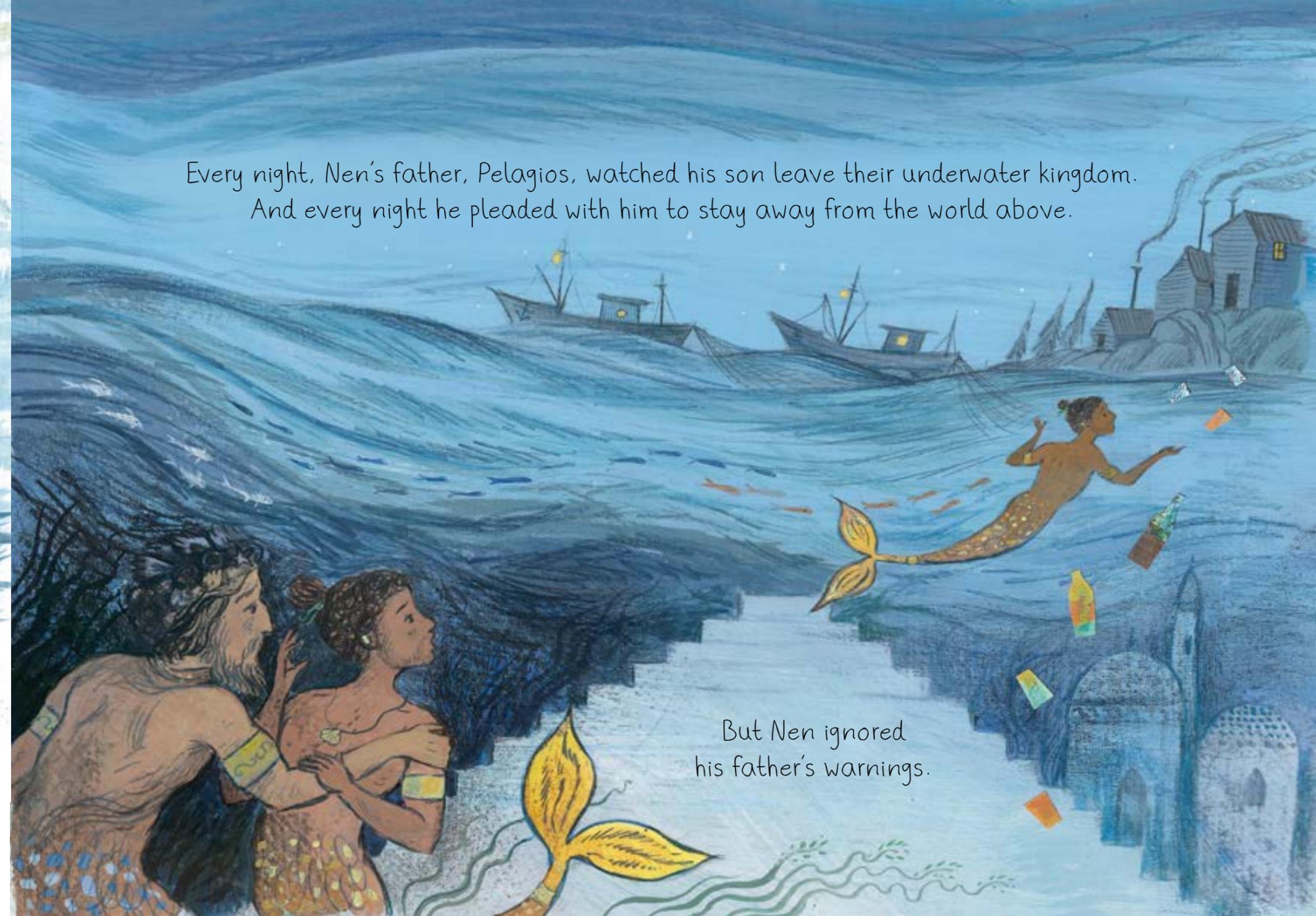




So, at night, Nen sang a sad song and the twinkling stars whispered his words of hope across the ocean. But Nen's song was smothered by heavy clouds, and he returned to the seabed alone.

