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DOLPHINS 5 Wales



Fairytale

This time, our aquatic friends come to the aid of the largest inhabitants of our planet - the whales.

The Football

On that morning, everyone in *The Globe* agency was playing football. The friends had been thinking for long on what to do in the office when there are no clients, until she-dolphin Karen suggested an interesting idea.

‘Binnie, do you remember you once watched football on the TV in a café?’ she asked her husband. ‘You liked it then.’

‘Yes, I remember, my darling,’ the dolphin smiled. ‘People were running on a green field with a round ball and everyone in the café was crying out cheerily.’

‘That’s right. What if we try organizing something like that here so that we don’t feel bored?’

‘Hmm, let me think about it,’ Bin said.

‘Friends, can you tell us what this football is?’ Geo and Stressy asked them simultaneously.

Turtle Medky also swam up closer with a curious look.

‘Well, football is a game where a round thing needs to be driven into the gates of another team. A door or something like that can be used as goal-gates. We have many different things on the upper deck in our office,’ Karen explained. ‘Lets’ swim and see what’s there.’

The friends swam out of the hold and started looking around with interest.

‘Look!’ Bin said. ‘This hole in the board could be used as a goal for one of the teams. And, there’s a similar hole on the other side of the ship.’

‘Good idea, Binnie,’ Karen nodded approving. ‘And, where will we find a ball? Of course, I could buy a normal ball on earth, but it will rise to the sea surface at once. Here, we need something round that won’t rise to the surface.’

Everyone thought for a while. Suddenly, Geo started up and, having given Medky a sweet look, prepared himself to open his mouth to talk.

‘Not my globe!’ the turtle said harshly, having guessed the thoughts of the dolphin.

The friends burst in laughter cheerfully and started thinking again.

Then, Stressy started talking.

‘You know, friends, generally, our octopus Ponty can become quite round in shape!’

Everyone around there smiled strangely.

‘Well, maybe there’s something in that point,’ Medky coughed and said thoughtfully a minute later. ‘And, the most important thing is that that means he’ll also take part in the football game.’

Bin and Karen burst out laughing.

‘That might work,’ Geo said. ‘But let’s swim to him first and ask him honestly. If he refuses, we’ll have to think of something else, then.’

Everyone nodded in agreement and set off on their way. Ten minutes later, they swam into the octopus’s cave where he performed massages. Ponty sat in the corner twisting the Rubik’s cube while waiting for a client to come.

‘Friends!’ he exclaimed when he saw the dolphins and the turtle. ‘I’m so happy to see you here! What brought you all here today?’

‘My friend,’ Medky started tactfully. ‘To begin with, could you please curl into a perfect-shaped ball?’

‘No problem,’ Ponty replied without understanding why they asked that, and in an instant, he became very much like a ball. ‘What do you need it for?’

‘Umm. You know, friend, people have a game called football. So, we decided to organize something similar in our office while waiting for clients,’ Medky said. ‘And, we’ve swum up here to ask whether you want to take part in the game?’

Ponty looked at his friends with a smile.

‘Of course! I love playing games. Just tell me what I’ll need to do there?’

Friends hesitated for a second.

‘Well, friend, you’ll be playing the most important part in the game, you’ll be the ball. And, we’ll push you into this or that goal,’ Bin spoke out honestly at last.

Ponty kept silence for a couple of minutes.

‘You’ll push? It isn’t very painful, is it?’ he asked after that.

‘Well, no, my friend. We’ll play you very gently,’ Geo tried calming him and suddenly happily added. ‘It’ll be more like a massage that you do to your clients.’

‘A massage? Hum, interesting... Then, it’s worth trying, perhaps,’ the octopus said more cheerfully this time. ‘Maybe, I’ll like it for real.’

And that’s exactly how it happened. Since that day, the friends started playing football on the upper deck of their office quite often. The only downside of Ponty being a ‘ball’ was that he would always help the team that was losing, clinging onto the goal post at times. Although, the only football fan, manta Bolly, did not worry much about that, clapping her wings cheerfully if such happened.

