

Mermaid Day



The background is a light blue gradient. It is decorated with several small, simple line drawings: bubbles of various sizes, two fish swimming in opposite directions, and some seaweed or coral-like shapes at the bottom.

Mermaid Day

Story and pictures by Ema

For Jase,
who was right about the jellyfish.



Today was a swimming day. The sea was right there at the end of the sand,
going shhh, shhh, shhh.

There is one rule about swimming in the sea. You have to put your mermaid
tail on first.

Everybody knows this.





Lily was ready before anybody. Tail on. Crown on.

Dad did not need a tail. Dad has a swimming costume. That is what men wear. No tail, no crown, just Dad.



So Lily went in. The water was cold for one second and then it was perfect. She swam and she swam.

But somebody was still on the sand. Jase. With his shoes on. Both of them. Laces and everything.



"Jase," said Mom. "You are not ready."

Jase did not say anything. He held on to his shoes very tightly.



And then he said the real thing, in a small voice.



And everybody stopped. Nobody had asked him. They had only told him about his shoes.

Lily sat down next to him. "I looked the whole time I was swimming," she said. "The jellyfish were being nice today."



"We will all go in together," said Mom. "If we see one, we will come straight out."

One shoe. Two shoes. Tail on.



Jase held on tight. He went in up to his knees, and then his middle, and then he was swimming.

Really swimming.



And that is when they saw her.



A jellyfish. A pink one. She floated up out of the deep green water like a little umbrella made of sunset.

Jase went very still.



The jellyfish looked at Jase. Jase looked at the jellyfish.

And she smiled at him. A small pink smile.



"She was only saying hello," said Lily.



Then she wobbled away into the blue, off to wherever jellyfish go. Jase waved.

"I am not scared of jellyfish," he said. And he was telling the truth.



They swam until their fingers went wrinkly.

The background is a light blue gradient. It is decorated with various simple line drawings: several circles of different sizes representing bubbles, two small fish, and two wavy vertical lines representing seaweed at the bottom.

And the whole family were mermaids.

Well, except Dad. Of course.

How this book started

Ema drew these three pictures first. Everything else came out of them.



Lily and Dad, ready to swim.



Lily swimming. "Love Dad."



Mom and Jase, who is not ready.

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Made in 2026.

