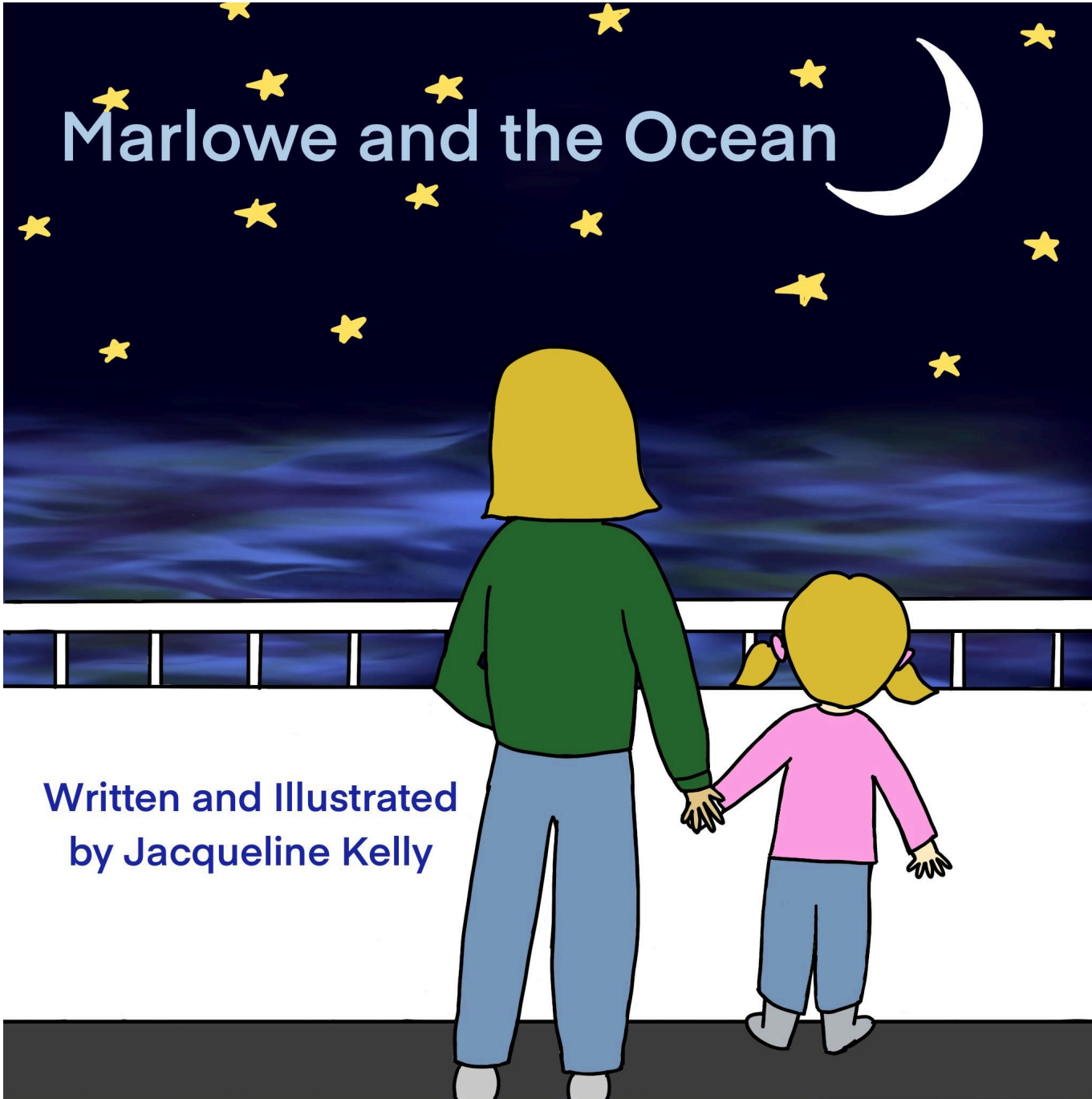


# Marlowe and the Ocean

Written and Illustrated  
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Thank you to my project advisor, Andrea Varga. My very first class at New Paltz, 9:30 AM Monday morning, was your Intro to Sustainability. I have learned immensely from you in the three years since then.

