

The Whale That Spoke

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Berry loved the ocean more than anything else in the world.

Every day after school, he'd hop into his Dad's little boat, and together they'd head out into the blue.

With the sparkling waves, the salty breeze, and the endless underwater life - it was Berry's happy place.

While his Dad was fishing, Berry enjoyed capturing the ocean with his camera.

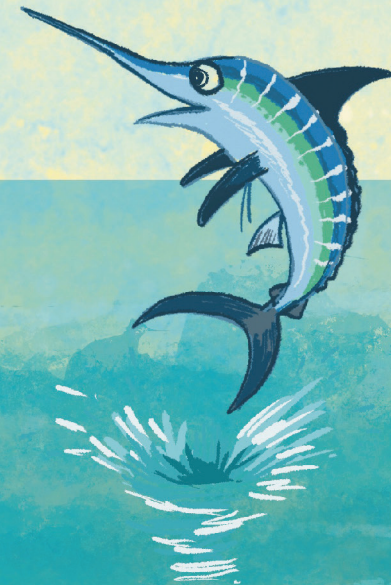




“Dad, Dad, did you see that HUGE fish
just jump out of the water?”
Berry shouted.

“That’s a Marlin, son. One of the
fastest fish in the ocean.” His Dad replied
while pulling in a lobster pot.

Berry loved to explore too. With his
snorkel in hand, he’d dive into a magical
underwater world full of surprises.



Beneath the waves, Berry swam through colourful coral reefs that looked like underwater rainbows. He watched schools of fish darting about like tiny rockets, graceful manta rays gliding like underwater birds and even spotted shy sea turtles hiding behind rocks.

“Wow,” Berry thought. *“It’s like another planet.”*

Then, something caught his eye. A plastic bag had wrapped itself around a coral, blocking tiny fish from feeding and casting a shadow over its vibrant colours.

Berry removed the plastic bag and tucked it into his pocket, careful not to damage the delicate coral.



As Berry began to swim away, he heard a whisper, *"Thank you"*. He spun around, but it was only a curious fish staring at him.

"That was so weird! I must be imagining things." Berry thought and kept swimming.

Berry felt alive in the ocean. He couldn't imagine sitting in front of a screen all day when the ocean was bursting with adventure!

"The ocean is way cooler than any video game!" he'd say with a big grin.

Thank you.

On one warm afternoon with Dad, eager to cool off and explore some more, Berry jumped merrily back into the water with his snorkel.

But the moment he dived in, his heart nearly stopped.



A massive shadow stretched across the water, coming straight towards him.

Berry started splashing in panic,
but his Dad didn't notice.

It came closer...and closer...





It was a whale!

"Hi there," the whale said in a deep but friendly voice. "I'm Nadia. Don't be afraid."

Berry blinked. *"W-w-what? You can talk?!"*

Nadia smiled. *"Perhaps not like you, but if people care enough they can understand me. I've been watching you for a while now, Berry. You always treat the ocean with kindness. That's why I trust you to help me now."*

Berry swallowed hard. *"Me, Help? How?"*



"Hold onto my fin," Nadia said with a warm smile. *"I'll show you."*

Berry quickly grabbed hold of Nadia's smooth fin, and together, they swam across the shimmering ocean, past swaying kelp and graceful angelfish.



Nadia brought Berry to a quiet spot
in the water. Berry's eyes widened,
and his stomach dropped.

A baby whale was tangled in an old fishing net!
The little whale trembled, looking frightened.
Its movements were desperate and uncoordinated,
followed by a high-pitched cry that
echoed across the waves.



