

Blue Bahanas



Michael Morpurgo
Illustrated by Lucy Richards

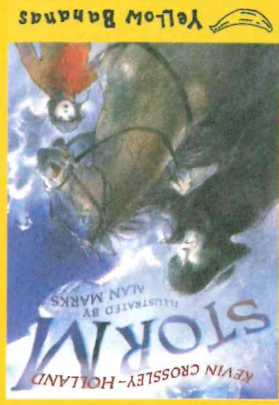
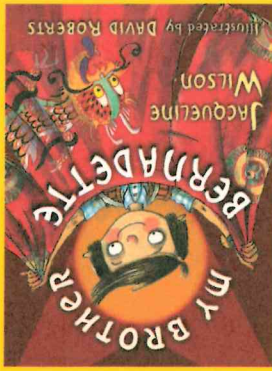


Mermaid's

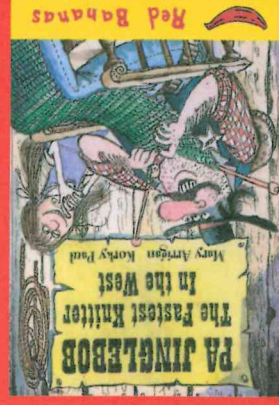
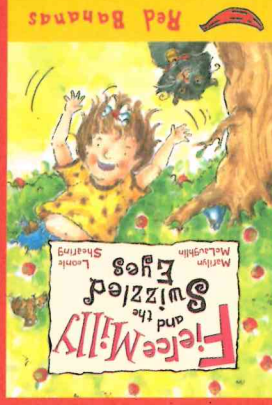
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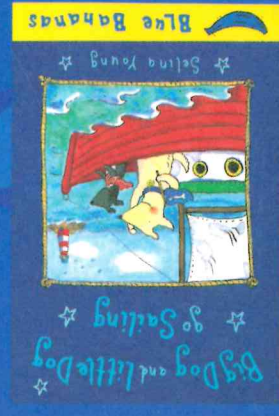
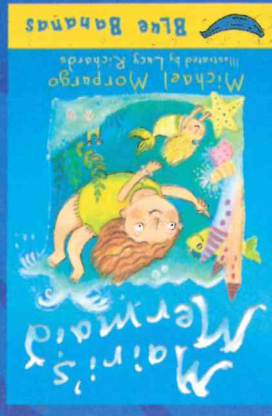
For newly fluent readers



For building confidence



For early readers



CROSSHALL INFANT SCHOOL



Maria's Mermaid

Illustration by Maria

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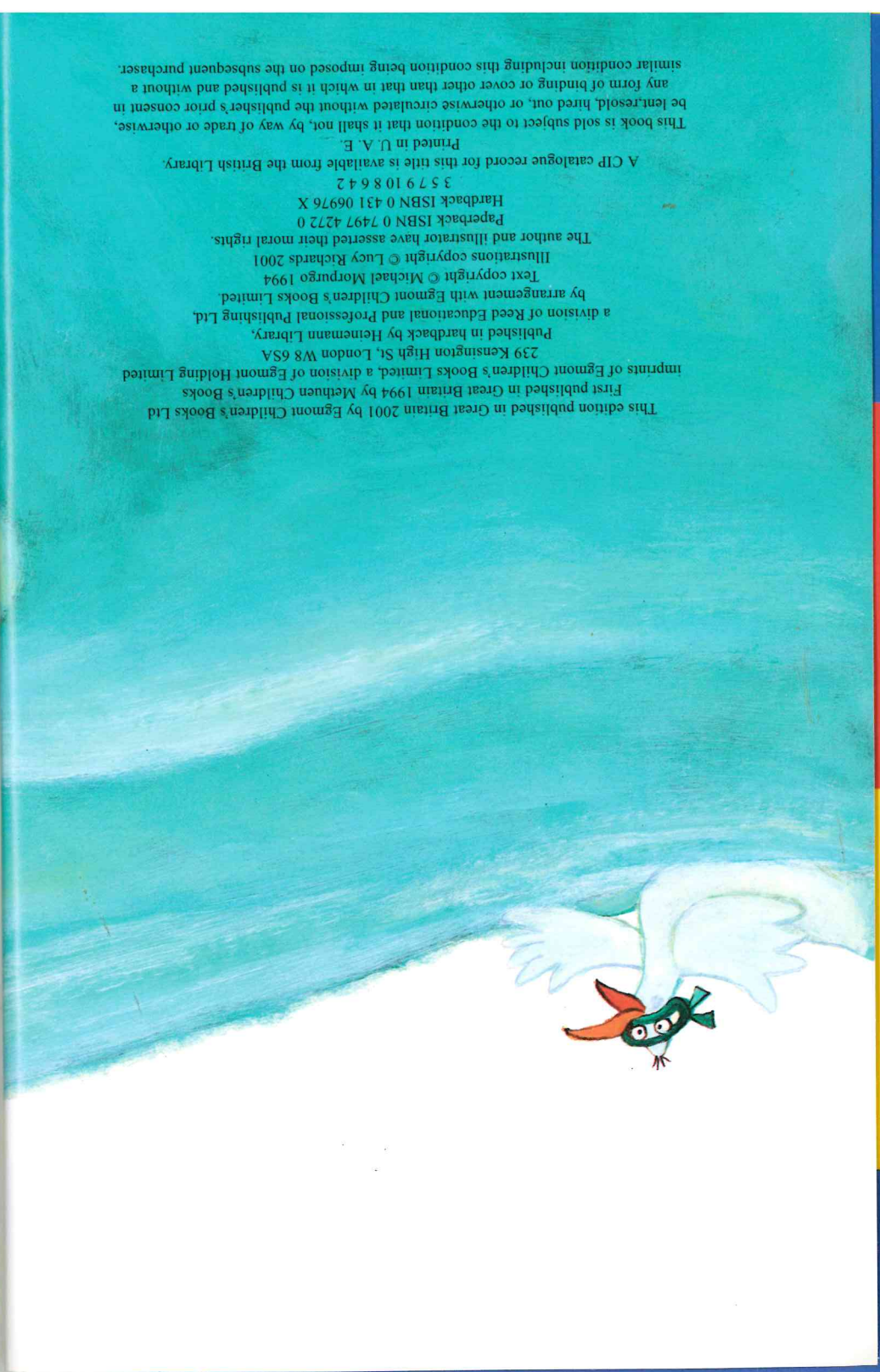
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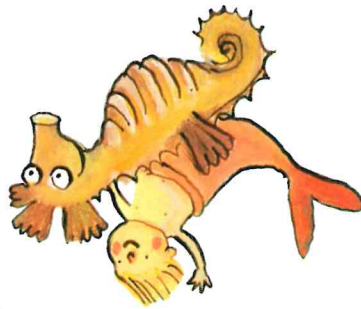


