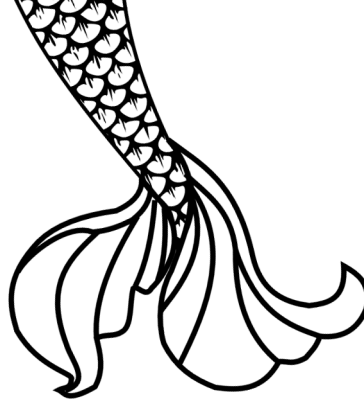


Daisy Mermaid

The title 'Daisy Mermaid' is written in a large, yellow, cursive font with a black outline. The word 'Daisy' is on the top line and 'Mermaid' is on the bottom line. A small white daisy with a yellow center is positioned above the 'y' in 'Daisy'. A pink mermaid tail with a white daisy on its side is positioned between the two words. Another small white daisy with a yellow center is positioned above the 'd' in 'Mermaid'.

and the Shipwreck

BY: D. B. RYEN



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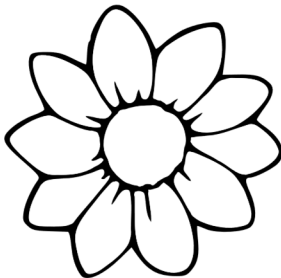
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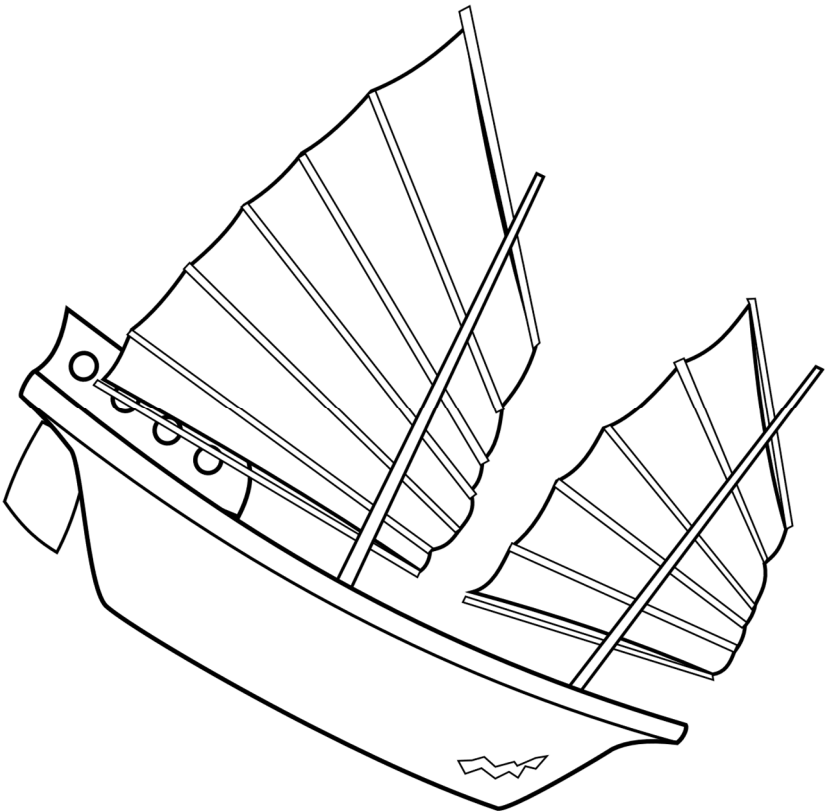
ISBN: 9798666329351

Note to parents: This book is meant to be read aloud, with silly voices and sound effects. Also, your kids might need some help with the pictures. Make this book your own, something to look back on when your kids are older. Change the names, if you want to, to that of your own child. Then drop me a line and let me know how it goes. Enjoy!



Color in the mermaid tail and the daisy

To Daisy,
A kiss from you
is the reason I can breathe.



Color in the sinking ship

Draw Daisy Mermaid swimming in the ocean

Perhaps you've heard of mermaids, those mysterious creatures – half-human, half-fish – that live in the sea. You've probably seen them in movies: talking to fish, singing songs, and playing magical games. Well, all those cartoons are fine and dandy, but *real* mermaids are quite different. Sure, they talk to fish, sing songs, and have magical powers, but being a mermaid is hard work. You see, mermaids (and all the rest of the sea-people for that matter) are *keepers of the deep*. They patrol the seas, fight bad guys, protect the ocean's creatures, and sometimes even rescue humans in trouble.

That's what this story is about: a legendary mermaid who was as smart as she was brave. Her name was Daisy.

And she loved storms.

Draw Daisy catching raindrops in her mouth

Typhoons, hurricanes, cyclones – it didn't matter what type of storm, Daisy loved them all. The nastier the better. She swam up the inside of the waves, then crashed down in the sea foam as it broke. She rode the steepest swells like they were roller coasters. And she loved the taste of fresh rainwater before it landed in the salty sea. Storms were her favorite – they were her playground. And the best storms were in shallow water, near reefs and islands.