Also thank you to Dr. Jacqueline McSweeney at Stony Brook University for giving me the opportunity to do research on a boat. Pictures I took on that trip inspired many of the drawings here.

Marlowe spent all day at the beach playing in the waves. She saw crabs and birds and grasses and seaweed.

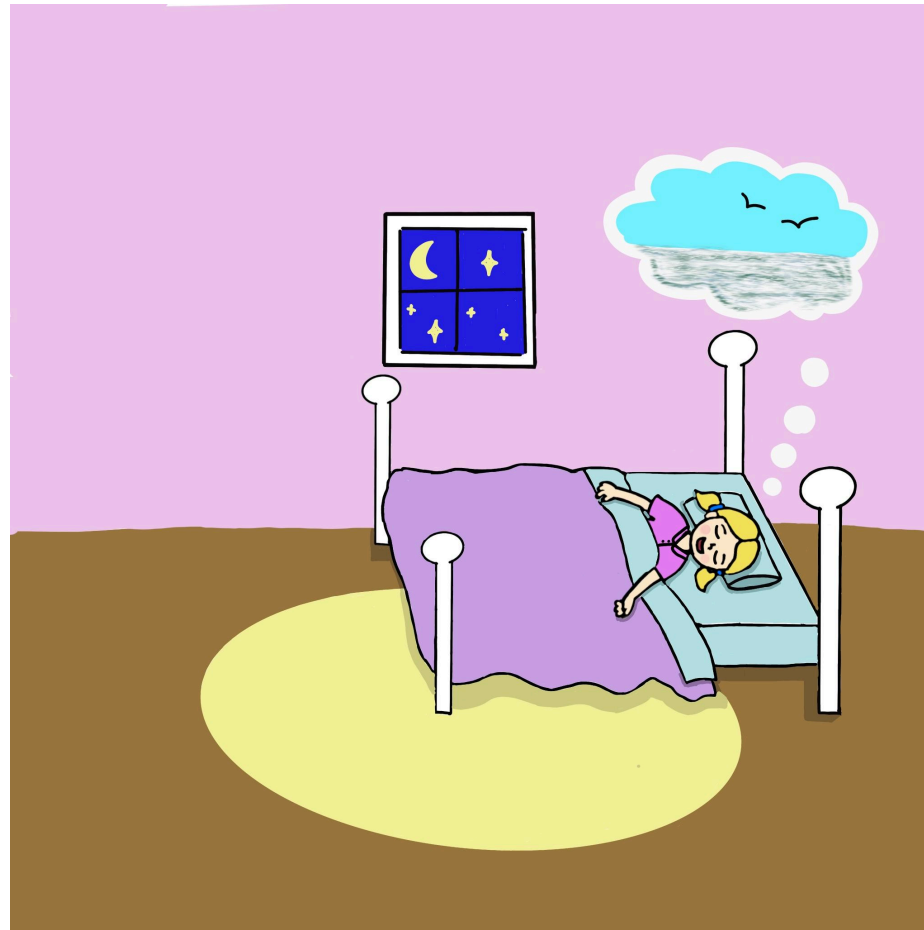


When she got home she was so tired. “Mom, can we please read the book about Sylvia Earle again? I want to be a scientist when I grow up!”

