

# MAGGIE

## THE MOOMAID

Rachel Terlop

Illustrated by Marianella González





**Once upon a time**, there was an excitable, artistic, and musical manatee named Maggie. Maggie loved to swim through kelp, bounce on jellyfish heads, and bake seaweed pastries with her mothers. But most of all, Maggie loved to play dress up. Even though she had a closet full of costumes, Maggie always dressed up as a mermaid.



Maggie is a manatee.



Maggie loves to swim in kelp.



Maggie loves to bake seaweed with her mother.







Maggie loves to dress up in different clothes.











Maggie loves to dress up as a mermaid.









Although Maggie was a great many things, she was self-conscious about her size. All the other students in her school were sleek and slim dolphins, and Maggie...well, Maggie was exactly what any healthy manatee should be: **round, hefty, buoyant, and vulnerable.**










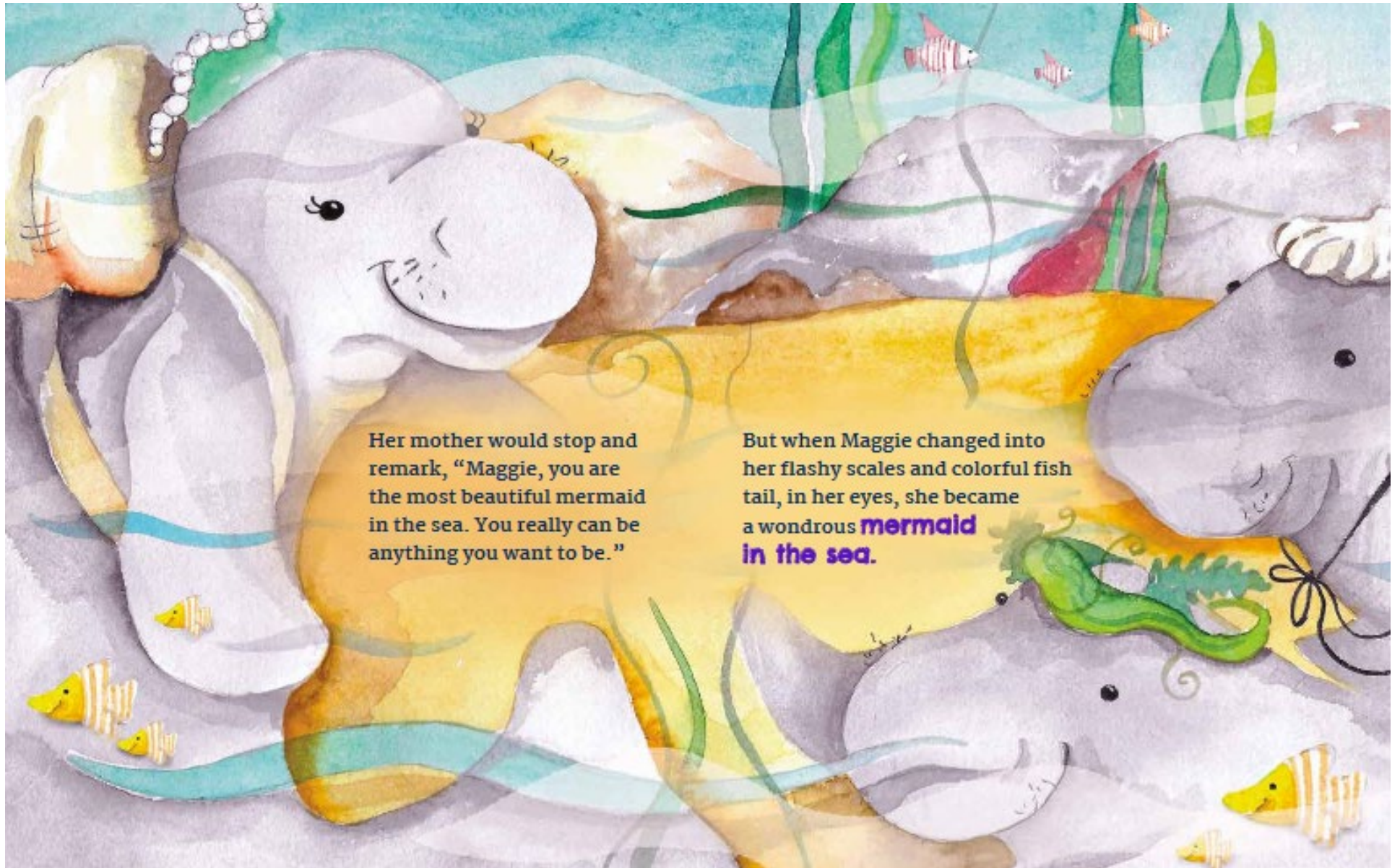
     
Maggie is a big manatee.

      
All Maggie's friends are dolphins.

