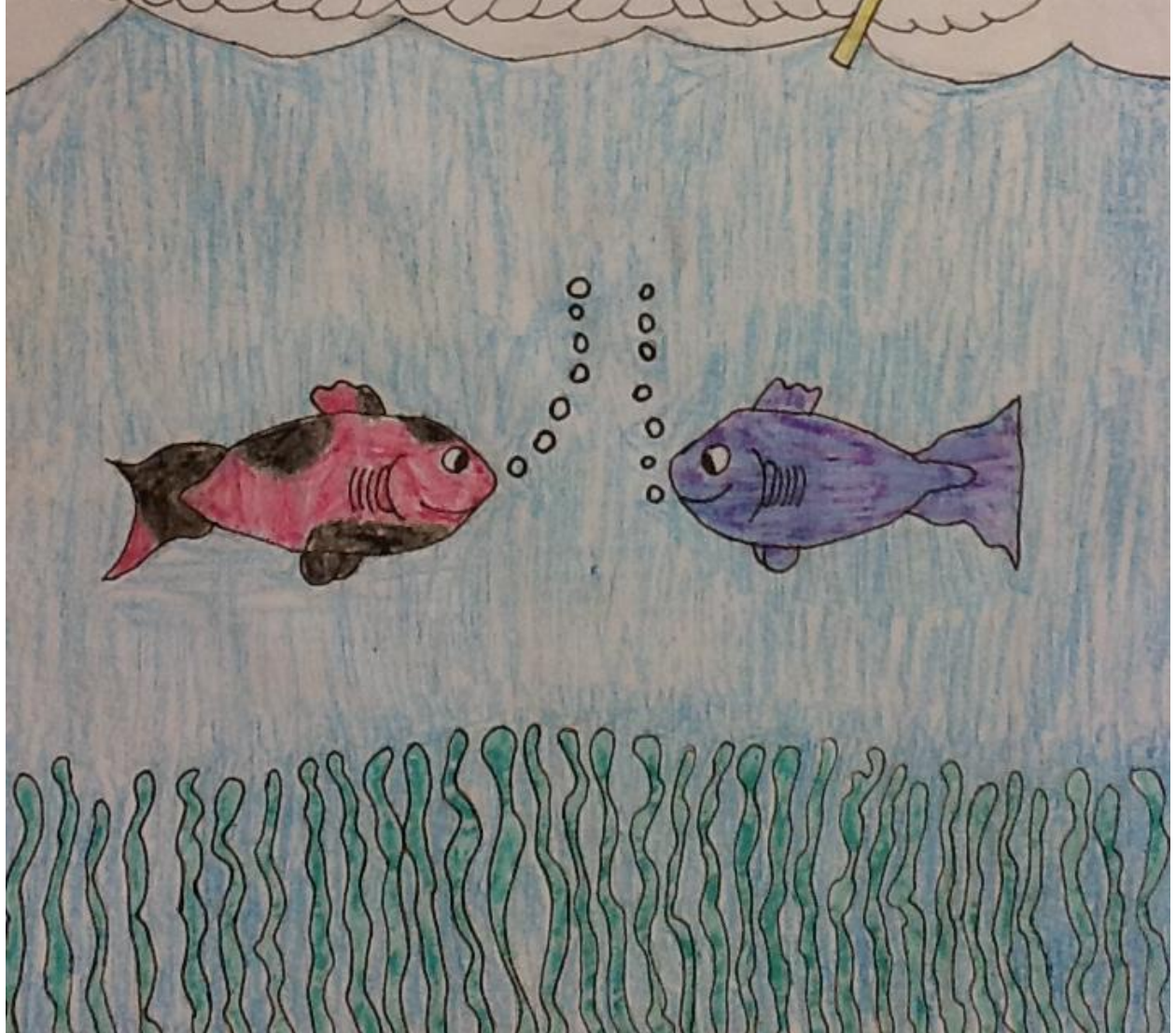


Relic and Bluepur:

A Fish story

By Ryley



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INTRODUCTION

Meet Relic and Bluepur - they are brother and sister fish. Relic is the boy and Bluepur is the girl. They have two younger twin sisters, a mom and a dad. The oldest of the twins is Sharron and the younger one is Janet. Their mom's name is Kate, and their dad's name is George. The reason for Relic and Bluepur's unusual names is because Relic is red and black put that together Relack...Relic. Bluepur is blue and purple if you put that together Blueple...Bluepur. This story is told through both of their perspectives, switching between them each chapter.

