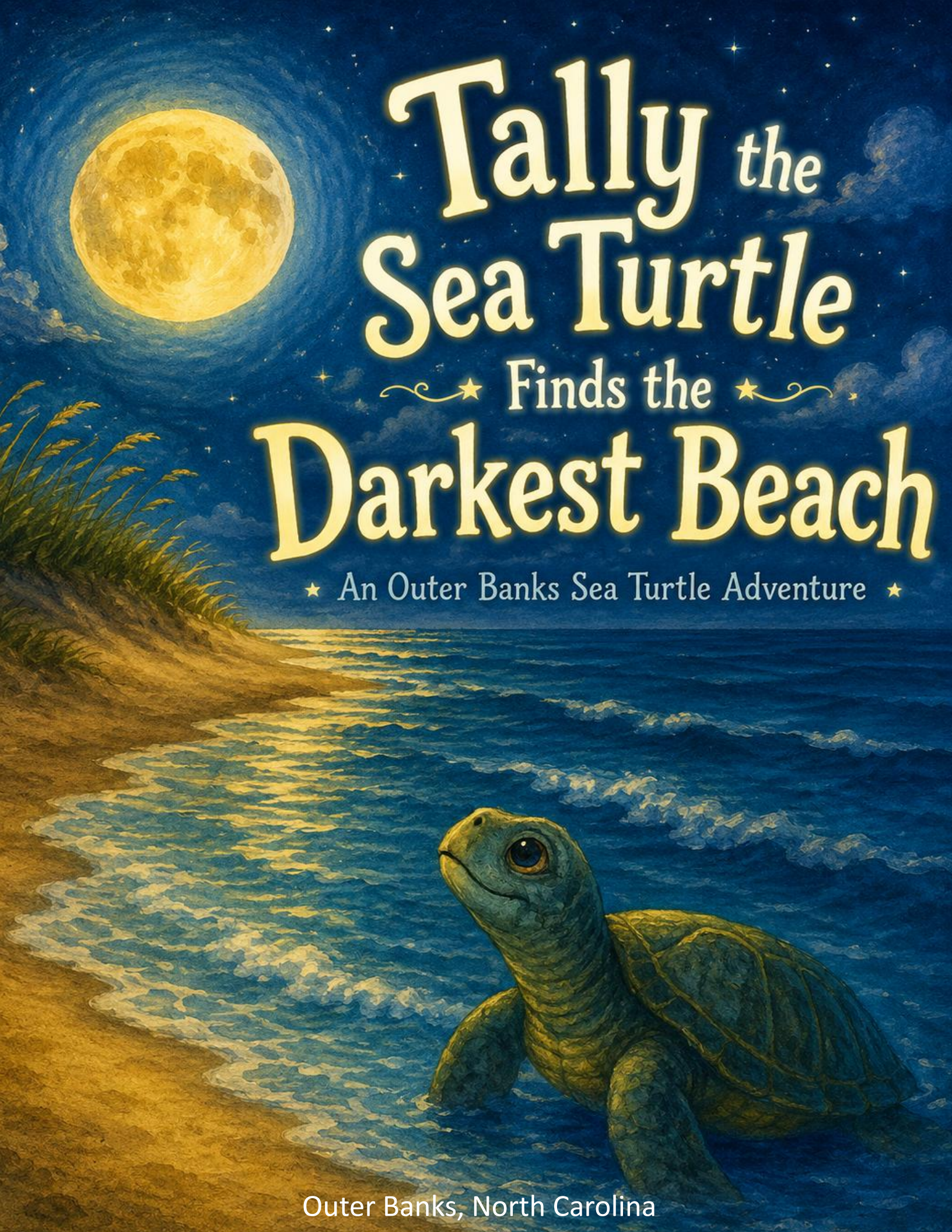




Tally ^{the} Sea Turtle

★ Finds the ★

Darkest Beach

★ An Outer Banks Sea Turtle Adventure ★



Outer Banks, North Carolina

Tally the Sea Turtle Finds the Darkest Beach: An Outer Banks Sea Turtle Adventure

Copyright © 2026 Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC)

All rights reserved.

This book may be reproduced, stored, or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission of the publisher if used for educational and nonprofit purposes.

