

The Dive

by Chloe Furfine

With my regulator in my mouth, I allow myself to fall backwards out of the boat. The water feels calm and cool as it passes through my wet suit and settles against my skin. Slowly, I make my descent. All is quiet; the only sound is of my breathing. In the dark waters, the single other sign of life is my dive partner's air bubbles. The deeper we get, the less we can see, so I turn on my flashlight. Perfectly in control, I direct the thin beam of light around, catching glimpses of darting fish.

At the bottom, 100 feet below, I have entered another world. In this world, words aren't necessary; the colors of the coral and fish tell all. The way they reflect light is spectacular. A wall of fish parts slightly as I swim through their mesh of shining scales. Using an underwater camera, I try to capture this moment, but soon I'll have to surface.

I see my dive partner beckoning upwards. It's time to leave this amazing world.



Midnight Scares

by Catherine Skitsko

Feet tread softly on the warm earth. In the midnight sky there is no sign of a moon, but sparkling eyes and twinkling stars shine clearly through the consuming darkness. The pace quickens as they begin to run. Both girls' eyes speak openly of excitement. The silence is broken by a light-hearted giggle and then a harsh whisper. Their time is almost up. Into the bushes they dive, irrepressible laughter bubbling up in each of them.

In the distance more steps hit the damp ground. Two are approaching. Deep in their eyes sits a hint of amusement, but this is clouded by fear. They round the corner where their friends lay, ready to pounce.

Earsplitting screams ring through the still air. A shout of laughter bursts as a soft light reveals excited young girls trying to catch their breath. After a few minutes of giggles and talk the two pairs once again separate, but this time it is the other team's turn to hide and give a thrilling scare.

One Exhilarating Moment

Anonymous

Anxiety and anticipation rise as I step onto the rollercoaster platform. The cars pull back into the pickup area, having just dropped off a group of riders. My heart feels like it is going to jump out of my chest and runaway as I take my seat on the greasy car. The restraining bar automatically starts to lower over my head, then in locks and I am trapped. There's no way out of it now. I look over at my friend, hoping for a little relief, but she too seems fearful of the thrilling ride just ahead. The car makes a sudden jerk and it's off through an obstacle course of whirls, death-defying drops and corkscrews. My hands grip the safety handles, which seem to be my only chance of survival.

Then it stops as suddenly as it began. My whole body trembles as I climb out of my seat and make my way to the exit. I have conquered the scariest ride in the whole park, in what seemed to be one exhilarating moment