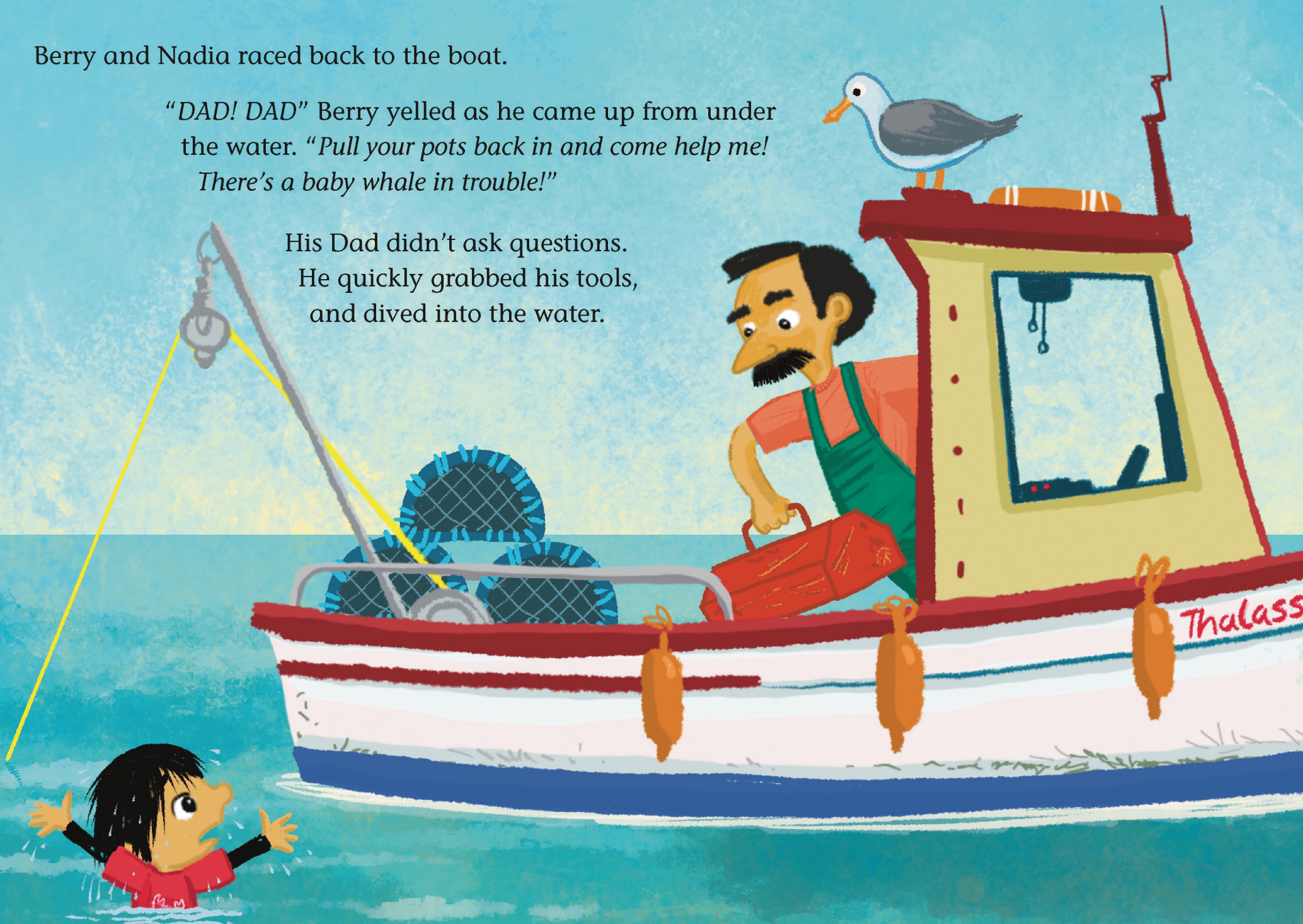
*"Berry, this is my calf," Nadia said gently.
"Please, I need your help to free her.
I know you will find a way."*



Berry and Nadia raced back to the boat.

“DAD! DAD” Berry yelled as he came up from under the water. “Pull your pots back in and come help me! There’s a baby whale in trouble!”

His Dad didn’t ask questions.
He quickly grabbed his tools,
and dived into the water.



A colorful illustration of a man and a boy rescuing a baby whale from a net. The man, wearing a red shirt, green overalls, and a blue diving mask, is using blue scissors to cut the orange net. The boy, wearing a red shirt, black pants, and a blue diving mask, is pulling the net. The baby whale is blue and has a yellow mouth. The net is thick and tightly wrapped around the whale. The background is a greenish-blue underwater scene with various fish, crabs, and a red toolbox on a rock.

The net was thick and tightly wrapped around the baby whale. Berry pulled while his Dad cut, but it wouldn't budge. Just as Berry started to lose hope ...

SNAP! With one final cut from his Dad, the net gave way, and the calf wiggled free.

"Thank you both. This shell is a token of my gratitude to you and your dad." Nadia said.

After that unforgettable day,
Berry was determined to protect
the ocean and all the beautiful
creatures in it.

