

Quest



I need to tell you about the evening that changed everything.

I was anchored in a quiet cove, watching the stars appear in the darkening sky. The sea was completely still. I should have felt peaceful. But I didn't. I felt something else. A funny feeling that I didn't understand. Like when you're hungry but you don't know what you want to eat. (I'm always hungry.)

Suddenly, the water beside my boat began to stir.

And then, rising from the dark came the most enormous, magnificent turtle I had ever seen. His shell was covered in barnacles and strange, faded markings that looked almost like a map.

"Hello Tiny Cat," he said.

"My name is Barnabas. I have been looking for you for quite some time."

"For me? But why?"

Instead of answering, he reached underneath the water with his great flipper and handed me a rolled-up piece of paper.

A map.

"I have been carrying this for longer than I can remember," said Barnabas gently.

"It shows the way to a place I have been trying to find my whole life.

"It is called The Place Where Feelings Come To Rest."

When he said those words that funny feeling felt a little smaller, like a knot beginning to loosen.

"Why can't you find it yourself?" I asked.

"You're ancient and wise, and you've sailed every ocean."

"Because the map only works if you're still learning. Still wondering. Still brave enough to feel big things, even when you don't understand them yet."

He looked at me steadily. "That is you, Tiny Cat. That is exactly you."

And then he was gone. Just like that.

I unrolled the map on the deck. Islands, oceans, coastlines, and at the centre of the map was the place Barnabas had been looking for, the place where feelings come to rest.

I looked at the poem tucked inside. It was beautiful and mysterious, with words missing, waiting to be found.

I understood. The missing words are out there somewhere. If I follow the map I'll find them. A word for every feeling I learn about along the way.

So. I can't do this alone, little sailor. Barnabas says you're exactly the right sort of person for this adventure and I think he might be right.

Love from your Captain,



Tiny Cat

P.S. Add your sticker to the start on the map if you're willing to help me on this quest. Let's discover these big feelings together and find out what's in The Place Where Feelings Come To Rest! I really need your help.

