



Message in a bottle



By Abi Pattenden, Maria Baker & Vikki Gunn

Illustrated by Abi Pattenden

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We dedicate this book to all those who are passionate about the deep sea.

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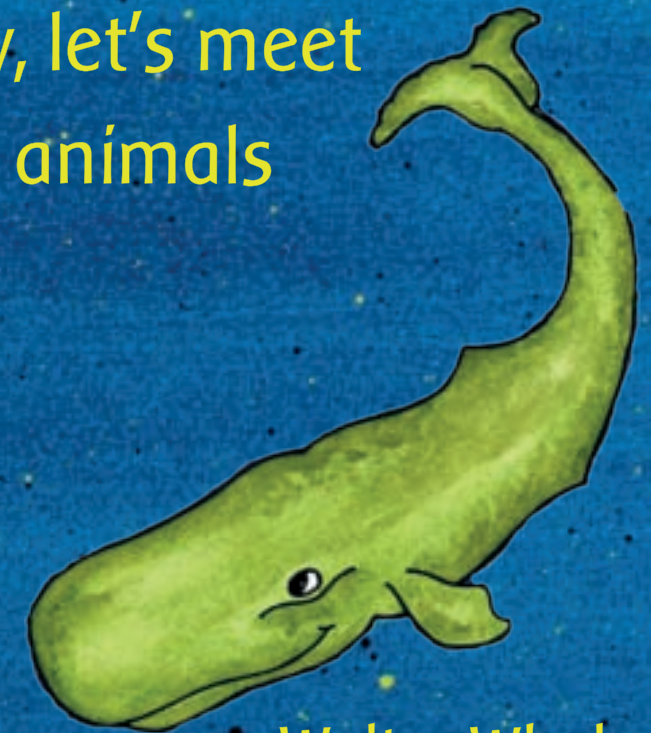
Before we start our story, let's meet
some of the deep-sea animals



Jemima Jellyfish



Arnold Anglerfish



Walter Whale



Olly Octopus



Tammy Tripod Fish



Stella Seastar



Claude Crab



The Anemones

The deep-sea animals decided they'd had enough!

Their once beautiful home was beginning to look like a rubbish tip.

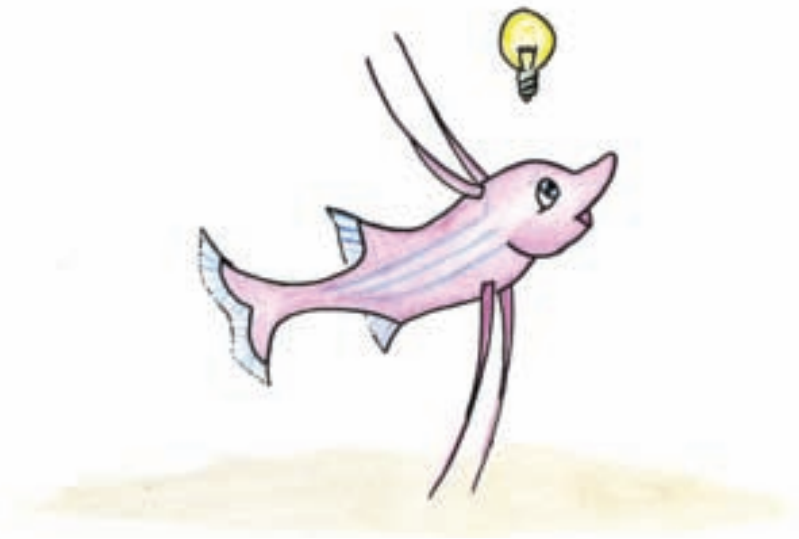
"Who's dumping all this litter in our back garden?" grumbled Tammy Tripod Fish.

"Look at poor old Olly Octopus! He can hardly move his arms he's so tangled up!"





"What a load of rubbish!" cried Tammy. "Look at these plastic shopping bags!"