PROLOGUE

“Oh George, aren’t they wonderful?” Kate said to her husband.

“What, oh of course dear,” George replied.

“George, are you still worried because we haven’t named them yet and they are one year and two months old?” Kate sighed.

“No . . . okay, maybe I am,” he confessed.

“Here, I will name them right now to put an end to your worries!” Kate exclaimed.

“Fine, but name them something good.” George couldn’t care less; he was leaving soon.

Kate looked at the two little colored fish playing together and said, “I’ll name them Relic and Bluepur.”

CHAPTER 1: THE SHARK
(THROUGH RELIC'S EYES)

~~~~~Eleven years later~~~~~

"Ha ha bet you can't catch me," I heard Bluepur say just as I was waking up. "I wonder where she is," I thought. I opened my eyes. "Ahhhhh!" Bluepur was right in front of me!

"Good morning, Relic I have been waiting for you to wake up," she said impatiently. Then more demanding, she said, "Chase me," and swam off!

Just cause' I'm one month older than her doesn't mean I have to play with her, then again....."I'm going to get you!" I called to Bluepur as I swam towards her. I slowed down and quietly swam up behind her, "Tag you're it," I sang as I tagged her.

"Oh no you-," she stopped talking as a shadow covered us up.

I slowly looked up, "SHARK!" I bellowed as I swam towards the safety of our home.

Janet our youngest sister shot out of the reef like a bullet. "Where? **WHERE?!"** She asked while swimming out farther without a clear sense whether she was going away from or towards the shark.

Now she was so far away that I could not see her in the bubbles the shark had left from passing by. "Janet where are you?" In response I heard a squeak of pain, and to my dismay I saw blood floating up to the surface.

"I'm coming Janet!" I called into the bubbles in front of me.

The only reply I heard was a groan and a cry of, "I am so sorry!" It was Sharron! I swam into the bubbles until I reached the clearing that the girls were in. Sharron was playing with Janet!

"One of you better explain," I told them in my meanest voice possible. They both huddled together.

Then Sharron piped up, "It's my fault, I saw a shark swimming away from our home so I swam through the bubbles it left and banged into Janet. That's when her nose started to bleed."

"What?!" I was furious. "I come in here and try to be a hero so everyone would like me but instead I find out that---- oops - I said too much didn't I?"

“YES!” wailed Janet. “I am going to tell mom that you did not want to rescue me. You just wanted to be a hero and have everyone cheering for you.” Janet was crying now. She turned around and vanished into the bubbles; Sharron was right behind her.

“Wait!” I called after them. Maybe if I get home first then I could explain to them what I really meant about the “hero thing.” So I started to follow them at a fast pace, but I was too late. The twins were talking to mom.

“Relic,” she called, “come over here.” I groaned and started swimming back the other way “NOW!” she yelled. Uh-oh, now I got her really mad.

So I turned around and swam to where she was waiting. “Relic is what your sisters tell me true?”

“Um...sort-of,” I answered sheepishly.

“What do you mean ‘um, sort-of’?!”

“Well, what I really meant was that like....um....well...I meant .....I did want to be a hero, but as in to save Janet I mean....I don’t want Janet to die or anything, she’s my sister!”

“I see,” mom said. “Is it possible that you girls might have misunderstood what Relic said?”

“Yes,” the girls said together. I shot them a glance; they were staring at the ground.

I wonder why they’re doing that. “They have nothing to be ashamed of,” I thought. Just then I didn’t feel so good. It’s my fault. I probably made them feel bad because they misunderstood me and told on me when I did nothing.

“Mom I don’t feel good. I am going to lie down in my shell,” I told Mom.

“Okay dear, have a good nice rest and you’ll feel better,” she said.

“I don’t think a ‘good nice rest’ will help my case,” I thought and swam to my shell.

CHAPTER 2: GO FISH  
(THROUGH BLUEPUR'S EYES)

"There is nothing to do around here," I complained.

"Bluepur, if you are bored find something to do," replied my mom.

"Oops," I thought. I hadn't meant for her to overhear.

"You should go play with your sisters," mom told me.

