

# Marina's Ocean Mission



Outer Banks, North Carolina



## Forward

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.

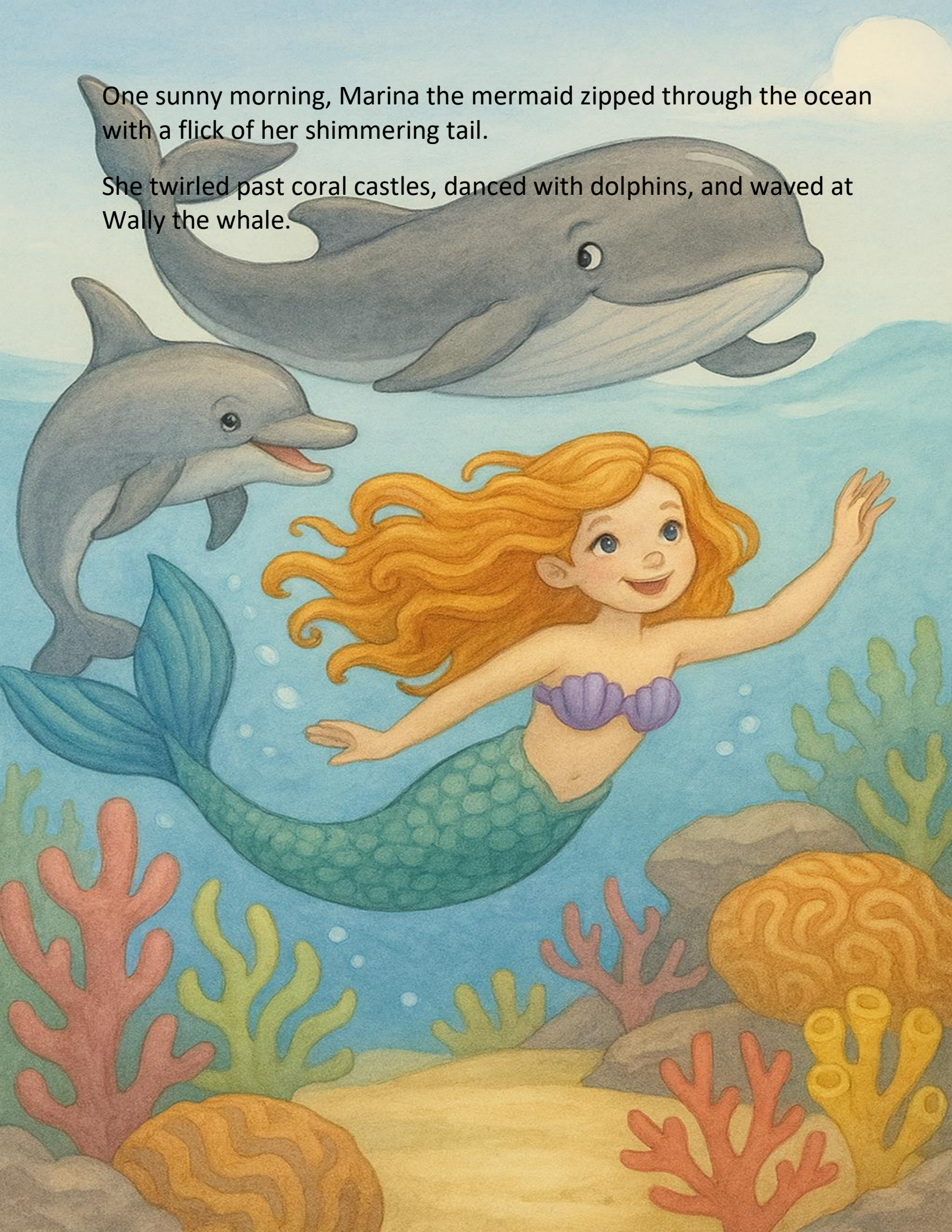
To learn more, access additional resources at: [www.theobcc.org](http://www.theobcc.org).





One sunny morning, Marina the mermaid zipped through the ocean with a flick of her shimmering tail.

She twirled past coral castles, danced with dolphins, and waved at Wally the whale.





But something wasn't right.

"Ouch!" cried Coral the crab. "I'm stuck in something!"