ISBN: 979-8-951232-16-8

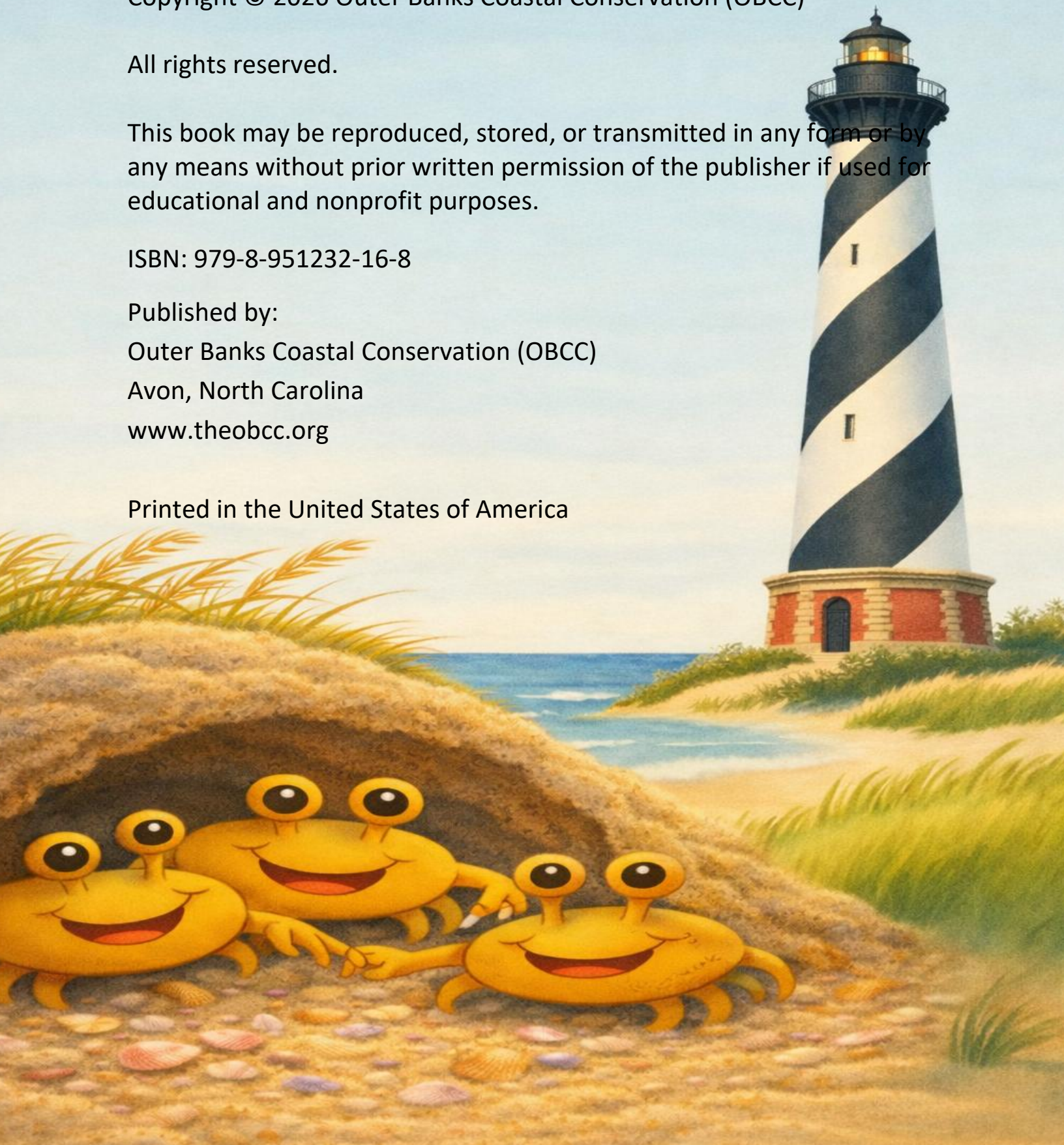
Published by:

Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC)

