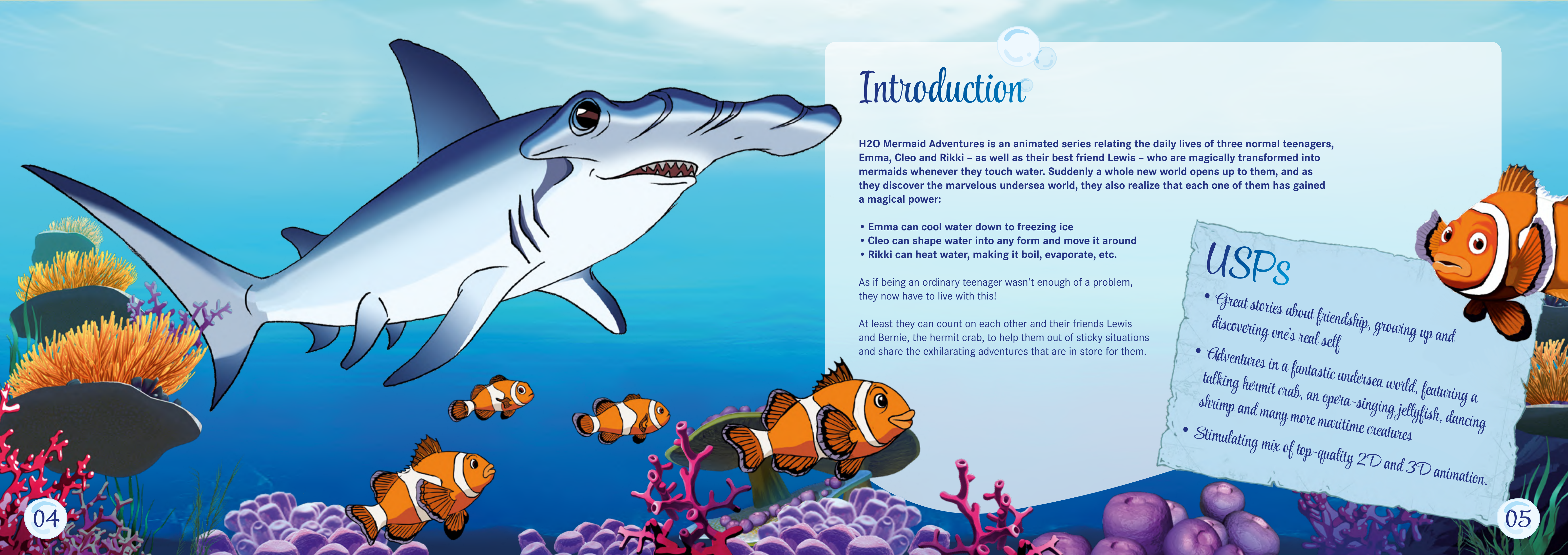


2009

Mermaid
Adventures







Introduction

H2O Mermaid Adventures is an animated series relating the daily lives of three normal teenagers, Emma, Cleo and Rikki – as well as their best friend Lewis – who are magically transformed into mermaids whenever they touch water. Suddenly a whole new world opens up to them, and as they discover the marvelous undersea world, they also realize that each one of them has gained a magical power:

- Emma can cool water down to freezing ice
- Cleo can shape water into any form and move it around
- Rikki can heat water, making it boil, evaporate, etc.

As if being an ordinary teenager wasn't enough of a problem, they now have to live with this!

At least they can count on each other and their friends Lewis and Bernie, the hermit crab, to help them out of sticky situations and share the exhilarating adventures that are in store for them.

USPs

- Great stories about friendship, growing up and discovering one's real self
- Adventures in a fantastic undersea world, featuring a talking hermit crab, an opera-singing jellyfish, dancing shrimp and many more maritime creatures
- Stimulating mix of top-quality 2D and 3D animation.

Key Facts

Format: animation series 52 x 26' HD
Traditional 2D animation in HD with 3D underwater backgrounds

Target Audience: girls and boys 6 – 10 years

Themes: friendship, adolescence / growing up, underwater wildlife, magical powers

Genre / Subgenre: junior / Animation

Stories: 50 % underwater, 50 % on land

Tone: humor, emotion, adventure

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Synopsis

One summer evening in Dolphin City, Rikki, Emma and Cleo go out on a diving expedition with their pal Lewis; but their motorboat breaks down near the mysterious volcanic Island of Mako, and they have to spend the night there. While exploring the island at night, the three girlfriends discover a natural pool in an open-air grotto under the volcano, and cannot resist bathing in the turquoise waters. The full moon appears overhead; the water bubbles around them and three quite ordinary teenage girls fall under a strange spell that changes their lives.

From now on, whenever water splashes Emma, Cleo and Rikki, they are transformed into mermaids. As if they didn't have enough problems already just being teenagers!

Half-fish, half-girl – a monster straight out of a freak show ...!! No one must know about it, especially their parents. But it's not so easy keeping this secret. Especially when just getting wet instantly turns you into a mermaid! Before the trip to Mako, Emma was a champion swimmer – now she's completely given up pools. Cleo is an animal caretaker at the Oceanic Center, and now she has to be extremely careful (not her strong point!). And as for Rikki, her rebellious character tempts her to blurt out everything.

But being a mermaid is not just a mega-complication, it's also extremely cool. You can swim like a dolphin, breathe underwater and cover huge distances in record time. And you feel amazing in the water, it's like all your worries disappear.



And most incredible of all, the three girls have special magic powers, all involving water: Cleo can move water around and turn it into any shape or form. She can make water jump out of a glass, create a huge wave, or even a snake shape to fill up a tunnel! Rikki can make water boil – under water, to ward off a hammerhead shark, or on land to create a sauna in a classroom. And Emma's power is to turn water into ice: a wall, snowflakes, or huge blocks.

The only person who knows their secret is their best friend Lewis, who was with them on Mako Island. This little genius accompanies them on their adventures, and is always helping with scientific discoveries and inventions – and he's secretly in love with Cleo...

