For vampires, fairies, humans
and MERMAIDS everywhere!

Illustrated by Mike Love,
based on original artwork by Harriet Muncaster

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP
Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship,
and education by publishing worldwide. Oxford is a registered trade mark
of Oxford University Press in the UK and in certain other countries

Copyright © Harriet Muncaster 2025

The moral rights of the author have been asserted

Database right Oxford University Press (maker)

First published in 2025

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a
retrieval system, transmitted, used for text and data mining, or used for training
artificial intelligence, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission
in writing of Oxford University Press, or as expressly permitted by law, by licence
or under terms agreed with the appropriate reprographics rights organization.
Enquiries concerning reproduction outside the scope of the above should be sent
to the Rights Department, Oxford University Press, at the address above.

You must not circulate this book in any other binding or cover
and you must impose this same condition on any acquirer

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Data available

ISBN: 978-0-19-278405-6

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed in China

The manufacturing process conforms to the
environmental regulations of the country of origin.



Chapter ONE

My family and I were sitting at breakfast, discussing where to go on our holidays.

'We've been to some splendid hotels in the past!' Auster said. He's my stepdad and also King of Scallop City. 'In warmer waters, of course.'

'Ooh, yes!' squealed my stepsister, Delphina. 'Remember when we stayed in

the Hotel Mediterranea, Dad? They had an all-you-can-eat buffet every morning. I loved the swirly sea-croissants with sweet seaweed jam.'



'Sounds delicious!' Mum laughed. 'We've never been to a hotel before, have we, Emerald? We always used to go camping when you were little.'

I nodded excitedly. I used to love camping holidays with Mum and Dad.



My parents aren't together any more. Mum married King Auster (which makes me a princess—yes, really!). And Dad has a new girlfriend called Sirena. I spend half my time in the palace with Mum and half my time with Dad, who lives in a small pearly-pink house on the other side of Scallop City. It was a lot to get used to at first but now I quite like it. Although I do feel a bit sad to think that me and Mum and Dad will never go on one of our camping trips again.

'I've never been camping!' said Delphina. 'What's it like?'

'FUN!' I replied.

'Oh yes!' agreed Mum. 'It's definitely

fun. We always did a lot of exploring on our camping trips, didn't we, Emerald? We found a wonderful multicoloured coral reef to pitch our tent beside once. It glowed all night with rainbow lights.'

'That was so magical!' I sighed.

Delphina looked enchanted.