There were only two teams in *The Globe*. Bin and Karen became a team while Geo and Stressy became the other team. Medky became an all-time and fair judge. However, a *sly ball* would often fall under the judge’s criticism. On the other hand, Ponty’s big advantage was that after each score, he rolled himself out to the center of the field.



Gorgy

On that day, the friends were playing football again. The score was 7:9 in favor of Geo and Stressy when suddenly, a huge shadow fell on their sunken ship.

‘Where is the office of *The Globe* agency?’ the friends heard a loud bass from above and raised their heads.

A huge whale was hanging over them.

‘Hmm,’ Medky mumbled thoughtfully. ‘I guess, it’s better we’ll be right here for your service. What can we do for you?’

At once, Ponty turned from a ball into an octopus, and together with the dolphins, he looked at the enormous guest with interest.

‘My name is Gorgy,’ the whale growled. ‘Sharks at the Galápagos Islands told me that you can help even in a very difficult situation.’

‘It’s hard to tell for sure ahead of time. But, we’ve really had some success several times,’ Geo replied.

‘My situation is rather complicated,’ Gorgy sighed sadly. ‘I don’t even know where to start from.’

‘Better start from the beginning, Gorgy. And, the more details you give, the better,’ Karen smiled him. ‘Take your time.’

Gorgy nodded his huge head and began his story. But first, he laid down on the sand near the ship.

‘We, the whales,’ he began his story without hurrying, ‘are the biggest dwellers of the seas and the oceans. Needless to say that

we have no real enemies under the water. But, we have got a rather serious enemy who comes to us from dry land by ships.’

‘A human?’ manta Bolly asked him.

‘Yes,’ the whale nodded sadly. ‘I’ve been living for a long time already and, unfortunately, I had to say the last goodbye to many of my friends and relatives. That happened because of the people.’

‘I’ve heard about it a little,’ Karen joined the conversation. ‘Several decades ago, people killed almost all the whales. But, after that, they agreed between themselves not to do that anymore, and the whales could be seen more often again. There is only one country left that keeps on hunting you in spite of all things.’

Gorgy gave the young she-dolphin a surprised look.

‘Hmm... I have not thought that someone might know about whales more than I do,’ he murmured. ‘All that happened exactly as you said. A few decades ago, very, very few of us were left indeed. Then, it means people finally managed to agree not to kill us? That’s interesting.’

‘Yes. The only country that refused was Katan.’ Karen added. ‘Now, it’s basically them who hunt for whales. Usually here and over there.’

The she-dolphin pointed to a couple of places on the globe with her fin.

‘Amazing!’ Gorgy could mutter only. ‘You know even this? It seems that I am really lucky to have swum to you.’



‘There’s nothing to be so happy about yet,’ Karen shook her head sadly. ‘This problem won’t be easy to solve. Many people have long been trying to protect the whales. They meddle a lot with the ships that hunt you down. However, it’s been like that for many years but Katan keeps on killing you.’

‘There’s the thing,’ Gorgy shook his head understanding. ‘We have wondered what those small boats that appeared between us and the big ships were. It turns out that they are our defenders among the people.’

‘Yes, there aren’t few of them. But still, they can’t solve this problem once and for all.’

‘What are we going to do, guys?’ the whale looked at *The Globe* team with big hope in the eyes. ‘Maybe you can help us somehow?’

A total silence fell for several minutes.

‘It’s a very complicated issue, Gorgy,’ Karen said at once. ‘It will probably take a few days for us to tell you at least some of our thoughts.’

The whale nodded with understanding.

‘Swim back to us in three days, Gorgy,’ Bin addressed him. ‘Perhaps, we’ll have figure something out for you by then.’

The whale looked at everyone there, said good-bye politely and swam away slowly. However in an instant, he stopped and looked around.

‘Guys! What were you playing here when I came?’

‘An underwater football game,’ Ponty replied proudly.

‘That’s very interesting!’ the whale smiled for the first time. ‘I couldn’t take my eyes off you even before I started talking.’

