



freedom that the other refugees felt as they stepped Over the years, compared to other parents, observed that his classmates would get mad at their parents for not letting them play video games, for not

none of these problems. His parents were completely different; they always gave him whatever he asked for. But, little did Martin know that his childhood would be ruined forever on his 13th birthday. On his birthday morning, Martin woke up and ran downstairs to meet his parents. He hugged them and opened his presents. The first one was a massive Nerf gun that turned into five smaller guns. The second present was a surfboard.

His dad said, "We know that you have been

wanting a surfboard for ages,"

Dad."

anything."

let's go."

He thought and thought of what he had always wanted but was never able to touch. Finally, his eyes lit up and he said, "I want to go swimming in

"An-eee-thing?! Like, ever?"

waited on the couch, running his feet over his new, smooth, shiny surfboard with an image of a tiny surfer dude cruising on a massive wave.

will leave for the beach in 45 min. Get ready and

water, his parents hoping that Martin didn't look at

their legs. Martin felt the fresh water and the

Finally, they came down and announced, "We

Later, all three of them ran into the

in army green scales. His heart was racing, and his father distracted him from looking at his mom while his mother quickly grabbed a towel as they got out.

Then his father said, "This is the beach where sharks swam around our boat until we were rescued. We thought that we wouldn't survive. This place holds a lot of trauma for the both of us." On

the drive home, Martin wondered to himself if his parents were telling the truth or telling lies even though he saw what he needed to see. **** The next morning, Martin grabbed his phone and called his friend Moray, "Moray! You are not going to

believe what happened. My parents are ALIENS!!! When I went swimming with them yesterday theri

That's insane! We should confront them." Martin

Moray was shocked and said, "No way!

"No, no. We should trick them into coming

skin turned green and scaly."

said,

into the ocean. We can take pictures of them so you can confront them and find out what really is happening." Moray now seemed excited and said, "Let's do it." That night, the two of them met in his room and went over their plans to fake drown in the ocean

Saturday rolled around. Martin's first surfing lesson and the day he would do the unthinkable. Moray came with his parents to watch this momentous

Moray shouts, "DO SOMETHING!!!" The parents had no choice but to dive in. Moray quietly and sneakily takes out his underwater camera and takes pictures. Martin pretends to drown, but he felt an odd itch up his leg thinking it was a fish swimming around him. When he checked underwater he saw

his legs turning scaly and his body turning green. He looked at his parents and screamed "What are you guys!? What am I?" In a split second Moray's body turned into an alien too! The parents looked at each other with apologies in their eyes. The parents dove

each other's ears and pacing while they looked out

in and pulled the two boys deep underwater and all four of them disappeared into the shadows of the

> Scanned with CS CamScanner

Their fugitive boat arrived on the shore of the beautiful New Zealand beach at Piha, with rocks the size of small cars littering the sand and fresh, turquoise water teeming with tropical fish swimming around their feet. They pretended to feel the out of the boat. . Martin thought his parents were unusual.. He letting them play outside alone, and for not letting them wear whatever they wanted. Yet, Martin had

Then, with a knowing smile, his mom said, "We bought you surfing lessons! You'll be in the house less!" "Now that you are thirteen you can take lessons at Piha beach. This will be a great opportunity for you." Martin was stunned, "Thank you Mom and

"We have one more surprise for you. Pick

the ocean with you guys so we can surf together!" Immediately, his mother's face turned to shock and his father's posture straightened. They both went upstairs to talk, and Martin

seaweed as he jumped in. The moment he looked at his parents' legs underwater, he saw them covered 'Why are you guys so scared to be in the water?"

during the surf board lessons and make the parents jump in close to their underwater camera.Little did the boys know that Martin's parents had extraordinary hearing and could eavesdrop on every

little word being said.

event. After watching Martin in the water for an hour, Moray knew what to do. Look! Look! Martin's drowning, save him." Moray jumped in, but he also got "STUCK." Martin's parents were pretending to panic, whispering in

to sea.

ocean.