

## The Sad Turtle

By Noah Brown

Claire and Adam Brown were at the lake waiting for their turtle to visit them. Usually, the turtle comes before you say its name, “Noah!” but this time it didn’t.

Claire and Adam were waiting for the turtle, but it was still not there. So, after they left, the turtle began to swim to them, but it was too late. Adam and Claire went into the car and drove away.

Noah felt sad because he didn’t know that they came there that early. He began to cry.

Then, the turtle’s mother, Kayla, said, “It’s time to tell them the truth. You’re too old to see them every day”.

“But, what if they miss me?”

“You could see them in the lake sometimes, but for now, no longer see them again,” said his mom.

Then, Noah the turtle said to his mom, “It’s time for you to stop being the boss of me. I am too grown for that. For now I am the boss of myself and you can boss around yourself when you have a baby. But, for now, you just stay away from me.”

“Okay,” said Kayla. “You are right. You are a baby no more. You are a young adult turtle and you need to be free without me. So run along. You can visit me sometimes. Always remember one thing, though: Never go deep in the water because if you do, sharks will see you and tear you apart limb by limb. Goodbye. I love you too.”

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Noah started to miss his mom, but most of all he missed Adam and Claire. They always played with him and played Marco Polo with him. That was his favorite game. Still, he wanted to show his mother that he could be an adult his own self. So he fell into the deep part of the ocean and saw three sharks coming after him.

The turtle tried to swim towards the shore. Adam and Claire went to the beach and saw him swimming away from the sharks. They jumped into the ocean to save the turtle’s life.

After that, they asked their mother, Mrs. Brown, “Can we have the turtle instead of him living in the ocean?” Their mother said they could keep him, but they’d have to clean up his mess, get a tank of water, some algae, and a big rock from the ocean. Adam and Claire were so happy that they had their turtle living with them, instead of him living in the ocean. They had so

much fun with the turtle, they played with him and brought him to the school for show-and-tell.

Noah was happy with Adam and Claire, too, because unlike his mother they treated him like a young adult.

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When Kayla came out of the sea, she tried to contact the young adult turtle she loved, but Animal Control was right behind her. They scooped her up and put the mother turtle in the back of the truck where there was an electric fence. She tried to communicate with her young adult turtle. But guess what! It didn't work. She tried to hit the electric fence but it didn't work. She hid in her shell. She was afraid that she would be just like the animals in the containers in the stores.

Before the shocking experience, Claire and Adam were walking home with their Noah. Adam asked Noah, "Aren't you worried about your mother?"

The young adult turtle thought that Adam and Claire were talking about leaving with their mother without the turtle.

As soon as they came out of the school they saw Noah's mother suffering in the electric fence. Adam and Claire and the turtle held on tight to the truck. The truck stopped at the place where they torture the animals

from the sea to death. The person came out of the truck and almost saw Adam and Claire with their turtle. Adam and Claire were thinking about what would happen if he saw the turtle, so they climbed up the truck so the man wouldn't see the turtle.

Luckily, Adam had a pair of rubber gloves from science class that he wanted to use to help the young adult turtle's mother. He put them on and then tried to use tools that he had taken from wood shop class to break open the fence. But while he was working all the tools broke! He couldn't believe it. He didn't know how he was going to fix the broken tools or what he was going to tell his teacher.

The security guard was coming, so Adam, Claire, and the turtle ducked underneath the truck. The guard didn't see them, but he unlocked the electric fence, took Noah out, took her into the warehouse and locked her up again with all the other turtles.

The turtle's mother was scared and upset and she began to cry. "I deserve to be here," Kayla said.

"Don't say that," another voice responded.

"But it's true. If I hadn't treated my son like a child, I wouldn't have ended up in this cage and we would still be together in the ocean."

"I know you did the best you could to raise your child."

“How do you know? Who are you?”

“It’s me, your husband.”

“Honey?”

“Yes. It’s been decades, so I look very different.”

Adam, Claire and Noah crawled out from under the truck and decided they would try to rescue the turtle’s mother. They snuck into the warehouse. They didn’t want to set off the alarm, so they decided to break it. The alarm was way up high so they couldn’t reach it. But Noah had an idea. He exclaimed, “Why don’t you throw me at the alarm and my hard shell will break it.” Adam agreed and pretended like it was football practice, throwing long to a wide receiver. He picked up the turtle, heaved him toward the alarm and it shattered.

They still had to worry about the guard. Adam and Claire turned to each other and started talking quickly and quietly about how they were going to get into the cage. While they were talking, Noah noticed that the guard, who was on break, had fallen asleep. The turtle snuck over and quietly took the keys with his mouth from the guard’s pocket.

“While you two are arguing about how to get into the cage, I think I’ll just open it,” Noah said.

“How are you going to open the door without the key?” Claire asked.

Noah waved the keys above his head like a fan waving a lighter at a rock concert. Their jaws dropped to the floor, just like in Tom and Jerry. Adam, Claire, and Noah busted open the door like an FBI agent. As soon as they got in, they heard someone crying. The turtle looked and saw that the cries were coming from his mother. He saw that his father was with her trying to comfort her.

“Wow, I never thought that I would see my father again,” said the turtle.

“I don’t mean to ruin the reunion here, but we need to get out of here.” Adam said.

They headed for the door. The guard snored loudly with his head in motion. “I must have slept through the night,” he said. He looked up and saw three turtles coming out of the cage. “What are you doing out of the cages? If I captured the turtles, boss might give me a raise,” said the security guard. Adam and Claire both threw the turtle at the guard’s head so he would be unconscious. At that moment, the loud speaker started a countdown: “5, 4, 3, 2, 1...” Boom! The jailbirds ran flying out the door as fast as they could, like the warehouse was going to explode, which it did.

Mrs. Brown pulled up in her car and opened the door for Adam, Claire, Noah and his parents. They all jumped in the car and they sped

away. They all went back to the house and the mother locked the door. Mrs. Brown asked, “Adam and Claire, where did you get these turtles and why are they wearing those black and white uniforms?” Adam and Claire replied, “Well...It’s a long story. Maybe we’ll tell it tomorrow.” Noah’s father said, “In the meantime, where are we going to live?” Noah said, “We can all live together again, as long as you don’t boss me around, no offense, mom and dad.”

**THE END**

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