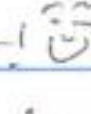


DEAR READER,

6-2-19

HEY. I HOPE YOU DOING WELL!

ALRIGHT — TODAY'S STORY IS ABOUT ME
REALIZING A FEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME
AND MY REACTION TO IT. LET'S HOPE I CAN
CONVEY THE HUMOR IN IT! 

I CAN'T REMEMBER THE YEAR BUT IT WAS
AFTER 2003 AND BEFORE 200...7.

SOME FRIENDS AND I CAME DOWN TO
FLORIDA FOR SOME FUN. IT WAS THE FIRST
TIME I'D TAKEN WITH THESE TWO SO I DON'T
KNOW HOW IT WAS GOING TO GO. ONE OF THEM (WE'LL
CALL HIM SPIDER) COULDNT CONTAINT HIMSELF WHEN
HE DRANK, HE TRIED TO FIGHT EVERYONE --- UNTIL
HE TRIED TO FIGHT ME. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
HIM BECAUSE HE WAS DRUNK, BUT HE KEPT PUNCHING
AND PUSHING (VERBALLY) AND THEN THE S.O.B.
KICKED ME IN THE CHEST! WHAT! YUP! HE GOT
HIS FOOT UP IN MY CHEST AND I DONT SEE
IT COMING. SOOO... YEEEAHH — I PUNCHED
HIM. KNOCKED HIM OUT AND HE STAYED OUT
TILL THE NEXT AFTERNOON. HE DONT REMEMBER
ANY OF IT. AND WHEN WE RECOUNTED THE NIGHT
TO HIM, HIS RESPONSE WAS, "YEAH, I DESERVED
THAT! HA! HA!"

THE OTHER GUY WAS A PARROT ANIMAL BUT HE
KNEW HIS LIMITS.

ANYWAYS... ON OUR FIRST DAY ON THE

23.07.31

BEACH... WE KICKED AROUND ON THE SAND AND THEN
MADE A BEG. LAST ONE OUT OF THE BREAKER
AND BACK SPENDS ALL DAY. (DINNER AND DRAWS)
ALL AGREED AND WE TOOK OFF RACING FOR
THE WATER.

WE PLASTED IN AND WERE OFF TO THE RACES!
I'M SWIMMING HARD. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A
GOOD SWIMMER BUT DON'T KNOW HOW WELL
THEY SWAM SO I HELD NOTHING BACK.
I HOPE THE BREAKER FORGOT AND LOOKED
BACK. I WAS WELL IN THE LEAD BUT SPEEDER
WAS SWIMMING QUICK. I THEN HAD A THOUGHT...
.... I'M WAAAAY OUT IN THE WATER. I
CAN barely SEE THE BEACH SO IT MUST BE
REALLY DEEP RIGHT HERE... I BEC A HUGE
FISH COULD SWIM UNDERNEATH MY FEET AND
I WOULDNT EVEN KNOW SO... MORE
IMPORANLY → A HUGE SHARK! ONE
BIG ENOUGH TO BITE MY TORSO AND CHOP
ME CLEAN IN HALF WITH ITS MACHANE-LIKE
JAWS WITH ROWS OF RAZOR SHARP TEETH!!!
FEAR JUMPED IN, ADRENALINE FLOODED
MY BODY AND I SNAPPED OO! SWIM!
AND OFF I WENT LIKE I HAD A TWIN
TURBO MOTOR IN MY LEGS! I DON'T
LOOK BACK AND MY ARMS AND LEGS
CHURNED UNTIL MY HANDS SCOOPED UP SAND!

BACKS ON NON-SHARKS INFESTED TERRITORY.
SHOO—!

MY ARMS FEEL LIKE BAGS OF SAND HANGING
OFF MY SHOULDERS AND MY CHEST BURNED AS I
SUCKED IN MUCH NEEDED OXYGEN.

I LOOK OVER AND THE WATER... SPIDER
AND CHEVY (NOT REAL NAMES) ARE WAAAAAAAY OVER
HERE. THEY MUST HAVE TAKEN A BREAK AT
THE BODY.

A FEW MINUTES LATER WHEN THEY, WELL
SPIDER, MADE IT IN HE SAID, "THAT WASN'T
FAIR. DUDE, YOU NEVER TOLD US YOU SWAM LIKE
THAT! BUT THIS IS ALL GOOD CAUSE I AGNO LAST! HA!"

I SAID, "SHARKS..."

HE SAID "WHAT? THERE'S SHARK OVER THERE NOW?!"

I SAID, "I DON'T KNOW. BUT WHEN ONE
OUGHTA HIT ME AND I REALIZED HOW BIG
OF ONE COULD HAVE BEEN LYIN' DO'S CHOPPS
AROUND MY LEGS... Y'all AGNO STAND A
CHANCE IN HELL! HA! HA! HA!"

CHEVY LOST - WE ARE LOBSTER! 

I EVENTUALLY REASONED WITH MY FEAR
OF THAT KIND OF VULNERABILITY BUT THAT
FIRST THOUGHT WAS A DOOSY! HA!

UNTIL NEXT TIME!

Yours truly,

Doug