

Mermaid KINGDOM


by Janet Gurtler



Shyanna's
Wish

The title 'Mermaid Kingdom' is centered on a teal background. 'Mermaid' is written in a white, cursive font with a pink outline, while 'KINGDOM' is in a bold, yellow, blocky font with a pink outline. The text is framed by a decorative pink border with intricate floral and vine patterns. The background is filled with various elements: a large green mermaid tail with a pink flower on it in the upper right; white and blue wavy patterns in the top left; numerous white starburst sparkles of varying sizes scattered throughout; and several blue gear-like symbols and pink flowers. The overall aesthetic is whimsical and aquatic.

Mermaid
KINGDOM



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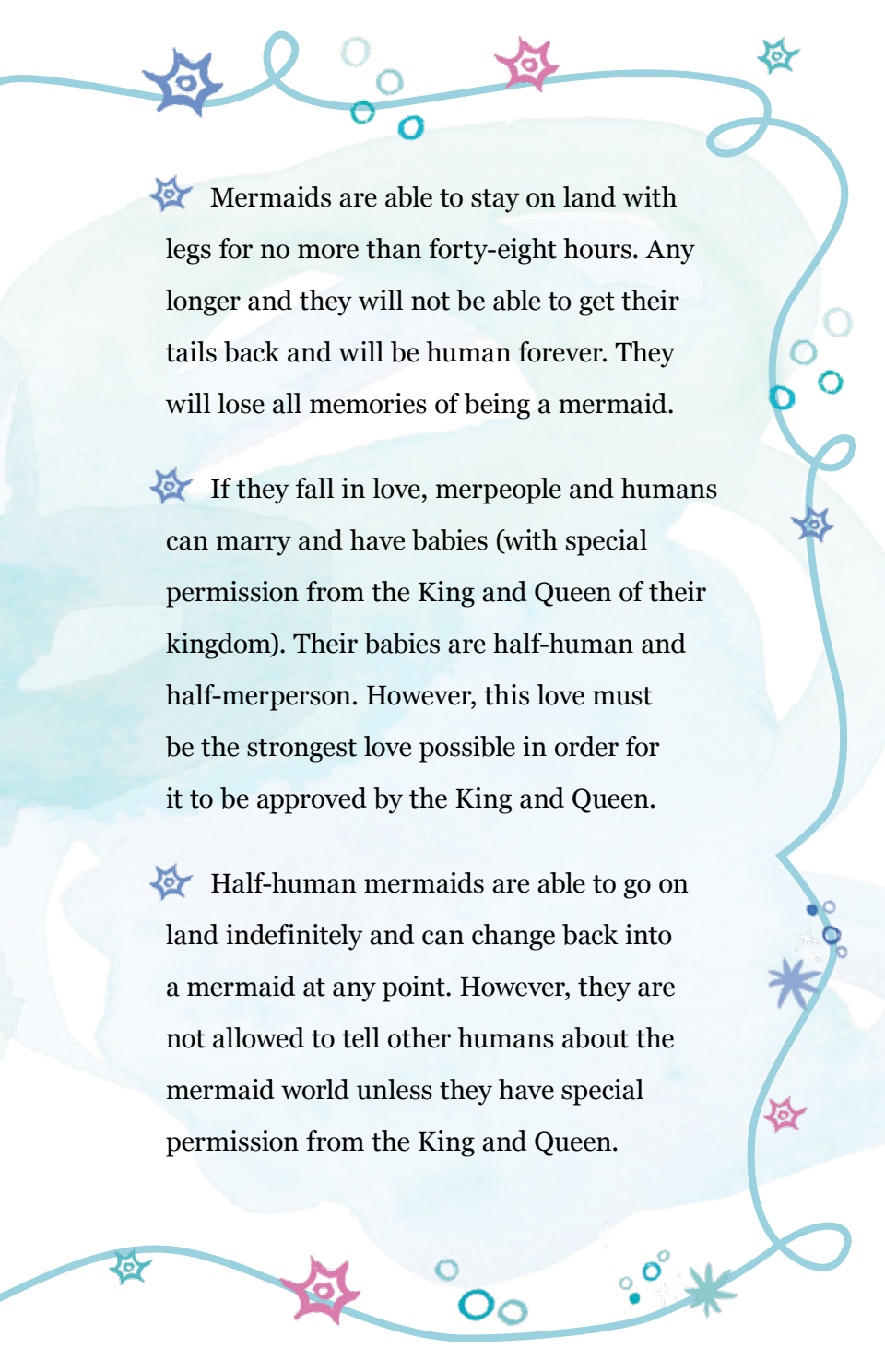
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by Janet Gurtler
illustrated by Katie Wood

