

LA SIRENA I LA MARTA



MARTA AND THE MERMAID

Text i il·lustracions / Text and illustrations

M. Luisa Guerrero

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La sirena i la Marta

Pròleg

Es contes són la porta cap a la fantasia, el somni i la comunicació. Amb ells es poden contar, d'una manera senzilla i natural, aquelles històries que als adults de vegades ens costa tant d'explicar. Com els anteriors treballs de l'autora, aquest pot ser una eina molt útil per a la comunicació entre pares i fills, a més a més d'una lectura amena.

*Podem destacar, per voluntat pròpia de l'autora, la figura del cavall marí, que es manté fidel al mateix company durant tota la seva vida. Destaquem aquesta figura perquè és important el concepte de fidelitat en la història de *La sirena i la Marta*: fidelitat a la gent que estimes, fidelitat als teus principis i la teva manera de viure les coses i, per damunt de tot, fidelitat als teus propis sentiments.*

Óliver García Alemán
Psicòleg

Marta and the Mermaid

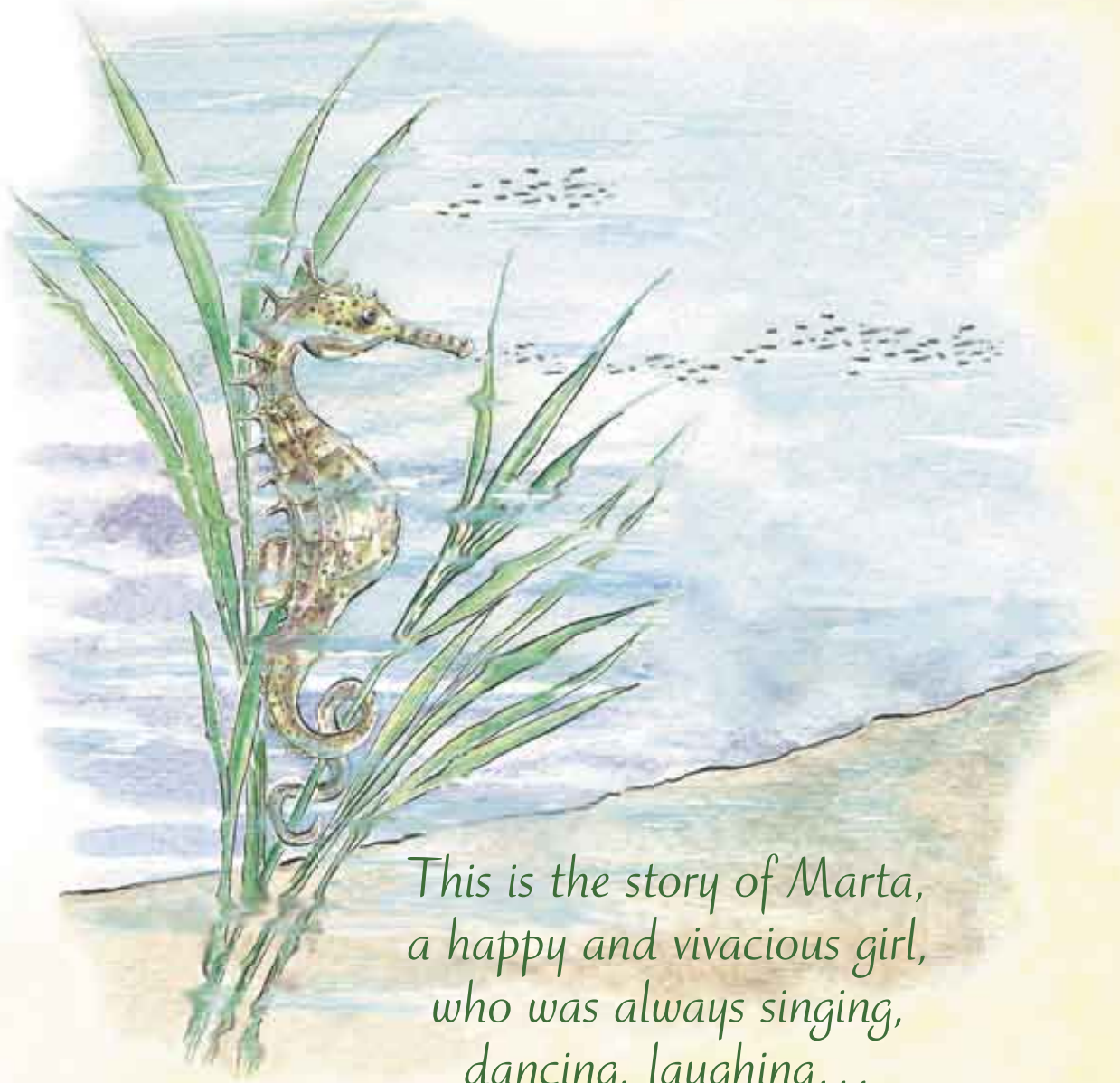
Prologue

Fairy tales are the threshold to fantasy, dreams and communication. Through them we can tell in a simple and natural way those things adults find so difficult to tell. Like the previous tales of this author, this one can be a very useful tool for communication between parents and children and a pleasant reading.

