

Mermaids TO THE RESCUE

A stylized, black silhouette of a mermaid's tail, positioned between the words 'Mermaids' and 'TO THE RESCUE'. The tail is curved upwards and to the right, with a small, light-colored seashell-like detail on the upper part of the tail.

Lana Swims North

Lisa Ann Scott

illustrated by
Heather Burns

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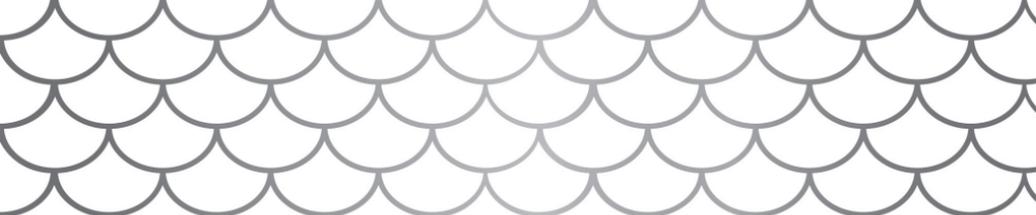
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Chapter 1

Princess Lana sat at her desk at the Royal Mermaid Rescue Crew School, tapping her pencil. She couldn't stop thinking about their assignment: how to rescue five stranded sea turtles at once. She looked out the window at the fish swimming by as she searched for an answer.

“Lana, what do you think?” Principal Vanora asked.

Suddenly, she got a great idea. “I could put them all on a raft and pull them to safety!”

Some of the other merchildren and seaponies in class laughed. Even some of the younger first-year students chuckled.

The principal swished her sparkly blue tail and adjusted her hair. “What are you talking about?”

Lana blinked a few times. “To rescue the turtles,” she said quietly.

The principal frowned. “That’s a fine answer for our homework assignment, but right now, we’re studying jellyfish. I asked which one is the most dangerous. And the answer is the box jellyfish. It’s one of the most deadly in all the seas.”

Lana sunk down in her seat. She wanted

to disappear, which wasn't easy with her pink-streaked hair. She fiddled with the hem of her shirt.

“Please pay closer attention, Lana,” the principal said.

Lana nodded and bit her lip.

Her magical seapony partner, Marina, smiled nicely. “The raft was a great idea,” she whispered.

“Thanks.” Lana loved being a Rescue Crew member, but sometimes it was hard to stay focused. There was so much to learn and remember. And her classmates were some of the smartest, bravest merkids in the sea. Lana wanted to impress them all, but whenever she got the courage to speak up, she usually embarrassed herself.

“Anyone know what the biggest jellyfish in the world is?” the principal asked.

Lana remembered studying a species from the Northern Seas called the lion’s mane jellyfish. Its tentacles could be over one hundred feet long! But she didn’t dare speak up now after bumbling the last question.



“It’s the lion’s mane jellyfish,” Princess Cali said.

“Very good,” the principal said.

Lana frowned, wishing she had been the one who’d impressed the principal.

“Now, to help you identify the many types of jellyfish, I want you each to draw a picture of five different species by the end of the month,” Principal Vanora said.

“Hello? I need help!” A call came in through the rescue shells each crew member wore around his or her neck. The calls always reached the crew members closest to the emergency. Today, it was the children in the Rescue Crew School.

“Princess Nixie, why don’t you respond,” the principal said.

Lana was glad she didn't have to answer the call in front of everyone. Nixie was so brave. She'd already been on a mission by herself and saved her two best friends from a shark!

Nixie picked up her rescue shell and spoke into it. "This is the Rescue Crew. What's the problem?"

"My little merboy, Nico, is missing. He was at the park, but now we can't find him!"

"Stay there. We'll meet you at the park," Nixie told the worried mermother.

"Class, we should all go and help," the principal said.

"Even the first years?" asked Drake, the youngest of the royal merstudents.