Avon, North Carolina

www.theobcc.org

Printed in the United States of America



About This Book

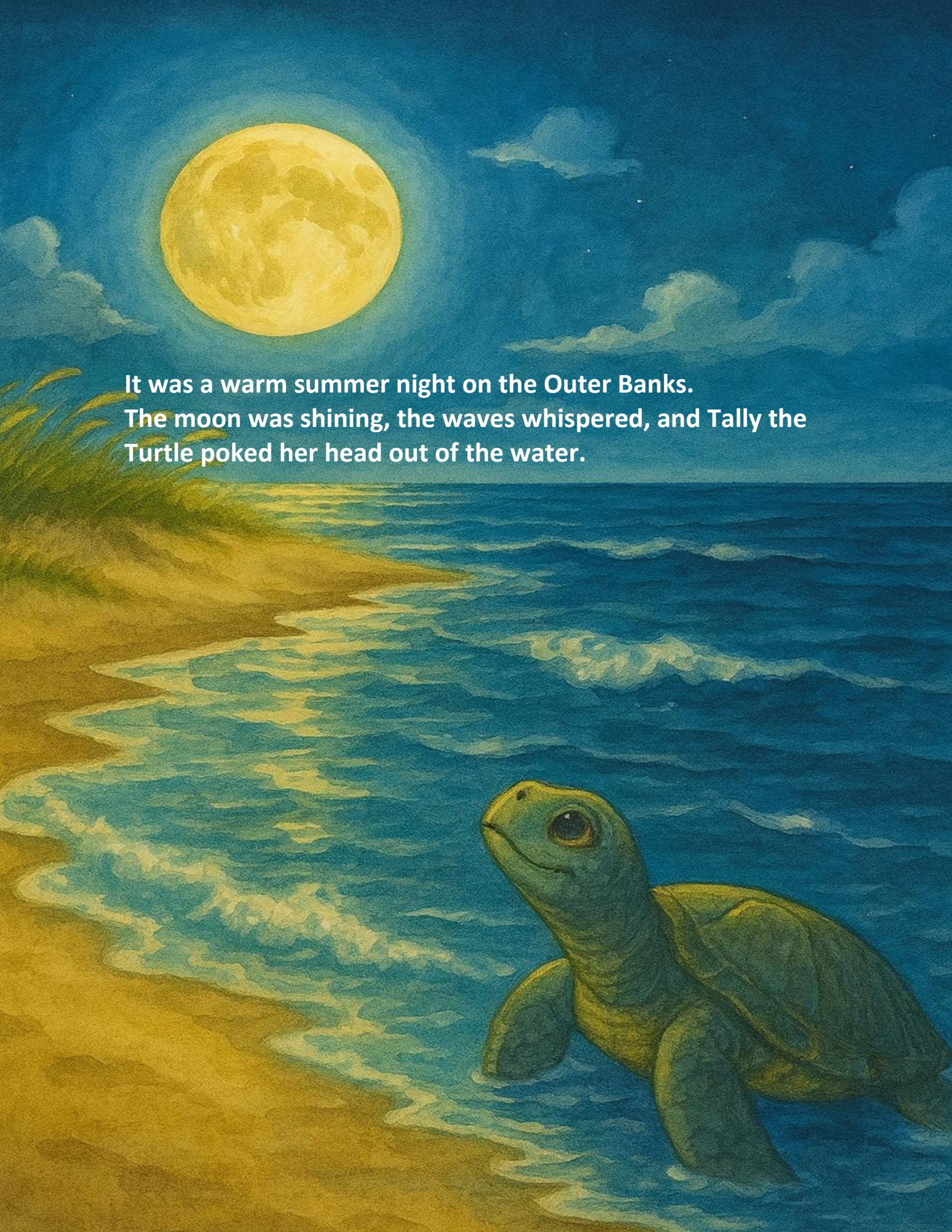
This storybook was created by the Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the Outer Banks of North Carolina through outreach, education, and conservation efforts.

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.

To learn more, access additional resources at: www.theobcc.org.

