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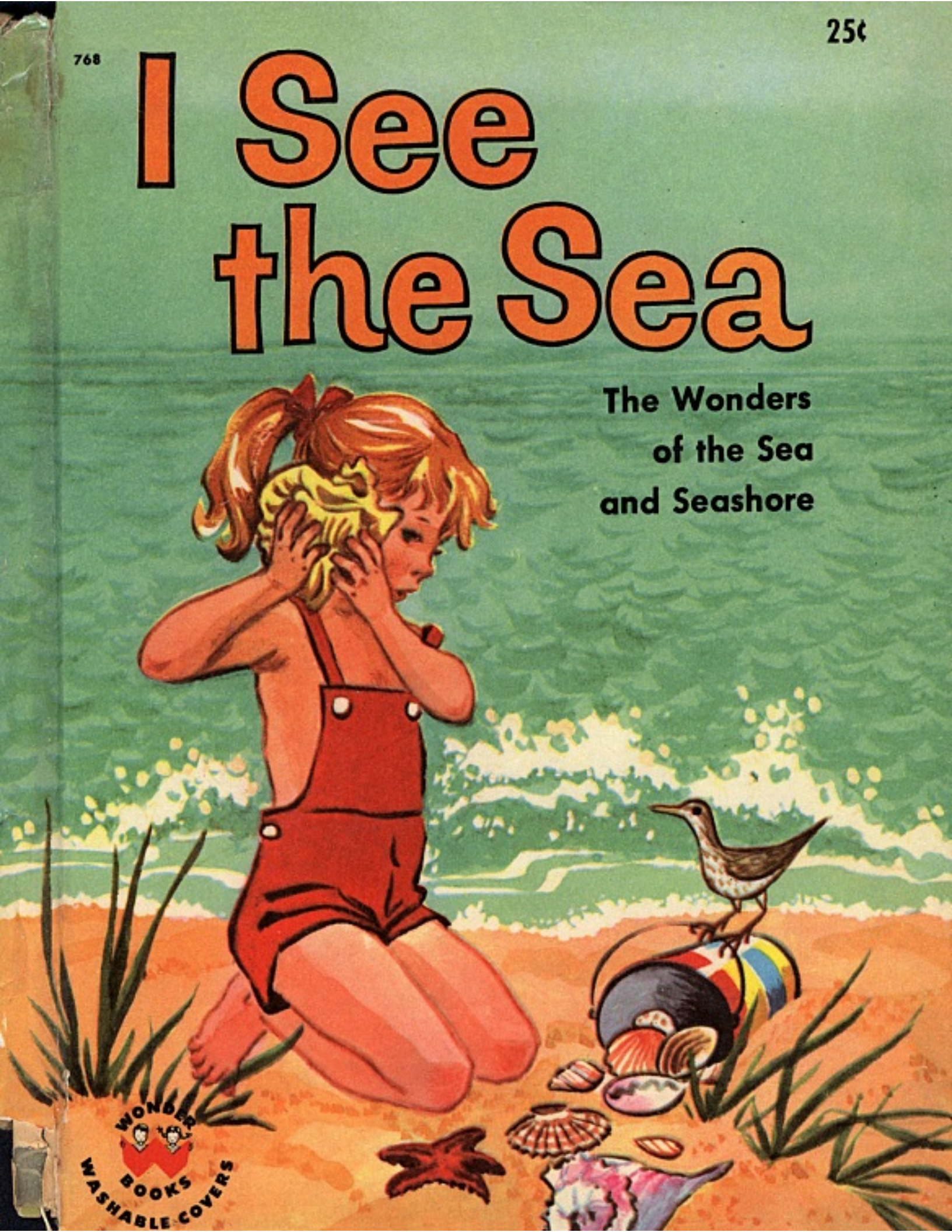