Our story takes place near a tropical island in the South China Sea, in the midst of a raging typhoon. It was a perfectly stormy night. Daisy was playing in the thrashing waves, while tiny squid and jellyfish glowed in the dark all around her.

However, as Daisy was enjoying this particularly terrible typhoon, she heard the muffled sounds of men's voices. Instantly, she knew they weren't enjoying the storm like she was. The men were *terrified*, and she could tell they were in serious trouble.

Draw waves crashing over the ship

Because mermaids are keepers of the deep, they can hear a call for help halfway across the ocean. And as soon as they hear it, they're off to rescue whoever's in trouble.

Daisy swam toward the frightened voices and found a ship being tossed by the wind and the waves. She cautiously poked her head above water and saw chaos on board. The sails were torn, the men were scurrying all over the deck, and the ship was drifting out of control toward the coral reef. In those days, all ships were made of wood, so any contact with sharp rocks would dash the ship to pieces.

The men were in trouble indeed.

Draw Daisy pulling a sailor up to the surface

Daisy was a strong swimmer, but not even *she* was strong enough to hold the ship away from the island. Every wave pushed it closer and closer to the jagged rocks.

Just as she was thinking about what to do...

SPLASH!

a giant wave washed a sailor off the ship and into the water in front of her! He began flailing around underwater, twenty feet down. The wave had spun him all around so he didn't know which way was up! He was running out of air!

Immediately, Daisy grabbed hold of the man's shoulders and pulled him up toward the surface.

GASP!

He broke through the waves and took a deep breath of fresh air. At the same time, Daisy shoved a dangling rope into his hands before she dived down and out of sight. Stunned, the sailor managed to pull himself back on deck, unsure of how he was still alive.

Draw the ship crashing into the reef

CRASH!

It was too late! The ship ran bow-first into the sharp coral reef. The impact shattered the wooden planks of the hull and water starting pouring through the gash.

“Lower the lifeboats!” Daisy heard yelled on deck.

Four big rowboats were lowered onto the raging sea. Men jumped down into them. Some of them nearly fell over the sides, but Daisy reached up and shoved them back in.

“Away! Away! Row to shore!”

The sailors pulled at the oars, rowing toward the island. All around them were razor-sharp rocks, but Daisy guided them through the gaps. It took all her strength, but all four lifeboats made it past the reef and onto the sandy beach.

“Phew!” she said to herself. “They’re finally all safe.”

That’s when she heard a cry for help from back on the ship. Except that it wasn’t a man’s voice...

... it was a boy’s!

Draw a boy steering the ship on a sunny day

Back then, every ship had a boy or two along for the journey. They learned how to navigate and steer the ship. Eventually, the boys grew up to become captains themselves.

Somehow, this ship's boy had been forgotten on board when all the men left, and now the ship was sinking with him trapped inside!

Daisy rushed back to the battered ship as fast as she could. She heard the boy's voice from inside, "Help! Help me, please!"

The voice was deep within the hull, which was already half underwater. He had been trapped in the galley (the kitchen) when a beam collapsed against the only door.

"Help! Anybody! It's filling up with water!" the boy cried.

Daisy swam around the hull. There was no way into the ship except through the big gash in the bow! She was scared of being stuck inside with him, but she knew the boy would die without any help. She swam through the gash into the hull just as the ship disappeared underwater.

Draw the ship resting on the bottom of the sea

A storm is loud on the surface of the sea – wind raging! waves crashing! thunder booming! – but it’s much quieter underwater. Silently, the ship sank down to the sandy bottom and landed with a gentle thump. Thankfully, it wasn’t very far down.

Daisy swam carefully through the ship’s sunken passages and found the entrance to the galley. With all her strength she shoved the beam out of the way and swam through the doorway. Once inside, she nearly got kicked in the head by two legs treading water furiously in front of her face. Daisy looked up and saw that the boy was able to breathe in a little pocket of air near the ceiling, but it was disappearing fast.

Food was floating everywhere: ham, vegetables, potatoes, and rice. Pushing it all aside, she swam up into the air pocket and came face to face with the frightened ship’s boy.

Draw Jamal trapped in the ship's kitchen

“Aaahhh!” he yelled. “Wh-who are you?! Please, help me! The ship is sinking!”

The boy didn’t know that the ship had *already* sunk. In fact, it was resting on the bottom of the sea, rocking softly with the waves.

“There’s no time to explain!” Daisy said. “We need to swim out of here right away. Take a deep breath and follow me!”

“What?! No way!” cried the boy. “I-I’ll never make it!”

Daisy knew he was right. He would run out of air way before they reached the surface.

“What’s your name?” Daisy asked. She knew just what to say to calm people down.

“M-my name is Jamal,” he replied.

“And how old are you, Jamal?”

“Nine. And a half.”

“Well, Jamal, my name is Daisy. I know this is scary, but you have to trust me. There’s only one way out and it’s deep underwater. But I promise you this: I won’t leave you.”

Draw all your favorite foods floating in water

Jamal was still scared, but knowing Daisy would be with him helped him be a bit braver than he felt.

He nodded his head.