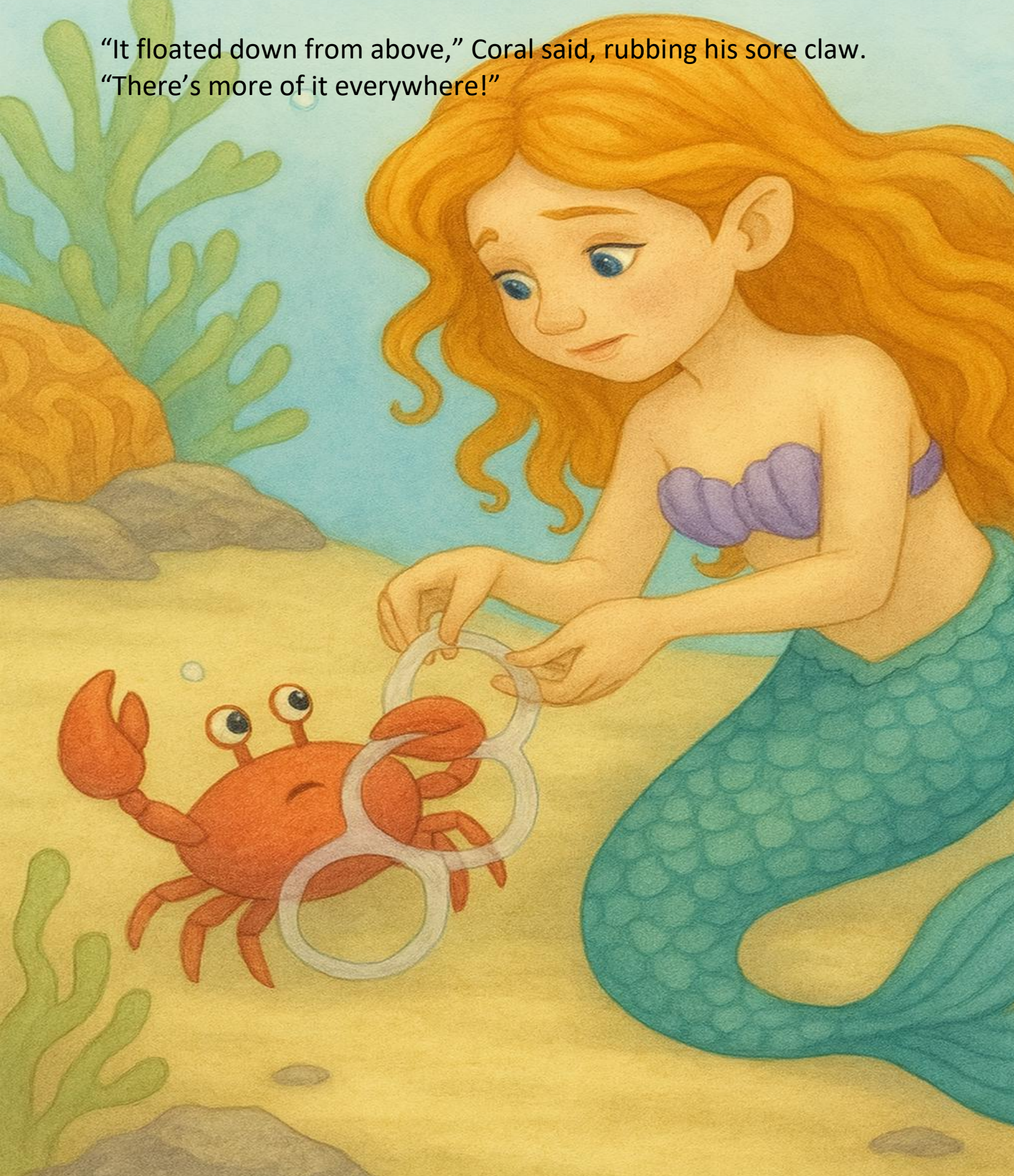
Marina swam over quickly. "Oh no, Coral! It's a plastic ring!"





She gently pulled the ring off Coral's claw. "Where did this come from?"

"It floated down from above," Coral said, rubbing his sore claw. "There's more of it everywhere!"