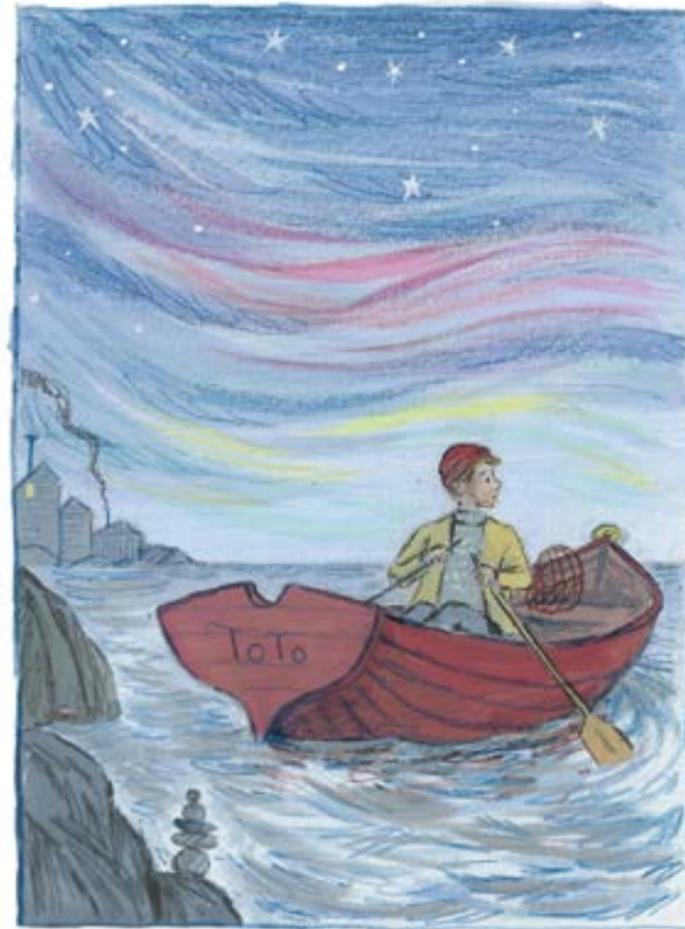
Every night, Nen's father, Pelagios, watched his son leave their underwater kingdom. And every night he pleaded with him to stay away from the world above.



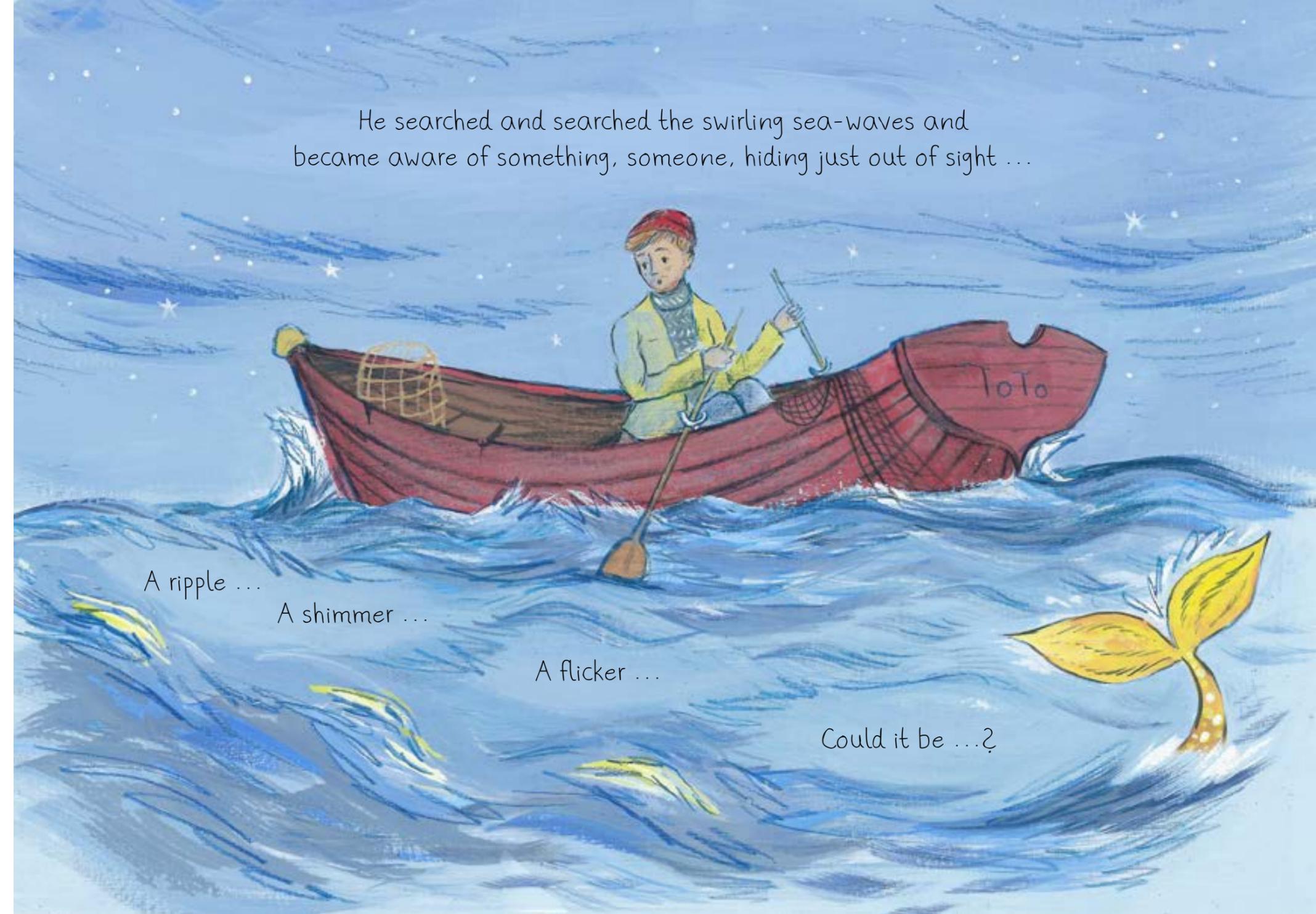
But Nen ignored his father's warnings.



