

Midnight Zone

By: Sloka. C

The wind was calm and peaceful as the sturdy ship sailed through the mysterious, vibrant ocean. Sarah was leaning on the edge of the deck feeling the clean, fresh air of the clear sky rushing against her face. She reached her hand out to feel the ocean's rapid waves gushing against her. Her sheepdog, Ollie, barked at the fish jumping out of the salty water. She was travelling with her Aunt Mia to explore the world. She heard a loud and extremely low grunt from behind her. She whipped her head around to see Captain Buckle at starboard. She ran up to the giant like man and asked in curiosity, "Where are we going?" Captain Buckle responded in a huge gruff saying, "A mystery island... its name is Kazemi. It is a very well-known legend across the North. People say its where the Arctic and Pacific Oceans meet." He continued, "When I was a little lad my father told me to always follow Polaris to guide me there... I remember like it was yesterday."

Night fell, the crew danced and sang to their hearts' content. Meanwhile, Sarah was outside looking at the glimmering, dark ocean wondering about Kazemi. "Can it really be...?" She pondered to herself. Ollie nipped at her brown, buckled boots playfully. She scratched his stormy, gray head. "It can't be true." She thought again while proceeding down the dark, brown wood planks along the sides of the sleeping chamber. "**RAWWR!**" Sarah jumped to her feet and ran down to the middle of the ship and then she saw it. A gigantic sea creature projected itself upon the boat and its yellow piercing eyes drilled into Sarah's eyes. Its tentacles gripped the

ship and swung Sarah out as a crew member stuck harpoon in its tentacle cracking its coral color skin. It screamed so horribly and jumped back into the ocean. Sarah swam up to the surface as Ollie was by her side clutching onto a wood plank. Her head was spinning and soon enough, she had fainted.

“GASP!” Sarah woke up while coughing out the salty sea water. Ollie walked up to her and started to lick her face in excitement. She sighed in relief and when she looked up the sea creature was staring into her eyes. “AAHHH!” Sarah said while jumping and grasping a stick to defend herself. The creature backed away in terror. Sarah was perplexed why he was backing away instead of trying to attack her. At that moment, an idea sparked into her racing brain. She picked up the stick and started writing in the tan sand. The creature was intrigued and moved closer to her. She wrote “How did I get here?”. She dropped the stick and moved it to the creature's tentacle. He picked up the stick and started trying to draw. He didn't have much artistic talent but tried his hardest. Sarah stepped closer and saw him drawing a picture of her and Ollie being carried by the creature. His yellow eyes were much calmer and more relaxed and that's when she saw it.

A sleek-steel harpoon sticking at the back of his tentacle. She started to move closer and tried to pull the harpoon out. SWIP! The harpoon came out like butter. He looked at his tentacle and started blubbering in a happy manner. She asked verbally, “Where am I?” The creature said, “Kazemi.” Sarah jumped out of her skin and was startled by how the creature could talk. The immediate thought after was “KAZEMI?!” She was shocked that it really existed. The creature

said "Oh. By the way my name is Frank!" he held out his tentacle as a friendly handshake. Sarah shook his tentacle and said "Sarah." He said in the awkward silence, "Have you ever swam in the ocean?" Sarah said in confusion "Of course?!" Frank sputtered and said "No like... you know what? Let me show you." He took Sarah by the hand and dove into the ocean.

Sarah tried to pull away in but instead was motionless in awe. The ocean was so beautiful and majestic. Sea turtles were swimming around the coral, small tropical fish were peeking out of their ginormous caves, and the dolphins whistled in the serene waters. It was like a dream which she never wanted to wake up from. Soon enough she had to swim up to shore to get air. She gasped and spat out the ocean's water as Frank popped his head out. They swam up to shore as Sarah jumped onto the rough sand. "It was so beautiful..." she said as Frank was looking at her brown eyes glitter in the sunlight. "It is. The sea is the most beautiful thing you could ever see." Frank said while sweeping the sand. Frank heard vibrations that he could only hear and said "Farewell Sarah. It is my time to go." Sarah looked at him and asked, "What do you mean?" But before he could answer he turned to dust and flew with the wind away into the wonders of the island. "SARAH!!" said a voice behind her. She quickly turned around to see the ship with Captain Buckle waving his hands rapidly.

Once the ship reached shore, Aunt Mia sprinted out of the ship and hugged her tightly, which could cut off Sarah's blood circulation. "Are you okay?" Aunt Mia asked in worry, "Any scratches? Bruises? Cuts? Sickness??" Sarah pushed away and said "Aunt Mia! I'M O.K! It's only been a day!" Aunt Mia looked bewildered and said "Honey... it's been a week." Everything

stopped. Sarah backed away in confusion as she boarded the ship. She went to starboard, and everyone looked like she was out of her mind. She thought for a moment looking at the dolphin's race faster than the current and said, "Was this all in my head?"

~ To Be Continued ~