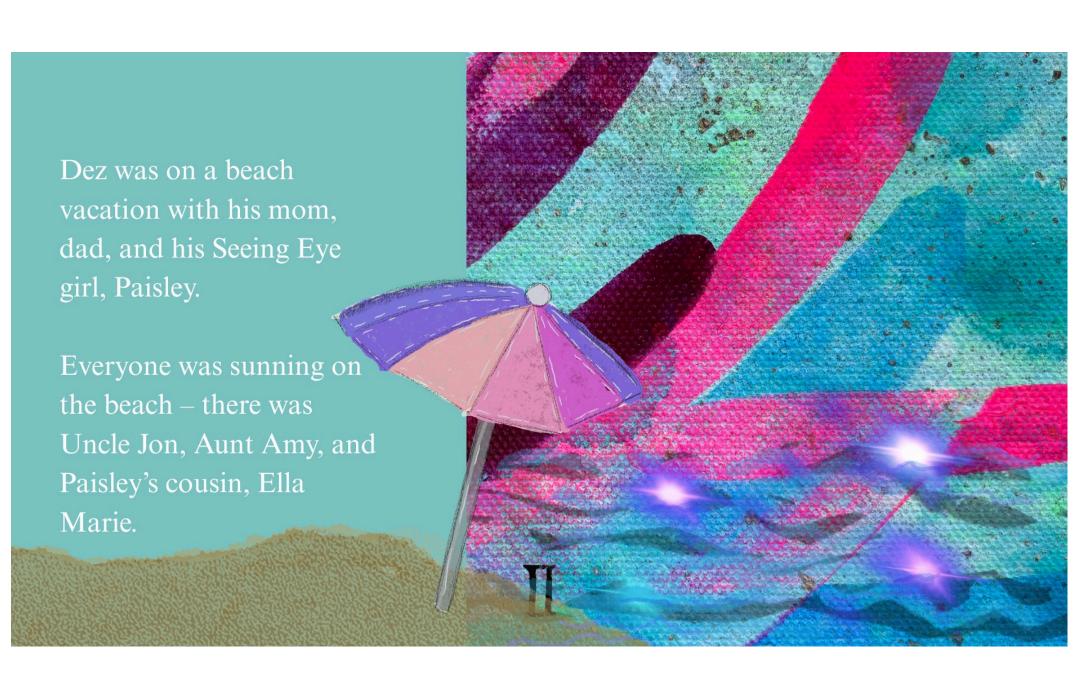


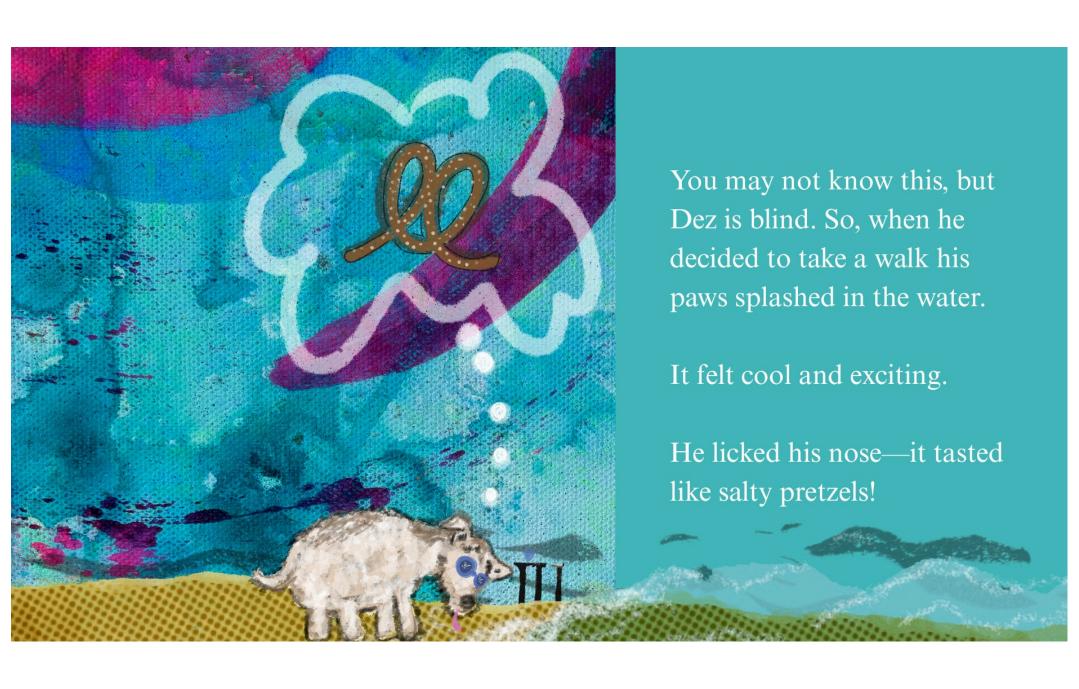
Did you ever stop and think that all living things have a special language?