I groaned, but said, "Okay," anyway. This is all Relic's fault. He doesn't feel good so he is in his shell, so I have to play with the girls. Well, they don't always let me play with them. As I reached the twins' room I put on a smile and swam through the leaf and reeds covering the entrance to their shell.

When I entered the shell Sharron and Janet both looked up from the game they were playing and Sharron asked, "What are you doing here?"

"Um, I wanted to check how Janet is doing," I lied.

"Well, I am fine so bye," Janet said. She obviously didn't want anyone fussing over her. "This is the part where you leave," she whispered to me.

"Wait, can you show me the game you're playing?" I said hurriedly. While I was asking them the question, the thought arose in my mind that mom would ask why I wasn't playing with them. If I told her the truth she would think it was a lie. So if I did not play with them, I would probably be sent to my shell.

"Ok," Sharron said in an uncertain voice. "It is called Go Fish. We play it with some human stuff we found in the human junkyard."

"You won't tell.... will you?" Janet interrupted.

"Of course not," I replied, "go on."

"Okay," Sharron said and took a deep breath. "I can't do it, Janet you explain."

"Fine with me," Janet said. "First you name the pieces and make sure they are all in pairs, and then you take seven of the pieces (but make sure no one sees your pieces)." At this point she started speaking so fast that I could not understand her. "After everyone picks their pieces choose someone to go first, whoever goes first asks another person if they have a certain piece. You can't pick random pieces you have to pick one that is in your pile."

Janet stopped talking. "Are you absolutely sure you won't tell, not even to Relic?"

"Yes, I won't tell anyone else," I replied solemnly. "You can continue."

Janet looked at me doubtfully but went on. "If they have the piece you asked for they give it to you and you put the two pieces together. That means it is your match and no one else can get it. If they do not have the piece you asked for, they say go fish and you have to pick another piece out of the pile while they have their eyes closed. You play until all the pieces are gone and in pairs then you count-."

"Uh-um," I cleared my throat. "Can you please repeat that?"

Janet thought for a moment then said, "No," and went on to finishing her sentence. "-how many pairs you have. Whoever has the most wins." She finished with a fall since she had never taken a breath while explaining.

"Okay, I didn't get about half of what you just said but okay," I told her.

"Bluepur," I heard mom call my name from the eating shell.

"What?" I yelled back.

"Bluepur get in here and quit yelling!" Mom shouted.

"You're yelling," I mumbled. I went to the eating shell.

When I swam in mom put a tray with a stack of leaf plates on it around my neck then she said, "Once you set the table you can go and see if Relic feels well enough for dinner."

"Okay," I told her. She looked surprised. (I normally complain about setting the table.) But instead of complaining I started setting the table which doesn't take very long.

Then I went to Relic's shell, "Relic, are you well enough to come out?" I called in, no reply. "Relic!" I yelled, and then listened for a reply, again none came. "I am coming in," I said teasingly.

Normally Relic would have come out and knocked me over by now, but not today. "Okay here I come!" I swam into his shell. "Come on, are you really that sick?" WAIT that's not him; it is his doll. A doll is a human thing Relic has because it fell into the water and sank to the bottom. Mom thinks a human dropped it accidentally. She might have been right because right after it fell, a human's fin came and tried to bring the doll to the surface, but it was too far down. Relic liked it and found a shiny white thing on it. On the shiny thing there were human letters and mom (who can read human) told us the letters were D-O-L-L. That spells 'doll,'



pronounced 'duh-all.' She thought we should bring it back to the humans that were searching for it, but Relic wouldn't let her because HE liked it and wanted to keep it. Mom let him! (I was kind of mad at her right then).

I glanced around the shell but he was not in sight. I moaned, "Relic stop hiding, you know what I think? I think you just wanted to play a game in here. You're hiding so I guess we're playing hide-and-look because you're hiding, and I am looking for you. Okay I am going to start looking for you now, ready or not I am going to find you!" I sang. I looked in his bed, in his closet, behind the doll....everywhere! The search went on for half an hour until I found a note on the top of his big clock it read:

Dear Bluepur,

I have decided to run away. no one ever listens to me. I only just got away from a punishment for a misunderstanding this morning. No doubt the twins have told you already. Mom always takes Janet and Sharron's side in everything. I don't even think mom likes me anymore, only you, Sharron, and Janet. I do not know how long I will be gone, maybe forever. Good-bye I'll miss you.

Your brother forever,

Relic

I started crying. I cried so hard for so long I never noticed a fish peeking in the entrance looking very sad. When the fish turned around you could just catch a glimpse of a red and black tail before it swam away.

## CHAPTER 3: RUNNING AWAY

### (THROUGH RELIC'S EYES)

"I miss Bluepur, I'm hungry. It would be around supper by now. Mom would be calling us to the table, my name first, then Bluepur's, after her Sharron, then finally Janet," I said out loud to no one in particular. "Awwwww, I'm so tired, I'll just go to bed." My last thought before I fell asleep was *I can always go back*. The first night away from home was not a good one. In my dream there were fishing nets everywhere! One caught me as well as a school of fish. I was pushed against the side of the net.

On that note I woke up and sighed, "it was only a dream." I got up and swam around, then I froze. A school of fish was coming right at me! Chasing them was a net "AHHHHH!" I yelled and tried to swim away, but the net was so big, and the current of the water so strong that I got swept in!

Inside the net I was tossed around and pushed against the outside of the net. "Watch it!" a fish exclaimed as I banged into him.

"Hey, I know you, you're from the Fishmart," I told him.

"Yep I sure am, I work in the human department. In fact I remember talking to you about your doll. By the way, my name's Thomas," he told me.

"How did you get caught in the net?" I asked him.

"Well I was taking a delivery to old Mrs. Stripe's house when a big net came swooping down out of nowhere and caught me. I lost the package too," he said sadly.

"Did anyone else in the village get caught?" I interrupted.

"I was just about about to tell you that and no, no one else got caught from the village. At least that's what I think," he said frowning.

"What were you doing so far from home, Relic?" Thomas asked me.

"Well, I ran away from home because my mom hates me and so do all of my sisters except Bluepur!" I wailed.

"Its okay. Hey, what about your dad, does he love you?" Thomas asked me.

"I don't know. He left as an explorer fish when I was six and the twins were one," I told him. Just after I said that the net gave a jolt, the net! I forgot we were even in it! "Thomas we got to get out of here!" I yelled.

“Ok ok jeez, I’m right next to ye’; you don’t have to yell,” he said annoyed.

“ We know the way out,” someone said from behind us; I turned around to see who the voice belonged to. Two girl fish were staring at us intently. One of them was yellow and the other was purple.

“You want to get out of here or not?” one of the fish asked us.

“Yes please,” I responded.

“Follow us!” the girl fish said in unison, and then they turned around and just, swam off!

“Well we’d better follow ‘em before we loose sight of them,” Thomas told me.

I stared at him then shouted, “Well come on then, lets go!” and took off after the girls.

“Kids, they’re always in a rush,” Thomas muttered, but he too followed the girls. I was trying to keep up with the fish(boy they are fast) but I eventually got left behind, so now I was lost in the net. Until I noticed the trail of bubbles that the girls annd Thomas had left; I followed it at a fast pace because the bubbles were drifting away.

At the end of the trail the girl fish and Thomas were ushering fish to the side of the net. “Hey, where is this way out?” I called.

“Over here,” Thomas said pointing to the side of the net. Just then the crowd dispersed, and I saw a big gaping hole!

“Hey you know what this hole means?” I shouted to Thomas.

He thought for a moment then yelled “no, what?”

“FREEDOM!!!”

