

The Adventures of Li'l Dude the One-Eyed Wonder and
Finn The
Great

written by

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EXT. THE SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING

It's a beautiful morning in the Silver Lake hills. This is a world shared equally by all. Animals and humans of all walks of life stroll the streets and enjoy the neighborhood. A couple of cool cats dine at a busy neighborhood cafe. A team of dogs and skunks play Frisbee. An older human couple walks with matching parrots on their shoulders. Seagulls and hawks play tag in the sky above. A warm, wonderful day.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Li'l Dude is not your average pup. There's something different about this adorable brown chihuahua. Li'l Dude has only one eye. But, what she lacks in sight, she makes up with her other senses: smell, touch, taste, and hearing. The moment Li'l Dude lost her eye, she made a promise to herself.

LI'L DUDE (V.O.)

I, Li'l Dude, from this day forward, will never let my one eye stop me. I will push harder and keep chasing all my dreams.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

What are her dreams you ask? Let's find out what kind of adventure Li'l Dude, and best friend Finn, are on today.

INT. LI'L DUDE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

An adorable brown Chihuahua by the name of LI'L DUDE, sits on her favorite red chair with her morning puppuccino next to her.

LI'L DUDE

(to herself)

Mmm. There's nothing like a fluffy cup of whipped cream to start the day. Puppuccino's are the best.

She licks the whipped cream.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

(to herself)

What's on the docket today?

She flips through her calendar and lands on the current day.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

(reads aloud)

"Make a dream come true." Welp,
looks like it's gonna be a good
one. But I'll need some help.

She flips her phone up to her chair with her tail.

LI'L DUDE

Call Finn the Great.

PHONE (V.O.)

Calling Simone Biles, best
gymnast ever.

LI'L DUDE

(hangs up the phone
quickly)

No! Call Finn the Great! Ugh! I
mean Ms. Biles is the best, but
this is a mission for Finn.

Sound of phone dialing.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Finn is a Labrador with a
shimmering black coat and the
strength of a bear. She loves
running in all weather, hiking in
forests, getting belly rubs, and
most of all, she loves food. She
once beat Paul Bunyon in a
flapjack eating contest. She is
Li'l Dude's adventure partner,
and very best friend.

FINN answers. An image of a big black nose fills Li'l Dude's
screen.

FINN

Hello?! Hello? Li'l Dude are you
there?! Where are you? I can't
see your eyeball.

LI'L DUDE

Finn! Back up from the screen.
You're too close.

FINN

Oh! Hey! There you are. I thought
you disappeared. What's up, Dude?

LI'L DUDE

It's a beautiful day and I'm
ready for an adventure. But I
need my best gal by my side. How
about it? You want to join?

FINN

I will answer that with a
question. Does BBQ sound
delicious?!... Heck Yes! I'll be
right there.

They hang up.

LI'L DUDE (SOTTO)

This should be fun.

Li'l Dude's right ear shoots up acting as a radar. She can
hear for miles around. There's a crash of aluminum cans
outside. Four feet quickly pitter patter up the front steps.

LI'L DUDE

Come in Finn!

The front door bursts open.

FINN

Hey Li'l Dude! How'd you know it
was me?

Finn shakes her body.

LI'L DUDE

You crashed into the recycling
bin again. I also smelled bacon
and peanut butter, which everyone
knows is your favorite breakfast.

FINN

Don't forget the sprinkles. I
can't have breakfast without
sprinkles.

Finn trips. A plastic soda can ring is wrapped around her ankle.

FINN (CONT'D)

Whoa!... Ouch.

LI'L DUDE

Is that a plastic soda can ring stuck to your foot?

FINN

It must have slipped on me when I slammed into the recycling.

LI'L DUDE

Here, let me help.

Li'l Dude helps pull the ring off Finn's foot and tosses it into the trash.

FINN

Thanks Dude. So, what's the plan? What dream are we making come true today?

LI'L DUDE

I've always wanted to be a Captain of a submarine. How would you like to be my first mate?

FINN

I do like fish. Let's do this Captain Li'l Dude!

LI'L DUDE

Roger that First Mate Finny Finn!

They leap into the air and high five each other.

EXT. STAIRS OUTSIDE LI'L DUDE'S FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

LI'L DUDE

Here we go, buddy girl! It's time for the transformation!

FINN

Okee dokee.

LI'L DUDE

Paw to paw and eyes closed.

Li'l Dude puts her paw on top of Finn's and they close their eyes.

FINN
Eyes closed.

LI'L DUDE
Ready?

FINN
You know it!

In unison they tilt their heads back, take a deep breath in, and howl to the sky.

Wind begins to pick up. Suddenly, there's a crash of thunder! Rain drops fall.

FINN
(whimpers)
What was that?!

LI'L DUDE
It's just thunder.

FINN
I'm scared.

LI'L DUDE
Don't worry Finn. I'm right here next to you. I won't leave your side.

More thunder and heavy rain. Waterfalls pour over the rooftops.

FINN
(scared)
Li'l Dude...?

LI'L DUDE
It's close! Stay strong!

Final lightning. Crash! Then calm. Just the sound of the gentle lapping of water against the steps. The streets are now covered in water as if they are canals.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)
It's over, Finn. The transformation is complete. Open your eyes.

They open their eyes. Li'l Dude and Finn have magically changed into Naval submarine uniforms. Li'l Dude is the Captain and Finn is her First Mate.

FINN

That was intense! Yo, Dude! You changed clothes!

LI'L DUDE

Awesome! Check out this coat. Cool, right?

FINN

Those are pretty fancy gold buttons on your sleeve! And is that your Captain's hat?

LI'L DUDE

It must be! I am officially Captain Li'l Dude! Looking good yourself, First Mate Finny Finn. That cute blue tie really accentuates your white coat!

FINN

Holy moly! I'm very stylish! Now all we need is a submarine!

Again, they leap into the air and high five each other.

Li'l Dude sniffs.

LI'L DUDE

The smell of salt water and fish are in the air.

The whisper of engines and flapping of waves are in the distance.

