

Mermaid Tales by Debbie Dadey

Glossary:

For Books 13-16



Book Thirteen: The Crook and The Crown

BEACH MORNING GLORY: This lovely flower grows along the shore.

BLUECHEEK BUTTERFLYFISH: This brightly colored fish has a blue patch around its eyes. If a coral reef is healthy, it is sure to have many butterflyfish.

BONEFISH: This fish is indeed very bony. It is silvery with dark markings on its back.

BREADCRUMB SPONGE: In deeper waters, this soft sponge has a yellow color.

COLD WATER CORAL: This is one of just a few reef-forming corals that live in cold water.

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CORAL WEED: This red seaweed is dark pink when in the shade and light pink in sunny spots.

DOLPHINFISH: This fast fish can leap out of the water, showing its shiny green back.

EEL: Eels are fish, but they look very much like snakes.



GIANT BRAIN CORAL: This huge coral, which looks like a brain, can live to be one hundred years old. It can grow to be as wide as a person is tall!



GIANT KELP: Giant kelp is the largest seaweed in the world. It can grow twenty-four inches in one day!

GULPER EEL: This eel has enormous jaws that allow it to swallow food as big as itself.

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HUMP CORAL: This looks like a large, bumpy rock, but it's really a living coral colony that sticks out its tentacles at night to feed.

IRISH MOSS: This is a tough red seaweed that is sometime used to thicken ice cream and yogurt!

KILLER WHALE: Also called Orcas, these are sometimes mistaken for whales, but they are actually dolphins. They often hunt in groups and eat fish, squid, seals, and birds.



LADYFISH: This slim, silvery blue fish will skip along the top of the water if alarmed.

LAMP SHELL: This small creature looks like a macaroni shell.

MAERL: Maerl is the name given to several species of brittle, purple-pink seaweed.

MILKFISH: This silver fish has a forked tail.

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MUSHROOM LEATHER CORAL: This soft coral looks like a vase of flowers.

ORANGE ROUGHY: This deep water fish is dark red and can live to be 149 years old!

PEAR LIMPETS: This sea snail seems to grow gardens of red algae.

PILLOW LAVA: When hot lava oozes out of ocean crests and meets the cold water, it forms blobs called pillow lava.

POTATO GROUPE: This fish helps to keep reefs healthy by eating dying fish. Potato Groupers can grow to weigh as much as 240 pounds.



RABBIT FISH: This fish, also known as a rat fish, is related to sharks. Part of its spine is very poisonous and can inflict serious wounds on humans.

RED ALGAE: There are six thousand types of red algae, growing in waters all over the world.

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SEA POTATO: This sea urchin digs in the ground. It looks surprisingly like a baked potato.

SEA HORSES: Sea horses are small fish that look very much like a tiny horse, except with a tail instead of legs.



SEA LAVENDER: Common sea lavender grows along the shore.

SEA SPARKLE: This little creature floats below the surface of the water. Millions of them often twinkle together in waves, usually with a pink or green tinge.

SHIPWORM: This clam looks more like a worm. It can actually cut into a wooden ship and damage it.

SPECTACULAR SEAWEED: This purple seaweed usually grows in deep water.

TARPON: This fish is related to eels. A single female tarpon can produce twelve million eggs! Tarpon can live for about fifty-five years.

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Book Fourteen: Twist and Shout



ALLIS SHAD: The Allis shad is a herring that is also called the May fish. In April or May it leaves the ocean to swim into rivers to lay eggs.

ANEMONE SHRIMP: The tiny one-inch long anemone shrimp never leaves the tentacles of an anemone.

BALLOON FISH: This fish, also known as the spiny porcupinefish, can grow three times its normal size by taking in water or air.



BARNACLE: These crustaceans attach to rocks and even ships.

BARREL SPONGE: This sponge has been known to get quite large, but has a hard surface.

BASKING SHARK: The basking shark is the world's second largest fish.

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BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY: This water bird lives on the rocky coasts of islands, hunts for fish in the water, and the adults have bright turquoise-blue feet.

BOXFISH: The yellow boxfish is rather square shaped. When it is scared, it can release poison through its skin into the water around it.

CHAIN MORAY EEL: Most moray eels can survive out of water for short periods of time, as long as their skin stays wet.

COMMON STARGAZER: This fish looks like a mix of a bulldog and a seal! It likes to lie partly buried in the sand.

CONCH: This large sea snail has one of the most beautiful shells of any ocean creature.

CONGER EEL: This big gray eel has probably scared many treasure hunters. It likes to stick its head out of holes and crevices in wrecked ships and reefs.

CORAL: Some tiny corals work together to build huge coral reefs.

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DRAGONFISH: This deep sea fish is small, but has very large teeth. Like many deep sea fish, it can glow!

DUGONG: The dugong looks a lot like a manatee. It lives on the ocean floor, grazing in sea grass beds.

EUROPEAN EEL: This eel swims thousands of miles to lay its eggs.

