

Mermaid
Shrimp

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Deep down in the depths of the glimmering Pacific sea, there lived a particularly pink little shrimp, named Mermaid Shrimp. Mermaid shrimp lived in the mermaid cove with the other regular mermaids. She was tormented day and night because of her peculiar shrimpy differences, and she hated every second of it.

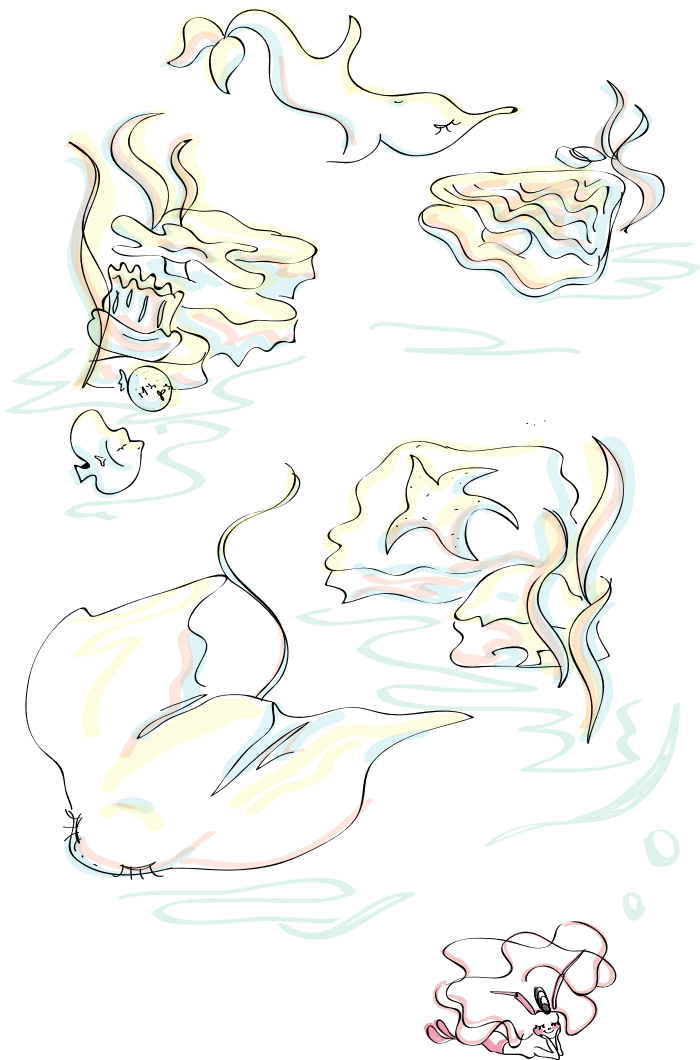


“Sailors will never drown to their death if they can’t even see you!” They would say. “Even the actual shrimp living here haven’t even noticed that you’re half mermaid!”

“I hate living here!” She cried. “All you ever do is make fun of the way I am. I want to live somewhere safe, friendly, and...”

“Maybe you should leave! There’s a place we know called the golden ocean. I’m sure you’ll be happy living there,” said the mermaids.

Mermaid shrimp loved this idea. She immediately set off to find the golden ocean that every mermaid has dreamed of visiting.



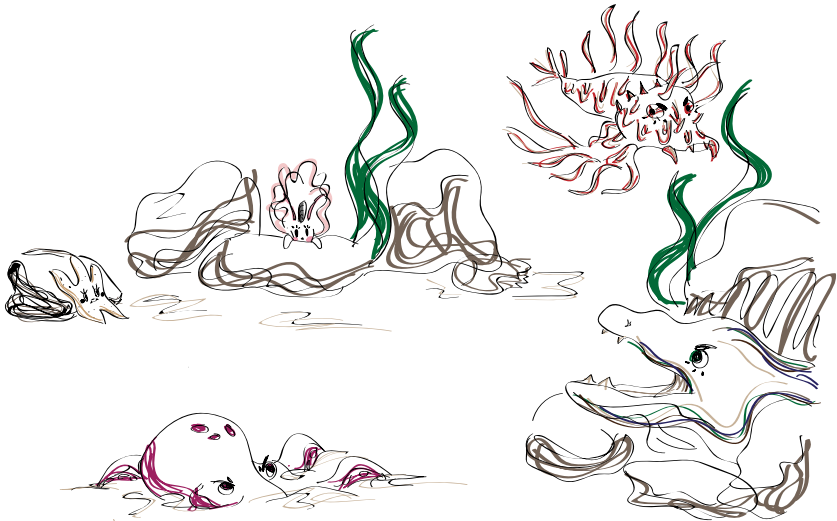
She swam out of the cove and headed straight for the nearest reef. “Please help me!” she peeped, “I’m looking for the golden ocean!”