FINN

I see it Captain! The submarine!

A golden submarine is headed their way.

LI'L DUDE

The USS K-9. 600 feet long and the color of gold. Isn't she's beautiful?

FINN

Wow...

The submarine docks and the hatch opens.

LI'L DUDE

After you, First Mate Finny Finn.

FINN

No, out of respect, after you,
Captain Li'l Dude.

LI'L DUDE

No, no, no. I insist. We're
equals.

FINN

Together?

LI'L DUDE

Together.

They both leap, high five, then fall into the submarine.

LI'L DUDE

(CONT'D)

Woo Hoo!

FINN

Cowabunga!

INT. THE SUBMARINE CONTROL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The Control Room echoes with the sound of beeping and
clicking.

LI'L DUDE

Wow. This place is amazing.

Ducks, in uniform, fill the room as they quack and work at
their stations.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Ducks. The entire submarine crew
are ducks.

FINN

I knew a duck once. His name was
Clyde. Nice guy.

OFFICER QUACK (O.S.)

Ten-HUT!

A dozen duck soldiers stand to attention. The wet patter
sound of duck feet walk forward.

Enter OFFICER QUACK, a gruff but friendly older duck.

OFFICER QUACK

Welcome aboard Captain Li'l Dude
and First Mate Finny Finn. My
name is Officer Quack. This here
is the finest crew on the seas
and we await your orders.

LI'L DUDE

Thank you Officer Quack. I will
do my best to make you proud.
(deep breath)
At-ease sailors!

The ducks shake their feathers in unison, then suddenly, they
poop. That's right. Poop. The splat of duck poop is
everywhere.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

(shocked)

Did they just poop? I think they
just pooped!

FINN

(giggling)

...I guess that's what happens
when a duck is 'at-ease.'

LI'L DUDE

(giggling)

It gives a new meaning to the
term, Poop Deck, doesn't it?

Finn and Li'l Dude have a grand belly laugh, rolling on the
floor, until, eventually they calm down.

The ducks stare with serious expressions at Finn and Li'l
Dude.

FINN

(realizing)

Uh oh. Did we offend them?

LI'L DUDE

(whispers)

...I think we did. We should
apologize.

Li'l Dude humbly addresses the duck crew.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

A captain should be aware of the feelings of others. It wasn't our intention to hurt you. We're sorry for laughing. And just so you know, you guys are awesome, and duck poop is awesome. Poop is also hilarious, so keep up the good work and we'll do this again sometime!

The ducks shake their butts and happily quack.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Alright everybody, now that we're all friends, how about we clean this up and get to work?

Mops are on the floor and they clean up the poop.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Great job crew. Now, first thing's first-

FINN

Where's the kitchen? I can't sail on an empty stomach.

Enter PLUCKY-THE-COOK, a short duck, in a cook's apron and hat, carrying a pot.

Li'l Dude and Finn's noses spring into action.

PLUCKY-THE-COOK

Right this way First Mate Finny Finn. I'm Plucky-the-Cook. Do you like Pizza?

FINN

Do ducks like to poop? ...Yes indeedy! Be right back Captain Li'l Dude!

LI'L DUDE

Don't ruin your appetite Finn!

As Finn runs out of the room-

FINN

No promises!

LI'L DUDE

(deep breath)

Okay Crew, let's do this! Get to
your stations... Everyone ready?
Dive! Dive! Dive!

The duck sailors ruffle their feathers. Buttons click. Horns
echo. The submarine gets ready to dive.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

(sotto)

Let the adventure begin.

There are loud sounds from the Control room as pipes creak,
and bubbles rise. The ship tilts down, down, down, until...

Boom! Finn comes rolling back into the room. Her mouth is
covered in BBQ sauce and a sprinkled donut is hooked around
her tail.

FINN

Whoa!

LI'L DUDE

Finn! Finn, did you see that?!
We're under water!

FINN

(mouth full of food)

That was sweet, Li'l Dude! All
the food fell on my head! Then
accidentally into my mouth. I
love submarines!

Finn tosses the donut on her tail into her mouth.

LI'L DUDE

Me too, Finn. Me too. High Five!

They jump to high five each other, but this time they slam
their heads on the ceiling.

LI'L DUDE AND FINN

Ouch!

LI'L DUDE

...Maybe we shouldn't jump inside
submarines...

INT. THE SUBMARINE CONTROL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

OFFICER QUACK

On our way Captain. We're
cruising just a few hundred feet
below the surface. It looks like
we're heading straight toward
Mer-Castle.

Officer Quack looks at Finn and Li'l Dude.

OFFICER QUACK (CONT'D)

How would you like to meet the
Queen Mermaid?

LI'L DUDE

Mer-Castle? Mermaids? Half human.
Half fish. That sounds awesome!

FINN

I love castles!

Time passes as they float by all different species of sea
life. The dogs watch the outside world through a monitor as
they pass by an old ship wreck.

FINN (CONT'D)

So cool.

Li'l Dude's right ear pivots up as she listens to the beeping
sounds of the sonar.

LI'L DUDE

Officer Quack, what does that
beeping noise mean?

OFFICER QUACK

That's our Sonar. It tells us how
close we are to objects in the
sea so we don't run into them.
Faster the beeps, the closer the
object.

There's a faint sound of whales singing over the speakers.

LI'L DUDE

I think I hear whales?

FINN

Whales! Where?

OFFICER QUACK

(to a Sonar
Technician)

Sailor, turn on the whale
translator, please.

The technician flips a switch. Whale songs change to static
then into English.

TERRENCE THE WHALE (O.S.)

Yo! What's goin' on? Where's the
brine?

ANGELA THE WHALE (O.S.)

I don't know. It was here a
second ago. What's the deal? I'm
starvin'!

TERRENCE THE WHALE

This is ridiculous. It's so loud
I can't hear a thing.

PAUL THE WHALE

Hey guys, I think it's a
submarine. I'll go sort this out.
Give me a sec.

Suddenly a giant whale face appears on the screen.

