

The Moon and The Ocean **by Alex Bengzon**

The Ocean is beautiful.

She covers the world with her cool embrace and holds all the wonderful sea creatures. She is refreshing on a hot summer's day. People have fun swimming with the Ocean, splashing and laughing along to the beat of her waves.

Everyone loves the Ocean.

The Moon is beautiful.

She sits in the sky amongst the Stars, watching over the land. She shines a light for people in the dark. She follows them wherever they go, making sure everyone gets home safely.

The Moon is beautiful, but the people do not love her.

"I think you're beautiful," says the Ocean, but the Moon doesn't believe her.

"That's because you're my best friend. You're supposed to tell me I'm beautiful," she says, moving along with her waves.

The people do not love the Moon, nor do they find her beautiful. They believe she does nothing for the world and lives only for herself.

"What does the Moon know of love and friendship? All she does is sit in the sky all night!" a man says, staring up at the Moon with a foul look in his eyes.

"She's boring! The Moon is cold and gray, and she shines too bright. I can't sleep at night!" a child exclaims, shaking his head in frustration.

And so, the people try everything to get rid of the Moon.

They call out to the Clouds, begging them to block the Moon from their view. The Clouds refuse their request, rumbling in anger.

"You people are mean! What has the Moon ever done to you?" the Clouds say, floating away angrily.

The people don't give up. The next night, they build a large ladder to reach the Moon and try to pull her out of the sky. They tug at her curves, but the Stars hold her back.

"Stop! The Moon deserves to stay in the sky. Don't take her away!"

The Stars pull the Moon back, and the people tumble off the ladder. They glare at the sky from their place on the ground.

The people become anxious. What else can they do?

"We should ask the Sun for help!" a woman says, pointing to a bright light in the sky.

And so, when the Moon is asleep and the Ocean is calm, the people turn to the Sun.

"Please help us! We want the Moon to go away. We tried everything, but she won't leave!" the people exclaim.

"You wish to remove the Moon?" says the Sun.

"We want her gone!" the people shout together.

"Why do you wish to get rid of the Moon?"

"Because she does nothing all night and shines too bright!"

"Is that not what I do?" the Sun asks. "In the day, I sit in the sky and shine my light for everyone, and so does the Moon. In the night, she is the only light in the dark."

A man interrupts the Sun, "The Moon and the Ocean shouldn't be friends."

"Why not?"

"Because that is not how it should be!"

The Sun dims his light. "And who are you to tell others what should and should not be?"

The people say nothing. They can't say anything.

Behind them, the Ocean is listening. *How could they say such things?* she wonders. She bursts into tears and leaves to find the Moon.

“What’s wrong?” the Moon asks when she sees the Ocean crying.

“Would you leave me if the people told you to?” she asks.

“Of course not! I would never leave you,” says the Moon, pulling the Ocean towards her.

In the morning, the Sun asks the Moon a question.

“Why do you stay with the Ocean? Is it because she is beautiful?”

The Moon replies immediately, “The Ocean is beautiful, but that is not why.”

“Is it because she is your only friend?”

"No, but I do wish she would make more friends."

The Sun is confused and asks, “So why do you stay?”

The Moon looks down at the Ocean, watching her waves crash along the shore.

“Because we love to dance.”

The Sun shines brightly, pleased with the Moon’s response. “Show the people how you dance then.”

That night, the people walked along the shore of the beach, wondering why the Sun had asked them to come here. They find the brightly lit Moon shining in the sky and get ready to shout at her to tell her to leave.

Suddenly, the people hear the sound of the waves. The Ocean rises to the sky, letting herself be guided by the Moon before she falls back down. Each time she rises, the Moon holds her in her arms and lets her go carefully. They push and pull, moving around as if they were twisting their fates together.

The people watch in wonder, amazed by the way the Ocean and the Moon move together.

They think that their dance is beautiful.

“Now do you see how beautiful the Moon and the Ocean move? It is their love and friendship that makes the world wonderful,” the Sun says from the other side of the world.

The people feel ashamed. They have been so awful to the Moon! They look up to the sky and beg for forgiveness.

“We have wronged you, Moon! You light up the night sky and bring beauty to our world. You guide us home! The Ocean is your friend, and we hope your friendship shall last till the end of time.”

The Moon shines her light as if saying that she forgives the people.

And so, every night, the world watches the Moon and the Ocean dance. The Stars and Clouds in the sky admire their dance from above, the Sun watches from afar, and the people sit by the beach enjoying the way the Ocean leans into the Moon.

They all rejoice at the sight, finally understanding her beauty and purpose.

Now everyone loves the Moon.