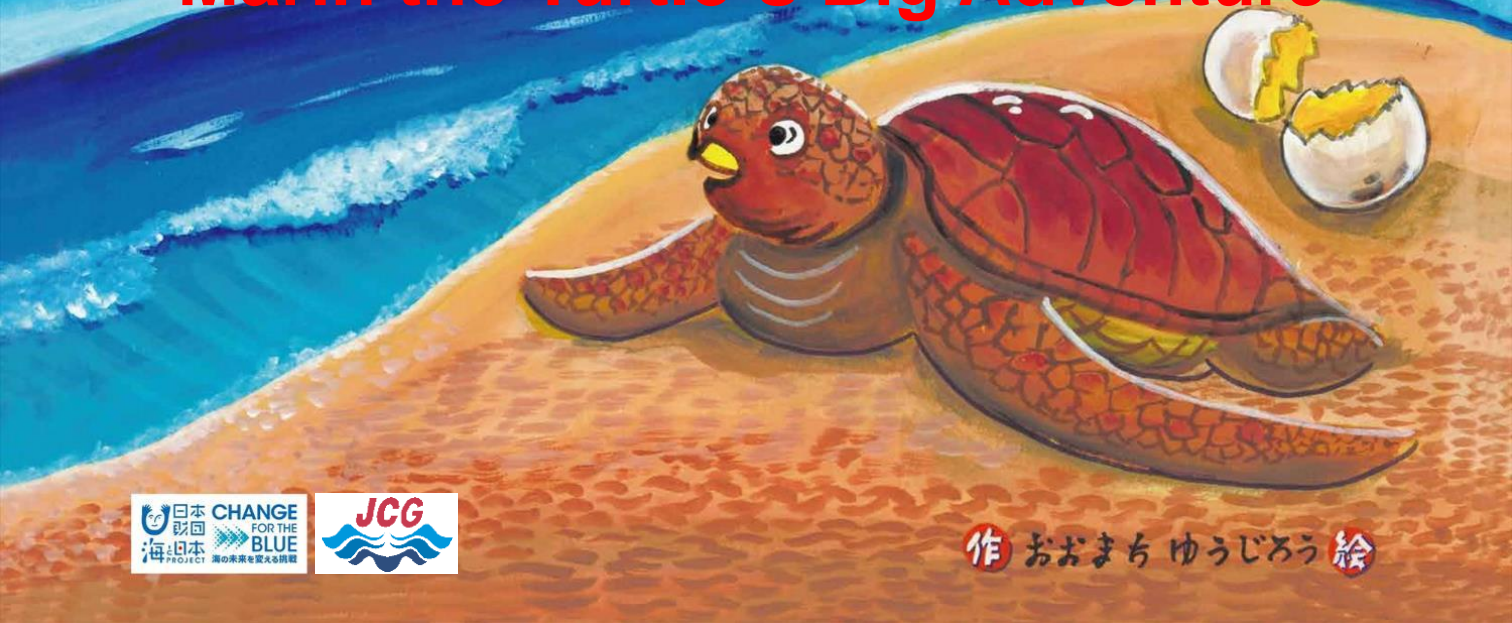


うみがめマリンの大冒険

Marin the Turtle's Big Adventure



① The birth of Marin

Words and pictures: Omachi Yujiro
Translator: Amano Kurumi

Hi! My name is Marin!

I was born on a dazzling white beach by the mighty ocean.

The blue sea and blue sky go on forever.

A fresh sea breeze always blows.

I have grown up eating seaweed and fish. My favorite is jellyfish!

My home by the ocean is beautiful and comfortable.