*By special desire of the author we point out the character of the little sea horse who stays his whole life long loyal to the same partner. We point out this character because loyalty is an important concept in the story of *Marta and the Mermaid*: loyalty towards those you love, loyalty towards your own principles and your way of seeing things and above all, loyalty towards your own feelings.*

Óliver García Alemán
Psychologist

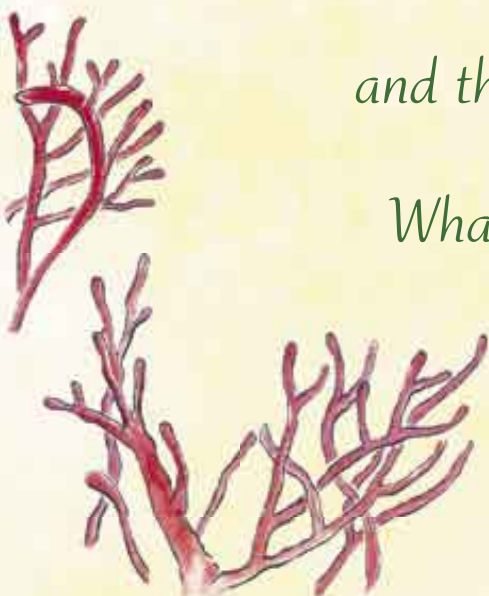
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*This is the story of Marta,
a happy and vivacious girl,
who was always singing,
dancing, laughing...*

*Marta was a bit naughty.
Some people said Marta lived
in her "world of fantasy"
and that she never would get out of it.*

*What is clear though is that Marta
was an excellent girl...
a very special person.*



*Aquesta és la història de la Marta,
una nena alegre, riallera i trapella,
que sempre estava contenta, cantant, ballant...*

*La Marta era també una mica entremaliada.
Hi havia gent que deia que la Marta vivia al seu
"món de fantasia" i que mai sortiria d'ell.*

*El que estava clar és que la Marta era una
persona meravellosa...
una persona molt especial.*



