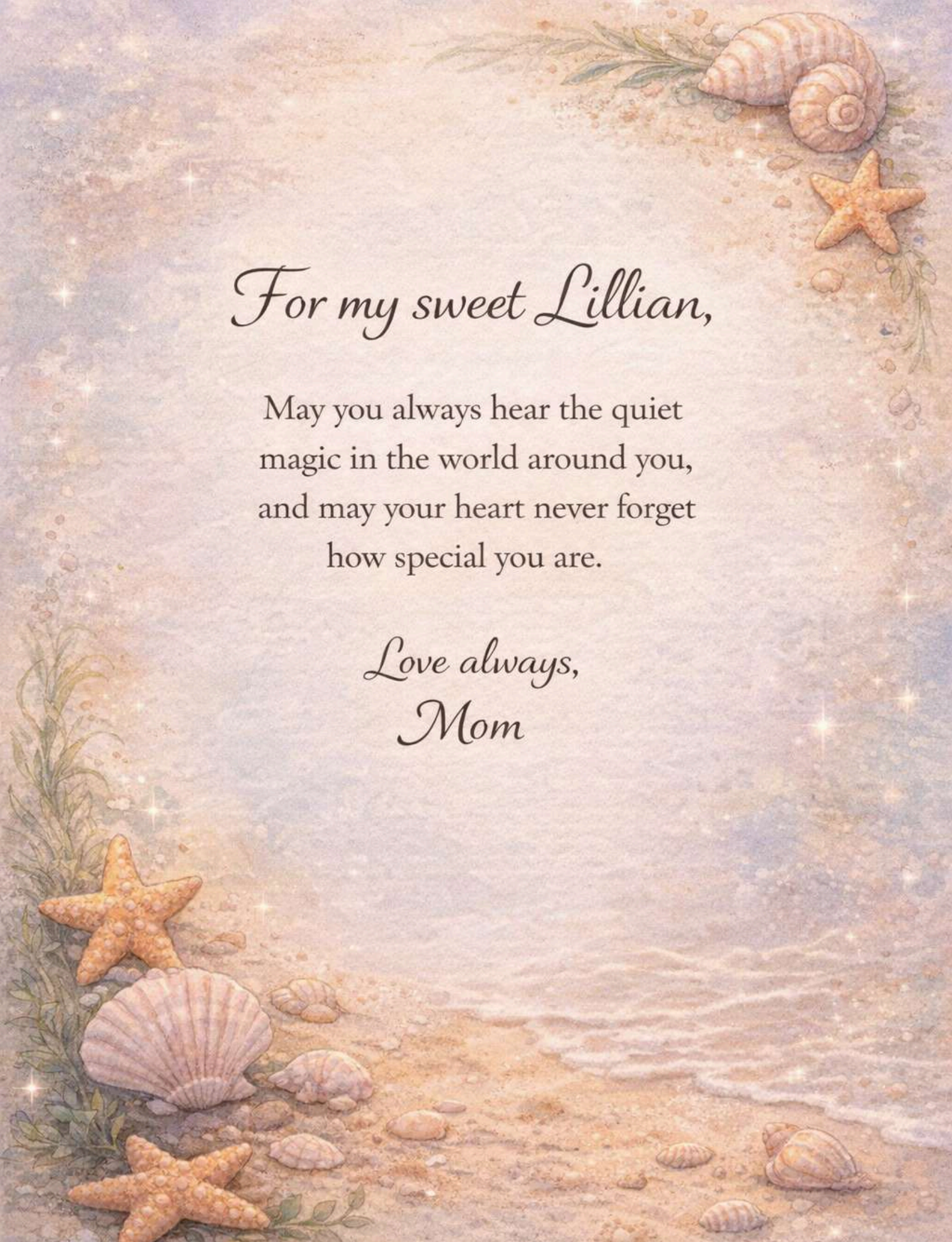


The Seashell's Secret Song

Written and illustrated by Kallie Metcalf



For my sweet Lillian,

May you always hear the quiet
magic in the world around you,
and may your heart never forget
how special you are.

*Love always,
Mom*



Once upon a time, on a sandy shore where the waves whispered stories, there lived a little girl named Lily who loved collecting seashells.



She had jars and baskets full of them.

A dense, artistic illustration of numerous seashells. The shells are rendered in a variety of colors including warm oranges, yellows, pinks, purples, blues, and greens. They feature different patterns such as horizontal stripes, vertical stripes, spirals, and star-like designs. The shells are piled together, creating a rich, textured background.