"We should ask the people who live up there if they can help us" said Tammy.

"And these old bottles and cans!" said Olly.



"Yes" said Olly. "What about sending a message in one of these old bottles?"



"And this tangled fishing net!" said Claude. "None of these things belong in the deep sea... they must come from the land!"



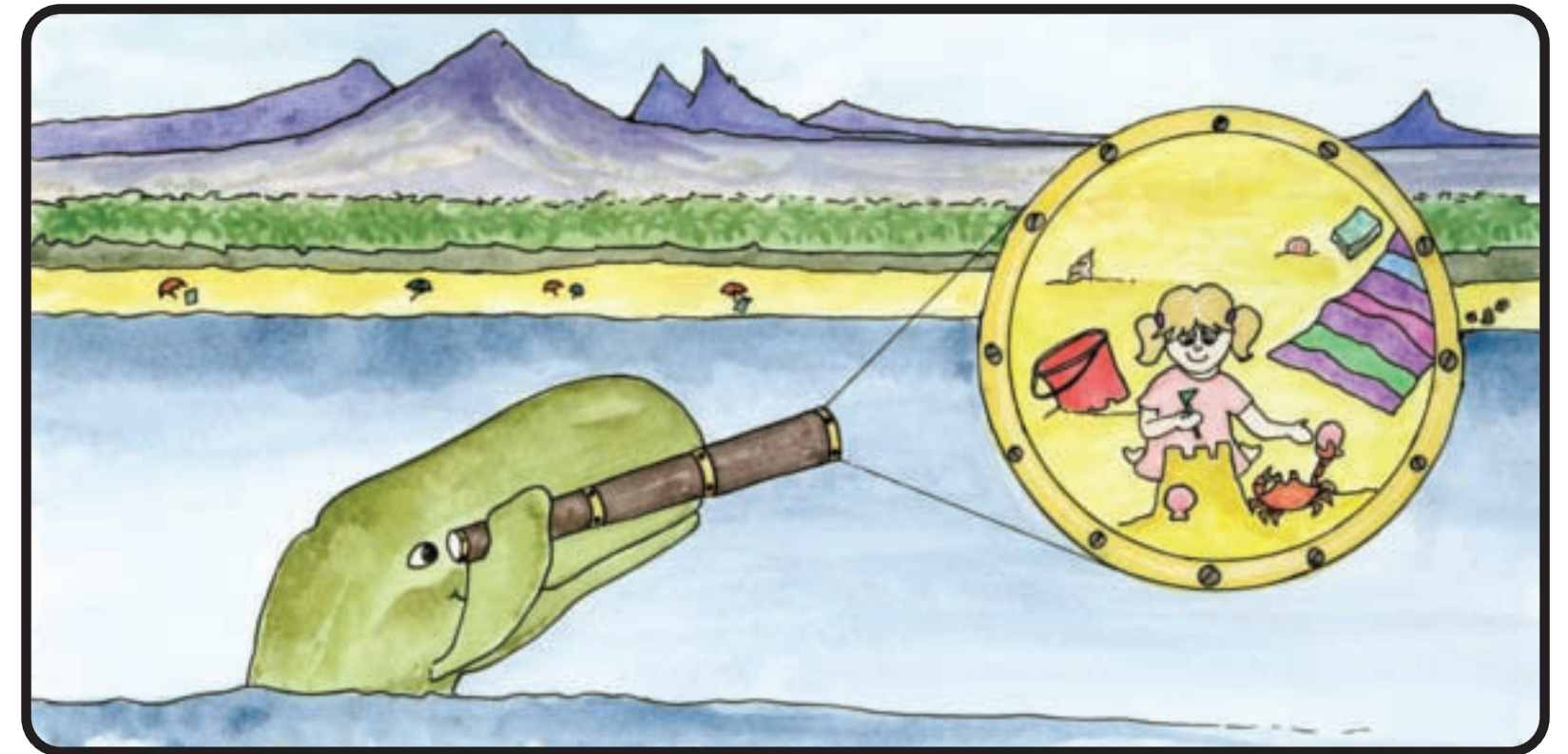
"Great idea!" said Claude Crab, whipping out his pencil. "And we can ask Walter Whale to take it up to the surface!"