“You can’t get to the golden ocean, you’re way too small!” teased the eel.

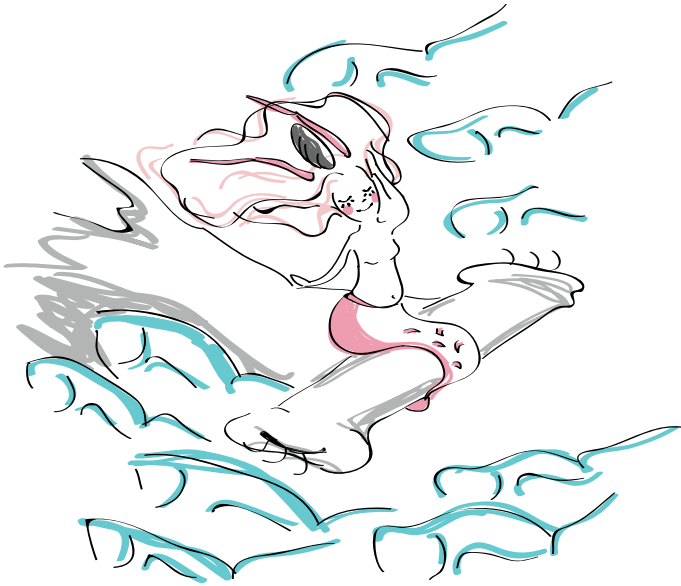
“It is nowhere near the bottom of the ocean! Why even bother asking us at all?” the octopus scoffed.

“Then where is it? How will I get there?” whispered the mermaid shrimp.

“Ask for a ride on the sea turtle!” the starfish answered, “She visits the surface everyday. She’ll know how to get you there.”



Mermaid shrimp scurried over to the edge of the reef and looked out into the empty ocean floor. She didn't know where the sea turtle was, and she was in desperate need for help. She noticed a school of fish were making their way into the reef and before she knew it, she was scooped up from behind by a hammerhead shark.



“Don't be scared, your friend the starfish asked me to bring you to the sea turtle.”

“Thank you so much! I would have never been able to make it across this ocean without you.”

The shark dropped her off on a pile of rocks, and she patiently sat down and waited for the old sea turtle to arrive. Suddenly, a nurturing voice whispered to her from behind. “I’ve heard you’re looking for the golden ocean. Be careful when you get there. Many sea creatures who have dared to travel there never make it past the surface.” said the sea turtle as she swam in towards the shore, high above the ocean floor. “Wow! I can see my cove from here!” Mermaid shrimp exclaimed as she held onto the turtle’s shell a little tighter.



As she reached the surface of the ocean, the old sea turtle bid her farewell and instructed mermaid shrimp to swim up to the surface. When she reached the surface, the warm bright glow of the golden ocean greeted her.

“I’m finally here!” She cried, as she happily splashed about. She stretched out her arms and attempted to grab the golden ocean’s edge. Realizing she was too small to do so, she decided to try jumping out of the water as high as she could to try and reach it then.



As soon as she jumped, she felt herself being pulled up closer and closer, not knowing she had been scooped up by a pelican. Thinking she had reached the golden ocean, mermaid shrimp closed her eyes and waited for her arrival into the one place where she knew she would finally be happy.

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