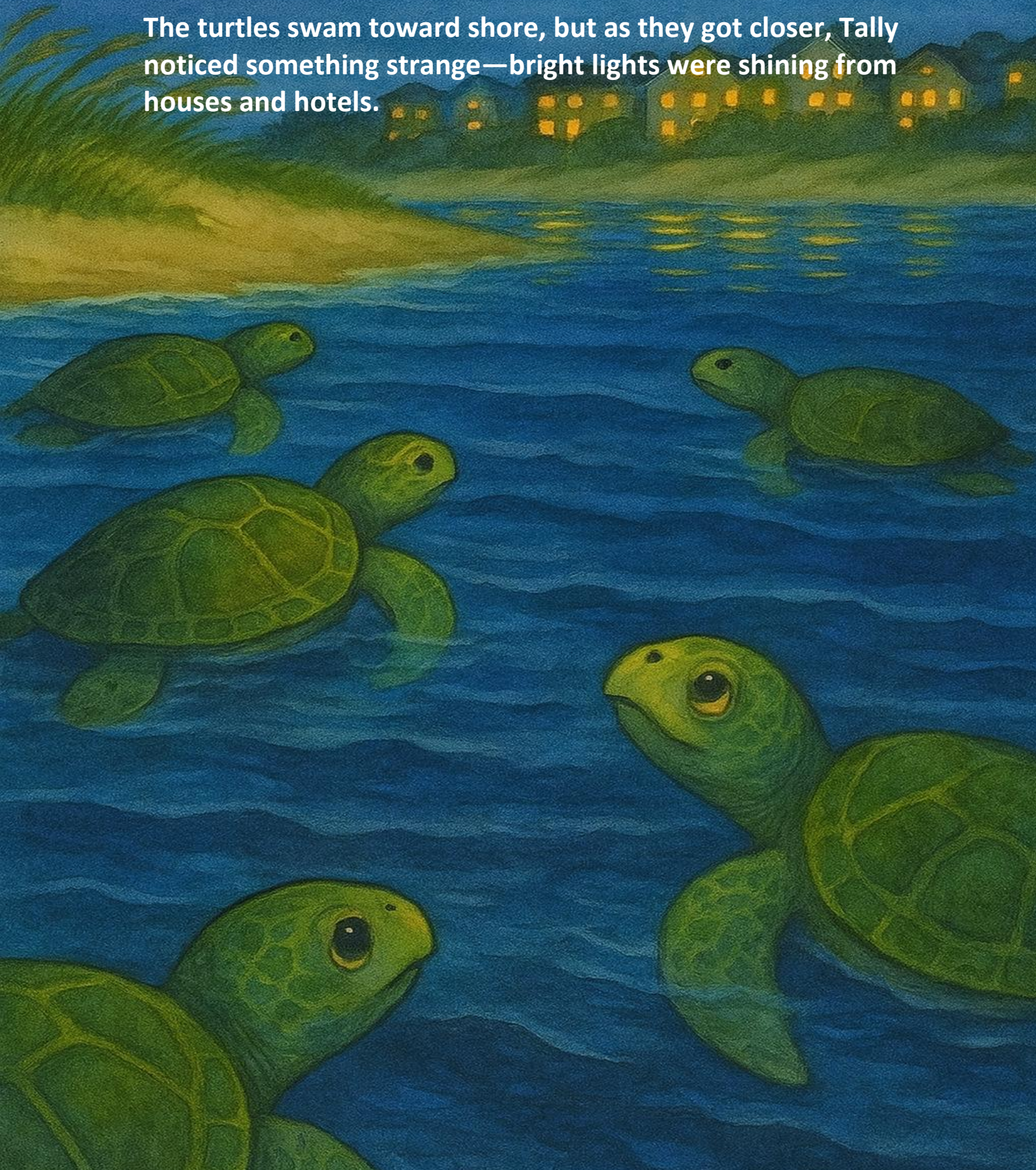


A painting of a sea turtle on a beach at night. The turtle is in the foreground, partially submerged in the water, looking up towards the sky. The beach is on the left, with some grass. The ocean is in the middle ground, with waves breaking. The sky is dark blue with a large, bright full moon and some clouds. The text is overlaid on the upper part of the image.

**It was a warm summer night on the Outer Banks.
The moon was shining, the waves whispered, and Tally the
Turtle poked her head out of the water.**

“It’s time!” she told the other turtles. “We have to find a safe, dark beach to lay our eggs.”