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Mermaid life

- ★ Mermaid Kingdom refers to all the kingdoms in the sea, including Neptunia, Caspian, Hercules, Titania and Nessland. Each kingdom has a King and Queen who live in a castle. Merpeople live in caves.
- ★ Mermaids get their legs on their thirteenth birthdays at the stroke of midnight. It's a celebration when the mermaid makes her first voyage onto land. After their thirteenth birthdays, mermaids can go onto land for short periods of time but must be very careful.
- ★ If a mermaid goes onto land before her thirteenth birthday, she will get her legs early and never get her tail back. She will lose all memories of being a mermaid and will be human forever.



★ Mermaids are able to stay on land with legs for no more than forty-eight hours. Any longer and they will not be able to get their tails back and will be human forever. They will lose all memories of being a mermaid.

★ If they fall in love, merpeople and humans can marry and have babies (with special permission from the King and Queen of their kingdom). Their babies are half-human and half-merperson. However, this love must be the strongest love possible in order for it to be approved by the King and Queen.

★ Half-human mermaids are able to go on land indefinitely and can change back into a mermaid at any point. However, they are not allowed to tell other humans about the mermaid world unless they have special permission from the King and Queen.





Chapter one

It was almost the big day! Only one more night until my birthday! Everyone loves their birthday, but this year was extra special for me because I was going to be thirteen. In Mermaid Kingdom, your thirteenth birthday is a VBD (very big deal). At midnight on thirteenth birthdays, merpeople can go onto land and get to use legs for the first time. After that, our legs can be used on land for a few hours at a time. I was really looking forward to being able to join my best friends, Rachel and Cora, for adventures on land.

I loved being a mermaid and I loved the sea, but there was something about breathing air and having legs that intrigued me, too.

“Shyanna!” my mum called while I plaited my hair and imagined myself skipping on the beach.

“What’s up, Mum?” I shouted from my room as I finished off my hair. I imagined she was curious about which song I’d selected to sing at my midnight leg ceremony. The leg ceremony was completely magical.

“Have you finished with the shell decorations you and the girls were making for the Neptunia Day parade?” my mum asked.

I rolled my eyes at the reflection in my mirror. The mirror was a treasure my dad had found in an old shipwreck. He’d given it to me just before he disappeared two years earlier.

Neptunia may have been the best kingdom in the sea, but there were always dangers underwater. From humans and nets to sharks and storms, the sea was a

dangerous place to live. Anything could happen at any time, and nobody really knows what happened to my dad. Although it's getting easier, my mum and I still miss him every day.

"They're finished," I called. "We left them on the kitchen table."

"Thank goodness. We have to finish off all the details on the Queen's float this morning. You girls are lifesavers!" she called. "I was up so late last night going over all the last minute details with the parade committee. I never could have done them on my own." She swam into my room and smiled at me. "You look so beautiful." She swam closer and kissed me on the cheek. "I can't believe it's your last day as a twelve-year-old mergirl!"

Mum was always so busy on Neptunia Day because she was the leader of the parade committee. Unfortunately, this year Neptunia Day fell on the same day as my birthday. It was overshadowing my big day a bit, but I was trying hard not to let it ruin things.