Having said that, Gorgy waved his fin goodbye to all there and swam on away. Then, the friends began discussing a new mission.

* * *

‘It looks like we’ve not got a simple task this time,’ Bolly said looking at Karen.

‘Much more even,’ she nodded. ‘I’ve heard a lot about Katanese whaling ships when I was on an island. Those are nothing like small pirate boats with a hawser. They are major ships equipped with modern technologies which allow the hunters to see whales under the water and even lure them.’

‘Really?’ Geo wondered. ‘What are we going to do then?’

‘I think that first, we need to find out all the details on how they hunt whales today,’ Bin entered the conversation. ‘It’ll be difficult to provide advice without this information.’

‘I’ve thought of it too, Binnie,’ Karen smiled. ‘I know an organization in the city that specializes in marine animal protection. I think I’ll pay them a visit tomorrow.’

‘It’s a good idea,’ Medky nodded agreeing. ‘Try finding out more and then we’ll make our plans.’

* * *

The next morning, all the friends were seeing Karen off to the city near a deserted shore of a water channel.

‘My dear,’ Bolly said to her gently. ‘You go there and find out everything about those whale hunters. But, if you have a couple of spare minutes on your way back...’

‘I know, I know,’ Karen laughed, ‘then, I’ll definitely make my way back near the best pizza house.’

‘She’s such a smartie!’ the manta smiled. ‘For some reason, I have almost no worries about the whales.’

Everyone smiled cheerily.

‘You are exaggerating this much, Bolly,’ Karen said.

Then, she lay down in the shallow water near the shore. Having looked in the sky, she stood up on her feet at a beach.

‘How does she manage to do that so well?’ Stressy whispered to Geo’s ear. ‘Maybe one day, I’ll ask her to take me for a walk in the city? With Karen, I won’t get lost...’

The dolphin looked at her with doubt.

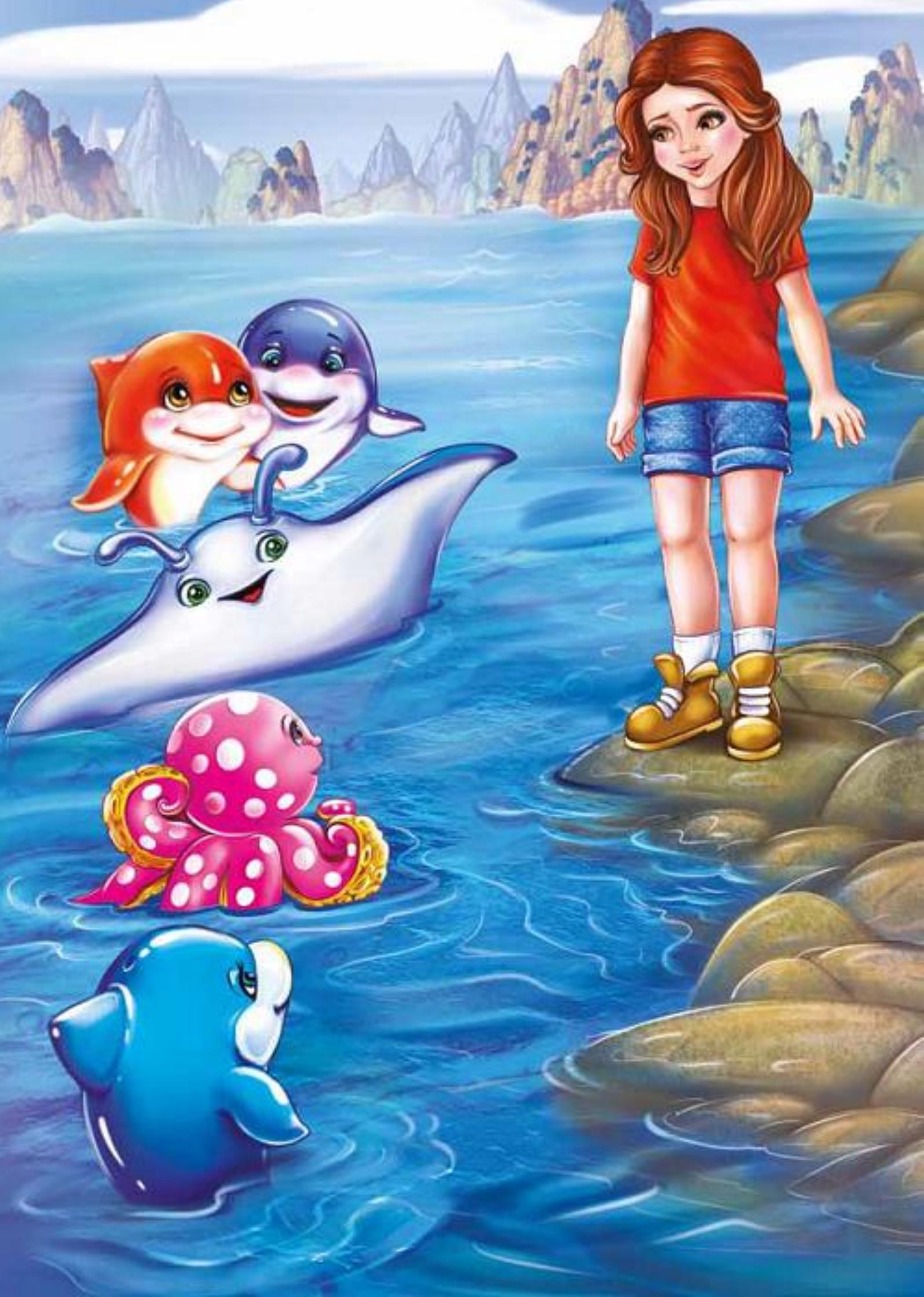
‘Who mixed up our reef with the neighboring one last week?’