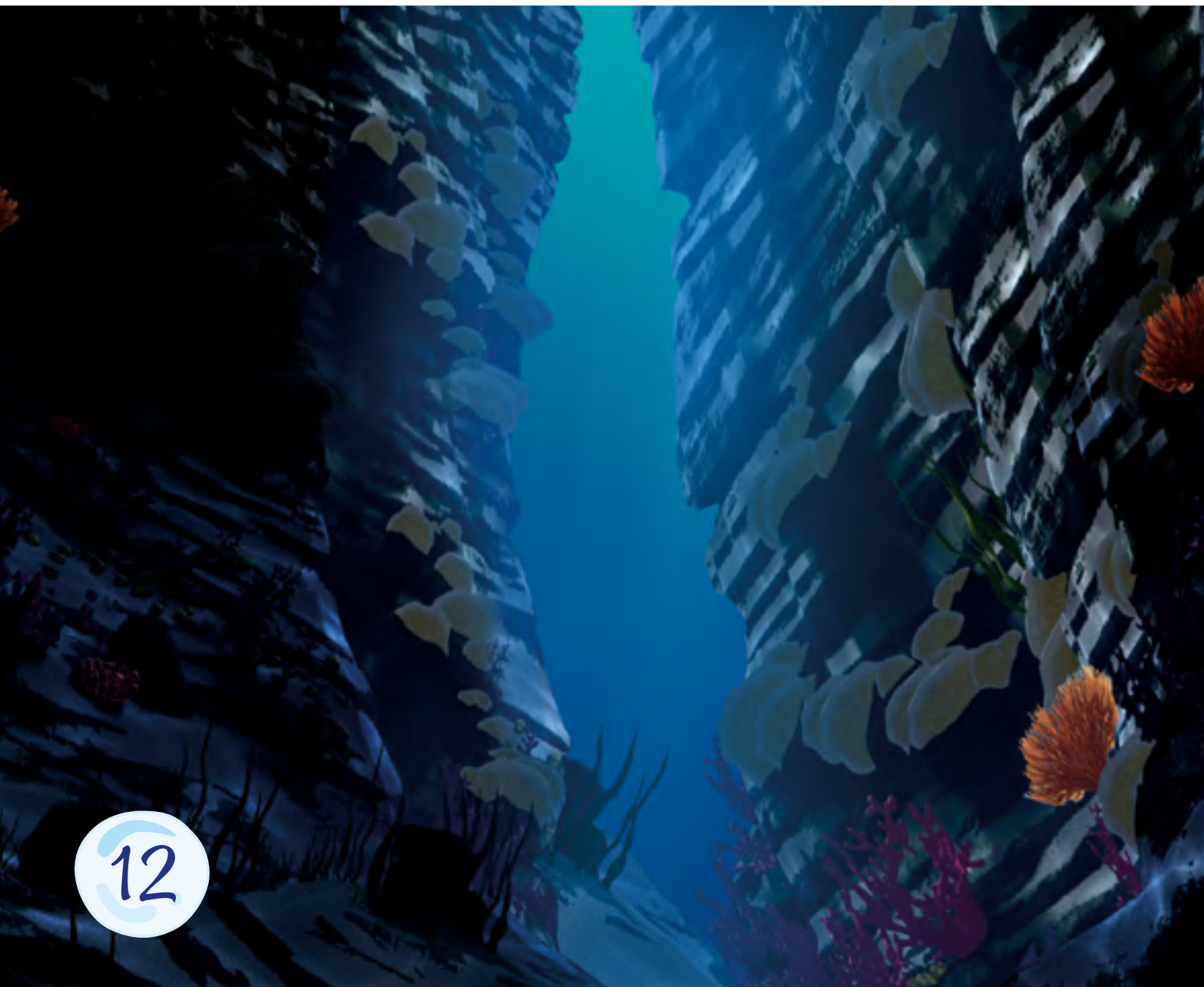
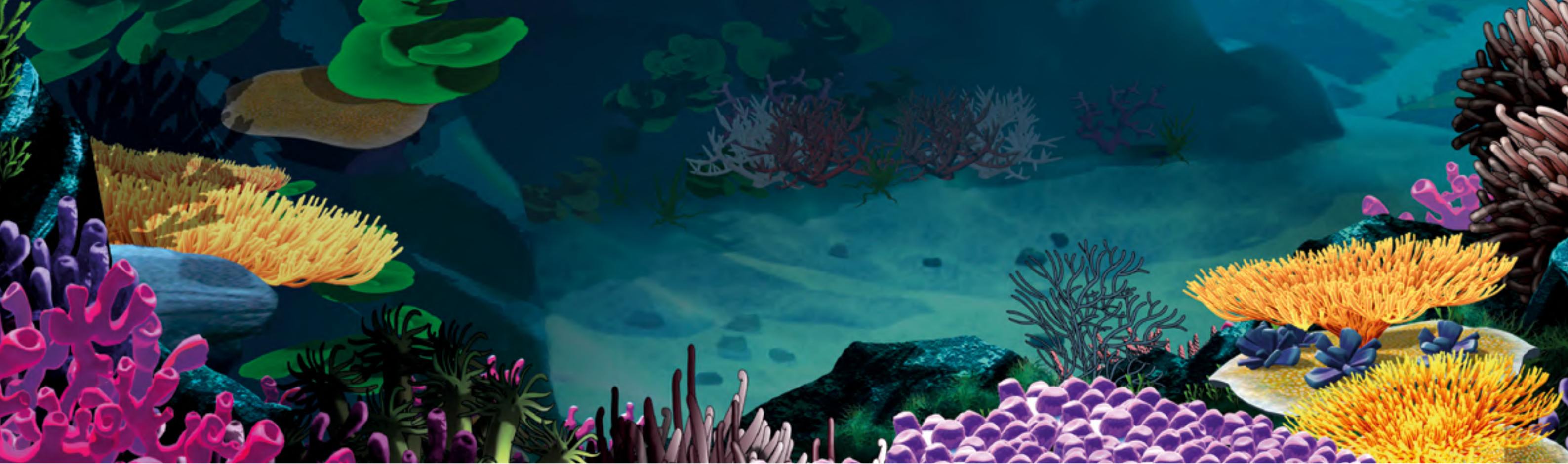
Underwater, they make friends with Bernie the hermit crab. Bernie is their friend, he comes on to dry land to warn them what's going on. And sometimes he gets into trouble with the Vandal Gang – Murray the Moray, Danny the Octopus and Burke the Hammerhead shark – who are trying to dominate the bay and throw out the mermaids.

Endless situations and missions draw the three friends into the incredible underwater world: discovering the wreck of the White Mermaid galleon; saving an injured turtle; looking for a lost ring; Cleo sabotaging a rival's attempts to win Lewis over to her; rescuing a drowning surfer ...

Dolphin City, the bay and Mako Island have endless experiences to offer young viewers who will be enchanted by the beautiful underwater 3D landscapes, the delightful world of sea creatures, the tumultuous adolescent life of Rikki, Emma, Cleo and Lewis; and most of all, by the friendship that unites them; together they will face all the bizarre situations and exhilarating adventures in store for them.







Main Characters



Emma



Rikki



Cleo



Lewis



Bernie

Emma

Hobbies:

It was swimming! She was a championship swimmer. It's really tough for her that she can't do it anymore. She sometimes feels bad about it. She likes sports: beach volleyball for example.

Emma Gilbert is logical, mature and a perfectionist. She likes doing things well, and completing them. She's reliable and meticulous. Sometimes she gets obsessive about what she's doing and can even forget her friends for her studies or her interests. But she never forgets to look after her little brother Elliot, and when decisions need to be made, she's right there to take the lead.

Becoming a mermaid exacts a heavy toll on Emma, since she was a dedicated swimmer before her fateful expedition to Mako Island. Her achievements in competitions promised her a future as a champion. Now it's impossible to plunge into a pool without turning into a mermaid... and so Emma no longer goes near one. Though she misses swimming terribly, she pretends to have gotten over it. What she can't get over with is her massive crush on Byron, the handsome surfer dude.

Sign: Capricorn

Element: Fire

Favorite color: Gold and Orange,
like her hair and tail

Favorite food: a big healthy salad

Favorite animal: cat



Likes:

- her best friends Cleo and Rikki, having her home-work done ahead of time, all her under-water buddies...
- she has a crush on Byron the handsome surfer. She melts whenever he comes along. Sometimes she doesn't even know how to say "hi"
- nice clothes
- romantic adventure movies

Dislikes:

- Miriam, especially when she tries to capture Byron's attention or teases Emma
- anyone who's mean to her kid brother Elliott

Cleo

Hobbies:

Her volunteer job at the Oceanic Center is more than a hobby – it's her dream.

Cleo Sertori is timid, intuitive and wants to become a vet for marine animals when she grows up. Her weakness is that she's sometimes too shy, even to the point of blocking her ability to respond. She laughs and cries easily. For Cleo, becoming a mermaid is like a pendulum that swings between being "the most totally amazing thing that could ever have possibly happened" and sometimes it's a horrible punishment she didn't do anything to deserve. It depends on the day and what's happening around her. Cleo finds it almost impossible to think ahead.

Her father is a coast-guard. Her little sister Kim can be a pest sometimes, and even tries to turn Emma's brother Elliot against the girls. Lewis has a big crush on her and she likes Lewis too, but – as she says to herself – as a brother. She gets insanely jealous when another girl takes up too much of Lewis' time.