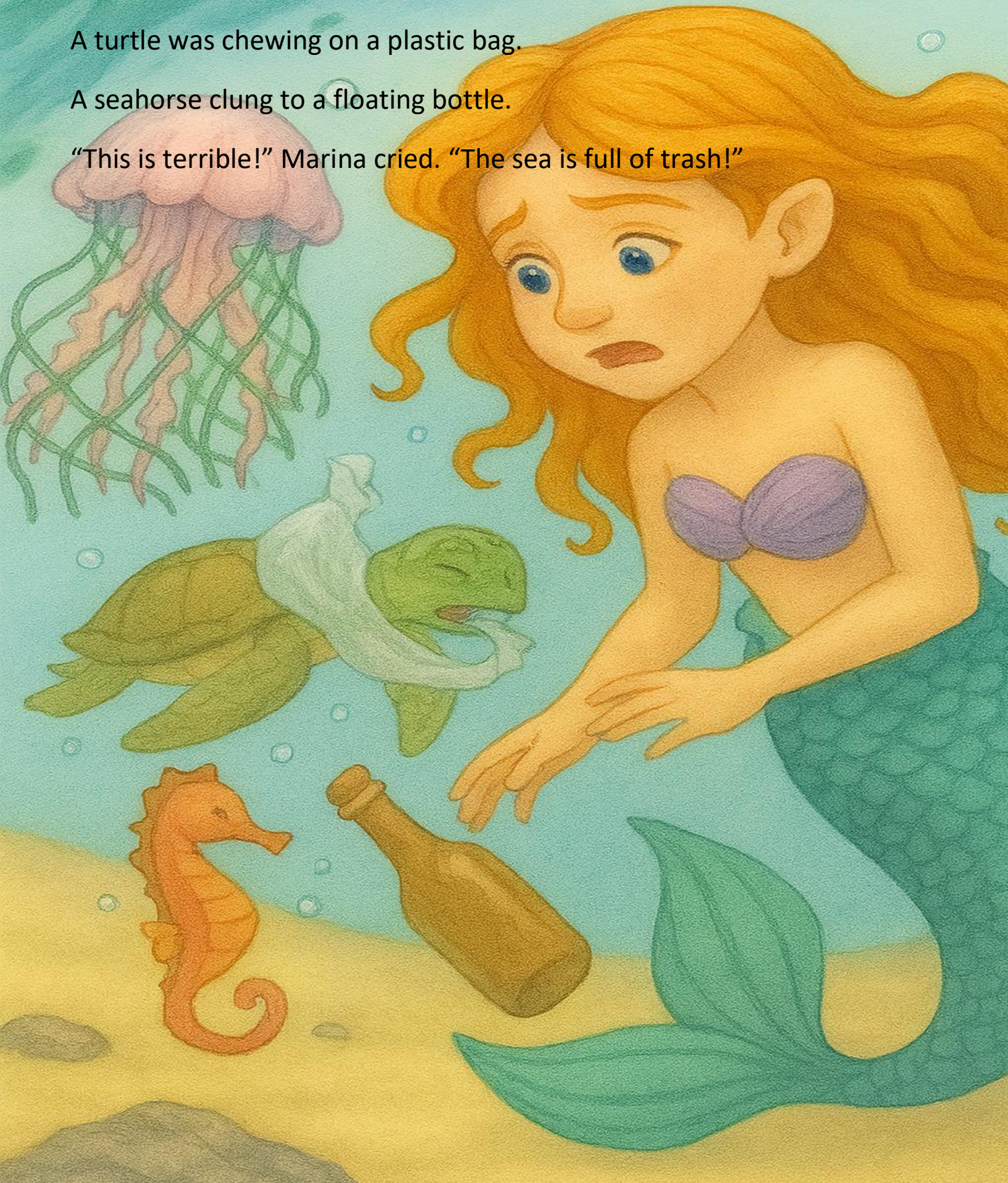
Marina darted through the water, looking around. She gasped.

A jellyfish was tangled in a fishing net.

A turtle was chewing on a plastic bag.

A seahorse clung to a floating bottle.

"This is terrible!" Marina cried. "The sea is full of trash!"





