

Space

By Lorena Kanzki

EXT. SURFACE OF THE OCEAN - DAY

We see a boat floating in the ocean off the coast of the Florida Keys. A man and his son are fishing on the boat. The sky is sunny, but clouds are slowly rolling in.

DAVID, 45 years old, is tall and lean. He is wearing a NASA cap. He holds his professional fishing rod in a tight grasp, and he doesn't lose eye-contact with the water surrounding his fishing line.

LEO, 4 years old, is wearing a NASA t-shirt. He holds a little kid's fishing rod in one hand, and a cardboard picture book about space in the other. Leo consistently gets distracted from fishing to look at his book.

We hear their radio playing on the boat.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

What a week it was! Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the moon! Legendary! Legendary I tell ya! Or as Mr. Armstrong said, one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind!

Leo listens with a smile while flipping through his book. He places a hand on a picture of an astronaut in space.

Gray clouds begin to close in and the sound of THUNDER claps in the distance.

David jumps up and puts his fishing rod away. He pulls up the anchor and motions at Leo to clean up.

Leo stands up, eyes still fixed on the picture book, and walks toward his father. Leo trips over the ropes of the anchor and falls to the floor of the boat with a THUD. His book goes flying.

After hearing the thud, David rushes over to Leo for help.

Leo stands, and in the reflection of his teary eyes we see his beloved picture book fall into the ocean.

2 EXT. OCEAN FLOOR, CORAL REEF - DAY

2

Multiple schools of fish are swimming around a coral reef. They move confidently, rapidly, and in-sync.

One guppy, STANLEY stands out. He stays in one place, lonely, looking downward. He is the only fish of his kind in the area. He is smaller than the rest, but being purple with yellow fins makes him ironically noticeable. He sighs.

Suddenly, the picture book sinks down to the coral reef area. All fish immediately dart away in different directions, except for Stanley. The book lands right in front of him with its pages spread open.

Stanley looks up at this object everyone swam away from.

He swims up to the left page of the book, and stares at a constellation of stars. He follows the constellation throughout the page, swimming in awe.

A picture of the moon on the right page catches his attention. He swims to the moon and stares, wide-eyed, but becomes distracted by the constellations on the right page again.

He swims back and forth between the two pages, getting distracted by each and every aspect. He sports a beaming smile, and energy that we haven't seen before.

3 EXT. OCEAN FLOOR, CORAL REEF - NIGHT

3

The sun sets and the ocean becomes dark. Stanley is still swimming back and forth between the two pages. He is barely tired.

A bright white light begins to shine over the ocean. Distracted by this, Stanley looks up.

Through the clear waters above him, Stanley sees the moon. He looks down at the book again to confirm this familiar object, then looks back up at the moon.

He then squints his eyes to focus on the lights surrounding the moon, and makes out the stars. He looks down at the picture of the constellations, and looks back up again to confirm.

A thought bubble appears. It shows Stanley swimming around the moon, and between the stars.

Stanley lets out a determined smile, and shoots upward.

4 EXT. SURFACE OF THE OCEAN - NIGHT

4

Stanley swims to the surface of the ocean. He can more clearly see the moon and stars he has been admiring.

Stanley repeatedly tries to swim upward with all of his might, but cannot get himself to pass the surface of the ocean to reach space.

Stanley hears a SPLASH next to him.

He looks to his right and sees flying fish falling back into the ocean. They are big, fearless, and determined. They look like armed knights of the sea.

Stanley pauses with hesitation.

He then takes a deep breath in, puffs out his chest, and approaches a flying fish.

We see bubbles fly out of their mouths as they exchange conversation.

5 EXT. SURFACE OF THE OCEAN - NIGHT

5

Stanley is positioned on the back of the flying fish he spoke to.

He is holding on tight, with a determined look on his face.

The flying fish positions for take-off, and begins to speed forward.

Stanley's determined look quickly fades into a worried look.

The flying fish flies out of the water.

Stanley is on his back holding on for dear life while shutting his eyes tightly.

The flying fish lands back in the water.

The splash of the water makes Stanley jolt and open his eyes.

With a confused look on his face, Stanley turns over to the flying fish and tries to converse with him again.

He is too late.

The flying fish was already prepared for a second take-off, and flies right back out of the ocean to land back in about a foot away.

Stanley sighs and swims away.

6 EXT. OCEAN FLOOR, ROCK FORMATION - NIGHT 6

Stanley runs into a large burgundy OCTOPUS sitting alone on a rock formation. The octopus has its eyes half-closed and looks bored out of its mind.

The octopus picks up little rocks with one tentacle, and uses another tentacle to pull back on the first tentacle and create a sling shot. He shoots rocks aimlessly around the ocean.

Stanley gains his courage back with an expression on his face that he has an idea.

He dodges some rocks that the octopus throws, and approaches the octopus.