‘Well, I was busy thinking about our future babies!’ the young she-dolphin replied sensitively.

‘I see,’ Geo nodded. ‘But, if we are lost, we won’t have any babies at all.’

Stressy frowned thinking.

‘Right you are! It has never occurred to me. I need to think a little less about babies.’



Everyone shook with laughter.

Meanwhile, Karen checked if a credit card was in the pocket of her shorts and, having waved her friends goodbye, she headed towards the city.

* * *

There were only two workers in the office of the marine animal protectors: a young girl at the table near the entrance and a grey-haired man not far from her.

‘Hello! My name is Karen,’ the girl said, having crossed the threshold. ‘I wonder if you could provide me with some information about modern whale hunters. I need it for a very important report.’

The girl and the man rose standing from their tables.

‘Hello, Karen! I’m Steve and this is Kelly,’ the grey-haired man stretched out his hand. ‘We’re always ready to help with issues concerning the whales’ protection. What are you interested in, particularly?’

Then, he offered the girl a sit in an armchair nearby. Meanwhile, Kelly began to make a cup of coffee for the visitor.

‘I need to know all the technical details and methods that whale hunters use today,’ Karen told him.

‘You came to the right place, then,’ Steve nodded. ‘This conversation might take some time.’

‘Take your time,’ the girl smiled and sipped her coffee. ‘It’s more important that you don’t miss out anything.’

‘All right,’ the grey-haired man replied and began to tell his story. While he was talking, Karen took some notes with a waterproof marker on plastic sheets.

* * *

‘Is there going to be a beach party?’ the taxi driver smiled shrewdly as he helped Karen to take a pyramid of pizza boxes out of the car a couple of hours later after.

‘Nope, the beach parties aren’t in fashion any longer,’ Karen shook her head cheerfully.

‘Really? What’s in fashion, then?’ the driver asked her with interest.

‘The most fashionable thing now is underwater party,’ the girl replied laughing and headed towards a deserted shore leaving the driver with his mouth open.

* * *

‘How did it go?’ the friends’ eyes were looking at Karen with interest from the water. ‘Did you manage to find out something about the whale hunters?’

‘Oh, yes,’ Karen nodded. ‘I’ve found out a lot. I’ve even got first thoughts on the matter.’

