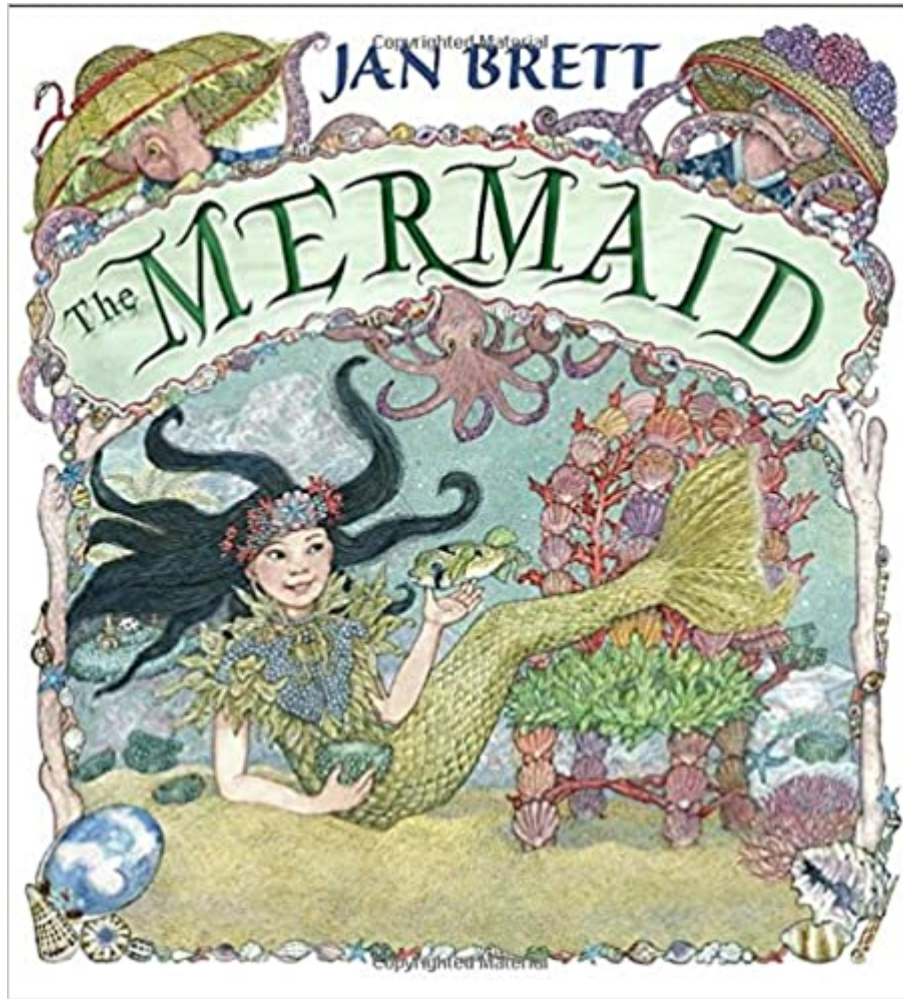




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The Mermaid



Synopsis

A striking under-the-sea version of Goldilocks as only Jan Brett could create. When Kiniro, a young mermaid, comes upon a gorgeous house made of seashells and coral, she is so curious that she goes inside. She's thrilled to find a just-right breakfast, pretty little chair, and, best of all, a comfy bed that rocks in the current. But when the Octopus family returns home, they are not happy to find that someone has been eating their food and breaking their things. Baby has the biggest shock when she finds the mermaid asleep in her bed! Luckily, shock turns to happiness when Kiniro gives her a thoughtful gift before escaping from the twenty-four arms coming her way. Vibrant, intricate scenes of an underwater paradise transport this classic fairy tale to a magical setting inspired by the seas off the coast of Okinawa, Japan. Chock full of fish and fauna and adventure, Kiniro's story will enchant readers of all ages.

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

"In this dazzling remix, Brett sets "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" under the sea. The bears turn into octopuses, dressed in the straw hats and indigo-dyed coats of rural Japan, and Goldilocks becomes Kiniro, a mermaid with black hair and golden scales (kin-iro is Japanese for gold). . . Brett's brightly colored, highly detailed art shines in this aquatic setting as she embellishes the octopuses dwelling with shells, coral, and tropical fish that swim in and out of the windows. . . Brett's fans will rejoice, and she'll make

new ones, too." *Publishers Weekly*, starred review "In an aquatic version of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," Kiniro, the beautiful mermaid, is intrigued by the mystique and beauty of [a] little seashell house. [. . .] Not only is this fractured fairy tale a delight to read, there is also an adorable side story skillfully told in the border art as only Brett can. Set in the waters off of the coast of Okinawa, this colorful picture book is exquisite." *School Library Journal* "[S]ure to please Brett's fans." *Kirkus*

