

The night is clear and bright. The moon shines brilliantly through the evening clouds. A meteor zips across the sky and descends to earth. A gentle breeze flows across the sand as the waves lap at the shoreline. No one is aware of the beautiful conditions except one lone man. He watches the moon as it slowly sinks to the horizon and listens to the breeze blowing through the reeds. As the sun begins to rise behind him he gets up and stretches. Appreciating the beauty around him he is still aware of the fact that he is alone and it makes him sad. Walking down to the water he starts to look for food. Looking up to the horizon he sees what appears to be a waterspout in the distance. Thinking it a mirage he continues searching for his morning meal. Hearing a splash out in the water he looks up again and sees what appears to be a fish jumping among the waves. Every now and then a spout of water shoots up. What the man thought at first to be a single fish is really two, or rather a fish and a dolphin. In a short time the animals are within 50 feet of him and he hears what sounds like a conversation. But who is speaking? He notices a seagull fly from the shore and begin to hover over the fish. The conversation grows from one between two people, to one between three people. The man is perplexed because he knows that he's the only one on the island. But the conversation continues until he finally realizes, to his surprise, that the conversation is among the animals and not people. Thinking he has finally gone crazy he peers at himself in the still water at the shore. He looks the same as he's looked for many years now. The conversation continues as the animals draw nearer until finally he can hear what they are saying. "What took you so long," said the seagull. "I've been waiting for you for quite some time now." If you can't be on time in the future I won't reward you as you'd like." At that the dolphin flipped the fish up into the air with his nose and the seagull grabbed it and gobbled it up. "Very good choice today," said the seagull and dropped the dolphin a brightly colored stone.

As the dolphin swam off, the seagull flew back toward the land and over the sand dune. The man couldn't believe what he'd just seen and said so out loud. "What's so unbelievable," said a fiddler crab nearby. Again the man looked perplexed, but excited to finally hear someone talking to him. He replied, "How is it that the dolphin, the fish and the seagull can talk. Besides that, how is it that you can talk?" "You must be new around here," said the crab.

"I have lived on this island for many years now," said the man. "And I've never heard any of the animals talk before."

"Ah," said the crab. "But you've never been on this side of the island before. This side of the island is enchanted and you are under its spell."

"But I haven't changed," said the man. "It's the animals over here. You can talk."

"You don't think we could talk before? You just couldn't hear us."

Just then a group of seagulls passed overhead talking amongst themselves about the days fishing. When the man looked back down, the crab was gone. Sitting down in frustration he shuddered to think that his world had changed in such a strange and unusual way. He began to question what was real and what wasn't. His mind began spinning and he felt a chill progress across his sun-parched body. He stood up and started running along the shoreline. Suddenly an albatross in front of him took flight and began screaming. "Hey stupid, watch where you're going." This only made the man run all the faster.

Faster and faster he ran until he reached a beautiful lagoon. He sat down under the palm trees breathing heavily. His mind was still spinning as he looked around to see what creatures were around him, wondering if they too would speak. Not seeing anything, he lay down heavily in the sand and closed his eyes. All of a sudden the earth began to rumble frightening the man. He sat up and looked out into the water and saw a huge wave heading toward the shore. As it rapidly approached the man became very frightened. He felt sure he would drown beneath the water of such a mighty wave.

Closer and closer it came to the shore until it blocked the sunlight; and there it stopped. "How can this be," thought the man. Within the face of the wave formed the face of a man. Brilliant eyes pierced through the man's soul. "What business have you in my lagoon," said the wave.

"I'm only here to rest," said the man. "I mean no harm."

"How is it that you carry my sign," said the wave.

Looking down at himself the man noticed the medallion hanging around his neck. The medallion he had come to the island with.

"The sign that I wear has been mine since I was a small child," said the man.

"My mother gave it to me."

Within the wave there appeared many fishes and other sea creatures. They seemed to be staring at him as if he were some sort of oddity. They began to whisper amongst themselves, "this is the one."

With a mighty thunder the wave suddenly came crashing down on the man and swallowed him up. As the water receded, the medallion that had been around his neck was exposed in the sand of the shoreline. It sparkled in the sun as the monkeys overhead in the palm trees chattered away and the shore birds shrieked.