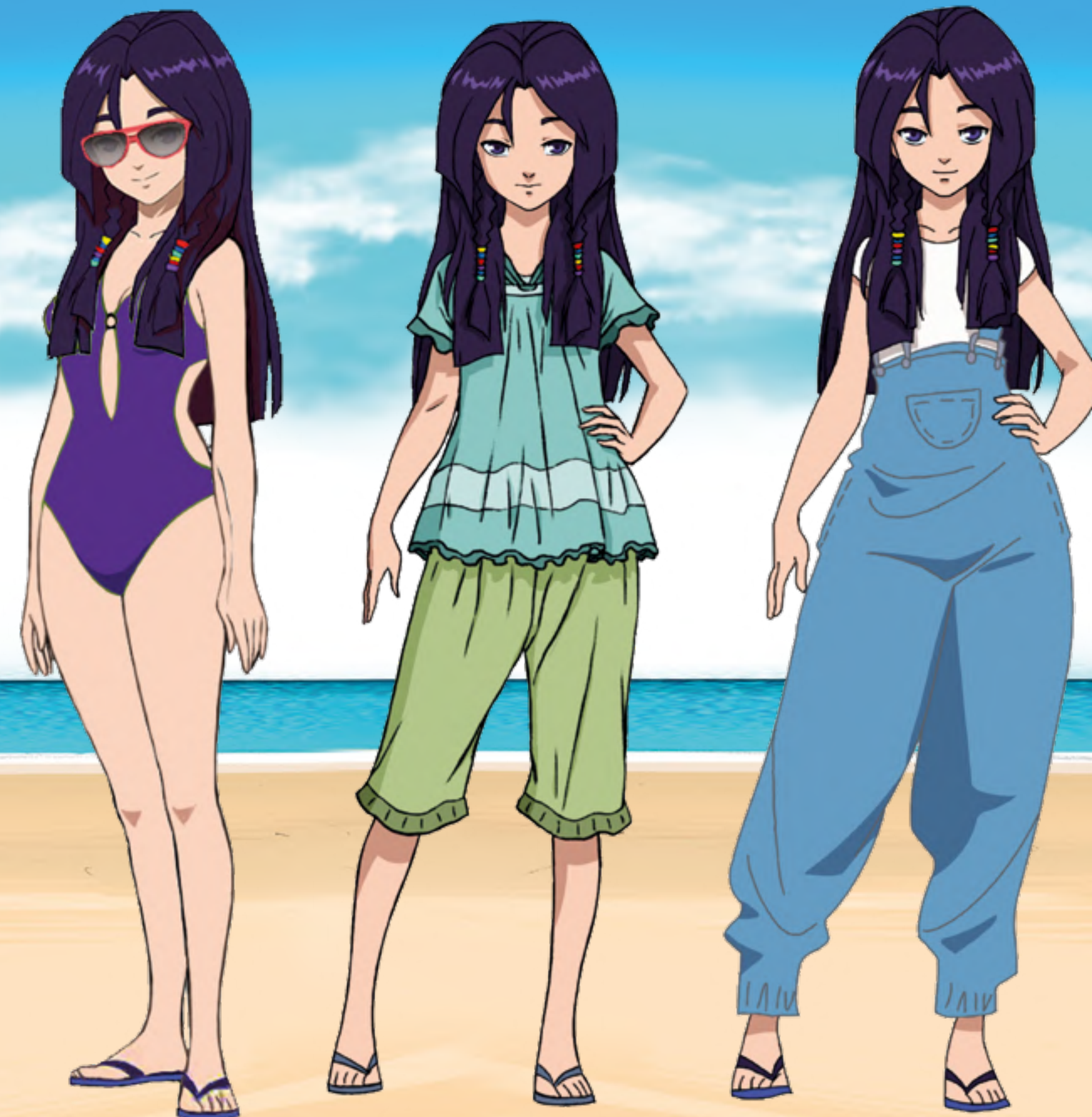
Sign: Pisces

Element: Water

Favorite color: Violet, like her mermaid tail

Favorite food: Mango ice cream and mango smoothies at the Juicy Bar

Favorite animals: All animals! Especially dolphins and other sea animals like turtles and whales. She has a very strong connection with sea animals and they trust her.



Likes:

- her best friends Emma and Rikki
- her special friend Lewis, whom she insists is "just a friend" although she gets really jealous if she thinks anyone is interested in him
- the Oceanic Center and Mr. Lambert
- all her underwater buddies
- romantic movies

Dislikes:

- Kim (her kid sister) when she's annoying
- Zane when he's horrible
- anyone who puts sea animals in danger
- spicy food

Rikki

Hobbies:

Biking and extreme sports.

Rikki Chadwick is a rebel who'll try anything and not even think of the risks. She takes on adolescence like a mountaineer takes on a peak: directly, with force and determination. Rikki loves challenges and battles... She always goes where others dare not, always does what others don't do, and sets herself apart from the herd, from society. For her, becoming a mermaid is an unbelievable stroke of luck. Now she's really different! And she's planning to make the most of it.

She lives alone with her father in a mobile home. He works in construction. Her mother died when she was much younger, and Rikki is very faithful to the memory of her mum. Her dad is interested in finding someone else, and meets Cathy, whom Rikki mistrusts at first. Zane is very interested in Rikki, and likes her toughness. Rikki is not indifferent to Zane, but neither is she blind to his vanity and bullying, and gives him a very hard time when she wants to.

Starsign: Leo

Element: Air

Favorite color: Scarlet red

(her hair is red, and her tail is scarlet)

Favorite food: Pizza with red hot chilies

Favorite animals: Dogs



Likes:

- her best friends Emma and Cleo, and Lewis, of course
- Zane because he's quick-witted, funny, good-looking and cool. But he really infuriates her when he behaves like a spoiled rich kid
- taking risks, having adventures
- funny movies

Dislikes:

- school, homework, anything too intellectual (like Lewis' explanations)
- authorities (teachers, parents) and anyone who contradicts her

Lewis

Starsign: Cancer
Favorite color: Navy blue
Favorite food: Hamburger and fries
Favorite animals: Exotic spiders

Hobbies:

Inventing things, scientific research.

Lewis McCartney is a little genius, the kind of guy who surfs the school program effortlessly and wraps up his homework before everyone else. As a result, he comes across as someone who makes no effort. His career dream is to become an inventor and researcher in robotics. Although he's top of the class, he's not a nerd and the butt of every joke of his classmates: quite the opposite. He's a good-looking boy, he knows how to send back a joke, and he's not afraid of Zane, although he finds him exasperating.

Lewis is the only person outside the trio of our heroes who knows about the spell over them. When he first discovered his friends' new condition, his enthusiastic and fascinated reaction helped Cleo, Emma and Rikki to accept themselves.

Lewis has never regarded them as freaks, but rather as a new stage in human evolution. He's the one who does research on mermaids, analyzes the water of Mako Island, and follows the lunar cycle to see if there's a way to reverse the transformation process. He also takes part in all the adventures that our mermaids get involved in. Lewis is thus a kind of guardian angel for them. He's the calm, faithful, respectful friend, without any kind of vanity and with a great sense of humor that girls just love.

Likes:

- **Cleo (he'll do anything she wants)**
- **Emma and Rikki**
- **Bernie and the gang**
- **robotics, science & technology**
- **science fiction, fantasy movies and literature**

Dislikes:

- **anyone who's mean to Cleo, like Zane, for example**
- **eggplant**

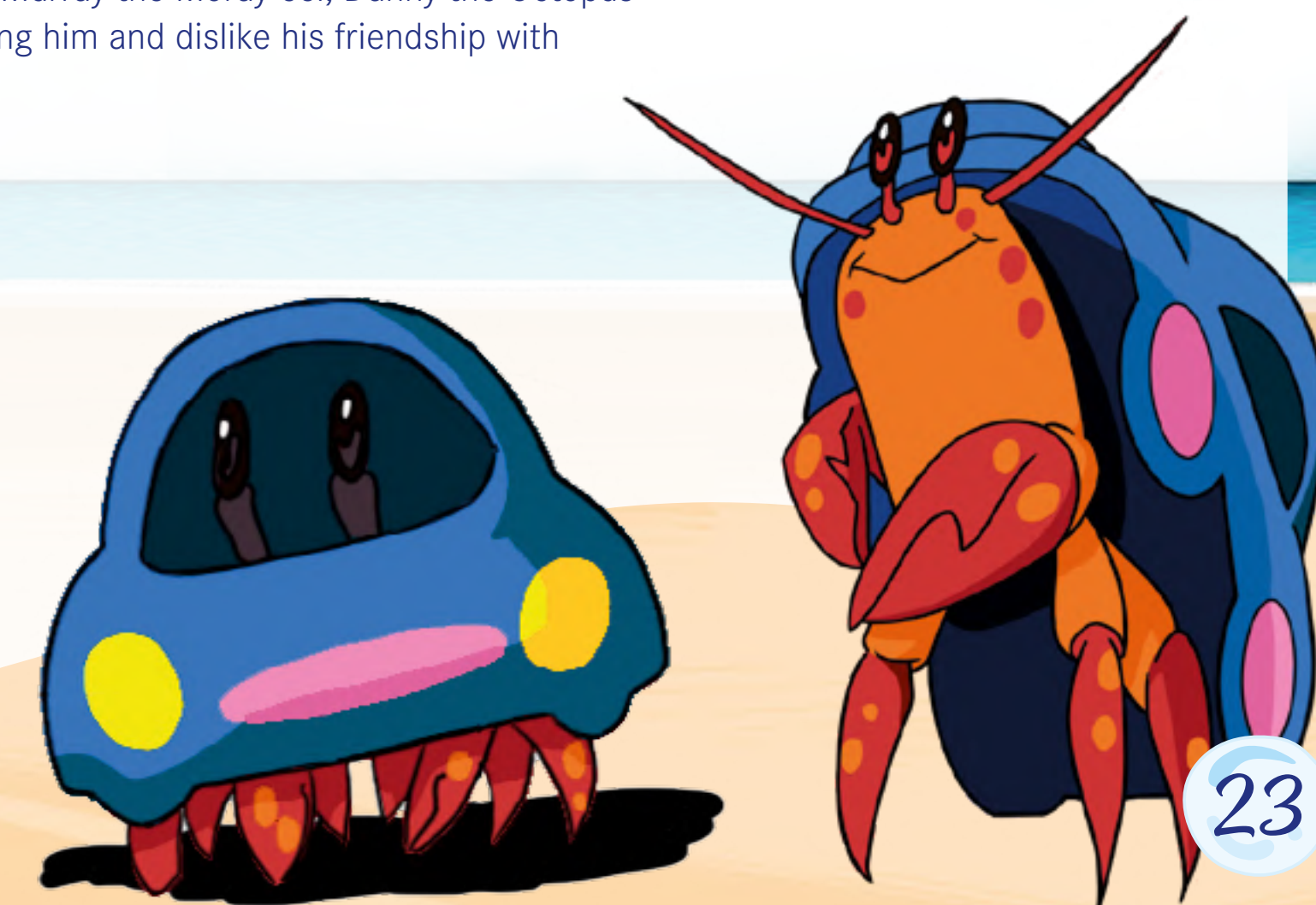


Bernie

Bernie the hermit crab is a little fellow who can be characterized by his expression "It always happens to me!" He has a plastic toy car for a shell and a kind of Alladin's cave full of treasures for a home. He sees himself as the General of the underwater world and has authority over the whole underwater community (except the Vandals).

Bernie is the essential link with the girls and, through them, with the world of humans. When something goes wrong underwater, he comes and finds the girls. Let's say they all have a common duty to protect and restore the harmony and safety of the Bay.

Being a hermit crab, he can change shell. When the girls first find him on the beach, he has no shell, so they find him a little toy car. Bernie's enemies are the Vandal Gang (Murray the Moray eel, Danny the Octopus and Burke the Hammerhead shark), who take pleasure in persecuting him and dislike his friendship with their sworn enemies, the mermaids.



Secondary Characters

Zane is handsome, charming, smooth-talking, self-confident and he's big, strong and athletic. His dad is a successful entrepreneur in Dolphin City and has the Mayor's ear. Zane has a crush on Rikki: her independence of spirit completely amazes him. Zane wants to prove to his dad that he can earn money by himself and not depend on him. Zane can be a bully and a braggart. He picks on Cleo and has her do his homework for him. Rikki often steps in to tell Zane to back off – and he listens to her. Through the episodes Zane shows different sides. But no matter what: if people are really in trouble, he won't abandon them.

Miriam is the Mayor's daughter. Pretty but spoiled, Miriam seems to take real pleasure in putting down other girls (especially our three friends). She can have anything she wants, and she doesn't like people getting in her way. She is buddies with Zane, and picks on Cleo.

Byron is the handsome surfer. He's cool, ecologically minded, easy-going, unruffled, laid back ... Girls love him, and guys try to emulate him. Emma is head-over-heels for him. He's not an ace at school, however – it's just not his thing.



Zita the inquisitive eel, is always curious about what's happening. She's a terrible gossip, so if you want to know the latest news, just ask her.

Carlotta the diva-jellyfish, is an amazing singer, a born musical talent. Highly strung, very touchy and easily offended, she is also very kind and considerate.

Teddy the kid turtle, just wants to have fun. He gets bored when there is no one to play with. Sometimes he makes up stories to play tricks on people and then gets into trouble.

Sue the mystical manta ray. Sue is of an unknown age and knows all the secrets of the deep.

