

## “Emily and a Whole Bunch of Things”

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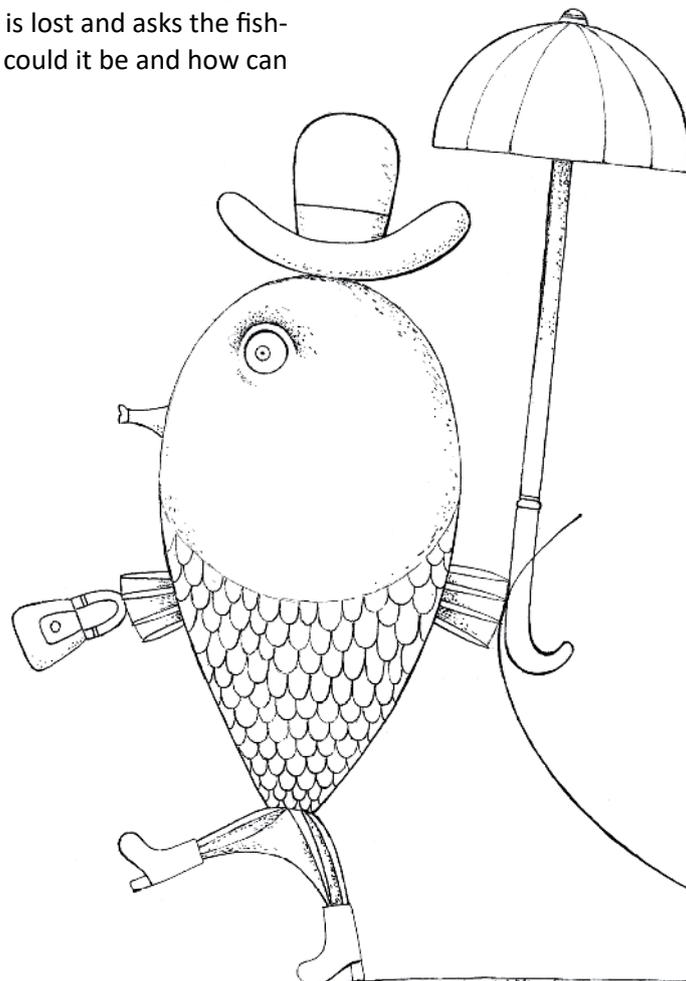
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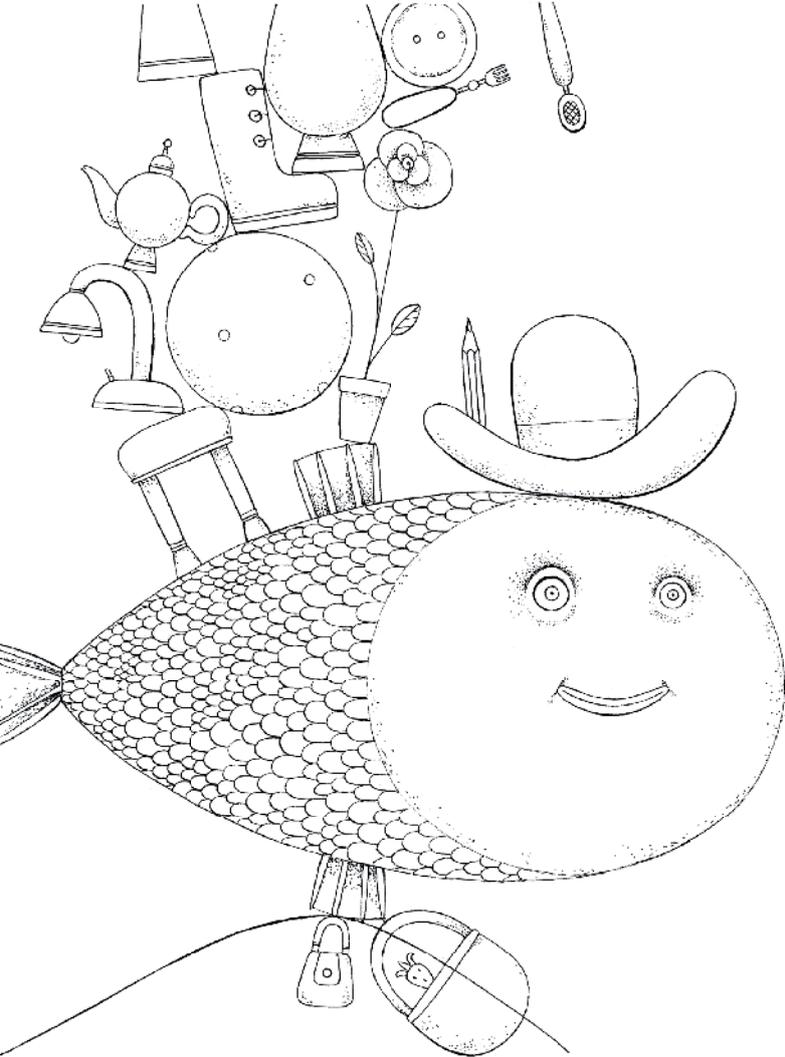
*Picturebook, fiction*

