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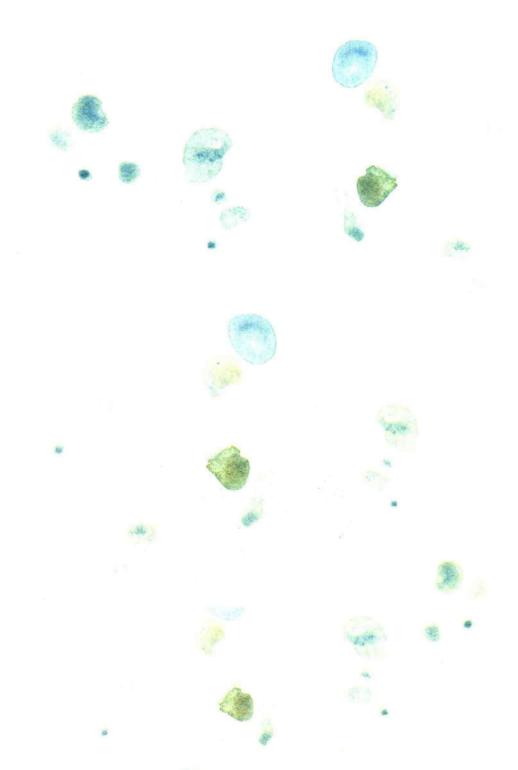
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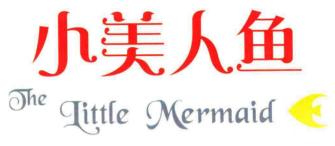
## 小美人鱼

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In the middle of the ocean, the water is as clear as the purest crystal. Strange trees grow here, and fish of all different sizes swim among their branches. There are plants with stems and petals so thin that they swish at the slightest movement of the water.

Once, long ago, the King of the Sea's **castle** could be found here. The walls were made of coral and the tall **arched** windows were of clear **amber**. The roof was made from shells that opened and closed. Each of the shells **contained** a shiny,



在大海的中央,海水像最纯粹的水晶一样清澈。那里生长着奇异的树木,大大小小的鱼儿在树枝间游来游去。有些植物的枝干和花瓣是那么的柔软,水只要轻轻一动,就会使它们摇晃起来。

在很久以前,海王的城堡曾经就耸立在这里。城堡的墙是 由珊瑚砌成的,高高的拱形窗户镶嵌着明净的琥珀。屋顶上铺 着会一开一合的贝壳。每个贝壳里都有一颗闪亮的珍珠,个头

middle *n.* 中央 different *adj.* 各式各样的 castle *n.* 城堡 arched *adj.* 拱形的 contain *vt.* 包含

slightest *adj.* 最轻微的 amber *n.* 琥珀 sparkling pearl, worthy of a royal crown.

The King of the Sea lived in the castle. He had been a widower for many years, and his elderly mother looked after him and took care of her grandchildren, the little princesses of the sea. She loved these seven beautiful **mermaids** very much.

All day, the princesses played in the castle gardens. They swam with the fishes, fed them from their hands, and **stroked** them. Each mermaid had her own patch of the garden, where she could plant the flowers she wanted. One of them planted flowers in the shape of a whale, another planted them in the



大得足以用来装饰皇冠。

海王就住在这座城堡里。他的王后去世多年,是老母亲照顾着国王和他的女儿们,也就是海公主们。老母亲特别喜爱这7位美丽的人鱼公主。

公主们整天在城堡的花园里玩耍。她们和鱼儿一起游来游去,喂它们,抚摸它们。每一位美人鱼公主在花园里都有一小块地,可以在上面随意种花。一位公主把花种成了鲸鱼的形状,





shape of an **octopus**. But the youngest mermaid put up a **marble** statue of a **handsome** young man that had sunk to the bottom of the sea after a **shipwreck**, and she surrounded it with red flowers.

Ariel—for that was the little mermaid's name—loved to have **pretended conversations** with the statue. She spent days imagining that he would come to life and **describe** his world—the world of humans. Every night she begged her grandmother to tell her all she knew of this world—of ships and cities, men and animals. No other subject **interested** her



另一位把花种成了章鱼的形状。但是,最小的美人鱼公主在她 的地里竖起了一尊英俊少年的大理石雕像,那是她从一艘沉船 里找到的宝贝,她还在雕像四周种满了红色的鲜花。

爱丽尔——这是最小的那位美人鱼公主的名字。她喜欢和雕像聊天,她还整天想象着雕像会活过来,描述他的世界——

octopus *n*. 章鱼 marble *n*. 大理石 handsome *adj*. 英俊的 shipwreck *n*. 沉船 pretended *adj*. 假装的 conversation *n*. 交谈,会话 describe *vt*. 叙述 interest *vt*. 使产生兴趣

more.

"When you are eighteen," their grandmother told the young mermaids one evening, "you will be **allowed** to go to the **surface** of the ocean. You can sit on the rocks and watch the big ships **sailing** by. You'll see forests and cities! It is a **wonderful** thing to do!"

The next month, Ariel's eldest sister **celebrated** her eighteenth birthday. But it would be five years before Ariel



人类的世界。每天晚上,她都央求祖母讲述她所知道的人类世界的一切,关于船、城市、人和动物的故事。除此之外,没有哪个话题更让她感兴趣了。

"等你们到了十八岁,"一天晚上,老祖母对孙女们说,"你们就可以游到海面上去。坐在岩石上,看大船从身边驶过。你们还能看到森林和城市!那是一件奇妙的事情!"

下个月,爱丽尔的大姐就要过十八岁生日了。但爱丽尔还得等五年才能游到海面上去。她等不及了!人类的世界有

allow vt. 准许(做某事) surface n. 水面 sail vi.&vt. 航行wonderful adj. 极好的,绝妙的 celebrate v. 庆祝





herself could go to the surface. She couldn't wait! There must be so much to **discover** about the human world, things that even their grandmother did not know! All the sisters longed to visit it, but none of them was as **curious** as Ariel.

Each night, the little mermaid would linger at the castle window, gazing up towards the surface of the ocean. She could see the moon and the stars, through the water. They seemed so large! If a dark shadow blocked them out, she imagined that a whale, or a ship with lots of people onboard,



太多事情等着她去发现,太多连祖母都不知道的事情! 所有的姐妹们都盼着到海面上去,但没有谁比爱丽尔对那个世界更好奇。

每个夜晚,小美人鱼都在城堡的窗前久久不愿离去。她抬头望向海面,透过海水,她能看到月亮和星星,它们看上去是那么大!如果有影子挡住了光亮,她就会想象有一条鲸鱼游过,或是一艘载满人的船只从头顶驶过。"船上的人永远都不会知

discover vt. 发现 curious adj. 好奇的 gaze vi. 凝视 towards prep. 朝,向 shadow n. 影子 imagine vt.&vi. 想象

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