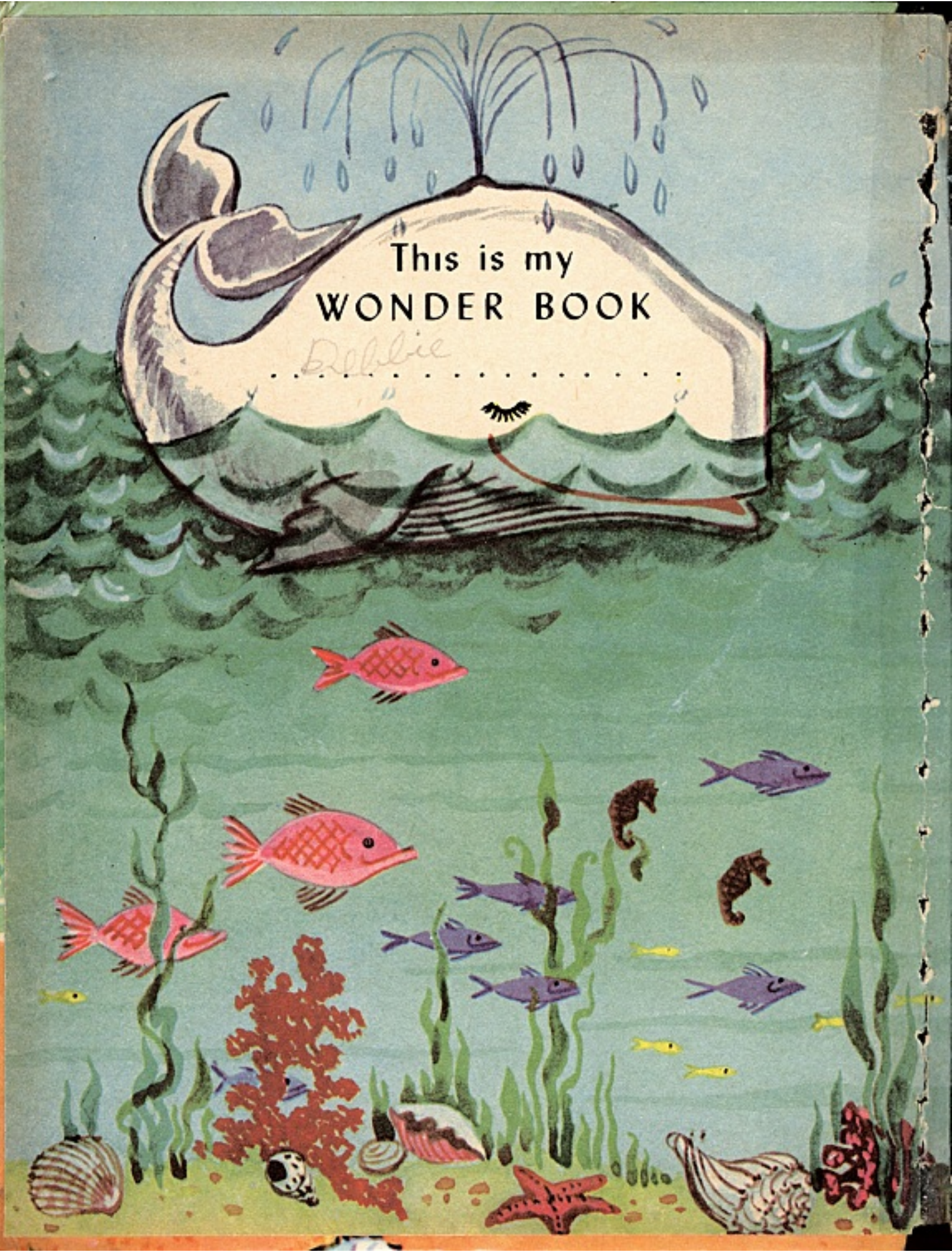
I See the Sea

