

# As soon as I saw him, I knew the truth

by Rose

**As soon as I saw him, I knew the truth** : only the ocean could have engraved the waves that were rippling on his forehead. The seaweed had given this green reflection to his hair and to his moustache, sparkling with droplets. He looked majestic. I finally saw him ! The Ocean King ! The Ocean King was coming out of the water, in front of me, in a deserted place near the harbor pier and exactly as I imagined !

Me, I'm Paddington Collins... No, it's not a joke, Paddington like the bear (my parents were huge fans of this book...) I'm 11 years old and, yes, I still believe in the myths that my mother told me when I was a child ! Why not ?

The stranger approached me, dripping, like a waterfall in motion ! Furthermore, he gesticulated furiously. "Between overfishing, petroleum, or plastics, he surely has reasons to blame us !" I thought. - "Oh, the morons! They threw me overboard ! You'll end up in jail before you hear the handcuffs close on your wrists! Bandits, thugs, scoundrels !"

He was throwing shells, crabs, handfuls of sand on a boat that was running towards the open sea. Odd monarch !

- Good afternoon, Majesty, I said, timidly.

He then turned around and I thought he was going to melt on me like a tidal wave.

- You ! If you tell anyone that the famed Bill Wellington, Scotland's fifth-best detective, has been thrown overboard by miserable shrimps, you'll hear about me too !

At that precise moment, I was the most disappointed boy in the world : my stately king...a ludicrous policeman !

- Oh, my god, I know you are impressed, little head, but I HAVE TO STOP THIS BOAT ! Smuggling story, too complicated for you ! Get me a motor stuff to go fast, that there !

He began to run towards an old forgotten motorboat that had been taking on water for at least 3 years. I followed him, without thinking too much (I never think too much). He cut the knot of the buoy with a knife, turned so quickly towards me that he almost went overboard (again) and exclaimed :

- Turn this motor on, I can't do everything !

We caught up with the fugitive ship very fast, too fast...Oh yes, it was motionless. Really, nothing magical today !

- "Thank you, little head" Wellington said finally.

He smiled at me (he had heroically lost 3 teeth during the fight). We were on the deck and the bootleggers have ended up in fishing nets, I didn't know exactly how...

- "Only humans can repair the mistakes they have made so...I take this appearance, sometimes, to give a little help..."

I didn't understand anything, and, for any answer, he jumped like that, without warning over the rail. I rushed and arrived just in time to see, a gorgeous mermaid tail slipping into the waves.