

MILO AND EURYBIA SEA ADVENTURE

By Starlyn Sosa

“Hey, Milo, it’s time to
come to bed it’s nighttime
“says Milo’s dad. Milo
always had a deep
admiration for the ocean.
He spends hours seating
in his house’s deck staring
at the crashing waves and
the jellyfishes that seem
to sparkle under the
moonlight.

In this particular night though Milo sets his eye on something seating on a rock. He tilts his head forward to catch a better glimpse at what seems to be a mermaid. In a flash the mermaid appears closer to him and whispers “Help me.”

“Milo”! shouts his dad from inside the house. His voice interrupts his trance.

Milo stands up and walks away but gives one look back to see if the mermaid was still there. And she wasn't. “Huh weird” he whispered to himself and continues to walk until he makes it indoor and sits.



“Milo what was that all about” says dad

“When I ask you to do something, you do it.”

“Yeah Yeah I know I was just intrigued by the beauty of the sea.” he said sarcastically and then chuckled.

“You’ve been acting kind of odd lately and I see you spending more time at the dock looking at the sea a lot more, is everything all right”.

“Why can’t people appreciate life more”

“Huh” says dad, “What do you mean by that?”

“Some kids at school called me a sissy because I said that I love sea turtles”.

“What’s wrong with liking sea turtles?” Milo said.

“Nothing’s wrong with liking or even loving sea turtles, son. They just don’t appreciate nature or the oceans like we do. We are fortunate enough to have access to the ocean and appreciate it in all its glory. Anyways get to bed its late” dad says.

“Ok, goodnight dad” responded Milo

“Goodnight son”

Milo makes his way up the stairs and heads to his room. He opens his room door and lays himself in his bed. Milo closes his eyes and tries to fall asleep. But he remembers what he just saw when he was outside. Oddly enough when talking with his father he completely forgot that he saw what seemed to be a mermaid. Milo can't seem to fall asleep, so he decides to stare outside his window from his bed. His window is right in front of the ocean. The crashing waves and moonlight once again put him in a trance.



“Huh what’s going on” says Milo with a frightened look in his eyes.

From downstairs Milos dad sees water coming from his room.

“Milo! What’s with all this water? And what is that weird noise!?” says dad

“I don’t know dad but it’s coming from outside the window” responded Milo

“Move out the way son. What the heck is that”

As soon as Milo’s dad went to the window to get a closer look he transformed into an albatross.

“Daaad” shouts Milo as the water increasingly fills his house and bedroom in the second floor. “

The frightened sea bird startled by Milos yelp fly’s out the window and leaves.

Milos quickly tries to grab his dad from flying away but to no avail misses.



