

The Egg-Venture

1

Tinsley was ever longing for a friend.

2

Ever since her only friends left Queensland to move to America, she had been lonely. It
broke her heart every day she didn't see them.

3

Today will be different, she told herself, but even she didn't believe it. Or any of the other
three months of thinking that very thought, but she hadn't lost hope. Or yet, at least.

4

Tinsley waded out of the water to dry off. As she walked around the pile of driftwood,
she spotted something odd beside it.

5

She inched toward it, becoming more and more curious with each step. She picked it
up. It was an egg. A light turquoise egg the size of a small watermelon. As she placed it into her
beach bag, it glowed.

6

Once she got to school, she held her school bag closer than ever, for she brought the
egg with her. It was her second to last year in primary school, and she had one week left, so she
wanted to make it count.

7

"G'day, class. Now, everybody, get in your seats before the bell rings," said Mrs. Brown.
"Don't forget, we have a test today!"

8

In no time at all, it was soon time for morning tea.

9

When Tinsley decided to go free diving later in the day, she brought the egg with
her. She approached an underwater arch slowly. It was a coral arch the color of indigo,
surrounded by smaller pieces of coral twisted within and around that were different blues,
greens, and purples. She went through the arch slowly, but soon came up for air. When she
looked at the sky, she noticed that it was nighttime, and there wasn't one moon. There was a full
moon and a crescent moon. Tinsley wasn't on Earth. She was on a different planet.

10

She had tried to go back under the arch, but the effort had done nothing.

11

"Where am I?" Tinsley asked herself.

12

No one answered, but her egg was glowing brighter than ever. The egg seemed to be
pushing and shoving its shell with all of its might, which only felt to Tinsley a small push. She
looked in that direction and saw the faint shape of land. This was promising. She swam toward it
at a steady enough pace that wasn't too fast, nor too slow.

13

Soon, the sky got a bit lighter and the moons moved slowly over the land. She was now
so close to the beach that tears filled her goggles and she had to empty them. With one final
wave, she was finally at the shore.

14

She saw a rock cliff, which is normal at the beach, but radiated odd energy towards
Tinsley. She stepped closer and touched it. It sent an energy wave so powerful that it nearly
knocked her over, then started writing in a shimmery white lettering.

15

To find your way home, west you shall go

16

Inverse to the ocean's blue;

17

To seek the tallest mountain

18

Of the thirty-two;

19

From there, you shall return

20

What has been lost;

21

Inside of the nest

22

So that it is found;

23

44 After the last word vanished, the cliff cracked and split open to reveal a mountain range
45 in the distance. She walked through the cliff, watching the little pebbles fall out of the crevices.
46 Finally, the cliffside faded into the land, and she saw the sun rising over the ocean in the
47 distance. A dragon silhouette flew across from the sea, guiding Tinsley to where she needed to
48 go. She had to run to keep up with it, carefully protecting her precious cargo. The mountains
49 looked far, but just when she was about to give up, the dragon watching her landed next to her
50 and motioned for Tinsley to hop on. She carefully sat on its lower neck and noticed that the sun
51 was just high enough to see that it was a green dragon. It flew at incredible speeds, much faster
52 than she could walk. In almost no time at all, the dragon dropped Tinsley off at the base of the
53 mountain.

54 "Thanks, mate," Tinsley thanked the dragon.

55 Now, she had to climb the mountain. She looked up, and the mountain seemed to
56 stretch upward. Higher and higher it stretched. Tinsley shook her head. *It isn't that far. Just a*
57 *little high*, she encouraged herself. She started climbing up, gripping the egg tighter with each
58 step until she reminded herself to not suffocate it. She followed the spiral trail. The mountain
59 was made completely of solid rock, and plant life encircled the base of the mountain, although
60 no plants were actually *on* the mountain.

61 Once Tinsley reached the top of the mountain, her egg started to hatch. First one crack.
62 Then another. Each crack glowed a faint cyan until the shards of eggshell were too small. Soon,
63 the eggshell shards burst in every direction, causing a floating, glowing baby water dragon to
64 float to Tinsley's arms. The dragon was an ombre of blue and purple. Tears filled her eyes until
65 she couldn't see. She had witnessed a dragon hatch. She wanted to keep the dragon forever,
66 but knew the only way home was to return what was lost. She picked up her dragon, happy
67 tears now turning sad, and placed him in the nest.

68 She started walking away, but stopped when a large shadow loomed over her. She
69 looked up and saw a *huge* water dragon, as large as an airplane, come up to her. It was cyan
70 blue and emerald green. The dragon was holding a necklace much too small for it to wear with a
71 twine string going through an opal the size of a sand dollar. It stepped forward and placed it
72 gently around Tinsley's neck. She couldn't exactly decipher what the dragon was saying, but
73 could get the gesture of a thank you coming from the dragon's roars. Soon, hundreds of
74 dragons came in at amazing speeds and circled the mountain from above. She went through a
75 stone arch that magically appeared, and saw her house in the distance. She ran with all her
76 might, and when she opened the doors, her mother walked up to her.

77 "Tinsley, we're moving to America," her mother declared.