It was Nen's song! It was so tender and brimming with such courage that a long-forgotten feeling stirred inside the lonely fisherman's heart.



Filled with excitement, Ernest set off to find out who this magical voice belonged to.



He searched and searched the swirling sea-waves and became aware of something, someone, hiding just out of sight ...

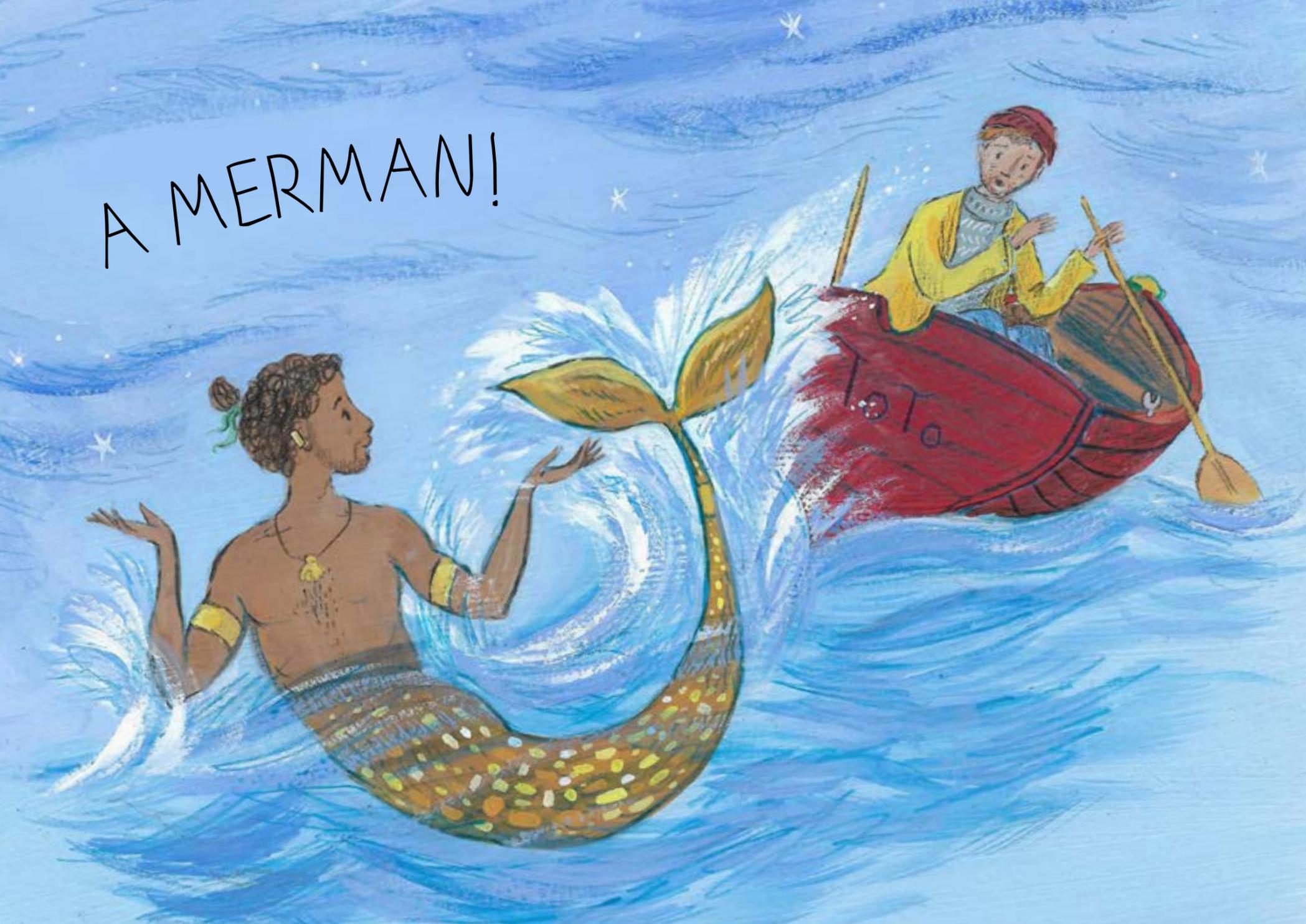
A ripple ...

