

Chapter 5

The Mighty Gangsta TTs



As Sharkface traveled north of San Diego, the sky gradually became a dirty yellowish brown. As he passed the port of Long Beach he decided to swim farther out to sea to find cleaner air. When several bottlenose dolphins approached him, he remembered the first time he heard Topsy's chattering voice coming towards him from far away. Her constant talk had irritated him at first, but eventually they had become good friends.

The dolphins were clicking and squeaking urgently among themselves and they didn't sound very friendly. As they got closer, they began to talk directly to Sharkface.

"Hey, you! You look pretty tough for a seal," the largest and meanest-looking dolphin said in a taunting voice. As they got closer he could see the dolphins were covered with scars.

"What are you doing so far away from home, seal? How come you are swimming here in our hood, seal? Do you know who we are? Have you ever heard of the Mighty Gangsta TTs of Long Beach? Do you think maybe you are in a lot of trouble? Huh, seal?"

There was a long pause.

“Well as a matter of fact, I do know about you Mighty Gangsta TTs of Long Beach,” Sharkface said confidently in reply. The dolphins were irritated by his arrogant tone and were getting quite agitated when he spoke again. “I learned about you from a friend of mine named Topsy.”

At the mention of Topsy’s name, all the TTs stopped talking and came in closer to Sharkface who was now floating motionless on the surface of the calm sea. One of them swam a bit ahead of the others. “What do you know about our sister? The last we heard she was caught in a net by some fancy boat up near Santa Barbara.”

Sharkface told the story of how he met Topsy and about her time in Neptune’s Ocean Adventure. He told them about how she was thrown out after biting a trainer and was now hanging out around San Diego. The Mighty Gangsta TTs were glad to hear that Topsy was all right and began to tell Sharkface some stories about her when she swam with the gang.

In one, Topsy began speaking to a man who worked at the fish pier. She called out to him one day when he was unloading a boat all by himself. “Hey you! I know you are having an affair with the woman who drives the forklift. I saw you kissing her the other day.”

The man dropped the salmon he was carrying and turned around. “Who was that?” he asked, a touch of panic in his voice.

“It’s me, the dolphin in the water. Didn’t you know dolphins could talk? They also have very good eyesight. I know your wife comes down every Friday to bring you a hot lunch and get your

paycheck. Unless you throw me that salmon, I will tell her all about the fork lift lady.”

The stunned dockworker immediately threw the salmon to Topsy and she left without another word. Now she knew where she could get a fresh salmon for her gangster brothers any time she wanted without any questions asked.

The TTs told many tales about Topsy and about the gang’s criminal exploits and how they were the toughest dolphin gang in the Santa Barbara Channel, but eventually it was time for them to get about their gangster business. They told Sharkface they were sorry they had threatened him and asked him to give their regards to Topsy when he saw her again.

All the TTs clapped their flippers together underneath their bodies three times and blew bubbles out of their blowholes three times. That was the secret signal of the Mighty Gangsta TTs, and Sharkface would be recognized as a friend if he were to make this sign. They said their good-byes and Sharkface continued his journey to the north, away from the brown skies of Long Beach and away from the gang of criminal bottlenose dolphins known as the Mighty Gangsta TTs.

