



My Treasury of Stories

# Beautiful Stories

我的童话宝库 美丽的传说

英文原版

英国圆顶屋出版社 编著

中国纺织出版社




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# The Mermaid and the Magic Pearl

Deep down in the ocean, tucked away under a rocky shelf, there was a very special cave. Inside, hidden from most of the sea creatures, was a magic pearl. It was very large, bright and sparkling white. It rested on three golden fish under a crystal dome and every day, a sweet little mermaid called Miranda would polish it until it shone. She was the only one that knew that this pearl was a magic pearl... or so she thought.







One morning, before most merpeople were awake, Miranda swam swiftly along the seabed to the cave. She didn't see two very sneaky, fat lobsters, Larry and Lenny, following her. When she arrived, Miranda quickly looked around and then squeezed through the secret entrance. Larry and Lenny stayed very quiet and sneaked in, right behind her. They scuttled off and hid in the chamber where the pearl was kept. As Miranda began to gently polish it, she sang a little song.



## The Mermaid and the Magic Pearl

“Magic Pearl, Magic Pearl, sitting on three fish. Magic Pearl, Magic Pearl, grant each special wish.” The pearl glowed softly and an eerie voice said, “Young mermaid, tell me your three wishes.” In a flash, the cheeky lobsters skittered into the cave. “Hello, there,” said Larry, clacking his claws loudly, distracting Miranda. “We seem to be lost. Can you show us the way out?” Miranda was so surprised that she didn’t notice naughty Lenny slip the pearl into a seaweed sack and scuttle away.





## The Mermaid and the Magic Pearl



“Oh, crumbs,” said Larry, giggling, “how very silly of me. The way out is just over there. Sorry to bother you!” and he scampered away as fast as his claws could carry him. That’s when Miranda saw that the pearl had gone.



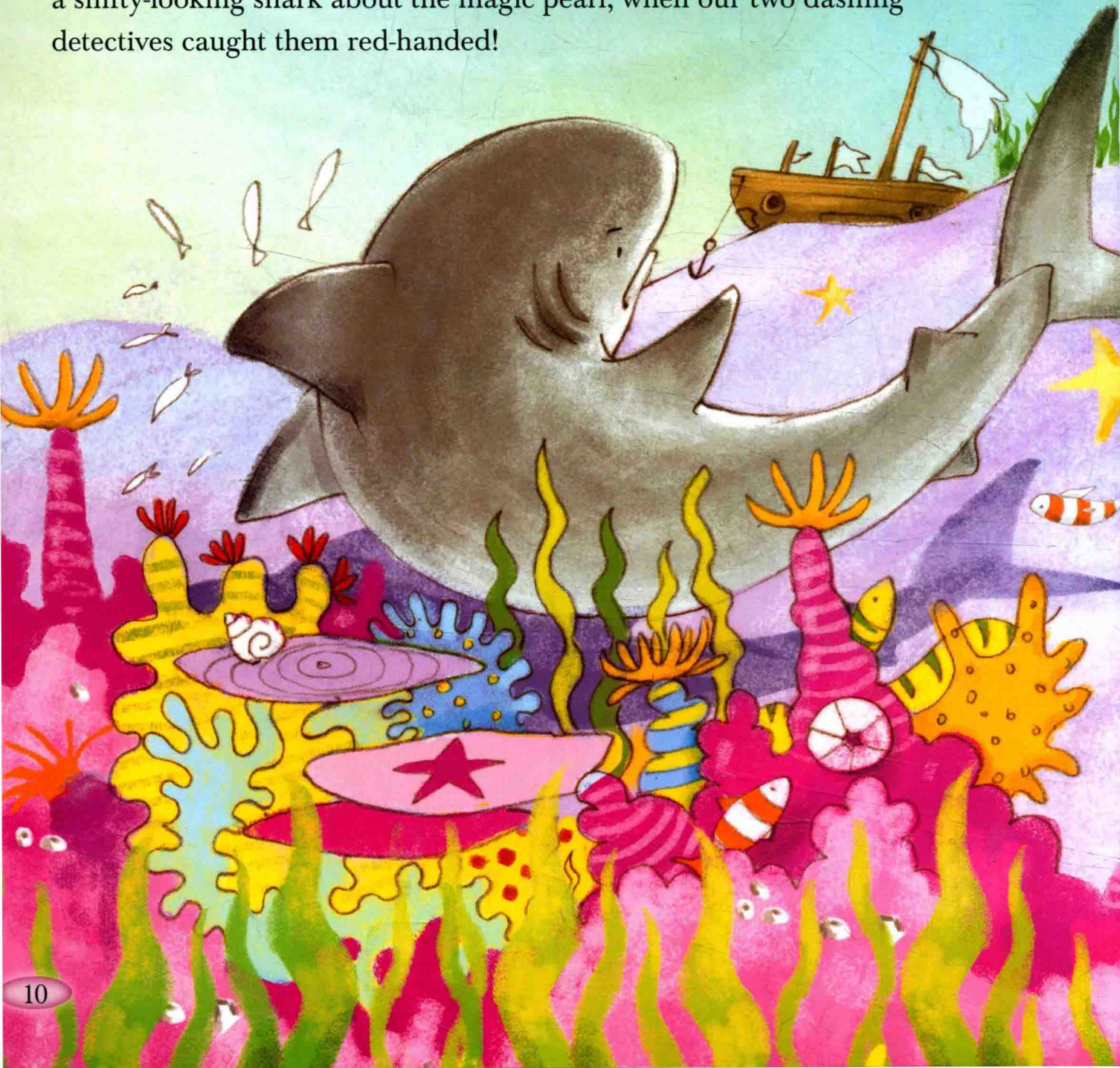
She was so cross that she swam very quickly to the royal palace and told the Merking what had happened. He stroked his beard and said, “Miranda, don’t worry. I’ll help you find your pearl and you will have your wishes!”



## The Mermaid and the Magic Pearl

The Merking summoned two underwater detectives, Inspector Cod and PC Prawn. “Larry and Lenny Lobster have taken Miranda’s magic pearl,” he boomed. “You must find them and get it back!”

The two detectives nodded, bowed low and sped off. Now, Lenny and Larry were not very clever. The two of them should have scuttled away without delay. Instead, they didn’t go far at all and were bragging to a shifty-looking shark about the magic pearl, when our two dashing detectives caught them red-handed!





## The Mermaid and the Magic Pearl



“What have we here?” cried Inspector Cod. “Just you hand over that pearl, you ‘orrible’ pair!” Lenny and Larry were so surprised that they gave the inspector the pearl and PC Prawn took Lenny firmly by the claw. “We only wanted to make a wish!” they wailed, as they were taken away. Back at the palace, they were still moaning. Inspector Cod gave the magic pearl to Miranda. “Shall I lock this pair away then, Your Majesty?”



## The Mermaid and the Magic Pearl

Before the Merking could reply, Miranda said, "Please don't do that, Your Highness. They are very silly, but they're not really bad!" The Merking looked at Miranda and smiled. "Very well," he sighed. "But they'd better not do it again. Now, Miranda, make your first wish." Miranda closed her eyes, sang her song and wished. Suddenly, in the middle of the courtyard, a magical playground popped up, with fun slides and a helter-skelter.

