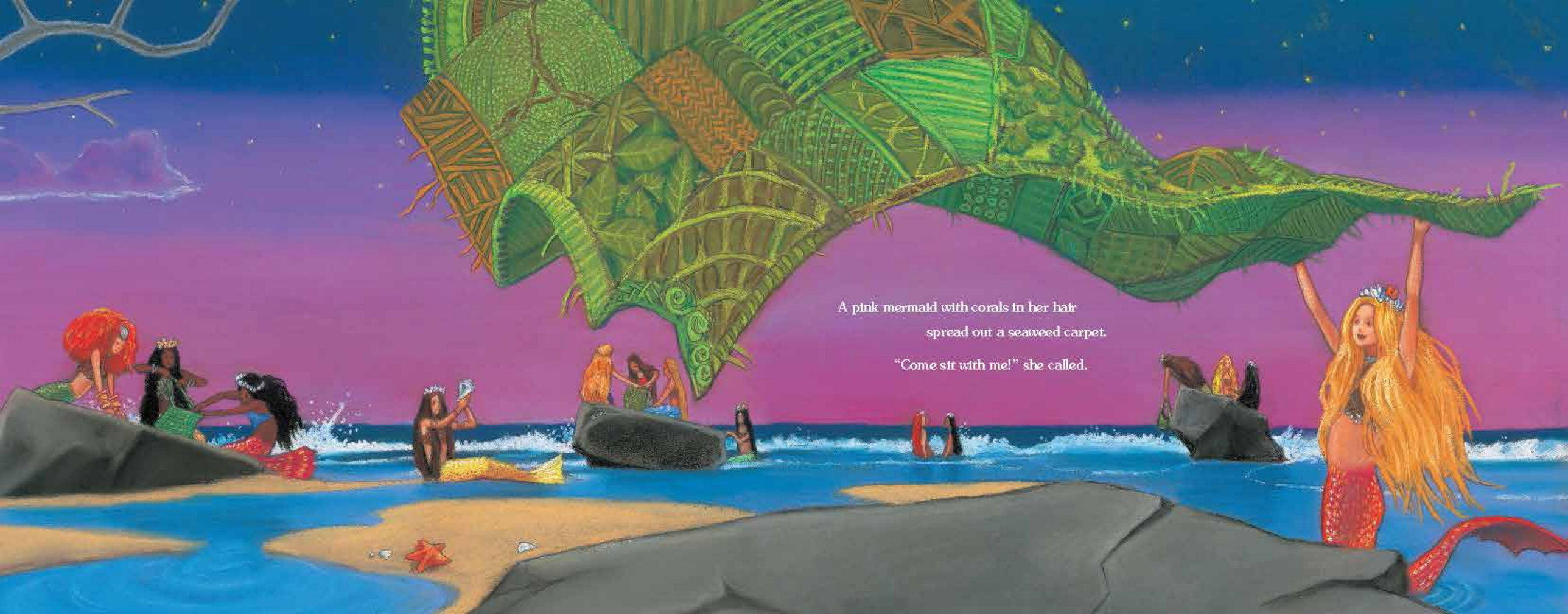
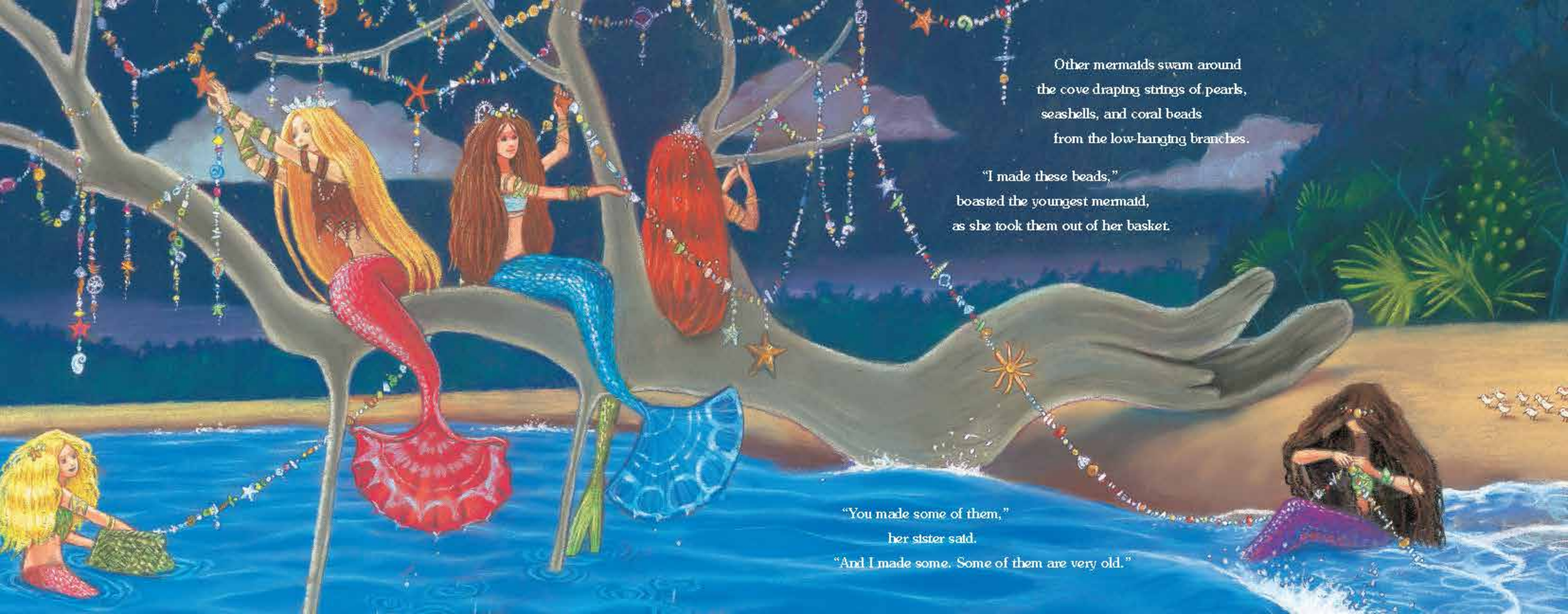
As the waves washed higher,
a silver mermaid arrived,
then a green one,
then a gold.

They carried baskets
filled with food,
seashells and starfish.


A pink mermaid with corals in her hair
spread out a seaweed carpet.
"Come sit with me!" she called.



Other mermaids swam around
the cove draping strings of pearls,
seashells, and coral beads
from the low-hanging branches.

"I made these beads,"
boasted the youngest mermaid,
as she took them out of her basket.

"You made some of them,"
her sister said.
"And I made some. Some of them are very old."