

## **IT'S LUNCH TIME!**

The sun was shining specially bright that morning, illuminating the marigold orange way through which Sam strolled every day. The pleasant weather made him take special time to arrive at his destination, where his best friend daily waited eagerly for him.

Sam thought Maddie would be specially blissful that day, it was almost lunch time and it seemed like nothing could go wrong during that wonderful morning. As he arrived, Maddie ran towards Sam, staring at him. It looked like she wanted to tell Sam something quickly, really urgent. Sam could not describe her face, her eyes were like two balls of water, ready to explode. Her body was an earthquake, shaking as if she had been keeping energy inside her tiny body and she wanted to release it all now. Her look was frightening, while her round face was scarlet red, like a bomb counting the minutes to blow up.

When she was close enough, the words she had not been able to express finally came out all together. "Mom, dad" she screamed. "They are gone, I haven't seen them since early in the morning today". You could hear the fear in every single letter of the words she was saying. "They went out to get our lunch and they haven't returned yet, help me to find them".

Even though none of them wanted to say this out loud, they both knew that was not the first disappearance in that zone in the last weeks. A lot of individuals were disappearing and no one had an idea of where they were. For Maddie, the idea of losing her parents was absolutely terrifying, they had to find them.

Furthermore, if that was not rare enough, not only the inhabitants of the zone were disappearing, but the food too. When they went out to search for food, they always found much less than they used to, and they had no idea of the reasons for this catastrophe.

"We are going to find them, this situation is not fair and we have to do something about it" said Sam while trying to calm her down.

They started to rush and peer around, and after hours they found nothing. At one moment, Sam decided to search around a weird place which was completely strange for him. As he got there, he got trapped inside and could not get out. When Maddie noticed it, she dashed to save Sam, and when she was trying her best to save him, she got trapped too.

While this was happening, hundreds of kilometres away, a family was sitting around an elegant table.

"It's lunch time" shouted Daniel.

"Dad, this fish you have cooked is really yummy" exclaimed Taylor.

"I bought it yesterday at the supermarket, it was so cheap" said her mom.

The truth is that the fish Taylor and her family were eating were Maddie's parents, which was cheap due to the unsustainable fishing practices used in oceans and rivers.

Sam and Maddie were fish, that is why they did not understand that Maddie's parents, as well as every other fish that had disappeared in the last weeks, months and years, had been fished by some humans in elephantine fishing nets, or that they, as many others, had been trapped in a piece of plastic left by humans too. They did not know either that the reason why their food was each day more scarce was because sea plants were dying due to pollution left by boats, destroying entire ecosystems. They did not know why their homes, their oceans, were getting empty, covered in a sorrowful atmosphere. And this is not the problem, the problem is that we, humans, do know this is

happening and are not taking the necessary measures to stop it and save one of the most valued things in our planet, our submarine life.