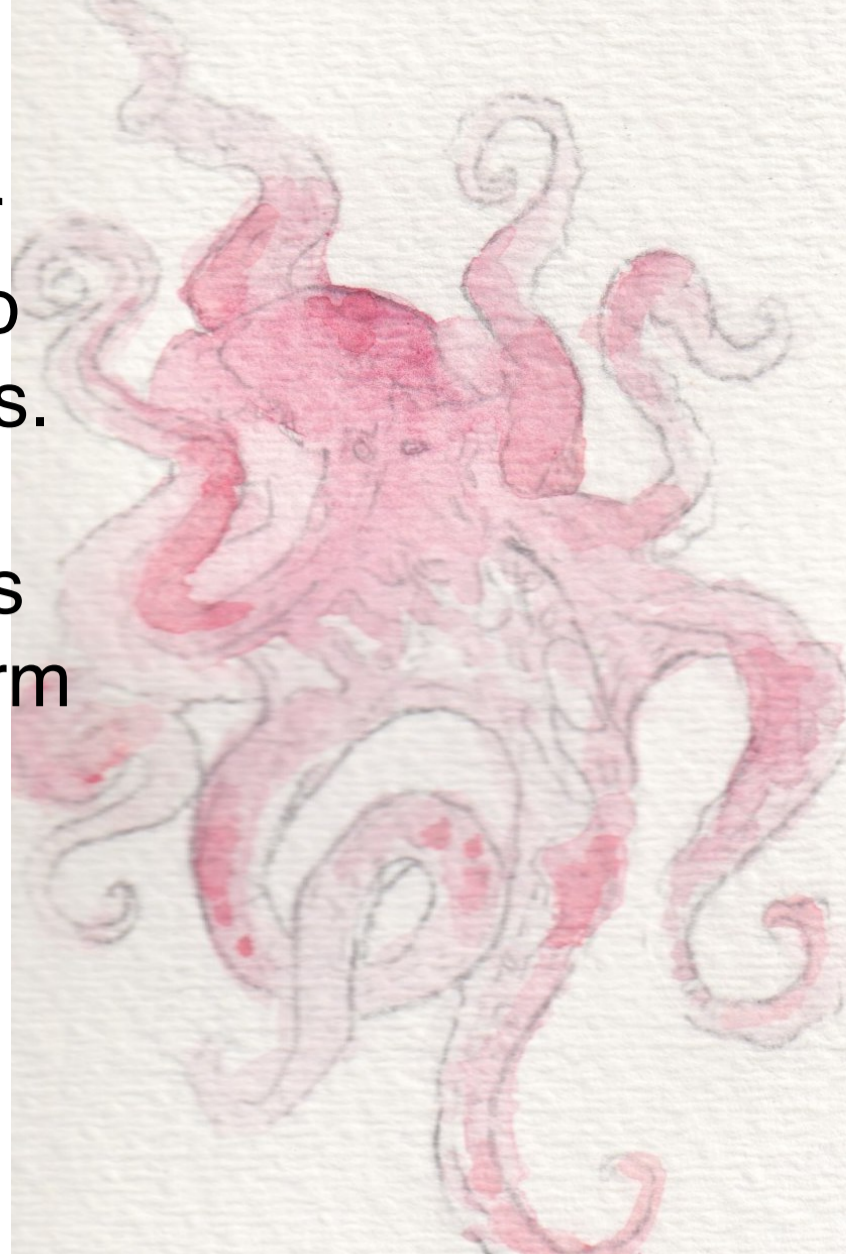
The mermaids lullaby got louder and louder and in an instant Milo is transformed into a red octopus.

“Aaah” shouted Milo, He catches a glimpse of his new octopus form in his mirror.

Milos house is now submerged under water and in a fury, he swims his way through the window to get to the mermaid seating on a rock.

“Hey!! What did you do with my father and why am I a turtle”?

“Hello little one. I’m Euribya and I need your help.”



“Help with what” Milo responded. “And what I’m a supposed to do I’m a 10-year-old boy”

“I’ve watched how caring you are for the sea animals and the oceans. I observed how you spend great time watching the ocean from your house. I thought you might be of great help to me. You see as the sea queen I am responsible for the great animals that live in it”.

“No I can’t help. Turn me and my dad back to normal. And stop this flood now” responded Milo.

“Please I know you love animals and have empathy for them compared to other regular humans.” says Eurybia

“How am I supposed to help you if you turned my dad into a bird. Now he’s gone” said Milo.

“Sorry for that. Turning you into an octopus is the only way you can help me. And don’t worry about your dad he going to fly to a place that isn’t flooded” Says Eurybia the Mermaid Queen

“IF you help me, I’ll turn you and your dad back to normal, everything will go back to the way it was”. - Eurybia

“Okay I guess I have to. But how am I supposed to help” responded Milo.

“You’ll have to follow me. With your new body I’m sure it’s easy” responded Eurybia

And so Eurybia swam and swam and arrived at a what seemed to be a big patch of plastic in the middle of the ocean.

“Wow what is that?” said Milo

“That’s exactly what I’m trying to understand, do you know what this malicious entity is ?”

