

Kevin the Cephalopod



Deep down in the Mesozoic Ocean, everything lay quiet and still. No life could be seen or heard. The water was silent, calm and lifeless. Suddenly out of the darkness a shadow emerged. The ominous figure slowly crept along the soft, sandy ocean floor. It propelled itself through the murky cold water, and glided elegantly through the ocean.

Kevin was an ammonite, a member of the cephalopod family. He had been dormant for sixty-five million years after an asteroid had struck the Earth; he was the only survivor, and this is his story. Now in the present day, Kevin decided to meet his new friends, just below the surface of the ocean's surface. Climbing out of his rocky bed, Kevin discovered the new wonders of the deep and questioned himself: How long have I been here?

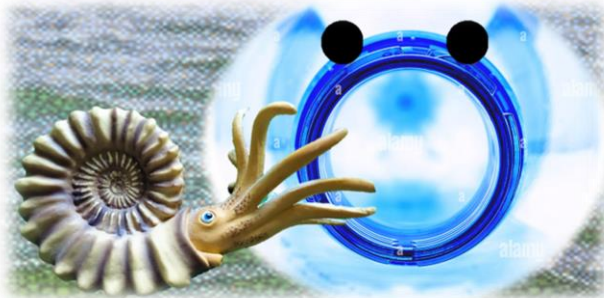
With increasing pace, Kevin elevated himself to the surface and spotted three silhouettes. They were talking and he decided to join them. As soon as he was in clear view, the figures were revealed. There was an octopus, a squid and a cuttlefish. Kevin had finally found his new friends.



Unaware of the tidal currents, Kevin was abruptly swept away and dragged towards uncharted and choppy waters. The pearly clear water petered out and merged into a murky green darkness – algae covered everything. There were friends – unrecognisable friends – bobbing around expressionless in eerie silence. Out of the shadows a creature emerged with empty eyes staring into the abyss.



“They don’t talk,” explained a passing fish, “they’re not even alive. Humans have carelessly discarded them into our marine landscape – our home!” he carried on. Before Kevin had time to process this unwelcome news, a large-necked, clear plastic bottle surrounded him, trapping him, suffocating him with its walls.



Without warning, Kevin emerged out of the water with the blazing sun shining down on him. He spotted a figure with a large, grey, distorted moustache on his face. His name was Fisherman Finn. Finn started digging through the pile of fish and waste caught in his net. He found the hidden creature. Fisherman Finn began separating the fish from the waste which was to be recycled. Finn grabbed the bottle with Kevin attached, and looked at it in disbelief.



He stared in amazement at this unknown creature that was unforgivingly attached to the plastic bottle. On closer examination, Finn realised he was holding an ammonite – a real living ammonite! This was a prehistoric cephalopod that was at least sixty-five million years old. How extraordinary! Ammonites had become extinct from our planet partly because of global warming – just like we have today. Carefully and cautiously, Finn slowly released this unexpected discovery from its plastic prison. He knew just what he should do.



The next day Finn took his precious find to the local aquarium, asking for the ammonite to be kept safe. People need to learn thought Finn. We can't let this happen again. We must protect our marine life, just like Kevin's friend's octopus, squid and cuttlefish.



Could you help to save our oceans?

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