Age: 3+

Rights sold: French, Italian

Emily the fish-girl loves odds and ends more than anything else. Every morning after she brushes her teeth, she goes for a stroll across the seabed and looks for things. One day, Emily finds a letter written by the most important thing of all. It is lost and asks the fish-girl to come and find it. What could it be and how can she locate it?





## Reading sample

In a big grey sea, there lived a fish named Emily.

Each morning at exactly 6 o'clock, her alarm clock rang.

Emily woke up, brushed her teeth...  
and went for a walk on the seabed.

But she didn't walk just for fun. She looked for things.

And she found them, too!  
Some things were pretty.

Some things were tasty.  
Some things were small.

And some were big.

Some things were good for her.

And some things were bad!

All these things were lost and belonged to no one.

Emily could carry them home and keep them. This way they weren't lost things anymore, but Emily's things.

Emily had many things.

Emily adored things!

One day on her usual walk, Emily found a bottle floating in the water. There wasn't any soda in the bottle like Emily had hoped, but instead, there was a LETTER!

"Dear Emily," it said, "Writing to you is the most important thing of all. I am lost. Please help find me!" Emily became excited. Of course she wanted to find the most important thing of all and take it home!

She began her careful search.

Soon, she noticed a television in the distance.

"Of course a television must be the most important thing of all," Emily thought. "And imagine that – I don't have a TV yet!" She swam up to the television and asked:

"Hi, TV! Was it you who wrote me the letter?" But the TV didn't reply.

Emily continued swimming and saw a car. "Everyone knows that a car is the most important thing of all," thought Emily. "How have I managed without a car so far?"

"Hello, car!" she said to it. "Did you write me the letter?" But the car didn't answer.

Emily continued searching until she came across a house.

"Certainly a big, beautiful house must be the most important thing of all," thought Emily. "I could keep all my lovely things here, couldn't I!" "Hi, house," she greeted it. "Was it you who wrote me the letter?" But the house didn't answer, either.

Nothing that Emily met talked to her. It seemed that the only one who could talk and write was Emily herself. And suddenly, Emily realized:

“I am the only one who could have written the letter! It was I who was lost! Lost in the middle of all these things that were more important to me than me myself! But I don’t need these things at all! I am the one who is important!”

Emily took a spade and dug a big hole in the sand. Then, she buried all her things in the hole.

All she kept was a pencil and paper. “Because literacy is very important,” she told herself. “Without being able to read and write, I would never have found myself!”

The next morning, Emily slept in very late, because she no longer had an alarm clock.

And when she woke up, she didn’t brush her teeth, because she no longer had a toothbrush.

But she did go for a walk. This time, though, she did not go searching for new things, but just to have a look around.

She had never gone on a walk without having a reason before. It was entirely different than looking for things. It was BEAUTIFUL!

Emily was so happy that she started to sing. “Blurp-blurp-blurp!” And everyone who heard it cheered up and smiled.