Tammy asked Walter if he could help them to deliver their message.



"Of course!" he boomed.
"I'd be glad to. I will swim and swim
and swim until I find a kind-looking
person who can help us".

And off he went.



Up and up swam Walter until he reached the beach, where he spotted a little girl making a sand castle.

With a mighty flick of his enormous tail, Walter sent the bottle flying!



It landed with a thump in the sand near Mia's feet.

She carefully shook the bottle until the note fell out.



"It's a message from the creatures in the deep sea!" said Mia. "It sounds like they're in real trouble!"

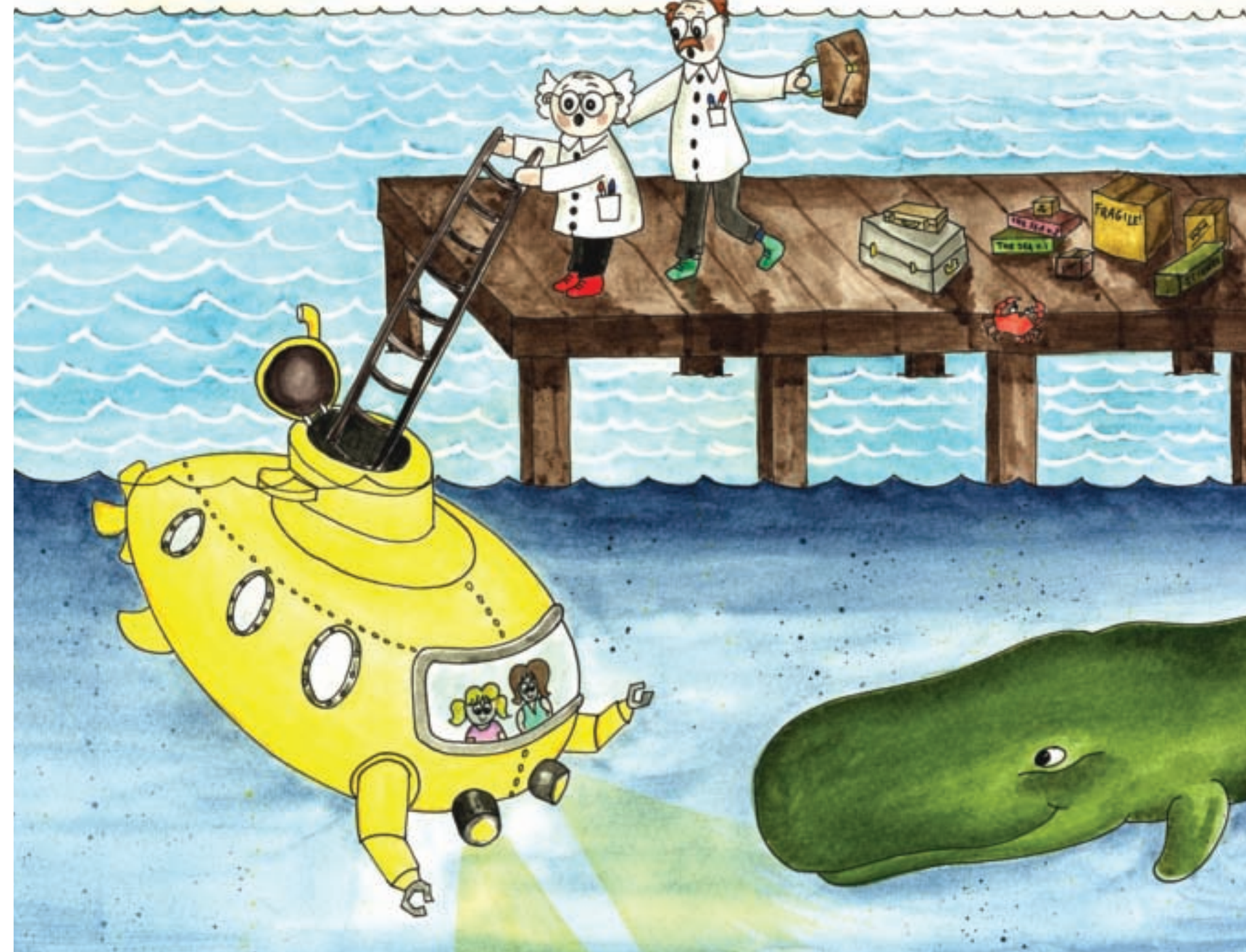


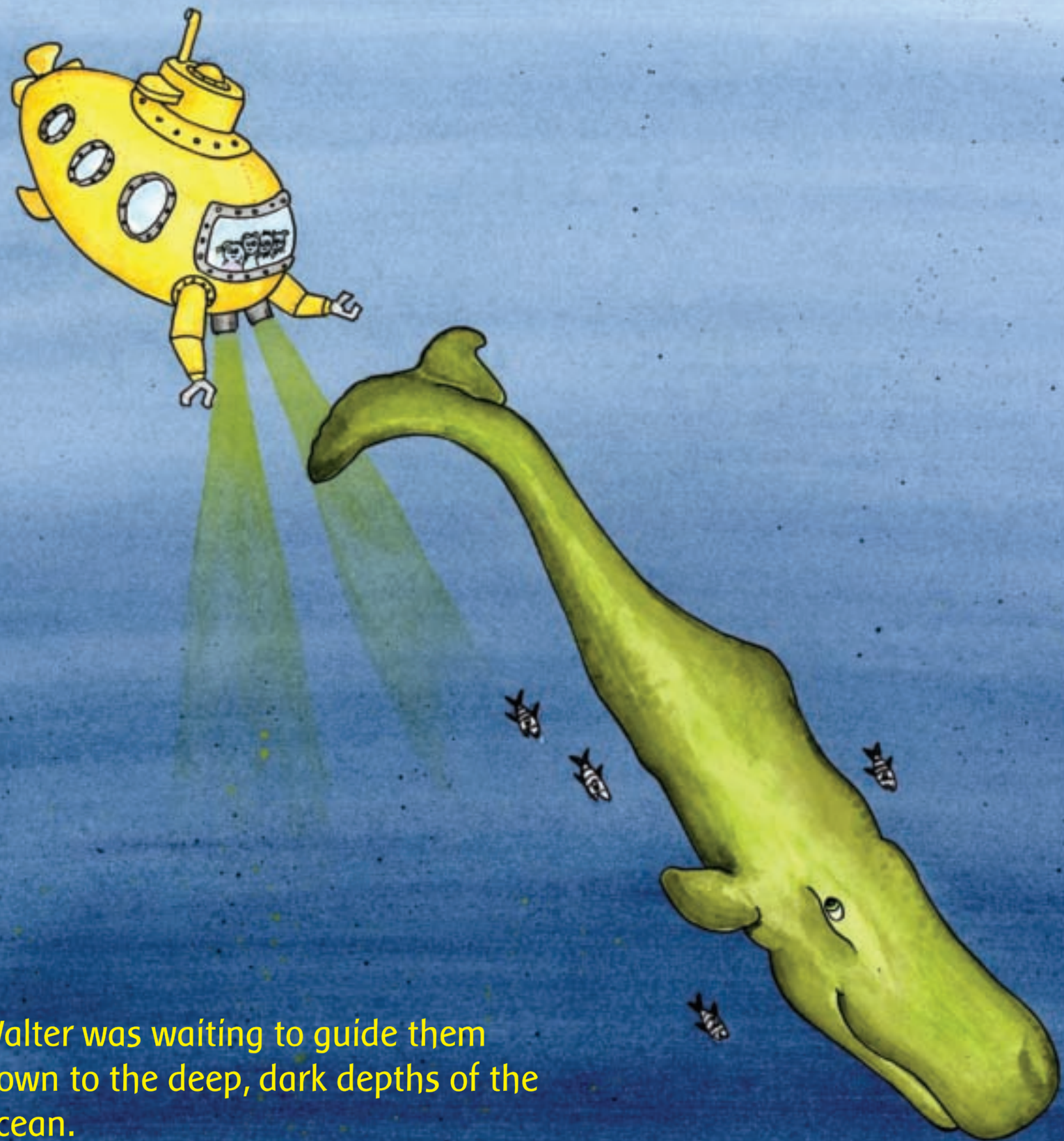
Mia raced to find her mother.