Even plants, birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles have their own ways of communicating.

The amazing part? They can talk to others like them and even to those who are different. It is quite a radical notion if you ask me or Dez or Maggie, but it truly happens.

This is where our story begins!





Unfortunately, the more he drank the thirstier he became.

All of a sudden he felt himself covered in water and a bit unsteady on his feet! Suddenly, a big wave splashed over him!

Dez felt dizzy and wet—he wasn't sure where he was.

Then... something touched his back!





A calm voice called out, "Dez...
Dez... Dezimus Maximus."

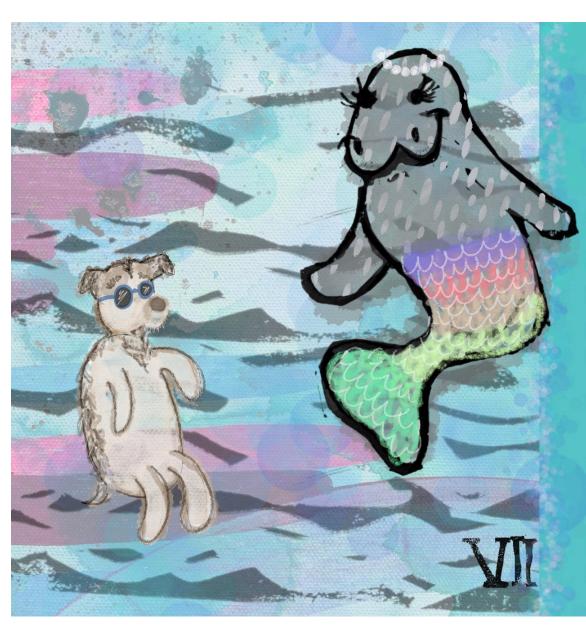
He had never heard this voice before.

Then he heard, "I'm Maggie the Moomaid, and this is my home.
I noticed you may need help, and I'd love to offer support. One seeing eye Moomaid at your service!"

"Please listen to my sounds," said Maggie.

"I hope that you are not afraid but feel protected, happy and loved. People say my sound is like a whistle, others say my sound is like the waves in the ocean. I have even heard others say my sound is like falling rain."





"I'm a Moo Lifeguard," she said proudly. "What I do—helping others with kindness—is more important than what I look like. The reason for this is in my heart, I know kindness and love and help to others is why we are all connected on and in and around our beautiful planet, Earth. When most beings see me, I'm labeled as a manatee. What about you?"

Dez did not quite know how to answer. Without his vision, he also hadn't spent much time considering outward appearance. Good news, Maggie could read!

She told Dez she loved his furry brown-and-white coat and his cool blue glasses.

Maggie worked to give thorough, detailed descriptions of Dez's features and the features of other Jack Russell Terriers. She didn't bring up Dez's blindness, but kept checking if he wanted to hear more.