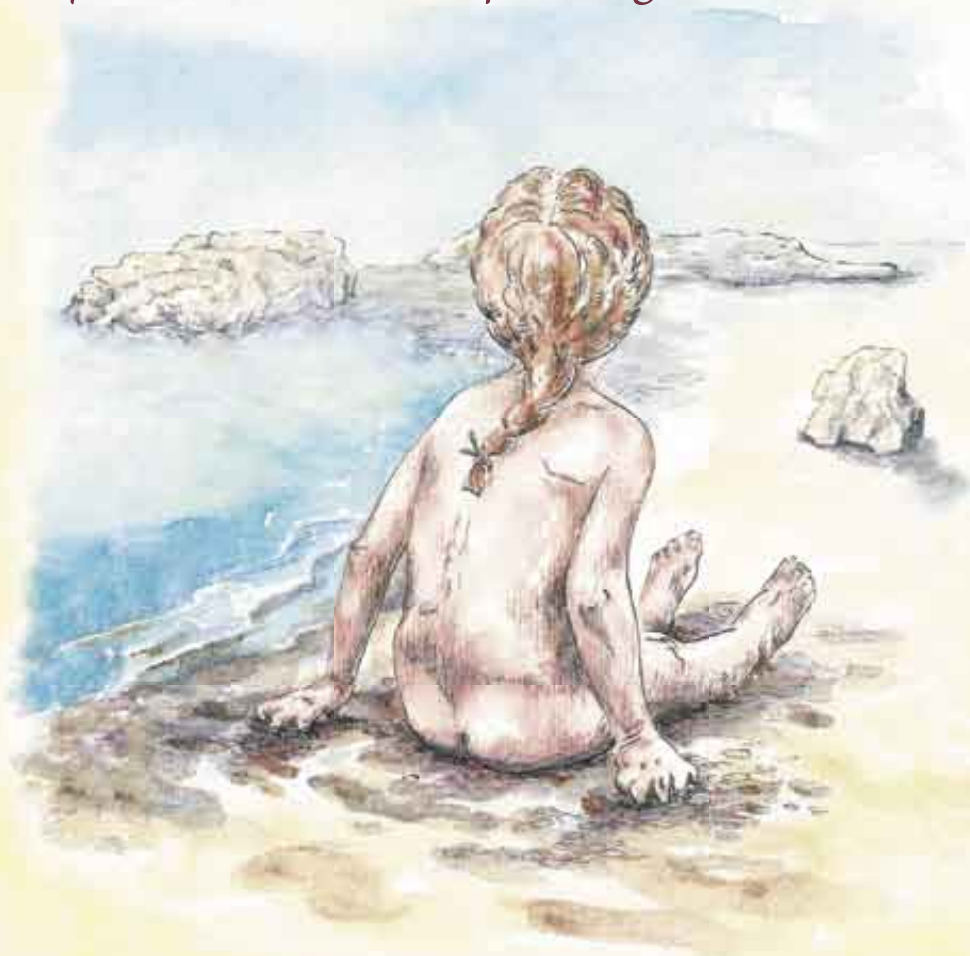


*Marta lived in a small town on the coast
and though she loved playing with her friends
she also spent much time alone.
Whenever she could she went to the beach
to walk along the shore.
Marta said the waves spoke with her.*

*She used to walk to a cliff where
the rocks had bizarre forms.
When the wind blew you could hear sweet sounds...
a beautiful and mysterious music that
Marta always liked to listen to.*

Vivia en un poblet costaner i, encara que
li agradava molt jugar amb els seus amics,
també passava moltes estones sola.
Sempre que podia se n'anava a la platja
a passejar per la sorra.
La Marta deia que les onades li parlaven.


Acostumava a arribar fins a un penya-segat,
on les roques prenen estranyes formes.
Quan bufava el vent, se sentien uns sons dolços...
una música bonica i misteriosa
que a la Marta sempre li agradava escoltar.



*Time passed by and Marta grew up
as happy and vivacious as always.
She had many friends because her happiness was
contagious and everybody felt good being with her.
However, she kept going to the cliff alone to
listen to that music that surged from the rocks
and which she thought came from the wind.*

*But it was not the wind
that made this music...*





*Els anys transcorrien i la Marta anava creixent,
tan feliç i riallera com sempre.
Tenia molts amics perquè encomanava la seva alegria
i tots se sentien molt bé al seu costat.
Però ella seguia anant tota soleta al penya-segat
a escoltar aquella música que sorgia de les roques
i que creia que era produïda pel vent.*

*Però aquella música
no la feia el vent...*



*It was the chant of a little mermaid...
Even if mermaids live on far and lost islands,
sometimes they approach our shores.*