7 EXT. SURFACE OF THE OCEAN - NIGHT 7

Stanley is positioned in the center of the octopus' tentacle.

The octopus carefully holds up his other tentacles and squints one eye to calculate his aim toward the moon.

The octopus then aims Stanley toward the moon, and uses his other tentacle to pull back.

Stanley smiles widely, but still closes his eyes.

The octopus lets out one bubble.

Then a second bubble.

On the third bubble the octopus lets go, and sling shots Stanley into the air.

8 EXT. JUST ABOVE THE SURFACE OF THE OCEAN - NIGHT 8

Stanley flies quickly out of the ocean, and opens his eyes. He looks toward the moon.

The moon is getting closer and closer, and then higher and higher.

Stanley falls back into the ocean.

9

EXT. OCEAN FLOOR, DEEP OCEAN - NIGHT

9

Stanley swims forward. He is in a deeper area now.

It's dark and quiet, and distant whale sounds make him shiver in fear.

A whale call gets closer. Stanley turns to see a whale not too far away. The whale shoots water out of its blowhole and upward out of the ocean.

Remembering the flying fish, Stanley rips two leaves off of an ocean plant and puts one under each fin, creating his own wings.

Remembering the octopus, Stanley points his fins toward the moon and squints one eye, discovering the correct position to fly.

Stanley swims up to the whale's eye to catch its attention.

Stanley exchanges a few bubbles of conversation, points in the direction of the moon, and then swims onto the whale's back right above the blowhole.

He swims with the whale while keeping an eye on the moon.

With his two fins up in the air again to measure his positioning, he discovers he has approached the correct destination, and taps on the whale's back.

The whale stops.

Stanley assumes position over the blowhole while holding his leaves under both fins like wings.

With eyes wide-open, he smiles as the water shoots up from the whale's blowhole and sends him flying upward out of the ocean.

10

EXT. ABOVE THE SURFACE OF THE OCEAN - NIGHT

10

Flying above the water, Stanley holds out his wings in the air, and maneuvers his way toward the moon.

He soars through the night sky with his eyebrows raised, a gaping mouth, and wandering eyes that take in his surroundings.

With each inch toward the moon, Stanley's leaf wings become more brittle.

Pieces of the wings begin chip off and fall back into the ocean.

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Stanley looks down to notice his wings fall apart.

He sees his gills dry up and begin to discolor.

He has no time to think about it before he is interrupted by a descent back into the ocean.

11 EXT. OCEAN FLOOR, DEEP OCEAN - NIGHT 11

Stanley lands into even deeper and darker waters.

All signs of hope are erased from his face.

Looking downward, he finds a spot on a rock to stay put.

The sound of whales in the distance do not bother him this time. He eyes stay fixed on the ocean floor, and he does not move.

12 EXT. OCEAN FLOOR, DEEP OCEAN - DAY 12

Morning comes. The sun replaces the moon.

Stanley is found with the same facial expression, in the same position, on the same rock.

As time passes, bigger fish swim passed him, and he remains unfazed.

A large mysterious object appears above Stanley, on the ocean surface. It casts a shadow over his rock.

Stanley looks up to see a silver hook dangling above him, holding a small worm.

A fish in the area speeds over Stanley's head and bites onto the worm.

The fish is taken upward.

Stanley's eyes follow the fish going up, up, up, and not coming down.

The hook returns later, and another fish in the area bites onto the worm.

Stanley's eyes follow the fish going up, up, up, and not coming down.

Stanley shakes his head, and waits for the fish to fall back into the ocean.

He looks up periodically, but sees no sign of the fish.

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A look of realization overcomes him.

A smaller hook with a smaller worm slowly descends into his area.

Stanley quickly bites onto the worm.

He closes his eyes.

Stanley goes, up, up, up, out of the ocean and into the light.

13

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

13

Stanley opens his eyes. He is in a fish bowl on a nightstand in a bedroom. There is a rocket ship placed right next to him in the fishbowl.

As he scans the room, we see a posters of astronauts, a beanbag with the planets on it, furniture with rockets at their legs, an astronaut lamp, and a bed with a starry comforter.

Sitting in the bed, we see Leo sitting happily in his rocket ship footsie pajamas kicking his feet in excitement.

There is a KNOCK, and then David opens the bedroom door. He is wearing a NASA t-shirt, and he has a space book in his hand.

David turns off the bedroom lights, revealing what looks like hundreds of glow-in-the-dark stars twinkling around the bedroom walls and ceiling.

Stanley looks around, breath-taken. He is in space now.

David walks further into the room and turns on the astronaut lamp on Leo's nightstand, where Stanley's fishbowl is placed.

David sits on the bed in between Leo and Stanley's fishbowl. He opens up a story book about space, and begins to read.

Stanley eagerly swims over to the edge of his fishbowl to get a better look.

David, Leo, and Stanley read together about space.

The three of them smile, surrounded by stars, in a space of their own.