“That “entity” is plastic” responded Milo

“Where does this come from? All my life I’ve seen this “plastic” floating around but now it seems like it’s grown in number”

“Yeah I’ve read about plastic pollution at school. Around 8 million metric tons of plastic are dumped into the oceans. It is estimated that by 2050 there would be more plastic than fish.” responded Milo.

Did You Know?
Since the 1950s, around 8.3 billion tons of plastic have been produced worldwide.

“Oh wow you seem to be very knowledgeable about this plastic thing” said Eurybia.



“I like to read about marine life but know it seems you can’t talk about marine life without mentioning marine pollution. It has become a big threat to the environment.”
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“Anyways the real reason I asked for your help is because my sea turtle friends need help. They are trapped in some sort of thing. Look they're right there.

“Wow they're so many turtles. They are trapped in fish net” says Milo anxiously.

“Here use your octopus’ legs and help me pull the net away”

“Okay 1...2...pull’ said Milo

Successfully pulling the net allowing the sea turtles to swim away to safety.

“Oh no!!” said Milo. “That turtle isn’t moving. This is one of the ways turtles get affected by plastic. I watched a documentary on this with my dad that said that turtles mistake plastic and other garbage as food and ingest it. Oh, how unfortunate.”

“Yes, very unfortunate people don’t realize how crucial these creatures are for the environment. Without sea turtles the whole marine environment will be disrupted and there would be worldwide impacts.” Said Eurybia

“Yeah sea turtles specifically hawk bills are important as they eat sea sponges. Without hawksbills, sea sponges can overgrow and suffocate slow-growing corals causing them to die.” Responded Milo.

“Uh I’m such a geek” says Milo

“Nothing wrong with caring for the environment. We all depend on each other one way or another. You Milo are an amazing boy” said Eurybia in a comforting tone

“Now that I think of it Seabirds are also affected by plastic pollution. Dad!! My dad is a seabird what if ... what if he ate plastic and died. I’ve read that seabirds like Albatross often mistake floating plastic debris for food”.

Did you Know ?

As plastic breaks down in the ocean, it releases damaging chemicals that may attract **seabirds**.

“Don’t fret young one. Your dad is safe, I give you my word” responded Eurybia confidently.

“I’ll need your help with one more task”

And so Eurybia the mermaid queen and Milo the octopus swam to one more place where the water got thicker and blacker.

“Here we are” said Eurybia pointing to a large blue whale.

“That’s a big whale” said Milo. “But why is it covered in that black goo, lets take a closer look”



“That’s oil” said Milo

“I don’t know what’s wrong with my whale friend but he’s acting really weird” responded Eurybia.

“The whales blow-horn is filled with oil” said Milo. “I’ll need to remove the oil from his blowhole. But he won’t stop moving”

“I’ll handle it” said Eurybia. And so, she sang her lullaby and the whale slowed down immensely.

“Ok, don’t worry whale” said Milo. And so, Milo removed the black oil from the whale’s blowhole and cleaned him up.

Did you know ?

Oil spills can affect sperm whales and other cetaceans, including dolphins, in a number of ways. For starters, the marine mammals have to surface to breathe, and if they come up through an oil slick, they can suck the toxic substance into their lungs

“Thank you so much for helping my animal friends. I really appreciate it. Though I’m afraid that many more animals are affected by pollution” responded Eurybia

“Yeah I’m afraid so. I wish I could help more. Come on, where else to go “said Milo

“Are you forgetting something” said Eurybia

“What!” said Milo

As soon as he said that Eurybia started singing her lullaby...

“Milo. Milo! its time for school” says dad but know as his human self

“Dad” says Milo in a shocked manner

“Are you all right”

“Yeah why wouldn’t I be, silly boy’ dad responded

“Nothing I think I just had a dream” says Milo as he rubs his eyes and then yawns profoundly.

“Hey Dad” - Milo

“Yeah Milo”- Dad

“I think we should go to the beach and pick up some trash. To save the turtles” – Milo

“Hahahah Ok ... if you say so” – Dad

The End.