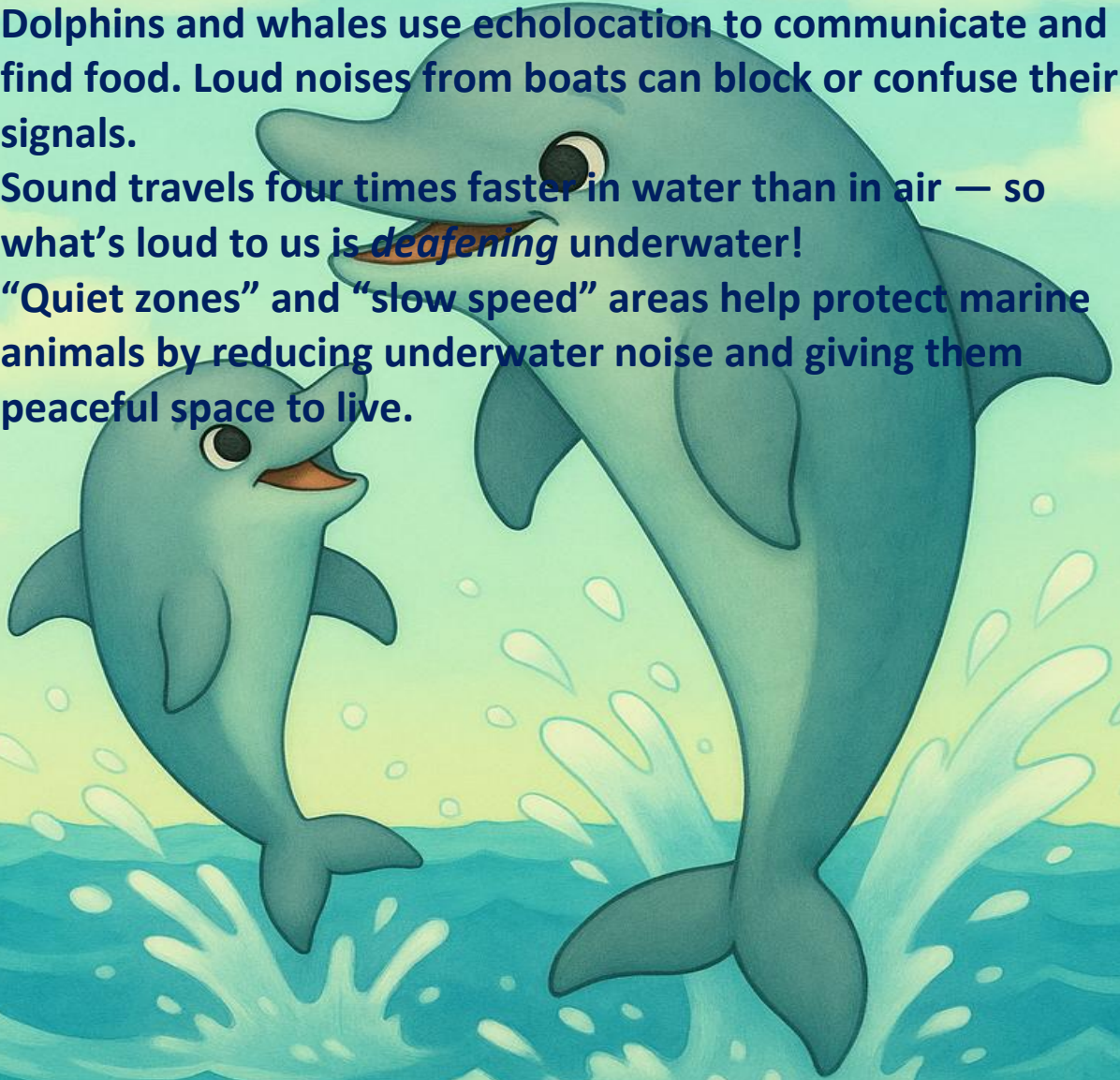
7. Helping Is Easy

You can help dolphins by reminding grownups to go slow in wildlife zones, use quiet engines, or support local conservation groups.



Did You Know?

- Dolphins and whales use echolocation to communicate and find food. Loud noises from boats can block or confuse their signals.
- Sound travels four times faster in water than in air — so what's loud to us is *deafening* underwater!
- “Quiet zones” and “slow speed” areas help protect marine animals by reducing underwater noise and giving them peaceful space to live.



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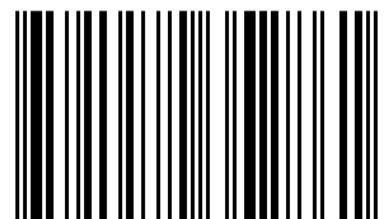
Echo and the Ocean Choir

tells the story of Echo, a young dolphin living in the Outer Banks who loves the sounds of the sea. When noisy boats and jet skis make it hard for dolphins and other marine animals to communicate, Echo and his friends seek help. People create quiet zones and slow-speed areas, reducing underwater noise and allowing the ocean's natural songs to return. The story teaches children how noise pollution affects marine life and how small actions can help protect ocean wildlife.

About the Publisher

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