*One day, one of them saw Marta
and she got so happy seeing that girl
that from that moment on she swam more
and more often close to the beach,
hoping Marta would come for a walk.*



*The mermaid never showed herself
but she watched Marta from inside the water.
For mermaids it is forbidden to show themselves to humans
and our mermaid didn't want to disobey her Queen.
She kept coming close to the shore, vigilant,
hoping to see that girl named Marta.
She would have liked to get out of the water
and play with her, but that, of course, she couldn't do.*



sinó els dolços cants d'una petita sireneta...
Malgrat que aquestes criatures visquin
a illes remotes i perdudes, a vegades
s'apropen a les nostres costes.
Un dia una d'elles va veure la Marta,
i tant li va agradar aquella nena que,
a partir d'aquell moment,
cada vegada passava més estones
nedant a prop de la platja, ben atenta i esperant
que vingués a passejar-hi.



La sireneta mai es deixava veure
i l'observava des de l'aigua.
Les sirenes tenen prohibit deixar-se veure pels humans
i la nostra sireneta no volia desobeir la seva reina.
Ella continuava apropant-se a la platja, curiosa,
per si veia aquella nena que es deia Marta.
Li hauria agradat poder sortir de l'aigua
i posar-s'hi a jugar amb ella,
però això era una cosa que no podia fer.

*Time passed by and both grew up.
The mermaid had been coming to the cliff for years
to see Marta and one day she realized
that she felt something very special for her.
She loved her and she decided that she had to talk to her;
she couldn't keep silence any more.*



*She wanted Marta to know her,
she wanted that Marta told her things about her life,
what she did when she wasn't at the beach...
But above all, she had to tell her what she felt for her.*

*El temps passava i les dues varen anar creixent.
La sirena portava anys anant al penya-segat
per veure la Marta i un dia es va adonar
que sentia quelcom molt especial per ella,
l'estimava i va decidir que devia parlar-hi;
no podia continuar callada,*



*volia que la Marta la conegués,
volia que la Marta li expliqués coses de la seva vida,
del que feia quan no era a la platja...
i sobretot volia dir-li el que sentia per ella.*

*Since mermaids are fantastic creatures
with wonderful power
she could speak like humans
and so she did:*

– Hello, Marta!

*Marta was very surprised and she couldn't
believe what she saw.*

*– It's the first time you look so serious,
–the mermaid said– and you don't have to be.
I have been coming here for a long time to see you.
It's me who sings between the rocks of the cliff.*

*The mermaid kept on talking,
telling her things about the sea where she lived in...
and telling her what she felt.*

*Little by little, Marta was calming down
and she too started talking to the mermaid.*



Com que les sirenes són éssers fantàstics
i amb poders meravellosos,
sabia parlar l'idioma de les persones
i així va fer-ho:

– Hola, Marta!



La Marta es va quedar bocabadada,
perquè no podia creure el que estava veient.

– Quina sorpresa! És la primera vegada
que et veig tan seriosa –va dir la sirena–
i no hauries d'estar-ho!... Fa molt de temps
que vinc aquí només per veure't.
Jo sóc qui canta entre les roques!

La sirena va continuar parlant,
explicant-li coses del mar,
a on ella vivia...
i fent-li saber el que sentia.
I de mica en mica
la Marta es va anar tranquil·litzant
i ella també va començar
a parlar amb la sirena.

