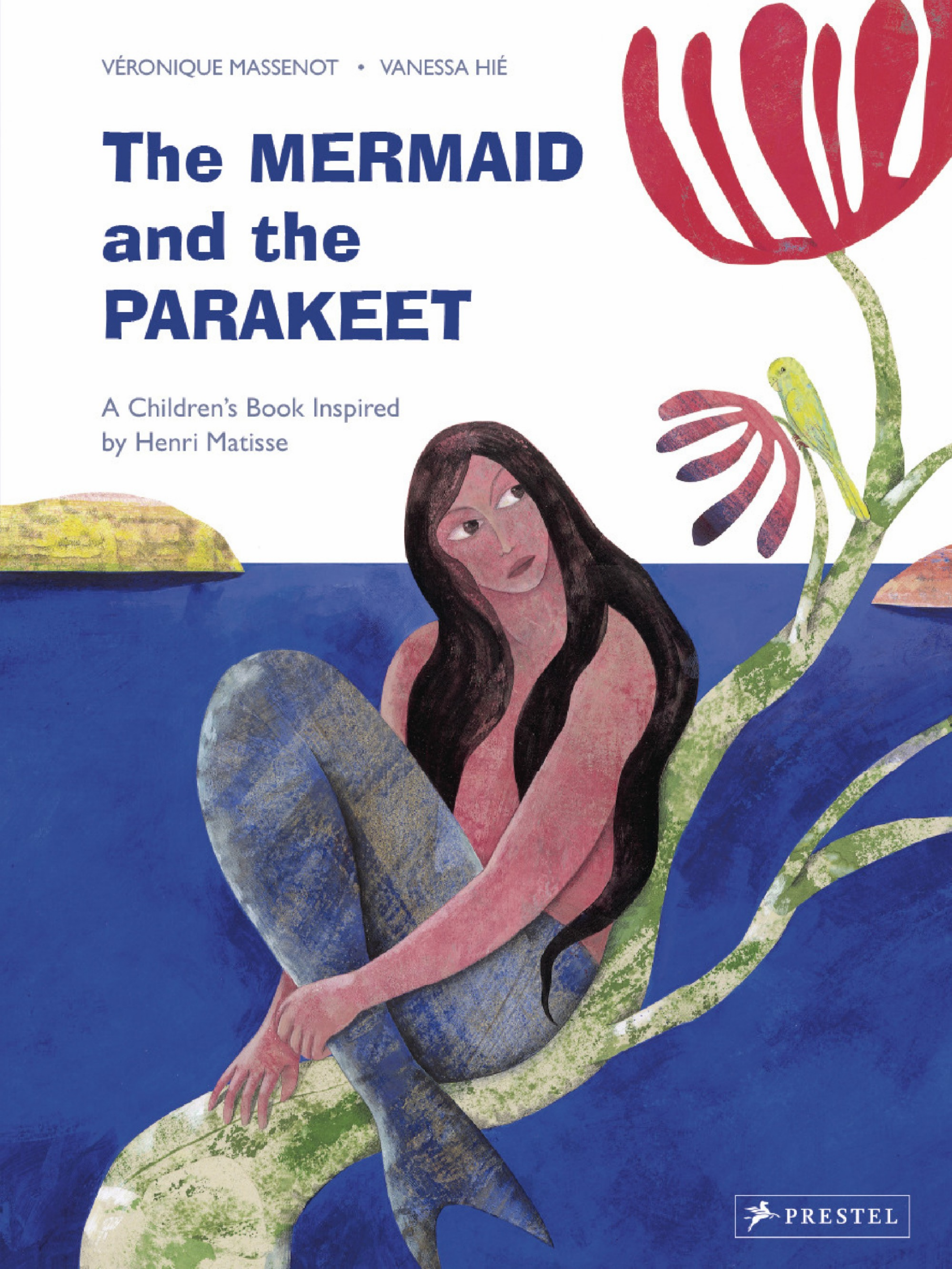


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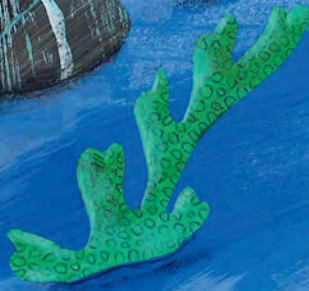
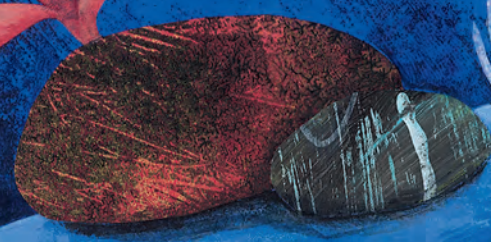
# The MERMAID and the PARAKEET

A Children's Book Inspired  
by Henri Matisse




There once was an ocean, wide and beautiful,  
and it had everything an ocean should.  
Islands and boats! Fish and shellfish! And even... a mermaid  
swaying across the bottom, among the seaweed and corals.





One day a storm came,  
so loud and so strong,  
with all it could contain  
of anger and rage.





The wind began to blow madly,  
the clouds to swell, swell, swell  
and the thunder to roar, roar, roar!  
Amidst the darkness of the sky  
appeared thousands of gold lightning bolts.

The storm was getting out of control. Luckily, all the boats had come safely back to harbor, and the islands were laying low.

Underneath the water, everyone was trying to hide: the shellfish in the sand and the fish in the rocks.

But the mermaid, alas, could find no shelter.

Not even something to hold on to.

So, the floods took her away....