PAUL THE WHALE (CONT'D)

Yo! Is that you, Officer Quack?

OFFICER QUACK

Hi, Paul. How's the Misses? Kids
doing well?

PAUL THE WHALE

They're good. Thanks for askin'.
(calling to his whale
friends)

Yo Terrence! Angela! It's just
Officer Quack. S'all good.

(notices Li'l Dude
and Finn)

Whoah, who we got here? Newbies?

OFFICER QUACK

Paul, I'd like you to meet
Captain Li'l Dude and First Mate
Finny Finn.

PAUL THE WHALE

Hey, it's pleasure to meet you two. Looking good in those uniforms.

LI'L DUDE

Thanks Paul. The pleasure's all ours.

FINN

Your mouth is huge. I bet you can fit a lot of food in there.

PAUL THE WHALE

More than you know. I can hold about 17,000 gallons of water in this thing.

FINN

Li'l Dude, can I be a whale?

PAUL THE WHALE

Speakin' of food, we're havin' a little issue out here Captain Li'l Dude. All us whales use our own type of sonar to help us find our food. Problem is, your sonar waves throw us off, so we got nothin' to eat.

LI'L DUDE

That's terrible. I'm so sorry about that Paul. Officer Quack, is it possible to turn off our sonar?

OFFICER QUACK

Of course. On your command.

LI'L DUDE

Sailor, please shut it off.

The sonar technician turns off the sonar.

TERRENCE THE WHALE

Awe yeah. That's better. Thanks for that. So where you guys headed.

LI'L DUDE

Mer-Castle!

FINN

I'm gonna meet a mermaid!

PAUL THE WHALE

I love that place! We're actually headed that way now. How'd you guys like an escort? We'll be your sonar for ya.

LI'L DUDE

Awesome! Thanks Paul.

PAUL THE WHALE

Not a problem at all. Just follow our whale tails.

The submarine follows carefully behind the three whales.

FADE OUT.

INT. CHANGING ROOM OF THE USS K-9 - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Two large metal doors open and steam fills the cabin. Two deep sea diving suits are displayed on the wall.

OFFICER QUACK

Here we have the two finest diving suits ever made. They're flexible enough for swimming and strong enough to keep out cold water. And these helmets are custom made with a 365 degree view, so you'll be able to see from any angle.

LI'L DUDE

They're beautiful. Alright, Finn. Let's jump in.

Li'l Dude jumps into her suit with ease.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Perfect fit!

Finn struggles to get hers on. She is on her back, like an upside down turtle.

FINN

Mine's a little snug.

The ducks tug and pull to get the suit onto Finn until finally it's on. It's a very tight fit.

FINN (CONT'D)
 (slightly out of
 breath)
 Okee dokee. Ready to go.

OFFICER QUACK
 Now, once we shut the door, the room's going to fill up with water. And once it does, the other side will open up to the most beautiful blue ocean you've ever seen with your one eye. Good luck Captain Li'l Dude and First Mate Finny Finn.

LI'L DUDE
 We'll see you soon, Officer Quack.

The door is shut. Li'l Dude and Finn turn to each other in excitement.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)
 Here we go.

The room slowly fills with water until it's full. A sliding door opens up to a beautiful ocean on the other side of the room.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)
 The ocean awaits, First Mate Finny Finn. Let's get our doggie paddle on.

FINN
 Time to meet some Mer-people, Captain Li'l Dude.

EXT. THE OPEN OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

Finn and Li'l Dude doggie paddle in the open sea.

FINN
 Wow! It's so beautiful. Look at all those fish.

A school of sardines zig zag in front. They each carry a book and wear backpacks.

FINN (CONT'D)

Where are they going?

LI'L DUDE

I think they're going to class.
That's why they're carrying those
books, and that's why they're
called a 'School of Fish.'

FINN

Oh! You're so smart Li'l Dude.
Maybe I should go to Fish School
too.

A massive structure appears. Coral columns of deep purple and pink with hints of yellow and orange fill their view.

LI'L DUDE

Look at those giant coral
columns. Aren't they amazing?

FINN

They're covered in seaweed and
sponges. They look like funky
Christmas trees!

LI'L DUDE

That must be the gate. The
gate... to Mer-Castle.

They swim up to the enormous gate.

EXT/INT. MER-CASTLE GATE - CONTINUOUS

FINN

Should we bark at the door? That
generally works for me.

LI'L DUDE

I think knocking might be more of
their custom. Let's try that.

In unison the two dogs begin scratching wildly at the coral door. They whine and whimper and wag their tails.

FINN

Is this how you knock?

LI'L DUDE

I don't know. I'm making it up as
I go along.

They scratch and whine until the gate opens.

FINN

It worked!

A magical world of life appears. A sting ray passes by as a group of Mer-people wave hello. Fish and sea creatures of every color imaginable fill the entire city.

LI'L DUDE

Wow! This is the most beautiful place I have ever seen.

FINN

And you only have one eye! That *must* be beautiful. Hey, look! A dolphin!

They doggie paddle forward and are greeted by DUDLEY THE DOLPHIN. He wears a pink sash across his chest. He is a proper, monocle wearing, gentle-dolphin, with a slight upper-class accent.

DUDLEY THE DOLPHIN

Welcome Captain Li'l Dude and First Mate Finny Finn. I am Dudley the Dolphin, first assistant to the Queen. Her Majesty is excited to meet you. Right this way.

He guides the dogs up a spiral slope, through an archway into a giant hall. Coral pillars and old paintings line the walls.

DUDLEY THE DOLPHIN (CONT'D)

You are currently swimming through Mer-Castle's Great Hall. The walls are lined with portraits of Queens and Kings of the past. Today, you will meet our current Queen: Queen Kiki.

INT. THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

At the end of the hall sits a magnificent throne painted in all the colors of the rainbow. They come upon QUEEN KIKI, an older, silver-haired mermaid with smile lines around her lips and eyes. Her beautiful yellow tail gently hovers in the water. She grips an emerald staff made of Jade. Her muscular arms are covered in tattoos that represent her people. She always has a sparkle in her eye.

