



The Dolphin and the Spiky Friend

Julieann Ebaugh



Pip the porcupine sits alone on a sunny beach, looking out at the vast, sparkling blue ocean. His brown quills are sharp and pointy, making him feel a little bit lonely as he watches the waves.



Suddenly, a friendly dolphin named Delphine leaps high out of the water with a graceful splash. Her skin is smooth and grey, and she has a big, happy smile that reaches all the way to her eyes.



Delphine swims closer to the shore and spots Pip sitting on the sand. Pip looks at his own prickly back and sighs, wishing he could swim and play without being so spiky.



The kind dolphin whistles a cheerful tune and splashes a tiny bit of water toward Pip to say hello. Pip feels a little shy, but he slowly raises his paw and gives a small wave back to his new friend.



Pip finds a long, smooth piece of driftwood on the beach and carefully pushes it toward the water. He wants to play a game, but he is careful to keep his sharp quills away from the gentle waves.



Delphine catches the driftwood with her nose and tosses it back toward the shore with a joyful flip. Pip giggles and scampers to fetch it, realizing they can play together even if they are very different.



As the afternoon sun begins to set, the sky turns into a beautiful painting of pink, orange, and gold. Delphine performs a series of spectacular jumps in the water to make Pip clap his paws in delight.



Pip decides to make a special gift for Delphine by arranging colorful seashells in the shape of a heart on the wet sand. Delphine swims as close as she can, clicking happily to show how much she loves the surprise.



The two friends spend the rest of the evening sharing stories through splashes and soft rustles of the beach grass. They learn that being kind is much more important than being smooth or spiky.



Under the glow of the silver moon, Pip curls up for a nap on the soft sand while Delphine rests in the calm tide nearby. They both fall asleep feeling happy and loved, knowing they have found a true friend.