

You Are My Best Friend

A baby turtle is seen on the sand trying to make his way to the ocean but it can't because there is a great flock of seagulls blocking his path. Scared and frightened the turtle hides in the shadow of a rock and ducks back into his shell. Suddenly a little girl appeared. Running like a wild beast straight towards the flock of seagulls, scaring them away. The little turtle sees this and smiles. The smile is very soon gone when the little girl runs over to him. He tucks into his shell in fear but the child is confused and decides that the best thing to do is to pick him up and play him next to the ocean by the shore. This turtle doesn't seem to be doing much but before she can investigate any further her mother picks her up, worried sick about where she might have gone. It doesn't matter though since they have to leave to go home now. This baby turtle pokes its head out for a moment to see her waving goodbye over her mother's shoulder. The turtle waves back and then swims into the sea. With a smile that wide I couldn't imagine that he'd ever forget her after that moment. He might even remember her for the rest of his life. A few months later we see the turtle coming out of the water and then he notices, the little girl from a few months back. He hasn't seen her in ages. Do you think she'll remember him like he does her? If you thought yes, you'd be correct because she comes back to the beach on her birthday to find the same turtle she saw a while ago. She points and prods it for a while until he comes out of his shell and waves hello. The little girl smiles and waves back with a mini giggle. It was then that this turtle realised that this girl and him had the same birthday. She lays down and holds her hand out flat as to say to the turtle that she wants to pick him up. He seems nervous and reluctant at first but eventually crawls to her hand and gets lifted off of the ground by her. A little scared but eventually enjoys it. They spin around as she giggles a bunch until she gets super close to the water. He's wondering at first if she's okay but then suddenly notices her staring at the ocean. He looks at her and nods. She isn't sure what that means but it sounds reassuring. She slowly steps into the water only to realise that it's actually quite nice. She puts him down in the water and he sorta glides through the sea. They splash around for minutes on end until her mother calls from the otherside of the beach asking her to come back because they must return

home. She's upset and feels like crying but is then immediately calmed down because the turtle know they'll meet up again next year. They both smile and go away from each other. Another 3 years pass and the two of them are quite attached to each other ever since it was changed to twice a year rather than once a year. She isn't afraid of swimming anymore, they collect sea shells together and draw stuff in the sand. This is a friendship that'll last. A whole decade goes by and now she is a teenager. She is taller than before and not as cheerful as he remembers her being, until she notices him by the shore and goes rushing over to him. They talk for hours on end, most of it is about stuff he doesn't understand but listens anyway like a good best friend would. Although other things do appear to be different. One of her eyes is a little whiter than it should be. He pretends it's not that big of a deal and relaxes with her. They may be the same age but they've been experiencing very different things when they aren't with each other. At home she's been having some terrible problems with her parents, mainly her mother who had been abusing her father and especially her due to being underpaid and having a drinking problem. This caused this girl to have a case of depressive disorder and anxiety in the form of trauma induced punishment. She feels as if something is psychically wrong with her though, like as if there was something attacking her cells bit by bit. On the other hand the turtle being quite small has to deal with living on his own ever since his family were eaten by huge predators, like big fish or birds. Being not so high on the food chain meant it was always a life or death situation no matter what he was doing or where he was going. The only time he doesn't feel constant fear is when he's with her because it's the only proper family he's ever had. It's the next year and he can already see her in the distance but her hood is up so the top of her head isn't visible. He's really confused. Eventually she walks slowly down to the turtle to say hi and tell him what's been troubling her. She puts her hood down to reveal that...she's...she lost all of her hair. The turtle is in shock and awe at his image. He's wondering what could've possibly happened to her for this to happen. She reveals to the turtle that she had been diagnosed Stage 4 Cancer. Although he doesn't know what that is...he knows it can only mean bad things. He is shouting in his mind about how this can't be happening and how he wanted to spend his whole life with her hoping he'd die first so that at least he's not alone when he's gone. He takes a moment to cry some tears after that realisation. She says that everything is gonna be alright. I'll still always be with you. No matter what. As a single tear begins to fall

down her face...they take one last embrace. The turtle thinks about how this surely can't be the last. It shouldn't be the last and it couldn't be the last. Although this girl has one last request...she always wanted to swim across the sea one day. She was hoping to be able to when she turned 20 something. This turtle knew just what to do. He promises that no matter what happens he'll complete her dream of sailing the ocean. So they have a hug goodbye and they'll meet each other on the other side of the ocean. The turtle's journey starts from here as he takes to the seas at high speed. Looking for the other side. He found a huge coral reef along his adventure which seemed pretty at first until he came face to face with a monstrous sized eel that tries to eat him in one bite. He'll be toast if he doesn't move fast. Dodging the first chomp and narrowing through the pillars and pillars of rock. However he manages to outsmart the beast by tricking it into smashing into said pillars by using himself as bait. One, two and three! The sea creature was taken down and so he continues forward. Finding groups of stingray, family of tuna and tons of sea sponges and their squishy exterior. None stop swimming to try and find the other side would take years and decades, possibly even a century, but this turtle would do anything for that girl no matter the cost and no matter the difficulty. After 90 years of non-stop swimming across the water, almost giving up until...voila! The end at last! He found the island which was a key sign of it being the other side of the world. He crawls onto the shore slowly but with glee and pride. He can finally rest on the sand by the rocks and spend his last days laughing with his best friend. He turns to the little girl and says, You are my best friend and nothing will ever change that.