Daisy said, “Okay, don’t let go of my hand. One... two... three... *GO!*”

Jamal took a deep breath and he and Daisy dived down through the floating food and into the dark water.

Draw Daisy giving Jamal a big bubbly kiss

Daisy swam with Jamal back through the passages underwater. Halfway through the ship she looked back and saw that Jamal was running out of air. So, she did the only thing she could to save his life.

SMOOCH!

Daisy Mermaid kissed the nine-year-old ship's boy right on the mouth! At the same time, she blew air straight down his throat. Pure oxygen! With his lungs full again, Jamal found the strength to swim once more.

Draw the tropical island, with palm trees and sandy beaches

Hand in hand, they swam out the gash in the hull and up toward the stormy surface. But Jamal was running out of air again.

SMOOCH!

Daisy kissed the boy once more and filled his lungs with oxygen. This time it was enough to sustain him to the surface.

GASP!

They broke through into the air. Jamal was tossed around by the storm that was still raging on. He was nearly pushed underwater again, but Daisy held him up.

“Hold on to my shoulders!” she said.

Jamal held on for dear life as Daisy surfed along the surface straight to the tropical island. At last, she pulled Jamal on shore and they both collapsed onto the wet sand exhausted.

Draw Daisy sleeping on the sand

“You *are* real!”

Daisy woke with a start! The sun was up, the sea was calm, and she was lying face-down on the warm sand.

She turned to see young Jamal propped up on his elbows. His mouth hung open as he stared at her with his big brown eyes.

“And you’re a *MERMAID!*”

Daisy couldn’t believe how foolish she’d been! A human had seen her in broad daylight!

You see, sea people like to be mysterious. They don’t want humans to know about them, or else they’d try to capture or kill them all. And then there’d be no one left to protect the ocean. That’s why mermaids and mermen are always careful to avoid being seen anytime they’re around humans.

But Daisy had been seen *clearly* by the ship’s boy, and more men were running down the beach toward them!

Draw sailors running along the beach

“I think he’s over there!”

Daisy heard their shouting before they came into sight. The sailors were searching for Jamal. Quick as lightning, Daisy flopped into the water and dived down out of sight.

“Wait!” cried Jamal. “Come back! I never got to say thank you!”

The men rushed up to the boy.

“Jamal! You’re alive! We all thought you were in one of the other lifeboats! How did you get to shore in that storm?”

Draw the fat captain

Jamal just smiled.

“A mermaid saved me. The ship had sunk, but she pulled me out. And when I ran out of air, she kissed more into me! Then I woke up on this beach and she was *laying right here!*”

But the gentle waves had already washed the sand of any trace of the mermaid.

“Oh poppycock!” said the captain. He was a rather fat fellow who drank too much brandy. “You’ve swallowed too much sea water. There’s no such thing as mermaids.”

“But it’s true!” pleaded Jamal. “Her name was Daisy, and...”

“A mermaid named *Daisy?!!*” the captain howled. “Daisies grow on land, not the sea. Now...”

The captain was just about to lecture Jamal when Mr. Starks, the ship’s first mate, interrupted him.

“Captain, with all due respect, the boy might be right.”

All eyes turned to Mr. Starks.

Draw Daisy pushing a sailor back into the boat

“You see,” Mr. Starks continued, “just before the ship sank, I was washed overboard by a huge wave. The water swirled around me and I nearly drowned. But two soft hands pulled me up toward the surface! Then, in the lightning, I swear I saw a young woman with golden hair push a rope into my hands. I thought I was dreaming, but now I’m not so sure.”

“Preposterous!” yelled the captain. “You’ve gone ma—”

But before he could finish, another man spoke up.

“Um, excuse me, Captain.”

“What now?!”

A sailor stepped forward timidly.

“I was climbing into a lifeboat when I nearly fell backward overboard. But I felt someone in the water push my bum upward and back into the boat!”

Then another man spoke: “Sir, I didn’t mention it earlier, but while we were rowing, we were headed straight toward a sharp rock. But at the last minute, a lady’s hand reached up from the water and pulled us out of the way!”

“I saw her too sir!”

Half a dozen men nodded their heads in agreement.

Draw Daisy hiding behind a rock, listening and smiling

“You’re all hogwashed!” said the captain. “There’s no such thing as mermaids...”

But nobody was convinced by his words, not even the captain himself. They all knew something, or *someone*, had saved them during the storm. Not one of them had drowned, even though it was the most terrible typhoon any of them had ever seen.

Meanwhile, out in the surf was a brave little mermaid who was hiding behind a rock and quietly listening to the sailors’ stories. She smiled to herself as she swam away, knowing she’d done the right thing, even though she’d been seen by humans.

And that is the story of how the legend of Daisy Mermaid began. She was a beautiful and brave hero of the seas, a keeper of the deep, and a friend to all the ocean’s many creatures, great and small.

The end.

Hey Kids!

You've probably noticed that there are no pictures in this book. That's because kids always do a better job at imagining stories than adults. So go back and draw all the pictures. Get your parents to scan and email them to me and we'll post the best ones on our website! Be sure to include your name and age.

Enjoy!

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