Mairi's
Mermaid

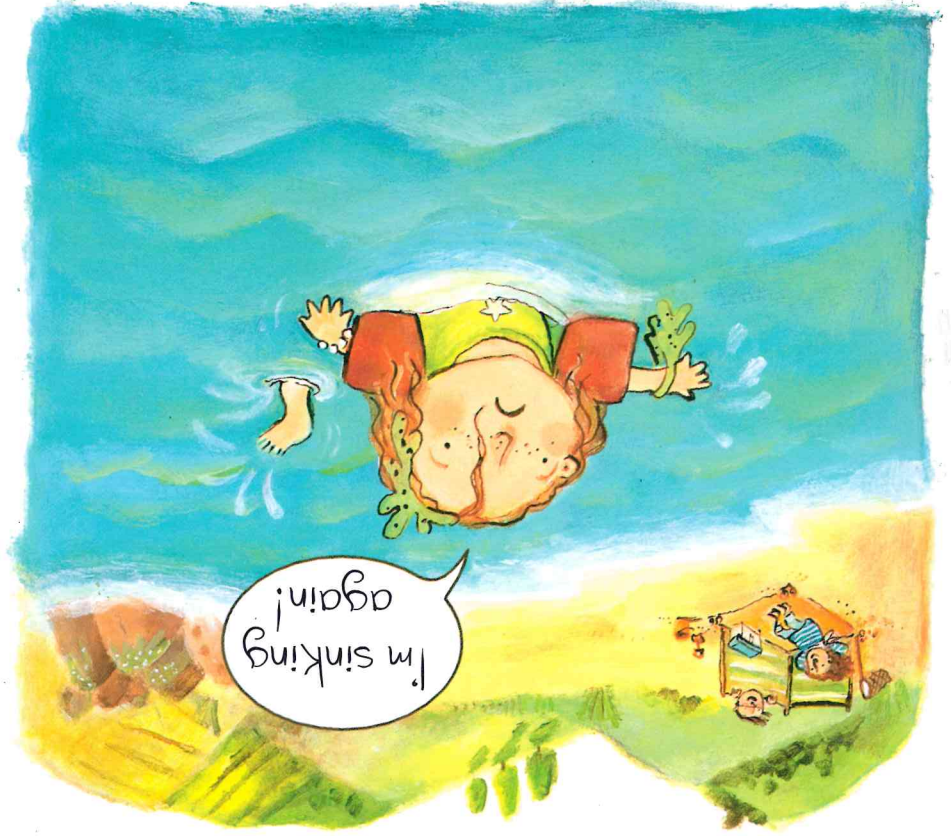


For Grandad Eric
and all my family
L.R.

For Alan
M.M.



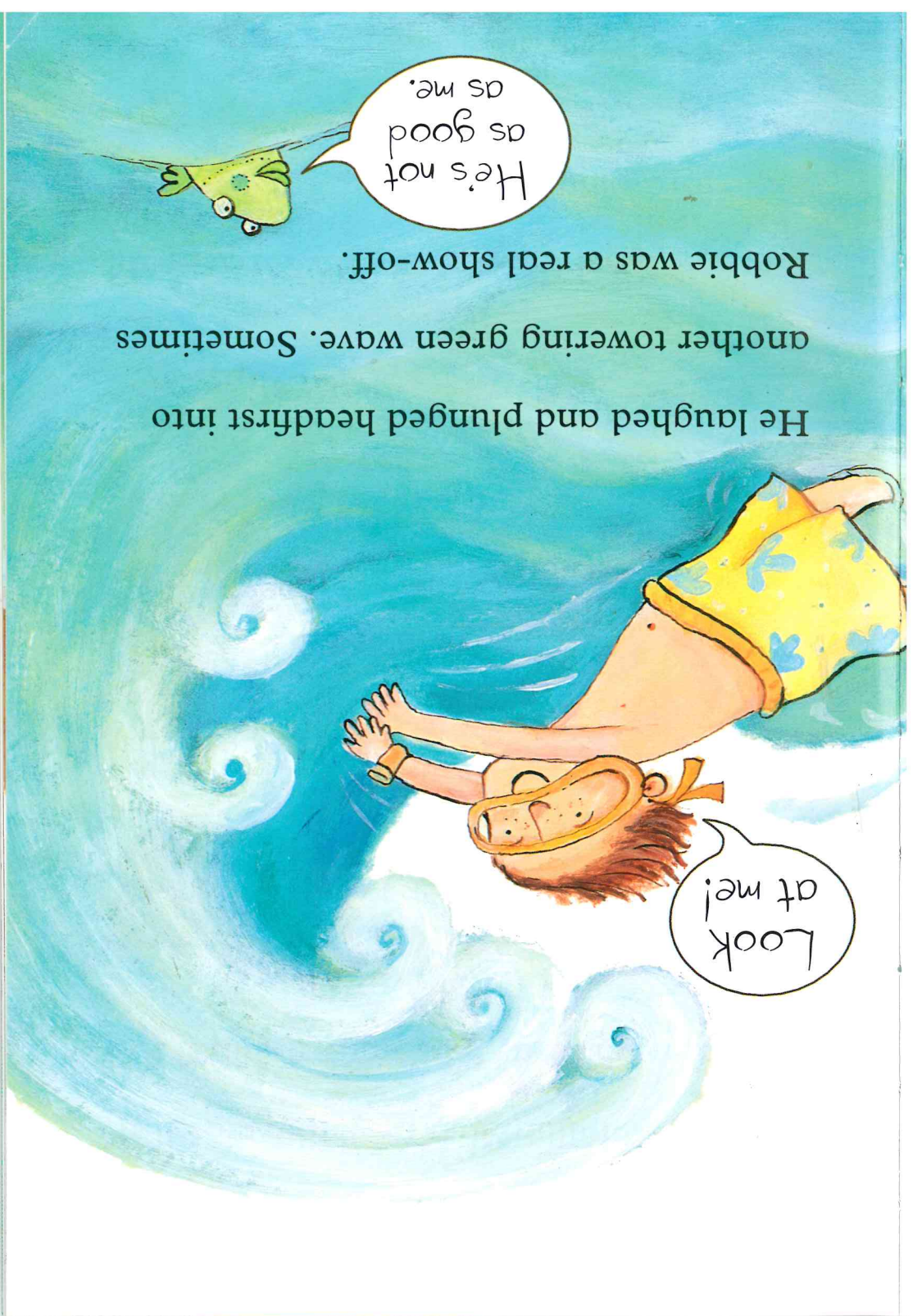
All the holidays she'd been trying, but every time she took her feet off the bottom she sank like a stone.