        
All Maggie's friends are small and thin.

         
Maggie is big and round and a good floater.

        
Maggie is healthy but is different.



Her mother would stop and remark, “Maggie, you are the most beautiful mermaid in the sea. You really can be anything you want to be.”

But when Maggie changed into her flashy scales and colorful fish tail, in her eyes, she became a wondrous **mermaid in the sea.**



"You



are



beautiful,



Maggie!"



said



Maggie's



mother.



You



are



a

beautiful



mermaid too."



Maggie



loves

to



wear



colorful



mermaid clothes



and

a



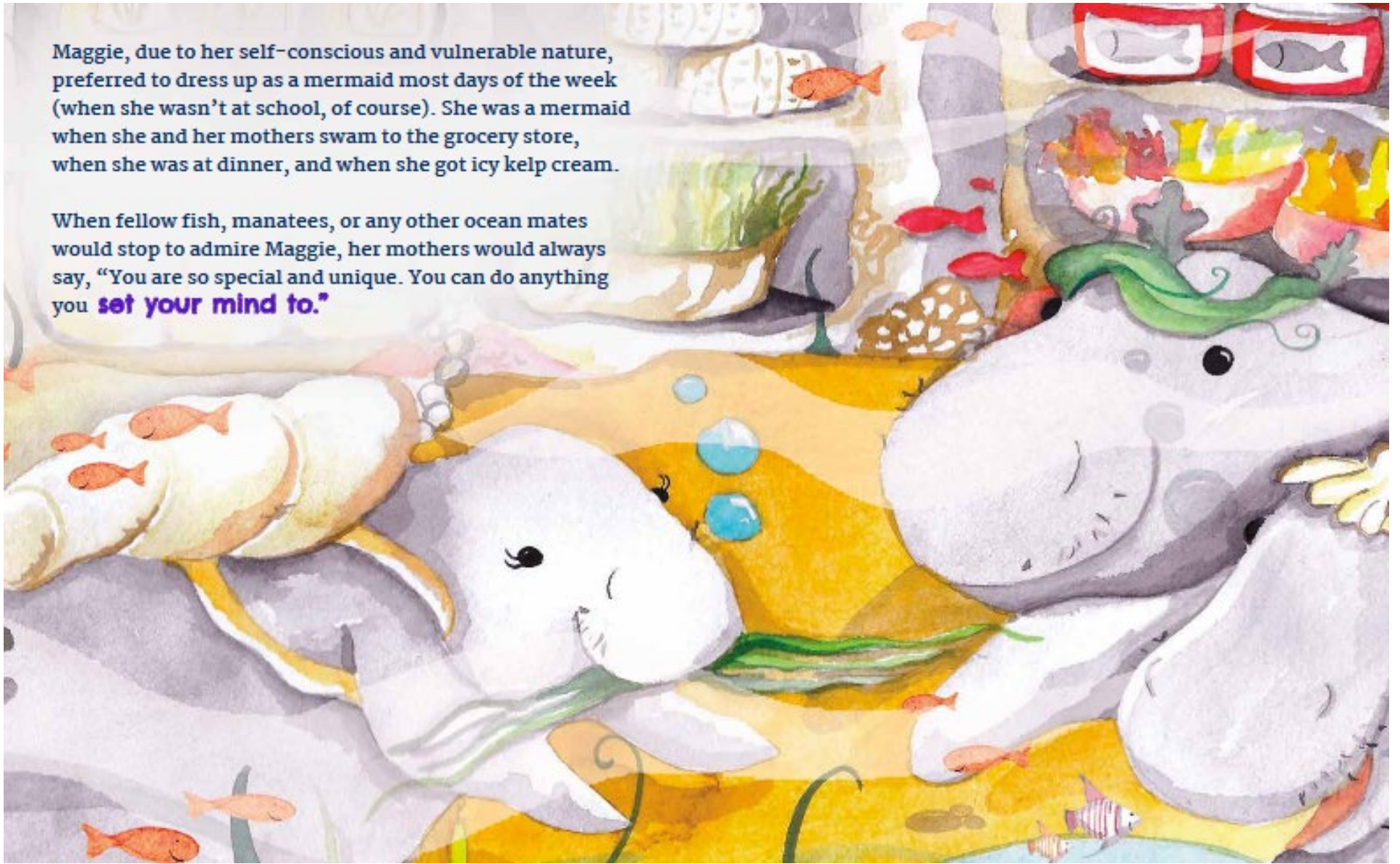
long



mermaid tail.

Maggie, due to her self-conscious and vulnerable nature, preferred to dress up as a mermaid most days of the week (when she wasn't at school, of course). She was a mermaid when she and her mothers swam to the grocery store, when she was at dinner, and when she got icy kelp cream.