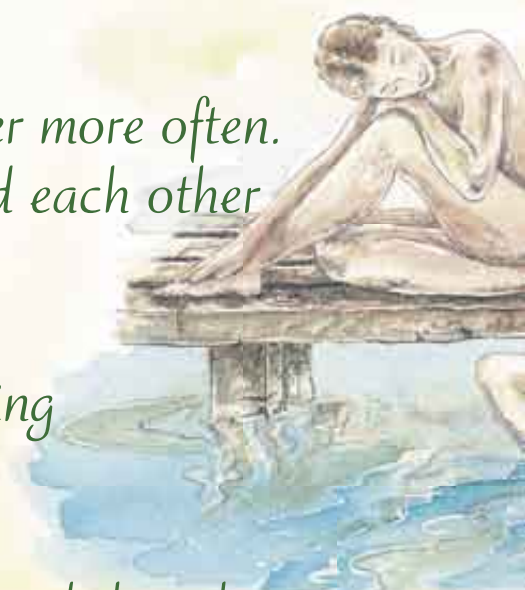



From that day on, they saw each other more often.
They had long conversations, they told each other
stories, they sang together...
and they even swam together.
Little by little, Marta also started feeling
something special for the mermaid.
She was falling in love with her.
Time passed by and one day they realized that they
wanted to live like human families do...

There was one problem though...
The mermaid could not get out of the water.

— I have an idea! —she told Marta —.
I will go and speak with Magunn, the Queen
of Mermaids who is very powerful and I will ask her
to allow me to become a person.
This way I will be able to get out of the water
and live with you... We can try.


The mermaid went to see her Queen
and she raised her request.
She told her she had fallen in love...
She told her how it had happened...
She explained that she loved Marta since they were little girls
and she had seen her playing on the beach...





A partir d'aquest moment es van veure més sovint.
Tenien llargues converses, s'explicaven històries,
cantaven i fins i tot nedaven juntes.
La Marta, a poc a poc, també va anar sentint
quelcom molt especial per la sirena.
S'estava enamorant d'ella.
El temps anava passant i un dia es van adonar
que volien viure com ho fan les famílies humanes...

Però hi havia un problema...
la sirena no podia sortir de l'aigua.



— Se m'acudeix una idea —va dir a la Marta—.
Aniré a parlar amb Magunn, la reina
de les sirenes, que té un gran poder,
i li demanaré que em permeti
convertir-me en una persona.
D'aquesta manera podré sortir de l'aigua
i viure al teu costat... Podem provar-ho.

La sirena va anar a parlar amb la seva reina
per fer-li la petició.
Li va explicar que s'havien enamorat...
Li va explicar com havia passat tot...
Li va explicar que des que eren petites i veia la Marta
jugar a la platja, ja l'estimava...

The Queen of the Mermaids, seeing that it was true what she told and that her feelings were real, decided to grant the mermaid her wish.

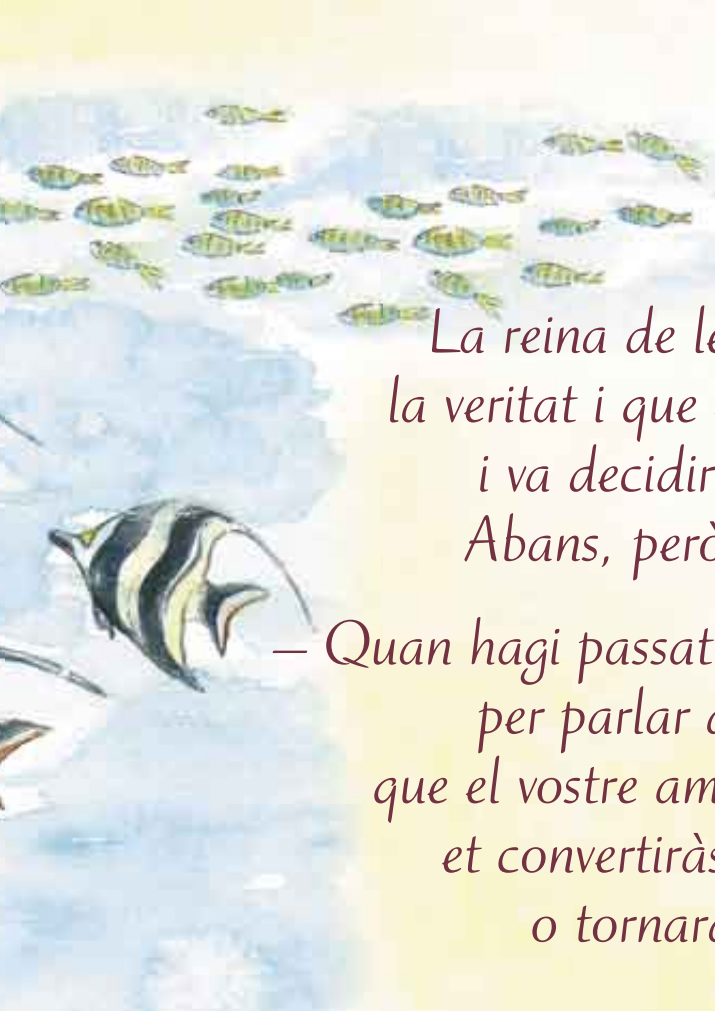
— After one year you will have to return to the sea to see me and show me your love is real. Only then you will become human for ever or stay for ever a mermaid...