Mairi still could not swim. She wished she could, but she just couldn't.

Her brother Robbie swam like a fish.
'It's easy,' he told her. 'You believe in
mermaids don't you? Well, just pretend
you're a mermaid, like this.'





Robbie was a real show-off.

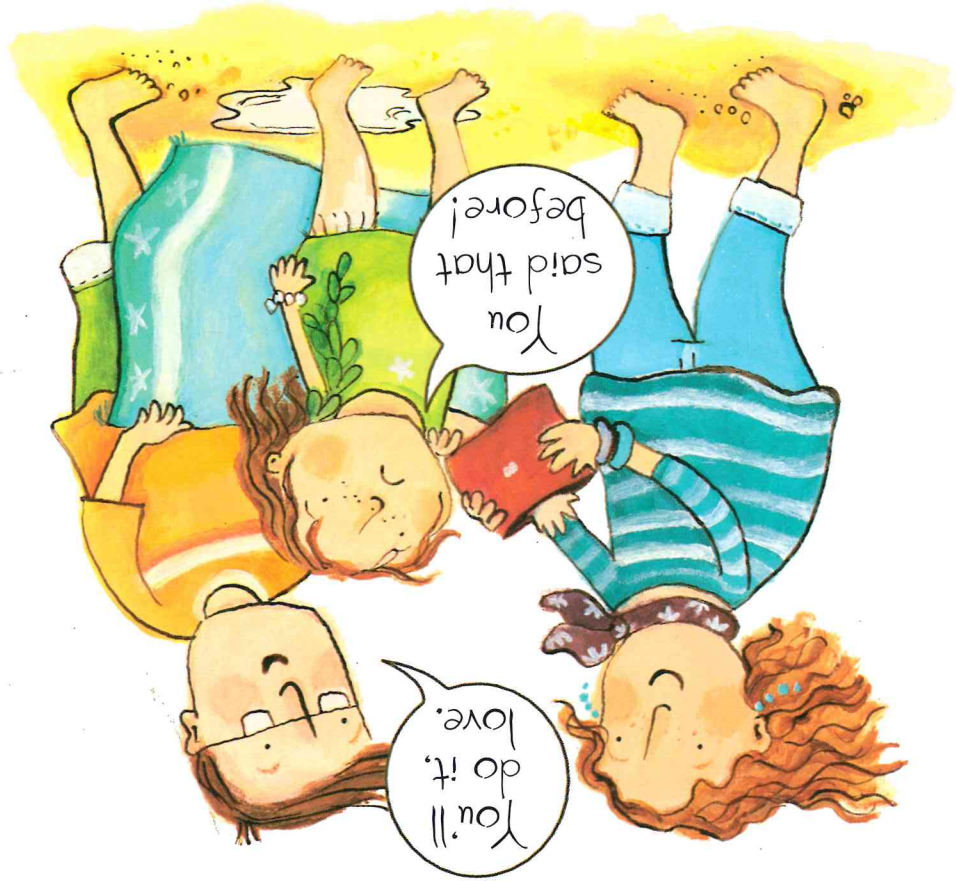
He laughed and plunged headfirst into another towering green wave. Sometimes

He's not as good as me.

Look at me!

on her own.

Mairi wanted to be miserable all

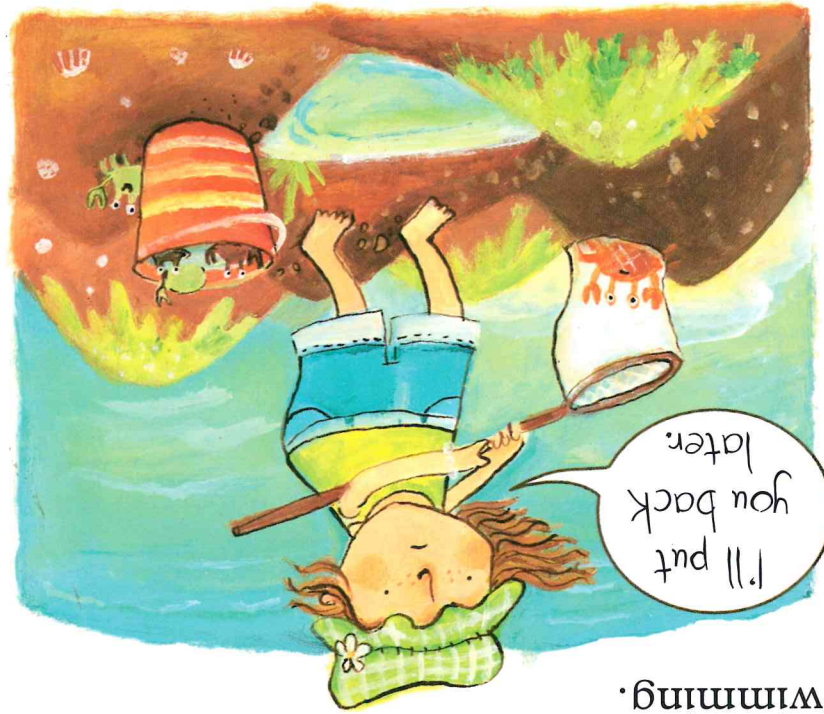


But it didn't come and she didn't do it.

'It'll come' they said. 'You'll do it.'

Mairi's mother and father tried to help.