"Mummy!" she cried. "Look what I found! Can we ask your scientist friends to help us clean up all the rubbish? I think the deep-sea creatures really need our help!"

Mia's mummy and her scientist friends agreed there was no time to lose!

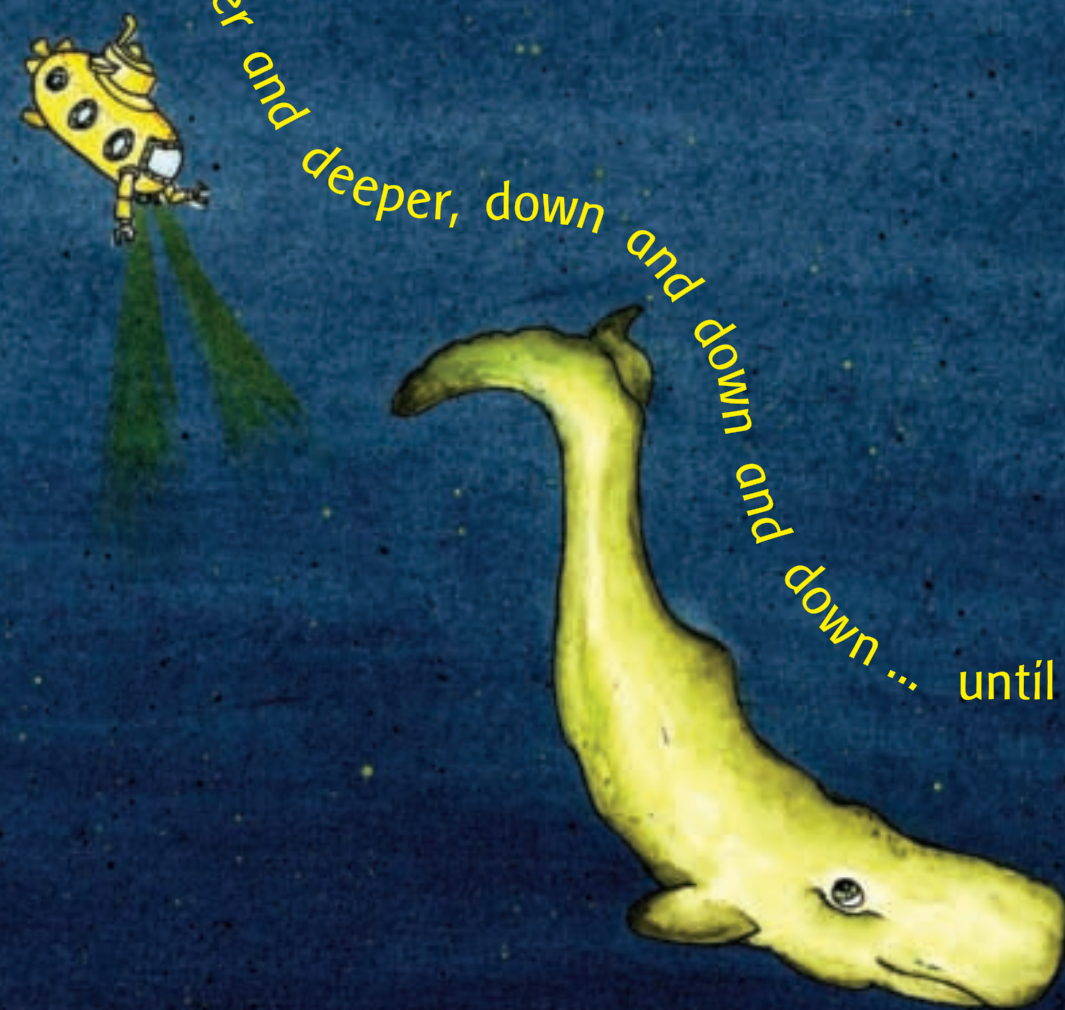
They went straight to their submarine and launched an expedition.