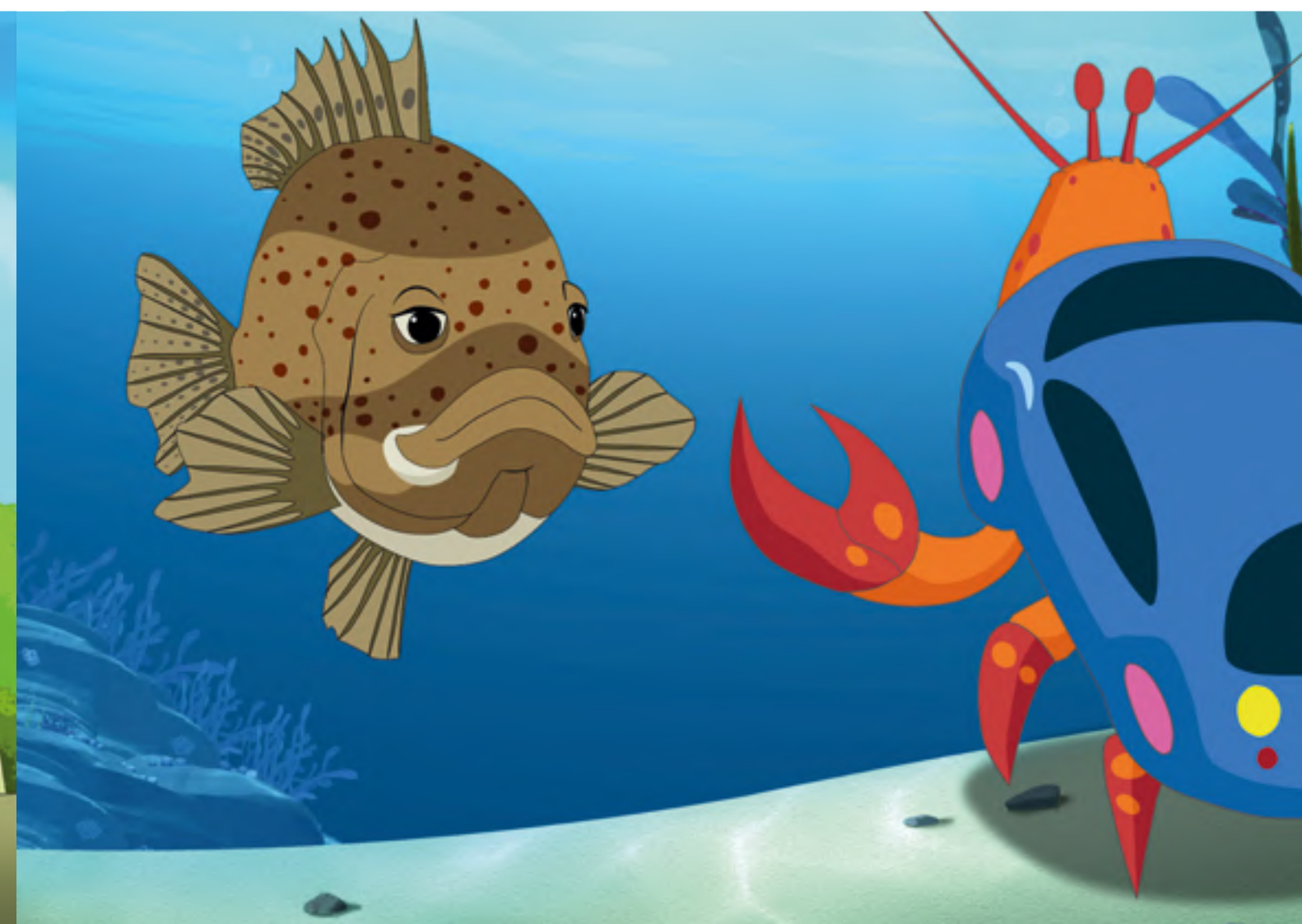
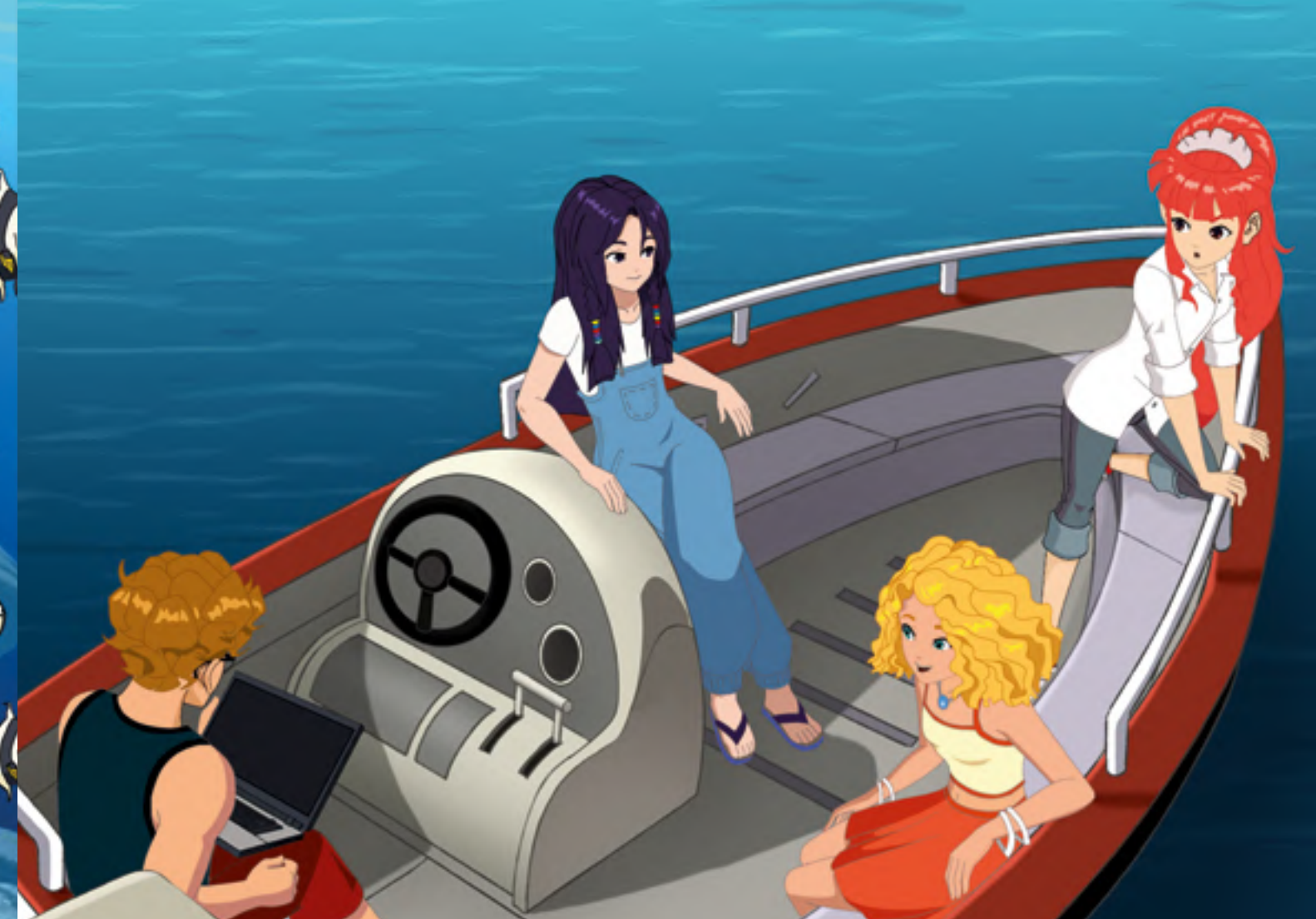
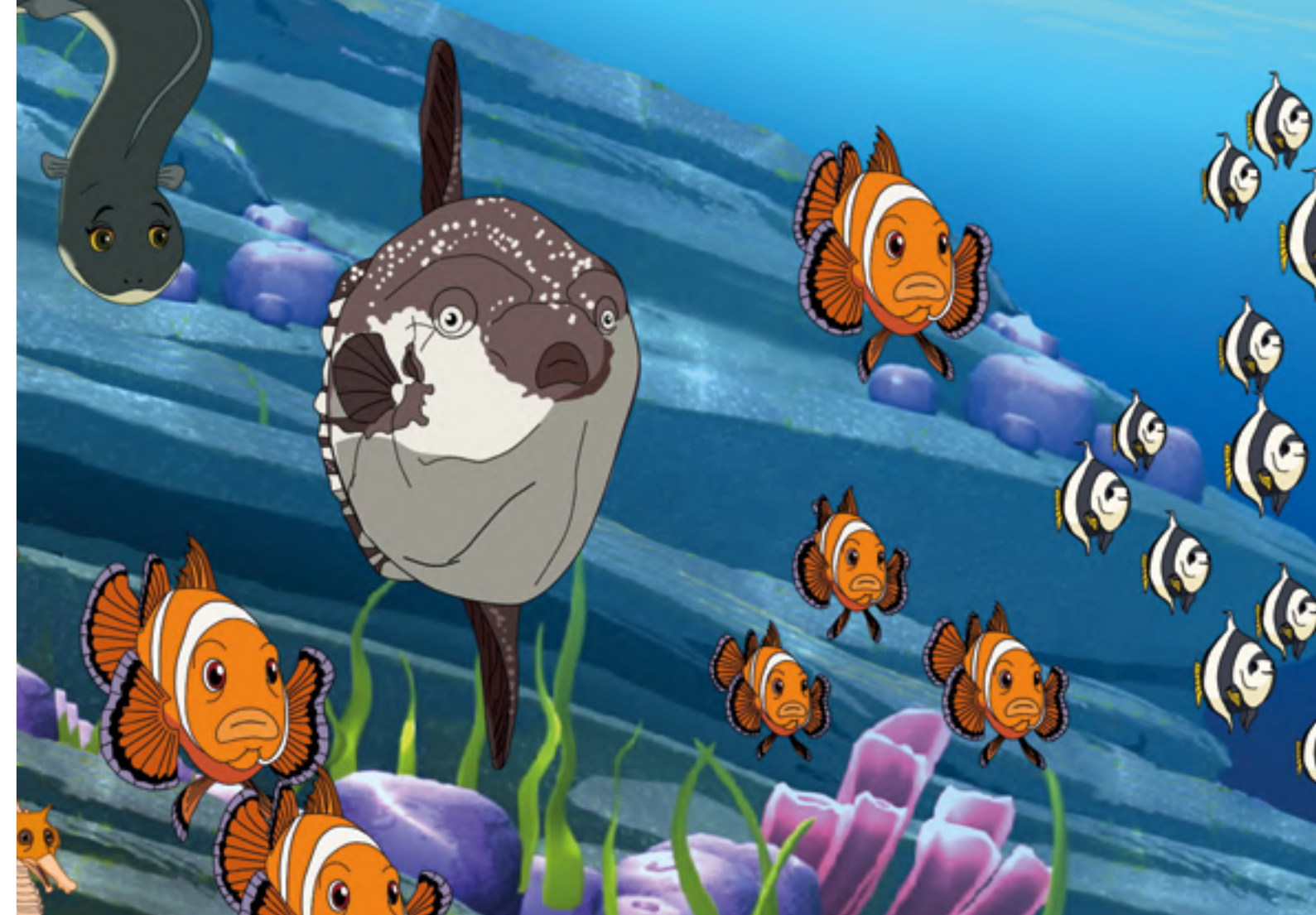
The "Vandal Gang:" **Murray** the Moray eel is their leader. He's a bad guy, but can do nothing without his buddies. **Danny** the Octopus has a stutter and is also extremely vain. He thinks he's a star. **Burke** the Hammerhead Shark has very little brain and even less vocabulary. There is also the great octopus of the deep that never speaks, and sometimes is a danger for the mermaids. But they've also called on the octopus for help once. The octopus is bored all alone.



