



HIP

On Jekyll Island, two sisters, Luna and Teesa, embarked on their latest adventure. Staying at the inn right on the ocean, with paths that extended to infinity in either direction along the shore, Luna knew what her baby-sitting chores would entail. But five-year-old Teesa's excitement was contagious.

"Teese, you're getting heavier," grumbled Luna, trudging the path through the tall grass.

"Silly!," Teesa declared, her unruly hair a ruffled, wind-blown crown. "Keep your eye on the path. Remember, you promised we'd make a Kraken our pet today. And he'd be Mr. Squishy!"

They found...nothing. Just sand and scattered, broken shells. Then Luna found a bright, shiny one, intact.

"Behold," Luna grinned mischievously, "the Shell of Princess Giggle-Waves!"

Teesa's eyes sparkled. "Wow, Luna, you the best treasure hunter *ever*."

As they made their way back to the Inn, walking side-by-side now, Teesa regaled Luna with tales of how they'd use the Shell of the Princess to bring waves of laughter to their parents, maybe even the world. Luna, however, was suppressing a giggle of her own, '*Just wait, Teesa,*' she thought, '*Just wait.*'

Back at the room, their parents looked up from their books, surprised at the sight of the dusty, tired adventurers. "Find any treasure?" their dad asked with a knowing smile.

Teesa held up the shell triumphantly. "Only the most magical shell ever!"

Their mom chuckled, "Well, I'm glad you two had fun. We need to clean up, we're about to go to dinner."

Teesa, still clutching the shell later on the way to the restaurant, whispered to Luna, "Thanks for carrying me, Luna. You're the best sister ever."

Luna ruffled her sister's hair, her eyes twinkling. "And you're the Queen of Jekyll Island. Now, about that shell..."

Suddenly, Luna snatched the shell from Teesa and held it to her own ear. She then began to make the most ridiculous, high-pitched squawking noises, mimicking a seagull trapped in a tiny box. Teesa stared, mouth agape.

"April Fools!" Luna shouted, bursting into laughter. "It's *just* a shell, Teese! I made the 'Giggle-Waves' thing up!"

Teesa's face crumpled, then she burst into laughter too, realizing how silly she'd been.

"You *got* me!" she cried, grabbing the shell back mimicking Luna's hoarse squawking.

"Close enough!" Luna grinned. "Besides, we can still find Mr. Squishy tomorrow. We'll just need to bring a net and some extra-large squawking shells!"

They shrieked together, to the chagrin of the other diners, but this time, even their parents couldn't help but chuckle. The "Shell of Princess Giggle-Waves" had been a prank, but the real laughter it brought was no joke.

- STORY, PHOTOS: EDITOR

