



Magic Beach - Alison Lester

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Realistic scenes of children splashing in the surf soon become magical. With a flip of the page, the waves curl up into white horses leaping past the swimmers.

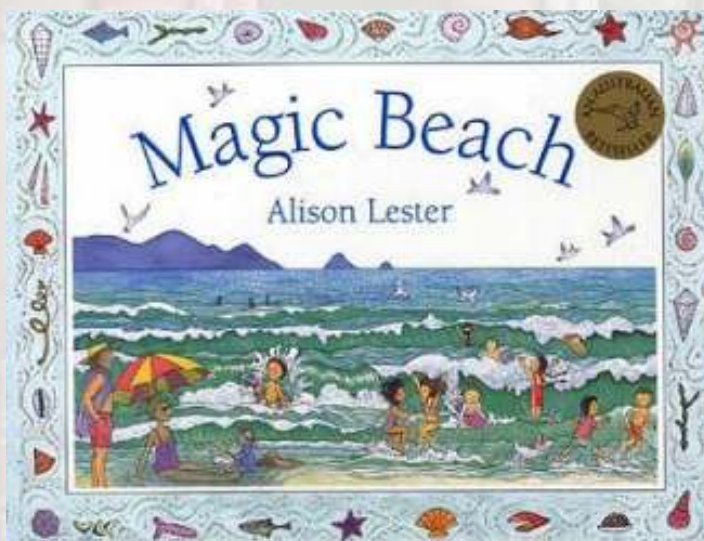
On the beach, busy families make sandcastles and moats. Over the page, a king and queen are trapped in the moat by a dragon spitting flames. The imaginative contrasts continue with children climbing on rocks and deep-sea diving into the Kingdom of Fishes. They hunt for driftwood and shells then find a chest full of treasure.

The freedom of the seaside invokes the thrill of adventure and discovery. The author's flowing verse draws the reader on to each new group exploring the gifts of the ocean.

Lester's soft-coloured illustrations invite close inspection for the wealth of detail and interaction between the beach-goers. There's constant movement as children are immersed in their activities. Intricate borders add interest. Day moves into night and a beach bonfire casts mysterious shadows. The final pages draw the busy day to a close with the little ones tucked up in bed. "At our beach, at our magic beach, the old bed is cosy and wide. To the sounds of the ocean we sleep through the night, adrift on the evening tide."

Perfect for summer-time dreaming.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.



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