

Early★Reader

Merkid Rescue

Alex goes into the sea to rescue
his sister's floaty, but gets pulled out
by the riptide! Then, he has some
unexpected saviours...

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RRP £5.99

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Elizabeth Dale

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By Elizabeth Dale



Illustrated by
Giorgia Broseghini

'Merkid Rescue'

An original concept by Elizabeth Dale

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Published by MAVERICK ARTS PUBLISHING LTD

Studio 11, City Business Centre, 6 Brighton Road,
Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 5BB

© Maverick Arts Publishing Limited February 2022

+44 (0)1403 256941

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available at the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-84886-861-8

Maverick
publishing

www.maverickbooks.co.uk

White

This book is rated as: White Band (Guided Reading)

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Chapter 1

Alex was having the best time. He had come with his mum and sister, Mary, to the beach. The sun was shining, the sea sparkled blue and the smell of sun cream was everywhere. He cheered as Mary planted a flag on top of the huge sandcastle they'd just built.

"Can we go in the sea now?" he asked his mum.

"Okay," she said, smiling.

"Hooray!" cried Mary. "I just need to blow up Magica!"

Alex grinned. He'd given Mary a unicorn floaty for her birthday and she absolutely loved it. She called it Magica because she said all unicorns were magic. She puffed air into the ring as fast as she could, but it came back out again almost as quickly!

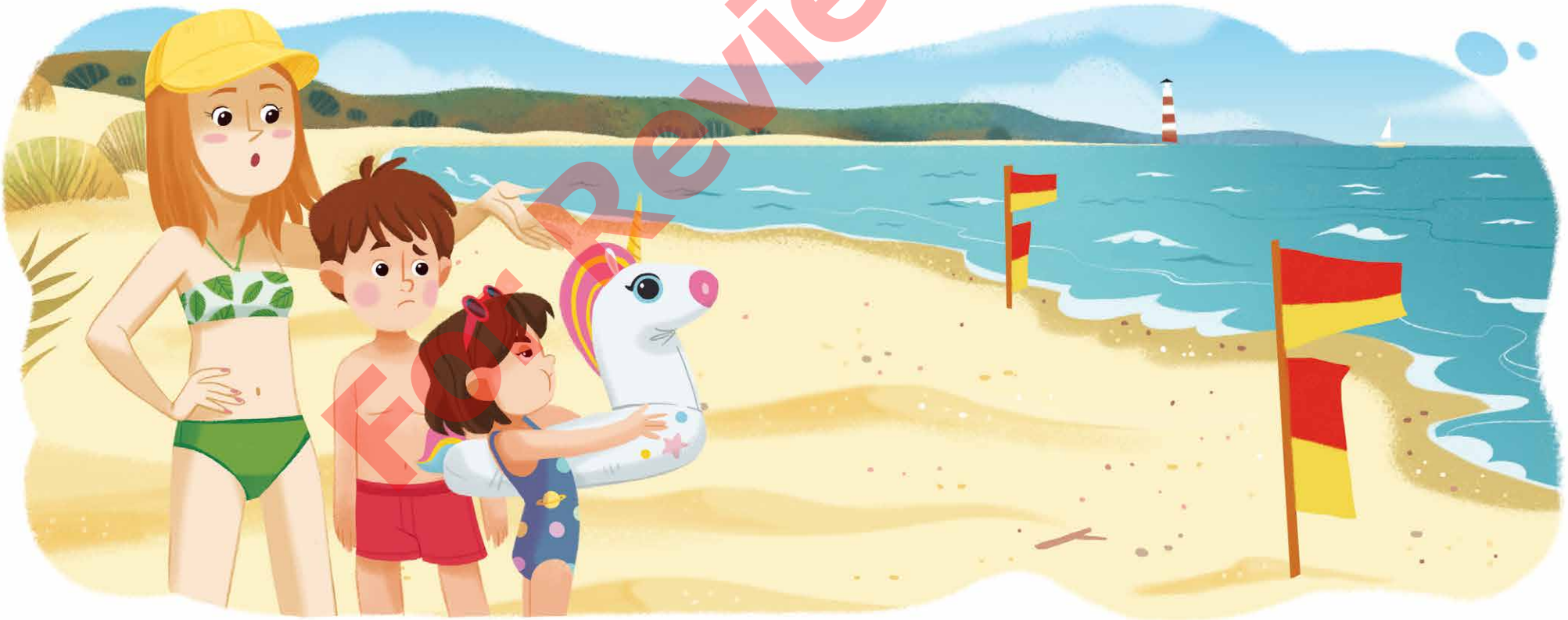


“Here, let me help,” Alex said, and Mary handed Magica over.

“Right,” said their mum when he’d finished.
“Let’s go! But we must only go in the sea between those red and yellow flags where the lifeguards are watching. That’s the only safe place to swim.”

Mary jumped up. “Oh... I need to go to the toilet!” she said.

Alex sighed. How typical of Mary! Just when they were about to do something fun, she always needed to go to the toilet. “Can’t you wait?” he asked.



“Alex, be patient,” said their mum. “We’ll only be five minutes. You stay here and look after our things, then we’ll have lots of time in the sea when we get back.”

“Okay...” Alex said. As Mum and Mary went to the toilets, he started digging a road from their castle. There was a sudden gust of wind and something blew past him, bashing his ear.

Oh no, it was Magica! And it was being blown into the sea!

Chapter 2

Alex jumped up and chased after the floaty as fast as he could. Another gust blew Magica. There was nobody nearby to grab it, so Alex splashed in after it. A wave brought Magica closer and then took it away again. Alex waded into the water, deeper and deeper, and then a wave brought Magica back again. Alex jumped forward and grabbed it. He’d got it!

