

The Myth of the Turtle People

By Dottie Wagstaff

Once there was a girl named Sapphire. She was kind, petite, and well, ordinary. The thing that stood out most about her was her eyes. They shined and shimmered like an Alaskan sunrise that glistened off the snow. It almost seemed like they glowed. More than anything, Sapphire loved sea turtles. She often swam with them, repeating the graceful movement of their fins.

Then one day, as she was swimming, she did not notice as a turtle swam directly underneath her, causing Sapphire to be riding on its back. Sapphire was so completely entranced by it that she forgot she would eventually run out of breath. Mysteriously, she never felt the urge until about 45 minutes later, and she was still riding the turtle. The turtle went up for breath as well. As they burst through the glistening water, Sapphire realized that the sun was already beginning to set.

Before she could react, the turtle dived back into the water. The turtle was starting to slow, and Sapphire figured it was tired. Sapphire dismounted, started swimming, and noticed that she was keeping pace with the stunning creature.

She looked at her hands and saw peachy film stretching in between her fingers. Her skin was tinted a dark brownish greenish color. At first she freaked out and began swimming rapidly in circles. After she calmed down a bit, she thought it was cool. Sapphire followed the turtle – which she had now named aqua – to a protected beach. They slept peacefully through the night. Sapphire woke up laying on her back in a hard, big, bowl-ish thing. She stood up, but it was stuck to her back.

“A shell!” she exclaimed before passing out.

She regained consciousness and found herself underwater again. She swam out to what seemed like beyond the horizon, where she found a sinking ship.

All of the passengers were yelling, “Help, help!” They could not reach the life rafts, because the ropes had been damaged and they were not tied to the ship anymore. Sapphire pushed every single life raft out to where they were so that they could jump on.

Then Sapphire used the ropes, tied the rafts together, and brought every last passenger back to the beach. She lived the rest of her life saving and rescuing just as she had the first time.

So reader, if you see a creature with skin the color of the sea, webbed hands, and the shell of a mighty sea turtle with those magical glowing eyes, you remember her story and how many people she saved. Some of you may think I'm crazy, that she doesn't exist. Well, what I say to that is you go out there beyond the horizon and you tell me. Does she exist?