## CHAPTER 4: DAD

### (THROUGH BLUEPUR'S EYES)

"I have never seen mom so sad in my entire life," I thought. Once I showed her the note that Relic left me and she read it, mom kept herself in in the shell she had once shared with dad for a week. During that time I had to make meals for Sharron, Janet, and I, and play with them quietly which is hard to do (we mainly played Go Fish, which is actually really fun). Occasionally I would go to mom's shell and try to get her out by talking to her; it was hard to tell what she was feeling because she only answered with one word (and she said it quickly).

The conversations were always very short. They mainly went like this. "Mom are you still in there?"

"Uh-huh."

"How you feeling?"

"Bad."

"Are you ready to come out?"

"No."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes." That is around that point I would leave. Now she is out of her room but she still doesn't talk much.

"Hey Sharron and Janet you want to play Go Fish?" I said to the girls. "Mom needs some alone time." Just as we were creeping off to the twins' shell, a male fish burst in the room and I shouted, "Relic?! Oh wait your not Relic," I told the strange fish.

"No I am not Bluepur, but close," he said to me.

"How-who-what?" I sputtered but he just laughed. Suddenly he looked serious, "Kate, I have heard news that Relic has gone missing, is it true?" he shouted into the room mom was sitting in.

"George is that you?" she called and swam over.

"Wait, who are Kate and George?" I asked.

"Well I am Kate, and this fish is George, he is your father," mom told us.

“WHAT?!” the twins said in unison.

“Oh, that’s why you look like Relic,” I said.

“You came back, you really do love us!” Sharron squealed.

“Yep I sure do; I made a promise to myself that I can only be gone 6 years at a time,” dad told us.

“Does that mean you’re leaving again?” Janet asked.

“No, of course not. I am going to stay here with my children. Now kids go and play; I need to talk with your mom,” he said

“Okay!” I said cheerfully. “Let’s go girls.”

Once we reached the twins’ shell and secured both ends of the leaf to the shell Janet asked, “What do you think they’re talking about?”

“Relic.” Sharron and I said at the same time.

“I think so too, but *what* are they saying about him?” she whined.

“I bet they’re talking about how to bring him home,” Sharron said.

“I think they’re trying to think of what punishment he will get when he comes back!” Janet squealed.

“If he ever does,” I muttered.

“Don’t say that!” Janet protested.

“But he might not,” I told her.

“I hope he does, I miss him,” Sharron sighed. Tears were starting to cloud her eyes. I looked at Janet; she was in the same state. I hadn’t realized what effect it had on them. I mean their older brother the fish they looked up to and admired had run away, maybe forever. Now they have me, but I am a fellow girl fish so they don’t really see me as a special fish, just an equal.

“Why don’t we play Go Fish?” I suggested.

“Ok,” Janet said through her sniffles. The game lasted a long time because no one was really focused on the game. We were all thinking about Relic.

When the game finally ended, I said, "Let's go see what mom and dad are doing." The twins didn't have any other ideas, so we did exactly that and turns out they were watching *my* favorite show on the sea-screen without me!

"Mom, why didn't you tell us you put in a movie," I complained.

"Well, I was hoping to watch it just with you father," she said.

"Fine, lets go put in our own movie," I told the girls.

"Okay!" they chorused.

## CHAPTER 5: RETURNING HOME

### (THROUGH RELIC'S EYES)

I headed towards the hole. After I got out, I was going to head straight home. I hated it out here, even if I have been here just a couple days.

When I was just about to go through the hole, Thomas told me to stay inside. "WHAT?! Are you crazy?!" I asked him.

"No, but we need you to go around and tell other fish about the hole," he said, sounding slightly mad (as in crazy).

"Fine, but if you keep me trapped in here . . ." I (kind of) threatened.

"We won't. I promise," he promised.

I glared at Thomas, "You'd better not".

I swam off into the crowd of fish and shouted, "Hey fish, there is a hole in this net and it is right over there!" After I said that, there was a mad rush to get to the hole. Twenty fish got crammed in the hole all at once.

They were stretching the hole wider and wider, but they were still stuck. "Ok everyone, push against the fish stuck in the net," called a boy fish.