GULPER EEL: This fish has a small head and little eyes with a huge mouth and enormous jaws.

HAWKSBILL TURTLE: The hawksbill turtle shell is the chief source of tortoiseshell, which is often collected for its beauty. Mermaids, however, have learned only to use shells from turtles that have died naturally.



KELP: Kelp is the large brown seaweed that grows in underwater forests.



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MANDARINFISH: The mandarinfish is one of the most colorful of all reef fish; however, its skin is covered with slime!



MANTA RAY: One of the giants of the sea, manta rays can be twenty-three feet wide, which is longer than a car.

DUMBO OCTOPUS: Dumbo octopi live in the deep sea and have very large fins that look like ears.

PLANKTON: Plankton are the tiny creatures that many ocean animals, such as whales, use for food.

PRICKLY REDFISH: This sea cucumber crawls along the ocean floor. It looks like a big shaggy mop!

RIBBON EEL: Ribbon eels like to hide in the cracks in a coral reef.

SAILFISH: The sailfish is the fastest fish in the ocean. It can keep the same pace as the fastest land animal, the cheetah, which can run as seventy miles per hour!

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SAND BUBBLER CRAB: If you see hundreds of perfectly formed balls of sand on the shore, chances are tiny one-inch sand bubbler crabs are around. These crabs make the sand balls while gathering small bits of food. One crab can make twelve balls in a minute.



SAND DOLLAR: The flat, round sand dollar is actually a type of sea urchin.

SCURVY-GRASS: Scurvy-grass grows along the shore. Its thick green leaves were once eaten to prevent a disease called scurvy.

SEA FAN: Sea fans are sometimes called sea whips. They anchor themselves in sand or mud. Most are nocturnal, which means they are awake at night.



SEA HARE: The sea hare is a type of sea slug, but its tentacles stick up to make it look like a rabbit, or hare.

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SEA HORSE: Sea horses are fish, but they are bad swimmers! They prefer to hold onto coral or seaweed to stay in one place.

SEA ROSE: A sea creature called a Spanish Dancer makes egg ribbons that look very much like a beautiful red rose.

SEAWEED: If you have ever eaten sushi, then you may have eaten seaweed. Traditionally, sushi ingredients are rolled in seaweed.



SLENDER SNIPE EEL: This long, thin eel has jaws shaped like a bird's bill. Because of the way the ends are turned out, it can never close its mouth!

SPOTTED GARDEN EEL: This tiny eel looks like a flower sprouting up from the ocean floor.

SNAIL: Many types of sea snails are eaten by humans.

VENUS COMB: This sea snail has a shell that looks a lot like a comb.

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WEEVERFISH: This brown fish likes to bury itself partly in the sand around the English shoreline. But beware, if you step on one it will hurt!

BOOK FIFTEEN:

ATLANTIC MACKEREL: This fish has a torpedo-shaped body and can swim very fast.



ANEMONE: This creature attaches itself to surfaces and grabs food with its stinging tentacles. (Shown here with clownfish).

BARNACLE: Adult barnacles spend their whole lives attached to rocks or another surface.



BARRACUDA: Barracudas

like to eat shiny fish. In fact, they have been known to try to eat shiny things on divers!

BLOBFISH: The poor blobfish was once voted the world's ugliest creature. It looks like a blob! It lives in very deep waters near Australia.

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CANDY STRIPED FLATWORMS: This flatworm is cream, with reddish stripes and likes to live in rocky areas.

CAYENNE KEYHOLE LIMPET: If you ever see a pattern in the algae on rocks in or near the ocean, it could be the trail a limpet leaves as it eats the algae.

CLEANER SHRIMP: The scarlet skunk cleaner shrimp has red and white stripes down its back.

CLOWNFISH: Clownfish can be many colors, including yellow, orange, or black. They usually have a white stripe or patch.



COCONUT: Coconuts are the round fruit of the palm tree. Inside the hard fruit is a seed, which is part solid and part milk. Sometimes coconuts fall into the ocean.



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CONCH: Conch have beautiful spiral shells. People have collected them and now they are endangered.

CORAL: This creature lives in groups that fix themselves to the ocean floor and make skeletons for support. Daisy coral actually looks a bit like a daisy flower.



CUDDLEFISH: Cuddlefish are related to squids. They can change colors to hide themselves and squirt ink when afraid.



DOLPHIN: The Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin gets its name from the hump beneath its dorsal (back) fin.

GRAY HERON: This tall bird grabs fish out of the water with its long sharp beak.



HONEYCOMB WORM: This little creature makes big tubes of sand that look like honeycombs.

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JELLYFISH: There are many kinds of jellyfish, but the box jellyfish is the most dangerous. Its sting is extremely painful. It lives near Australia.



KELP: Kelp is large, brown seaweed.

KILLER WHALE: Killer whales are the biggest of the dolphins and are also known as orcas.



LOGGERHEAD TURTLE: The loggerhead turtle is the second largest marine turtle, after the leatherback.