When fellow fish, manatees, or any other ocean mates would stop to admire Maggie, her mothers would always say, "You are so special and unique. You can do anything you **set your mind to.**"







Maggie



does not



dress up



at school.



Maggie



dresses up



as a mermaid



at home.



Maggie



dresses up



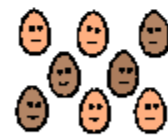
as a mermaid



in the



store.



People



tell



Maggie



"You



are



special."



"You



can



do anything!."

One day, when Maggie was at the Krill Grill with her mothers, a group of dolphins from her school came in as well. Maggie was dressed in her most fabulous mermaid outfit, and was eager to show off to her classmates.

However, once the pod of dolphins saw Maggie, one scoffed, “Maggie! You are nothing but a sea cow. You could never be a mermaid. **Mermaids are slim and sleek like us dolphins.**”

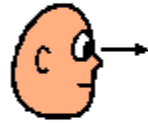




Maggie goes to a restaurant.



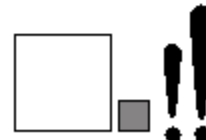
Maggie is a mermaid.



Maggie sees her dolphin friends.



Her dolphin friends say, "You are not a mermaid."



Mermaids are thin and small!"





Maggie



is



sad.



Maggie



loves



being a



mermaid.



Maggie



loves



being a



manatee.





Maggie's



mother



hugs



Maggie.



"You



are



beautiful



mermaid



and



You



are



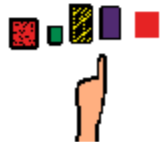
beautiful



manatee.



You



choose



who



you



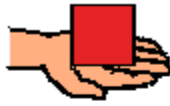
are."







Maggie



has



an



idea.



Maggie



swims



home

to create the



best



dress up


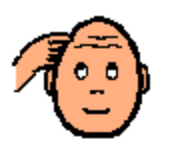











clothes.





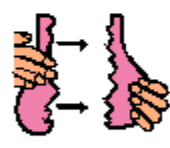






Maggie decided to take advantage of the nickname manatees are commonly given – sea cow – and combine it with her most favorite underwater creature: mermaids! Maggie, always the creative thinker, **crafted a moomaid costume.**

Adapted from the original text, *Maggie the Moomaid*, written by Rachel Terlop, illustrated by Marianella González.

        
Maggie thinks. Manatees are called sea cows.

     
Maggie sews special clothes.

       
Mermaid clothes and sea cow clothes together!

     
Maggie called it Moomaid clothes.



With great luck, Maggie's show-and-tell day was the following morning, and she got permission to bring her newly created moomaid costume to school.

When Maggie came to the circle to share, she swam up and presented herself with a hearty, "Ta-da!" Maggie went on to explain her moomaid costume to her classmates. "Moomaids are manatee mermaids! And I am unique because **I am the only one in the entire ocean.**"



Maggie



brings



her

Moomaid

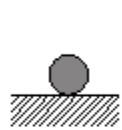


clothes

to



school.



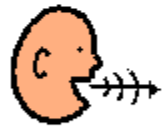
It is



show and tell.



Maggie



tells about



her



special



clothes.



Maggie



is

the only

Moomaid



in

the



ocean!



The dolphins in Maggie's class were speechless. Maggie was right - she was the only moomaid in the sea. After just a moment, one of the dolphins called out, **"I want to be a moomaid, just like you, Maggie!"**

Soon, the rest of the pod circled around Maggie and began asking her about her costume.



Maggie's



dolphin



friends



love



her

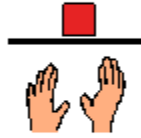


clothes.



The

dolphins



want

to be



like



Maggie!

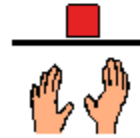


The

dolphin



friends



want

to be



special

too.



It didn't take long for the entire school to start dressing up like a moomaid. Every dolphin, manatee, and fish put their own unique spin on the costume, but none was quite as bright and colorful as Maggie's. She realized that everyone had a little moomaid in them, and that perhaps all it takes to bring it out is one brave creature **who stands out from the rest.**





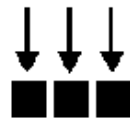
Maggie's



friends



dress up like a Moomaid.



Every



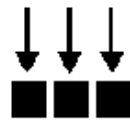
friend



was



a special Moomaid.



Every



friend



is

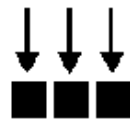


a

little



Mermaid.



Every



friend



is

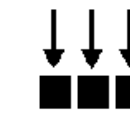


a

little



Manatee.



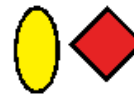
Every



friend



is



different.



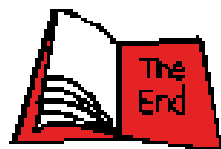
Maggie



was



happy.



**The end.**

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**Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities / RI College**  
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence RI 02908  
[www.sherlockcenter.org](http://www.sherlockcenter.org)