Striped ones,

swirly ones,

*tiny ones that looked
like candy.*



One afternoon, she found a seashell unlike any other.



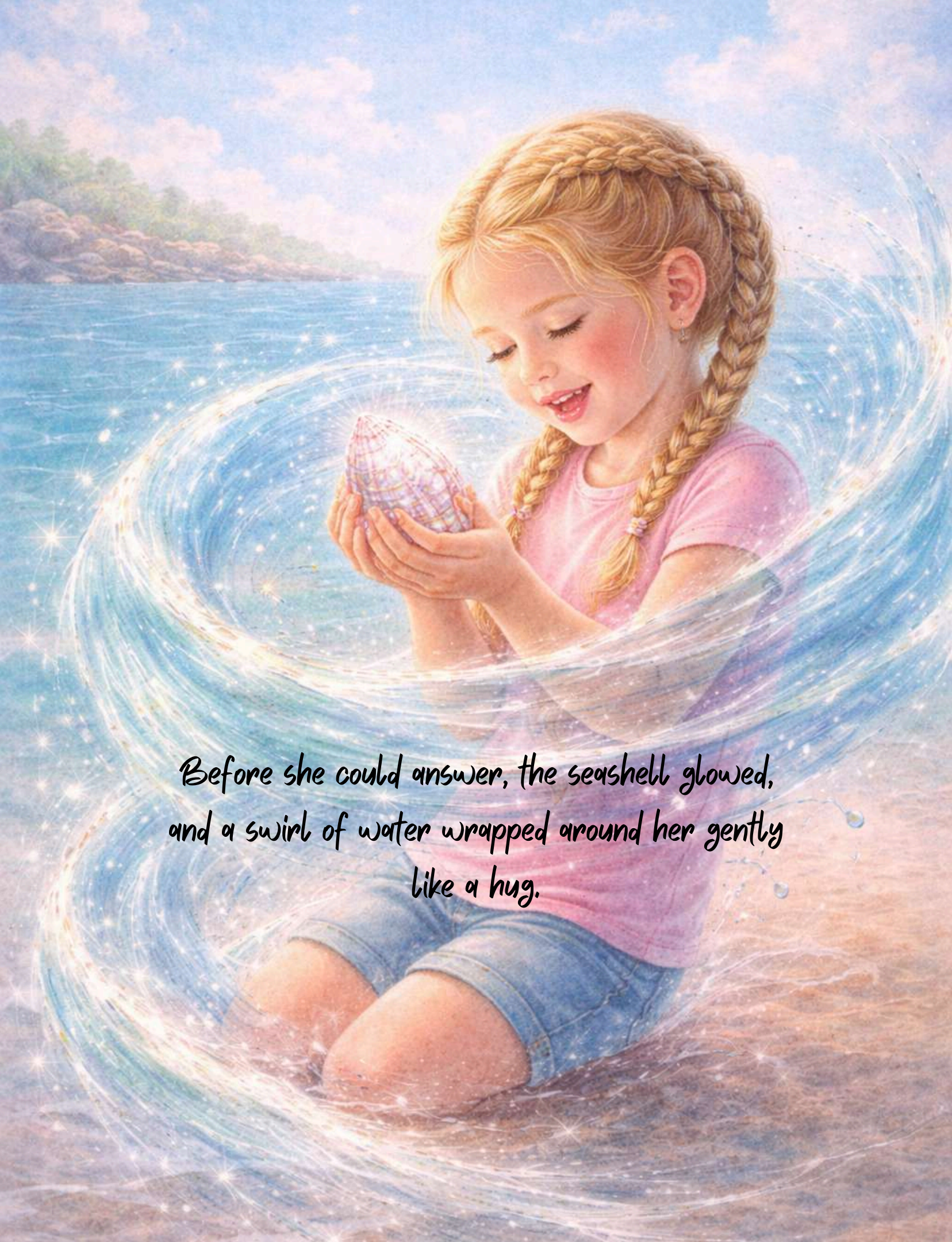
It was pale pink with golden edges, and when she held it to her ear, instead of hearing the ocean's roar...



she heard singing.



“Lily,” the seashell’s voice hummed, “do you want to see where my song comes from?””

A young girl with blonde hair in two braids, wearing a pink shirt and blue shorts, is kneeling on a sandy beach. She is holding a glowing, iridescent seashell in her hands. The shell is surrounded by a large, swirling vortex of water that appears to be hugging her. The background shows a blue ocean and a rocky coastline under a blue sky with soft clouds. The overall scene is magical and serene.

