

The Unexpected Underwater Adventure

By Zoey Ji

It was a hot, summer day and my last day of visiting the wild environment of Australia. Over the past six days, my parents and I have visited: the Sydney Opera House, The Great Barrier Reef, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, and Sydney Harbour Bridge. However, it felt so relaxing just lying on the sands of Bondi Beach by myself at this moment.

Suddenly, my peace and quiet were disturbed by cries of "Help! Help me!"

Quickly, I leaped to my feet and scanned the beach to try and locate where and who it was that needed rescuing.

My eyes spotted three feet to my right, an adult sea turtle with its hind legs bound by the handles of a plastic bag. Quickly, I dashed over to aid the distraught creature.

"Thanks! My legs were getting numb! You were the only human who heard my plea for help!" he cried.

"How long have you been stranded like this?" I inquired.

"About an hour! I thought I was going to die!" As he spoke, his mood changed to a more upbeat tone. "When I was little, all sea creatures could swim freely without fear of being entangled by any form of plastic bags, rings, straps, and cords. Now, there is so much trash left by beach goers that the debris is harming marine life badly. I would like you to meet Poseidon, the Sea God, so that he may reward you for your kindness."

In a splash, I was swimming underwater, breathing normally, and following the sea turtle with great ease.

Suddenly, before my eyes appeared Poseidon's golden castle encased in a large glass dome. "Why is there a dome around this magnificent castle?" I asked the turtle.

"The dome is a safeguard to stop the toxic plastic from getting into our pristine kingdom." he responded.

Swimming in silence, a magic portal opened in the dome and the two of us entered the kingdom. 100 trumpets announced our arrival in royal fanfare. A crowd of a million merpeople greeted us. Poseidon announced to me, "Welcome! It is a pleasure to have you here. I want to reward you for saving my royal servant. He is our patrol guard who monitors the pollution outside of our kingdom. For your heroic deed, I want to reward you with this opal necklace. Thank you, brave girl." He gently placed the necklace around my neck.

"Thank you, King for your immense generosity. I promise to fight global pollutions that harm our oceans. If I need money to fight my cause, I can sell some of my opals from this precious necklace," I shared to him.

He kindly smiled at me and snapped his fingers. In a flash, I was sitting on Bondi Beach all alone. Was this a dream? Then, I noticed the necklace around my neck and understood this happening was a real one. Truly, from this unexpected adventure, I have understood the importance of safeguarding the global ocean environment.