



The Sea Turtle and the Sea

A Full English translation is available.

海龜與海

Author: Le Chen **Illustrator:** KIDISLAND **Publisher:** Nan I Book Enterprise Co., Ltd.

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A young sea turtle ventures beyond her familiar waters, swimming through dazzling underwater worlds—from coral reefs and kelp forests to the mysterious deep sea. But then he reaches an ocean changed by human pollution. From floating plastic bags to tangled nets, danger surrounds him. When the turtle becomes trapped and injured, unexpected kindness from an ocean conservationist offers him a second chance.

Beautifully illustrated with hand-drawn art, this picture book invites readers into the wonders of the underwater world. Through compassionate storytelling and thoughtful detail, it introduces ocean conservation in an age-appropriate way, awakening empathy while leaving readers with hope and a sense of shared responsibility. This book reminds us that although people have harmed the sea, we can also help heal it—together.



Author **Le Chen**

Amid the chaos of the city, Le Chen finds joy in the quiet work of shaping beloved words. While raising her two children, storytelling became part of her everyday life. She loves telling stories—and loves even more the smiles on children's faces as they listen. Le Chen writes with the hope that one day, those children will come to cherish the stories she has created.



Illustrator **KIDISLAND**

KIDISLAND is a creative team formed by illustrator Yukito and writer AC. By pairing a single image with a single piece of writing, they explore the meaning behind "Kid Island": the hope that everyone carries an island within their heart—one that will never fade away. Their illustration work spans multiple fields, including publishing, packaging design, and key visuals for major events.

Through a Turtle's Eyes: The Ocean We're Harming—and the Good We Can Choose

by Chi-Hsuan Wu

For those of us living on land, it is easy to imagine that the issues facing the ocean are distant and unrelated to our daily lives. Yet the oxygen we breathe, the rising temperatures we experience year after year, the seafood we eat, and even the straws and plastic bags we use casually are all deeply connected to the sea. After all, about 71 percent of Earth's surface is covered by ocean. This picture book, told through the eyes of a young sea turtle, invites readers of all ages into the underwater world. Through a gentle narrative, it introduces ocean-related issues that may feel distant yet are deeply woven into our everyday lives of consumption and waste. With a strong hand-drawn aesthetic, the illustrations use expressive brushstrokes to convey moving currents and shimmering bubbles, while layered textures bring marine life vividly to life.

The story follows a small sea turtle who wonders what lies beyond her familiar sea—and whether the other side is just as beautiful. Propelled by curiosity, he sets off on an adventure. As readers follow his graceful journey, we drift through coral reefs, kelp forests, and even deep-sea hydrothermal vents, witnessing a wide range of underwater landscapes. The beauty continues until the turtle wanders into a sunken ship—an unmistakable sign that he has reached the realm shaped by human activity. Here, the sea grows darker and more turbid, hinting at the dangers that lie ahead.

When the little turtle finally reaches the far side of the sea, he discovers that it is not what he imagined. Plastic bags that mimic jellyfish drift through the water, and massive nets lurk like hidden monsters. These threats injure and sicken him, leaving him weak and confused.

Forced out of the ocean he calls home, he is brought to an unfamiliar place, bright and white and filled with strange human beings. Yet these people do not seem intent on harming him. Instead, they care for him gently. Still, one question remains: will the little sea turtle ever return to the deep blue world he longs for?

The illustrations brim with clever, knowledge-rich details, inviting children and adults alike into an engaging visual treasure hunt. We see, for instance, the turtle embarking on his journey alone—reflecting her species' solitary nature. The "light bulb" inside the shipwreck is, in fact, the glowing lure atop an anglerfish. The plastic bag the turtle nearly swallows resembles a jellyfish, revealing why such waste poses a deadly threat to sea turtles. And the pieces of marine debris scattered through the pages—items we recognize from our own daily routines—serve as vivid reminders of the pollution we contribute to the ocean. These details make the book a wonderful resource for introducing marine conservation.

One aspect I especially appreciate is the book's gentle approach to protecting children's emotional well-being. It does not depict graphic scenes

of harm—such as the shocking images sometimes seen in news reports, like straws lodged in turtles' nostrils—yet it conveys enough emotional weight to awaken empathy. In the final pages, the turtle recovers under human care and returns to the sea, accompanied by a diver who swims beside him. This closing image reminds us that although humans have harmed the ocean, many people are also working tirelessly to heal and protect it. Each of us can take part, whether by supporting rescue programs, joining beach clean-ups, or reducing our use of single-use plastics.

This picture book gently enjoins us to do the following: Let us choose to believe in the goodness that still exists in the world—and let us strive to be part of that goodness.

Chi-Hsuan Wu hails from Taiwan, an island at the intersection of the Kuroshio Current and the Tropic of Cancer. A graduate of National Tsing Hua University, she has worked as an editor for online courses and audiobooks. She now seeks to remain in conversation with the world—through words, sounds, or whatever medium feels right.



The sea turtle felt heartbroken.
After saying goodbye to his new friend—
only to find more trash drifting his way.

He darted this way and that, trying to get away—
but it seemed he was about to be trapped...



Luckily, a school of little fish came just in time to rescue him.

At that moment, the sea turtle longed to go home—back to the beautiful ocean he loved.

Suddenly, a loud noise rumbled through the water.
The sea turtle swam toward the sound and saw a giant net—
and inside were many of his ocean friends!
He was so frightened.

