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The Legend of Owhiro Bay

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The blob fish is a quite mysterious creature. Before he became the laughing stock of the internet, the blob fish roamed the ocean floor in solitude, peacefully feasting on mollusks and trash. But how did he get there?

One scorching, cloudless day on a beach in New Zealand, a mother and her son suffered endlessly and made sandcastles, respectively. Isla, the mother, was struggling to set up her beach chair after struggling to set up her umbrella for most of the morning. Her tawny skin was tanned to a warm caramel tone, and her curly black hair was dense and heavy with sweat and the ocean humidity. She thought that the trip to Owhiro Bay would be a pleasant getaway from her two jobs back home, but she found herself regretting the decision as she flopped onto the lopsided beach chair with a defeated sigh.

Taika, her son, was feeling nothing of the sort. He tottered into the shallow water, then ran back out as fast as his little legs would allow with a squeal of delight as the tide came rushing back in. His fawn colored hair was curled and salty and peppered with bits of sand and seaweed. After Taika was nearly swept into the ocean by a particularly overwhelming wave, he was confined to making sand castles a safe distance from the ocean, for his sake as well as Isla's blood pressure.

So, Taika sat and made figurines in the sand while Isla frowned out at the ocean and tried to relax.

After a few moments of focused manipulation, Taika's masterpiece was complete. He was beautiful: a bulbous sand mass with two black pebbles for eyes and a wide indented line for a mouth. His nose originally stuck out, but it drooped onto his mouth as the sand began to dry.

"We is friend," Taika spoke lovingly to his creation.

Taika told the blob about all of his favorite things, like dinosaurs, flowers, and the stars, with the few words that he knew. The blob was a good listener.

After the two bonded for a while, a particularly strong wave reached up to where Taika sat and carried his blob away, soaking Isla in the process. Taika understood that it must have been time for the blob to go, so he didn't fuss when Isla cried out in frustration and declared that it was time to leave. He took one last glance at the ocean over his mother's shoulder, suddenly still and serene, then he was gone.

Rather than dissolving immediately, the blob slowly sank to the ocean floor. On his way down, he saw many colorful spectacles filled with life before settling gently onto the cold and desolate floor.

For years, the blob roamed the darkest realm of the ocean in solitude. He evolved; he began to eat the small creatures that resided there and, occasionally, the trash that managed to sink as far as he did. The ocean floor was home to few inhabitants, all of them reclusive. But on the rare occasion the blob happened to come across another creature in the darkness, he would inquire

"Where is Taika?"

The response, if he even got one at all, was always

“No.”

And so the blob fish remained alone.

Twenty-Five Years Later

A marine biologist made the perilous descent to the ocean floor in a high tech and very expensive submarine. It had taken him years to convince other scientists to fund his research, so he was determined to make a discovery that would not only impress his patrons, but also would possibly land him his dream job at the National Institute of Science.

Once he reached the bottom, he began to observe and record everything he could see. After researching in silence for a while, a figure emerged tentatively from the inky depths of the ocean.

Taika recognized the figure at once, as if no time had passed since that fateful day at the beach. He couldn't help the grin that fixated itself on his face as waves of nostalgia washed over him. It was the blob fish. Taika turned on the speaker and spoke into the microphone

“Hello, old friend.”