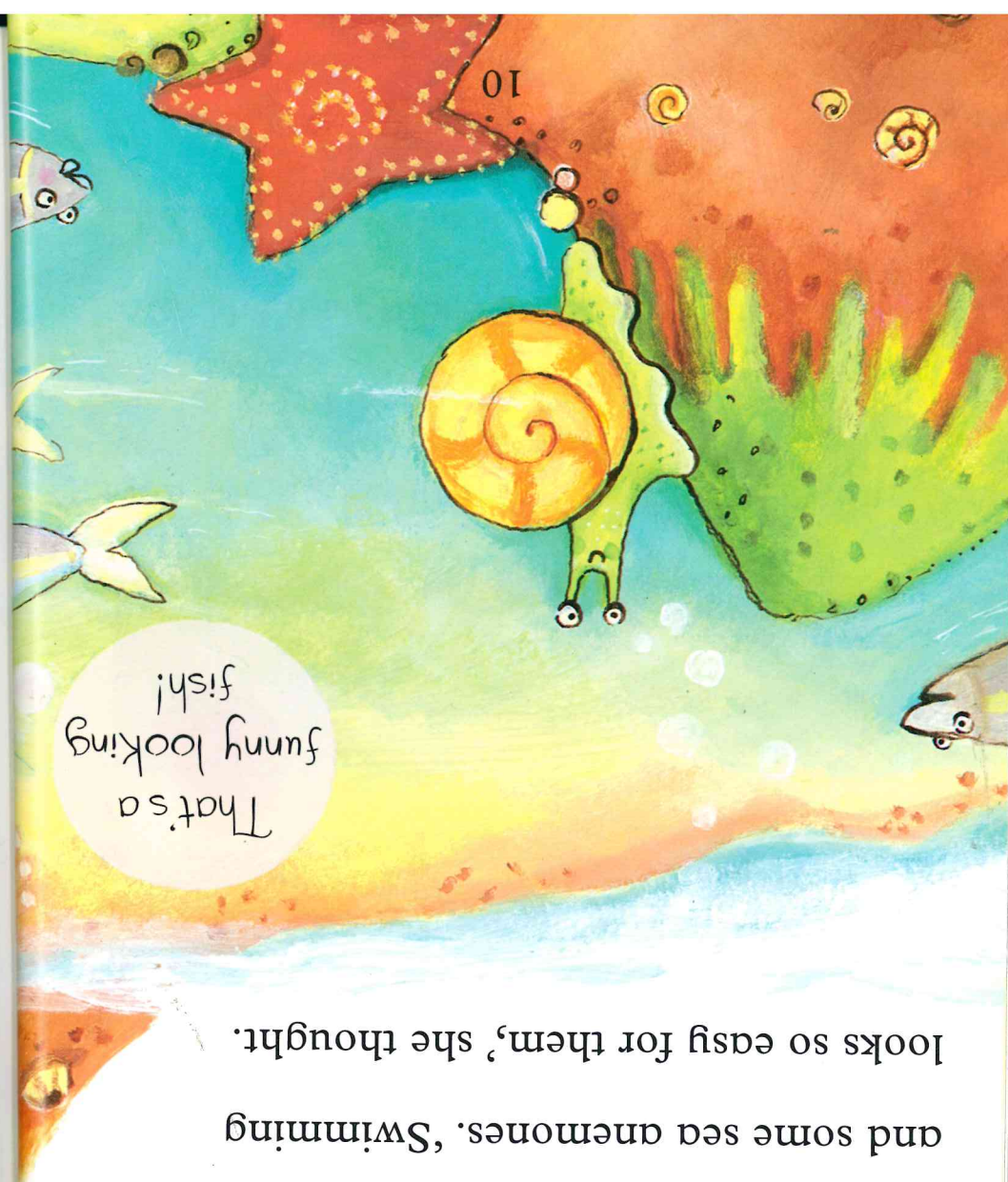
Soon she had collected five little crabs in her bucket. They'd be her pets for the day. Later she'd let them go and watch them slide away into the sea.