“By the power received from the goddess Iar’alk that reigns in the depths of the sea, let your fins turn into legs and allow you to walk!”



The mermaid left the Coral Palace of her Queen and she swam to the shore where Marta was waiting for her. When she arrived, she saw that she could walk out of the water, and hand in hand they went to the village.





La reina de les sirenes va veure que li deia
la veritat i que els seus sentiments eren sincers
i va decidir que li concediria el desig.
Abans, però, li va posar una condició:

– Quan hagi passat un any hauràs de tornar al mar
per parlar amb mi i demostrar-me
que el vostre amor és vertader, tant sols així
et convertiràs en humana per sempre,
o tornaràs a ser una sirena...

“Pel poder que em concedeix Iemanjà,
la deessa que reina al mar,
que amb les teves cames
puguis caminar!”

La sirena va sortir del Castell de Corall
de la seva reina i va tornar a la platja,
on l’esperava la Marta.

Quan va arribar es va adonar que podia
sortir caminant de l’aigua i,
agafades de la mà, van anar cap al poble.



*They settled down in Marta's house
and they started living together.
When people asked Marta where she had met her,
Marta answered with a big smile:*

*– She was a mermaid and she fell in love with me
when I used to go walking on the beach.*

*People in the village didn't understand
and incredibly they said:*

*– Marta! You will never change!
Always in your "world of fantasy".*



*Van començar a viure juntes a casa de la Marta.
Quan la gent li preguntava on l'havia conegut,
la Marta responia amb un gran somriure:*

*– Ella era una sirena i es va enamorar de mi
quan jo anava a la platja a passejar.*

*La gent del poble no entenia res
i amb posat d'incredulitat li contestaven:*

*– Marta... mai no canviaràs!
Sempre al teu "món de fantasia"!*



Marta, who was the most happy woman of the world, laughed and she thought that they would never believe nor understand her, but she didn't care.



Day after day, the year passed by and the moment came when the mermaid had to return to the sea to see her Queen, as promised.

Both, she and Marta, were very sad because they had to leave each other and they didn't know what would happen. They were afraid the mermaid wouldn't be allowed to become human any more. When she had to go they promised each other crying that whatever happened they would always love each other.



La Marta, que era la dona més feliç del món
reia i pensava que potser mai no la creurien
ni entendrien, però tant li feia.

I, dia rera dia, va passar l'any.

I va arribar el moment en què la sirena
havia de tornar per parlar amb la seva reina,
com li havia promès.

Tant ella com la Marta se sentien molt tristes,
perquè s'havien de separar

i es preguntaven què passaria.

Tenien molta por que la sirena
no pogués tornar a ser humana.

En acomiadar-se, entre llàgrimes,

es van prometre que,

passés el que passés,

sempre s'estimarien.

When the mermaid got in front of her Queen
she told her what she had done
during that year they had been living together
and she told her she loved Marta
even more than the first day she had seen her.

The Queen of the Mermaids
realized that even if it
was a difficult decision
and though there
would be no way back,
she had to grant the
mermaid her
wish forever ...
and so she did.

The mermaid could
return to her
great love, Marta,
and she could grow
old with her,
living like a person...
in her "world of fantasy".