She swam to the surface and peeked above the waves.

On the beach, she saw people—laughing, playing, having picnics.





Back underwater, Marina gathered her ocean friends.

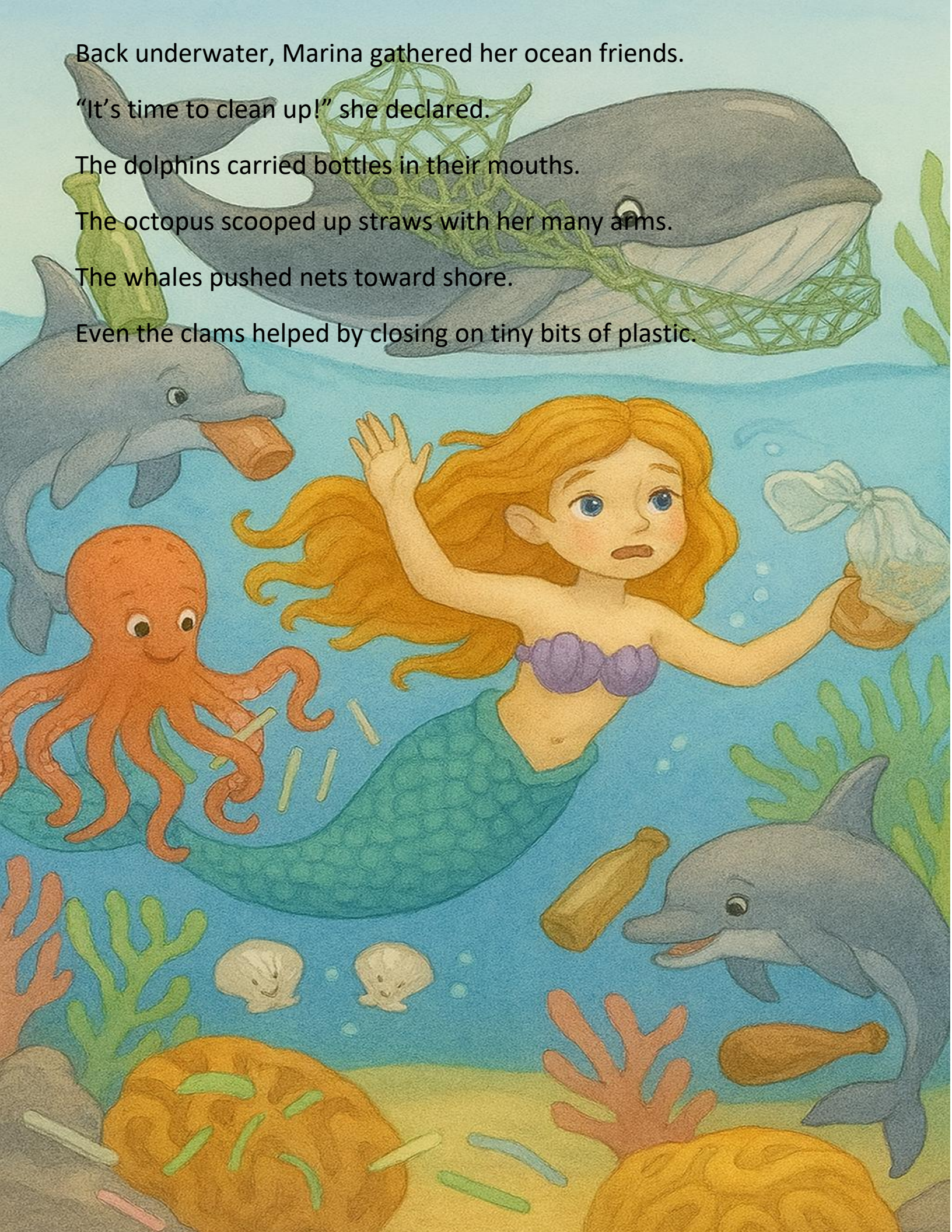
"It's time to clean up!" she declared.

The dolphins carried bottles in their mouths.

The octopus scooped up straws with her many arms.

The whales pushed nets toward shore.

Even the clams helped by closing on tiny bits of plastic.





Once the sea was sparkly again, Marina had an idea.