Before she could answer, the seashell glowed,
and a swirl of water wrapped around her gently
like a hug.



Suddenly, she was beneath the waves, breathing easily as if the ocean had become her second home.



She floated past bright coral castles,



schools of fish that shimmered like rainbows,



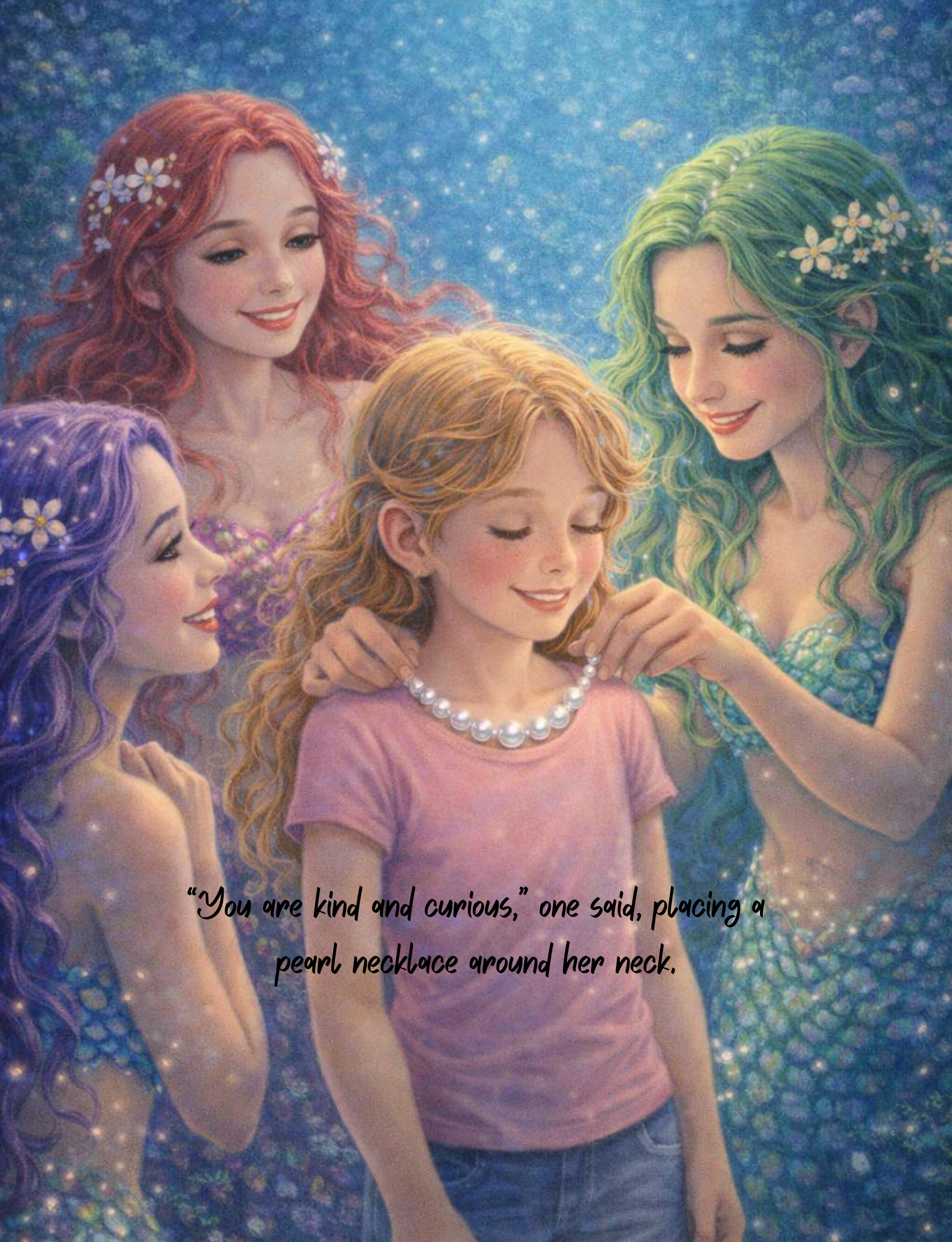
and gardens of seaweed that waved like ribbons.




The seashell guided her to a hidden grotto where mermaids sang lullabies to help the ocean sleep at night.