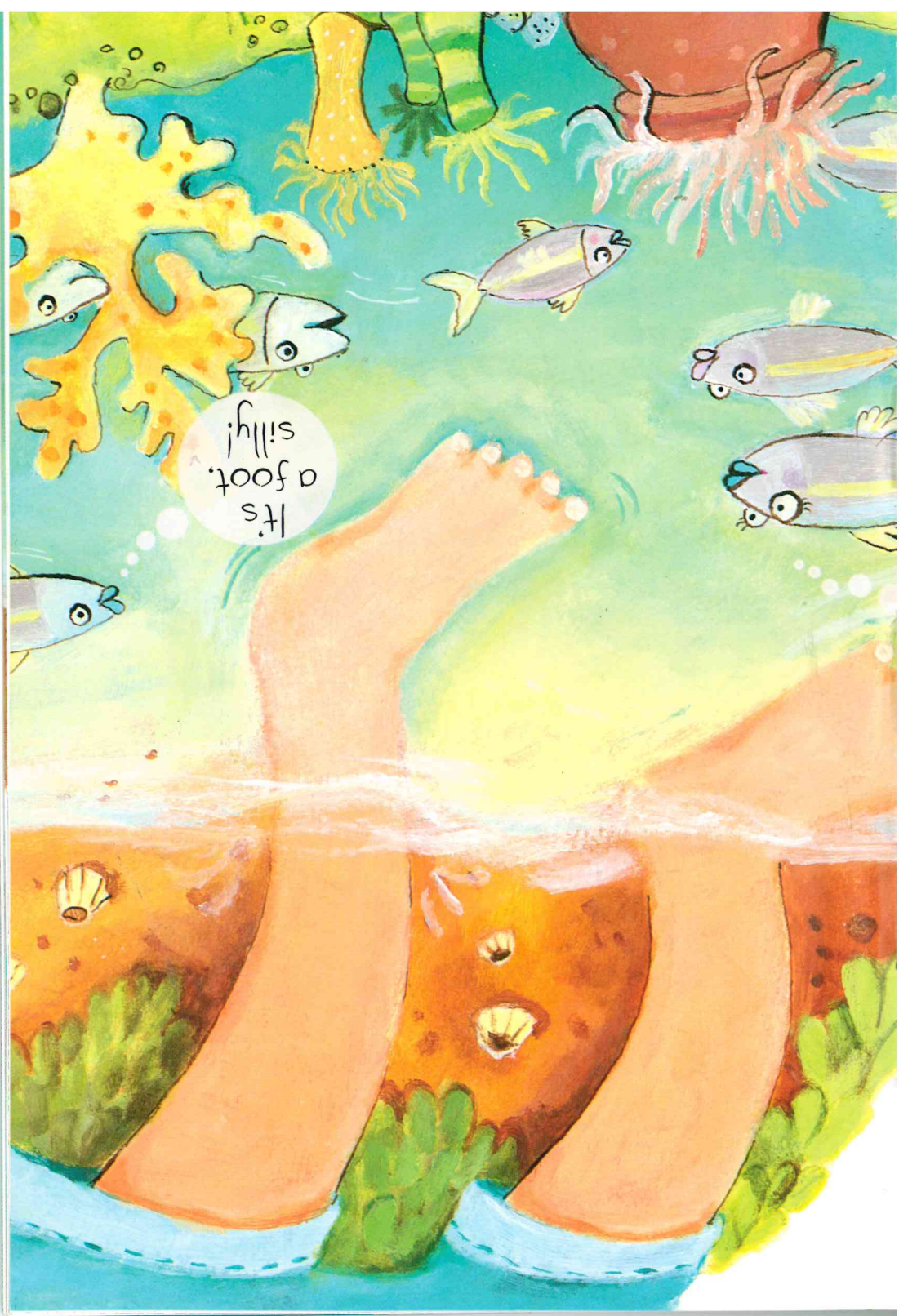


swimming.
She went to look for crabs in the rock pools and tried to forget all about

The water in the rock pool was warm
from the sun. A shoal of silver fish darted
round her legs. She could see a starfish
and some sea anemones. 'Swimming
looks so easy for them,' she thought.

That's a
funny looking
fish!





It's
a foot,
silly!

Suddenly something pinched her toe. She thought it might be a crab and jumped up. It was nothing. Maybe she had imagined it. But just to be sure, she decided not to dangle her feet again.



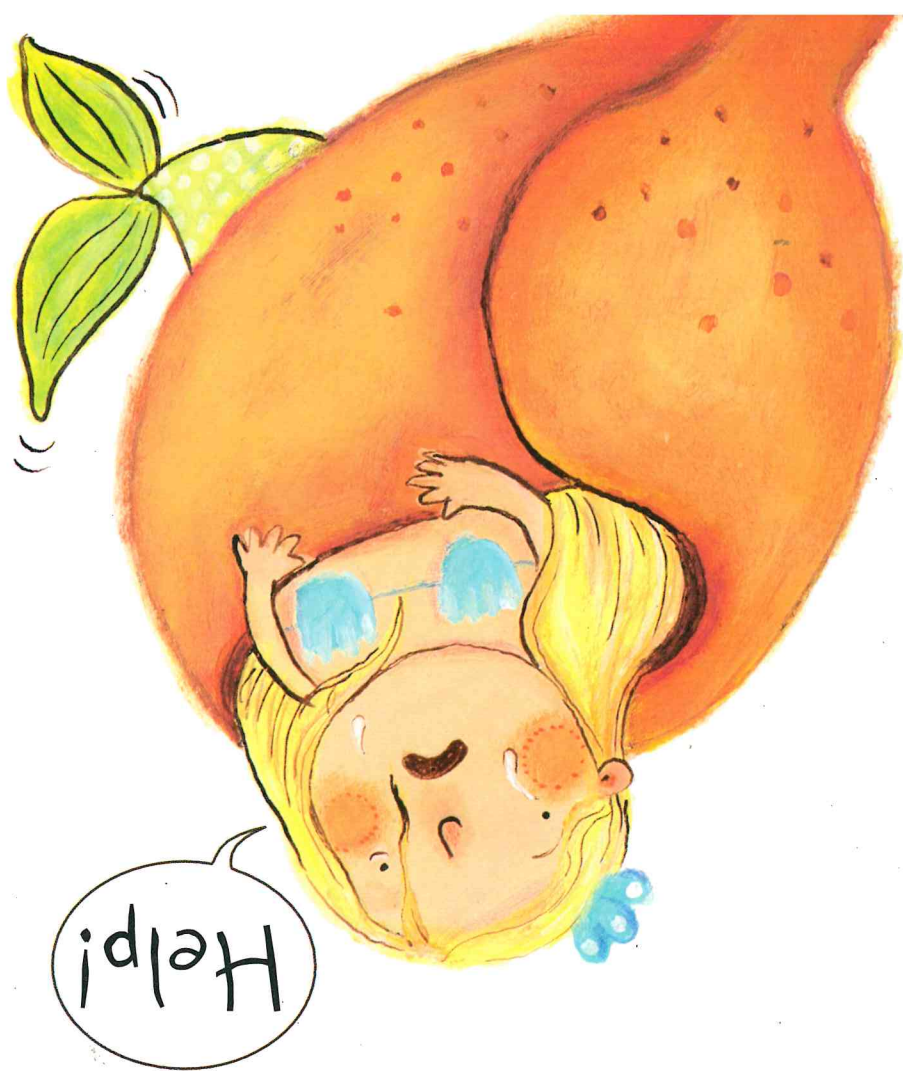
And then she heard a piping voice. It seemed at first to come from far away. She listened again. It came from deep down in the rock pool.



Mairi brushed aside the seaweed and there, glaring up at her, was a huge brown crab. In his great grasping claw was a fish, no bigger than her finger.