A shimmer ...

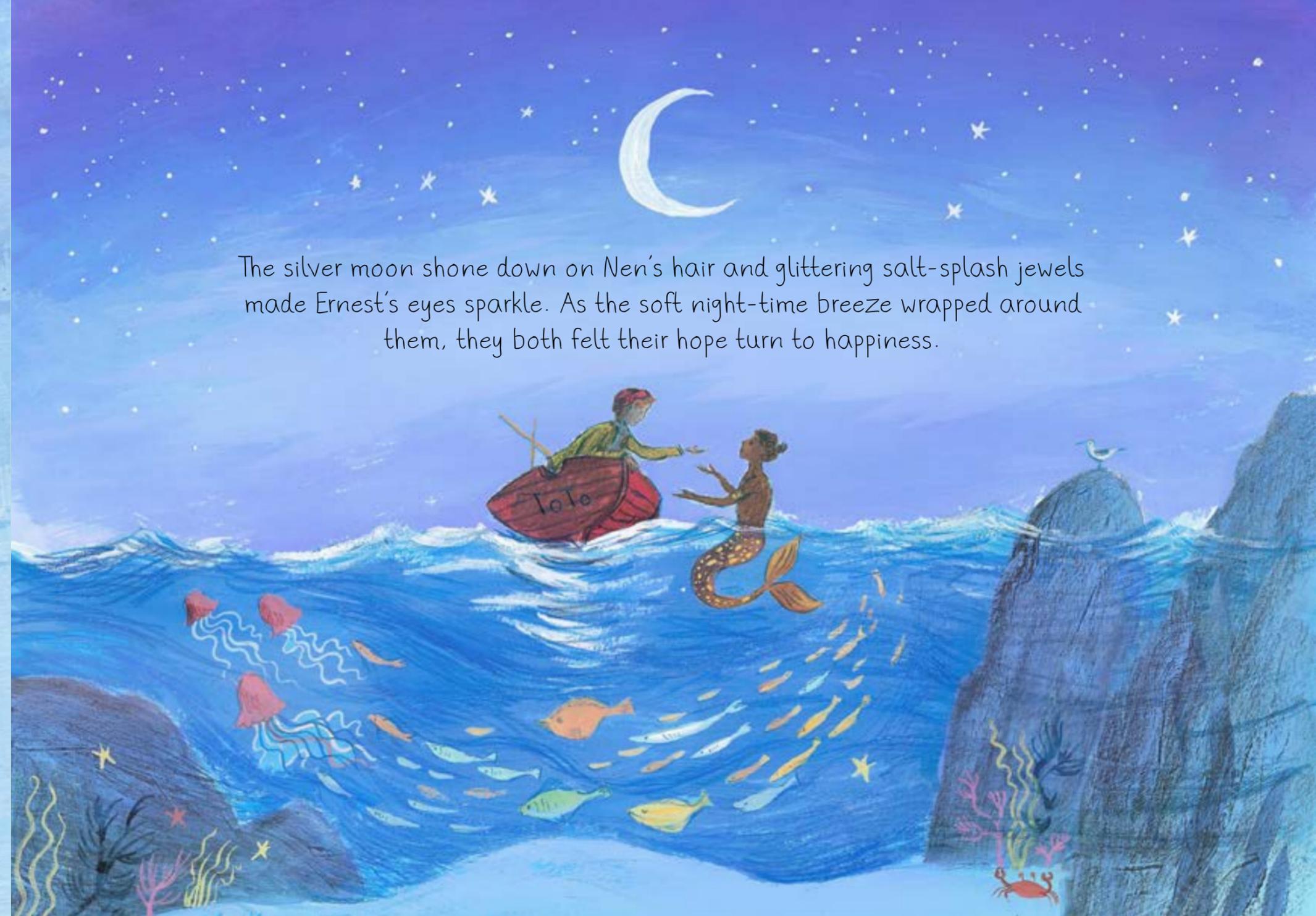
A flicker ...