MOTHER OF PEARL: This is the shiny substance that lines the insides of some shells.

ORANGE SEA PEN: This creature likes to live in the sand or mud and looks very much like an old fashioned quill pen.

PLANKTON: Tiny creatures that float with the ocean currents and live near the surface are called plankton. Some plankton glows!

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PORCELAIN CRAB: This crab can regrow a claw if one is hurt.

REMORA: The remora are also called suckerfish because of the sucker-like organs



they use to attach to other sea creatures. This shows a remora attached to a shark.

SEA CUCUMBER: The deep sea cucumber crawls along the ocean floor, eating what it finds.

SHARK: The whale shark is the largest fish in the world.

SHARP-FANGED EELS: Eels have long slender bodies like snakes.

SPOONWORM: The spoonworm hides its body between rocks. The male is parasitic on the female.

WARTY FROGFISH: This fish is also known as the clown frogfish. It looks like it is covered with warts.

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WHALE: Gray whales are often covered with barnacles that make their backs look like crusty rocks.

BOOK SIXTEEN:

BARRACUDA: The fast moving barracuda has needle-sharp teeth and a long body.



BLACK-LIP OYSTER: This oyster lives in many parts of the world, including the Gulf of Mexico.

BUSHY BLACK CORAL: This coral has branches that look like large bird feathers.

BUTTERFLYFISH: If a coral reef is healthy, it will have lots of bright yellow butterflyfish. You can know them by their blue eye patch.

CONCH: Conch are a mollusk with a lovely spiral shell. In the past jewelry was made out of the shell.

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DAISY CORAL: This coral looks surprisingly like a daisy flower.

DENDROPHYLLID CORAL: Usually during the day this coral is a red lump, but when darkness falls it makes a spectacular orange/yellow flower-like display.

FLOWER URCHIN: This creature has flower-like appendages, but don't be fooled. It is very poisonous!



GIANT BRAIN CORAL: This huge dome-shaped coral can live for over a hundred years and can be as wide as a car.

GOLDEN DUNE MOSS: This moss grows on sand dunes and gives the sand a golden color.

HAIRY ANGLER: This fish lives in very deep water and has a huge mouth.

JEWEL ANEMONE: Jewel anemones can be any color and often cover underwater cliffs with their flower-like disks.

KELP: Giant Kelp is the largest of all the seaweeds.



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LIZARDFISH: A reef lizardfish darts out from rocks or reefs to catch its food. It has a big mouth that allows it to swallow large fish.

MEDITERRANEAN RED CORAL: This deep red or pink coral has been collected for centuries to be made into jewelry and is now scarce. It is also called precious coral.

MILKFISH: This silver fish has a forked tail. It is important for food in parts of Asia.

MUSHROOM CORAL: Most corals live in groups, but the mushroom coral lives as an individual. Its skeleton looks like a mushroom.

NEPTUNE'S NECKLACE: This brown seaweed looks like a string of brown beads.

OCTOPUS: The giant octopus is very intelligent and can solve problems, such as finding its way around a maze and then remember the solution for a long time.



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OSPREY: This hawk eats only fish. It flies high above the water and dives almost straight down to snatch its food out of the water.

PASSION FLOWER FEATHER STAR: This feather star has eighteen to twenty arms of different lengths, giving it a flower-like look.

PARROTFISH: In Polynesia, parrotfish is served raw and was once only eaten by the king.

SABLEFISH: Sablefish do not reproduce very quickly. In fact, it takes fourteen years to replace one.

SCOTCH BONNET: The shell of this sea snail resembles a woolen cap (or Scotch Bonnet) that was once worn in Scotland, giving this lovely shell its name.

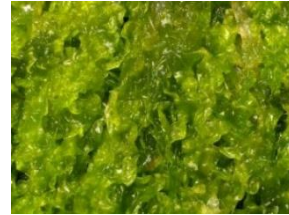
SEA POTATO: This sea urchin likes to live in the sand. It looks surprisingly like a baked potato!

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SEAWEED: There are many types of seaweed.

Seaweed does not have roots, but floats freely in the water.



SHARK: Sharks are often thought of as the bad guys in the ocean, but sharks are actually needed to keep the fish population healthy and strong.

STAR PUFFERFISH: The skin and some parts of a pufferfish are very poisonous, but in Japan it is considered a delicacy. Only specially trained chefs are permitted to prepare it, since they know the parts that are safe to eat.

STRIPED CATFISH: This striped fish lives in coral reefs. A sting from an adult is very dangerous to humans.

TABLE CORAL: This hard coral can get to be wider than a long couch.



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TITAN TRIGGERFISH: This tropical fish is also known as a mustache fish because of the dark stripe above its mouth.

VENUS COMB: This snail has long thin spine that would work well for a mermaid's comb.



WHIP CORAL: Whip coral is also known as wire coral because it grows in a single branch that is sometimes coiled.