

Sixty bizarre and beautiful marine creatures offer their best tips for self-confidence, serenity, and fulfillment—drawn from real-life facts about our fascinating natural world.

If you sometimes wish to simply sink back into the depths of the ocean, great news—the strange little guys who still live down there will receive you with open arms (and fins, claws, and tentacles). But if you're not quite ready to take to the sea, they've also got some solid advice for those cursed to live on solid ground.

In *Leaving the Ocean Was a Mistake*, Earth's weirdest sea creatures offer their favorite tips for improving your life on land. Get to know these friendly denizens of the deep:

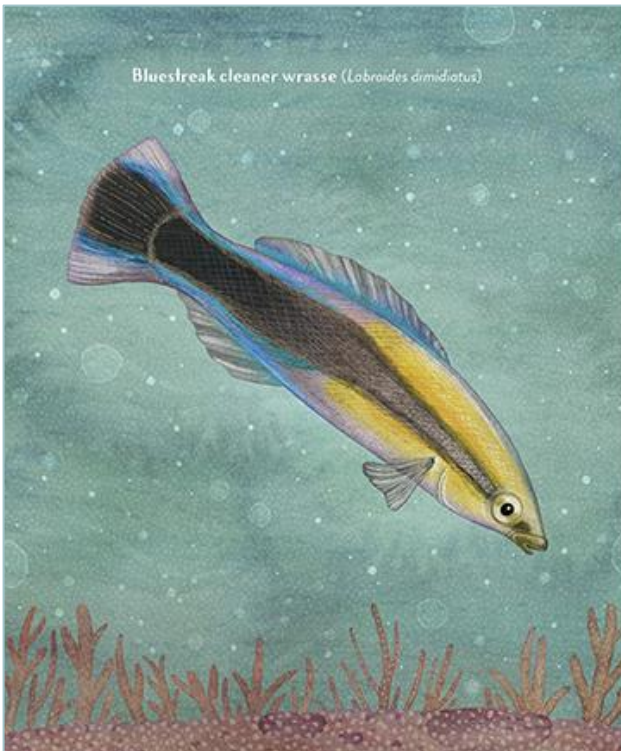
- The star tunicate, who avoids anxiety—by digesting its own brain
- The gloomy octopus, who asserts its boundaries—by throwing dirt at anyone who bothers it
- The fire-breathing shrimp, who gets its feelings out—by vomiting bioluminescent goo
- The deep-sea anglerfish, who expresses love—by fusing with its mate
- And more wonderfully wacky undersea weirdos who really know how to live!

Beautifully illustrated with charming watercolor portraits of the ocean's most eccentric creatures, *Leaving the Ocean Was a Mistake* will help you bring a freewheeling, relaxed, self-actualized ocean spirit to even the driest life.

- **FOR LOVERS OF WEIRD NATURE:** The combination of humor, life advice, and science facts will appeal to anyone who loves to scroll animal Instagrams or relax with David Attenborough documentaries.
- **OFFBEAT AND INFORMATIVE:** Real facts about sixty weird animals, from pram bugs to blobfish, arranged by ocean zone.
- **EXPERT AUTHOR:** Author Cara Giaimo is a science journalist with *New York Times* credentials and a funny and approachable voice.
- **SEA CREATURE TREND:** Sea creatures have been a popular recent theme for décor, gift, stationery, and serious science books—this brings them into gift book territory.
- **BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED:** Full-color illustrations by Vlad Stankovic (@vladimirsart on Instagram), who specializes in nature illustrations with realistic details and playful colors and personalities.
- **PERFECT SMALL GIFT OR STOCKING STUFFER:** Small size and 4c hardcover package make this a perfect gift for holidays, birthdays, care packages, graduation, and more.

HC: 9781683695073
\$14.99 US/\$19.99 CAN
On Sale: 10/7/2025
128 Pages

Real life tips from 60 sea creatures



Bluesreak cleaner wrasse (*Labroides dimidiatus*)

There's nothing more
important than
knowing yourself.

Experiments have shown that—like horses, Asian elephants, and humans—bluesreak cleaner wrasses can recognize themselves in the mirror. This might help them in their undersea job, which is cleaning parasites off other fish.

9

It's never too late
to start over.

Like many other sea creatures, the immortal jellyfish has a complex life cycle that involves several different stages: baby larva, young polyp, and adult medusa. Uniquely, though, this jellyfish can go back to the polyp stage at any point—which it does, especially when stressed. Instead of sweating it, the jellyfish hits the reset button: it ages in reverse and starts again (and again, and again).

18



Immortal jellyfish (*Turritopsis dohrnii*)

Author Bio: Cara Giaimo is a science journalist who loves writing about our fellow species. You can find her work in the *New York Times*, *Atlas Obscura*, *The Plant*, and elsewhere. Cara lives in Somerville, MA, above sea level.

Illustrator Bio: Vlad Stankovic is an illustrator and graphic designer based in Sydney, Australia. His inspiration comes from science and nature on one hand, and fantasy, fairy tales, and all sorts of mysteries on the other. Created with both digital and traditional media, his illustrations can be seen published in picture books, greeting cards and other stationery products worldwide.



Quirk Books is distributed by Penguin Random House.

To order, contact your PRH Sales Representative or call 1-800-733-3000

Visit us at quirkbooks.com