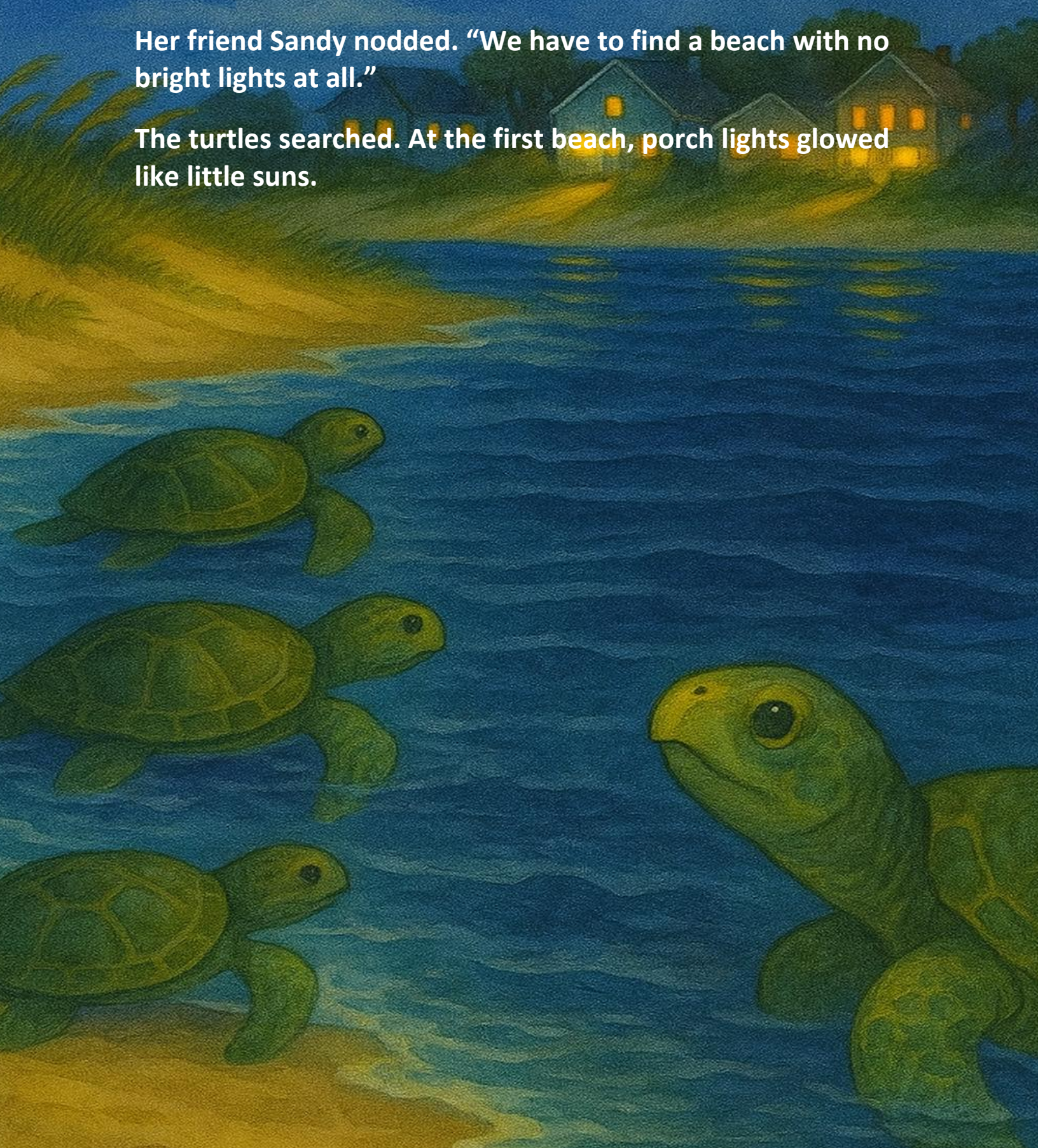
The turtles swam toward shore, but as they got closer, Tally noticed something strange—bright lights were shining from houses and hotels.



“Oh no!” she gasped. “Lights can confuse baby turtles! They might crawl the wrong way—toward the lights instead of the ocean.”

Her friend Sandy nodded. “We have to find a beach with no bright lights at all.”

The turtles searched. At the first beach, porch lights glowed like little suns.



At the second beach, someone was shining a big flashlight.

Tally shook her head. "Too bright. The babies need the moon and stars to guide them to the water."



Finally, they reached a stretch of sand where the only light came from the moon.
“This is it!” Tally whispered. “The perfect dark beach.”

