

Transcript for Story On Podcast: The Boy from the Sea – Plot

Chapter 1: Opening

Hello friends! And welcome to Story On. I'm Laura, your host and I am so glad that you were able to join us here today!

(Laura): So we have a special guest here today to talk with us about plot!

Would you like to say your name and something special about yourself?

(Ruby): Hi I'm Ruby and I like baking french macarons.

(Laura): Hi Ruby! Ooooh that sounds yummy! Thanks for being here today! What can you tell us about the plot of a story?

(Ruby): The plot is the series of events that make up the story. It's the parts that make up the beginning, middle and end of the story.

(Laura): You got it! The plot can also be called the storyline. And just like you said, it's made up of the main events of the story. The beginning of a story is like the introduction, where we meet the characters and learn about the setting in the story. In the middle, there's usually some kind of problem, or conflict. And then you have the end, where the story resolves or finishes. The middle and end of a story are usually the most exciting or interesting parts.

Thanks for talking with me about plot today! Would you like to set us up for the story?

(Ruby): You're welcome! Now, time for the story.

[fading chimes]

Chapter 2: Story

This is The Boy from the Sea

[ocean waves]

Maria was shuffling towards the beach with her hands in her pockets and her head down. She muttered as she walked. Her face was scrunched, her eyebrows furrowed. She seemed grumpy as she bent down to pick up a round rock, about the size of her hand.

She took a big step and launched it high into the air. “Hi-yah!” Up, up, up it soared, over the sparkling, rough water.

Maria watched the rock as it dropped down, down, down towards the rolling waves of the sea, then, burst through the surface with a giant splash. [splash]

She cracked a smile, “Humph, that actually felt pretty good” she thought to herself, feeling a little better already.

As she bent to pick up another rock, she noticed a shape bursting out of the water with great speed. [splash] She recognized the shape as a head. It made its way over to a very large rock that was poking out of the water. Shoulders, then arms appeared as the person grabbed the rock and clung tightly.

It's a boy. Looks to be about my age thought Maria, in awe. *Where did he come from?* Maria had never seen anyone swim that quickly before.

“Do I know him?” she wondered. “I’m pretty sure I know everyone that lives around here....maybe he’s a tourist. Lots of people come through here....”

Suddenly, the boy lifted his body out of the water onto the rock. [splash] His back was still facing Maria, but even from a distance, she could tell that something was very unusual about this boy. Unbelievable, even.

She gasped, “Holy banana sandwiches! This boy is not a boy. He is a fish! Well, not all fish. Part boy, part fish! He looks human, but instead of legs, he has a fishtail! A Shimmery scaly fishtail! He must be a mermaid!? No, wait, mermaids are girls. So, is he a....a...mer-man?! That sounds too grown up....So I guess he’s a mer-boy!??? Jumpin’ jeepers....He's a merboy.”

Maria’s feet were frozen in place. She watched the merboy pull himself onto the rock and lay down, his tail barely out of the water.

“Wait, is something wrong with him?” Maria wondered. “Is he hurt?” She scanned the beach. Not another soul in sight. “I have to get over there,” she decided. She had a feeling that he needed her help.

[dramatic music]

Here’s the thing though. Maria wasn’t exactly a swimmer. Luckily she didn’t need to swim; it looked like she could just wade right over to that rock. The surrounding water was pretty shallow during low tide.

But walking in the ocean was also a problem for Maria. Because she didn’t even like dipping her toes in there.

To you, it may seem relaxing and even fun to play in the waves or spot a jellyfish or a crab on the move. But to Maria....that is basically what nightmares are made of. She saw the ocean as a big salty scary place filled with mysterious creatures, just waiting to bump into her leg or pinch her little toe.

Maria took a deep breath, her teeth clenched tight. “Gah! I can’t believe I’m about to go into the stinkin’ ocean!?! There is just so much YUCK in there...”

The merboy hadn’t moved for a couple of minutes. She had to overcome her fears and walk over to the rock, which by the way was most definitely slimy and gross.

Maria kicked off her sandals. She walked down to the water’s edge and slowly dipped her big toe into the water. Cold and wet. But the water was pretty clear. “Not too bad,” she decided. “I can do this. Slow and steady.”

[wading] She stepped into the water, scanning for any creepy sea creatures (the small ones were also a threat) or clumps of seaweed.

The water was up to her knees now, she was almost there. *I haven’t been in the water like this in forever*, she thought to herself. “Hey, nice work.”