FINN

There she is! She looks like the coolest grandma, ever. I hope she baked us some cookies.

LI'L DUDE

Oh, make sure to bow your head, Finn. We're in front of royalty, now.

FINN

Oh yeah. Good call, Dude. Respect.

They dogs bow their heads.

DUDLEY THE DOLPHIN

Your highness, may I introduce Captain Li'l Dude and First Mate Finny Finn of the USS K-9.

QUEEN KIKI

Captain Li'l Dude and First Mate Finny Finn. Welcome to Mer-Castle. I am Queen Kiki. Raise your heads, for we are all equals here. You are our friends and we, yours. It is wonderful to have you.

The dogs raise their heads.

LI'L DUDE

And it's wonderful to be here. Never seen anything like it.

QUEEN KIKI

As this is your first visit, I think you deserve our best welcome package. How about a complimentary belly rub from our highly trained staff? What do you think Dudley?

DUDLEY THE DOLPHIN

Absolutely your highness. The best of the best for these two.

Dudley claps his fins together to call the staff.

The dogs get belly rubs from all the mer-people and fish. Finn, Li'l Dude, and the staff all giggle with fun.

FINN

Belly rubs are the best!

LI'L DUDE

These are great! But, I prefer a good butt rub.

The fish move back to Li'l Dude's butt and start scratching.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

There it is. That's the spot. Oh, baby!

As the crowd disperses-

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

What a welcome! Your castle is freaking awesome and Finn and I are very excited to meet you. We want to learn everything there is to know about Mer-people.

FINN

Like... do you ever have to wash your hair? Or is it always clean 'cause you're under water...?

Queen Kiki giggles.

QUEEN KIKI

(aside to Finn)

Shampoo once a week. Always make sure it's biodegradable.

FINN

Got it.

QUEEN KIKI

Here at the castle, we create, we laugh, we problem solve, but most of all, we love. We are the protectors of the sea and we guide those in need of help.

FINN

I'm in need of a sandwich. Can you guide me in that direction?

QUEEN KIKI

Oh, you silly dog. Of course. We make the best seaweed sandwiches in the Sea!

(to Dudley)

Dudley, would you mind having the kitchen cook up the number 19 special.

DUDLEY THE DOLPHIN

Of course.

He leaves.

FINN

Seaweed sandwich? Well, like I always say, try it before you knock it. You never know if you'll like it.

LI'L DUDE

Finn, you'll eat anything. Don't pretend you won't.

FINN

You've got me there, Dude.

QUEEN KIKI

Let us begin the tour.

INT. NURSERY - CONTINUOUS

They follow Queen Kiki around a corner into a long corridor lined with many rooms. They come upon a nursery.

QUEEN KIKI (CONT'D)

This here is one of our many nurseries. It houses our Blue Tuna eggs. We nurture the eggs and try to keep them safe.

LI'L DUDE

There must be a millions eggs in here. That's a lot of birthdays.

QUEEN KIKI

Thirty Million, give or take a few. But sadly, not all will hatch. Water temperature has to be perfect, and with a large amount of predators under the sea, and humans above, only two of these tuna will survive and grow to full adulthood. The Blue Tuna have a difficult life, but we do what we can to protect them.

LI'L DUDE

Only two survive to be adults?
Whoa...

FINN

I respect tuna fish sandwiches so much more now. Although, I always respect food. Food is deliciously important.

INT. GARDENS - CONTINUOUS

They continue into the gardens admiring sea otters chasing each other in fun, while other sea life picnic and lounge. The kelp is over a hundred feet tall touching the ocean ceiling with the sun shining through.

QUEEN KIKI

Here we have our gardens, with many varieties of kelp, seaweed, and algae. Our sea otters love it here, often playing and relaxing after a long day of work.

LI'L DUDE

Self care is very important.

FINN

I love relaxing after a big meal.

OTTER (O.S.)

Heads up down there!

Half of a Sea Urchin shell falls as Finn dives out of the way.

FINN

Whoa! That was close.

And Otter shouts down from above.

OTTER
 Sorry, mate! Didn't see you
 there! You alright?

FINN
 (shouts back)
 I'm all good, Otter friend!
 Thanks for the warning.

Li'l Dude gently touches the urchin.

LI'L DUDE
 Ooh, that's pokey.

QUEEN KIKI
 Otters are messy creatures when
 it comes to their food. They love
 sea urchins.

FINN
 Totally understand. When you
 gotta eat, you gotta eat, right?
 (hints to Queen Kiki)
 Speaking of...

QUEEN KIKI
 Don't you worry Finny Finn. I
 think you're going to like the
 next stop.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

They swim into a giant kitchen full of cooks creating meals
 and plating food.

QUEEN KIKI
 (proud)
*Our kitchen. We have a staff of
 fifty creating new and unique
 dishes twenty-four hours a day.
 We always have food on hand.*

Dudley swims up with sandwich on his head.

DUDLEY THE DOLPHIN
 Your sandwich, First Mate Finny
 Finn.

FINN

Oh boy! Oh boy! Come here
sandwich!

Finn slams her face into the inside of her helmet. She bites
and gnaws into her window.

FINN (CONT'D)

I can't taste anything. Why won't
the sandwich go in my mouth?

DUDLEY THE DOLPHIN

(realizes)

But of course! You can't eat with
your helmet on, and you can't
breathe with your helmet off. Let
me guide you up to the Mammal
Café and Oxygen bar.

LI'L DUDE

Sounds great.

INT. MAMMAL CAFE AND OXYGEN BAR - CONTINUOUS

Finn and Li'l Dude follow Dudley and Queen Kiki to the
ceiling of the kitchen. A giant air pocket has formed on the
top of the massive cavern. Their heads emerge from the water
into a beautiful room. Floating tables cover the café with
many more sea mammals around the room. Two dolphins chat
about their day as a Mer-waiter brings them each a sardine
cocktail.

LI'L DUDE AND FINN

Wow!

LI'L DUDE

It's an air pocket in a giant
cave! Are we in a restaurant?

