



Episode 5: Echo Finds Her Way

~ Read Aloud Script ~

The storm has passed, and a peaceful new day begins. Echo spent the night with Kiko's family after becoming separated from her dolphin pod. Now the water is calm, but Echo still misses home.

Grandma greets Kiko and Echo as the pod gathers in the center of the cove. Soon Koba returns from searching through the stormy ocean. He heard a dolphin pod a few coves away, but when he approached, they swam off.

Echo explains that dolphins can sometimes be frightened of orcas. Her fins droop. "How am I going to find them now?"

Kiko stays beside her. "It's okay to feel worried. We're right here with you."

Koba asks whether Echo would like to listen together. The orcas spread out gently, giving her quiet and space. Echo closes her eyes.

At first she hears only waves and water moving over rocks. Then she makes a soft clicking pattern - a rhythm only her family would know.

The cove becomes silent.

Far away, a faint click answers.

"Did you hear that?" Echo cries.

Kiko heard it too. Koba encourages Echo to listen once more. She sends the pattern again, and the answer returns more clearly.

"That's them! I know that rhythm!"

Echo swims out of the cove with Kiko beside her. The orca pod follows at a respectful distance. Around a rocky bend, shapes appear in the blue water.

"Mom?" Echo calls.

A dolphin swims forward slowly. "Echo?"



Mother and daughter circle each other, clicking with joy. The other dolphins notice the orcas and hesitate.

Echo reassures them. "It's okay. They helped me."

Koba explains that they found Echo after the storm and kept her safe. Then he lowers himself deeper in the water, giving the dolphins space. Calima softens her calls. No one rushes.

Slowly and carefully, the two pods share the same water. Echo tells Kiko that her family is no longer frightened because the orcas stayed calm.

The sun climbs higher, making the ocean sparkle. Echo knows it is time to leave with her family.

"I'll always listen for you," Echo promises.

"Me too," Kiko says.

They touch fins gently before Echo rejoins her pod. Calima watches the dolphins swim away and reminds Kiko that the ocean is big, but it connects them all.

Koba tells Kiko that she helped Echo find her way. Kiko shakes her head. "She found it herself. We just stayed with her."

And sometimes that is exactly what friends do. They cannot always solve the problem or choose the path. They stay close, listen, and help one another feel brave enough to find the way.

THE END

Optional discussion: How did Kiko's family help Echo without taking over her journey?