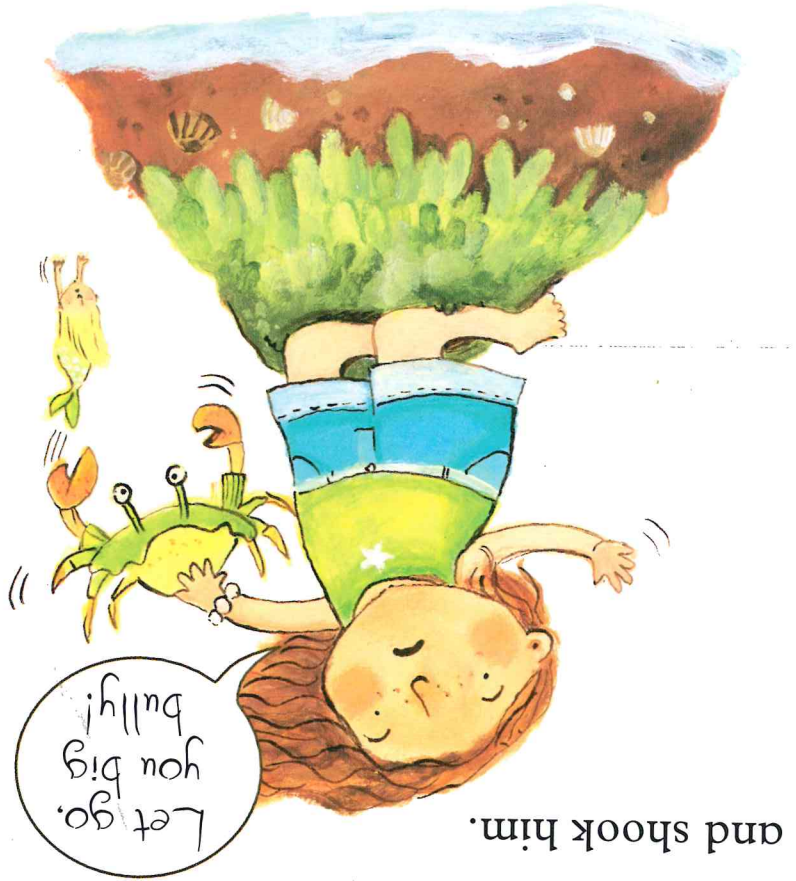


But then she saw it wasn't an ordinary
fish. It was a fish with arms and hands,
a fish with a head like her own and a
mouth that spoke. It was a little
mermaid.



and disappeared.

The little mermaid dropped into the pool

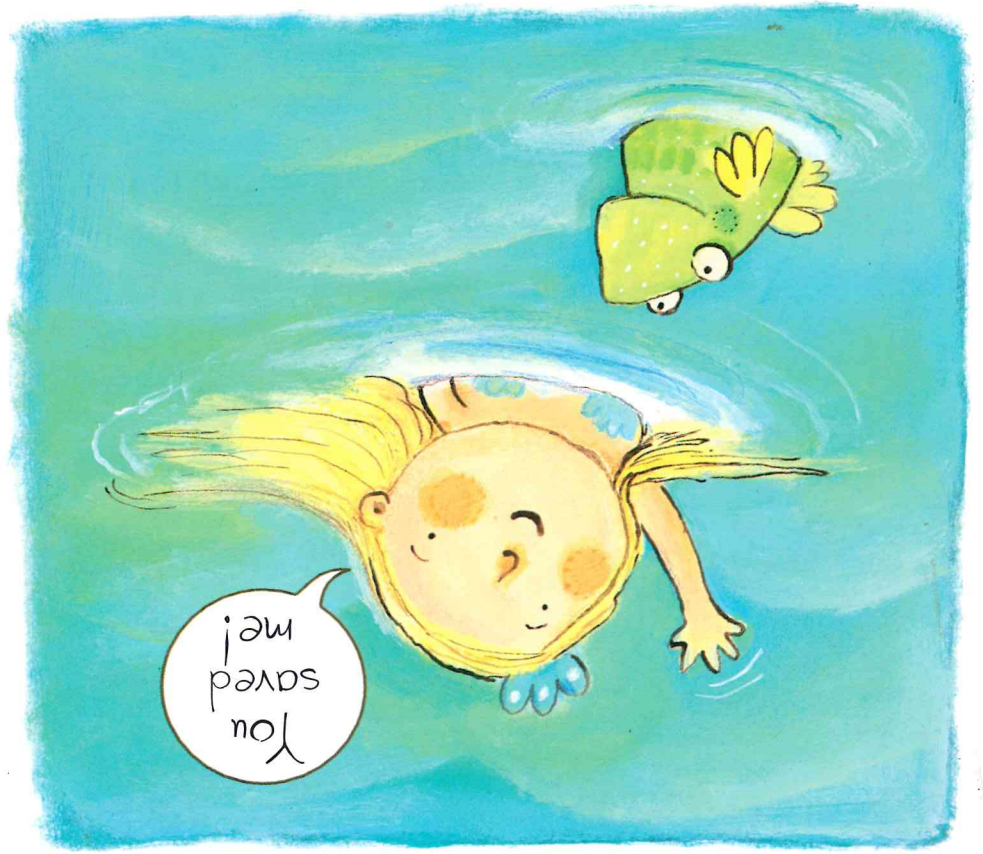


and shook him.

