

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 2026

The moral rights of the author have been asserted

Database right Oxford University Press (maker)

First published in 2026

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: 978-1-38-207300-4

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.

EMERALD

and the Sea Dragon



Harriet Muncaster

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



It was Saturday morning and I was just waking up in my bed at Dad's house. I stretched out beneath the soft seaweedy blankets of my clamshell bed. 'I'm sooo comfy!' I said to my little pet octopus, Inkibelle.

I had slept in much longer than I would have back at the palace because

it was so quiet here. There was no noisy stepsister to come and wake me up bright and early (Delphina always wants to play straight away in the mornings!) and there were no twin merbabies crying in the middle of the night. I love the hustle and bustle of the palace—there's always something exciting happening there—but sometimes it's just nice to have a lie-in! Inkibelle and I snuggled down under the covers together.

‘Emerald!’ called my dad from downstairs. ‘Breakfast!’

‘Ooh!’ I said, suddenly finding the energy to swish out of bed. ‘I really hope it's pancakes!’



My dad is a chef in one of the restaurants in Scallop City and he always makes the best food! I would never tell Mum or King Auster (he's my stepdad), but Dad's food is even better than the fancy stuff they serve us at the palace.

I swam down the stairs and into the kitchen.





‘Good morning, my little sea jewel,’
said Dad, ruffling my already messy hair. I
sat down at the table excited to see a pile
of sea-fluff pancakes covered in seaberry
syrup and a whirl of whipped sea-foam laid
on the table. Dad joined me and we began
to eat—they were SO delicious!

