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Friendship

The Reason of a Loving Friend

Dolphi swam around happily. “ C’mon, guys!” She called to her pod. Her mom was the first to reach her. “ What do you need, honey? There are some... well, old dolphins back there, and they can’t swim as fast.” Dolphi frowned, and swam on. She did a back flip and nearly crashed into her mom. “ Honey! You can’t be doing flips right now! We’re migrating South, and we’re going to encounter some ice floes and icebergs. We might meet some sharks too!” Her mother, Ocean, warned. “If you goof off like this, we will definitely attract sharks, and get eaten.” “ Alright, fine. But if we get there, can I do more flips?” “Sure, as long as you don’t run into any of the elders.” Ocean agreed. The dolphins swam on, gliding gracefully, with Ocean and Dolphi in the lead. After a few hours, they started encountering the first icebergs. They were small, compared to the ones Dolphi’s aunt, Aqua, had talked about. She said they were about ten pods tall (a pod is a group of dolphins)! Aqualia, Dolphi’s mom’s friend, swam over. “ Be careful of the icebergs, little one. If you crash into one, you will get a concussion and die.” “Ok, Lia,” Dolphi answered. After the pod took a food break, they swam a little more. This was when they started noticing the big icebergs. They were a medium, ok size from the outside, but ginormous underwater. The pod had to bob and weave to pass them. Suddenly, Dolphi saw a baby octopus. She was an ocean blue color, with specks of red, purple, and pink. The poor baby was looking around frantically as though it lost its family and was looking for them. “Mama, can I please go see that poor baby octopus? She looks sad and lonely. I could go cheer her up, and then she would be better,” Dolphi asked politely. She knew that if she was polite, then her mother would do anything for her. If she was demanding and bossing dolphins around, then her mom would scold her and definitely not give her any reward. “ Sure sweetie pie, just don’t wander far.” Ocean smiled. Dolphi swam as fast as her little body could carry to the octopus. “ Hey! My name is Dolphi. You look stressed out, so I came to play with you.” “ No,

no, no, I don't have time to play!" The octopus shouted frantically in a squeaky voice. " I lost my mom, dad, and sister. I might get eaten without their protection!" Her squeaky voice went so high pitched, humans probably would have not been able to hear it. (fun fact: dolphins can hear sounds that are ten times higher pitched than humans!) "Ok, if you're on this level of freaking out, then we can go search." Dolphi said, trying to calm the poor animal. " Alright," The baby said in a shaky voice. " But, I have to know your name first." Dolphi interrupted. "Ok, my name is Inky." Inky sniffled. "Inky, just so you know, we can't go far because it will be dangerous. My mommy said we might get eaten by sharks!" Dolphi warned. "Ok, we won't go far." Inky agreed. And so, they swam around looking at any nook and cranny. They also looked and smelled for any hint of an octopus that passed by. Little did the two know, they swam a little further than they intended to, so they ended up in a place full of ice floes. "Whoah," Dolphi said, looking at a big ginormous ice floe that glimmered in the sun's light. "Wait! I think I see your family!" She exclaimed suddenly. "Where?!?" Inky suddenly grew excited. "Over there, across the huge ice floe!" Dolphi pointed out with her tail. It was true: across the ice floe underwater were three octopuses, and all of them looked stressed out. "Oh my god, let's go!" Inky squeaked, looking both frantic and excited. "Wait! You can breathe underwater, but I have to rise up and take a breath!" Dolphi said, looking troubled. "Well, we can pause at each of the holes in the floe," Inky pointed out. And so, the choice was made. They swam under the floe, pausing at each of the holes. Sometimes the holes were a little far apart, which made Dolphi almost drown a few times. But, she always made it with a strong swish of her tail. One was really far away, and Dolphi was drowning when Inky reached and pulled her up. "OH MY GOD!" Dolphi panted. "I need a five minute break." "Alright," Inky reluctantly agreed. During Dolphi's break, the two chatted about their favorite foods. "I love anchovies. They are so..." Dolphi suddenly got interrupted by Inky's sudden scream. "Aaaahhhhh!!!" She had the most horrified face ever. She was looking down, and seemed to be frozen like ice. Dolphi was confused, until she looked below herself and saw a great white shark rising toward her. Its giant, shining white teeth were getting closer and closer, along with its gleaming black eyes. Dolphi stayed there, frozen like she was petrified. She had never been so scared

in her life, and for a moment she just thought: *this is the end of you. Just except death.* Out of nowhere, Dolphi felt someone grab her. Its grip was very strong, like it was grabbing her with four hands. It pulled her underwater and swam away as fast as possible while pulling Dolphi. Dolphi suddenly came back to her senses and swam with her savior so they would go faster. Then, Dolphi made the mistake of looking behind her. The shark was even scarier than it was when it was going to eat her. Its big red mouth grew closer and closer with every swish of its big tail. *Oh, we're doomed.* Dolphi thought. Suddenly, a black substance squirted out from next to her. The black liquid covered the shark and blinded it temporarily. It thrashed around, making big waves that pushed Dolphi and her savior around. As they swam away, the shark grew smaller and smaller. Dolphi let out a sigh of relief, and looked at the animal that saved her. Her whole heart, body, and face lit up when she saw who it was: Inky! The little octopus helped Dolphi escape the shark, warded off the shark, and saved Dolphi's life. "OH MY GOD THANK YOU!!!" Dolphi exclaimed gratefully. "No problem," Inky smiled. Dolphi spent the rest of the way thinking about how good of a friend she had. Once they reached the end of the ice floe, her mind finally left those thoughts when Inky suddenly darted past her and crash-hugged her parents and sister. "Oh Inky!" Her family exclaimed while exchanging a group hug. The sight warmed Dolphi's heart like a sunny day, and reminded her of her mom. The moment the thoughts of her mom came into her mind, Dolphi gasped. "Wait a minute, I think we went too far and now my mom can't find me!" Inky's dad looked at her and said, "Oh, it's ok. We're heading South too, and we can meet your family there." "Oh, ok," Dolphi finally felt relieved. After some introducing, the group set off. Two days later, they arrived at their destination. The water there was fresh and clean, and there was plenty of food. Dolphi met her mom again, and the two hugged. "Where have you been? Next time, you're not going anywhere." Ocean said. But after Dolphi told her mom the whole story, she said, "I guess you did do something kind. Although, you really need to thank that good friend of yours. "I already did!" Dolphi said, and swam away to play with Inky. As the two played, Dolphi thought about how much a friend costs and her experience two days ago. She thought about how she

could never thank Inky enough and how lucky she was to have such a good friend.