

# Seaweed on the Dock

*Thud. Thud. Thud.* My right heel bounced off the wooden planks. Ruby's left hand was on my right hand, and her head was on my shoulder. Mummy's right ankle was crossed over my left, and she gently twirled my hair around her finger. We were all looking up into the great, big sky above, where a million stars sparkled down at us.

Waves were gently lapping at the wooden poles, ten-some feet below us. Cicadas and crickets were all around. A warm breeze blew through, sending Mummy's hair into my face, and my hair into Ruby's face. Ruby laughed and spat out my hair. I giggled.

"You know what, my sweets?" Mummy said, looking down at us.

"I think this night is too gorgeous not to take a little swim." And with that she stood up and stripped off her dress so she was just in her swim suit and dove into the water. It seemed like she barely made contact with the water, she dove in so clear and straight it hardly made a ripple. Normally I would have been very nervous that Mummy dove off a dock into the dark water at night, but I knew that there were no rocks and Mummy could out-swim even the fiercest of sharks.

I heard Mummy's laugh of joy before she swam around to our side of the dock. Her long hair was wonderfully luminescent in the dark waves, and Ruby and I both waved at her from way up high.

"Aren't you coming in?" she asked.

The water looked awfully scary from up on the safe, warm dock. I was happy for Mummy to swim, but I wasn't so sure about me. I gulped. Ruby looked at me. She grinned. I grinned back. The fluttering of the butterflies in my stomach had started. But it was a good kind of nervous. It was the kind of nervous I got right before a rollercoaster, or before jumping off the tire swing. We carefully took off our clothes to reveal our matching suits, much to Mummy's enjoyment.

"Those are my girls!" she shouted out to the night. I nervously grabbed Ruby's hand, and she started to count down. My toes were on the edge of the dock. It was slippery with seaweed.

"Three... two... ONE!" she yelled, and we jumped off the dock. I felt the wind whip my hair as I looked up. It really was brilliant, the sky at night. But I was willing to bet my whole piggy bank it was warmer than the sea.

The first shock of entering the water sent every one of my nerves on end. I was instantly out of the sleepy lull that star-gazing had put me in. It was really refreshing, and I screamed to the moon in pleasure. Ruby shrieked and Mummy laughed and we all group-hugged in the ocean.

I dove under again and re-surfaced on the other side of Ruby, who was doing somersaults in the water. She got to seven before she got too dizzy.

By now the three of us had drifted half way back from the edge of the dock to the beach, and if I reached down on my very tippy-toes I could feel the smooth sway of the

seaweed. But that gave me the creep-crawlies, so I floated on my tummy so my toes wouldn't have to touch anything.

Ruby was far more inquisitive than I was, however, so she dove down again and again to fetch more sea weed to study. And also, to throw at me. One piece got stuck in my hair. I got very scared trying to get the slimy thing off me so I started to panic. Mummy quickly swam over and plucked it out of my hair.

After a while we started to get very chilly. Plus, night was getting deeper and darker. Slowly we made our way up to the beach and onto the dock.

I was partially through with ringing out my hair when Mummy started to sing. It was her night time song. I couldn't even tell you the words, but it was like sweet, sweet music to my ears. We all got dressed again and then, holding our shoes, we walked off the dock back home.

Ruby's right hand was holding my left hand, and Mummy's left was holding my right. We all looked up at the sky. It really was *very* brilliant.