

## How to be a Mermaid

On a calm street there was a library with one thousand book shelves with every book in the world. As you walk in you will see striped colourful walls with books dancing on stage and fighting for the spotlight. A thousand years ago someone hid the record card under a shelf of books and the book quietly disappeared. The book was called How to be a Mermaid.

At night, when the security guard of the library is asleep in his cosy bed the windows rattle and shake then burst open, leaves tumble in from a nearby park. The banging of the metal poles of the security rope crash to the floor and the books came to life! On a shelf of music books, beginning with the letter M, a girl called Ellie lived with her parents and her bunny called Moo. One night years ago, she had found out about the book. That night Moo went missing and she found the record card. She decided there and then she would find the book. "And when we find the book we will be the first to breath under water."

Every night for three years, Ellie and Moo searched for the book. They searched the spooky dusty attic with cobwebs hanging from the ceiling, they searched in the lonely cupboards and full creaky book shelves in the main hall. The main hall was as empty as an abandoned mansion. Ellie sneezed from all the dust. The dust was as grey as an elephant herd. When the dust cleared she heard muffled voices at the end of the hall she was drawn to them. She followed the voices and was led to three old men playing cards. The first old man said "Welcome." The second old man said "You came for this haven't you?" "But then why are you not under water?" Ellie said. Ellie followed the third old man as he beckoned to her.

The old man led Ellie into an enchanted forest with beautiful trees, swirling rivers and a shining sun. "Where are we going?" said Ellie. "To see the mer girl," replied the man. But eventually they made it to a see through pond. "This is a magic pond, you can breathe under water here," said the man. Ellie dived in, the pond was warm and relaxing. Suddenly something grabbed her hand, it was the mer girl! "You must not read the book" the mer girl said quickly. "I thought it would be fun to talk to fish, breath under water and be free. But it was horrible and I never got to see my family and friends again. I was the only one who read the book and didn't lose my mind," said the mer girl.

"I don't want to read the book my family means too much to me," Ellie said slowly "I will return you back to earth," said the mer girl.