‘Perfect!’ Bolly smiled. ‘From good news like that, my appetite is always coming to a norm. Ponty, why aren’t you feeding me with pizza yet?’

Everyone laughed and the octopus crawled to the shore to take the first tasty pizza round. At the same time, Karen started feeding the dolphins and turtle.

An hour later, the well-fed friends gathered in the office for a meeting. Karen told them everything she managed to find out in detail, from time to time looking into the plastic sheets which the octopus was turning for her. When she finished, Geo started to talk first.

‘As far as I can see, those hunters have only one weak point. Their ship is very big and there is only one gun at its front.’

‘That’s right,’ Karen nodded. ‘I thought of that first as well. They always have to turn the ship’s head towards a whale.’

‘One more detail seems curious to me,’ Bin added. ‘The harpoon gun can hit the target accurately only at twenty-five to thirty meters distance. Not that much.’

Friends nodded in agreement.

‘In fact,’ Bolly joined the conversation, ‘I think that we should make up a kind of a set of rules for the whales near those whaling ships.’

‘It’s a good idea,’ Karen agreed. ‘And I think that if we tell Gorgy about it, he’ll quickly share it with other whales.’

‘I can participate in this too,’ Bolly said. ‘I’ll pass the news to the whales with the help of my guests – the mantas.’

* * *

The next day, the whale Gorgy swam to their office again. Having greeted everyone warmly, he came to the point.

‘So, guys? Have you got any ideas on how we could be helped out of this?’

‘We’ve got something, Gorgy,’ Bin replied for all. ‘We have thought over this problem well and have got some ideas.’

‘Well, really?’ the whale cheered up. ‘I would much like to hear them.’

‘You see,’ Geo interfered, ‘certainly, you won’t succeed in struggling against the whale hunters. They are much stronger. However, you can survive if you follow some rules of conduct near their ship. The hunters have got some weak points.’

‘Really?’ Gorgy asked. ‘What are they?’

‘Well, firstly, their main hunting means is a harpoon gun which is located at its bow,’ Bin said. ‘That’s why if you stay by their side and even better at their rear, they won’t be able to do anything to you.’

‘You, the whales, are much more maneuverable than their large ships, so it won’t be very difficult for you,’ Karen smiled.

‘So interesting,’ Gorgy thought. ‘Is there anything else?’

‘Sure,’ Bin added, ‘their harpoons shoot accurately at the distance of twenty-five to thirty meters only. Consequently, the farther you stay from them, the much safer you will be.’

‘Got it,’ the whale nodded. ‘These are some useful pieces of advice indeed.’

‘So, if you rise to water surface behind their ships’ screws, they can do nothing to you,’ Karen said. ‘Besides, if you have an opportunity to hide behind an island or iceberg – do it. The whale hunters don’t like swimming to unfamiliar places where they can damage their ship.’

‘Great, guys!’ Gorgy smiled finally. ‘These are some very useful pieces of advice for us. It’s worth trying them.’

‘But how?’ Ponty asked him with curiosity.

‘That’s quite simple,’ Gorgy laughed, ‘I’ll swim up to the whale hunters myself and try it on the spot. How else?’

‘Yourself?’ the octopus slowly asked him again.

‘Well, yes,’ the whale nodded his head. ‘Before suggesting something to the others, I should be completely sure myself that it works. That’s why I must try it myself.’

‘I see, Gorgy,’ Bin nodded. ‘Perhaps, you are right. Would you mind if I join you? Perhaps, I’ll be of use to you if there’s any danger.’

‘I don’t mind,’ the whale smiled. ‘Thank you.’

‘Bin, you want us to miss the main action once again?’ the manta replied indignantly. ‘No way, I’ll swim with you, too!’

‘It seems like everyone will swim with you, Binnie,’ Karen smiled looking around.

‘The point is, the whale hunters don’t care at all about some octopuses,’ Ponty added smiling.

‘But there’re two teams of dolphins who care because they want to play underwater football sometimes,’ Stressy smiled.

Everyone laughed unanimously.