Other Characters





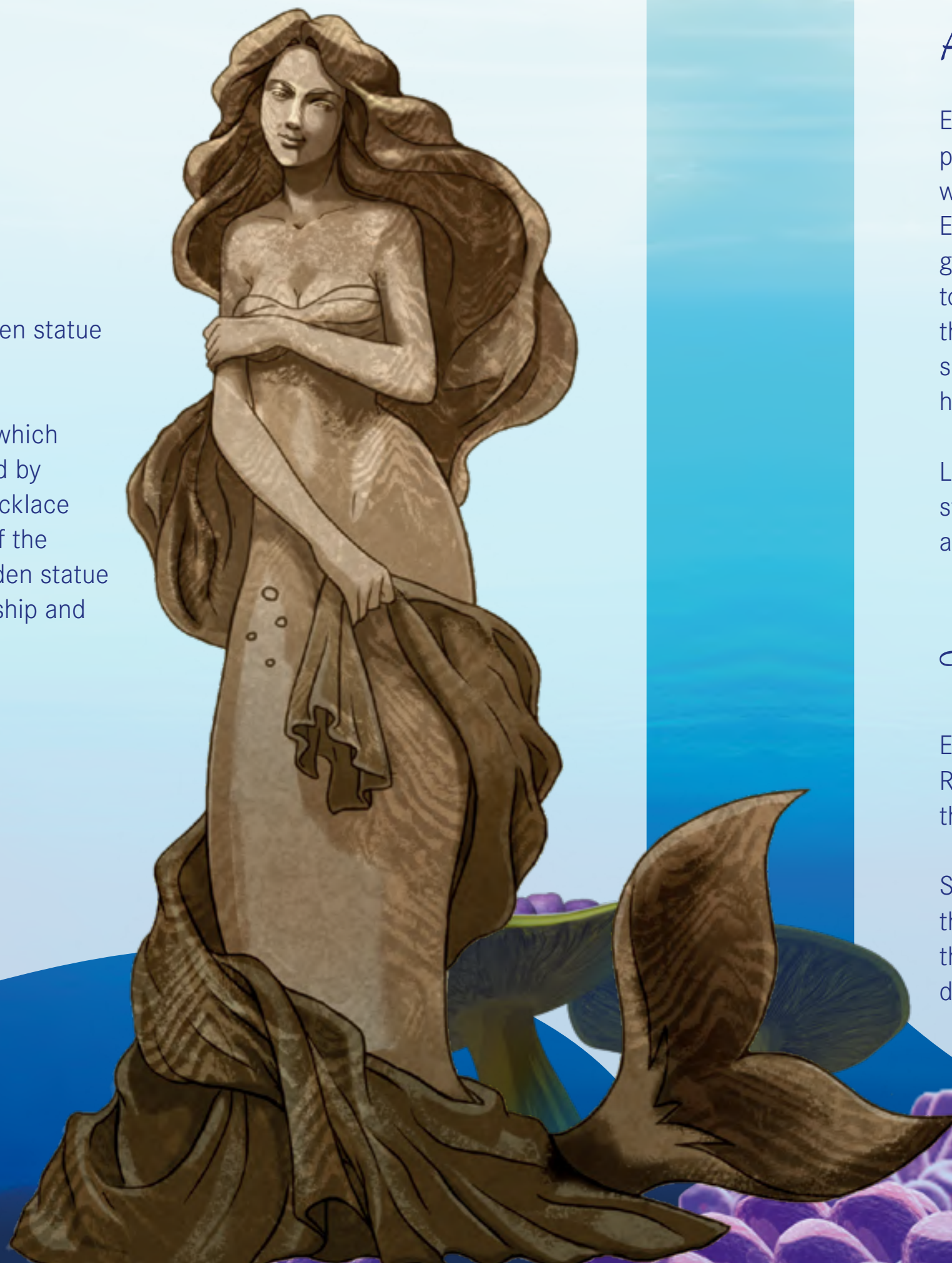


Episodic Synopses

The White Mermaid

During a scientific experiment conducted by Lewis out at sea, the three mermaids find a wooden statue of a white mermaid on the sea floor!

Lewis discovers it's the figurehead of a famous pirate galleon, the White Mermaid, which sank at sea without a trace! Rikki and Emma are thrilled, while Cleo is preoccupied by something else: who is the secret admirer who slipped a heart-shaped shell necklace into her pocket? Our three friends are visited in their dreams by the spirit of the White Mermaid, who demands they find the galleon and bring the wooden statue home. Meanwhile looters are also looking for the sunken ship and its gold, and they'll stop at nothing. Time is running out!



A Stormy Party

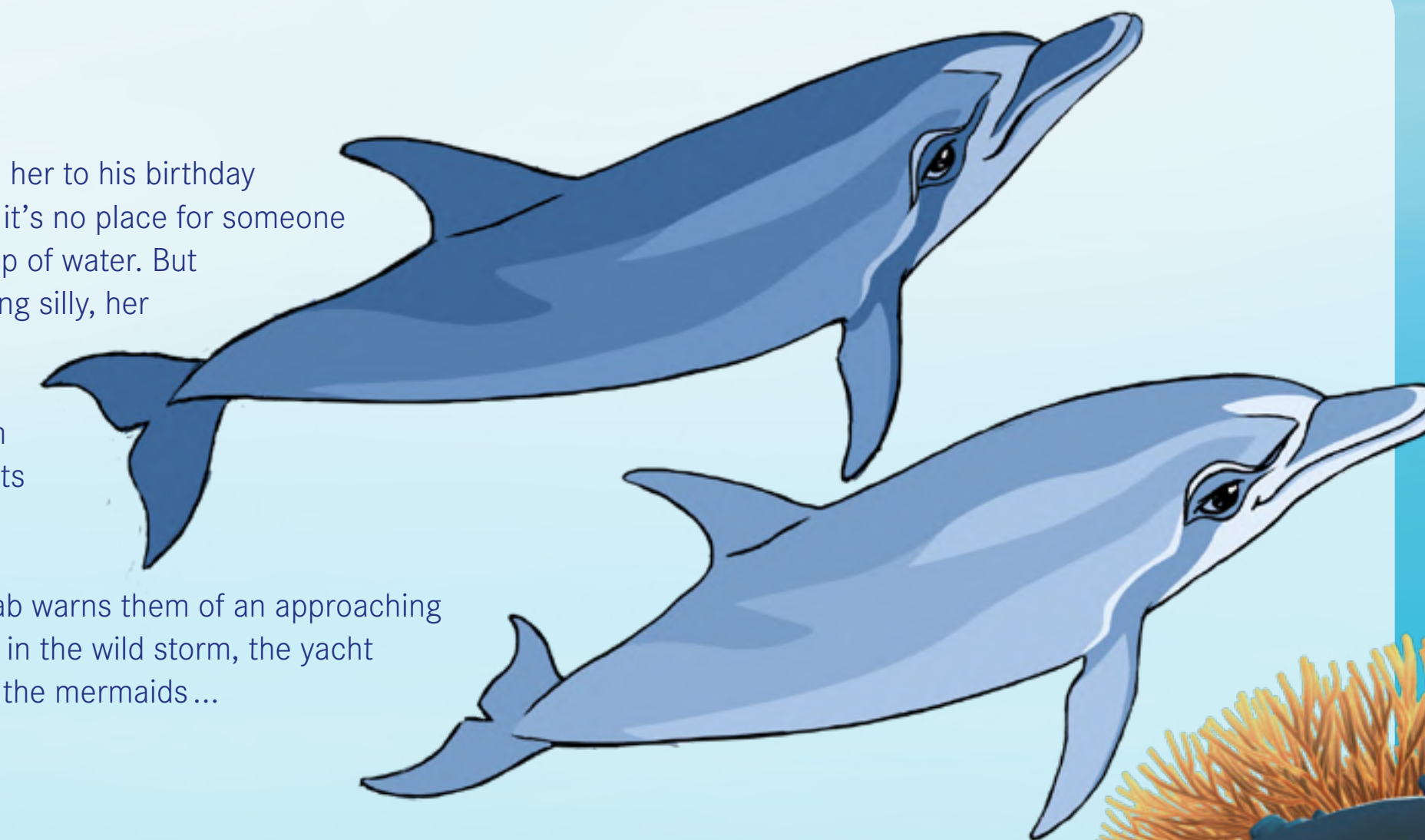
Emma's in a dilemma: handsome Byron has invited her to his birthday party on his uncle's yacht... Her girlfriends tell her it's no place for someone who transforms into a mermaid at the slightest drop of water. But Emma willfully goes along. Afraid she'll do something silly, her girlfriends and Lewis join the party: and they have to invent a false shark alert to stop her diving into the sea with the other guests! What's more, Miriam sets herself up as Emma's rival for Byron, and taunts her pitilessly.