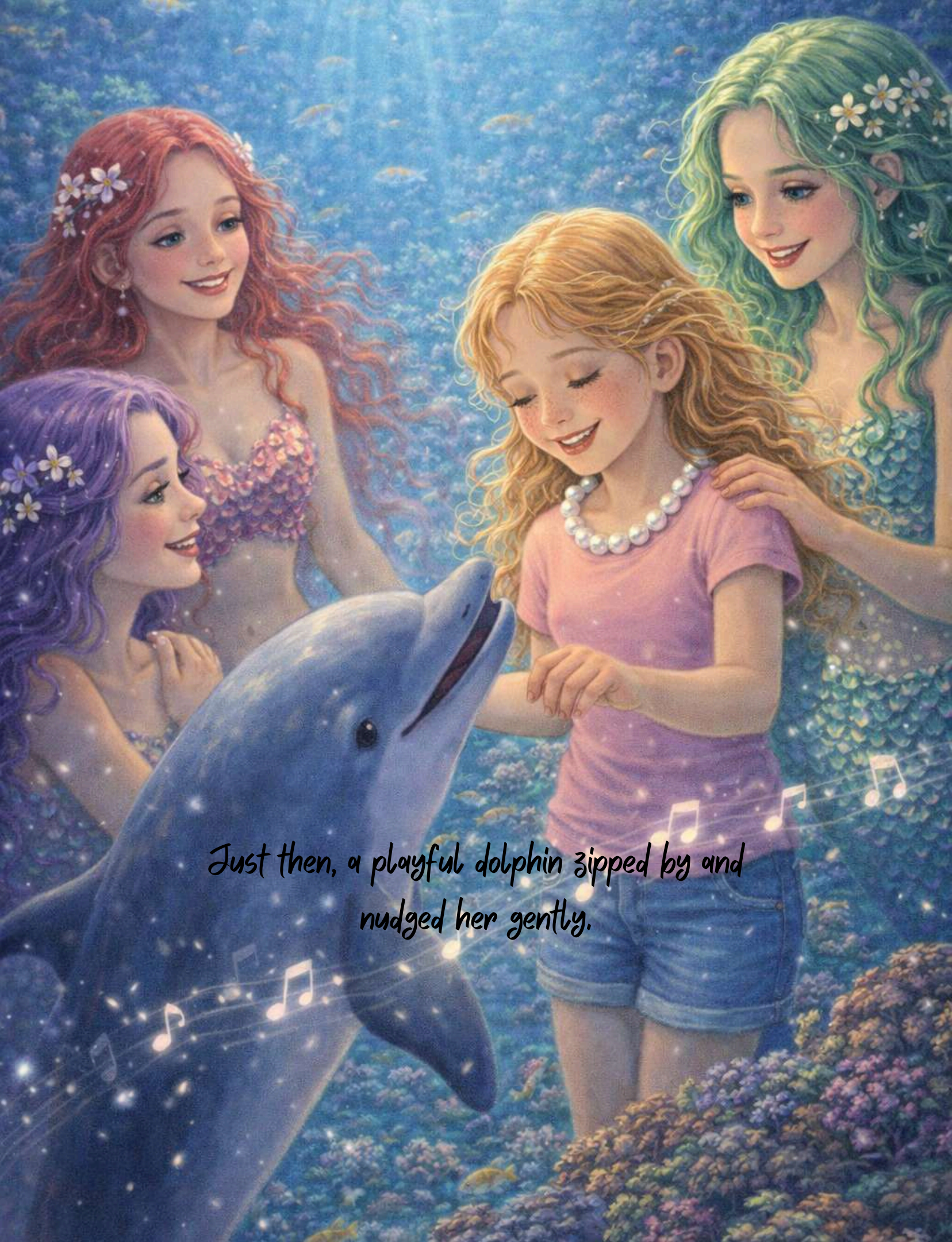
The mermaids smiled at Lily.



"You are kind and curious," one said, placing a pearl necklace around her neck.



"Whenever you wear this, you'll always be able to hear the ocean's song—even far away."



Just then, a playful dolphin zipped by and nudged her gently.



Libbian laughed, clinging to its fin as it carried her in loops and spins through the sparkling water.



But as the moonlight reached the sea's surface,



the seashell whispered, "It's time to return, little one."



With one last splash, she found herself back on the sandy shore, the magical seashell resting in her hand and the pearl necklace around her neck.



That night, as she fell asleep, she could still hear the soft song of the ocean, reminding her of her secret friends under the sea.



The End