

LIZ AND THE LOST PEARL

By Elia Helen Salik

Hi! I am Liz Marks. (My real name is Elizabeth.) My family is going on vacation to Catalina Island where we will jet ski and scuba dive. We will be staying at my grandma's shack. She has a sea gull named Lucy. Grandma found her injured on the beach.

We got on a boat to Catalina. When we got to the shack, I saw Lucy. I quickly unpacked my stuff to go to the beach. I jumped in the waves, swam with the fish, and built sand castles with my dad. Then, my dad asked me, "Liz, do you want to go scuba diving?"

I screamed, "Of course I do!" As we got into the water, I looked at the beautiful fish and coral. Then I saw a clam shell. It looked sad. He said someone had stolen his pearl while he was sleeping. I was determined to find it.

I searched everywhere for it, but I still couldn't find it. I asked the crabs if they had seen anything, but they just crawled away. I searched in the sand, but I couldn't find anything. I asked my dad for help and he said, "Someone probably just took it for jewelry." I said, "No, because someone would need something to pry it open." My dad said, "Humans have that kind of stuff." "I'm not so sure about that," I responded. He rolled his eyes. I asked my mom for help but she just shrugged.

I went over to Lucy. I sighed, "No one understands me, Lucy." What do I do? But then I saw something in her nest. Something shiny. I pick it up. It's the pearl!

I ask my dad if we can go scuba diving. He says not today. I eat my dinner in a flash. My mom said not to eat so fast or else I'll get stomach ache, but I kept on going. I was too excited.

I ate my breakfast faster than I ate my dinner. My mom was getting pretty angry but I didn't have time to notice. I went down to the beach and grabbed my scuba gear. I swam to the clam. He was looking more worried than before. The clam asked me if I had any news. I told him I found the pearl and I handed it over. He was so thankful, but I didn't know what to do about Lucy. I felt bad taking it from her. The whole reason we came to Catalina was for Lucy. It was the anniversary of when grandma found her.

I came up with an idea. I'd find something even better for Lucy. I searched in the sand. Finally, I found the perfect thing, a big sparkly shell. I engraved the letters of her name into it and put it in her nest. This would be a vacation I'd never forget.