The Wonders of the Sea and Seashore



WONDER BOOKS
WASHABLE COVERS


This is my
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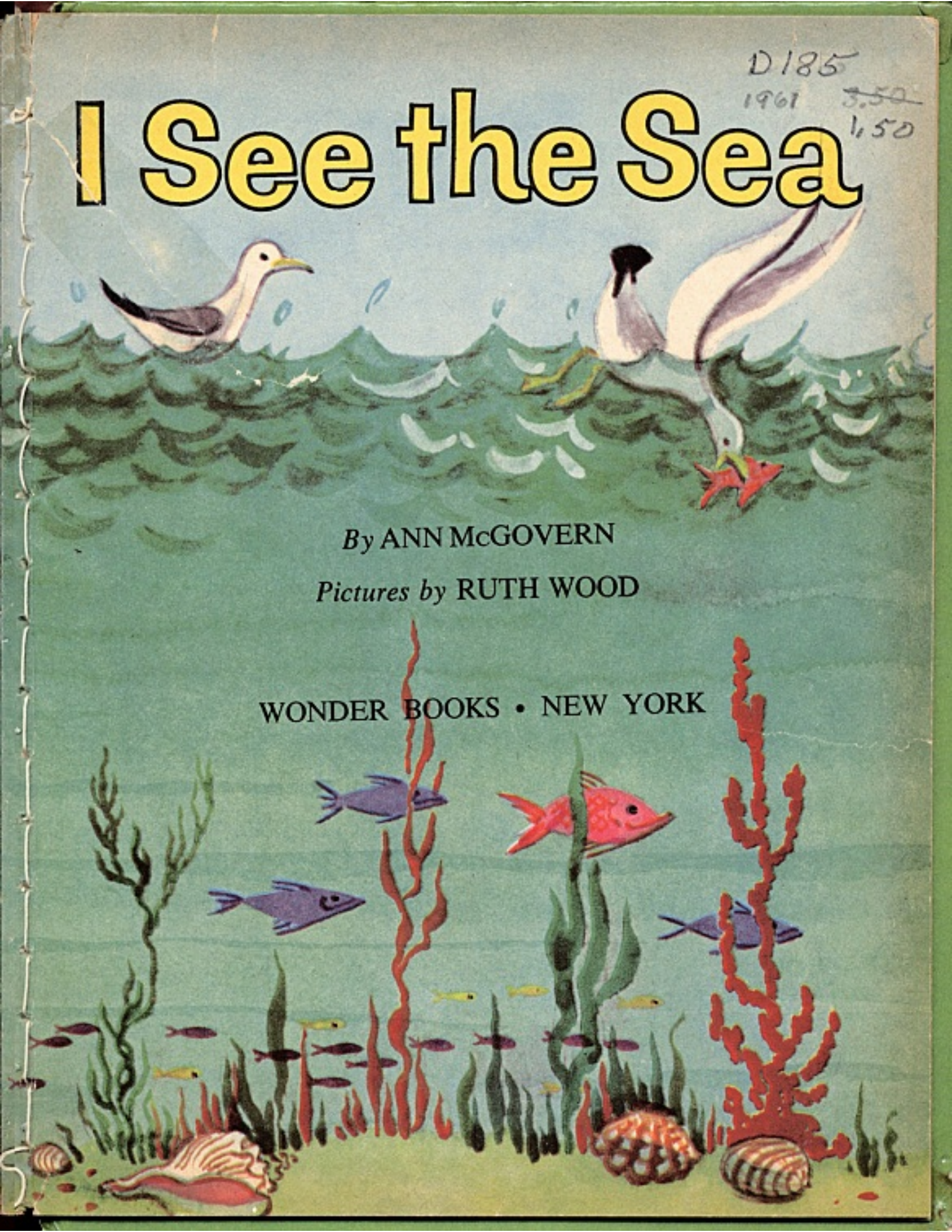
I See the Sea



By ANN McGOVERN

Pictures by RUTH WOOD

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EARLY in the morning, I hurry down to the sea. I run across the sandy beach to its edge. And there I see the sea. There is so much of the big, wide, deep blue sea. Mother says there is more sea than there is land in the world.

