

Repurposing Draft 1

In a big house on the ocean, there lived two young girls. Their house was raised high off the ground, built into the side of a hill. Huge windows wrapped all the way around the house, and there was a giant pool in the backyard. (Image of the house)

And in the pool, lived the girls' three beautiful dolphins. They called the dolphins Fin, Twister and Flick. Each dolphin had a special sand dollar tied with a blue ribbon around its neck. (Image of the dolphins with their sand dollars)

The girls taught the dolphins to do tricks when they blow a whistle. And every weekend the girls and their dolphins put on a show. First, the girls blow the whistle once. Fin swims down the pool, wiggling his top fin as he goes. (Image of Fin swimming)

Next, they blow the whistle twice. Twister swims to the bottom of the pool, then jumps and twists in the air before she hits the water. (Image of Twister twisting in the air)

Finally, the girls blow the whistle three times. And Flick jumps high into the air then dives, flicking his tail as it enters the water and splashing everyone in the crowd. (Image of Flick's tail and the splash)

One day after the show, the girls noticed a tall man in a hat watching them from outside the fence. He stood there for only a moment before turning and walking away. (Image of the man by the fence)

That night, one of the girls woke up to silent darkness. She didn't hear any splashing in the pool outside. She walked over to the window and looked out at the pool. The dolphins were gone. (Image of girl looking out the window)

Christina Morgan 10/9/2014 12:29 PM

Comment [1]: I don't give the girls names because they I feel like if I do, I have to devote more time and text to developing their characters, which I don't think really fits with the type of book I'm writing. Most of the young children's stories I read didn't really have characters with names and traits...If I decide to change the format of the book and make it longer/for an older audience, I'll add names and create "characters".

Christina Morgan 10/9/2014 1:55 PM

Comment [2]: I'm toying with the idea of taking this out. It seems like less description is the norm in this type of book. Is this just the kind of thing that can be shown via illustrations?

My opinion is you're find leaving it.

Christina Morgan 10/9/2014 1:55 PM

Comment [3]: Is this too complicated? Should I make the sentences simpler? Should I cut it?

I don't think it's too complicated. Esp. w/ pictures it will be fine.

Christina Morgan 10/9/2014 1:56 PM

Comment [4]: I like the idea of adding a villain, but I'm not sure how it works with this type of book. It seems like books for an audience this young are purely entertaining or teach some moral lesson rather than resolving a major conflict like a villain. I have a pretty specific format in mind so maybe I should change the conflict from a villain to something that upon resolution teaches some moral lesson...?

She laid awake all night worried, thinking about where the dolphins might be and who had taken them. (Image of girl lying in bed worried)

Finally morning came. The girls made fliers with pictures of the Fin, Twister and Flick and posted them all over the town. (Image of the girls taping a flier to a pole)

They went to the police station and reported the dolphins stolen. (Image of the girls talking to a police officer)

As they were walking back to their house, one of the girls spotted a sand dollar on the sidewalk. It looked just like Fin's. (Image of the sand dollar on the street)

Down the street, they saw Twister's. And in front of a large gray house with metal gates all around it, they found Flick's. (Image of the house and one of the girls' hands with the sand dollars)

They shook the gates, but they were locked. Panicked, the girls walked back to the police station and told the officer what they had found. (Image of the girls, panicked and hurriedly walking)

They returned to the house with two officers who broke through the gates, walked up the path and knocked on the front door. (Image of officers breaking open the gates)

The front door opened and a man stood in the doorway. A tall man in a hat. (Image of the man in the doorway)

The officers pushed passed him and rushed to the backyard. In the backyard was a giant pool. And in the pool were three dolphins clicking anxiously and swimming in circles. Fin, Twister and Flick. (Image of the backyard)

Christina Morgan 10/9/2014 1:56 PM

Comment [5]: Ending? Should I just cut to a scene of the girls at home with the dolphins swimming happily? Or should I go through the officers arresting the man and bringing the dolphins back home? I'm leaning towards the former...

I like the former idea too