Later, their underwater friend Bernie the hermit crab warns them of an approaching storm, but nobody believes them anymore. Caught in the wild storm, the yacht almost capsizes. Everything is now in the hands of the mermaids...

The Mysterious Seaweed

Emma loses her mermaid nature and her powers after touching some mysterious blue seaweed. Remembering what it's like being "normal" – she used to be a passionate swimmer – she rejoins the synchronized swimming team, which is preparing a show for the Summer Solstice Festival.

She becomes distant from her two mermaid friends, but also develops some strange nervous ticks that put her in quite difficult situations. Lewis' researches reveal they are secondary effects of the blue seaweed. Cleo and Rikki try to find the mysterious seaweed so Lewis can develop an antidote before Emma's problems get worse...



Caught in the Net

Little Elliot gets his big sister Emma to enter the Grand Sand Sculpture contest with him. Meanwhile Cleo's day starts badly at the Oceanic Center: Mr. Lambert puts her in charge of the new intern – Miriam, the Mayor's daughter and high school pest! Miriam lives up to her reputation, and submits Cleo to a series of capricious outbursts. The injured turtle they are supposed to be monitoring escapes while the two teenagers are arguing, and swims out to sea. Our three mermaids mount a salvage operation that proves very risky ...

It's in the Bag!

More and more plastic bags are polluting Dolphin City Bay, and the turtles mistake the bags for sea-sponges and suffocate on them.

Our three mermaids, alerted by their friend Teddy the turtle, tackle the problem. After some unsuccessful attempts, they and Lewis decide to use stronger methods to stir up public opinion: they shoot a fake documentary with Teddy's help, and Abby's camera (editor of the high school blog). But their strategy attracts other dangers...



Mako Island Hotel

A grand holiday resort on Mako Island? Its idyllic slopes covered with concrete and the volcanic lake inside the mountain, where the mermaids first transformed, converted into a swimming pool? Only Zane's father could have dreamed up such a development... But Emma, Cleo and Rikki aren't going to let this happen! After failing to get Zane to talk his father out of the construction works, they take direct action.

Lewis finds out from an old report that Mako volcano actually could become active again. During a full moon night, under the unpredictable influence of that watery planet, our three mermaids set out to frighten Zane and his father. Once the works are cancelled, everyone can enjoy Carlotta the jellyfish diva's underwater concert that the development had so rudely interrupted.



