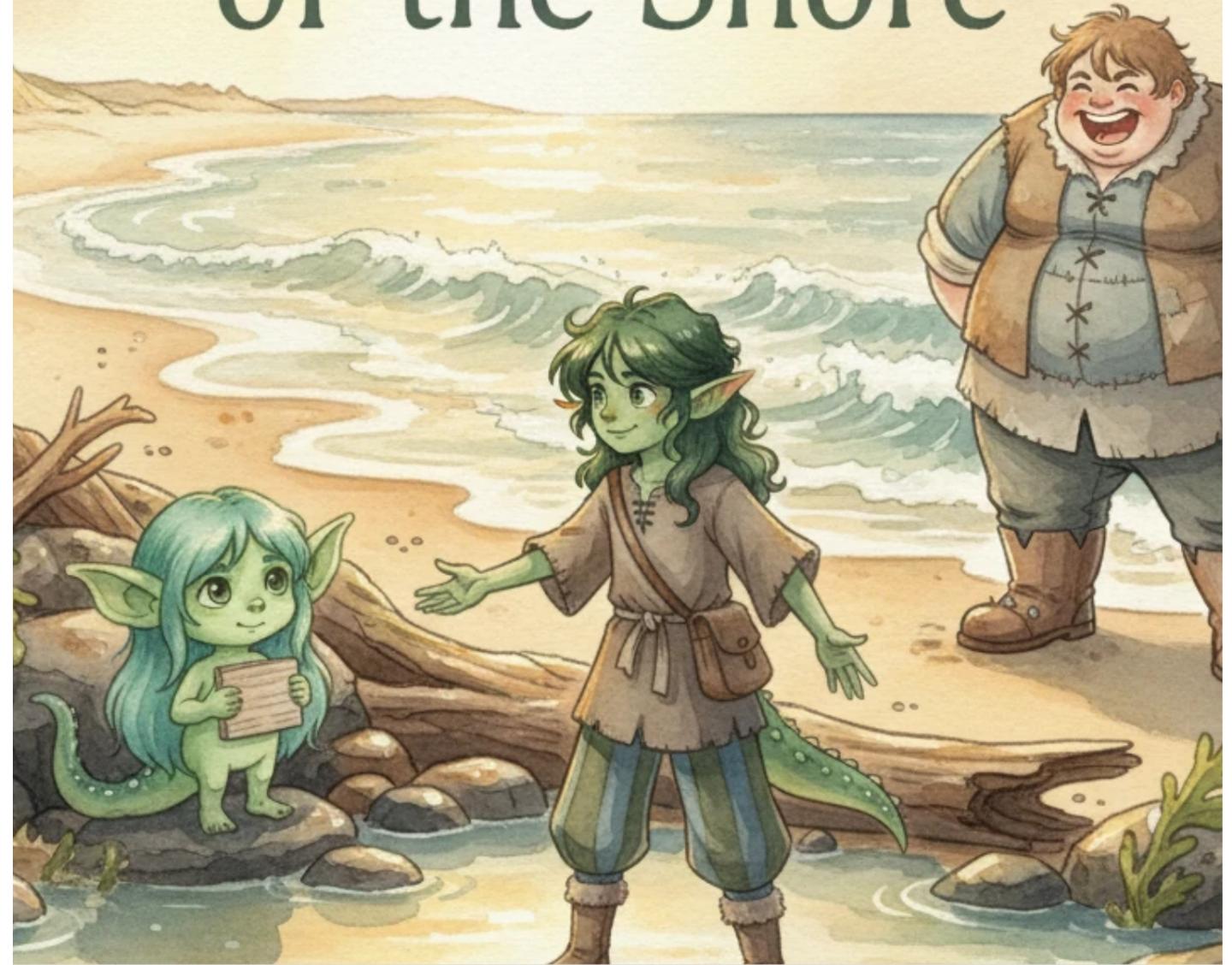


The Gentle Monster of the Shore



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Tilly Hobson



The sun shines brightly over the sparkling blue ocean as children splash and play in the waves. Their laughter fills the air, mixing with the rhythmic sound of the water hitting the sand.



Colorful surfboards soar through the air as kids catch the perfect waves. Every face is filled with pure ecstasy and the thrill of the seaside adventure.



Near the edge of the sand, a tall coconut tree stands still against the breeze. Suddenly, a bright green ear pops out from behind the rough bark, twitching nervously.



A young boy named Leo stops playing when he notices the strange sight. He looks confused and tilts his head, slowly walking toward the mysterious tree to investigate.



Leo gently pulls a large, green coconut leaf to the side to see what is hiding. There he finds a creature with vibrant green skin, long shaggy hair, and a small wooden board, looking very frightened.



The monster looks down at the sand, appearing deeply lonely and sad. Leo asks him why he is hiding all by himself instead of joining the fun in the sun.



A Gentle Memory

The monster begins to tell his story about a time he tried to visit the beach before. A much larger boy had stood over him, pointing and bullying him in front of everyone.



The mean boy had laughed loudly, calling the monster ugly and making fun of his simple wooden board. The poor monster felt small and unwanted, convinced that he didn't belong.



Leo listens with a kind heart and offers a warm, welcoming smile. He tells the monster that he is welcome to play with them and that his looks don't matter at all.



The monster's eyes brighten with hope as he realizes he has finally found a friend. With a joyful thank you, he and Leo head toward the waves to start a brand new adventure together.