‘Thank you, guys! It will be much more cheerful this way,’ Gorgy said. ‘All in all, I’ll be much safer with you.’

‘Right, if only the whale hunters knew that it’s the first time a whale is going to search for them...’ Karen smiled. ‘By the way, some Katanese whale hunters have recently been spotted in this place.’

The she-dolphin swam up to the globe and showed a point on it with her fin.

‘That’s only three days’ journey from here,’ Bin said.

‘You know even this?’ Gorgy choked. ‘Wow! Would you please tell me how you know?’

The friends looked at each other and then gave Karen a questioning look. She sighed and lifted her fins with uncertainty.

‘Alright, Gorgy,’ she nodded. ‘You’ll risk your life trusting our advice. That’s why, perhaps, you have a right to know everything. But, let this story be a secret.’

‘Fine,’ the whale agreed.

‘And, one more thing in fact,’ Bolly interfered, ‘it’s a very long story.’

‘Well, then, I might listen to it on our way to the whale hunters,’ Gorgy suggested.

‘Okay,’ Karen agreed. ‘So, friends, when are we setting off?’

‘The faster, the better, I think,’ Medky said, ‘the hunters should not be enjoying the sea at the moment.’

Everyone there nodded in agreement.

‘Decided,’ Bin said, ‘we’ll swim tomorrow morning, then’.

* * *

On the early morning of the next day, Gorgy and the whole team of *The Globe* set off on their journey. Karen told her story to the whale as well as some details of their trip to Atlantis and the Galapagos islands which lasted until the afternoon. The whale stopped several times and groaned from surprise. He was especially amazed when it came to Aya and how he helps the friends.

‘Will that Aya help me if something goes wrong?’ Gorgy addressed the friends with surprise.

At that instant, Bin glanced cheerily towards the open sea.

‘Aya? What smart thing should we reply to him?’ he asked with a smile.

A cloud-man with a happy expression on his face began to appear right between the eyes of Gorgy’s enormous head.

‘Well, Bin, I don’t even know. You might tell him something like this: ‘Aya is always ready to help those who swim



to help others while risking their lives,’ the cloud-man spoke out thoughtfully and started to disappear after that.

The friends shook with laughter and waved their fins to greet Aya. The whale stopped being surprised. After some time, the friends began to worry.

‘Gorgy, how’re you there?’ the octopus asked him and climbed to the whale’s head. ‘Is everything alright?’

‘That’s the thing,’ the whale found his tongue again. ‘What sort of things are going around here!’

Everyone there sighed with relief.

‘Frankly speaking, Karen,’ Gorgy started speaking with greater confidence, ‘while you were telling the stories, I got some doubts if some things happened really.’

‘I’m not surprised,’ she burst into laughter.

‘Now, there hasn’t left a slightest doubt for me,’ Gorgy smiled. ‘Moreover, I’m feeling much calmer now. Thank you a lot!’

‘Nothing at all,’ Geo replied for all there and looked around. ‘By the way, shan’t we think of an overnight stop?’

‘And perhaps, we’ll manage to play football... It seems like I miss it,’ Ponty said thoughtfully.

The dolphins burst into laughter and began searching for places on the seabed that looked like goal posts.

‘Who knew that my idea about the ball would work so fine...,’ Stressy thought in her mind, looking at a happy Ponty.

Kityaka-san

Kityaka-san, an old whale hunter, was standing near his harpoon gun looking into the sea. The seawater had become colder in recent days and that meant the whales would appear soon. One more good piece of news cheered him up: those intrusive whales' defenders were not seen. For some reason, those pests somehow can't believe that the Katanese can't live without whale meat.

'A fountain on starboard!' suddenly Kityaka heard a loud voice of an observer and took his binoculars.

There it was. The first fountain could be seen starboard about a kilometer from him.

'Turn right!' Kityaka-san commanded and began unwrapping the harpoon with a smile.

He loved his work and the gun. In Katan, being a whale hunter was considered a much prestigious profession. Some ten minutes later, their first whale was right ahead of the ship only a hundred meters away.