"Encourage the fish to do it," he said to a girl fish next to him as he started to push.

"Just do it! Helping the other fish won't ruin your life," said the girl fish next to him. Then she too started pushing; the crowd of fish stayed where they were. I could tell the rest of the fish needed some encouragement so I gave them some.

"Come on fish, you want to get out of this net or what!" I yelled. Many took my words into consideration and started pushing.

"I'm almost out," a fish stuck at the net called.

"Someone help him out of the net," I commanded and get this, they listened! Two fish went over to him and started pushing, then with a "snap!" all the fish were free!

"Come on, everybody out!" exclaimed Thomas from the outside.

I bolted out of the net, "I'm free!" I yelled.

The two fish that helped us get out of the net came over. "I am Sunshine and this is Zinnia," the yellow fish said.

"Thanks for helping us get all the fish out," Zinna said shyly.

Just then the boy and girl fish from inside the net came over. "My name is Sky and this is Sunset," the boy fish told us.

"Thank you for the help in the net," Sunset said gratefully.

"No problem," I said. "Where are you from?"

"Moss Village. Where do you live?" Sunshine asked me.

"Same place, wait, are you all siblings?" I questioned.

"Yep, we got swept away by the current but now we are going to head home."

"Can Thomas and I come with you?" I asked them.

"Sure," Sky said. "Let's leave right away so we can get a head start."

"Um...do any of you have an idea of which way to go?" Zinnia pointed.

"Oh, I do, we go in that direction," Thomas said, pointing to a large rock in the distance.

"Are you sure?" Sunshine asked him.

"Positive," he replied.

"Then let's go," Sunset said happily.

So off we all went. It wasn't long before bedtime. Everyone slept soundly that night, and we got up early to start our journey. For breakfast we nibbled on some seaweed, "Let's get a move on, fish," Thomas said.

"We are going home," I thought. "Everyone will be so glad to see me, including Mom. Hey, maybe Dad will be home and who knows maybe I'll meet Sunshine, Zinnia, Sky and Sunset's parents. Oh, I can't wait to get home!"



CHAPTER 6: SURPRISE  
(THROUGH BLUEPUR'S EYES)

"Girls we are going to have some visitors so be on your best behavior," Mom said.

"We're here," came a voice from the front leaf.

"Oh, it's them. I wasn't expecting them till later," she said as she bustled to undo the knot securing the leaf.

"Girls, this is Mr. and Mrs. Whitecoral," Mom said. "These are my daughters Bluepur, Sharron, and Janet."

"Lovely names, and oh, please just call me Poppy," said Mrs. Whitecoral.

"You can call me Leaf," Mr. Whitecoral exclaimed.

"I have invited them over because their children are also missing, so it is possible they might have left together," Mom said. "Why don't we sit down and talk?" she suggested then sat down.

"Of course," said Poppy, and she also sat.

"Kids, why don't you go finish your movie while we grown ups talk about the missing fish."

"Let's go finish that movie," I told the twins.

"Okay," they said unenthusiastically and started swimming to their room.

Once we were out of earshot I suggested, "why don't we actually spy on the grown-ups!".

"Yeah!" Janet whispered.

"Let's do it!" Sharron said. So we crept into the room they were talking in.

"What do you think they went away for?" Poppy asked.

"Relic left because he thought I didn't love him," Mom said sadly.

"Oh, that's terrible," Leaf said. "Do you think he will come back?"

"Yes, I am certain he will," she replied. "A drink, anyone?"

“Oh, yes please!” Poppy exclaimed.

“Me too!”

“Two seaweed smoothies coming up.”

Just then I saw the front door open and in swam Relic! He looked at me and motioned for me to be quiet as he snuck in the room. Four other fish followed him. I saw him counting down. When he reached one, the room was filled with, “We’re back!”

Leaf and Poppy embraced the four other children and Mom rushed to hug Relic. After Mom had her turn the twins and I bolted from our hiding place and tackled him, “Get off,” he protested. So we did, but as soon as he got up all three of us hugged him. Then he introduced us to Sunshine, Sky, Sunset and Zinnia, Leaf and Poppy’s children. Then he told us all about what had happened while he was gone and I was content because I had my brother back.

**THE END**