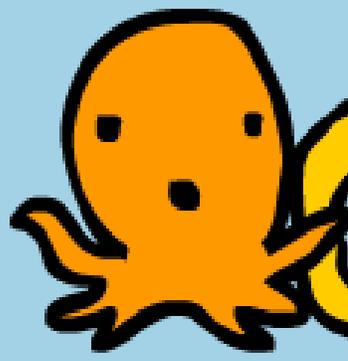


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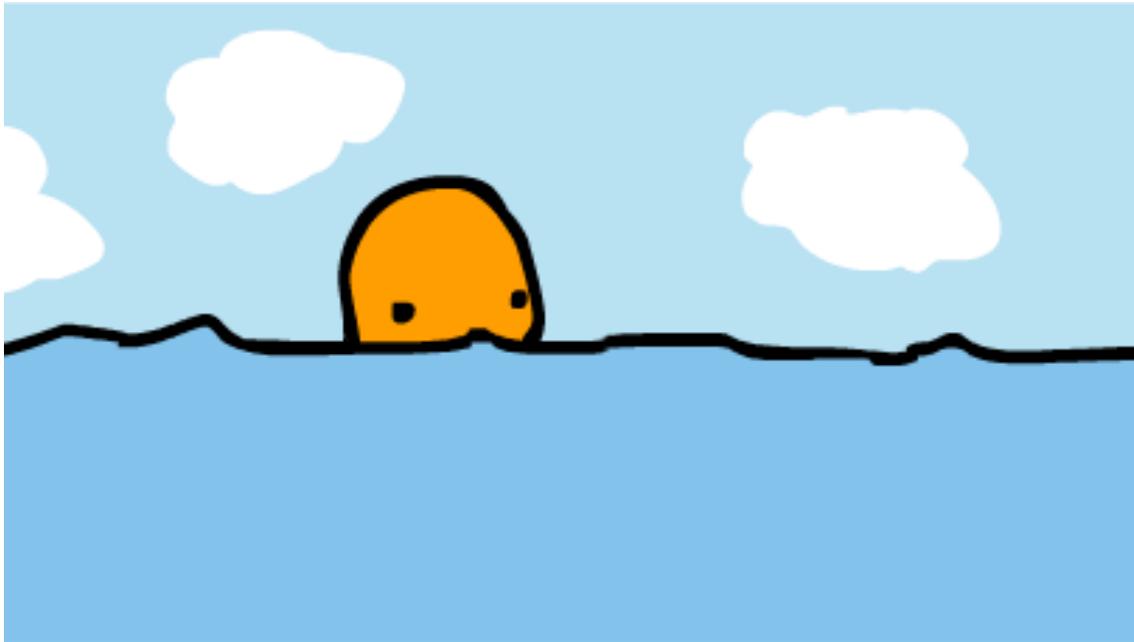
 Octopus

who wanted to be a

Human

Written & Illustrated
by Gecko Strange

Once upon a time, there lived an octopus named Oscar. He lived in the ocean, away from the humans. From time to time, he'd swim up to the surface, and look at the humans. Today he did the same thing. He saw a boy beside his mother. The boy was a bit obese, as was his mother. The mother was reading a magazine, and the boy was eating a cheeseburger. He looked like he wished he were somewhere else.



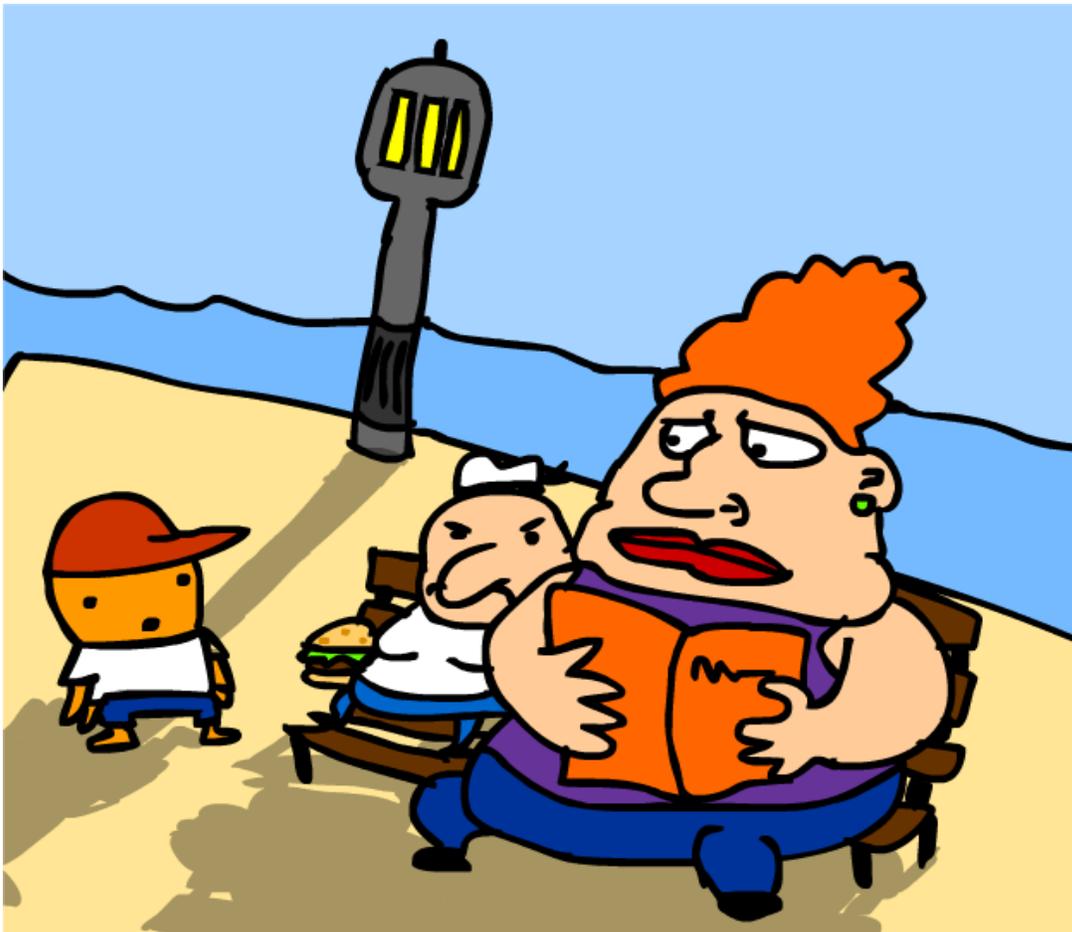
Oscar sometimes wished he was a human too. He went to the wise old catfish for advice. "Wise old catfish, I want to be a human. I want to walk on land and breathe air. Can you help me?" asked Oscar. "Hmmm. Let me think..." replied the wise old catfish. They sat there for quite some time. "Wise old catfish, did you think of something?" he asked. "Hm- Wha? Oh, uh... yes, um, you can use this tiny oxygen tank. Here." The wise old catfish handed a small oxygen tank to Oscar. "You'll also need some human clothes. If you get the good ones, they won't even notice you're an octopus! Apart from the extra arms, of course." he handed oscar a set of clothes. "Thanks wise old catfish!" said Oscar. He swam away.