DUDLEY THE DOLPHIN

We are indeed. This oxygen filled cavern is the Mammal Café and Oxygen Bar. Here at Mer-Castle, we understand that not all those who live in the sea can breathe underwater. I am one of those animals. Every so often I must emerge from the water and take in a deep breath through my blowhole. Sea Mammals, such as dolphins and whales, are very much like yourselves, and breathe oxygen through the air. A big difference is that you live on land, and we in the water.

FINN

What about Sea Turtles?

DUDLEY THE DOLPHIN

Good Question First Mate Finny Finn. Sea Turtles are part of the reptile family and derive from dinosaurs. Similar to mammals, sea turtles live in the water but also breath oxygen through the air. Fun fact, they also lay their eggs on land in the sand!

FINN

Dinosaurs?! I love dinosaurs. But the museum won't let me see them anymore. Apparently, you're not allowed to chew on their bones. The T-Rex was so delicious. I miss him...

LI'L DUDE

I didn't know there were so many kinds of animals in the ocean. And they're all here, working and laughing with each other. That's awesome!

DUDLEY THE DOLPHIN

Shall we take a seat at the bar? Feel free to take off your helmets. You'll be able to breathe just fine.

They glide up to the Oxygen Bar. Li'l Dude and Finn take off their helmets, take a deep breathe in and exhale in unison.

LI'L DUDE AND FINN

Awe!

A mermaid bartender swims up.

BARTENDER

Good afternoon. What can I get you two?

LI'L DUDE

Hmm... I'm not sure. I'm up for anything. Got any recommendations?

BARTENDER

Well, it being your first time here, I think you should go for our specialty.

LI'L DUDE

Bring it on.

The bartender pours two drinks and places them in front of Li'l Dude and Finn.

BARTENDER

Two "Tropical Mermaid Punches."

LI'L DUDE

It's beautiful. Thank you!

Li'l Dude and Finn take a sip.

FINN

Delicious.

LI'L DUDE

So refreshing and well balanced. Is that a hint of sea salt I taste?

BARTENDER

It is indeed. I'm impressed. You've got a great palate.

LI'L DUDE

I'm definitely gonna need that recipe.

BARTENDER

I'll be sure to Sea-mail it to ya.

She winks at the pups and exits down the bar.

Drip. Drip. Finn begins to drool.

LI'L DUDE

Finn, you're drooling. That's rude.

FINN

I'm sorry, I seem to be leaking. Do you think maybe I can eat my sandwich now? It tends to stop after I eat.

DUDLEY THE DOLPHIN

Of course. Here you are, First Mate Finny Finn. Our special number 19: The Seaweed Sandwich Delight.

In one bite, Finn devours the entire sandwich.

FINN

(mouth full)

That's yummy!

(swallows)

I'll take six more, please.

LI'L DUDE

Finn, don't take advantage of the Queen. One is probably enough.

FINN

I apologize Queen Kiki. Thank you for the... one... sandwich. It was awesome.

QUEEN KIKI

Of course. So what do you say, shall we continue with the tour?

LI'L DUDE

Let's do it! We're ready to get back underwater. Helmets on, Finn.

They twist on their helmets till they hear a snap.

FINN

All good to go.

INT. HOSPITAL WING - CONTINUOUS

Queen Kiki guides the pups down the corridor and they swim into another room.

QUEEN KIKI

Follow me. Up ahead is our hospital wing. Many animals within our ocean need help. Some are sick. Some are dying. Many get hurt and we try the best we can to make them feel better.

Suddenly, two Mermaid NURSES burst through the doors towing a young SEA TURTLE with plastic wrapped around his waist. It's very tightly squeezing his shell together. He seems to be unconscious. A DOCTOR swims toward them.

NURSE 1

Doctor! We need you.

DOCTOR

Patient diagnosis?

NURSE 2

Green Sea Turtle. Aproximate age fifty-five years old. Plastic soda ring wrapped around the abdomen.

DOCTOR

Vital signs?

NURSE 1

Low, Doctor. We're running out of time.

FINN

(to Queen Kiki)

What's wrong with that sea turtle?

LI'L DUDE

Something is stuck around his waist. Why is his body in the shape of a butternut squash?

QUEEN KIKI

It looks as though this turtle has a plastic soda can ring wrapped around his shell. He must have had it for years as his body seems to have grown around it.

FINN

(recognizes the plastic)

That's the same plastic ring that was wrapped around my ankle back home.

LI'L DUDE

I didn't know it could end up in the ocean.

QUEEN KIKI

Sadly, much plastic from land never ends up recycled. A lot of it falls down your sewer drains and eventually finds its way here, to the ocean. Many have suffered and died because of it.

LI'L DUDE

That poor turtle. We must do something. Doctor, is there anything we can do to help?

DOCTOR

First we need to get the plastic away from the shell. He hasn't had any nutrients for days and also needs food. Once we get the ring off, only Red Algae will keep him alive.

LI'L DUDE

Use your nose Finn and head towards the gardens. Find that algae. I'll work on the plastic.

FINN

I'm on it Captain Li'l Dude!

Finn paddles away.

DOCTOR

Nurse. Where's my stethoscope? I need to hear his heart?

LI'L DUDE

Doctor, I have extremely strong hearing. Do you mind if I try?

DOCTOR

Please do. There's no time to waste.

Li'l Dude swims to the turtle and puts her right ear against the Turtle's chest.

LI'L DUDE

I hear a shallow heartbeat, but it's slowing down. He needs air. Do you have an air pocket in this room? We need to get him up there.

DOCTOR

Yes. Follow me!

They guide the turtle up to the hospital's air chamber.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

We need to get this plastic off him, now!

The Doctor tugs and pulls, but the plastic is hard, and it won't break loose.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

(out of breath)

It's too strong. It wont break free.

LI'L DUDE

Please step aside. I know what to do. I'll use my sense of touch.

She begins to feel every part of the plastic with her paw.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

I'm feeling for a weakness. Everything has a weakness.