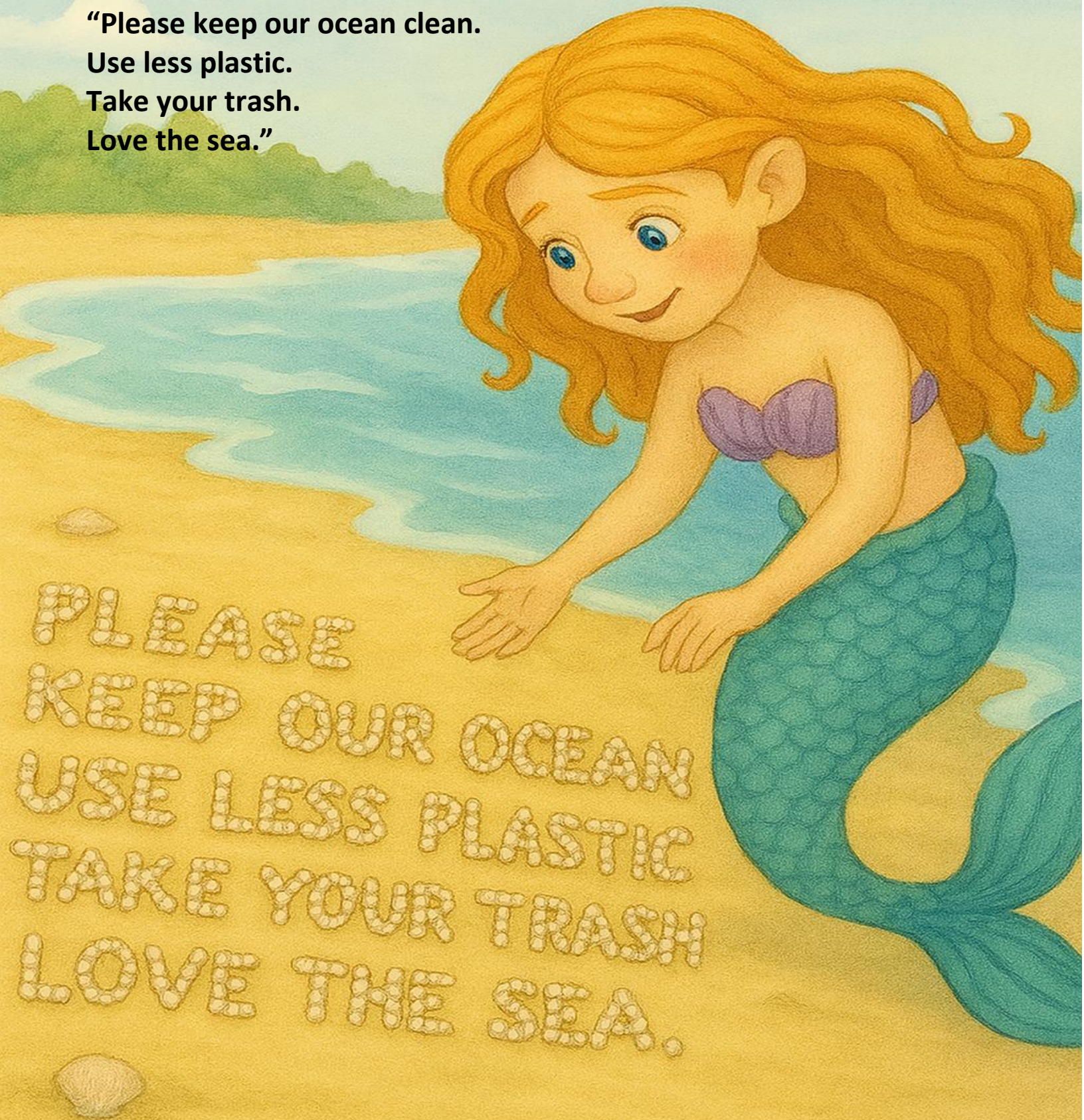
She swam to the shore and left a message in shells:

**“Please keep our ocean clean.**

**Use less plastic.**

**Take your trash.**

**Love the sea.”**



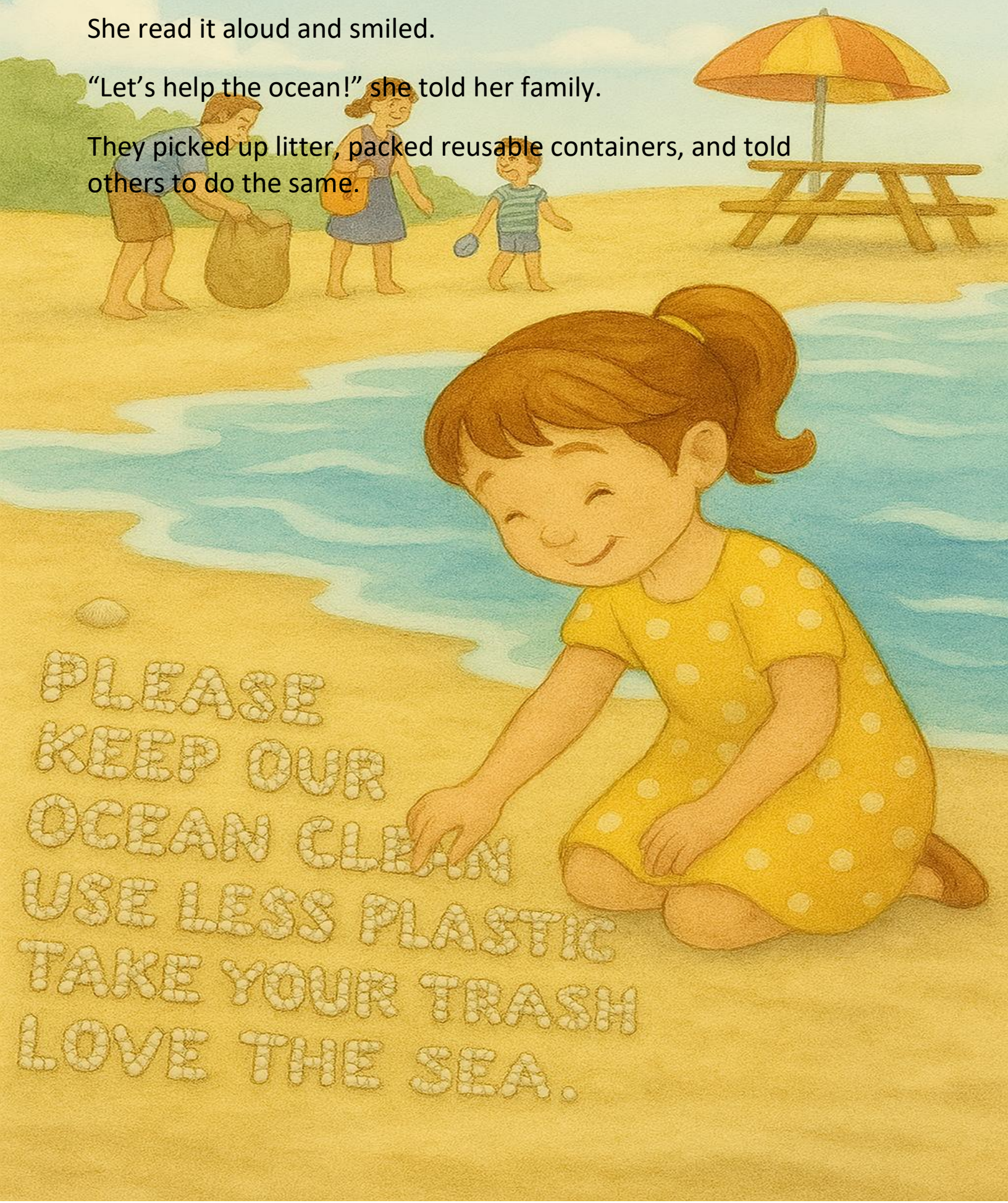


The next day, a little girl named Lily found the message.

She read it aloud and smiled.

“Let’s help the ocean!” she told her family.

They picked up litter, packed reusable containers, and told others to do the same.





Back in the sea, Marina smiled.

The water was clearer.

The animals were safer.

And best of all?

The humans were helping too.

Because everyone—big or small, on land or in water—can be a **hero for the sea.**