Walter was waiting to guide them down to the deep, dark depths of the ocean.

Down they dived, deeper and deeper and deeper, down and down and down ... until finally...



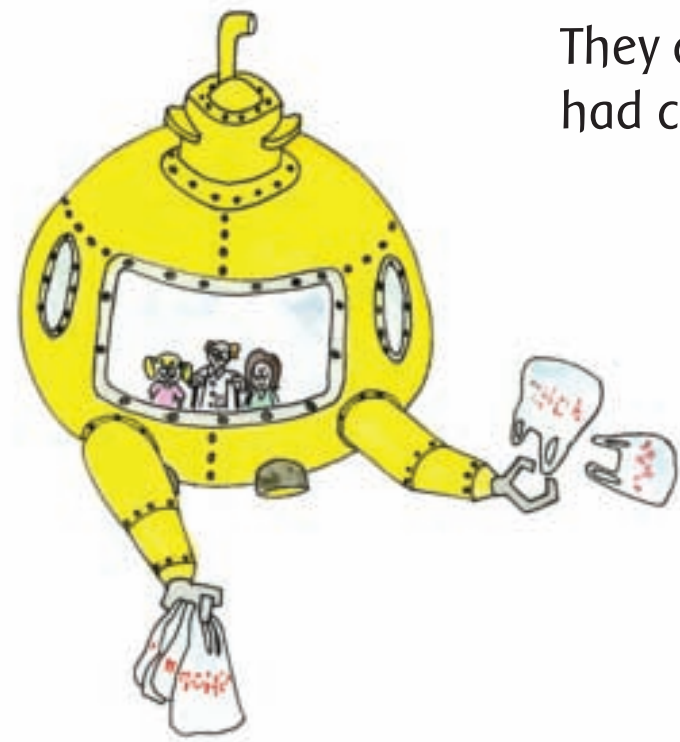
"What a mess!" exclaimed the scientists. They could hardly believe their eyes.

How did all the rubbish get so deep in the sea and so far from the land?

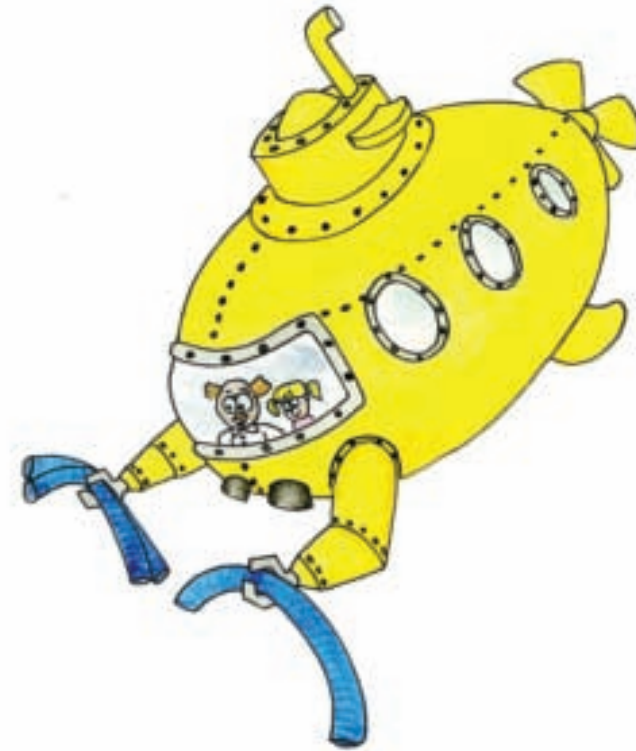
They got to work at once, cleaning up the rubbish and freeing the deep-sea animals. It wasn't an easy task.