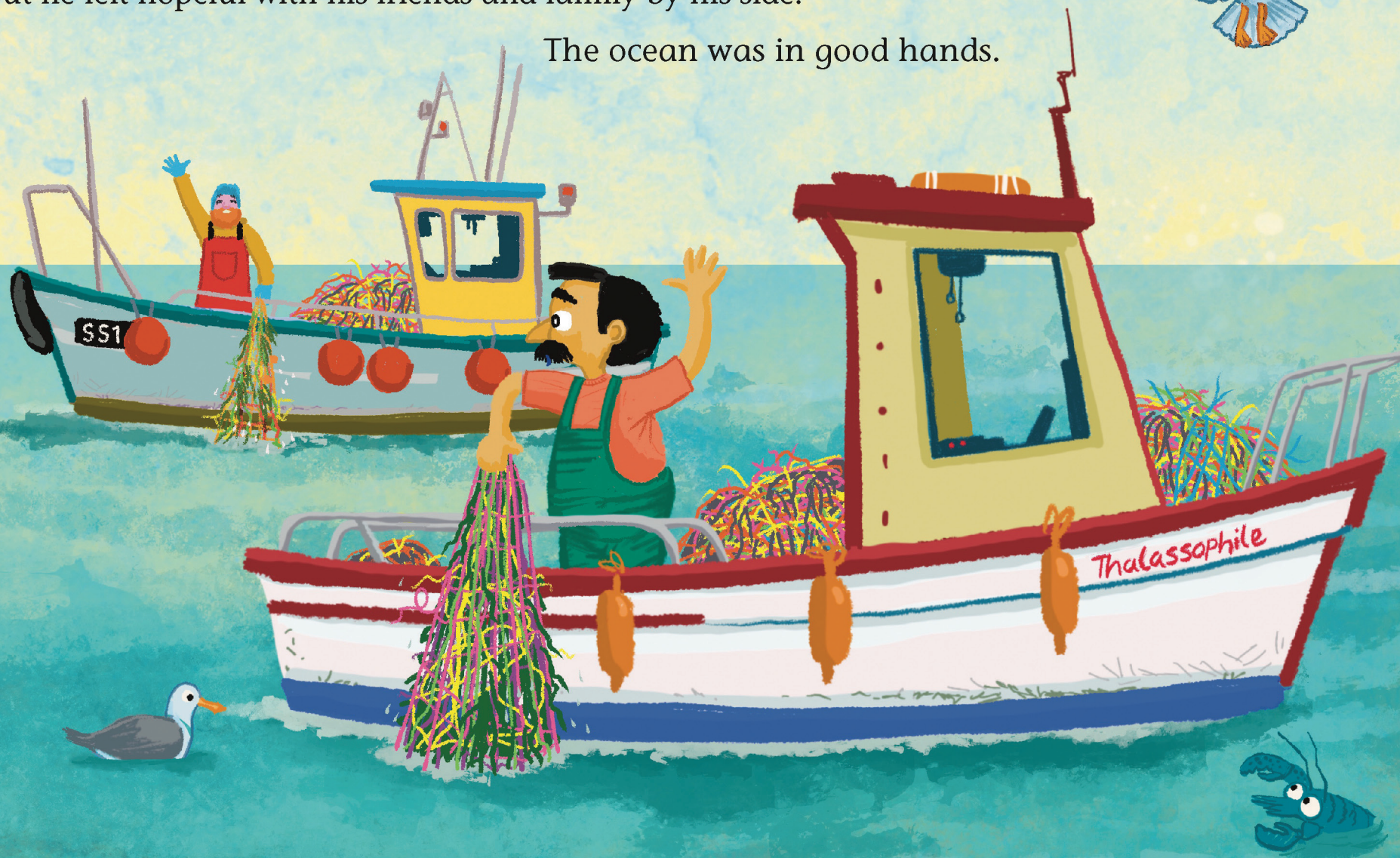


Berry inspired his friends at school to join him for a weekly beach cleanup every Sunday and began talking about how people affect the ocean. They sorted the collected rubbish into recycling and non-recycling bins and started spreading the importance of protecting the ocean.

His Dad even started working with local fishermen
to remove abandoned nets.

