

Episode 6: Every Orca Has A Gift

~ Read Aloud Script ~

It is another unbelievably beautiful morning in the ocean. Sunlight pours through the water. Jellyfish drift, tiny fish sparkle, and the kelp sways. Every day, the ocean tells thousands of stories. Most swim right past them. But Kiko notices.

"Mama, look at the sunlight! Daddy, did you see those tiny fish? Grandma, the kelp is dancing again! Why?" Kiko calls excitedly.

The pod swims on. Koba glides powerfully. Calima moves calmly through the water. Grandma barely seems to move, yet somehow keeps up. Kiko zigzags, stops, looks, and wonders. She asks why some jellyfish glow, where all the little fish go, and what made every mysterious sound.

After a while, Kiko asks, "I ask a lot of questions, don't I?"

Grandma pauses for a very long moment. "Yes," she says. "You do."

"Too many?" Kiko asks.

Grandma smiles. "Questions help us learn."

Koba breaches high above the water. Kiko tries, but her breach is not as big as her daddy's. Calima finds a school of fish. Kiko tries, but she cannot find as many. Grandma predicts the changing current. Kiko tries that too, but she is always wrong by just a little bit.

Nothing feels easy. Quietly, Kiko says, "Maybe I'm not very good at anything."

Calima and Koba swim beside her. They do not say a word. Sometimes words are not what is needed. Sometimes you simply move quietly together.

Soon the pod enters a new part of the ocean. The kelp grows thick, and sunlight can barely reach through. Koba uses his strength to push forward. Calima uses her experience. Grandma searches her memory. But no one can find the way.

Kiko stops swimming. She lets the water settle around her. She becomes very still, and she listens.

Then Kiko lifts her head. "I hear something. This way!"



Everyone follows. Soon the pod swims out of the tangled kelp and back into open water. Grandma turns toward Kiko and asks, "Who found the way?"

"Me!" Kiko answers.

"Who tried something new?"

"Me."

"Who learned to calm herself?"

"Me."

"And who helped Echo?"

"Me!" Kiko says proudly.

Koba smiles. "And what's your name, little one?"

"I'm Kiko!"

Grandma tells her, "You thought those were all different adventures. They weren't. Every adventure has been showing you who you are becoming. The pod already has a Koba who can breach bigger than the rest. The pod already has a Calima who finds the best food. We already have a Grandma. What we all need is a Kiko."

Koba admits that he would swim right past the tiny fish if Kiko did not point them out. Calima tells Kiko that she does not hear the ocean in quite the same way. Grandma says she does not ask nearly as many wonderful questions.

As the pod swims on, Kiko does not race ahead. She does not compare. She watches sunlight dance through the kelp and smiles. Then she hears a distant dolphin click. Maybe it is Echo. Kiko smiles again.

Being Kiko - the curious Kiko who listens, notices, and sees the ocean in her own way - is exactly who she is meant to be. The ocean will always have a place for Kiko, a place only she can fill.

THE END

Optional discussion: What is one quiet gift you bring to your pod?