

The Ocean in the Clouds

by Sydney Puder

Throughout her life, Opal never had a fish that lived for an entire year. The first fish, Fifi, was small like her and just like her, was bullied by her brothers. Unlike her, however, the fish died due to the torment of her brothers. Another one died when her mother forgot to buy fish food, and the fish, Mimsy, didn't have food for weeks. The latest one, Enid, was pink and lasted the longest, four months exactly. Her brothers apologized for knocking her tank over. but it didn't matter, Enid died always.

Opal buried the fish in the backyard with the rest of the fish graves. When she was done burying her, she bent down and placed the paper down with the word 'Enid' written on it. She backed up from the grave closed her eyes, and began to pay her respects like she saw people from movies do.

Opal's eyes stung, and she winced. She promised herself she would not cry this time. No matter how much she missed. Enid.

A shuffle from a bush made Opal open her eyes. Curious, she walked over to the giant bushes and was shocked to see a music box on the ground. She picked it up and examined it. It was wooden with designs of fish and mermaids on it, Opal used her other hand to open the box. She smiled at the bronze mermaid in the box. She began to turn the golden handle on the exterior of the box, and music erupted from the box. The mermaid began to spin, and Opal began to sway along with the melody.

Suddenly, Opal was underwater. Her eyes widened and she tried to swim to the surface, but no matter what she tried, she couldn't reach the top. She would surely drown if she didn't breach the surface and she felt panic flood her mind.

Something pink swam in front of her, and she stopped swimming and gasped. In front of her face was Enid; her beautiful fish was here. She smiled as the fish pressed herself against her chest as if to hug Opal. Suddenly, more fish came. All of the dead fish she had come swimming towards her. Mimsy tucked herself between shoulder blades, and small Fifi buried herself in her hair. Opal could die of happiness from how glad she was to see all of them.

Then she was back in the garden. She felt her heart sink and felt sad. That's when she remembered the box and decided to keep it, When she asked, her parents didn't mind and she hid it under her bed so her brothers wouldn't find it. After that, Opal never cried over Enid or any of her fish again, When her parents tried getting her a new fish, she declined. She had Enid, Mimsy, Fifi, and all the fish she needed in the music box.