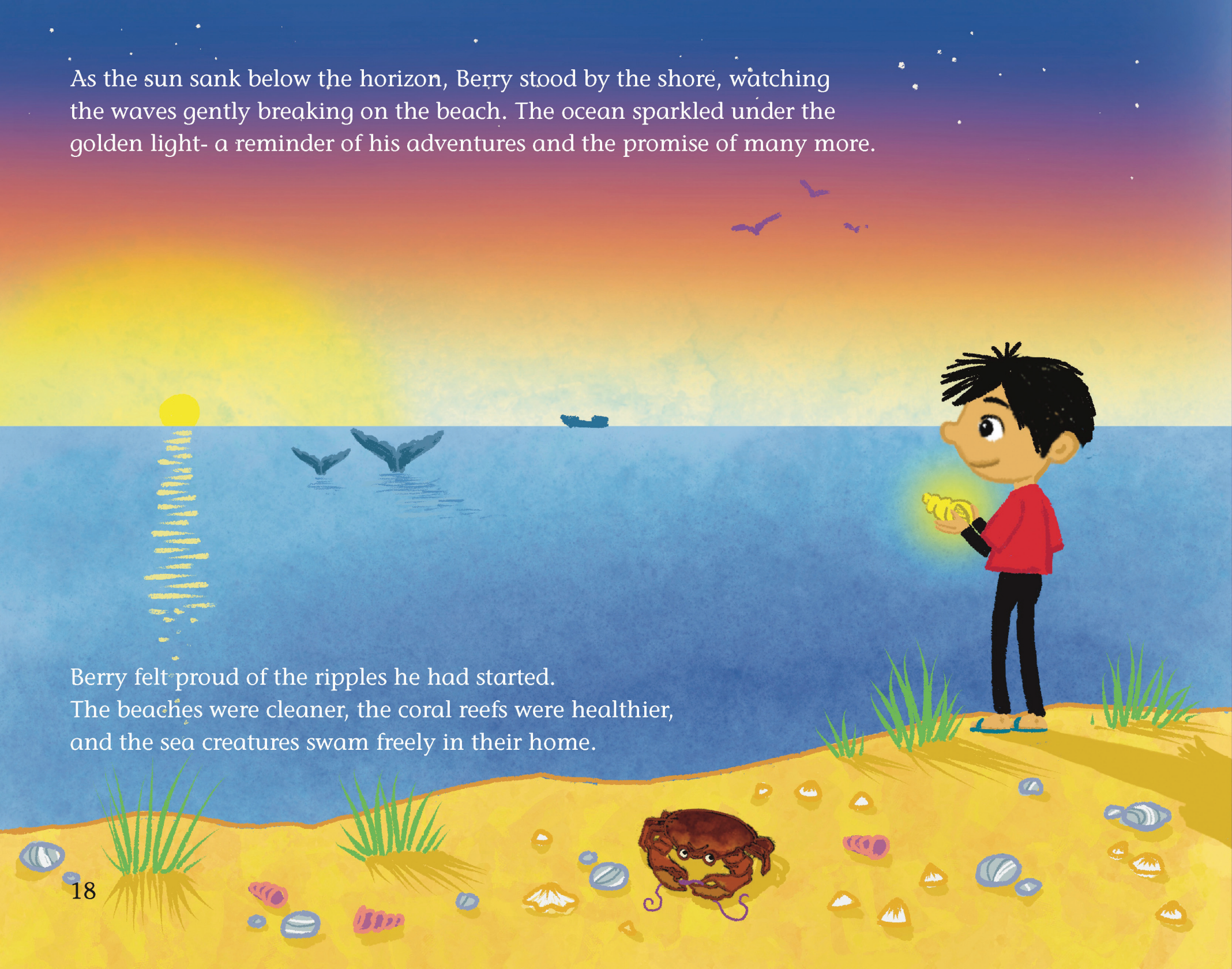
Berry knew it was just the beginning,
but he felt hopeful with his friends and family by his side.

The ocean was in good hands.



As the sun sank below the horizon, Berry stood by the shore, watching the waves gently breaking on the beach. The ocean sparkled under the golden light- a reminder of his adventures and the promise of many more.

Berry felt proud of the ripples he had started.
The beaches were cleaner, the coral reefs were healthier,
and the sea creatures swam freely in their home.



Berry had learned something important: no matter how young you are, you can make a difference.

Will you join Berry and help to protect the ocean?
Every small action creates a ripple, and that can cause a big wave of change!

The ocean needs us.



Find out more about the book and meet
the amazing ocean creatures Berry encounters.

www.oceanxenia.com

Useful sites:

www.sharkangels.org/what-we-do/

www.marinebio.org/conservation/

www.bluemarinefoundation.com/ocean-education-platform/



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