

Inside The SeaShell

I've never much liked the beach. I hate the way the sand gets in my hair, the loud sounds the gulls make, and the way the ocean water stings my eyes. Usually I tolerate it, but today I was in a grouchy mood, when my parents announced our sudden decision to visit the beach I flew into a fit. I complained to my father, whined to my mother, and everything my siblings did just annoyed me. Despite my efforts I was told to put on a swimsuit and a smile because my parents' decision was final. As I trotted towards the car my flip flops made weird noises as if they were still filled with water from our last trip to the beach. I jumped into the car and slammed the door shut, I slumped in the backseat, moping as I thought about how unfair everything was. My parents got into the car and looked back at me and my two sisters, a stupid grin on their faces. I was about to put up another fight, but it was too late, my parents had started the car and were sputtering down the driveway.

All I could do was sit there soaking in my rage, as we passed through the mid day traffic. Unfortunately as we made a final turn I could see the clear, blue waves crashing against the sand and the surfers walking back to their cars with smiles on their faces. That just made me madder, how could anyone possibly choose to come here and actually expect to have fun. The beach is nothing but a wasteland of sand and a salty ocean that stings your eyes as the ocean tosses you attempting to drag you under. Nevertheless my parents started to gather up our possessions and lead my siblings and I towards the crashing blue waves. When we neared the water, I sensed something different, the water had receded farther and the sand was littered with rocks and seaweed. I looked up at my parents hoping they could clear up my confusion. My parents met my eyes and seemed to get the memo because they announced, " Welcome to the tidepools." Suddenly I was so bored anymore, my anger had seemed to evaporate, " the tidepools," I repeated under my breath.

I had remembered learning about the tidepools in school, tidepools are small patches of seawater that are left behind once the low tide comes. They are often filled with small creatures such as crabs, urchins, and other tiny organisms. The beach had just become a lot more interesting. I threw off my flip flops by our beach chairs and raced towards the small pockets of water on the beach. The things I saw stunned me, The creatures within the pockets of water were

beautiful. The Sea anemone's tentacles flowed with such grace it seemed to make the whole ocean's display of waves, seem like the most rash and unruly performance you have ever seen. The muscles reflected the sun's light and seemed to glow brighter than solid gold. Then I looked under a rock and found the most gorgeous shell I had ever seen. The colors seemed to dance across the surface of the shell, forever changing. Every edge and rough bump on the shell seemed to be embroidered with rubies and sapphires. I picked up the shell and examined it from every angle, the shell seemed to have no bad side. I clutched the shell to my stomach intending to take it home and keep it with me forever. However fate was not in my favor as I felt the shell shift on its own.

Quickly I pulled the beautiful shell away from my chest only to see something had emerged from inside the shell, I realized it was a hermit crab. Even though its drab colors hopelessly contrasted with the shell's beautiful ombre, it seemed to make the shell even more special. The hermit crab was a symbol of small creatures learning to live in harsh environments by adapting to their surroundings. Knowing I had made a mistake I marched over to the tide pool the shell had come from, I placed the crab back to the exact place I had found it. No matter how beautiful the shell was, it already belonged to someone and taking it and the crab would not be right. When you find something on the beach you shouldn't take it, leave it for others to enjoy, and for animals to use in their struggles to survive. After one last glance at the shell I ran back to my parents, who had started to pack up.

On the drive back I was elated, My discovery was amazing, and honestly I couldn't wait to go back to the beach. As our car pulled back into the driveway my parents looked me in the eyes and said, " looked like you had a lot of fun today." I attempted to look displeased but that was really hard to do, as I could tell a smile was tugging at the corners of my lips.