Could it be ...?

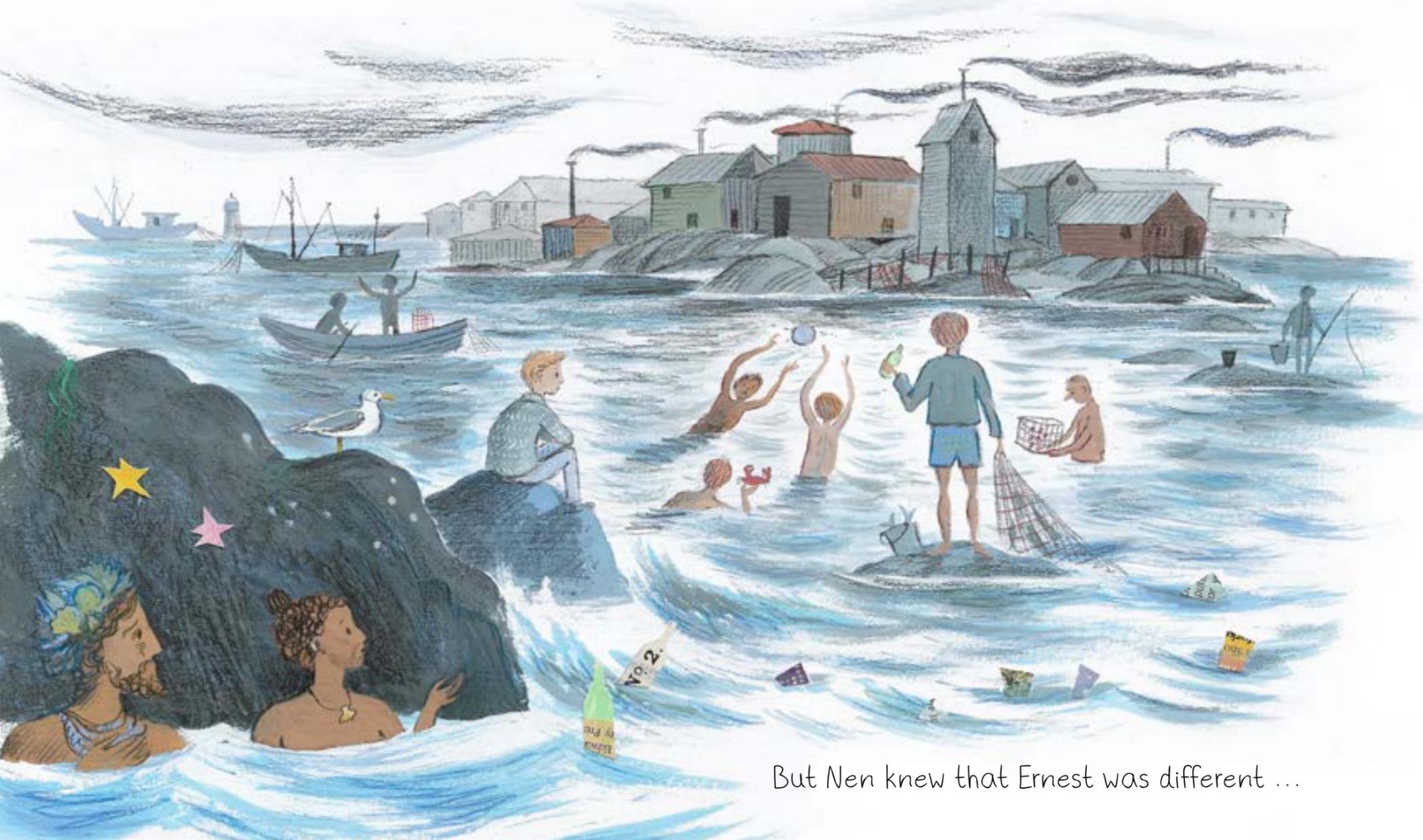
A MERMAN!