Quan la sirena va arribar davant de la seva reina,
li va relatar tot el que havien fet
durant l'any que van viure juntes
i li va explicar que seguia estimant la Marta,
més i tot que el primer dia.

La reina de les sirenes
va entendre que,
malgrat ser una decisió
difícil i sense tornada,
havia de concedir-li
el desig per sempre...
i així ho va fer.

I la sirena va poder
tornar amb el seu
gran amor, la Marta;
i va poder envellir
al seu costat,
vivint com ho fan les persones...
al seu "món de fantasia".

Dedico aquest conte a la Clara, al Luis i a la Marina.
I dedicate this story to Clara, Luis and Marina.
M. Luisa Guerrero



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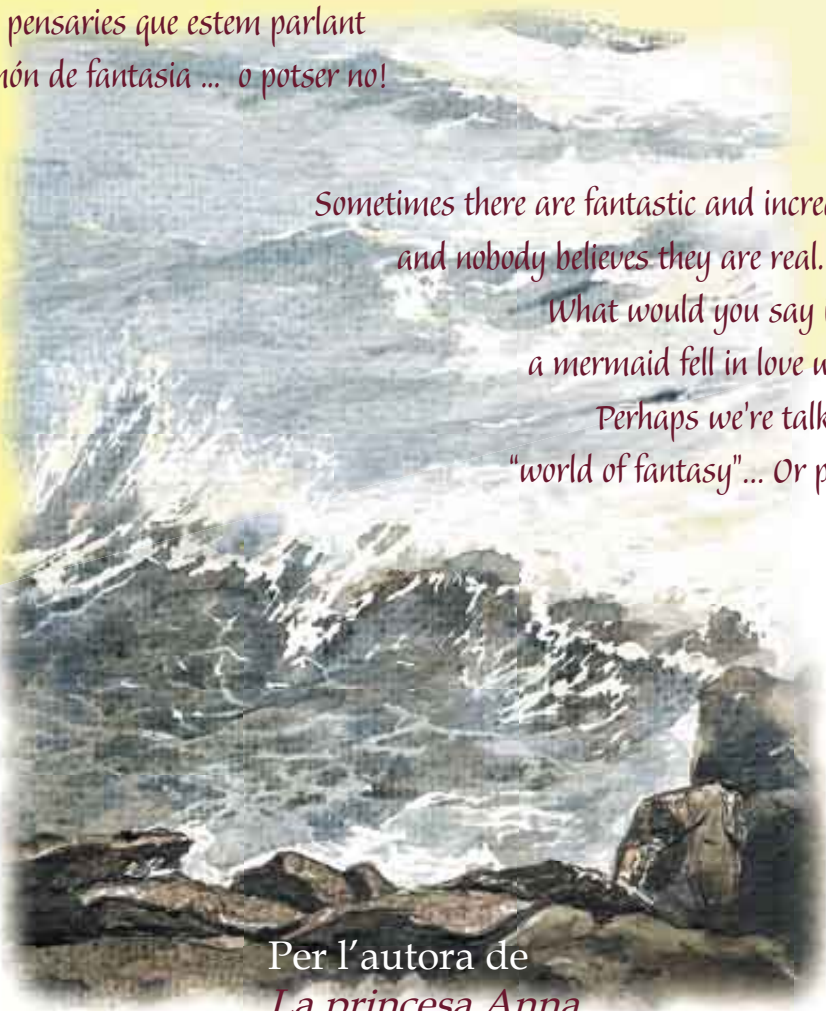
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Existeixen, a vegades, històries increïbles i fantàstiques,
i gairebé ningú creu que siguin reals. Però aquesta sí que ho és...
Tu què pensaries si et digués que una sirena
es va enamorar de la Marta?...
Potser pensaries que estem parlant
d'un món de fantasia ... o potser no!



Per l'autora de
La princesa Anna
Seelie, la fada bona
El cotxe vell

By the author of
Princess Anne
Seelie, the good fairy
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