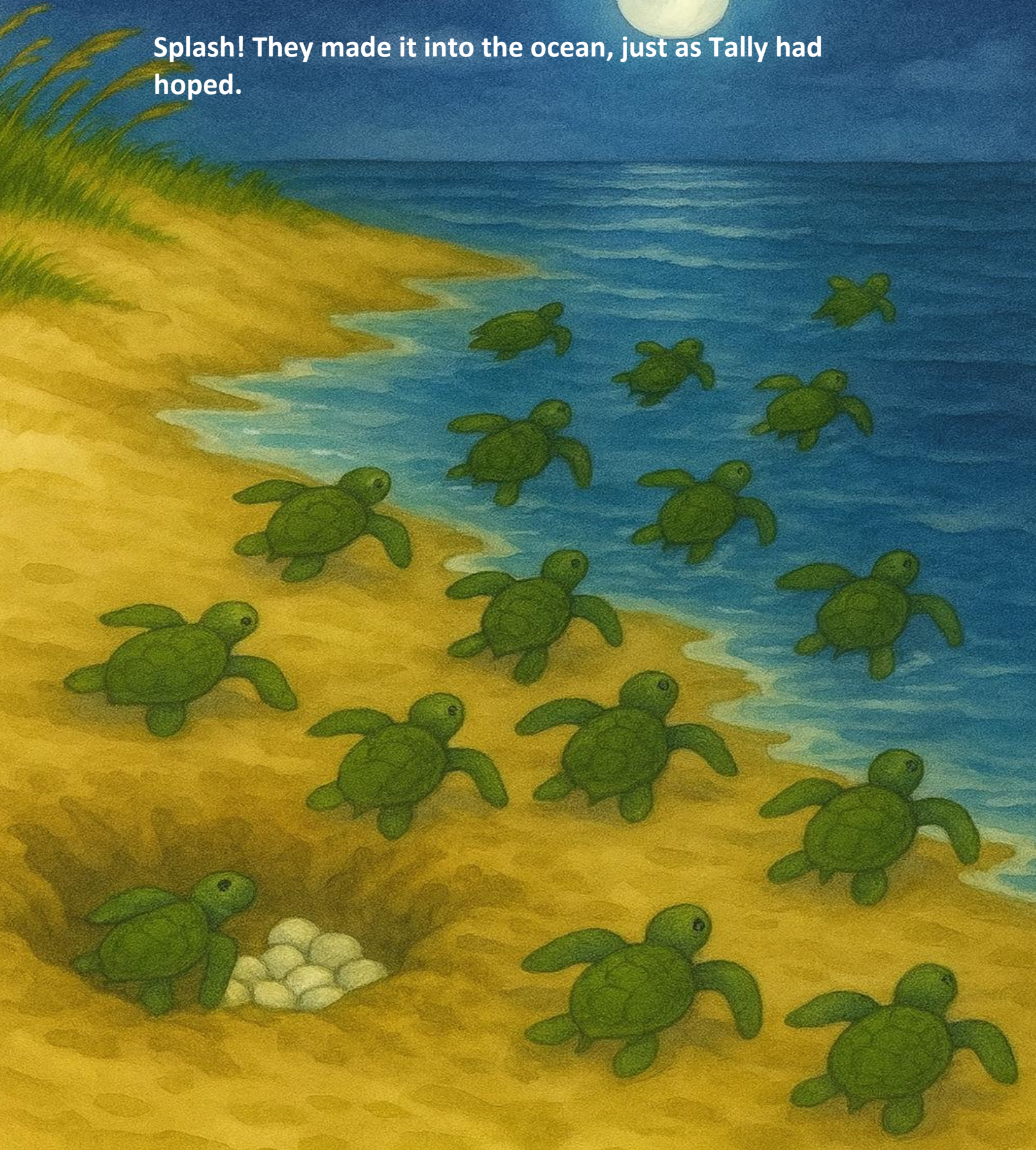


She dug a deep nest and gently laid her eggs.
“Here, my babies will hatch safely,” she said, covering them
with sand.



Weeks later, under the soft moonlight, the eggs began to crack. Dozens of tiny turtles wriggled out and scurried toward the sound of the waves.

Splash! They made it into the ocean, just as Tally had hoped.



From that night on, Tally told everyone she met—humans and turtles alike—

“Keep beaches dark at night. Turn off the lights so sea turtle hatchlings can find their way home.”





