Marlie Blue and the Rainbow Promise



A bubble on her bill

A bubble on her bill

The rain had tip-tapped away.
Sunshine slipped into Marlie’s cove.
A bubble landed on her bill.

“Is that my new hat?” she asked Mama.
Pop!
“Oh. A very short visit.”

Mama laughed, and Marlie’s pink bow bobbed.

Marlie Blue and the Rainbow Promise



A ribbon in the sky

A ribbon in the sky

Above the sea stretched a rainbow.
Red, yellow, green, blue…
and a pinky-purple Marlie loved.

“Can we find where it touches the water?” she asked.
“We can look together,” said Mama.

Marlie’s tail wiggled with a rainbow-sized wish.

Marlie Blue and the Rainbow Promise



The rainbow promise

The rainbow promise

“Stay beside me,” Mama said.
“Boats and moving water need lots of room.
If I call, stop and listen.”

“What if I have a question?”
“Ask me, little one. We can work it out together.”

“I promise,” said Marlie. “Little fins. Listening ears.”

Marlie Blue and the Rainbow Promise



An even littler little fish

An even littler little fish

By the coral arch was another baby blue marlin.
He was even smaller than Marlie.

“I’m Pip!” he squeaked.
He blew a bubble bigger than his head.
It popped on his nose.

“Good hat,” said Marlie.

Their mamas smiled. Two little fish giggled.

Marlie Blue and the Rainbow Promise



The little boat

The little boat

Beyond the reef bobbed a little boat.
A fisherman sat inside, holding a fishing rod.

A breeze tipped his hat over his eyes.
“Who turned out the sunshine?” he chuckled.

Marlie peeked up.
Pip peeked too.

The fisherman lifted his hat and waved.

Marlie Blue and the Rainbow Promise



One shiny little bob

One shiny little bob

Beside the boat, a red-and-white float bobbed.
Pip’s eyes grew round.

“A berry wearing a hat!”
He flicked forward.
Marlie almost followed.

Just one closer look…
Then Mama called,

“Stop, little fins. Stay here with me.”

Marlie Blue and the Rainbow Promise



Little fins can listen

Little fins can listen

Marlie stopped.
Pip stopped so quickly his tail gave a tiny wiggle.

“Why, Mama?” Marlie asked.
“That float belongs to the fishing line.
And see the water curling past the boat?
It could carry little swimmers away.”

Marlie looked again. Now she could see.

Marlie Blue and the Rainbow Promise



A wave from a friend

A wave from a friend

“Even if we’re very quick?” asked Pip.
“Even then,” his mama said gently.

The fisherman noticed the little fish.
He lifted his line into the boat and put his rod away.

“Off you go, little ones,” he said.

“There’s a whole sea of growing to do.”

Marlie Blue and the Rainbow Promise



A better place to wonder

A better place to wonder

“Did listening mean no adventure?” Pip whispered.
Marlie looked at Mama.

“Come and see,” Mama said.
Their mamas led them through the coral arch.
There was a sheltered pool of quiet, shining water.

And above it… the whole rainbow.

Marlie Blue and the Rainbow Promise



Wearing the rainbow

Wearing the rainbow

They hadn’t needed to chase it at all.
Color shimmered on Marlie’s scales.
A purple sparkle danced on Pip’s nose.

“I’m wearing the rainbow!” he squeaked.
Marlie twirled once, slowly.

Far away, the fisherman rowed home.

Dip, drip. Dip, drip. The sea grew still.

Marlie Blue and the Rainbow Promise



What Mama could see

What Mama could see

“I thought you were stopping my fun,” Marlie told Mama.
“You were helping me.”

“I want you to have wonderful adventures,” Mama said.
“And come home safely for a cuddle.”

Marlie tucked close.

“I’ll listen to you and Papa. And when I wonder why, I’ll ask.”

Marlie Blue and the Rainbow Promise



A promise before sleep

A promise before sleep

The rainbow faded.
The first star blinked.
Pip nestled beside his mama.
Marlie rested beside hers.

Parents can notice things little ones haven’t learned yet.
Listening helps us learn and stay safe.

Little fins.
Listening ears.

Loved all the way home.

Swish… hush…
Goodnight, little dreamers.

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