crab out of the water and shook him

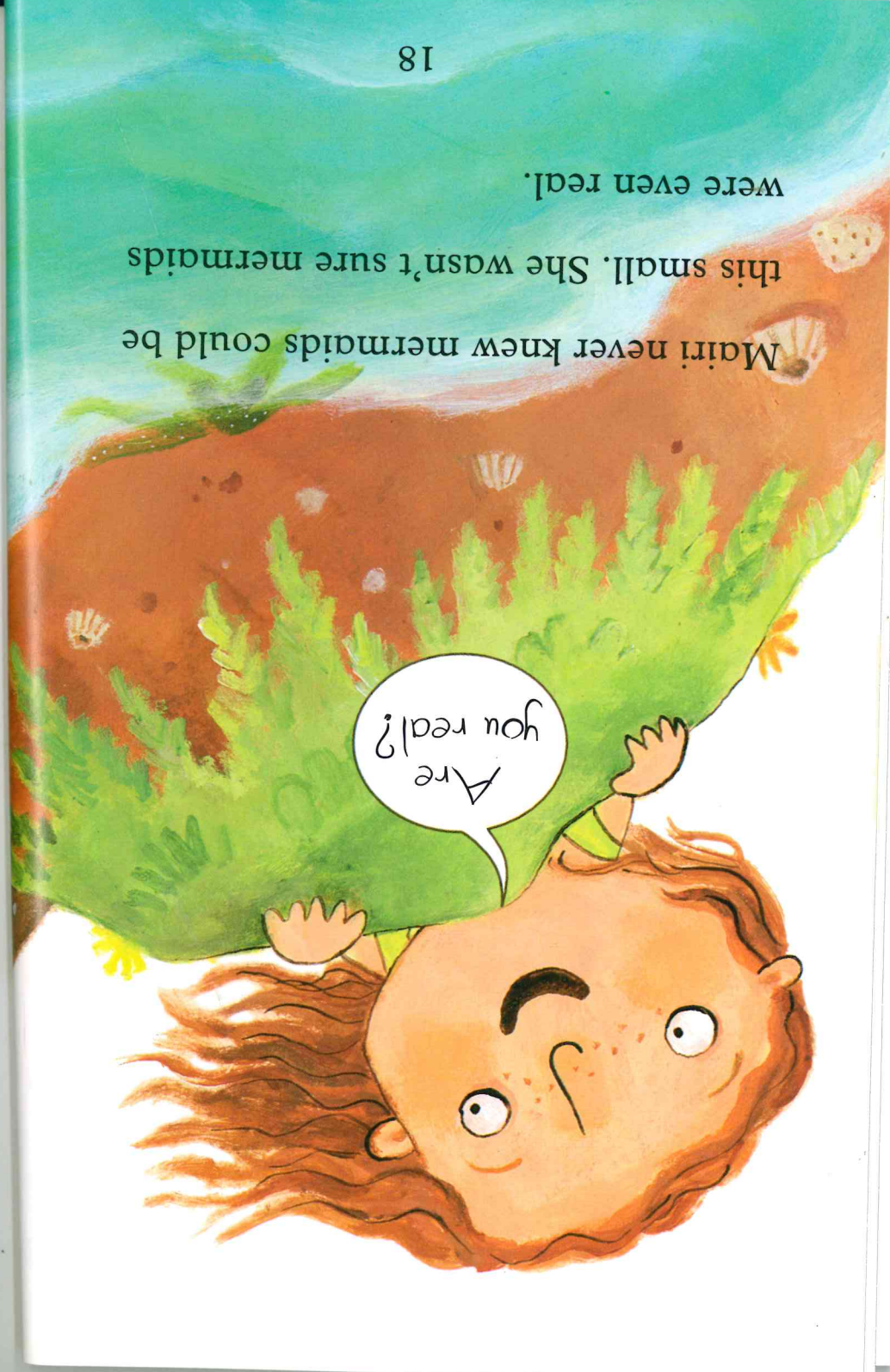
however big they were. She picked the

Mairi was not at all afraid of crabs,



For a moment there was no sign of her. Then a small head bobbed up. 'Thank you, oh, thank you,' the mermaid said.

Mairi never knew mermaids could be
this small. She wasn't sure mermaids
were even real.



had to do.

a pet for the day, but she knew what she

Mairi would so like to have kept her as



caught me. He was going to eat me up!

this pool. Then that great big horrible crab

'I went off on my own and I got stuck in

'Help me, please,' said the mermaid.

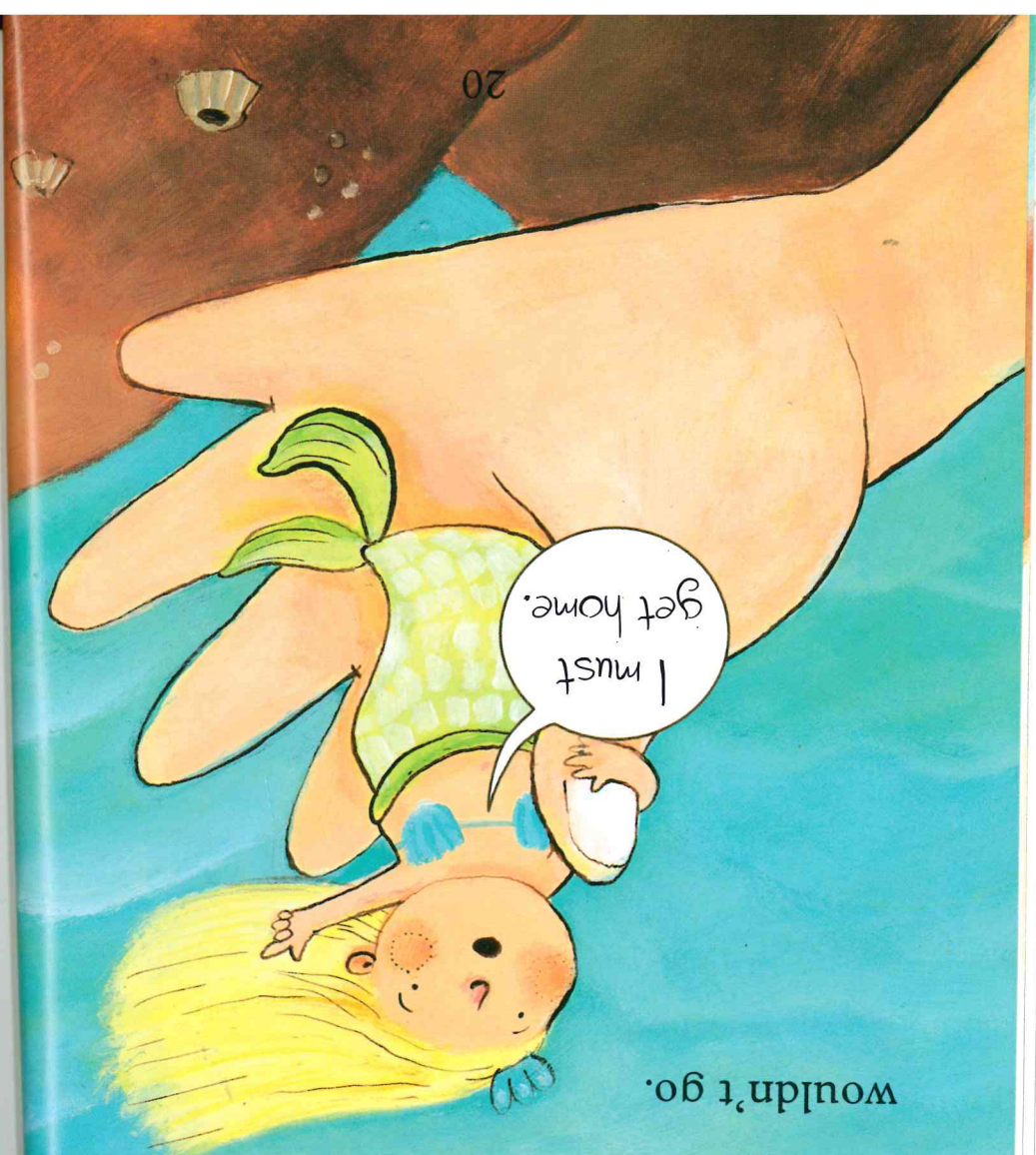
Mairi carried the little mermaid carefully

over the rocks and down to the sea.

Then she opened her hands, and let

the mermaid go. But the mermaid

wouldn't go.



'No, no!' cried the little mermaid

clutching her thumb. 'Not here. The

waves will smash me against the rocks.