The silver moon shone down on Nen's hair and glittering salt-splash jewels made Ernest's eyes sparkle. As the soft night-time breeze wrapped around them, they both felt their hope turn to happiness.



His face etched with worry, Pelagios begged his son again to stay away from the humans in the world above. They were destroying his precious oceans!



But Nen knew that Ernest was different ...



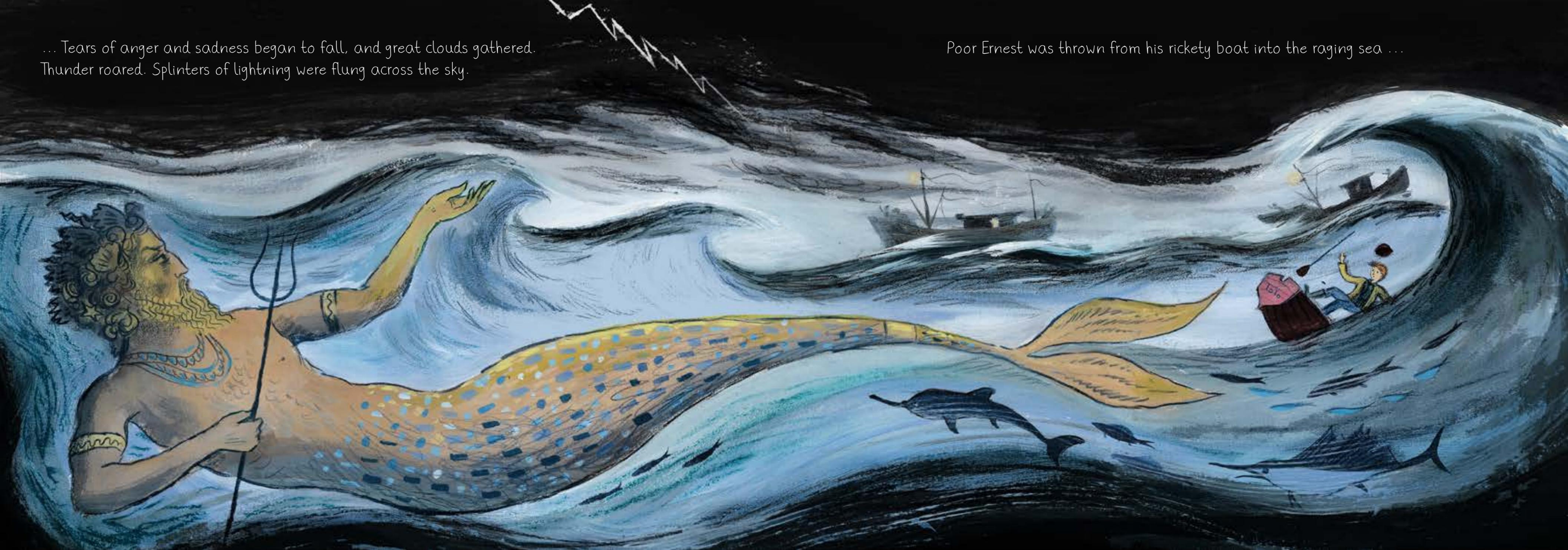
... so, he returned each night to see him in his rickety boat. Together, they would talk and laugh and dream while the skies changed from a golden amber to an inky purple.



One night, as Nen swam back to his hidden world, far beneath the ocean's surface, Pelagios could no longer control his frustration ...

