

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 8. The Sea Lion's Search for Esmeralda

Was The Dream Real?

The Sea Lion was very confused. The vision he had had of being on a magnificent sandy sunny beach basking in the morning sunlight and feeling the warmth on his fur was wonderful enough in itself...but to have seen that gorgeous creature before him at a distance of only ten flippers was now burnt deep into his memory. He could not erase it and it was driving him mad. He clearly remembered the Dream Giver saying to him *"This is Esmeralda"*. When he asked the Dream Giver to tell him more, he received no answer. Who was she? Where did she come from? Was she real or just in his imagination? Would he find her? And.. lastly would she marry him? He just had to find the answers to these questions even if it meant swimming on every beach in his part of the world...and there were a lot of beaches. As he was a Sea Lion that idea appealed to his sea lion brain. He was a fully grown sea lion now. An extremely strong and fast swimmer...and a top surfer to boot.

Setting out

Ordinary made a plan. The Dream Giver had at least taught him that. No plan is a plan to fail! His diary had maps in the back of it which he had not noticed before. They were of the whole coastline including many, many parts that he never knew existed. Some of the bays had very unusual names like 'Shark Bay', 'Porpoise lagoon', 'Sandy Bay, 'Never go there Beach', 'No Worries Bay', 'Pirate Island Sanctuary' and many more. It was beginning to sound like another wonderful Dream Giver adventure. It was in fact, but Ordie did not realise it was The Dream Giver's next assignment for him. Ordinary made a very detailed plan and list of likely places to search in his quest for finding Esmeralda. He settled down for the night after packing his bag with lots of sardines, kippers, bickies and water. He made sure his diary, white feather and ink were packed. He fell asleep. In the early hours of the morning, The Dream Giver came to him and said *"Ordinary....you have passed your first test well and completed your assignment. You defeated the Giant of Darkness and freed my people in the city where he had held them captive. Many Nobodies from there are now finding their own dreams and becoming Somebodies. When you find Esmeralda I will show you your next assignment. I will be with you as I have in the past."*

The Search begins.

After a yummy breakfast Ordinary brushed his fur, washed his face in a nearby salt water pool and set off for the first on the list, 'No worries Bay'. This was the closest to him. It was a warm sunny day and he found himself whistling a new tune. After a couple of hours of flopping over dunes and through scrub he saw the bay below him. There were quite a few creatures swimming and sunning themselves. There were a few old tortoises, families of various kinds playing ball games and there were a few sea lions catching some small breaks off the beach so he decided to join them for a while. Not one of them had heard of Esmeralda but they liked what he told them she was like. Ordinary told them he had to keep going...and they all replied "No Worries mate."

Next on the list was 'Dolphin Cove'. It was aptly named for the large number of dolphins that played there. Ordinary had to swim around the southern rocky point of 'No Worries Bay' to get there. There was a good swell coming off the point where about a dozen dolphins were waiting for the next big wave. Ordinary recognised a few of them. There was Mo-Jo, Benny the Kid, Goofie (he rode the waves goofy stile..left flipper front), Alice (known for being a whinger when she got beaten) and his good mate Billy. Billy was known for his uncanny knack of catching any wave you couldn't! He would snort, blowing a plume of water into the air and say 'practice makes perfect buddy'. I guess he was right because he was always out surfing at the crack of dawn. Billy swam over to Ordie. 'Hey Bro...haven't seen yo for a while...where ya been?' Ordie filled him in on his encounter with the Giant of Darkness. 'Cool man' Billy added 'here comes the next big one, let's get on it.' They both swan like crazy to get on, once on they surfed down the front at a good speed doing figure eights. 'You're pretty good Ordie...for a sea lion' Billy commented. They gave each other a high five dolphin style as they wallowed in the warm shallows at the beach. Billy continued his praise 'not many of those other turkeys out there could do what you've just done.' Ahh well' replied Ordie 'Remember.. You were my coach.' Ordie broached the subject of Esmeralda. 'Billy, have you ever seen a golden female sea lion around here? 'I have' Billy replied, 'it was quite some time ago, maybe at the end of last summer, she was protected by ten other sea lions. I took it she was someone special...like a princess. I didn't want to get scratched by any of you guys, so I continued surfin'. When I got out the back again she was gone.' Ordie responded 'Appreciate your help buddy, I'll catch you next time.' 'OK, Bro' Billy said as he headed off to join the group again doing a classic dolphin kick.

Where to Next?

Ordie swam leisurely to the beach, got out and shook his fur dry. Where to next he thought? So, she really does exist! He wanted to shout it out but thought the others on the beach would think him a bit of a nutter. He opened a packet of bickies. Sometimes you can think better when munching...sea lions do. Stick to the plan he mused. Today had been an early break through. She had been here on this beach. Was it the same beach when he had seen her in the vision? He closed his eyes, munching his second bickie. What was in the background behind her? He saw it again in his mind...there was a large washed up tree trunk with a forked branch off to the righthand side. The trunk had moss on it and so did the branch. This is what he needed to find. Before any other action he must find that particular beach with the log on it. He flopped up and down Dolphin beach but to his dismay there was no log or tree trunk that even faintly resembled the one in his vision.

It was too late in the day to consider heading off to the next bay. It was about 10km away and he needed rest. He found a cosy hollow around the corner from the main beach, where an estuary eventually connected to the ocean. He found an abundance of sticks, dry grass and lit a fire. It would keep him warm for the night and he loved looking at the coals as they danced making images that activated his imagination. The stars came out and were twinkling at him, 'look at the fire they seemed to say'. He was nearly asleep and mesmerised by the flickering flames when he saw her in them. It was her...he had no doubt...his heart was racing. 'My Esmeralda' Ordie whispered 'where are you?' He fell into a deep sleep, a smile on his face, his eyelids fluttering as if he was dreaming of his Esmeralda.

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