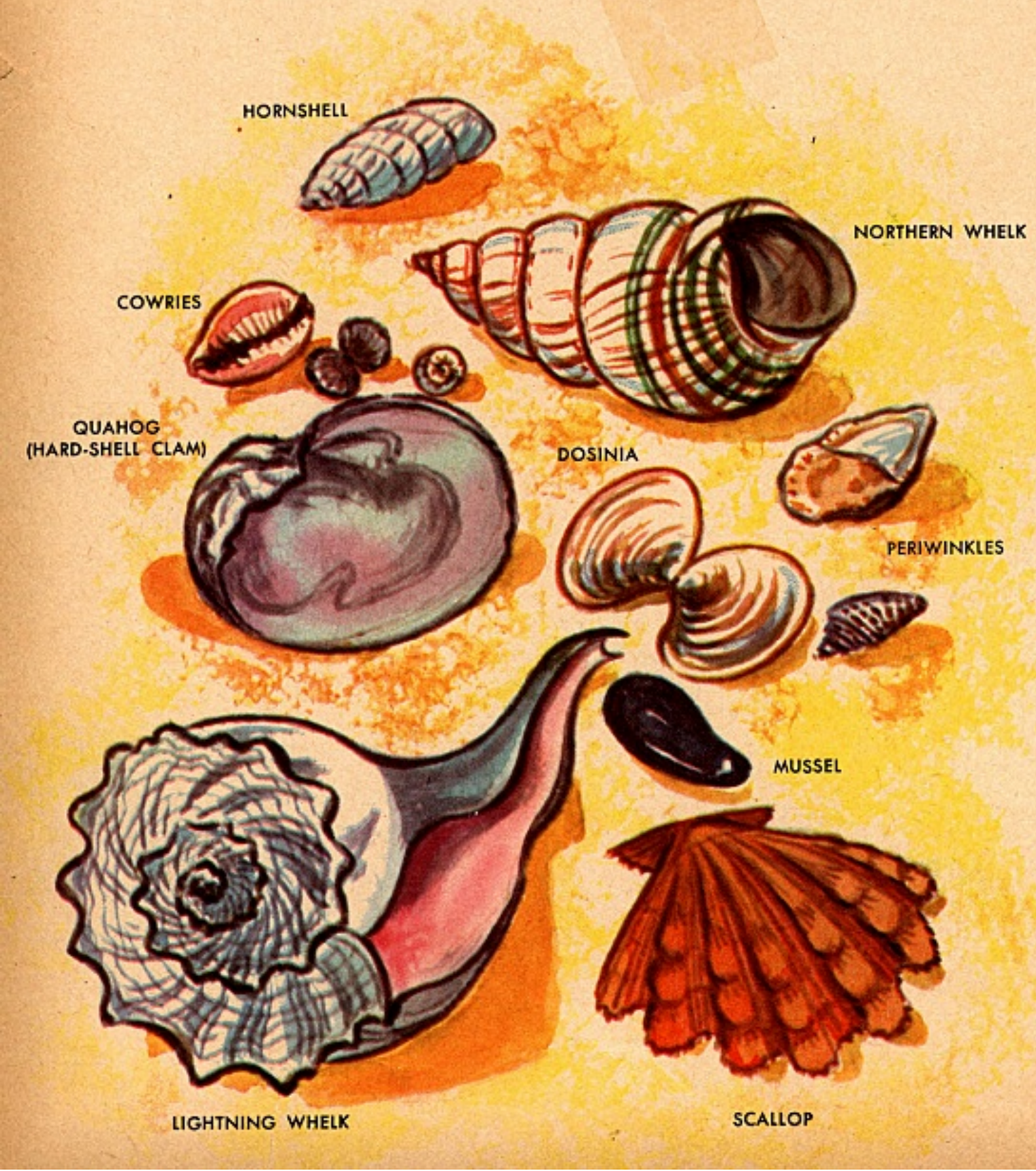
The beach is smooth and soft and warm. The sand sifts and drifts through my fingers. Look! I have made a hill — a cake — a castle in the sand.

Once I visited another kind of beach. Instead of smooth sand, the beach was covered with rocks and stones and pebbles. I climbed up on a steep cliff and watched the green water crashing against the shore. I saw the water roll into dark caves. I filled my pail with many different kinds of stones.

I asked Daddy what makes the waves. "The wind blowing on the sea makes the waves," he said. "Strong winds make big, crashing waves. Light winds make little playful waves."

I like the little waves best. It is fun to feel them rolling and splashing over my toes. It's fun to watch the breezes move little sailboats along on the sea.

I fill my pail with shells. Here are smooth shells and rough shells. I find shells of all sizes, all shapes, all colors. Mother says shells were once the homes of sea animals.



Dig. Dig. Dig in the wet sand. I find a sand crab. It is the same color as the sand on the beach. I find another crab with a purple and yellow shell. Look at me walking sideways — I'm a crab, too!

Time to rest now. I lie on the beach and look at the sea. The sea never rests. The sea keeps moving and changing. The waves draw back and roll forward, over and over again. If I could fill my bathtub a million times with water from the sea, there would still be plenty of sea water left. For the sea never runs dry.

The mewing cries of the sea gulls wake me. They swoop and glide over the waves, looking for food. Their food is the fish that live in the sea. I see busy little sandpipers running across the beach, leaving funny tracks in the wet sand.

From the beach I cannot see the fish that live in the sea. But Mother says the sea is filled with living things. Some fish live near the top and some fish live near the bottom of the sea.

There are plants in the sea, too — red, green, and brown seaweed. Look! The sea left a present for me. A long string of green seaweed.

That's strange. Now I see rocks and shells that I didn't see this morning. Mother says it's low tide now. That means the water is pulled back from the beach. At high tide, the water rolls way up on the beach, covering the rocks and shells.

