

Greyling's Friendship
(Sequel to *Greyling*, by Jane Yolen)
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In a fantastic faraway world beneath the sea, there lived a selchie named Greyling. He would come offshore every year to go back to a fisherman he once saved from a storm and the fisherman's wife. It has been raining for two weeks nonstop. All the sea creatures and land animals were scared if the Goddess of Rain was getting angry. He would tell them great stories about the sea, but this year, his fifth year since he had gone back to the sea, he will say to them this story about friendship.

Greyling had met this selchie named Marcus. They had become friends and ruled a kingdom of seals and selchies. In the center of the empire lived a piece of coral that gave them their powers. Since the seals' ears hurt when it rained, they stayed inside their houses. It was all peaceful inside their dome-shaped houses made out of sand; except for the palace that was beautifully decorated with seashells and other pieces of coral.

"Greyling, we need to talk," Marcus said.

"What happened?" Greyling replied.

"I don't want to be friends with you anymore!" Marcus shouted. "Everyone always talks to you and thinks you're the cooler one."

Greyling paused, "I thought we were going to talk, but you're just shouting."

"Am I just going to say that we need to shout? No, right? Plus, you're more powerful and older so, I'm going to talk to you as my elder," Marcus said in a snarky way.

"Is this what all of this is-"

"You're always bragging about yourself to the seals!" Marcus tells him.

"What?!" Greyling was suddenly getting angry. "I have never done that!"

"See, you're just saying that to sound innocent. But, I'm not gonna fall for it! You know what you should do? You should record yourself! Bye, I'm leaving this kingdom so that I don't have to hear you bragging ever again!"

"No, wait," Greyling yelled as Marcus walked away, "Without us, there's no balance or harmony!"

The waters grew rapid. A bolt of lightning struck through the water touching the coral. There was a tornado around it that was vacuuming the seals and their home. The tornado suddenly turned into a hurricane! All the sea animals were holding on to

whatever they could. All the sea animals were scared and depended on Greyling and Marcus to restore life in the sea. Eventually, the rulers that were once best friends met again right across each other, holding onto the little piece of coral. Greyling (tried) to be friends with him again, but his plan backfired for an obvious reason in his sound.

“Marcus is that you?!” Greyling yelled at the top of his lungs.

“What do you want?!” Marcus yelled irritably.

“Look, Marcus, I’m sorry but, I think we have to use our powers together,” Greyling declared.

“You really mean your apology?”

“Of course,” Greyling said trying to sound sincere, “we’re friends and I’ll record myself and try to talk less. Are you ready for a Seastorm Spell?”

“For some reason, I feel like you’re not telling the truth.”

“I am!” Greyling stammered.

“No you’re not, a friend will never shout at another friend like that and it sounds like you’re lying to me so that you can rule the kingdom and brag more!”

Greyling gasped, “I would never do that!” he said, telling more lies.

“I’m just going to leave, forget about harmony and peace if I’m going to have to let you walk over me!”

“No!”

Greyling had no idea what to do, now that he lost his best friend. He swam through the sea feeling sad and lonely. *We are the ones that have to restore life in the sea, but how? We’re not getting along and Marcus can see my plan.* he thought to himself, *We are the most powerful and strongest in the sea and now, we let everyone down.*

“Ummm, Greyling,” his friend Maria the clown fish told Greyling, “what happened, are you and Marcus okay?”

“We’re not friends anymore!” Greyling cried.

“Why not! You guys know that when you two are extremely mad at each other, the coral gets furious. Now, what are you going to do?”

“I don’t know, can you help me?”

“Can you give me your powers?” Maria laughed at this horrible time.

Greyling made a face that made her act more serious.

“Fine, just tell me the whole story.”

Greyling told her a quick summary of what happened, and Maria gave him some advice... And some comments.

“You know,” Maria said trying to make the words come out nicely, “he is...kind of...right”

“I know,” Greyling admitted.

“Wait, then why did you lie to him?”

“I didn’t want others to hear and spread rumors that I was a horrible king,”

“Well, at least they can’t anymore since everyone’s...kind of in a coma because of you,” Maria said in another horrible time.

“Okay, what I’ve learned about being a good friend is that sometimes, you have to act in humility, even if just means being a good friend,” Maria smiled. “Trust me, you’ll feel better afterward,”

“You really think so,”

“Oh, I know so, she paused, “now go, apologize to your friend,”

“Oh, and next time don’t laugh when I’m in a really bad mood,”

“Sorry.”

Greyling chose to listen to the advice Maria had given to him and (this time) he sincerely apologized to Marcus. Greyling acted in humility by stating that he will always try to be a good friend and he also cried; in front of the whole kingdom. Marcus also apologized to his friend about how the way he had acted earlier and that it wasn’t right. Everyone learned a valuable lesson and the best friends said that they were sorry, to the whole sea, for the whole catastrophe. Everyone hugged and had tears of joy running down their faces and a magical swirl came from the piece of coral that calmed the storm down. Everyone had learned a lesson that they will always remember and everyone lived in harmony and peace for the rest of eternity, except for these couple of other times when Greyling...but we’ll just leave that to another story.