She closes her eye.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

(sotto)

C'mon... C'mon... Where are you? I know I'll find you. I've got to.

Beat.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

(sotto)

This turtle needs you, Li'l Dude.
You got this...

Beat.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Aha! Here! Right here. I feel a
small crack in the plastic. You
can't see it with the naked eye,
but this is the spot.

Finn bursts through the surface and splashes down like a
whale. She's covered in Red Algae.

FINN

I've got the Red Algae! It feels
pretty squishy. Now what?

LI'L DUDE

Finn, I need your strength. At
this exact mark, use your teeth
and pull hard to the right. I'll
pull to the left and we'll rip
the plastic apart.

FINN

You got it Doctor Dude!

Finn and Li'l Dude throw their helmets aside and lunge
forward. Chomp! Finn bites down hard. Li'l Dude squeezes
tight with her tiny teeth. Together in one giant tug, the
plastic rips in two! The turtle is free at last.

DOCTOR

You've done it! He's free!

LI'L DUDE

Finn! The Red Algae! Bring it to
his mouth. He needs to eat.

FINN

Sure thing, Dude.

She scrapes some off her fur and holds the algae up to the
Turtle's mouth.

FINN (CONT'D)

Here you go Turtle friend. Yummy algae just for you.

The Sea Turtle begins to eat.

LI'L DUDE

He's eating it. It's working!

FINN

His eyes are opening. I think he likes it!

A big sigh from the Sea Turtle.

DOCTOR

My goodness. You did it. He's awake.

The Sea Turtle looks towards the doctor.

SEA TURTLE

(tired)

Thank you, Doctor. Thank you for saving my life.

DOCTOR

Don't thank me. It was Captain Li'l Dude and First Mate Finny Finn who saved you.

TURTLE

Captain Li'l Dude, Finny Finn. I am forever grateful to you both. Thank you.

LI'L DUDE

I'm sure you would have done the same for us.

FINN

Yeah. It doesn't matter whether you're a sea turtle or a dog. We might look different and come from different places, but we're all part of the same world and must help each other.

LI'L DUDE

Well said, First Mate Finny Finn. Well said.

DOCTOR

Okay, Mr. Turtle. You need to get some rest. Let's find you a nice room.

TURTLE

Hang on Doc!

(to Finn and Li'l
Dude)

Since I'm going to be stuck here resting, and tonight's our big SpongeBall game... Would you two like to play in my place?

FINN

A game?! We are excellent team members, we love games!

LI'L DUDE

We'd be happy to play for you! I hope we can learn it fast enough.

TURTLE

I have a sneaky suspicion that you'll fit right in.

FINN

You got it Turtle! See you soon!

LI'L DUDE

Stay strong!

The Doctor and Sea Turtle leave.

EXT. CORAL REEF AND SPONGES - MOMENTS LATER

Finn and Li'l Dude walk up to a coral reef that is covered by brightly colored sea sponges, but you can hardly see the coral beneath them. Turtle players warm up on the field, and an enthusiastic audience of sea creatures sit in a kelp bed along the edge. As Finn and Li'l Dude approach:

LI'L DUDE

Well, Finny Finn, I hope we're ready.

FINN

Let's stick together and we'll be awesome players!

A large SEA SLUG approaches them. The Sea Slug is also the game's announcer and biggest fan, always holding a mic, ready to announce. Players continue to warm up- stretching, throwing, etc.

SEA SLUG
(speaking into a mic)
WELCOME DEAR FRIENDS! We're so
excited to have you play today!

FINN
We are too, but, just a quick
question...
(leans in)
What in the sea are we playing
today?

SEA SLUG
EXCELLENT question!

A sponge comes flying by and bonks Li'l Dude in the head.

LI'L DUDE
(she picks up the
sponge)
Well that's the softest ball I've
ever been hit in the head with.

SEA SLUG
That's the hardest part- dodging
those things. Your goal is to dig
up as many sponges as you can,
toss them to your teammates, who
will then send them into the
goal. Whoever gets the most
sponges into the goal, wins!

FINN
Great! I'll dig, you transport
Li'l Dude. I was made for this
game.

SEA SLUG
A little hint- go for the yellow,
they get the most points. But
watch out for those orange ones,
they're tough to get out.

LI'L DUDE
That's a great tip. Alright Finn,
I think we're ready.

FINN

Wait, what team do we play for?

SEA SLUG

Another BRILLIANT question!
You'll be playing for the "Sea
Dragons."

LI'L DUDE

Dragons are awesome, but sea
dragons are awesomer!

CUT TO:

The game. Players are high-fiving each other, shouting cheers
as they line up on the field.

SEA SLUG

(presentationally
into his mic)

WELCOME fellow sea creatures to
our annual SpongeBall game! Where
we play to protect our coral. The
team that removes the most
sponges wins the honor of sitting
at the head table at tonight's
banquet for all! Who will win
this year? The mighty "Sea
Dragons", or the "Chilly
Icebergs?"

FINN

(warming up her
digging legs)

Wow Li'l Dude, those Icebergs
look pretty big to me.

LI'L DUDE

Just focus on your digging legs
Finn, and passing those sponges
up to your team. Remember this is
going to be fun!

FINN

Oh right, fantastic idea!

SEA SLUG

Players, at the ready!

The players spread out over and above the field, taking their
positions. Finn heads to the sponge floor, Lil'l Dude floats
mid way between Finn and the goal.

SEA SLUG (CONT'D)

On your mark. Get set. DIG!

Finn furiously digs throwing as many sponges as she can into the water above her. Li'l Dude scoops them into her paws to bring them up to their teammates at the goal line.

Oh no! The opposing team starts collecting the sponges Finn is digging up! A Referee blows a conch shell.

SEA SLUG (CONT'D)

Calling a foul on the field! Time for a playback review.

Referees crowd around a see-through jelly fish monitor as they review the play. Finn was digging in the wrong direction! A yellow card is called- but it's just a warning.

SEA SLUG (CONT'D)

Finn gets a yellow card warning for digging in the wrong direction!