② Encounter

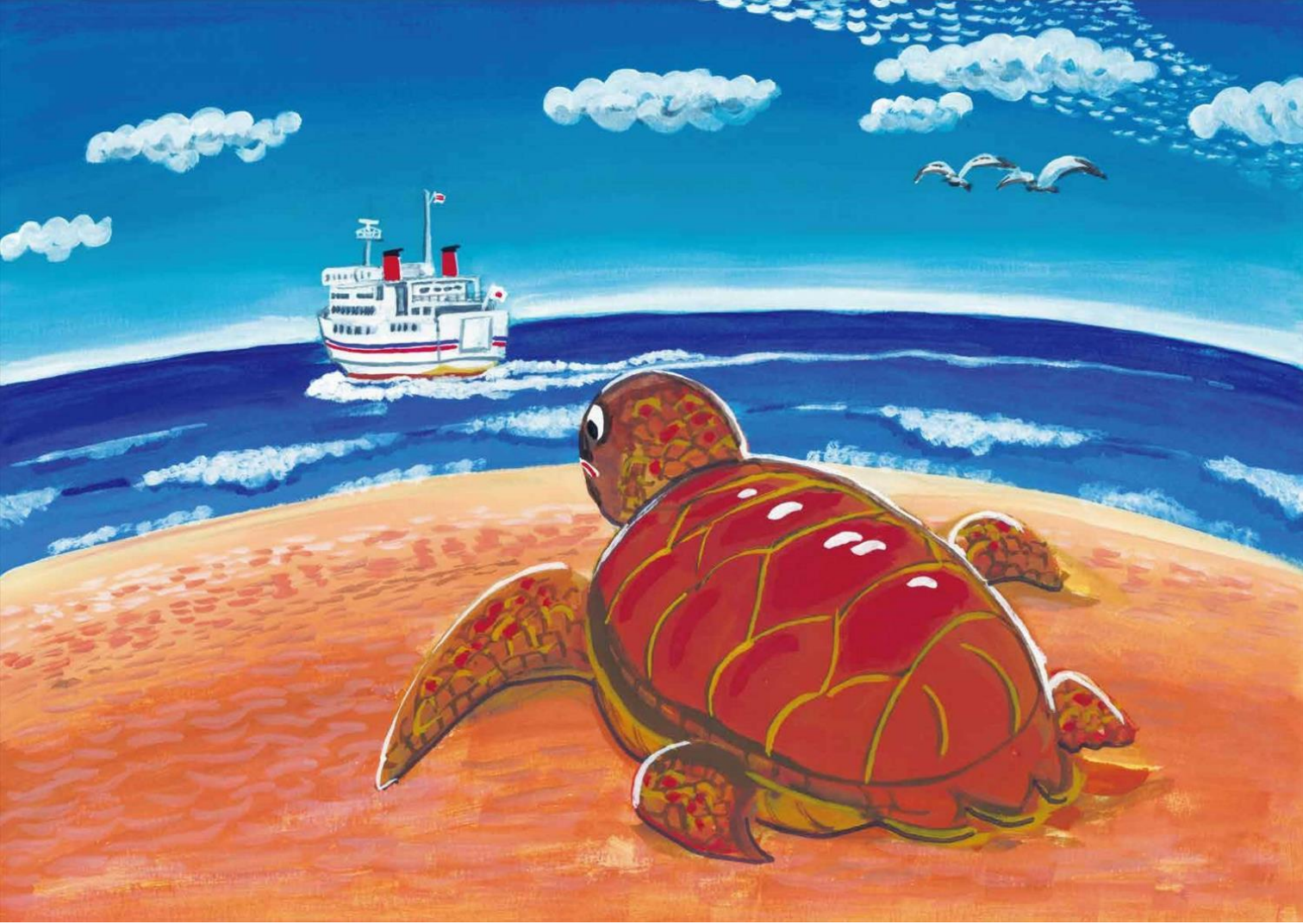
One summer, a group of children who lived in town came to play me.

We had great fun playing every day.

We met wonderful creatures in the deep blue sea.

The kids rode on my back for swims through the sea.

“The sea is so lovely!” they cried.”



③ The adventure begins

At the end of summer vacation, the day children went back to the town.

I watched them get smaller and smaller on the ship carrying them away.

I felt very sad when the ship disappeared into the distance.

‘I’ll go after them!’

Marine began to swim.



④ Swimming hard

I passed many ships as I swam.

‘This is a container ship. It’s so big!’

‘A cargo ship is coming next!’

‘A very fast ship is coming towards me. It looks like a passenger liner.’

‘A fisherman’s boat is coming, too.’

‘This is the first time I’ve seen ships so close.’

‘So many ships are passing!’

‘The countless stars above twinkle so beautifully.’

‘I wonder what the children are dreaming of just now.’

Marine kept swimming hard late into the night.



⑤ Sea gets polluted

The sun rose and morning came.

‘Oh! I see many houses and factories.’

‘That must be the town. My friends the children must be there.’

‘My friends are probably already up. For they are early risers, like me.’

‘I’m almost there, but the water is getting dirty. Garbage is floating all around me. I can hardly see what’s in front of me.’



⑥ Getting hungry

‘I’ve been swimming for many hours. I’m getting so hungry!’

‘There’s a jellyfish! My favorite food!’

I snatched it up but couldn’t chew it, so I gulped it down.

‘Strange. This jellyfish has no taste.’

Marin ate many of the strange jellyfish.



⑦ Marin in trouble

‘Soon I can meet the children!’

Marin swam hard. Then...

‘Oh, my stomach hurts! I feel dizzy! What’s going on?’

‘I’m going to drown!’

This was it! Marin was in deep trouble.

Just then a coast guard patrol boat drew near.

‘Look! That turtle is having trouble. Is he sick? He’s drowning!’



⑧ Rescued

A coast guard officer rescued me and took me to a nearby harbor.

‘Oh my goodness!’

‘My stomach is killing me. What am I going to do?’

‘I might never see the children ever again. I’m starting to go blind!’

Then they took me to a hospital near the harbor.



⑨ The wrong meal

‘There’s no time to lose!’

The doctor at the hospital looked worried, too.

I had an operation right away.