... Tears of anger and sadness began to fall, and great clouds gathered.
Thunder roared. Splinters of lightning were flung across the sky.

Poor Ernest was thrown from his rickety boat into the raging sea ...

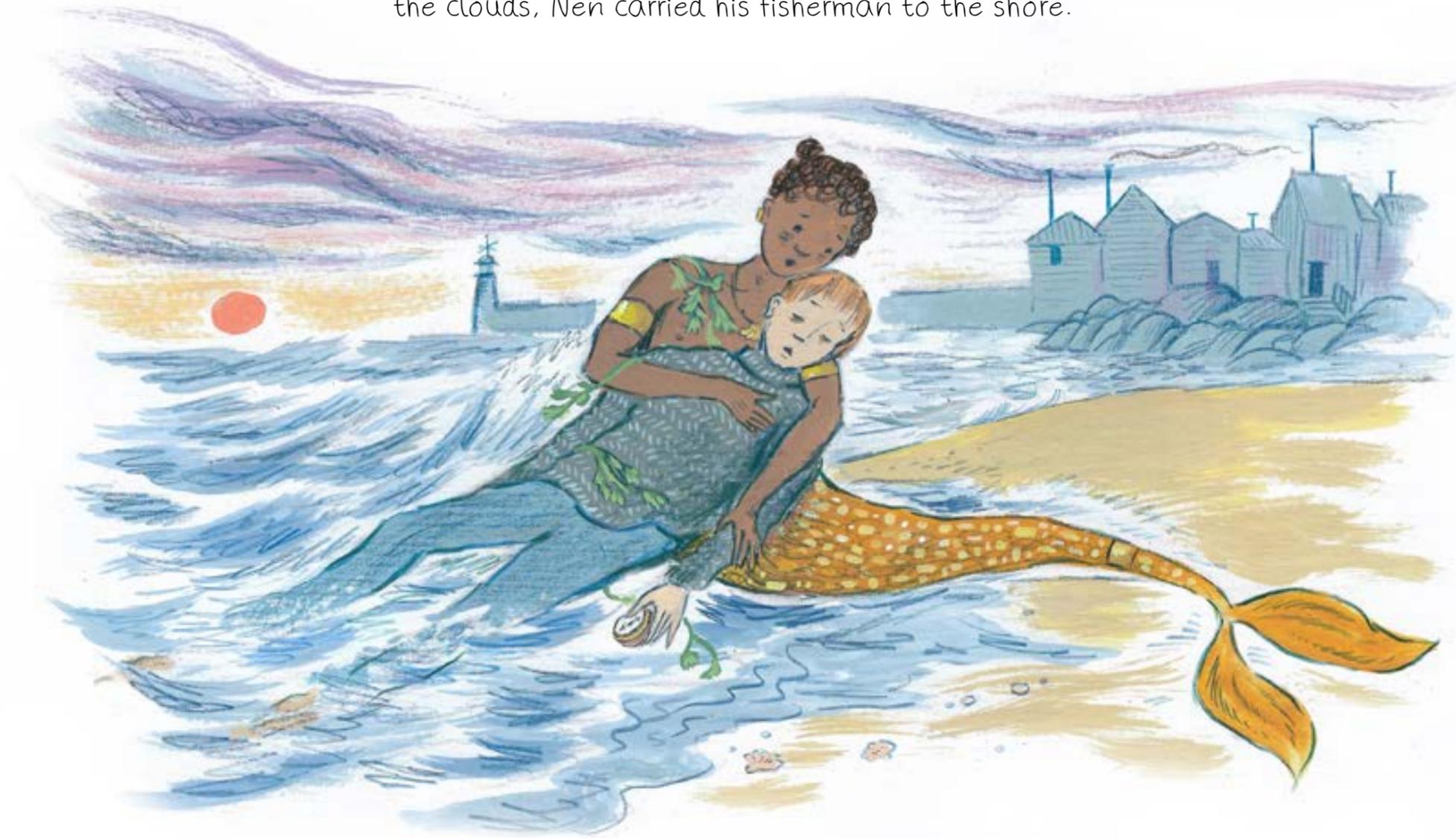


ERNEST!



He was battered by the waves, broken and lifeless.

As the sea slowly calmed and the hazy sun peeked through the clouds, Nen carried his fisherman to the shore.



He waited ...