MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

The Biggest Eye in the Deep



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Straight Down

The tide-glass had never glowed like this: a deep, deep violet, like the sky just after sunset. And the needle pointed straight down. "The deep," said Grandpa Sol quietly. "Where the sunlight never reaches. Lamps on, stay together, and when the tide-glass flickers, you come straight up." Teo nodded. He wasn't scared of the dark any more. Well, only a little.





Down and Down

Down they sank beside Moss, and down. The blue turned dark blue, then darker, then black as ink. The Button's red hull grew tiny above them, and then it was gone. "Moss is right here," said Lumi, and Teo swam a little closer to his big old friend.

The Glowing Deep

And then the dark began to twinkle. A fish with a little light on a stick, bobbing like a lantern. Jellies like floating lamps, pulsing pink and blue. Tiny shrimps that glowed like sparks. "It's like a city at night," whispered Teo. "A city of lights!"





A Tiny Lost Light

Then they saw one tiny fish, all by itself, its little lights blinking fast, fast, fast. It swam this way. It swam that way. "It's a lanternfish," said Lumi. "They live together in huge groups. This one is lost." The little fish blinked at the tide-glass, as if it were asking for help.

Something Is Following

They swam on, the little fish close beside them, looking for its friends. But Teo kept looking back. Something was out there in the dark. Something long. Something huge. When they swam, it swam. When they stopped, it stopped. "Lumi," whispered Teo. "We're being followed."





Lumi Turns Around

Lumi's heart thumped. She wanted to swim away fast. But running away in the dark was how you got lost. So she stopped. She turned around. She held up the glowing tide-glass toward the dark, and she held Teo's hand. "Hello?" she said, as steady as she could. "We're only helping a little friend find home."

The Biggest Eye

Out of the dark, slowly, slowly, came an eye. An enormous, gentle, shining eye, as big as a dinner plate. It belonged to a giant squid! Giant squid have the biggest eyes of any animal in the world. And it wasn't angry. It was shy. It curled its long arms around itself and blinked at the violet light.





It Points the Way

The squid had been following because it had never seen a light so warm. Slowly, it uncurled one long arm and pointed, out into the dark. And there, far away, was a great swirling cloud of tiny blue lights, thousands and thousands of them. "Your family!" cried Teo.

A Hat Made of Light

The little lanternfish zoomed home into the sparkly cloud, and the whole school flashed, like fireworks. Then one tiny lanternfish zipped back, and parked right on top of Teo's helmet, like a little lamp on a hat. Teo went cross-eyed trying to see it. Lumi laughed so hard her helmet fogged up.





Seven Lights

Then the tide-glass flickered: time to go up. Up, up, up, into blue, into gold, into the Button and Grandpa's big hug. At home, Lumi held up the tide-glass. Seven little lights glowed inside it now: green, yellow, pink, blue, ice blue, orange and violet. "Seven," said Grandpa Sol, and his eyes twinkled. "Do you know what happens when it holds seven?" "What?" said Teo. Grandpa smiled. "The Great Blue Parade."

THE END

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