

Finding Atlantis

It all started with an August summer night...

My brother, Jaden, sprinted down the beach ahead of me. His dark brown hair ruffled in the fresh sea breeze. Our family had gone camping at Bolsa Chica state beach. After we had taken almost 20 minutes trying to start the fire, we realized we had forgotten the smores sticks. So our parents sent us to find some sticks on the shore.

"Hurry up, Evelyn!" my brother shouted, "The quicker we gather the sticks, the quicker we can eat smores!" Hearing my brother's call I quickened my pace and got to him just as we reached the berm.

The second we got over it it was like a different world from the campsite above. The lights from Palos Verdes reflected on the softly breaking waves. It looked like a painting, with the stars and the city lit water.

"This would make a great one!" Jaden exclaimed as he reached towards a long, slender stick. "Oh my gosh." He said with a gasp, "Ev' come look at this."

As I looked down at where he was gazing, I was filled with sadness. A small sea turtle, I presumed it was a baby, lay motionless on the sand. Trash, including a plastic bag, were preventing it from moving. "Poor little thing..." I murmured. I started to untangle the turtle and motioned for my brother to join me. As soon as it was free, the turtle waddled into the water and swam away, revealing two necklaces that had been underneath it.

Taking a closer look, I noticed at the end of the necklaces were large pearls with turtles engraved on the front. I put one around my neck and held the other in my hand. When I turned around to show my brother I realized he had swam after the turtle.

"Wait! Come back!" I shouted as I dove into the water after my brother and the turtle. The frigid temperature of the water shocked me so it took me a moment to come to my senses. In

that moment I got pushed under by a set. When I tried to resurface another wave pushed me back down.

I gasped for air and opened my eyes. But I was still underwater. That's weird... It seemed like I breathed... underwater. I looked down and noticed my necklace was glowing. It must have granted me the power! Now I could help my brother.

I swam over to where he was struggling, much easier now that I didn't have to worry about coming up to breath. Within a minute I had reached him. I lunged at my brother and threw the other necklace around his head. Right then there was a lull in the waves and both of us surfaced.

"Are you ok? That set of waves was pretty strong." I said to Jaden and continued when he nodded, "These necklaces let you breathe underwater!" I excitedly told him.

"How? That's crazy!" He said disbelievingly, "Prove it!"

I went below the surface of the water and stayed there for about a minute. Pointing at the glowing pearl I watched Jaden's expression change. I popped back up and asked him, "Now do you believe me?"

He quickly tried it for himself. "That's amazing, Evelyn!" He exclaimed once he had resurfaced, "These pearl necklaces are magic! We found magic!"

Right then, the little turtle we had saved came out of the water. "Can we please take it home? It's probably lost and confused and needs our help. We can't let it get eaten by a shark or something," Jaden said pleadingly.

I looked back at the shore and realized a rip tide had taken us far out. It would take a while to swim back in. And how many chances did you get to tour the bottom of the sea with a turtle as your tour guide? "Fine," I replied, "But we have to make it quick"

The three of us dove into the water. Our little turtle guided us into a very active section of the kelp forest. At first I was keeping track of the different animals we saw, but later I gave up, for there were too many to count.

Jaden and I watched as our little turtle disappeared through a wall of seaweed too thick to see through. Strangely, the water beyond the kelp wall seemed to glow. I parted the seaweed and swam through the wall, my brother following.

Immediately, I was amazed by the scene in front of me. A whole entire ancient city was beneath the water! There were arches and buildings, all slightly crumbling but still standing, probably hundreds of years old. Everything seemed to shine with a soft golden light. Turtles filled the city, swimming through various passageways. It was incredible!! This must be Atlantis!! I thought Atlantis was only a myth!

A majestic looking turtle with a large gray-blue shell and turquoise skin came out of the largest tower. She came over to us and greeted the little turtle by pressing her head against its cheek. The Turquoise turtle must be the little turtle's mom, his family. We had completed our mission. It then made a whale call sound. Immediately, a pod of five dolphins scooped Jaden and me up. Within seconds we were racing across the ocean's surface, riding the dolphins. I could see us rapidly approaching the shore. I was glad I got to see Atlantis, even if it was only for a minute before the turtle sent us off.

After that day, Jaden and I never told anyone about our discovery. I explained to him it was a secret only for the animals, and now for us two. That day when we had gotten back to our parents they were worried but it was easy to create a believable story. They knew how much we loved exploring. That next day when we woke up, the necklaces had mysteriously disappeared. Although Atlantis left my conversations, it never left my heart.

Sometimes, I would try to look for the city, but find it again I never did. Though very rarely, if you are at Bolsa on a very dark, clear night, sometimes you can see a faint glow on the horizon that might just be Atlantis.