

Floofy the Axolotl

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Long ago, in a land, where animals spoke, there lived a cheerful axolotl named Floofy. Floofy lived in a small cottage as big as a fish tank. The cottage was filled with souvenirs from different kingdoms. There was a candy that would never get smaller when you sucked it, from the Food Kingdom, a bunny from the Toy Kingdom that was as soft as cotton candy that would do whatever you asked, and a book from the literature Kingdom that would change every time you read it. However, the one she coveted most was the sparkly glitter that could illuminate the darkest caves of the land. That one was from the Light Kingdom.

While, in a giant crystal palace at the end of a mysterious forest, lived Orca. Orca loved to compete with Floofy, though she usually lost. One day, Orca challenged Floofy to a race in the Crystal River, a river with crystal clear water. Floofy agreed. She was a pretty good swimmer.

"Alright!" Orca exclaimed. She was so ready to beat Floofy, just for once. Floofy was a little nervous, not because she wanted the prize, but because if Orca won, she would never stop bragging. She also had a feeling that there was something sinister about this. Orca also seemed more excited than usual.

"The race is next Tuesday." Orca informed Floofy.

"Ok." Floofy said. Floofy knew she had to be prepared. She packed all her souvenirs: the candy in case she got tired, the bunny just in case she needed it, and finally, the glitter. Floofy didn't need the book because it was for entertainment, but she packed it anyway.

When the big day finally arrived, Floofy was well prepared. Floofy arrived first, with Orca a few minutes behind. Turtle, the announcer, was already there waiting for them. Everyone was already there too. There were some people cheering for Orca, but most of the audience were cheering for Floofy. It sounded so loud it was like ten hockey stadiums all playing a game at the same time!

"Attention, everyone!" boomed Turtle's voice, "I would just like to notify you that the race is going to be delayed by ten minutes, as we have found a gas leak in the middle of the river. Please remain calm, and we will continue shortly."

"What's going on?" Everyone was murmuring to each other. *What's happening?* Floofy wondered, *I'd better see it for myself.* Floofy snuck through the trees and peeked at the gas leak. It looked **horrible**.

What was once the Crystal River was now an eerie black river that gave Floofy the shivers. *I must fix this, but who caused it?* Floofy wondered.

Just when Floofy snuck back to the starting line, Turtle announced that the race was starting in five minutes. Floofy had to stop the gas leak, but how...

Floofy gasped. She was about to get her best friend, Popcorn, who was a buttery-yellow lobster, also a detective. Floofy whistled, and Popcorn rushed over.

"What's wrong?" he asked.

"There's a gas leak in the river!" Floofy explained.

"WHAT?!" Popcorn shouted. "That can't be!"

"It happened two years ago," Popcorn added. "No one spoke of it since."

"Is it bad for the environment?" Floofy asked.

"Yes. It makes everything sick," Popcorn replied.

"We're supposed to swim through that river!" Floofy gasped. "This is BAD!"

"I think Orca did it," Popcorn suspected. "She must have a secret path before the gas leak to win the race."

"If you're right," Floofy replied, "we need to find that secret path!"

"But it's going to be so dark!" Floofy worried.

"Wait!" Popcorn exclaimed. "Don't you have your souvenirs?"

Floofy's eyes lit up. "The glitter! Why didn't I think of that?"

"But what if you still get sick?" Popcorn worried.

"Oh no," Floofy whispered softly. Butterflies were slowly increasing in her stomach. Then, she thought of a possible plan: *what if I make Orca think she's winning? Then I can follow her!* That was the only option she had.

"I'll go test it for you," Popcorn said suddenly. What he meant was to go to the gas leak, dip a plant in and see if it shriveled.

"Don't forget the sparkly glitter!" Floofy reminded him.

"Good luck!" Floofy said loudly as she poured some of the glitter into his claws, then Popcorn scurried away.

The race was starting. Orca was smiling strangely, as if she was sure she could win. *Wait a second*, Floofy thought worriedly, *where is the book? I swear I brought it with me*. Floofy remembered that she dropped the book and Popcorn picked it up. *Popcorn must have kept it*. Floofy thought, *I hope the book changes to something useful, nothing like dancing gummy bears!*

Out of nowhere, she heard a whistle. That was the signal for: it worked! That meant the sparkly glitter had fixed the gas leak! Now Floofy was EXCITED. When she heard the word "go", she zoomed away, not thinking about anything in the world. As she looked around, miraculously, the eerie black was now gone!

Now the crystal river shined more than ever! Floofy felt freer than ever, as she swam away in the cool water. After the race, which Floofy won, Popcorn congratulated her.

"YOU DID IT!" Popcorn shouted, hugging her.

"Yes, but you thought of the glitter," Floofy insisted.

"I guess," Popcorn said, shrugging, "But the book taught me how to make the cure, and YOU brought the book."

"It did?" Floofy asked, surprised.

"Yeah," Popcorn replied, "The cure needed sparkly glitter, cotton clovers, and fairy drops."

Floofy gasped, "Those items are really rare!"

"But there was a page that had all the items, except for the glitter." Popcorn answered.

"Wow," Floofy said, amazed, "that's such a coincidence!"

"I guess you have to bring everything, just in case." Floofy said.

"Yes, exactly," someone answered, Floofy turned around... to find Turtle!

"Always think before you act and consider consequences" Turtle stated.

THE END!