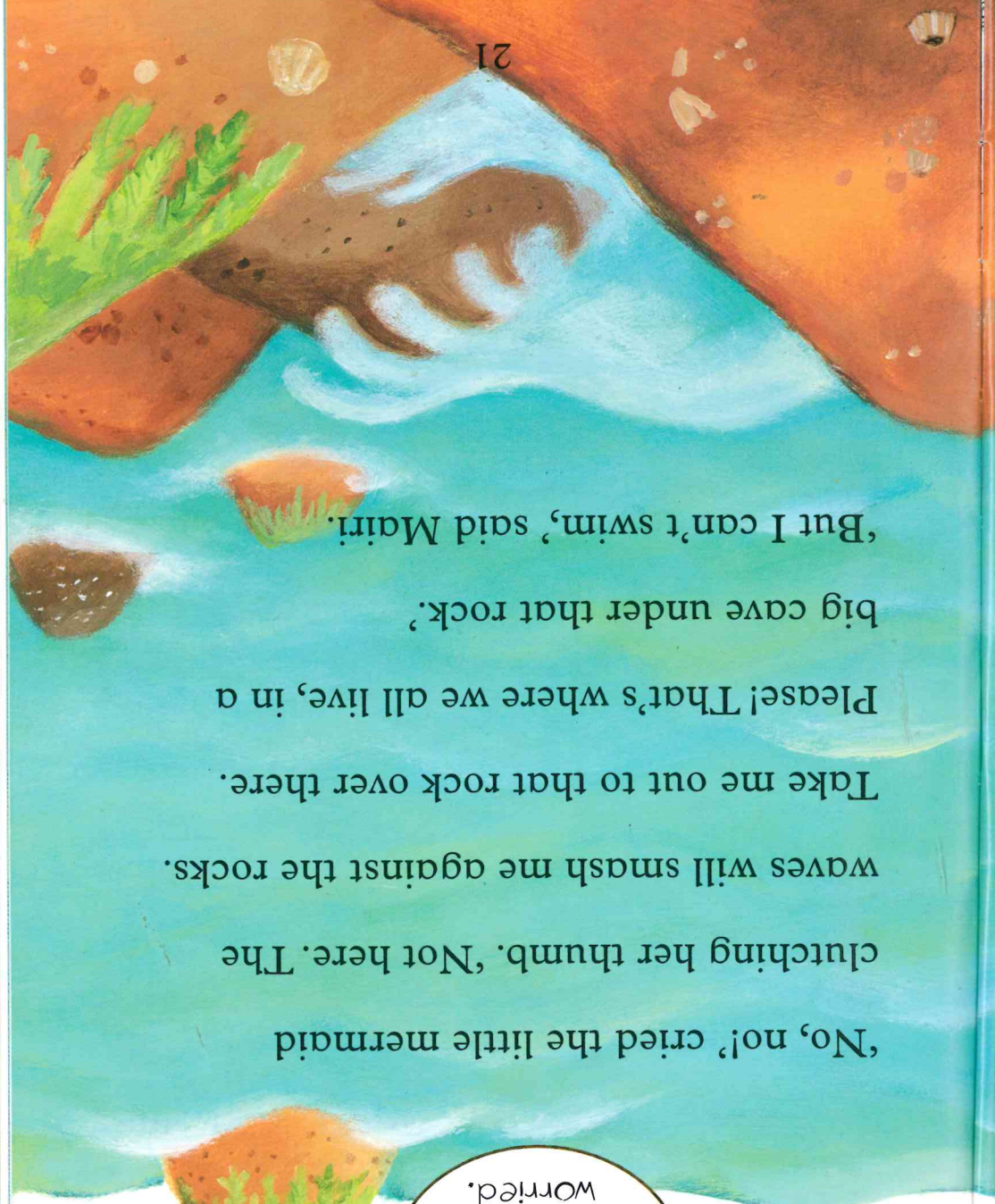
Take me out to that rock over there.

Please! That's where we all live, in a

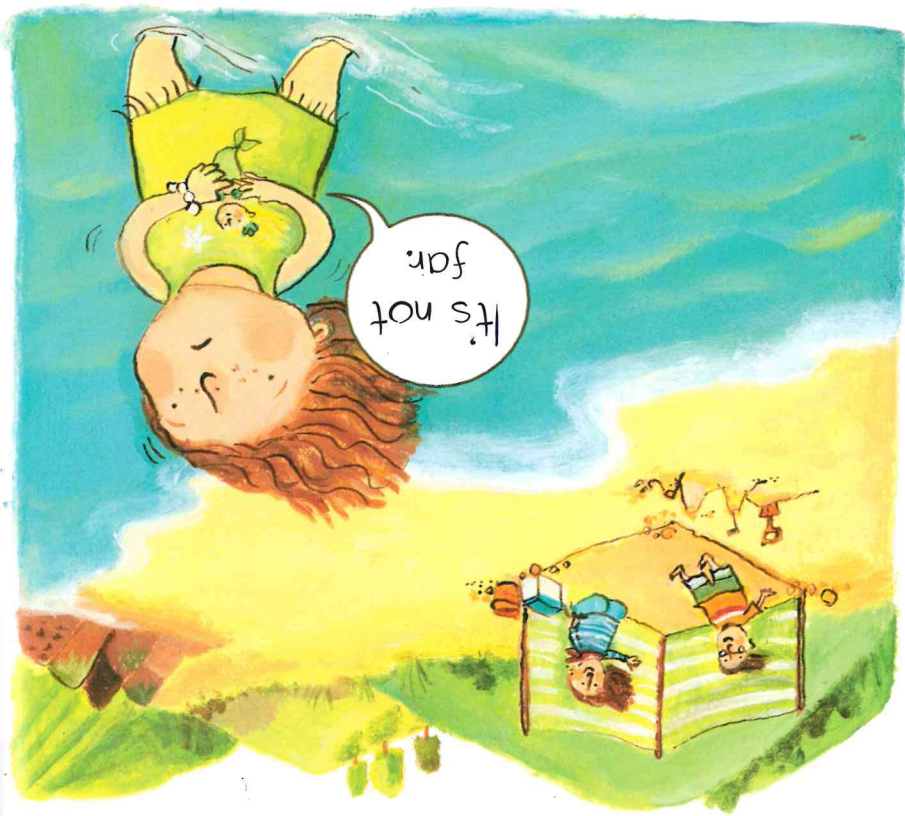
big cave under that rock?

'But I can't swim,' said Mairi.

Little Mermaid,
your mother is
worried.



'I'll tell you what,' Mairi said. 'I'll take
you as far as I can walk, but I can't go
out of my depth.'
She stepped into the sea and waded out
until the sea water came as high as her
knees . . .





as high as her neck . . .



as high as her waist . . .