Untangling Olly was particularly difficult as he kept wriggling around!

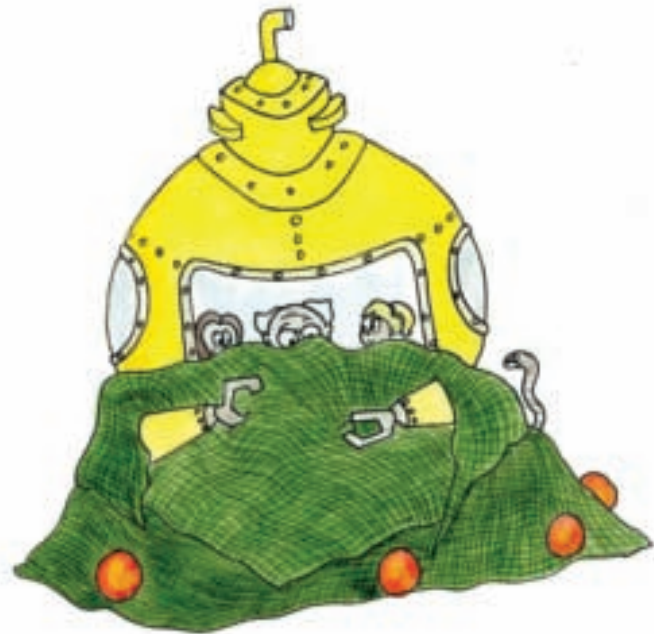




They caught all the plastic bags that people had carelessly thrown away.



They collected up all the old pipes and cables.



They gathered up all the fishing nets left behind by fishermen.



They picked up all the old bottles and cans...

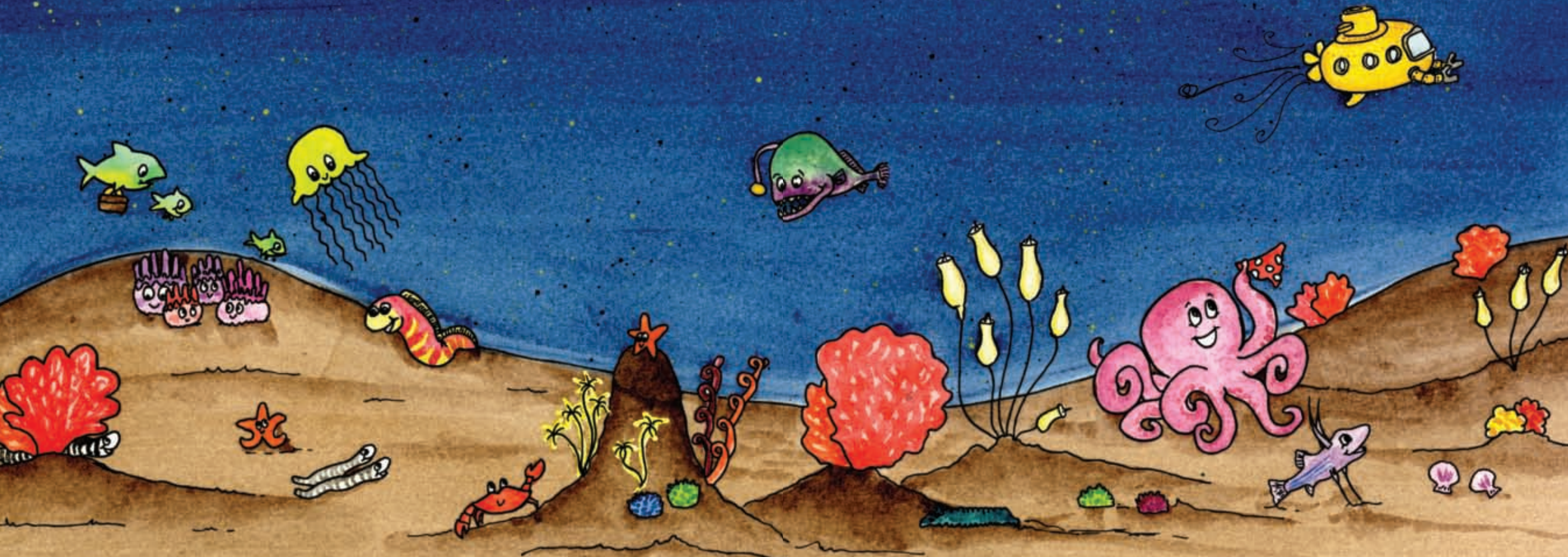
At the end of the expedition, the scientists had a huge pile of rubbish to take home with them.

