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

For vampires, fairies, humans
and MERMAIDS everywhere!

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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

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First published in 2025

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Data available

ISBN: 978-0-19-278407-0

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

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

Printed in China

The manufacturer's authorised representative in the EU for product safety is Oxford University Press España S.A. of El Parque Empresarial San Fernando de Henares, Avenida de Castilla, 2 – 28830 Madrid (www.oup.es/en or product.safety@oup.com). OUP España S.A. also acts as importer into Spain of products made by the manufacturer.



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.

'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 . . .’

