



Otto and the Great Ocean Adventure

Carmela Renna



deep in a colorful coral reef, a little octopus named otto was squishing himself into his favorite sandy little cave. today was the very first day of the big coral school, and otto's tummy felt all wobbly. he had never been before, and he liked his quiet cave much better.



otto's kind mother gently nudged him with one of her long, spotted arms. 'it's time to grow big and strong, little otto,' she said softly. with eight tiny sighs, otto waved goodbye and wiggled his little legs to swim away.



he swam past waving pink anemones and bouncy green kelp, feeling very alone in the wide, blue ocean. but wait! way up above the surface of the water, a bright beam of yellow light flashed warmly, reaching right down to show the way.



following the guiding light, otto saw a big, beautiful underwater playground made of giant seashells and a sunken ship! outside, many other small fish and crabs were gathering, all chattering excitedly.



standing near the door was Mrs. Coral, the school teacher, her scales shimmering brightly in the sunlight filtering down. when she saw otto's shy little face, she smiled the biggest, most welcoming smile otto had ever seen.



Mrs. Coral gently placed a star-shaped sticker on one of otto's top tentacles and introduced him to everyone. 'welcome, otto!' she cheered, and suddenly, otto's wobbly tummy felt a little bit better.



during their very first lesson, otto discovered that he was the only one who could squeeze his whole body through the smallest hoops, making the other children giggle and clap. then, everyone learned that fish can paint with bubbles!



at lunchtime, Mrs. Coral showed them how to make delicious seaweed wraps with sand sprinkles. while they munched, they all sat together and heard wonderful stories about magical sunken treasures and brave explorer fish.



just when they were about to play a game of tag, Mrs. Coral gathered everyone and said, 'i have something special to show you all!' they all swam together to the very top of the coral wall, where a magnificent, sparkling rainbow arch was formed by tiny, colorful creatures.



when Otto's mother came to pick him up, he was too busy telling his new best friend, a little starfish named Stella, all about the exciting things he learned. 'mom, guess what!' he shouted happily, 'tomorrow we are going to learn how to make super-fast bubbles! school is the best!'