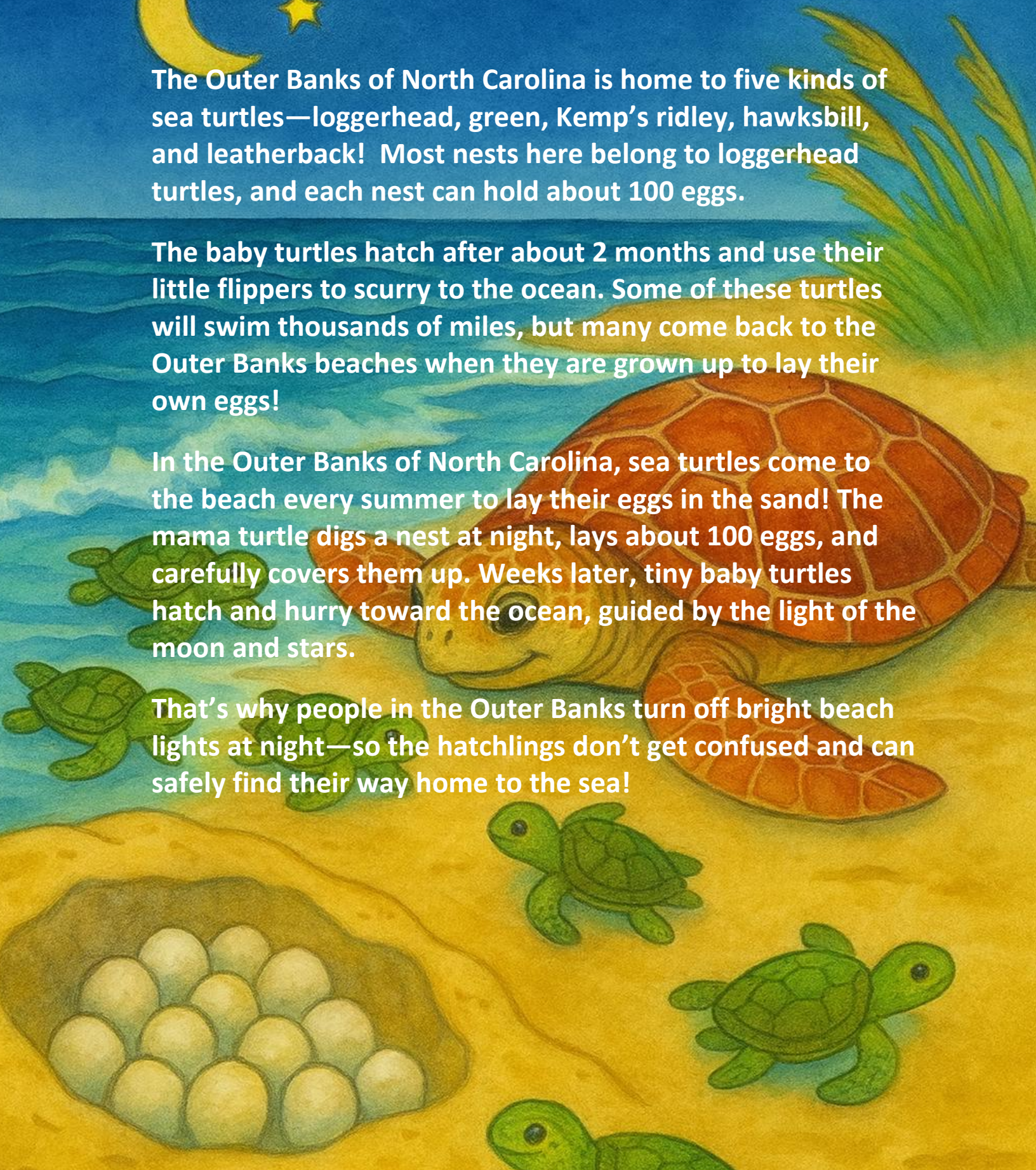
Did You Know?

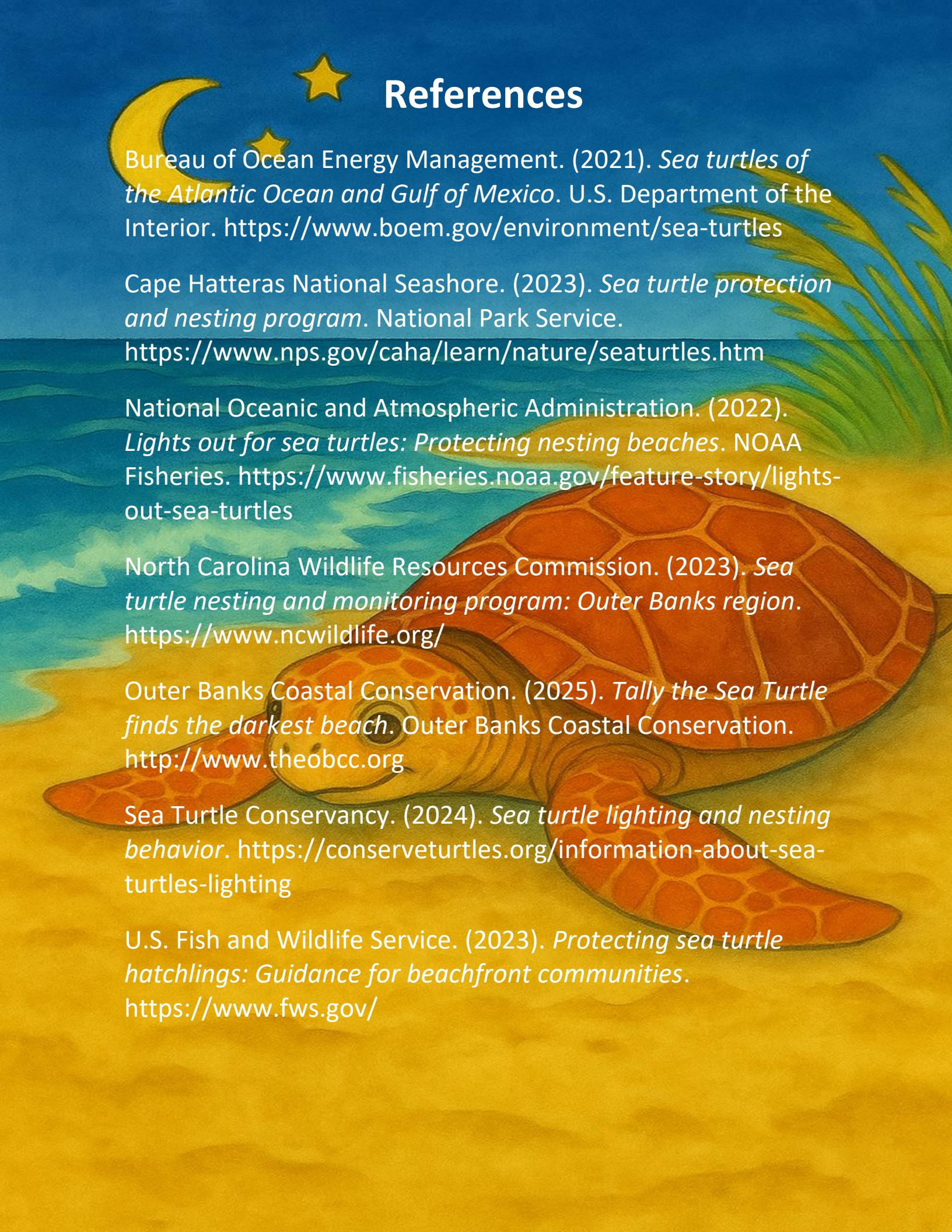
The Outer Banks of North Carolina is home to five kinds of sea turtles—loggerhead, green, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, and leatherback! Most nests here belong to loggerhead turtles, and each nest can hold about 100 eggs.