FINN

Whoops! I should probably turn around.

(changes position)

Carpe Diem!

LI'L DUDE

It's sponges, Finn, not carp.

FINN

No, it's what I named my strong digging legs.

Finn lifts up her right leg.

FINN (CONT'D)

Carpe.

And then lifts up her left leg.

FINN (CONT'D)

And, Diem.

The game starts up again, and the opposing team is neck and neck for points. Piles and piles of sponges begin to grow behind the goals, making it hard for the audience to see. Players race around digging, passing, scoring- until, 5 seconds left of the tied game. In slow motion:

SEA DRAGON TEAM CAPTAIN

Li'l Dude- do a deep dive for
that last yellow sponge!

Li'l Dude dives into action, Finn see's the opposing team closing in on the sponge and makes her move. As Li'l Dude dives for it, Finn creates a water funnel by swimming quickly in a circle and the players get caught in it. Li'l Dude grabs the last sponge and passes it the Team Captain. Just as the buzzer goes off, they score! The game is won! Cheering from all, and the "Sea Dragons" lift Li'l Dude up and carry her around the field. Players from both teams shake hands/fins/etc, to congratulate each other.

SEA SLUG

AND THE GAME IS PLAYED! Well done
teams! Another successful year-
and now, we all celebrate!

FADE OUT.

INT. GRAND BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

Queen Kiki and all the SpongeBall players sit at a long dinner table. The banquet hall highlights the Mer-Castle coral. Jellyfish chandeliers dangle from the giant ceiling, projecting delightful, sparkly colors throughout the hall.

The Mer-Castle community fills the hall amongst other tables, on the dance floor, eating the collected sponges, in merriment.

Li'l Dude and Finn enter the hall through the squid tunnel. Li'l Dude admires the mermaid handcrafted art, while Finn immediately darts to the tables covered in food. As Finn begins to stuff her face-

FINN

(food drops out of
her mouth)

Li'l Dude, I think we need to
find more seaweed at home. This
stuff is my favorite.

LI'L DUDE

Kelp sushi night it is!

Queen Kiki gracefully rises from her throne. Her community stands with her. Queen Kiki turns to the players and begins her congratulatory speech.

QUEEN KIKI

My dear fellow sea friends, you have served our community with pride yet again. Another year of removing the invasive sea sponges from our protected coral. Thank you for working together, for we can not thrive without such teamwork. Enjoy your well earned party!

DUDLEY THE DOLPHIN

Hear, hear! Sea glasses raised to all!

FINN

We played and we helped?! Woo Hoo!

Queen Kiki swims over to Li'l Dude and Finn.

QUEEN KIKI

Li'l Dude and Finn, you are a true reminder of the good in this world. We will always remember your contributions to Mer-Castle. If there is anything we can do for you, don't hesitate to ask.

LI'L DUDE

And we will always remember you and the kindness you have shown us. It was so cool to meet you all. Thank you for the sweet tour, Queen Kiki. It was awesome. We gotta get back to our submarine, but we will never forget you.

FINN

And thank you for the belly rubs and sandwich!

(quiet to Queen Kiki)

That was my favorite part.

Queen Kiki laughs.

QUEEN KIKI

Oh, you pups! Come here and give me a hug!

FINN

Doggie pile!

LI'L DUDE

Woo Hoo!

They jump into each others arms with laughs and giggles until they calm and part from each other.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Whelp, you ready Finn?

FINN

Ready, Dude.

LI'L DUDE

Helmets on. Let's go. So long
Queen Kiki!

QUEEN KIKI

Farewell my friends.

Their helmets lock in place and they doggie paddle back through the castle grounds.

LI'L DUDE

We make a great team don't we,
Finn?

FINN

The best team! High Five!

With a howl they high five each other. They swim through the gate and see a golden sparkle in front of them.

LI'L DUDE

There she is Finn. The USS K-9
awaits our arrival.

EXT/INT. THE USS K-9 - CONTINUOUS

The doors of the submarine open and they swim inside. Bubbles rise and water drains. The door on the opposite side of the room opens with the sound of steam behind it.

Officer Quack enters.

OFFICER QUACK

Welcome back Captain Li'l Dude
and First Mate Finny Finn. I hope
you enjoyed your visit to Mer-
Castle.

LI'L DUDE

It was freakin' amazing!

FINN

Loved it!

OFFICER QUACK

Good to hear. Why don't you get
yourself changed and I'll meet you
back in the control room.

LI'L DUDE

Sounds good.

INT. INSIDE THE SUBMARINE CONTROL ROOM IN THE USS K-9 -
MOMENTS LATER

The duck sailors are in position.

OFFICER QUACK

Would you like to take the helm,
Captain Li'l Dude?

LI'L DUDE

Abso-freakin-lutely!

OFFICER QUACK

She's all yours, Captain.

LI'L DUDE

(to Finn)

You ready to go home First Mate
Finny Finn?

FINN

Ready when you are Captain Li'l
Dude.

Li'l Dude takes a deep breath.

LI'L DUDE

(to herself)

... But I don't know where I'm
going. What do I do first?

Li'l Dude's right ear shoots up. She hears the voice of a whale. She turns to the sonar technician.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)
Sailor, can you bring up the
screen?

The sonar technician flips a switch as the monitor turns on displaying the ocean outside the ship. A big face appears. It's Paul the Whale.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)
Paul!

PAUL THE WHALE
Hey Captain Li'l Dude! I heard
you may be taking up the helm,
and figured we'd offer some
assistance.

LI'L DUDE
That'd be great! A guide would be
nice.

PAUL THE WHALE
We got you, Dude.

Paul yells up ahead.

PAUL THE WHALE (CONT'D)
Yo Angela! Take the lead!
Terrence, you got the right side,
I'll get the left.
(to Li'l Dude)
Whenever you're ready Cap.

LI'L DUDE
Okee dokee.

She turns to the crew.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)
Alright crew! Let's get this boat
on road. All engines, go!

Lights flash, buttons click, and levers are pulled.

The submarine follows the three whales and fades into the distance.