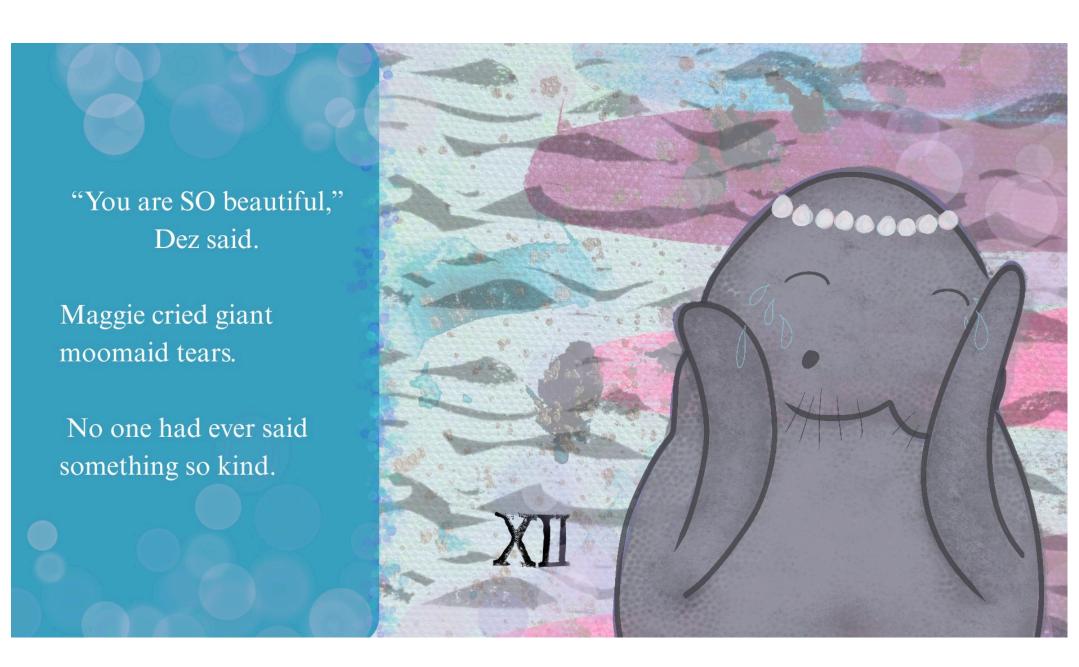


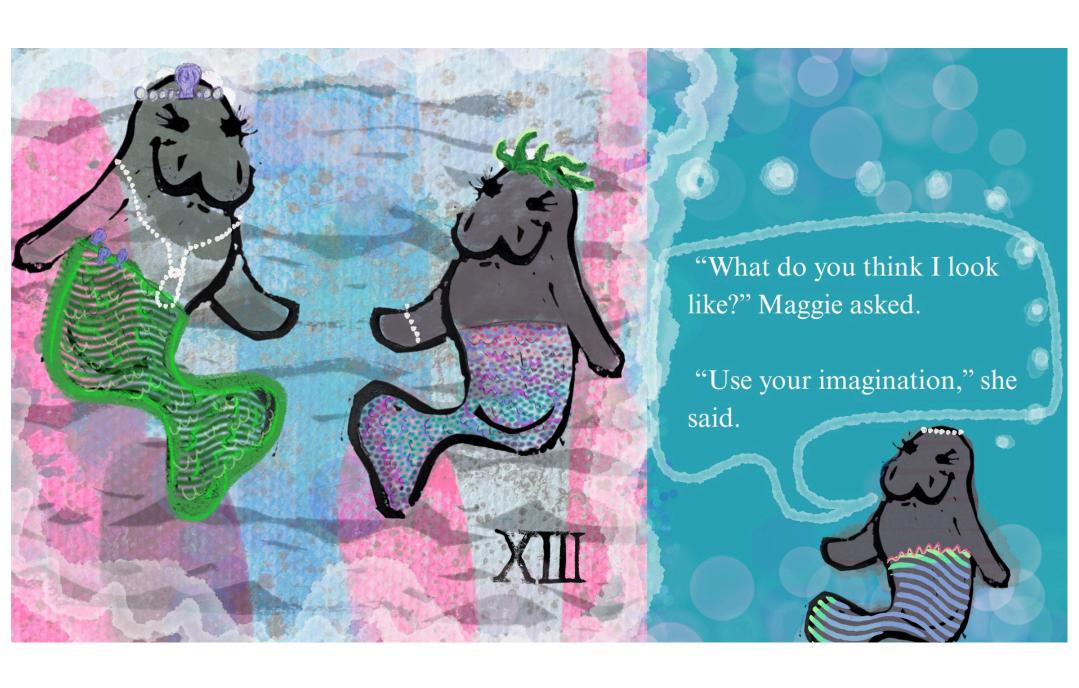
As she read and researched and practiced sharing, Maggie became very carefully aware of each element in her ocean environment and the world around her. She cautiously lifted Dez up on her back. Her motions so gentle, Dez was in a special state of mind - surrounded by sounds and love.