The baby turtles hatch after about 2 months and use their little flippers to scurry to the ocean. Some of these turtles will swim thousands of miles, but many come back to the Outer Banks beaches when they are grown up to lay their own eggs!

In the Outer Banks of North Carolina, sea turtles come to the beach every summer to lay their eggs in the sand! The mama turtle digs a nest at night, lays about 100 eggs, and carefully covers them up. Weeks later, tiny baby turtles hatch and hurry toward the ocean, guided by the light of the moon and stars.

That's why people in the Outer Banks turn off bright beach lights at night—so the hatchlings don't get confused and can safely find their way home to the sea!



A stylized illustration of a sea turtle resting on a sandy beach at night. The turtle is orange-brown with a patterned shell and flippers. In the background, there is a blue sky with a yellow crescent moon and three yellow stars. The ocean is depicted with blue and green waves, and some green grass is visible on the right side of the beach.

References

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. (2021). *Sea turtles of the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico*. U.S. Department of the Interior. <https://www.boem.gov/environment/sea-turtles>

Cape Hatteras National Seashore. (2023). *Sea turtle protection and nesting program*. National Park Service. <https://www.nps.gov/caha/learn/nature/seaturtles.htm>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (2022). *Lights out for sea turtles: Protecting nesting beaches*. NOAA Fisheries. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/lights-out-sea-turtles>

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. (2023). *Sea turtle nesting and monitoring program: Outer Banks region*. <https://www.ncwildlife.org/>

Outer Banks Coastal Conservation. (2025). *Tally the Sea Turtle finds the darkest beach*. Outer Banks Coastal Conservation. <http://www.theobcc.org>

Sea Turtle Conservancy. (2024). *Sea turtle lighting and nesting behavior*. <https://conserveturtles.org/information-about-sea-turtles-lighting>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (2023). *Protecting sea turtle hatchlings: Guidance for beachfront communities*. <https://www.fws.gov/>

Tally the Sea Turtle Finds the Darkest Beach: An Outer Banks Sea Turtle Adventure

Tally the sea turtle looks for a safe beach to lay her eggs. One night, she and her friends swim along the Outer Banks searching for a dark beach. But bright lights from houses and flashlights confuse baby turtles and make them crawl away from the ocean.

After searching, Tally finds a beach lit only by the moon and stars. She lays her eggs in the sand and covers them carefully. Weeks later, the baby turtles hatch and follow the moonlight and the sound of the waves safely to the sea. Tally shares an important message: “Keep beaches dark at night so baby sea turtles can find their way home.”

About the Publisher

Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the Outer Banks of North Carolina through education, outreach, and conservation initiatives.

Learn more and download free educational resources at:
www.theobcc.org.



9798951232168
ISBN: 979-8-951232-16-8