

The Mermaid's Sketchbook



Yavuz DEMİRKIRAN

The Mermaid's Sketchbook

Yavuz DEMİRKIRAN



Coral the mermaid lived in a bright blue bay where the water was always warm and friendly. She had wavy coral-pink hair that floated around her shoulders like seaweed in the current. Her shimmering teal tail sparkled as she swam, and a small shell clip held back her hair above one ear. But Coral's most treasured possession was her waterproof sketchbook, tucked safely in a seaweed-green satchel. Wherever Coral swam, her sketchbook and a stubby pencil came too.



Coral loved to draw everything she saw in the ocean. She sketched darting silver fish, waving purple anemones, and sleepy sea turtles gliding by. Her large sea-green eyes missed nothing, and her pencil moved quickly across the page. "Every creature has a story," she would say, "and I want to remember them all." The other merfolk smiled at Coral and her sketchbook, but they never really understood why she drew so much.



One morning, Coral decided to explore beyond the familiar reef. She swam past the last tall kelp forest and into open water she had never seen before. The light grew dimmer, and the water felt cooler. Coral held her sketchbook close and kept swimming. Suddenly, a tiny glow flickered in the distance, like a star beneath the waves. Curious, she swam toward it.



The glow came from a small fish with sleek silver-blue scales and large golden eyes. Faint glowing spots along its sides twinkled like tiny lanterns. When the fish saw Coral, it darted behind a rock, shy and nervous. Coral stayed very still and spoke softly. "Hello, little one. I won't hurt you. May I draw your picture?" The fish peeked out, curious about the strange mermaid with the pencil.



The glowing fish, whom Coral named Glimmer, soon grew brave enough to swim closer. Coral opened her waterproof sketchbook and began to draw. Her pencil moved carefully, capturing Glimmer's luminous eyes and the glowing spots along its sides. Glimmer seemed to understand and held still, posing like a tiny model. When Coral finished, she showed the drawing to Glimmer, who wiggled with delight. "You like it?" Coral laughed. "Then lead the way!"



Glimmer swam ahead, its glow lighting the dark water like a tiny guide. Coral followed, her teal tail swishing with excitement. They passed through a narrow gap between two tall rocks and entered a hidden valley. Coral gasped. Below her stretched a whole new world she had never imagined. Strange plants waved, and unfamiliar creatures darted among the rocks. This was a place no mermaid had ever told her about.



Coral floated above the hidden valley, her sea-green eyes wide with wonder. She saw creatures she had never seen before: a fish with wings like a butterfly, a snail with a shell that spiraled like a staircase, and a starfish that glowed in the dark. Her pencil flew across the page, sketching each one quickly. "So many new friends!" she whispered. "I must draw them all."



On a flat rock near the valley floor, Coral noticed something tiny moving. It was a crab no bigger than her thumbnail, with a bright orange shell covered in purple speckles. Its oversized claws waved in the water, and its stalk eyes wiggled comically. The little crab danced back and forth, as if putting on a show just for Coral. She giggled and began to sketch its funny dancing pose.



The tiny crab, whom Coral called Pip, was bold and playful. It danced closer, clicking its claws and wiggling its eyes. Coral drew every detail: the orange shell, the purple speckles, the six quick little legs. Pip seemed to enjoy the attention and kept dancing. "You're a natural star," Coral told it. Pip clapped its claws together as if applauding her drawing. Coral added the finishing touches and smiled.



Coral spent the whole day in the hidden valley, drawing one creature after another. She drew a fish with transparent fins that shimmered like rainbows, a sea slug with spots that changed color, and a tiny shrimp that carried a shell like a shield. Her sketchbook filled with page after page of new discoveries. Glimmer and Pip stayed by her side, guiding her to the most amazing creatures.



As the day went on, Coral realized how important her drawings were. No one else knew about this hidden place or its wonderful creatures. If she could show her sketchbook to someone who studied the ocean, they might understand and protect this new habitat. She carefully closed her sketchbook and promised Glimmer and Pip she would return. Then she swam home, her heart full of excitement.



Back in her own bay, Coral told everyone about the hidden valley and her drawings. The merfolk were amazed, but they didn't know what to do with the pictures. Then Coral remembered the ocean researchers who sometimes visited the bay. She swam to their boat and found Professor Marina, a tall woman with deep brown skin and round glasses. The professor wore a navy-blue wetsuit and held a waterproof clipboard. "Professor," Coral said, "I have something to show you."



Professor Marina examined Coral's sketchbook page by page. Her warm amber eyes grew wide with wonder behind her round glasses. "These creatures are completely new to science!" she exclaimed. "Your drawings are so detailed and careful. They tell us exactly what these animals look like and how they behave." Coral beamed with pride. Together, they planned to study the hidden valley and make sure it stayed safe.



Professor Marina and her team followed Coral to the hidden valley. With Coral's drawings as their guide, they identified the glowing fish, the dancing crab, and many other creatures. The researchers were amazed by the habitat's beauty and its amazing inhabitants. Coral led them from one spot to another, her sketchbook in hand. "Art can be a great way to share discoveries," Professor Marina said. "Your drawings opened a whole new world for us."



Word spread about Coral's sketchbook and the hidden valley. Scientists came from far away to study the creatures she had drawn. Coral became a hero in her bay, but she stayed humble and curious. She continued to explore and draw, always with Glimmer and Pip nearby. Her waterproof sketchbook filled with more drawings, each one a story of discovery. Coral knew that art could change the world, one drawing at a time.



Coral learned that even a small mermaid with a sketchbook could make a big difference. Her drawings helped protect a whole new world and its amazing creatures. Every time she swam, she carried her sketchbook and pencil, ready to capture the ocean's secrets. Glimmer and Pip remained her faithful friends, and the hidden valley stayed safe for all its inhabitants. "Never stop drawing," Coral told herself. "Every picture tells a story worth sharing."