

Out of the Water

By Alexander Wang

While most of my friends remember falling asleep to their mothers' voices, I remember being lulled to sleep by the sirens' songs. Being caressed by the ocean's gentle currents was the closest thing I knew to being rocked to sleep in the arms of a human parent. All I know is that the Ocean is like a mother to me; she nurtures me, heals me, and refreshes me. For the duration of what my friends call a "decade", I spent my days in the waters, afraid to venture onto Land. But eventually, curiosity drove me near the beaches where I would listen to the strange noises the land creatures made.

Throughout the early years of my life, I explored the great depths of the sea, which consisted of a plethora of sea creatures that I gradually grew to be quite fond of. It was a strange life I lived. My close companions included two sea stars, Rover and Athena. I listened intently to their numerous brave encounters with the bigger beings of the sea. In the same way, I too, yearned for a chance to be a fearless person in the midst of arduous obstacles that came my way. I constantly sought adventure as the waves carried me from one place to the other. Each stop brought about an encounter with a creature that learned to adapt to the new environment in which it resided in. The excitement that rose within me as I began to discover the ways I could adapt and transform the lives of other animals began to blossom into a passion to go far past my horizons. Little did I know that beyond these vast oceans, there was an even greater world on plain flat land.

Years later, I found myself coming closer to the shores where the waters seemed to clash with immense rocks. Upon the very crust of this island, there seemed to be no trace of life. As I began to utilize the skills I obtained from the sea, the doubts and fears I had in my mind started to slowly dissipate. As I tiptoed to the heart of the island, I heard faint voices in the distance. I eventually reached a small village filled with countless straw huts. Within the vicinity of my own physical body, there were hundreds of dancing figures in the distance that incessantly shouted, "We are connected in unity, harmony, and peace!" This was the moment in which everything finally clicked. I was capable of making connections with these beings that seemed to have similar physical structures as me. Eventually throughout the course of the day, I found myself mingling with these creatures who communicated in a language in which I began to slowly learn that very hour.

The very idea of having relationships with those on and off shore sounds bizarre. However, what began to now heal me was the sounds of the ocean and the whispers of the land.