

My Friend From the Deep

By Penelope Cho-Kelln

The story of the Loch Ness monster started when a group of tourists saw a lizard-like aquatic creature trudge across the road in front of them. Ever since, people have been wanting to spot it and get a picture. I, of course, know that was made up. The true story begins with me, a little girl named Ella, jumping up and down for Lake Day.

“Woo-hoo! Lake Day! Lake Day!” I’d chant over and over again.

“Yes, yes. Now you need to get ready,” said my mother gently. I ran up the stairs, threw off my clothes, jumped into my swimsuit, grabbed my towel and water bottle, plus my sand tools. In Scotland, the lake was only surrounded by grass, so it was not really possible for me to dig up sand, but I just brought my sand tools to dig in the dirt. I ran down the stairs faster than you could say “Lake Day.”

Once we got there, I threw my belongings onto my towel. I threw myself into the lake and began to swim around. I looked at my mother, and her jaw dropped to the ground. Everyones’ eyes on the beach were bulging and they were completely frozen from disbelief. A huge shadow loomed over me. I sprang up and ran to shore before I could observe it myself. Once I did, I was wondering why it was here.

The creature creating the shadow was too large to identify, but everyone didn't think about what it was. We all ran away.

The next day, my mother was going to take me and my older cousin, Melina, to the lake again. Because of the sighting, we were only allowed to go out on boats.

Fortunately, the boat rental shop was open and most of them were cheap! After we learned the rules of the boat, we learned my mother could not go on the boat with us due to weight, so only Melina and I could go on the boat.

"Are you sure? The sighting was just yesterday, do you think you'll be alright?"

"Yeah, mom!" I said.

"Okay, you can go," said my concerned mother.

"We were going anyway!" I said, unsatisfied.

The boat sputtered off into the foggy lake. After twenty minutes, the boat was hit by something, and, as you would, we thought it was a rock. After five more minutes, it happened again. This time, it was a bit harder. In three more *seconds* it happened so hard that I fell off the boat and was dragged under.

When I woke up, I was in a mossy bed under the surface of the lake. I could surprisingly breathe, due to some sort of magic. I looked around. The only thing that caught my eye was a hill made up of a blue-ish, green-ish plant. I swam over

to it and felt it with my hand. The mountain of grass jerked up and appeared to be some sort of serpent!

“What?!?!” I screeched.

The creature mumbled.

“You can talk?!?”

The creature croaked a small chirp.

“Wait, wait, wait. Hold up. You’re saying that I’m the only one that can understand what you’re saying? You chose me? Also, how can I breathe?”

It chirped again.

“Okay. magic. I definitely don’t mean to be rude, but what are you?”

It chirped for ten seconds before moving its tail, which it did quite often.

“You’re a magical creature known as a chitter wave, you are also meant to guard the lake and you fell asleep for three million years?”

The creature mumbled unhappily.

“But when you woke up you were surrounded by buildings and other things?”

It mumbled again.

“But what’s your name? People are calling you the Loch Ness Monster up there.”

“Chip-chirp-chirp,” it croaked.

“You don’t have one? Well, I can give you one if you like. How about Lily?”

Lily twirled around her and grinned.

“Okay! Lily it is!”

It chirped sadly.

“Wait, you’re the only one of your kind left?”

Lily nodded sadly.

I jerked toward Lily and hugged it. “I’m helping you. No one will be afraid of you and you’ll have a peaceful life. It will happen. No one deserves to be alone and scared.”

Lily smiled.

CRASH!!!! My cousin dived down and grabbed me by the arm, pulling me away from Lily.

When I was on the boat, Melina screamed at me. “What happened to you?! You were down there for ten minutes!”

“Huh? I was-” I thought about Lily. If I told anyone, people would try to kill her.

“Um,.. I was stuck! What took you so long?”

“I was looking everywhere and was worrying on how to get you up!”

We flew across the water, nearing the dock, and went back home.

