

Family Tree



My Stepdad,
King Auster



My Mum,
Queen Coral



My Stepsister,
Princess Delphina



My Dad,
Dace



My Dad's Girlfriend,
Sirena



Inkibelle



Me!
Emerald

The page is decorated with various star-shaped illustrations. There are several green stars of different sizes scattered around the text. There are also larger, stylized starfish in green and black. Some of the black starfish have small white dots on them, resembling constellations or galaxies. The stars and starfish are placed in the corners and along the sides of the page, framing the central text.

For vampires, fairies, humans
and MERMAIDS everywhere!

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

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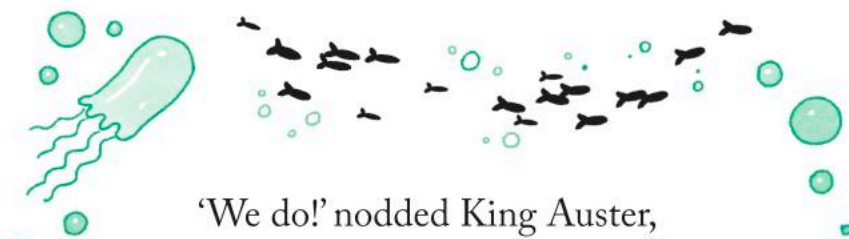
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It was dinner time in the royal palace,
and I was sitting with my stepsister,
Delphina, opposite our parents at the long
dining table.

‘We have something to tell you,’ Mum
smiled, as she nibbled on a ginger seaweed
snap. I’ve noticed that she’s been eating a
lot of ginger seaweed snaps lately.

A decorative header at the top of the page featuring a light blue jellyfish on the left, a school of black fish swimming towards the right, and several light blue bubbles of various sizes scattered across the top.

‘We do!’ nodded King Auster,
grinning. Auster is my stepdad. When
Mum married him, we moved into the
palace and I became a princess—yes really!
I spend half my time in the palace 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!





Delphina swished up from her chair in a flurry of bubbles. 'What is it? Are we going on holiday?'

'Not quite,' said Mum. 'Your Dad and I ... well ... we're going to have a baby!'

I stared at Mum and Auster in shock, dropping my fork onto my plate with a clatter. Delphina squealed excitedly and started doing somersaults in the water, making me feel dizzy.



‘That’s even better than going on holiday!’ she cried. ‘We’re both going to be big sisters now, Emerald!’

I zoned out as Delphina’s voice chattered on and on.

A new baby. I was going to be a big sister?! Again? I felt like I had only just got used to having Delphina around!

There was a funny feeling in my chest as I stared at Mum and Auster. A sort of painful knot. This baby would belong to both of them.

‘I know it’s a lot to take in,’ said Mum, getting up from her chair quickly and swimming round the table to give me a big hug. ‘But I’m sure you’ll get used to it,



Emerald. And who knows! Maybe you'll love having a baby sister or brother around!

I doubt it, I thought. But everyone else seemed so pleased and excited that I forced a smile onto my face.

'I think it's great,' I said, shrugging Mum away. 'How long until it ... er ... arrives?'



‘A while yet,’ said Auster. ‘There’s a lot to do before then! We need to decorate the nursery, choose a name, go shopping for tiny clothes ...’