INT. THE SUBMARINE CONTROL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Li'l Dude is still at her station steering the ship as Officer Quack stands behind. The whales veer away from the ship and Paul yells back.

PAUL THE WHALE

This is where we leave you Cap!
Great meetin' you's guys! G'luck!

LI'L DUDE

So long Paul!

FINN

Bye Angela! Bye Terrence! I hope
you find lots of food!

OFFICER QUACK

Alright Captain. It's that time.
Time to surface. Are you ready
for this?

LI'L DUDE

Since the day I lost my eye.

FINN

You got this Li'l Dude. You're a
great Captain. I believe in you.

LI'L DUDE

And you're a great first mate,
Finn.

She turns to her crew.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Alright then. Here we go,
sailors! Begin to resurface.

The ducks flip switches and buttons. There's a jolt as the submarine begins to move.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Hold on Finn!

Finn slides back toward the stern of the ship.

FINN

Whoa!

She crashes into the kitchen where spaghetti falls all over the floor.

LI'L DUDE
You okay back there?

FINN
(mouth full of
spaghetti)
Everything's fine. Just taking
care of the leftover spaghetti.

Li'l Dude is focused and begins to steer the ship upward. The sound of engines and bubbles occur as the submarine slowly rises.

LI'L DUDE
(to herself)
You can do this, Li'l Dude.

Beat.

LI'L DUDE (V.O.)
You've dreamed about this moment
your whole life.

Beat.

LI'L DUDE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
You are now *Captain* Li'l Dude.
Captain of the USS K-9.

Beat.

LI'L DUDE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
You have control and you will
guide her to the surface making
sure the entire crew and ship are
safe.

Beat.

LI'L DUDE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Stay strong and listen to your
heart.

Beat.

LI'L DUDE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Almost there.

Beat.

LI'L DUDE
Three... Two... One...

SPLASH! The USS K-9 bursts out the water into the open air. Waves crash upon their emergence. Seagulls screech and scatter into the blue sky. Water ripples in every direction as the ship rocks back and forth. They have arrived.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Awesome!!! Finn get up here! Did you feel us shoot out of the water? We totally rock!

Finn runs in.

FINN

I think we got some air time. Nice driving Dude!

LI'L DUDE

Woo! High Five!

Both dogs leap in the air to high five but smack their heads on the ceiling.

LI'L DUDE AND FINN

Ouch!

LI'L DUDE

...Right... no jumping in submarines...

Once settled, they turn to Officer Quack and the crew.

OFFICER QUACK

Ten Hut!

The ducks stand in unison. Li'l Dude remembers what happened the last time the ducks were all lined up.

LI'L DUDE

(to Finn)

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

FINN

(begging)

Say it Li'l Dude. Please, please say it!

LI'L DUDE

Okee dokee...

(clears her throat)

At ease sailors!

The ducks shake their feathers, and splat! Duck poop covers the floor. The dogs burst out laughing.

FINN

Yes! That was awesome!

LI'L DUDE

I don't think that'll ever get old. Duck poop is hilarious! They poop on command! What a great talent! You guys really know how to brighten up a Captain's day!

The ducks quack in happiness as the dogs laugh.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Okay. Okay. Let's get back to business. I'll clean up this time.

Li'l Dude and Finn quickly mop the floor and the place is shiny in no time.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Attention Sailors. I have something to say.

Li'l Dude walks up to each duck sailor and shakes their wing.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

Thank you for being part of the finest crew on the seas. Today, you have each helped make my dream come true. I will remember every one of you.

(to Officer Quack)

And Officer Quack, I think you deserve this. The Captain's hat.

Captain Li'l Dude takes off her white Captain's hat, and hands it to Officer Quack.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

The USS K-9 is yours, Captain Quack.

OFFICER QUACK

It will be my honor. You have served us well Captain Li'l Dude. May you have many more great adventures ahead of you.

LI'L DUDE

We shall, Captain Quack. We shall.

(turns to Finn)

Okay, Finn. It's time.

FADE OUT.

EXT. LI'L DUDE'S FRONT STEPS - EVENING - MOMENTS LATER

The USS K-9 pulls to the edge of Li'l Dude's house and pops its hatch. Finn and Li'l Dude climb out onto Li'l Dude's front stoop. They walk up the stairs to the front door, turn, and wave. The USS K-9 fades into the horizon, until finally it disappears.

Li'l Dude places her paw on top of Finn's.

LI'L DUDE

There she goes. The submarine of dreams.

FINN

She looks beautiful in the sunset.

Beat.

LI'L DUDE

Close your eyes, Finn. It's time to transform.

As before, they place their paws on top of each others, close their eyes, and howl to the sky. A cool breeze comes from the south. Rain begins to fall upon their noses. Flash! Lightning strikes. Crash! Thunder roars from a distance. The wind is so strong it nearly knocks the two dogs over. They hold each other tight. It's almost too much to bear. Just then, everything stops.

LI'L DUDE (CONT'D)

It's okay Finn. We're back.

No more Captain's uniform or First Mate's cap. The streets are drained and everything is back as it was before.

FINN

I look like me again! And I look good.

Finn's stomach growls.

FINN (CONT'D)

Well, I guess I should be getting home. It's almost dinner time and the food won't eat itself. I had an awesome day Li'l Dude. Thanks for the invite.

LI'L DUDE

I can't imagine a better best friend than you, Finn the Great. Thanks for coming along. It was an amazing adventure. High five?

FINN

High five!

They high five each other for one final time. Finn skips down the stairs and disappears into the night.

FINN (CONT'D)

Peace out Li'l Dude!

LI'L DUDE

Bye Finn!

Li'l Dude takes a moment and watches her best friend fade into the distance.

INT. LI'L DUDE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And with that, Li'l Dude walked up her steps and opened the front door. She jumped into her favorite red chair and snuggled deeply into her blanky. With a smile on her face, Li'l Dude the One-Eyed-Wonder, took a deep breath in...

LI'L DUDE

(contented sigh)

I'm home.

FADE OUT.