The next day, I woke up from my sleep and got up. I got dressed, put on my glasses, filled my water bottle, you know, all ordinary things. But when I went downstairs to grab breakfast and go to the lake, my mother stopped me.

“Where do you think you’re going, young lady?!?”

“To the lake!”

“Yeah, good luck doing that! I’m not letting you go near that lake, because of what happened yesterday!”

“But mo-om! I have to!”

“Well, I am NOT changing my mind!”

I grumbled.

“Nope! You can’t guilt me into letting you go! You are only allowed outside for chores! You also need permission!”

“But-”

“No buts, no cuts, no coconuts. Now, go collect the water.”

I thought of an idea. Maybe I can sneak there while getting the water!

“Okay!” I replied happily.

My mother handed me the pail, and I dashed out the door.

When I dipped my toe in the water, someone yelled at me. “Hey! You ain’t allowed in there! Haven’t you heard of the Loch Ness Monster?” said a man nearby.

“Yes,” I grumbled.

I walked around to the part of the lake covered by trees, so no one could see me get in.

I dived in.

Oh no! I can’t breathe under the water without the magic! As soon as I was about to swim back up, Lily cut through the water, wrapped around me, and let go with a bubble placed around my head.

“Thanks, Lily.”

Lily smiled.

“Well, I think we should begin! I mean, if we’re going to clear your name, we’ll have to start quickly!”

Lily lifted me onto her own back with her tail. Lily smirked and flew forward. She was so fast that I would have fallen off if I weren’t tightly holding onto the grassy

fur along Lily's back. Lily got so wound up and excited that she jumped out of the water!

On land, my mother came to look for me. When she got there, she was terrified! Everyone on the beach screamed, causing Lily to be frightened! Lily frantically slithered around, destroying buildings as people ran from the scene!

I flew off her back, as I screamed, "Calm down! Lily!"

"Ella!" my mother yelled.

I swam to shore. As my mother was about to bring me into her arms, I ran past her and grabbed some rope from a nearby beach house. I dashed for Lily and dived onto her back. I wrapped the rope around Lily, calming her.

"Woo-hoo! She caught the beast!" chanted the crowd.

"No! She is not a beast! She is a creature that deserves to be respected! And she's all alone and cold because of you! She is the only one of her kind!"

Everyone frowned. They ran away and brought back weapons and a catapult.

"Hey!" I said to the crowd.

Lily noticed no one was listening to me. Her tail smacked the water, splashing everyone, and getting their attention.

“Listen! I am not catching this creature! Lily is her name! She is smart! She is beautiful! She never hurt anyone! She is my friend!”

I put my hand on Lily’s forehead. Lily’s back glowed with yellow orbs floating upwards.

Lily placed her humongous tail around a fallen building and lifted it back into place.

“See? She’s kind and friendly,” I said.

“Honey! Come down! It’s not safe up there!” shouted my mother

“Just because I’m on a creature's back doesn’t mean I’m going to die!”

“Well, that, but also the height!”

“Here. I will show all of you how this creature is safe.”

I stood up and fell off Lily’s back! Everyone gasped. Lily frantically panicked and grabbed me with her tail. Everyone looked surprised.

“See?!?” I said.

They looked at each other with disgust. My mother stepped up. “Just because you fear something it doesn’t mean that you’re allowed to hurt it!”

The people agreed not to hurt it. After all the commotion cleared up, I was in my home, eating a bagel.

“Can I now visit her frequently? I am her friend and you said whoever I’m friends with I can go over to their house! Maybe where she lives isn’t a house, but the same rule applies, right?”

My mother nodded.

“Really?!?” I said with excitement.

“Yes, of course.”

“Can I go right now?!?”

“Fine, but be back before dinner!” she called as I ran out the door.

Once I got to the beach, I whistled. A towering shadow splashed out of the water.

“Are you ready to have some fun?”

Lily smirked. She grabbed me and pulled me onto her back. And, you know, my mother always told me to make friends, and I guess I did.