

HATCH

SAVES THE REEF



Written by Judith Stutchbury
Illustrated by Mark Mulgrew
and Archie Gatley

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<https://www.hatchsavesthereef.com/>

LOGLINE

When artificial light, coral bleaching and plastic pollution threaten certain doom to all, a sea turtle hatchling sets out to save her ocean friends but needs to find the SeaTide Princess to help her.

SYNOPSIS

Hatch, a sea turtle hatchling, is ready to explore her ocean home. Confused by the real-world problem of artificial city light glow, she is enticed by the bright lights of a soccer game and found almost lifeless on a beachside field by young schoolboys, Finn and Charlie.

Scientist Dr Limpet equips Hatch with satellite tracking and she is released to her ocean home. Expecting a beautiful ocean she encounters devastation of more real-world problems; plastic pollution and coral bleaching.

Hatch meets turtles Doomy - *'we're all doomed'* and hyperactive - *'let's do it'* Flash, along with other marine creatures who speak, sing, dance and attend counselling sessions. Coral, a *Goniopora columna* coral, normally thrives with colour but is fading fast. She and all the other sea creatures are worried about their fate.

Doomy and Flash join Hatch's adventure from the Mon Repos Turtle Rookery Australia to the South American feeding grounds, via Coral's Garden at Lady Elliot Island, and Tetiaroa Island, in an attempt to save their friends.

Meanwhile, on land, Finn's father, Civil Faldt, of Faldt's Engineering, has environmentally unfriendly plans.

Hurley, a surfer girl, school Reef Guardian Leader and Junior Turtle Ranger, is dumbfounded as she can hear Hatch speak.

Hatch fails in her mission to find help until a magic florescent path pulls the turtles back toward Mon Repos, where they meet Grandpa Wobbe, a wobbegong shark, who knows about the SeaTide Princess. Hatch just needs to find her. Can Hatch, Hurley and the school Reef Guardians help save their troubled environment?

Hurley discovers she *is* the SeaTide Princess with special abilities to guide the hatchlings safely to their ocean home, while the community discovers how they too can help the environment and its creatures.



Included in the book is information about coral bleaching by Dr David Wachenfeld, dark skies by Dr Kellie Pendoley, and plastic pollution by Dr Jennifer Lavers, and Anthony Hill. HATCH is supported by Australian Band INXS and has its own Princess song by Chelsea Stutchbury. Proceeds of the book support student environmental activities.

"Hatch is a delightful story full of adventure and fantasy but with a strong underlying message: the ocean and its inhabitants are in trouble. Young readers will be highly motivated and empowered to do what they can to help." **DR JANE GOODALL DBE** Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute & U.N. Messenger of Peace.

"Hatch is a superstar and so are her friends — hopefully her story will inspire many more to join her mission!" **ANDY RIDLEY** Founder Earth Hour, CEO Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef.

"The children of today are the decision makers of the future, Hatch will make a significant contribution to the inter-generational change needed to ensure a healthy Great Barrier Reef for future generations" **JOSH THOMAS** Chief Executive Officer, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

"Conserving sea turtles and the beauty of their world is a big challenge — a fitting mission for a hopeful, informed, and inspired army of kids on the verge of their own empowerment. Lead the way, Hatch!" **DR BLAIR WITHERINGTON** Turtle Research Scientist, Inwater Research Group, Florida. Former Biologist, Walt Disney World.

HATCH is a heart-warming family adventure with love for the ocean and its creatures at its heart. The book is a call to action to readers that we all have a part to play in protecting the environment and the world's oceans. Hatch encourages that we can all make a difference and inspires us to be strong, follow our instincts, dare to dream, and be resilient when faced with adversity.

HATCH is inspired by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Reef Guardian school program, the Queensland Department of Science, Parks and Wildlife, Junior Turtle Ranger program, and Dr Jane Goodall's Root&Shoots Program.

HATCH saves the reef | Published July 2023 by IVE | Judith Stutchbury © April 2017 | 0418 191 438 | Mon Repos, Queensland, Australia | ARTWORK © Mark Mulgrew | <https://www.mulgrewmark.com>

