

The Turtle Dances

Daniel S. Janik

Illustrated by Ruth R. Janik



Savant Books and Publications
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
2013

The third in the Savant "Color-Me-Please" Series

Other books in the Savant "Color-Me-Please" series:

A WHALE'S TALE by Daniel S. Janik (Savant 2009)

MYTHICAL VOYAGE by Robin Ymer (Savant 2010)

Available from Savant Bookstore Honolulu, Amazon.com and through fine bookstores everywhere

Other books by this author:

SOURDOUGH SCOTT'S BEDTIME FAIRY TALES FROM ALASKA

(Publication Consultants 2005)

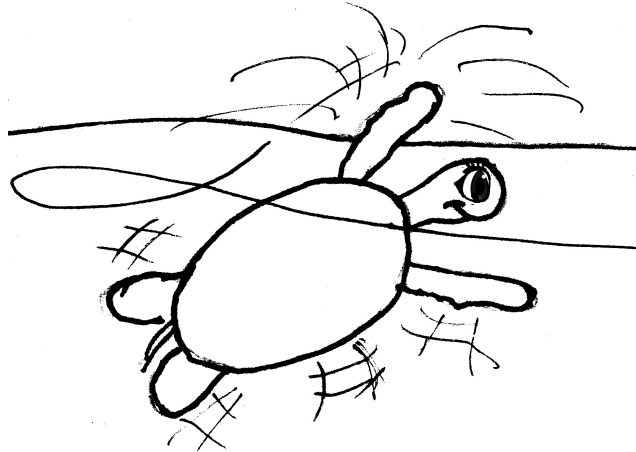
UNLOCK THE GENIUS WITHIN (Rowman & Littlefield Education 2005)

FOOTPRINTS, SMILES AND LITTLE WHITE LIES - Collected Poems (Savant 2008)

THE ILLUSTRATED MIDDLE EARTH - Collected Poems (Savant 2008)

LAST AND FINAL HARVEST - Collected Poems (Savant 2008)

The Turtle Dances



Daniel S. Janik

Illustrated by Ruth R. Janik

Published in the USA by Savant Books and Publications LLC
www.savantbooksandpublications.com

Edited by Jim Currie
Front and Back Cover Images from Paintings by Ruth R. Janik
Cover Design by Daniel S. Janik

This is a work of fiction. The names, characters, places and incidents are products of the author's and illustrator's imagination. Any resemblance to actual turtles, persons or events, living or dead, is coincidental.

Copyright 2013 by Daniel S. Janik. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced without the prior written permission of the author.

ISBN-13: 9780988664012
ISBN-10: 0988664011

Dedication

To turtle-lovers everywhere, young and old...

- Daniel and Ruth Janik

...and to my beloved wife and dance partner, Setsuko Tsuchiya.

- Daniel S. Janik

Table of Contents

Preface	1
Chapter 1 - Peach Moon	5
Chapter 2 - Beginnings	9
Chapter 3 - Home	13
Chapter 4 - The Beach at Waikiki	19
Chapter 5 - Dance of the Land Creatures	25
Chapter 6 - Isla Discovered	29
Chapter 7 - Isla Dances	35
Chapter 8 - Bounce, Twirl and Slide	39
Chapter 9 - Surf	45
Chapter 10 - A Dance Partner	49
Chapter 11 - Lonely No More	53
Chapter 12 - The Dance Competition	57
Chapter 13 - The Turtle Dances	61
About the Author/Illustrator	69

Preface

I've long been fascinated by children's reactions to sea turtles—they seem to instinctively identify with them, viewing them without fear, even wading in and swimming bravely alongside them—not necessarily the case with other animals. This book came to me imagining what a sea turtle might think of the fearless, curious, shell-less, upright land-dwellers wading among them. Mightn't a particularly observant and fanciful turtle take things a step further if she clambered onto a beach and happened to see two humans *dancing*?