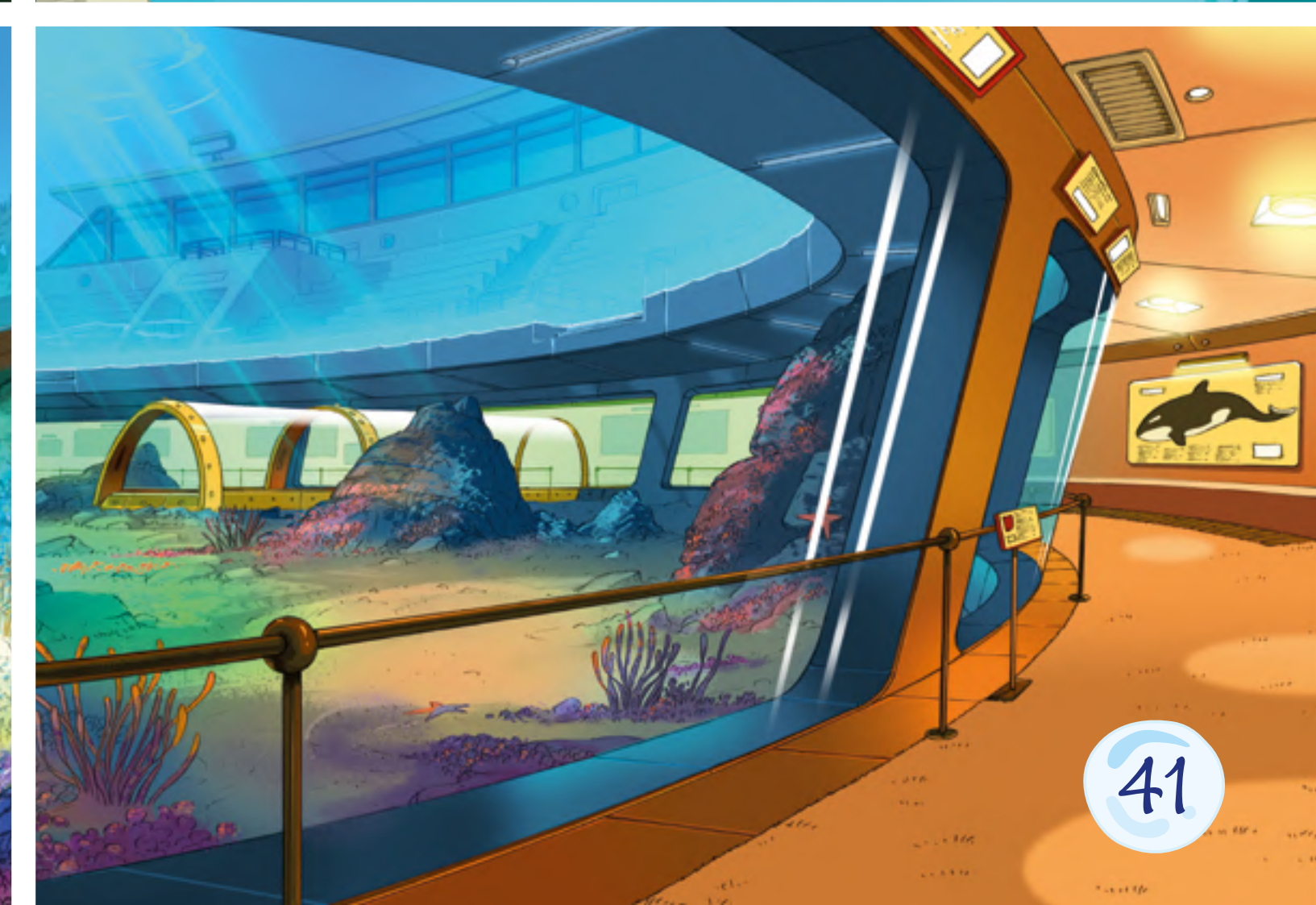
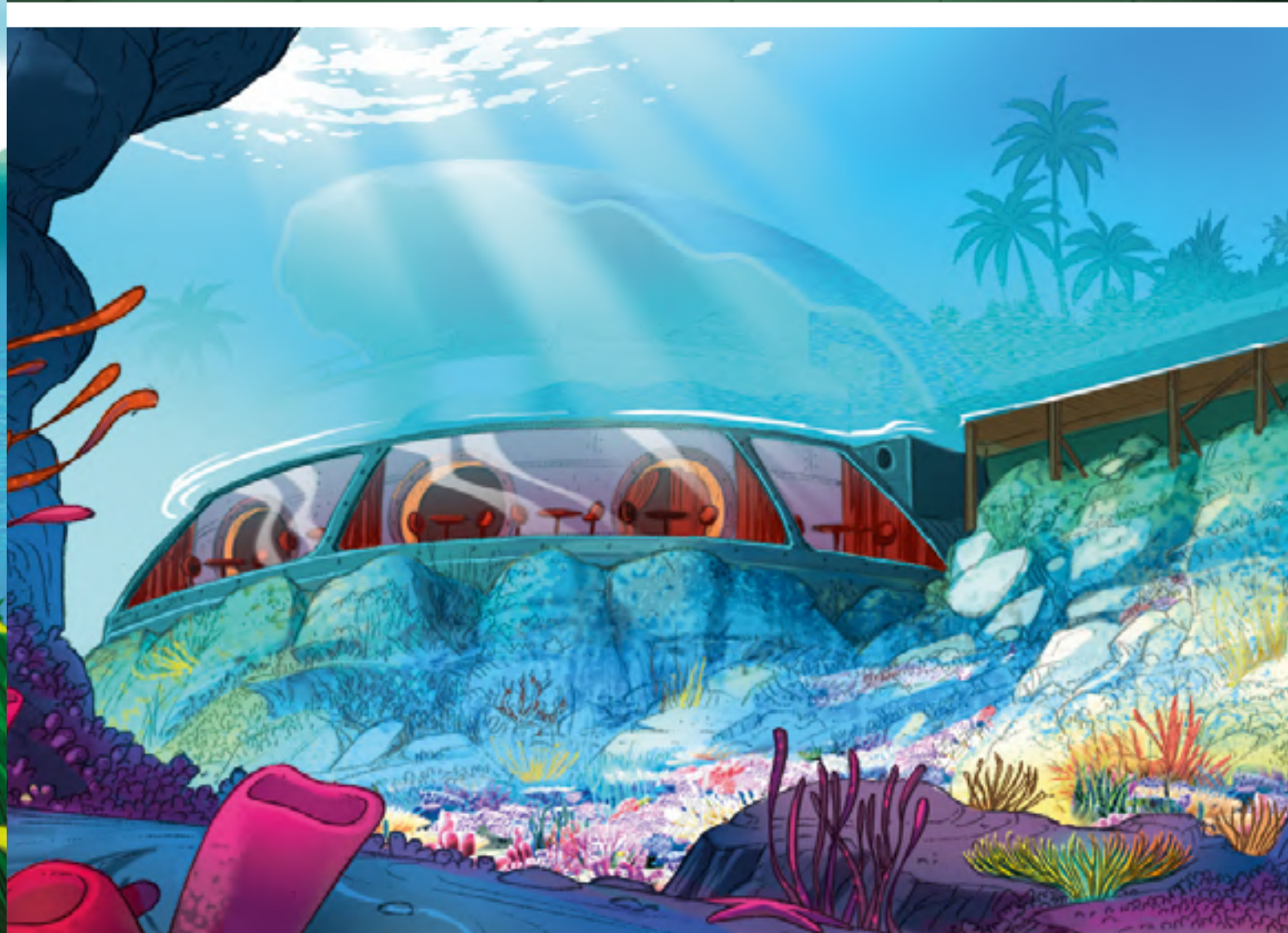
Dolphin City



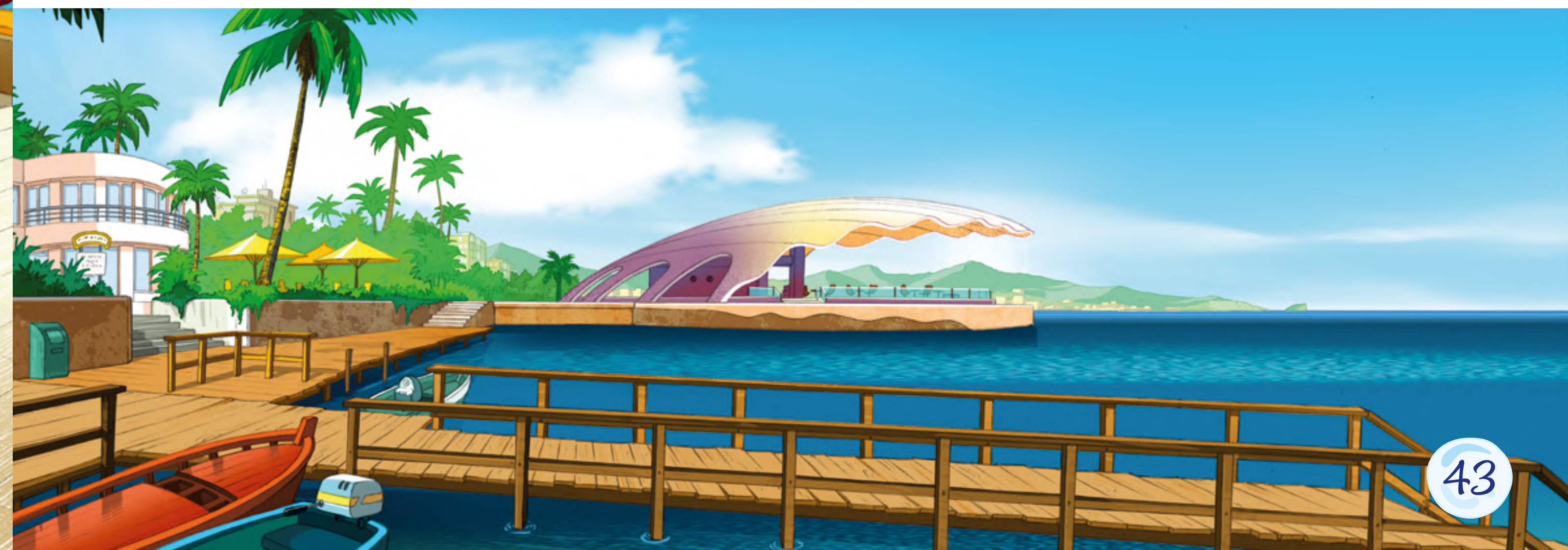
Oceanic Center



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41



Oleo's House



Emma's House



Rikki's House



Lewis' House



Coproduction partners



France Télévisions is the French public national television broadcaster. It is a state-owned company formed from the union of the public television channels France 2 and France 3, later joined by the legally independent channels France 5, France Ô, and France 4.



ZDFtivi is the children's brand of ZDF (Germany), one of the biggest European public service broadcasters. It is a key partner in the worldwide kids' entertainment industry and invests, coproduces and acquires animation and live-action programs.



Fantasia Animation International Limited is an animation studio established in 1996 by Mr. Zhang Tianxiao. Their activities cover the graphic design, storyboard, lay-out, x-sheet, animation, background, colorization, compositing, special effects and post-production. The studio employs some of the best animators in China, together with excellent animation directors, art designers, drafters, background designers, photographers and many other professionals.



Les Cartooners was founded in 1982 by Denis Olivieri and is based in Paris, France. The Cartooners are recognized for their high-quality animation productions, mainly TV series and commercials.



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Mermaid Adventures

52 x 26' HD



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