

## **The Story of the Sea Lion, Esmeralda and The Dream Giver**

by Peter Dunnet

*Everybody has a dream for their life. You may not have discovered it yet, but it is there in the corner of your heart waiting to be discovered. It was placed there before you were born by..... The Dream Giver'.*

### **PART 9. The Sea Lion finds Esmeralda.**

#### ***Daring to Believe.***

The next morning, armed with the knowledge that Esmeralda had actually been sighted by his dolphin mate Billy and what he had seen in his vision last night, Ordinary decided to revisit his list of places to check out and make a better plan. First, he crossed off all the beaches he had already visited. Next he made a new list of beaches most likely to have clean sand. These would be his first priority. From his knowledge these usually have a southerly aspect as this produces the cleanest sand by the ocean currents. It was a short list including: The Atoll, Bennalong Point, Piper's cove, Sandy Beach, Encounter Bay, Merry Weather Beach and Surf Beach.

It took him three days of swimming and some overland flip-flopping to cover the list. Surf Beach was far too rough and had coarse sand deposited by a strong rip. Sandy Beach was disappointing because while it did have the fine sand he expected, there was no washed up tree trunks or other debris. It was clean man! After coming up with zero results at Encounter Bay, Piper's Cove, Bennelong Point, Ordinary began to have doubts. Was he just imagining all of this after all? Did The Dream Giver really tell him about Esmeralda? Had Billy actually seen her or was he just on *the.. weed?* After all this time and a few storms, the tree trunk may have been washed back into the sea? What would he do then? After much soul searching, he decided he had to trust The Dream Giver. When Ordinary swam into Merry Weather Beach, he began to have a good feeling that this would be the one, but having searched from one end to the other he found nothing. Checking his map however he discovered that Merry Weather Beach actually had two parts to it. They were separated by a large sand dune spur that protruded all the way to the water. He climbed up over the dune and there before him was the tree trunk...with the moss on it. He gave a wild *Whoopee* and rolled all the way down the dune and into the water making a real sandy mess of himself. The next question was 'What was he to do now that he had found the right place where, in his dreams, he had seen Esmeralda?' You know that often the elation you have when you reach a goal, there is also the deflation of what to do next. This is exactly how Ordinary felt.

#### ***Hope Revitalised.***

Ordinary decided to make camp at Merry Weather Beach to consider his next move. He found a good sheltered spot close to the tree trunk. It had plenty of protection from offshore winds and plenty of dry grass for a bed and lots of fire wood. It was perfect! He had a yummy dinner of salmon he had caught and then settled down to watch the flames dance in the fire. After a lot of thinking he decided he should 'hang' at Merry Weather Beach for a few days to see if the lovely Esmeralda would show up. What worried him was ...what was he going to do if she did! This made him nervous and excited at the same time. He began reciting fumbling words like: 'Ur hello...what are you doing here, and other unromantic statements. Ordinary being mesmerised by the flickering flames fell asleep. He dreamed of Esmeralda and himself swimming together, close together. He was in love there was no doubt about it. Sea lions are prone to a sort of barking and then howling in their dreams when over stimulated. Ordinary woke up with a start! No he wasn't being attacked, it was just himself. He felt really stupid at

this but went back to sleep anyway. The next few days passed slowly. He swam up and down both beaches in the morning and in the early evening..but there was no sign of anyone at all. He checked the sand near the log regularly to see if there were any flipper marks...but there were none. He even spent time counting his flipper front flipper bumps a number of times. The correct number for sea lions are generally ten but often, somehow he counted twelve. Ordinary checked in with the Dream Giver but got no answer other than 'trust me'. Fish were plentiful to catch so food was no issue. It was just the frustration of waiting and more waiting. On day five after a disappointing morning swim Ordinary shook himself clean. As he flopped up the beach he stopped dead in his tracks. He wiped his eyes, with his flippers of course, and there by the tree trunk was Esmeralda. Holy moly! Shrimps galore! What was he to do? As usual though, a lady who knows who she wants, knows what to do. Esmeralda came down the beach stopping only about a four flipper distance in front of Ordinary. "I've been waiting for you." she said with a big smile and fluttering of her eye lashes. Ordinary felt weak at his flipper joints and dizzy. 'Dream Giver...What am I to do?' He heard 'Your call Ordie...I only organise.'" "Would..would you like to go for a swim?" he heard himself blurt out. The next few minutes were a bit a blurr for Ordinary, then they were swimming together! Esmeralda seemed to know every move he made. It was just incredible! Then, Oh then, their flippers touched. It was like electricity! She made him feel like a ...Sea Lion! Was he dreaming or was this really, really happening?

After a while they made their way back to the beach and snuggled up on the warm sand together. All this was a huge learning curve for Ordinary. Esmeralda knew how to take the lead though. Touching her nose against Ordies she whispered "If you want me, you will have to first meet my parents."

Ordinary broke out into a cold sweat.

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