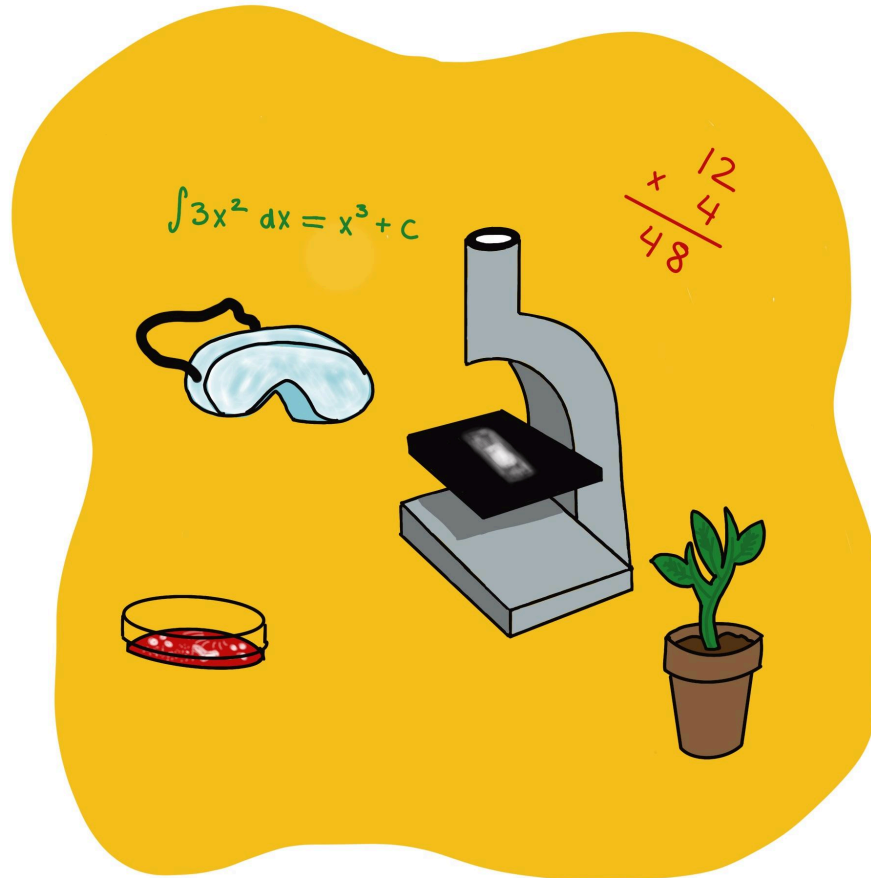


“Oh honey, you are already a scientist. Remember you asked me how the ocean moves the seaweed and we had to look it up? Asking questions and researching answers is exactly what a scientist does!”

Marlowe was asleep before her mom got to the second page. Her memories of the waves rocked her into dreams of living in the ocean and being friends with the sea creatures.



As Marlowe grew up, she loved to learn about math and science.



But she never lost her love of the ocean.

After she graduated, she saw a posting for an amazing job.



So many years of dreaming about living on a boat...

And it finally came true! Marlowe was so excited! She called her mom right away to tell her the good news.



“I am so proud of you! I can’t wait to see all that you accomplish!”

Marlowe started her job as a researcher the very next week. She loved living on the ocean, but some parts of the boat took time getting used to.



She worked in the middle of the night sometimes...



And sometimes things would slide right out of the shower if the boat was rocking...



But she loved her job so much that none of that bothered her.



Science, math, the ocean; what else could she want?

After work she fell asleep to the rocking of the waves each day, proud of herself for accomplishing her dreams.



When I was younger I had a book about Sylvia Earle, a marine biologist. I used to read it all the time, and I wanted to be just like her. However, biology was never my favorite subject. I didn't hear about the science of the physical properties of the ocean until my junior year of college, when I visited a friend who was doing an internship at Woods Hole. I think there's been a strong push for women in science that I appreciate, but the physical sciences still lack in this department. Women are awarded half of all science and engineering degrees but only 25% of bachelor's degrees in physics each year. And the numbers are even lower for women of color, Indigenous women, and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Representation will always matter in science. Diversity brings new ideas and perspectives, which drives discovery.