

A Summer On Clove Island

I shoved the last pair of shorts into my stuffed blue suitcase. It bore my name in white "Ally Heights". Finally I was able to haul it down the stairs. My mom walked out of the kitchen as I stumbled my way into the living room. "Honey, what do you want to eat on the car ride?" my mom questioned.

I thought for a moment, then said "Can I have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, please?"

"Kay" she shouted back as I went out the front door with my heavy suitcase. My dad helped me push the suitcase into the trunk. Just then my mom rushed out with a big bag of food. "Put these on a seat Richard." she exclaimed. My dad did as he was told and put the bag on the seat next to mine. We were ready to go as soon as my parents got in the car. We were finally off to spend a summer on Clove Island.

As we rushed along the highway I saw many houses and offices. Once we were off the highway I saw farms and miles of green grass. Now the road was as bumpy as the grooves on a grill. The dirt road's fault.

Finally, my eyes could see the great white ship with black letters that spelled "MERMAIDIA." As we boarded the ship, I looked around in amazement. The ship was so magnificent. It had gold walls and doors. Everything else was white except for the fancy paintings.

A woman in a light pink suit brought us to the sleeping quarters. "Everything you will need is here and these are your room passes." she said, sounding bored. Probably because she had done this a million times. She half smiled as she handed my mom the bright, blue passes.

As soon as she shut the door my parents started unpacking and I helped. Later as they were lying down for bed I wondered, would Grandpa Smith and Grandma Rose be happy to see me? It had been ages since I'd last seen them. They moved to Clove Island when I was just three years old. My thoughts drifted me off to sleep.

I awoke to the sound of chirping birds and the sun shining in my face. I glanced out the window and I could see the shore line of Clove Island. I breathed in and could almost taste the salt from the ocean. I changed into my favorite outfit- a blue tank top with jean shorts. I hoped it was nice enough for my grandma and grandpa.

Once we were all dressed and had cleaned up our room, we grabbed our bags, ready to go. The captain came on the loudspeaker and we listened to his instructions. "If you are getting off on Clove Island you have ten minutes until we dock. Please be ready to get off quickly because we are behind on schedule. Thank You!" the captain clicked off. Me, my mom and dad walked into the main lobby to wait to dock.

Finally, the captain said "You may now leave the ship." We stepped into the sunlight and looked around. In the corner of the dock Grandma Rose and Grandpa Smith sat waiting on a brown bench in the shade. Soon after we were at a beautiful beach house. It was light blue and white with a wood deck. We went inside to unpack and soon it was time for dinner.

For dinner we had spaghetti and meatballs. I read for a little bit then turned off my light and went to bed. The next morning my mom asked, "Ally how would you like to spend a day in the town market?"

I rolled over and closed my eyes. "No" I said "I don't want to. My mom looked confused. "But I thought that you wanted to find some friends." I moaned but got out of bed and said "Fine." I came down stairs dressed and ready. After breakfast me and grandma got in her red convertible and drove off towards the town.

Finally we stopped at a small brown shop called "Mr. Green's Izotic Plant Shop." "Why did we stop here?" I questioned. Grandma Rose smiled "Mr. Green is an old friend of mine. Plus he has a girl the same age as you." As soon as they walked in Grandma Rose ran over to a man behind the counter and hugged him. I guessed he was Mr. Green.

They started to talk and forgot all about me so I cleared my throat. Mr. Green turned around and smiled "So this must be Ally! Mr. Green turned to a small set of stairs off to the side. "Rechell, Charlie, come down here please! He turned back to me "They're both your age. I'm sure they'll love to show you around." he exclaimed. A girl with frizzy, dirty blond hair clobbeld down first followed by a boy with shaggy, blond hair. I felt bad for the girl. I could tell she was having a bad hair day, but I didn't dare to say so.

I guessed the girl in a blue sundress was Rechell and the boy in shorts and a tee-shirt was Charlie. "That is Rechell. Mr. Green said, pointing to the girl in the blue sundress. "This is Charlie." he said pointing to the boy with the shaggy hair. I was right, I thought. They both said "Hi" I smiled at them then said "Hello." Mr.Green stopped talking to Grandma Rose to say "Why don't you guys show Ally around." He gave them a warning glance and then in response Rechell said "Follow me." She smiled as she led me out the door.

Charlie humphed a little but then followed us out the door. They brought me on the grand tour of the town and we ended up at an ice cream shop called "Shelly's Sweet Treats." I got Blueberry Pie in the sky, so did Rechell. Charlie got Mint Chocolate Chip. We met three more people: Blake, Georgia, Linea, at the ice cream shop. Rechell knew them from school, so did Charlie and we quickly became friends too. Linea invited us to a party at her house on Saturday.

My mom drove up the long, winding driveway to Liena's house and parked behind a blue jeep. As I was getting out of the car Blake ran up to me out of breath. "Come on we are playing Sardines! I have to find a place to hide." she ran off towards the woods. I said goodbye to my mom and ran over to where Rechell, Charlie, Linea, and Georgia stood. I covered my eyes like everyone else.

Soon after, Mrs. Walter called out "Anyone want a snack? I have chips and cookies!" We all came running inside. Blake ate all the cookies

with the help of Charlie. All the girls devoured the chips. We were all sad when our parents came to get us.

As Grandma Rose came to tuck me into bed for the night she whispered in a raspy voice "Tomorrow we are going to have a girls' day. Just me and your mom. Oh and you too." As she left her words hung in the air.

I decided to read for a while but then my dad peaked his head in. "Time to go to bed, you got a big day ahead of you!" he exclaimed, turning off the lights. "Night, love you" I whispered. "Love you too." he whispered back.

I awoke to the sound of crashing waves against the shore. I quickly got dressed, grabbed my bag with a bright, blue dolphin stitched on it then headed out my door.

As I clobbered down the stairs for breakfast a sweet smell of pancakes, eggs, and bacon wafted around the living room. As I entered the kitchen Grandma Rose asked " What do you want to eat?" "Hmm" I thought then exclaimed " Everything!" Grandma Rose smiled as she set

down my plate and added more pancake batter to the pan. "So about girls night, what do you want to do?"

I thought for a moment then asked " Could we go to the movies?" Grandma Rose thought about this then said "Well I haven't been to a movie since, well I think 1954 when I was about 22." I smiled at her.

"The boys are gonna watch a football game while we're gone." Grandma Rose said. "Kay!" I exclaimed as my mom came down stairs dressed and ready to go. "I already ate," my mom said smiling. I finished my food as Grandma and my mom said goodbye to my dad and grandpa. Finally we all climbed into Grandma Rose's red convertible and drove off towards town.

As we all walked into the movie theater the lovely aroma of buttered popcorn and candy drifted through the air. I looked over at Grandma Rose and mom "Can we please get popcorn?" I asked, smiling like a snake. My mom and Grandma exchanged glances and smiled "Sure." said my mom.

We walked over to the counter where a bored looking woman popping her bubble gum asked "What do ya want?" she sneered. "Some popcorn." I asked sweetly. She gave the popcorn to me as my mom paid her the money.

We walked into the movie theater as the previews came on and we hurried to find a good seat.

As the credits came on I yawned, the movie had been great but tiring. We all walked out of the movie theater looking around for a garbage can when my mom's phone rang. She answered "Hello?" she asked. "Hi" said the voice on the other side, it sounded like my father "There has been a fire." He said in a serious tone.

To Be Continued.....