



Episode 4: Kiko Makes a Friend

~ Read Aloud Script ~

Another day begins in the ocean, but something feels different. Strong wind moves across the surface, building large waves. Kiko stays close to her pod.

"Grandma Oona, are we going to be okay?" Kiko asks.

Grandma Oona has lived through many storms. Calmly, she tells Kiko that all will be well.

Thunder rumbles in the distance. Calima guides the pod toward the shoreline, where she knows a safe place. The orcas move carefully through rolling swells and sharp rocks until they reach a small cove protected from the wind.

"This is a good place to wait," Koba says.

As the pod rests, Kiko hears something unfamiliar. It is not an orca call and not the wind. She hears it again - softer now, and sadder.

Kiko asks permission to investigate. Koba worries about the storm, but he also knows how carefully Kiko listens. He agrees as long as she remains where he can see and hear her.

Kiko swims slowly toward the sound. Ahead, she sees a small gray shape: a young dolphin with a thin string wrapped around her tail.

"Are you okay?" Kiko asks.

"I don't think so," the dolphin answers. She can barely swim, and she has not seen her family since the storm began.

"Don't worry," Kiko tells her. "I'm here."

Kiko moves closer, gently catches the string, and pulls. Snap! The string breaks free, releasing the dolphin's tail.

The dolphin flexes her fins. "I can swim again!"

Kiko is relieved, but the work is not finished. They still need to find the dolphin's family.

"My name is Echo," the dolphin says.

"And I'm Kiko. My pod is right over there."

Together they return to the protected cove. Koba listens for Echo's family, while Calima welcomes the frightened young dolphin. Echo can stay with them until her pod is found.

Koba leaves the cove to search. Kiko worries about her daddy, and Echo worries about her family. Calima invites them to breathe slowly and feel the water holding them.

The two new friends float quietly, listening to the gentle sounds inside the cove. As the storm softens and the moon rises, they play, grow tired, and rest side by side.

"Good night, Kiko," Echo whispers.

"I'm really glad you're here," Kiko answers.

Grandma Oona promises that morning will bring another chance to find Echo's family.

Orcas do not sleep exactly as people do, but they rest. They slow down. They listen. And when the world feels loud and uncertain, a calm place and a caring friend can help us feel safe again.

CONTINUES IN EPISODE 5

Optional discussion: What did Kiko do that helped Echo feel less alone?