

Fishy Business by Fallen_Zombie

1

Hatchling

I woke up in a tight leathery ball, I knew I needed to get out and get away. I pushed against the inside [of the] ball and it split, I was born into this world. I could see all around me dozens more balls, open, shut, destroyed. I noticed the other spawn around me were looking at it the same as me, until suddenly and without warning, a green giant, it's long legs pushed it forward as it sucked my brethren into it's wide, open mouth. I tried to swim away but it was no use, I couldn't escape from the rushing water. As I got nearer and nearer to the mouth of the beast it's jaws finally closed, spinning me every which way before I was able to gain my bearings and swim away. I swam toward greenery nearby to hide myself. I learned [that] being seen by other creatures like the beast probably meant death. I hid there until I felt a sharp pang in my stomach, I needed to eat. I looked around but there was almost nothing there, my eyes shot up as I heard a loud sound from above, it was the beast entering the water again. It swallowed up more of my kind that still didn't know to hide, I noticed as it closed its mouth that it snapped onto one of my kind. His spine had surely been broken, there was no doubt in my mind that it was the end for him ,and I could tell he knew it too. I decided to make use of him and also end his suffering faster. The beast swam away and I rushed toward the hatchling laying on the sand. I tore through him as best as I could, I wanted to eat, and he wanted to die. After I'd finished eating my fill I swam back into the sea grass and slept.

2

Awareness

It was immediately [apparent] to me that I was not the same as the other cod, as I grew I wanted more, I didn't hurt other cod, I wanted more for us. The other cod seemed only focused on eating and... copulating. They did this even to the detriment of other cod, stealing food from others and even eating other cod. I decided one day to just leave it all, I swam away from my school, barely scraping by on my lonesome, receiving scars and bleeding, but it was worth it, I somehow knew that this was better than the life I would have with the other cod. I was happy.

3

Transformation

On one early morning I noticed a giant figure in the water, most of the fish swam away as it suddenly materialized in the ocean but for some reason I felt drawn to it. I swam as hard as I could toward it, it's shape becoming clearer as I approached. It has arms, and legs, and a head. This was

unlike any fish, amphibian, squid, nothing I had ever seen before. It was the size of a whale, maybe bigger. It spoke to me, words I didn't understand then, but in my mind it was clear the meaning of them. "Why do you not swim away cod? Do I not scare such a small creature such as yourself?" It's voice, despite its size wasn't as booming as one might expect. I could not speak but I tried to communicate to it, a series of blubs and pops was my attempt to say "You are magnificent, wherever you are from I wish to be with you." With that, the being nodded and my body began to change, cracking and tearing my tail split into two legs, fins distended into arms, my head turned forward and flattened into one similar to his, yet it was painless. I began to cry tears of joy, I was like Him, we had the same shape. He spoke unto me, "You are Fallen_Zombie now, little cod. Cherish this name and mingle with my other followers at the great city of Rapture. I was led to the place he spoke of and lived there happily for many months.

4

Downfall

Months drew on and I lived with the other worshippers of the being I came to know as Exiled_Abyss, the God of the Ocean. I believed in his ideals of freeing the world of gods, even Himself, but deep down in my heart I knew I couldn't live in a world without the being who made me who I am, who gave me a higher purpose. Worshippers of other gods seemed to agree, we were forced from our home because the gods were enraged with the God of the Ocean. As we scattered to the winds I found myself with a group of people, containing one like me, a cod with legs and arms and a head. I knew them as Endless_Night. We spent weeks building a new home when we received the news that driving us from our home was not enough, that killing the Sentinels and Apostles of our glorious God was not enough. They had killed Him. They had killed Exiled_Abyss. They had killed the God of the Ocean. They had killed the being who gave me purpose. Everything he was to me, to all of us, snuffed out. We went to the place where they'd killed Him, we left our notes and messages and went back to normal.

5

Revival

Despite what we tell ourselves nothing is normal, all I feel is a rage at those who killed Him, who killed my God. We were going to bring him back, in some way, and although we knew it would not be Exiled_Abyss, would not be the same. We prayed and worshipped and sacrificed to make a new God of the Ocean. To make Endless_Night, our lord, Cod... a new God of the Ocean. Although many still try to defame us, call Endless a tyrant, a warmonger, a killer. We will prevail, we will want, we will need, we will live, we will love. We are strong.

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