MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

The Treasure in the Sunken Garden



Orange Like Gold

The tide-glass glowed a warm, bright orange. "Orange like GOLD!" shouted Teo, and he ran to get his treasure bag. "What if it's a pirate chest? What if it's full of crowns?" Grandpa Sol laughed and held out the life vests. "Let's go and see what the sea has to show us."





The Sunken Garden

Moss led them down through clear, warm water to a ship. An old wooden ship that had sunk long, long ago, lying on its side on the white sand. But it wasn't sad or spooky. It had become a garden: coral like flowers, sea fans like lace, and fish swimming in and out of its windows.

Look, Don't Go In

"Can we go inside?" asked Teo. Moss floated in front of the doorway and didn't move. "Moss says no," said Lumi. "Old ships can have tight places. We look in through the windows." So they peeked through a round window, and a hundred tiny fish peeked back.





A Chest on the Sand

Then Teo saw it. On the sand beside the ship lay an old wooden chest, its lid open just a crack, and something inside went glint. "TREASURE!" Teo kicked so fast that bubbles fizzed all around him.

A Flash of Red

Teo lifted the lid. FLASH! Something inside puffed up big and went bright, blotchy red. Two golden eyes stared out. It was an octopus, and it was very, very frightened. Teo tumbled backwards in a cloud of sand.





Somebody's Home

The octopus was shaking. And then Teo saw: shells lined up inside like little cups, a smooth stone like a pillow. The chest wasn't a treasure box. It was somebody's house. Teo looked at his empty treasure bag. He looked at the shaking octopus.

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Teo Closes the Lid

"Sorry," whispered Teo. "It's your house." Very gently, he lowered the lid back down, just how it was, and floated away from it. No crowns. No gold. His treasure bag stayed empty. But his chest felt warm and full inside, like after a hug.





Three Hearts

Creak. The lid lifted again, all by itself. The octopus slid out, and its red melted into calm sandy gold. Then it went exactly the red of Teo's scarf, and back again, as if it were trying it on! Teo giggled. "Did you know an octopus has three hearts?" whispered Lumi. "Then it was three times scared," said Teo, "and now it's three times happy."

The Real Treasure

The octopus showed them its garden: shells and smooth sea glass laid in rings around its door. Then it pushed one piece of green sea glass across the sand to Teo. "The sea has finished with this one," said Lumi. Just then the sun came out above, and a great beam poured down, and the whole sunken garden lit up gold, every coral, every fish, every bubble. "This," breathed Teo, "is the treasure."





An Orange Light to Keep

At home, Teo put the green sea glass on the lighthouse windowsill. The sun shone through it and made a green spot dance on the wall. A small orange light glowed in the tide-glass now. "My treasure bag came home empty," said Teo, "but I didn't."

THE END

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