She could see the merboy more clearly now, as she got closer. He really did look like a boy from the waist up and a fish from the waist down.

He had dark, wavy hair that went down to his shoulders. His body was muscular, especially for a kid. No wonder he could swim so fast. His scaly tail was blue and shimmered pink and green in the bright sunlight.

“Amazing,” she thought, in awe. She temporarily forgot about the fact that she was currently up past her knees in the big scary salty place.

Suddenly, the merboy turned and looked at her. A flash of panic covered his face. His tail frantically flopped around. Maria saw that he was scared, but surprisingly, she felt calm.

“It’s ok, I’m here to help,” she said softly. “My name is Maria, what’s your name?”

The merboy froze and looked Maria up and down. “You can talk!?” he exclaimed. His eyes widened when he saw Maria’s legs and feet. “Whoa, what are those things!? They look like little tentacles!” He was pointing at Maria’s toes.

“These little guys?” she said, wiggling her toes and holding a foot up in the air.

“Ewww creepy!!!” the boy responded, disgusted.

They both laughed. “So, what’s your name?” Maria asked again.

“Dax,” he answered. “I’m Dax.”

As Dax turned his head, Maria saw that he had a large bloody gash above his right eye.

“Yikes, what happened there?” she asked.

(Dax): “Don’t really know. I was swimming just under the surface when, out of nowhere, something fell into the water right on my face.”

That was definitely Maria’s rock.

(Maria): “Oooh...I think that may have been me, Dax. I’m so sorry. I had no idea this would happen! Or even that mer-people like you exist!”

She hoped Dax wouldn’t be angry. It seemed like they could be friends. How cool would it be to have a merboy for a friend!?

Dax looked puzzled. "I'm so sorry..." Maria lowered her head. Dax smiled, "It's ok, it was an accident."

"But your cut looks serious. Is there anything I can do?" Maria offered, eager for the opportunity to make things right.

"Well, actually, if you can bring me some seaweed, I can heal myself with it. That should make my dizziness go away and then I'll be able to swim again."

Maria shuddered. "Seaweed, ugh, I hate that stuff. I feel like there's always creepy creatures hiding around it....and it's so slimy and gross...But ok, if that's what you need then I'll get it for you..."

Dax looked surprised. He couldn't imagine anyone being creeped out of seaweed.

"Ok, here I go. Getting you some definitely not scary or totally gross seaweed..." Maria scanned the water as she took a few careful steps.

She spotted a cluster of seaweed just steps away. Her heart started pounding as she stepped closer and bent down towards it. She closed her eyes and turned away, reaching her left arm into the water and feeling around for the slimy seaweed. "Yuck, yuck yuck..."

She felt it, closed her shaky fingers in a tight fist and gave a quick tug.

The seaweed came flying out of the water with such speed that the bottom of the seaweed swung and stuck right to her other arm.

"Gahhh!!!" she yelled, quickly brushing at it as she flailed around frantically, "Get off! Get off!!!!!"

She turned toward Dax, and saw him chuckling and shaking his head.

She cleared her throat. "Here," she said, holding the seaweed out to Dax. He quickly formed it into a ball and placed it on his head.

"Don't mind me, just going to do a little mer-person magic over here," he explained as he turned away. "Need to focus."

Maria observed as Dax closed his eyes and began slowly swaying back and forth humming a little tune. [humming]

It wasn't the beautiful kind of melody that you were probably expecting...anyway, Dax quickly turned around and threw the seaweed at Maria.

"Think fast!" he yelled, laughing. She jumped back to dodge it and fell with a splash right into the water on her backside.

Maria frantically pushed herself back up with her hands. She looked quickly toward the rock, heart pounding and breathing heavily... but Dax was gone. No sign of him anywhere. It was like he had never even been there. Maria's heart sank.

I guess that's it. I'll probably never see him again, she thought, heartbroken. She turned toward the shore, water dripping, shoulders drooping.

She was about halfway back to the beach when she heard a sharp whistle. [whistle] Maria whipped around quickly. It was Dax! And he'd brought company.

Two shiny blue dolphins whistled and clicked happily as they dove in and out of the water next to Dax. He was holding a large beach ball-sized bubble.

"Uhh What's all this?" Maria asked, warily.

"Well, this is an air bubble for breathing and gal is Chirp and this here is Jumper." Dax gestured to the dolphins. "We're taking you for a ride."