Oscar put on the clothes. *Wow, this feels, weird* he thought. *I'll swim up to the surface now.* He swam to the surface. *It's time.* He swam to the land. He slowly put one tentacle on the ground. *Squish* was the sound it made on contact with the ground. *Oh, wow! This feels great!* He thought. He started walking toward the dock. His steps were wobbly, but he managed to walk. He started to get the hang of it. He walked up to an old man. "Uh, hi, I'm new here, could you tell me where I am?" He asked the old man. "You ain't where you're supposed to be, boy. I suggest you go somewhere else. There is a street behind that building." the old man pointed at a rather large building.



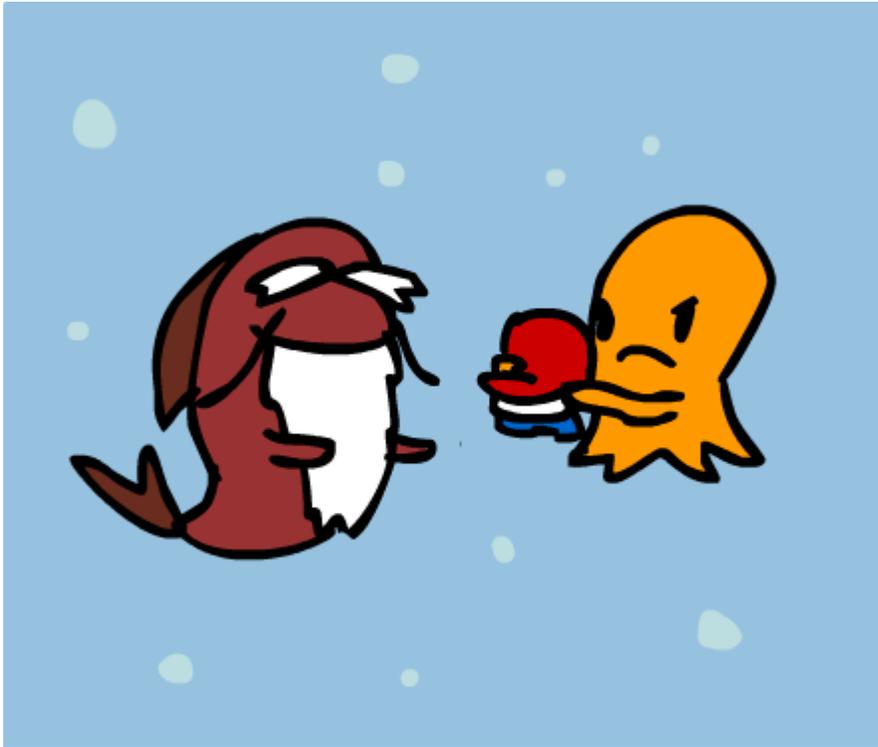
Then Oscar said "Uh, I just remembered I have to meet up with a friend here. Bye!". Then he walked up to the boy and his mother and introduced himself. "Hi, I'm Oscar! What's your name?". "Mommy, why is this boy talking to me? I don't want him to talk to me. He looks weird." the boy said. "Alright, honey. Whatever you say." She then turned to Oscar. "My baby boy doesn't want to talk to you, so scram!". Oscar was very surprised. "Okay..." he said and walked away. *Wow, these humans are confusing* he thought as he walked away. *You know what, screw it. I'm*



going back to the ocean. And with that, he tore off his clothes, took off his oxygen tank and walked back into the ocean.

When he got back, he went straight to the wise old catfish. "Those humans are horrible!" he exclaimed. "They're rude and spoiled!". "Well, if you're not gonna use the clothes or the oxygen tank, I'd like them back,

please." said the wise old catfish. Oscar handed the clothes and oxygen tank to the wise old catfish, and swam away. *I am never going back up there, ever again!* He thought.



And he never did.

The End