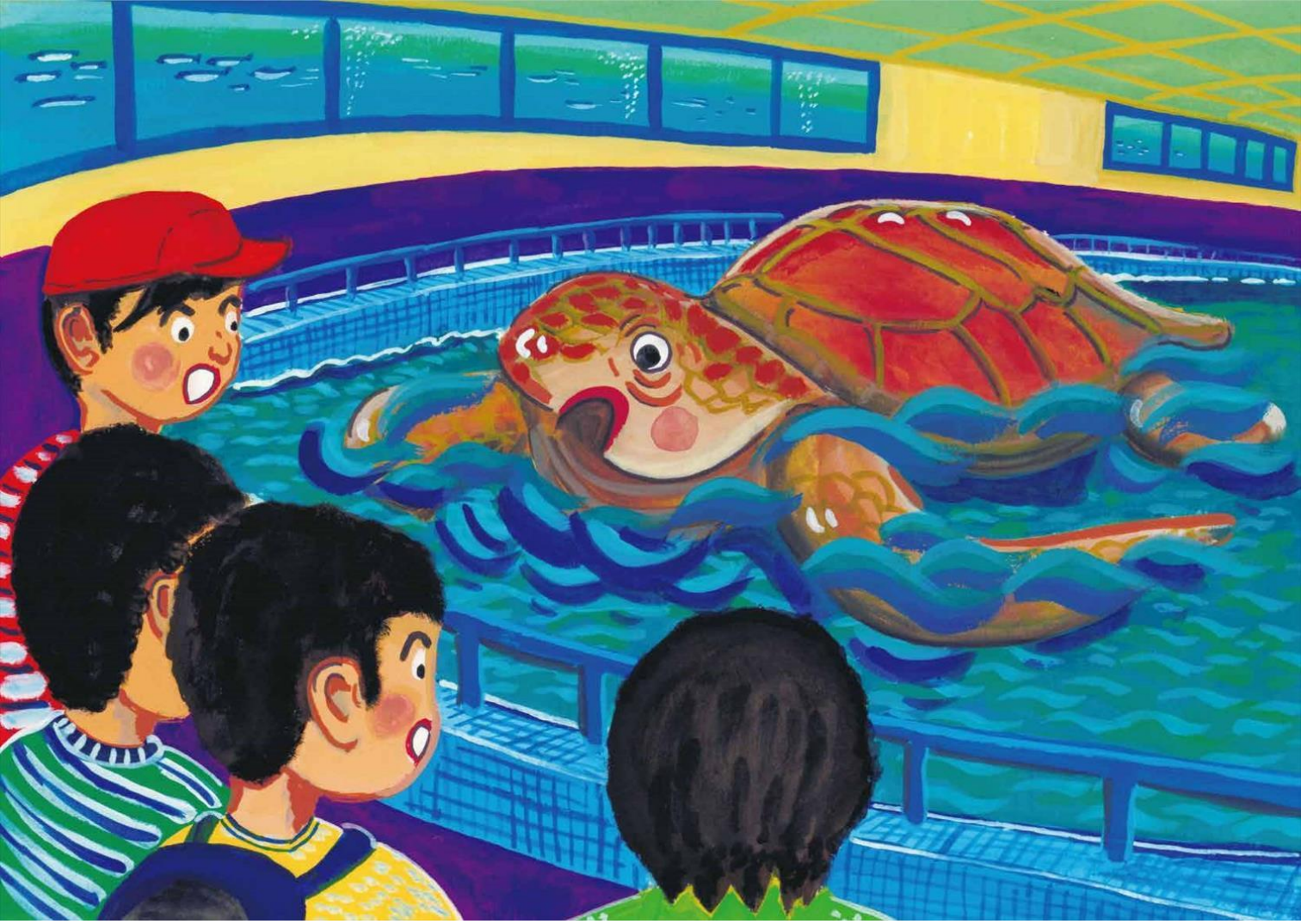
‘It hurts!’

The doctor was surprised by what he found in my stomach.

He pulled out five plastic shopping bags, one by one.

‘I thought they were jellyfish!’

Plastic garbage blocked up my stomach. I almost died.



⑩ A favor

At last, thanks to the operation, I got better. For the next few months I lived in an aquarium.

Many children came to see me every day.

‘Hey kids! I can’t see through the water when the ocean is dirty with garbage or oil.’

‘I almost died from eating plastic bags. They looked like jellyfish.’

‘All the creatures in the sea are in trouble, not only me.’



⑪ About the seabird

One day my friend Peeko the Seabird came down with a sudden stomachache and couldn't fly. The coast guard officer rescued her and emptied her stomach of plastic.

These broken pieces are called micro plastic. Sea creatures all over the world eat them.

Don't throw garbage into the beautiful sea or on the white beach my friends and I so love.



⑫ And from now on

I got better and returned to my hometown beach. The coast guard officer, the doctor, and my friends at the aquarium saved my life.

The people in the town are trying to clean up their rivers and the sea.

Healthy rivers and oceans are important to the lives of all creatures, including you and me.

Please take care of them. From me, Marin.

Preserving the Blue Sea for the Future!