Maria's heart thumped, a ride with a merboy and his dolphin friends!? That sounded too good for words. But remember, Maria hated the ocean. She was terrified of the ocean.

She gulped, "Ummmm I don't know....."

(Dax): "Come on! We'll show you the magic of the ocean! Don't be afraid, you'll be in good hands!"

Maria took a deep breath. "OK, I'll do it," she answered.

Moments later, Maria was wearing the air bubble on her head. It was surprisingly comfortable. It clung to her neck in a way that reminded her of saran wrap, but stronger. She could see right through it.

Dax told her to hold on to Chirp's fin. She stood behind Chirp, and cautiously touched her fin. It felt like wet leather. She held on tightly as Chirp slowly started to swim forward.

OMG I'm swimming with dolphins!!! Maria thought excitedly. She never would've thought she would do that.

She took a deep breath and looked around her at the bright blue sky. [peaceful music] There wasn't a cloud in sight. All around her, the waves rolled and splashed, flashing rows of blue and white.

"You know, it is actually kind of pretty," she said to Dax.

He smiled, patting Jumpers back and replied, "We are just getting started."

The dolphins leaped into the air together. Maria and Dax held on tightly as they landed with a splash and burst through the surface into the sparkling deep blue sea.

Maria couldn't believe her eyes. It was like a whole different planet in there. A vibrant, colorful world, filled with the most amazing creatures. Maria saw school after school of vibrant, colorful fish. Pink, yellow, green, blue. Though they were traveling in large groups, they moved as one. Dashing and darting, turning together.

So much life. So much beauty. Floating Jellyfish, big and small. Tentacles trailing along behind them. Magical looking tiny orange and red sea horses, the most amazing plants and coral. Large sea turtles, huge whales, tiny sharks (and btw, she didn't even feel scared, not even of the sharks!).

She smiled, "I can't believe this is real life!?!"

Suddenly, in the middle of an epic game of hide and seek with some sea turtles in the reef, Maria heard a loud yell. Someone was calling Dax's name. A female voice. And she did not sound impressed.

Maria came out from behind a large, leafy red sea plant. She saw a beautiful mermaid floating nearby. She looked older than Dax. She was frowning and her arms were folded. Dax slowly swam over, holding his head down.

“What were you thinking, Dax!? You know that humans are dangerous! How could you have brought her here!? Who knows what this means for us, and the other ocean creatures! You have put yourself and all of us in great danger! The humans will want to come here now! They’ll want to capture us and bring with them their garbage and speedboats! What do you have to say for yourself!? What were you thinking!?” Whoa, she was really mad.

Dax raised his head, “But she’s just a kid, like me, mom! She’s not dangerous! She actually even helped me and I wanted to...”

(Dax’s Mom): “Enough! There’s no excuse for what you’ve done! The dolphins will take her back to the beach and you will never see that surface dweller again! Do you understand!?”

“I’m so sorry, mom, I didn’t mean...” Dax hung his head sadly.

The dolphins came to Maria’s side. She looked at Dax but he avoided her gaze.

And just like that, Maria was standing back at the beach, watching the dolphins swim away.

She looked longingly in the distance. There was a large ship on the horizon. Maria sighed heavily. She felt like she’d just discovered a beautiful and mysterious world, that most people had no idea even existed right under their noses.

I’m not ready to say goodbye yet, she thought sadly. But what could she do? Dax was in there. And she was out here.

She walked off the beach and laid down at the bottom of a sandy hill, just past the dune grass. Laying down on her back, she looked up at the sky. It was no longer clear or blue. It was filled with swirly grey clouds.

Her eyelids felt heavy. Before she knew it, she was fast asleep, dreaming of ocean adventures with her new friends.

Maria woke with a start. Raindrops were beginning to fall. She jumped to her feet as the clouds began to open up and the rain intensified. It took her a minute to get her bearings.

“Where am I? What am I doing here?” She looked around and remembered Dax and the dolphins. Her magical sea adventure. All of the incredible sea creatures. Dax’s angry mom.

It was getting dark now. Nearing the end of a spectacular day.

Looking sadly toward the beach, she was surprised to see a ship docked just off the shore. Ships didn’t usually come in there. It must be the same one she had seen in the distance earlier. She held up a hand up to her eyes, shielding the rain.

There was movement in the water. Something was coming towards the beach. She leaned forward, eyes focusing in the darkening light. A wooden rowboat!

“Must be from the ship...Maybe they broke down?” she wondered. Could she could help somehow?

