





*To Marie-Jo
and her young writers and illustrators in the making!
It is thanks to her and her kindergarten class
at the Camille Claudel school in Triel-sur-Seine
that the idea to write about Matisse's work came to me.*

*With the help of all her kindergartners,
the first draft of this story came to life...*

CONGRATULATIONS
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Antoine, Coumba, Andriana, Thomas, Gabriel, Julie,
Léane, Morgan, Andréa, Lohan, Maëlle, Nathan and TERENCE!*

*And THANK YOU Marie-Jo!
V.M.*



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VÉRONIQUE MASSENOT

The MERMAID and the PARAKEET

VANESSA HIÉ



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There once was an ocean, wide and beautiful,
and it had everything an ocean should.
Islands and boats! Fish and shellfish! And even... a mermaid
swaying across the bottom, among the seaweed and corals.





One day a storm came,
so loud and so strong,
with all it could contain
of anger and rage.





The wind began to blow madly,
the clouds to swell, swell, swell
and the thunder to roar, roar, roar!
Amidst the darkness of the sky
appeared thousands of gold lightning bolts.

The storm was getting out of control. Luckily, all the boats had come safely back to harbor, and the islands were laying low.

Underneath the water, everyone was trying to hide: the shellfish in the sand and the fish in the rocks.

But the mermaid, alas, could find no shelter.

Not even something to hold on to.

So, the floods took her away....