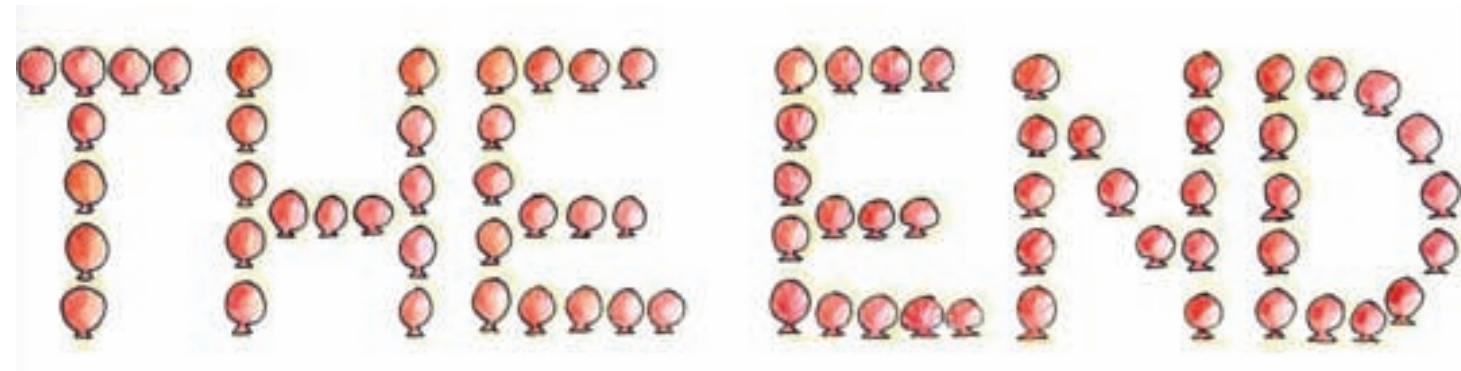


"We can recycle most of this!" they said.

Eventually the place was spick and span and the animals were delighted!

They cheered and waved as the scientists zoomed off home in their submarine, happy to have cleared up the mess.





Sadly, our story about deep-sea litter is very real. These pictures are of litter that was found in the deep sea by scientists working in the Mediterranean, and it is a world-wide problem. Litter finds its way into the ocean from the land and has been seen thousands of kilometres from shore in the very deepest parts of the sea. The litter can be dangerous to marine life. Scientists from the projects supporting this book - HERMIONE and INDEEP - are looking at the impacts of litter in the marine environment and monitoring its distribution, as well as looking at other types of human impacts. For more information about the projects, visit www.eu-hermione.net and www.indeep-project.org.

An old oil drum and bottle



Fishing lines and an old tyre



Crabs caught in old nets



Plastic bags and wires



Old bottles and cans







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