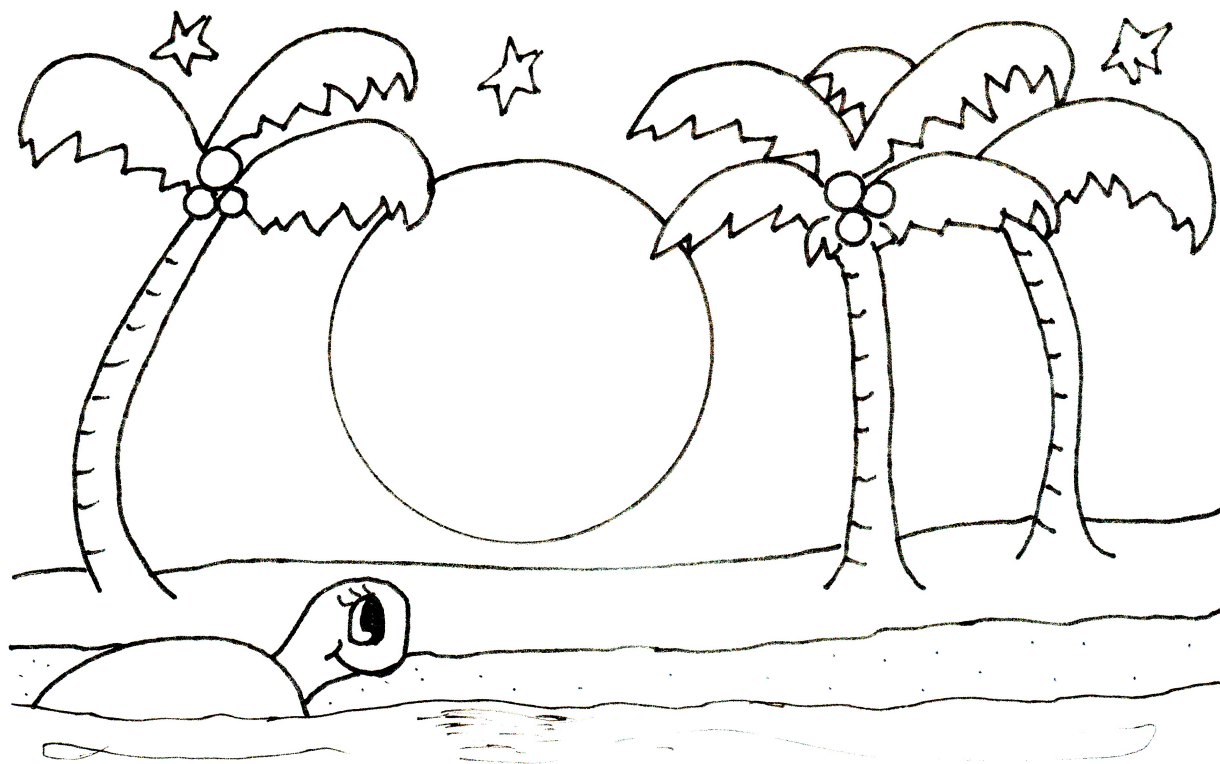
Naturalists at heart, the illustrator and I endeavored to keep the appearance and life history of our heroine and her turtle-friend reasonably true to life. As in our previous book, *A WHALE'S TALE* (Savant 2009),

we've included references, as well as information about the currents, geography, and abundant fish and marine birds of the Hawaiian Archipelago, the chain of seven major islands and other smaller ones, where this story takes place.

If you are interested in Hawaiian Green Sea Turtles, the internet is rich with resources about their biology, behavior, migration, and conservation, as well as eco-travel where sea turtles can be viewed in their natural habitat. Many of the sites provide additional information about ocean health, which is closely linked to the survival of all ocean species.

Among my favorite turtle internet sites are Turtle Trax; Public Broadcast System (PBS); National Geographic Society; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Hawaiian Islands Protected Resources; Hawaii Wildlife Fund's Hawaiian Sea Turtles, State of Hawaii

Division of Aquatic Resources' Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles; Earthtrust's Green Sea Turtles; EarthJustice's Sea Turtles; National Wildlife Foundation; Sea Turtle Conservancy; Network for Endangered Sea Turtles; Riverhead Foundation; and SeeTurtles.

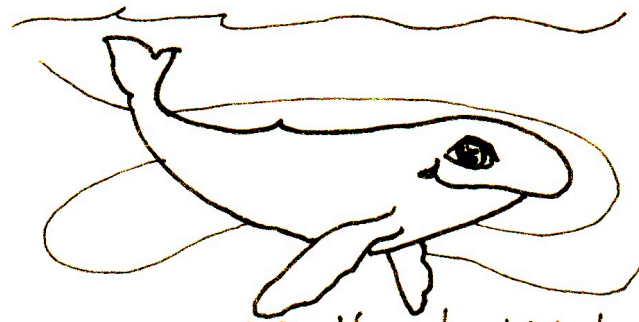


Chapter 1 *Peach Moon*

Viewed from the middle of the bay, the night would have been pitch dark, but for the huge, round, blushing-pink Hawaiian moon, resting like a big ripe peach just above the horizon. Above and behind, the sky, a black velvet blanket, was dusted with pin-point stars. Ahead, along the sandy beach, the evening trade winds rustled the long fronds of tall coconut trees growing on the far side of a sidewalk that wandered behind low mounds of

cool, wet sand.

The beach was pretty much as Isla, the Green Sea Turtle, thought it should look, taste and feel from her childhood memories. Of course, it wasn't *exactly* the same. There were small differences—the coarseness of the sand granules, their slightly cooler temperature, and something she couldn't quite put her flipper on.



young Pacific Humpback Whale