

LILY THE LITTLE CATFISH

Once upon a time, there lived a little catfish called Lily. She had three brothers: Handy, Lucas and Benson. She equally had three sisters: Katy, Lucy and Meghan and lived with them and their parents in family. She was the most hardworking of all her brothers and sisters. They lived in the Atlantic Ocean in a little corner not very far from the coast in Kribi. She would have loved to go round the world in all of the oceans but according to her parents, she was too small for that. Consequently, while waiting for these wonderful days she often went around and visited.

Every time she went out for visiting, she brought back a little keepsake. Things like shellfishes, pearls, algae, food and any other stuff of all sorts. She loved her expeditions and her trips here and there in the neighborhood nevertheless; her parents had always forbidden her two things. That is, to swim in the shallow waters of the coast and, of course, never to bring back plastic home. She understood why she never had to swim in the shallow waters of the coast because she knew human beings actually could be present and the two are not supposed to be together at the same point. Still, she tried getting why she wasn't supposed to bring back plastic home as keepsake or even touch it. For her, it actually was strange because it was as abundant as algae at the surface of water - so why?

Little curious cat fish that she was, she couldn't prevent herself from asking that question in her mind.

"What is so bad with plastic?"

So one day, during one of her expeditions she often did, she realized something in the water. It was like jammed in the coral. It actually was very different from what she had ever seen before. She then decided to go towards it. It was plastic. But it was just so different of what she had ever known. What was it doing there? She felt it so magnificent and did not understand why it was there as she knew plastic always remained at the surface of water. So enthusiastic, she decides to take it back home and on reaching, she opened the door and showed it to dad and mom. But on seeing their facial expressions, she quickly understood it wasn't any good.

Taking her courage in hand, she asked:

- Hey mom, what is wrong?

"Darling", her mom answered...

"Did we ask you never to bring back plastic home?" she continued and Lily replied

- Yes mom you did.
- Then why did you disobey? Mama catfish asked again
- It... it... seemed s... so... Mom, I'm sorry.

Seeing this, Lily's parents looked at her and said:

- You need to know something.
- Yes, what? She silently asked.
- We are sorry to tell you this, but we are actually not your parents but respectively your uncle and aunt. But those you think are your brothers and sisters are actually your brothers and sisters.

Hearing this, Lily was so shocked that she couldn't say a word. She kept listening and they told her, if they did this, it was because their mother - as curious as she was - saw something identical to that one she brought back today, but for her it wasn't for keepsake but for eating. So she ate it and laid her eggs. Being tired, she expected some energy from what she thought was food but had the contrary effect. It tied up her intestines and got her suffocated. They realized this and had to dispose of her and take care of the eggs and raised them as their children till today.

After this shocking revelation, NOTHING WAS ANY LONGER THE SAME.

Today, the family has lost its joy and unity for no good reason, if not plastic. In search of consolation, Handy and Meghan left the house, but never came back. Katy was caught in a fishing net because she became recalcitrant as she left the house after the curfew. Everything is just a mess.

BECAUSE OF PLASTIC IN THE SEA. That's not its place. Not at all

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