Maggie said to Dez, "You are so handsome and I love your furry coat! Though it is very wet now!"











"When I could see," Dez said, "I remember something in the sky that made everything bright and beautiful during the day. I also remember it made my body feel warm!

When I could see, I also remember the thing at night that started whole, then half, then one quarter, then a sliver and then whole again. I remember something twinkling at night, and so many! I also remember puffy things in the sky, which are white, and they seem so soft!

I also think your sound reminds me of the pitter-patter from drops of water that fall from the sky. You feel soft and supportive, like walking in the green...

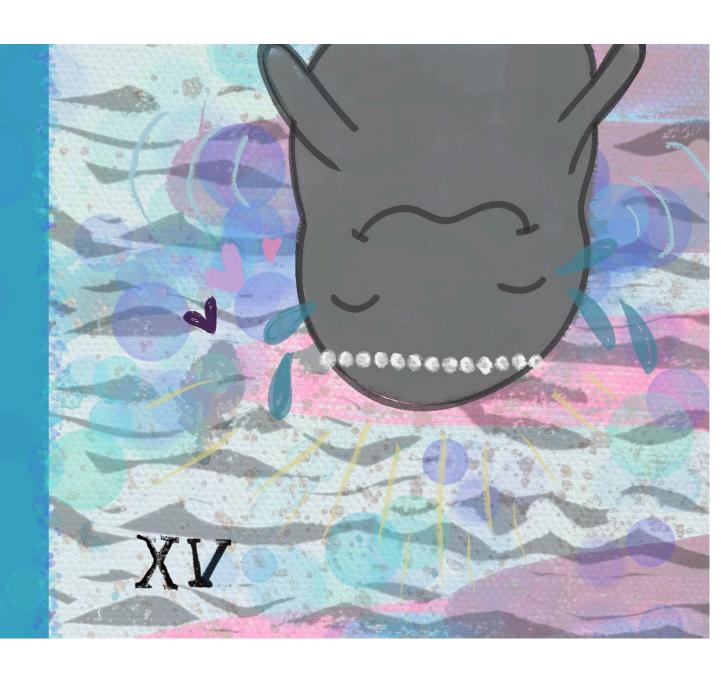
Maggie, now I remember what all those things were! Those things were the sun, the moon, the stars, the grass, and the soft, soft rain!"

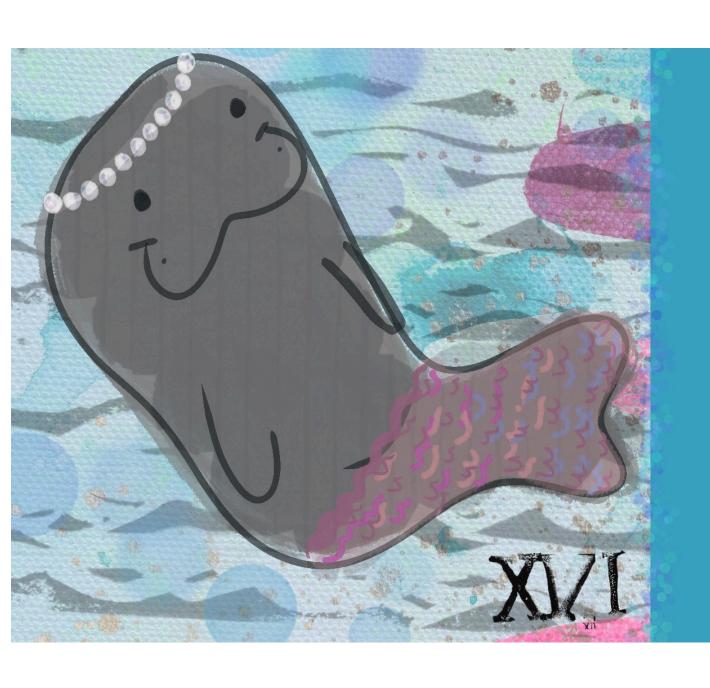




Maggie wept again. "No one says that about me," she sniffled.

"People say I'm just a big gray sea cow – not colorful or warm or glowy at all."





"They say I'm too round, or that my tummy is too big.

They say I don't look
like a mermaid—
But Dez, that's how they
see me. Not how you see
me. Or how I see myself.
My body helps me do all
the things I want to do, I
work to be healthy."