'Slow ahead!' the harpooner commanded. He has studied the whales' habits well in the course of many years. He could foresee much of their behavior.

The whale threw the final fountain and dived deep into the sea. Kityaka-san stood still at the gun, waiting for the whale to emerge right in front of the ship's bow in a few minutes. Suddenly, the harpooner's attention was drawn by four dolphins, a manta and a turtle that were swimming on the surface a little aside.

‘What an unusual company!’ Kityaka’s thought flashed and then, he switched to the whale again. Now, he was looking at the sea through the harpoon gun sight.

‘A fountain behind the ship!’ he heard the observer’s loud voice.

‘What the dickens?’ Kityaka wondered. ‘The whale should have emerged in front of us. Maybe that’s another whale?’

Nevertheless, nothing rose to the surface in front of the ship. Kityaka leaned off from the sight.

‘Turn 180 degrees around!’ he commanded angrily.

The engines roared and the whaling ship started turning around slowly. Soon, the whales’ fountain was right ahead of the ship again, some two hundred meters away.

‘Easy ahead!’ Kityaka shouted again and stuck to the harpoon.

The whale dived to the depth of the water again. This time, he passed slowly to wait for the ship to turn.

‘Come on, come on, my dear, just swim up,’ the whale hunter murmured.

‘A fountain behind the ship!’ Kityaka suddenly heard the observer’s words.

The whale hunter kicked his harpoon. Then, in an instance, he took a full breath in as his grandfather taught him a long time ago, breathed out slowly and commanded with a calm voice.

‘Turn 180 degrees around!’



After that, the ship made eight more turns. In the meantime, Kityaka-san kicked his harpoon several times more, breathed deeply often and even drank a whole bottle of Coca-Cola. The latter he had never done before. Finally, the harpooner sat down on a step near his gun, immersed in his thoughts, and started analyzing the situation more thoroughly.

‘Well-well, it seems that you’re a very clever whale,’ he thought smiling slyly. ‘But Kityaka-san is no worse than you and has got a good plan. Now, you hold on, my friend.’

‘Listen to me attentively!’ he said standing up. ‘This time, after the whale dives, we’ll turn around 180 degrees immediately. Got it?’

A coxswain and crew nodded in response.

After that, the harpooner stood at the gun again. Immediately after his dive, the ship started turning quickly.

‘Come on, clever boy, try fooling me this time,’ Kityaka whispered.

Seconds seemed to pass slowly in waiting.

‘A fountain behind the ship!’ a disgusting voice of the observer cried out loudly again. This time he added: ‘Boss! I’m sick from these turns...’

Kityaka san kicked his gun so hard that he moaned in pain.

‘That’s it! Let’s head further due south!’ he commanded and covered the gun finally.

After that, he treaded to his cabin to watch *Tom and Jerry series*. His grandfather taught him a long time ago what to do in case the whole day proved to be a bad luck.

* * *

‘Hurray! You’ve done it!’ the happy friends swam up to the whale, Gorgy.

He looked at them being stunned, smiling.

‘It seems I did! Though, a few times I dreamed of being very small in size.’

They all burst into laughter.

‘Was it hard to swim away hiding from them?’ Bin asked him.

‘Well, no, frankly, not much. Their ship is rather slow at turns,’ Gorgy smiled too finally. ‘In the meanwhile, I’d have managed to swim to and fro twice, probably.’

‘Well done friend!’ Geo said and then asked, ‘what do we do now? So, will you recommend this method to your whale-friends?’

‘Of course! Now I’m completely sure it gives a good chance to survive when meeting the whale hunters.’

‘Right. This time it was them who suffered mostly, it seems,’ Karen smiled. ‘I saw the harpooner kick the gun in anger and limped away then.’

‘This means our tactics was right,’ Gorgy smiled. ‘So, now we should tell the other whales about this as soon as possible.’



‘That is the first thing we ought to do now,’ Bolly agreed. ‘Me and my friends will spread the news through our channels too.’

