

A PERSONALIZED DREAM-LIB ADVENTURE
STARRING

Avery and Sharky
ME MY TOY

BY
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WITH HELP FROM Daddy
ILLUSTRATED BY My Big Sister Cassidy

On a night like tonight, as he slept in his bed,
HE/SHE HIS/HER
Little Avery A. dreamed big dreams in his head.
CHILD'S LONG NAME HIS/HER

Now, this Avery was good, he possessed many charms,
CHILD'S SHORT NAME HE/SHE
And this night, Sharky White Shark slept in his arms.
FAVORITE TOY'S LONG NAME HIS/HER

For when Avery and Sharky played all the day through,
CHILD'S SHORT NAME TOY'S SHORT NAME
Somehow, magically, all Avery's dreams would come true.
CHILD'S SHORT NAME

Tucked tight as a clam, counting race cars for sheep,
TYPE OF TOYS (PLURAL)
Little Avery fell deeper and deeper asleep.
CHILD'S SHORT NAME

As they drifted down more, soon the pair did behold
Floating jellies around them, of all shapes and mold.

Yes, these jellyfish wore every manner of guises
In a rainbow of colors and multiple sizes.

There were flower-hat jellies with pretty bell tops
And upside-down jellies with hair like bell mops.

There were some clear as moons. Some bejeweled as a queen.
Twenty-four-eyed box jellies who looked extra mean.

There were even some round like a smooth cannon's ball.
But the Lion's Mane Jelly was king of them all!

Peering out from his clam, Avery saw these strange things,
HIS/HER CHILD'S SHORT NAME
Careful not to get stung by their dangerous stings.

Then with tentacles stretching a hundred feet long,
The big Jelly-King led all the jellies in song:

“Little boy from the surface, we want to disarm you.
BOY/GIRL
Though it's true we COULD hurt you, we don't WISH to harm you.

“See how peaceful we float. See how graceful we waft.
We're so wonderfully squishy and really quite soft.

“We love our dear polyps like YOUR parents love YOU.
Simply give us our space, and we'll let you pass through.”

Avery thanked all the jellies for being so kind
CHILD'S SHORT NAME
And inquired what other new friends he might find.
HE/SHE

“BEWARE,” the king warbled, “the ocean's dark floor.
You'll find bad, evil crabs there with whom we're at war.

“With one snap of their pincers, our skins would be busted.
Oh, those crabs are so shifty, they CANNOT be trusted!

“Don't listen. Don't stop. Don't let their words throw you.
Keep away, if you're smart, from those creatures below you!”

Still downward the clam-bed descended the deep,
While Avery and Sharky snapped up some more sleep.
CHILD'S SHORT NAME TOY'S SHORT NAME

When at last the clam landed on smooth ocean ground,
It reopened, slowly, and without a sound.

Now the boy and his white shark could quite clearly see
BOY/GIRL HIS/HER TYPE OF FAVORITE TOY
A long table, set up for an afternoon tea.

Just then a large crab came from over a knoll.
It was followed by more crabs, each leaving their hole.

Before long, the crustaceans lined up very neat.
In crabwise formations they marched to go eat.

Avery watched them side-stepping in straight lines and rows.
CHILD'S SHORT NAME

But when Crab-King saw Avery, the crabs quickly froze.
CHILD'S SHORT NAME

“What is THIS?” yelled the king, sounding cranky and mad.
“Who let in the small human? This is very bad!

“It's those JELLYFISH, wanting to see us all cry,
Who no doubt sent you down here as some sort of SPY.

“They can hurt us with stingers shot out like harpoons.
Oh, those jellies are terrible, horrible goons!”

Avery tried to explain he came only in peace,
CHILD'S SHORT NAME
That this fighting with jellyfish really must cease.

Unimpressed, the King-Crab only tapped his hard claws,
While a scholarly crab brought a big book of laws.

That's how Avery remembered his book before bed.
CHILD'S SHORT NAME
There was something amazing he knew he had read.

“Yes, you CAN hurt each other. That's perfectly true, but...
That's it!” cried the boy. “I know just what to do!”
BOY/GIRL

“If you choose to make up, like a sister and brother,
You also can really HELP OUT one another.”

“He went on to inform them how crabs can help jellies,
By eating the parasites found on their bellies.

“Sure, WE can help THEM,” said the skeptical king.
“But there's nothing they'd do to help US. Not one thing!”

That's when Avery
CHILD'S SHORT NAME described how, with big pulsing strides,
The jellies could give peaceful crabs useful rides.

“Well, I HAVE,” said the king, “always longed to see ice.”
And the crabs all decided that sounded quite nice.

Soon a summit was called with the fish and crustaceans,
As well as key envoys from other sea nations.

Every creature was heard--each last one had a voice--
The big vote was official: they'd made a GOOD CHOICE.

At the table they sat to discuss the new plans.
Why, those crabs and those jellyfish even shook hands!

When the rules for their friendship were finally complete,
One by one, each crab boarded his jellyfish seat.

Then the crabs and their jelly rides soared through the sea.
From that day, ALL sea-dwellers could live FULLY FREE.

For his
HIS/HER courage to speak, Avery A.
CHILD'S LONG NAME would be knighted

At a festive event to which all were invited.

On a bed-and-sheet boat, through a star-and-moon flight,
The brave boy
BOY/GIRL and his
HIS/HER shark
TYPE OF FAVORITE TOY sailed on into the night.