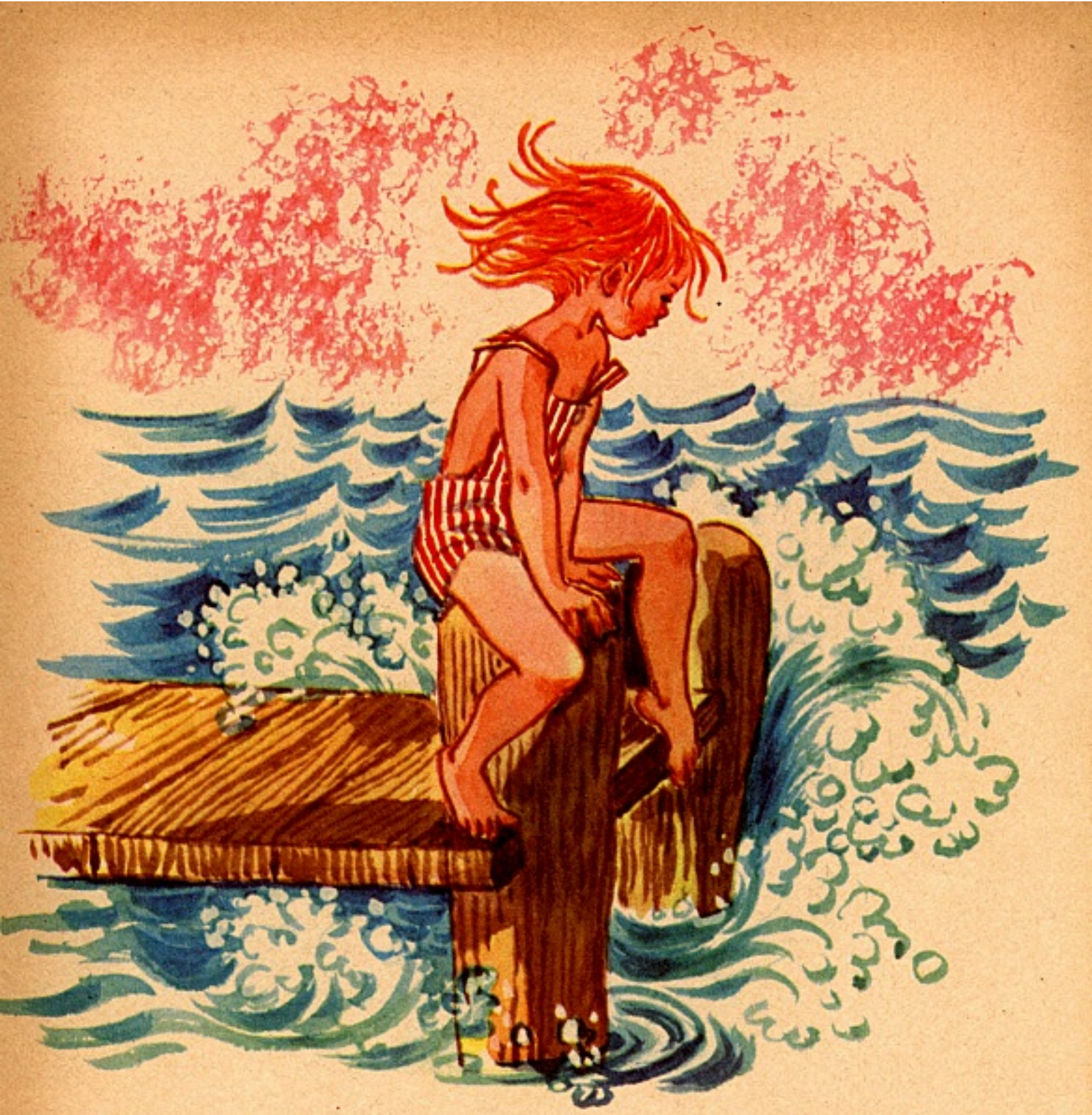
Now the wind is blowing strong. The high waves roar as they crash and boom and spray against the gray rocks. Little foamy whitecaps spill over as the waves tumble in. When I hold a big shell close to my ear, I can hear the sea speak to me.

I remember the time I went out to sea on my uncle's fishing boat. When it was nighttime, the moon laid a silvery path across the deep, wide sea.

The men on my uncle's boat lowered big nets into the sea. Later, when they brought them up, the nets were filled with hundreds of fish. My uncle sends his fish to the markets.

Strange fish live deep down in the sea. They live where the waters are inky black. Many of these fish have bright lights on their bodies. Some carry little lanterns.

I remember the foghorn sounding in the night. And I remember a beam of light shining over the sea. The light came from a lighthouse. The light guides ships away from sand bars and big rocks that are hidden under the water.



I hear the boom and the crash and the slap of the sea. I smell the smell of the salty sea. And I wonder about the wonderful sea.

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