Just as she was about to step out from behind the tall dune grass, she noticed something that made her heart stop. A tail. A shining, shimmery tail. A large, unique fishtail that could only belong to one type of creature. A mer-person.

They caught someone! she thought, panicked. “I have to help! I have to save them!!!”

Peeking over the grass, she counted how many people were with the mer-person. Looked like two. One was rowing the boat and the other was holding on to the prisoner.

She heard a voice, “Let me go! Let me go! I don’t belong here! Put me back in the water! I can’t survive out here! Please! I am begging you! Put me back in the ocean!!”

Maria recognized the voice instantly. It wasn’t Dax. It was his mother. “I have to help her! I have to show her that not all humans are dangerous!”

She looked around desperately. The sooner she got back in the water, the better. She didn't look well.

"What can I do!? How can I stop them!??" she wondered as she desperately scanned the area around her. "I have to stop the boat from reaching the edge of the water," she decided.

Then she saw it, a large, jagged rock. Could she use it to make a hole in the rowboat? Maybe if it started filling with water, Dax's mom could manage to jump out?

Only one way to find out. She would have to swim in the water and make the hole. She gulped. "Dax's mom needs me."

Without hesitation, Maria began running towards the beach, just over from where the boat was coming in. She ran into the water and instantly crouched down to her shoulders.

The water was freezing and totally dark. She couldn't scan the water for creepy creatures, the sun was almost totally set. "Don't think, just do it!" she whispered to herself.

[dramatic music]

With the jagged rock in one hand, she quietly crept toward the boat, her head just out of the water.

She was next to the boat now. She could hear Dax's mom crying softly.

Maria lifted the rock and bashed it down several times at the side of the boat. She felt the wood give way and heard a loud crack. [smash]

"What was that!?" yelled the men. "Hey! what do you think you're doing!?" they called to Maria angrily.

In a matter of seconds, there was a splash. Dax's mom disappeared into the waves. *I did it! She's safe!!!* thought Maria, relieved.

Then, she gulped. The two men jumped out of the boat and were making their way towards her. They were yelling.

She hadn't thought this far ahead. She stumbled backwards, slipping on a wet rock. Maria was trapped. The men were blocking the way to the beach.

The vast ocean was behind her....She had nowhere to go....She breathed, heavily.

Suddenly, a familiar bubble slid down on her head and Maria felt a lasso tighten on her waist.

There was a powerful tug and just like that, she was underwater, surrounded by colorful, glowing sea creatures. Dolphins, jellyfish, sea turtles, andmerpeople. Hundreds and hundreds of merpeople. Mermen, merwomen, mergirls and merboys. Even merbabies, which by the way are super cute!

Maria looked around, stunned. The merpeople surrounded her, forming a giant circle. They were humming.

Dax's mother appeared in front of her. She took Maria's hands in hers and looked her straight in the eyes, smiling. "Thank you, for your bravery. You saved me, and my people. Maria, you have demonstrated to us that you are a human we can trust. We would like to make you an honorary member of our community. You are welcome here. Any time."

Maria smiled, she was speechless. All she could manage to say was a quiet "Thank you."

Dax appeared out of the crowd. He presented Maria with a small, shiny shell. "Whistle into this shell any time that you would like to visit and our people will welcome you."

Maria took the shell and held it tightly.

"Now, wanna see more of what the ocean looks like at night?" he asked.

"You bet I do!" Maria smiled.

"Come on then! What are you waitin' for?!" Dax grabbed her hand and off they went.

[whistling music]

The End

Chapter 3: Discussion

Ooooh could you imagine getting a tour of the ocean from a mer-person!? That would be so cool!

Let's talk now about the plot of my story. What were the main events?

So in the beginning, Maria met Dax. Then she went into the ocean with him.

And they ran into Dax's mom.

Next, Maria rescued Dax's mom from the men.

Finally, Maria was taken back underwater where the mer-people made her an honorary member of their community.

So those are all of the main events that happened in my story and together they make up the plot.

Would you like to write a story about mer-people or other creatures who live in the sea? It really is like a whole different world down there.

What about other ideas that you have for a plot of a story? Would you like to share any with me? Send me an email laura@storyonpodcast.com

[cheerful closing theme song starts]

That's our show for today. I'd like to say a big thank you to Ruby for coming and talking about plot with me today. And I'd like to say a special thank you to my mystery hummer.

We hope you'll all come back and listen again soon.

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[music fades]