

The Shape On the Horizon

By: Shelley



"Splash," I heard as I dove into the water, with a leopard seal that seemed like it hadn't eaten in a while, nipping at my tail. I looked back to see that the seal was gaining on me, I swerved left and right trying to lose it. Suddenly I saw a maze of icebergs, I swam as fast I could into it, until I was sure that I lost the seal. I swam back to land and headed back to my colony.

As I headed back to my colony, I could feel the freezing ice beneath my feet. I trudged on like I was a weary soldier back from battle. I could still taste and smell that delicious fish dinner I had just caught before the seal found me. Then suddenly, as if something had pulled me, I turned around and stared into the horizon. In the distance, I could hear seals calling to one another. Then I spotted a dark shape on the horizon I thought "Oh no, it can't be," but just as soon as I saw it, it disappeared.

Finally, I reached my colony and went to sleep. Just as I was drifting off, I heard the sound of cracking ice. I quickly sounded a distress call to alert the rest of the colony, as soon as I saw the two-legged creatures. In seconds the whole colony was in a frenzy. Like many other penguins, I waddled as fast as I could, (which wasn't very fast). Behind me I could hear loud banging noises, and pain – filled squawks of other penguins. I finally reached water, and dove in. And just when I thought I was safe, I ran straight into a hungry leopard seal. I took off as fast as I could.

I swam for what seemed like miles, until I stopped and hulled myself onto an iceberg. I stayed there for three days surviving on the fish in the surrounding waters. Finally, I decided to go back to what was left of my colony. When I got there, the creatures had left. The colony decided that it was time to go back out to sea. We formed lines as we each jumped into the sea.

Now little ones, that was many years ago, so you don't have to be scared. I called out after the littlest penguins waddled away. Then, a downy little face appeared in front of me. "Grandpa you must have super brave" remarked my little grandson. "Indeed I was," I replied. "Now little one, I have a question for you," "What would you do, if it happened again?"