Gorgy nodded his head gratefully. ‘Thank you!’, he said.

After that, he looked at his companion-friends warmly. ‘Well, then, it’s time for us to say good-bye,’ he said with a little sadness in his voice. ‘I don’t even know how to thank you. You’ve done great work for us. It’s hard to imagine how many whales will survive thanks to your advice.’

‘A lot of them, we hope,’ Karen smiled.

‘If you have time anyway, swim in to see us,’ Bin suggested cordially to the whale. ‘By the way, you’ll also tell us how you’re doing.’

‘I’ll swim in for certain!’ Gorgy promised and happily at the friends. ‘Besides, there’s one more little thing I’ve got.’

Then, the smiling whale said goodbye to everyone there waving with his enormous fin, and he headed back to his friends.

Epilogue

Bin and Karen won the match with a score of 7:2 despite Ponty trying hard to get a hold of goal posts to help Geo and Stressy! Though, today he could not do that well enough; Bin pushed him right through the centre of the goal posts.

Finally, after an accurate pass to Geo, Stressy managed to close the score gap. Bolly, the manta, who would always support a losing team clapped her fins happily.

‘The score is 7:3 for Bin and Karen!’ judge Medky announced the result in a very official manner.

Meanwhile the octopus got out of the goal to the centre of the field.

‘This is the football I told you a lot about, guys!’ the friends suddenly heard a familiar bass voice coming from above.

‘Gorgy!’ everyone shouted happily and turned their heads up.

Their enormous friend was smiling at them. There were three more whales with him this time.

‘Hello, friends!’ That’s me,’ Gorgy roared, ‘I’m not alone this time. Let me introduce my friends to you: Amby, Squo and Gundy, my wife. By the way, Amby has recently saved himself from the whale hunters thanks to your advice.’

An enormous whale who was near Gorgy waved his fin warmly.

‘So, you’ve managed to do it all well?’ Karen asked him.

‘Yes, guys,’ their friend replied. ‘Your advice has been proven many times and it always had a positive result. Now we’ve begun teaching it to all the whales, including children.’

‘Great!’ Bin said happily and looked at his enormous friend with curiosity. ‘Gorgy, what’s the second thing you came here for?’

‘Football,’ he replied slightly embarrassed. ‘Last time, I liked it very much. So, I decided to teach the whales to play it, that’s why there’re four of us here today.’

Medky looked at his ship terrified.

‘Guys!’ he started talking tactfully. ‘Perhaps, you’d better begin your training slightly aside of this place? Our firm is threatened to lose its office just after your first match.’

Everyone there burst into a loud laughter.

‘I’ve got one more suggestion,’ the octopus Ponty added, ‘of course, I’m ready to be your ball for some time. Though later, you’d better find some giant octopus for your game yourselves. I’ve heard they live at the bottom of the Mariana trench. If there’s some unfortunate collision with such players, I risk turning into a... flat small manta’

‘All right, friends! We completely agree with you. We’ll be very careful,’ Gorgy nodded and looked with shining eyes at his enormous companions. ‘So? Has every one of you seen how to play? Shall we start?’

The whales nodded cheerfully.

‘Well, then, let’s swim slightly away from here and begin. I’ll play in pair with Gundy, Amby, you’ll be with Squo.’

‘Where do we find gates for you?’ Medky asked suddenly.

Everyone there started thinking.



‘Let me make something temporarily from the corals at the bottom,’ Ponty suggested. ‘We’ll figure something out later.’

‘Agreed,’ Gorgy nodded. ‘And tomorrow, I might call two more whales. We’ll use their open mouths instead of the gates.’

Ponty’s colour began to change slowly. At first, he became bright red, then bright blue, later he turned into bright green. Finally, he turned to his usual tint and addressed Gorgy with a soft voice.

‘Don’t worry, friend,’ he said politely, ‘why should we bother two more whales? I’ll spend a little more time right now and make very fine gates for you so that they will last for a ve-e-ery long...’

The whales nodded their heads happily while their friends from *The Globe* could hardly keep themselves from bursting into laughter.

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