"A baby octopus waved its little arms at me when I glimpsed it on some coral while in the ocean off the island of Okinawa when I was visiting my daughter and her husband. It wasn't until I returned home and was musing over what creatures would take the place of the three bears in my under-the-sea Goldilocks story that it dawned on me that octopuses, intelligent and mischievous, would be just right. I admired the Okinawan houses and made the Octopus house like the island ones. When I worried out loud that the octopuses looked alien, my young friend Alma suggested they wear hats. Now the setting and the clothes were Japanese. "Back in Boston, the New England Aquarium's cold-water aquarist introduced me to Sy, their famous giant Pacific octopus. I had an arms on experience with her. From then on, my characters seemed to take shape by themselves. "Alice went down a rabbit hole to find another world. For me, I stepped off the beach in Okinawa." *Jan Brett*

I love Jan Brett's work, and the undersea Japanese setting is absolutely delightful. Artistically, once again she does a great job with the animals, imaginative decorative work, and exuberant color, though I did think the proportions of the little mermaid girl -- and especially the treatment of her flowing hair - was a bit lacking. Nevertheless, the reader can't help but be charmed by the 'Goldilocks' variation told here, with the clever treatment of food, chairs, and beds and a host of cunning details -- like the baby octopus's Nudibranch pull-toys or the octopus sucker shibori design on the happi (jacket) of the octopuses. (And I do like octopuses very much, so it is particularly enjoyable to have them featured as main characters. Several reviewers thought pages must be missing, and at first reading I was startled at the jump from "peril" to conclusion. But the story is clearly told through illustration. Reading aloud to a child, ask them -- what happened? The adult octopuses are not angry anymore, the ray is plainly happy, and hmm, isn't the mermaid missing something? I think it would also be fun to play seek & identify with the wealth of Pacific sea life beautifully illustrated on all the pages here, making this a book to explore over and over again.

Jan Brett is a favorite children's author & illustrator. However, I found the execution of this story a tad lacking in a few of the illustrations and the literature. Great premise, just not her best execution.

Jan Brett creates a new twist to the traditional story of Goldilocks. In *THE MERMAID*, Jan Brett skillfully illustrates an under the sea look at Goldilocks story. The main character Kiniro is a mermaid swimming in the seas off the coast of Okinawa, Japan. The illustrations depict ocean life from an octopus family and Mermaid's point of view. Kiniro travels with her friend and protector a puffy fish. While the octopus family gets ready to go for a swim before breakfast, the author describes mother octopus holding a new hat and insisting Baby octopus wear the hat. As the octopus family leaves out the back of their house, Kiniro swims towards the front of the enchanting house of sea shells. Brett takes her readers below to the ocean floor sharing interesting descriptions and colorful illustrations of scenery around the octopus family's seashell and coral home. The author follows the Goldilocks storylines converting the images of dishes to seashells filled with exotic sea foods. Kiniro tastes all three and settles on Baby octopus's breakfast. The mermaid sits in all three chairs and settles into Baby's chair flipping her fins breaking the chair. Brett illustrates the visit to the family beds. Mermaid, Kiniro falls sound asleep in Baby octopus's bed. When the octopus family comes home, Brett's descriptions with supporting illustrations portray the actions and reactions of the octopus family returning how and finding Kiniro sleeping in Baby's bed. The author adds an unusual twist to her under the sea story with the help of puffy fish and the Kiniro's observations. *THE MERMAID* offers an exciting look at a classic fairy tale set in the enchanting sea off the coast of Japan. Brett's new book will hold the attention of readers of all ages.

'Different' Goldilocks story with beautiful illustrations of sea life.

Jan Brett as always provides the world's cutest animals, situations, and anatomically real-appearing marine critters. Best of all the baby's hat is a ray - tied on with Seaweed by patient Mama Octopus. The resigned look in the ray's eye in one of the later illustrations is laugh-out-loud funny. My 1st grader loves this book.

I ordered two copies of *The Mermaid*. Both copies are missing pages. The story jumps from the discovery of the mermaid in the house to her swimming happily away. Beautiful illustrations, but a

printing error I guess. I hope the publisher will make this right.

The illustrations are stunning but the book seems to be missing pages. Either that or there is just a huge gap in the story.

I had been looking forward to this book, excited to have a new Brett story and a mermaid tale that didn't feature a blonde or redhead. But, as other reviewers noted, it's a retelling of Goldilocks. This is not such a bad thing but we already have The Three Snow Bears, which is also a Goldilocks retelling. I'm disappointed Brett returned to an already well-worn plot. Artwork is gorgeous as usual.

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