

# Eddy

Loves The  
Seaside



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More than anything Eddy Emu loves the water. He doesn't mind how he plays in the water, all of it is fun, whether he is jumping up and down in his wellies when it was raining, splashing around in the bath or playing leapfrog over the lily pads with Felicity Frog. The water always makes Eddy feel calm and relaxed and it is a special thing for him to enjoy.

When he was little, he often dreamt of visiting the seaside. It seemed a magical place, where the sea was spread far and wide, the waves made shapes like dancing horses and the sand looked so much fun as you could build shapes and sandcastles for hours and hours. He had seen fantastic pictures in magazines and in adverts on the TV of some tropical places, but he had never been to the seaside, where other children were allowed to play and have fun. Eddy had secretly kept a small scrapbook under his bed with cut-outs of the seaside and would often get it out and pretend he was playing amongst the sand and throwing stones in the sea.



Eddy had lived with Flossy and Frank for nine months. He loved his new mummy and daddy and found them kind and caring. Eddy didn't want to keep secrets from them, so decided he would show them his scrapbook. He was a little worried they might think it was silly, but they encouraged him to be brave, so he thought this was a good way to show them his bravery.





One evening, they were sitting down after dinner together and having a chat when Eddy said, "I've got a secret I want to show you." Flossy and Frank looked a little worried. Eddy went into his bedroom and took the scrap book from under his bed and brought it back to the table. Eddy said, "For years and years I have cut out pieces of magazines to keep in this scrapbook so I can dream of being by the seaside. I kept it secret but I feel safe showing it to you now, so I hope you don't laugh at it."

Flossy lent over and gave Eddy a cuddle, "We would never laugh at anything you have done. I promise." Eddy sat in delight, flicking through the book and explaining all the pictures to his parents. Frank smiled, "Your scrap book is great. What a big imagination you have. Would you like to go to the seaside tomorrow?" Eddy nearly fell off his chair, "Really? Can we? I have never been to the seaside and would love to be able to play there." "Of course," Frank said, "It will be a treat for us all, and we can invite a few others along as well."





The next morning, Eddy was bursting with excitement as he finally was able to visit the place of his dreams. Flossy and Frank had bought him a red bucket and spade and he was looking forward to building the biggest ever sandcastle and playing loads of games in the sea. Eddy was even allowed to bring one of his friends along, so he had invited Percy Penguin, as he knew he loved the water too. They all bustled into the car and were chatting about all the things they wanted to do when they arrived. The list was long. Frank started a great honking tune, 'Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside' and they all sang along with loud voices.



When they arrived, they could see Herbie Hippo and Patsy Pelican had set up their deckchairs already and were sunbathing. Eddy and Percy wanted to start playing games straight away.

"I know how you can make the biggest sandcastle," Herbie said. "First, you need to dig the biggest hole." Eddy and Percy looked at each other, puzzled, but decided it sounded fun, so started to dig. Frank thought they might need some help, so joined in. It was hard work and took them a while but finally they had a nice big hole ready for whatever was next. Herbie looked pleased with their efforts, snorted loudly and then jumped in the hole. "Now you need to bury me in the sand and my belly can be the biggest sandcastle you have ever seen." Eddy was delighted with this idea and started to put sand back on top of Herbie. Frank chuckled to himself as he watched his friend having fun with the children. The result was a buried hippo, with only his head poking out and a flag sitting on top of his belly.





Flossy loved watching Eddy having fun. She knew he had had a hard start in life and she wanted to make sure that he felt relaxed and safe with them as his parents. Flossy could tell that it was a big deal for him to be allowed to go to the seaside and even a bigger moment that he could bring his friend along. Flossy shouted over to them as she wanted to join in.

"I would love to go paddling in the water," Flossy called. "Who would like to come along?" "Me, me!" Eddy said. He had no idea how to swim but he wanted to learn. He had been to the local lagoon with Flossy and Frank many times, but he had never been in the sea. Eddy held Flossy's wing as she led him down to the water. He felt a little nervous. The water was lovely and warm and they dipped their toes in together. Flossy could sense that Eddy was starting to relax and suggested they hunt for some shells. Out of the corner of her eye Flossy could see something speckled gleaming in the water and called for Eddy to see if he could spot it. He picked up the gorgeous looking shell and watched as it twinkled in the sun.



Flossy said, "Hold it up to your ear, and you might be able to hear some magic."

Eddy held it to his ear and was amazed he could hear the waves.

"Wow, that really is magic," Eddy said. "How on earth is that possible?"

"It's the magic of seashells," said Flossy. "You can take one home and always hear the sea."

All of a sudden they heard screams of delight behind them as Frank, Patsy, Percy and a very sandy Herbie came running into the sea. They splashed each other, jumped over the waves and had great fun. Eddy even discovered that Herbie's belly was good for floating on. Patsy Pelican got a little carried away as whenever she is near water, she must start looking for fish. Altogether she had caught a dozen fish. Just the thing for dinner that night!





They were having such a great time, but it was starting to get dark...

It was time to go home. They said goodbye to Herbie and Patsy and headed back to the car. Eddy and Percy got in the back seat feeling tired after all the fun at the seaside. Eddy held on to the precious shell he had found and looked over at his friend.

What a wonderful day it had been!

