

ONCE UPON a
STARFISH



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SCRIPT

Old cottage near a seashore- Night

An old man is trying to sleep on his bed. Sound of thunder and lightning, and sea storm coming from outside.

The old man switched off the light on his bedside table.

[Fade to black]

Roll title: Once upon a Starfish

Seashore – The Next Morning

The old man came out of his cottage and was heading towards the beach, he saw the entire beach was littered with debris from the sea, and in this debris were thousands of starfish.

As he was walking along the beach, making his way through the debris, he saw a young boy who appeared to be doing something like a dance in the distance. He would bend down to the sand and he would get up and throw something into the sea.

The old man wondered:

“What is this kid doing?”

When he got close to the kid, he realized that he was picking up starfish and throwing them into the sea.

The old man said to this kid:

“Why are you doing this?”

The kid had a starfish in his hand.

The kid said

“I'm throwing this into the sea because if it is left on the sand in the sun, it dries out and it dies. So, I'm throwing it into the sea so that it will live”

“Look around—millions of starfish, endless shores, countless storms. And you? Just one kid, tossing a starfish into the sea.

What difference could you possibly make?”

The kid looked at the old man, he looked at the starfish in his hand, he threw it into the sea and he said,

“Sir, it made a difference to that one”

Looking at the boy's action the old man stood in silence and slowly walked away. After walking a distance, he raised his head and smiled to himself, he turned around and came back to the kid.

The kid and the old man threw starfish into the sea for a long time.

[Fade to black]

“What difference do you want to make?”

PROMPTS



Create a cinematic 3D animated scene of an old wooden cottage near the seashore at night during a powerful storm. Rain lashes against the windows, lightning flashes across the sky, and huge waves crash in the distance. Inside the cottage, an elderly man lies in a small creaking bed, trying to sleep. Camera zooms in from exterior through the window into the house.



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Create a wide cinematic 3D animated shot of a quiet beach at sunrise after a violent storm. The sky is soft orange and pink, the sea is calmer, and the sand is covered with storm debris: seaweed, driftwood, shells, broken branches, and thousands of stranded starfish. The elderly man opens the door and looks out of his small cottage and slowly walks toward the beach, looking surprised and concerned.



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The beach should feel vast and emotional, showing the scale of the problem. The old man appears small against the wide shoreline. The lighting should be warm but slightly melancholic.

Style: Pixar and Disney-inspired 3D animated short film, cinematic sunrise lighting, detailed beach environment, emotional atmosphere, soft realistic textures, beautiful composition.

Camera: wide establishing shot, then slow tracking shot behind the old man as he walks toward the beach.



Create a cinematic 3D animated scene of the elderly man walking along the beach, carefully stepping through debris and stranded starfish. In the distance, he notices a young boy moving rhythmically along the shoreline. The boy with blue hoodie bends down, picks starfish up, stands, and throws it into the ocean. From far away, his movement looks almost like a small dance. The old man watches with curiosity and mumbles 'What is he trying to do?'. The morning sun reflects on the wet sand, and the ocean waves gently roll in. Style: Pixar and Disney-inspired animation, emotional visual storytelling, warm coastal lighting, expressive character body language, cinematic depth of field. Camera: over-the-shoulder shot from behind the old man, with the boy small in the distance near the waterline.



The old man chuckled. "Look around—millions of starfish, endless shores, countless storms. And you? Just one kid, tossing a starfish into the sea. What difference could you possibly make?" Camera: wide shot showing the old man, the boy, and the overwhelming number of starfish across the beach.



Create the most emotional scene of the animated short. The young boy looks at the old man, then looks down at the starfish in his hands. With calm determination, he gently throws the starfish into the ocean. The starfish arcs through the golden sunlight and lands safely in a sparkling wave. Camera: close-up on the boy's hands releasing the starfish, slow-motion arc through sunlight, cut to the old man's emotional reaction.



Create a quiet emotional 3D animated scene where the old man walks away slowly after hearing the boy's words. He looks down, thinking deeply. After a few steps, he raises his head, a small warm smile appears on his face. The atmosphere should feel reflective and transformative. The sun is rising higher, casting warm light across the sand and sea. Style: Pixar and Disney-inspired animated short film, subtle emotional acting, cinematic lighting, meaningful silence, warm storytelling. Camera: side profile tracking shot of the old man walking, then a close-up as he smiles.



Create a quiet emotional 3D animated scene where the old man turns back toward the boy. The atmosphere should feel reflective and transformative. The sun is rising higher, casting warm light across the sand and sea.
Style: Pixar and Disney-inspired animated short film, subtle emotional acting, cinematic lighting, meaningful silence, warm storytelling.
Camera: A close-up as he smiles and turns back.



Create a heartwarming final scene of the elderly man and the young boy walking together on the beach, picking up a stranded starfish and throwing them gently back into the sea. They smiling softly, united by compassion. The beach is still filled with starfish, but the mood is hopeful. The ocean sparkles in the golden sunlight. Gentle waves receive each starfish. The old man's posture feels lighter, and the boy looks happy that he is no longer alone.
Style: Pixar and Disney-inspired 3D animation, emotional ending, warm golden light, family-friendly, cinematic, inspirational, beautiful ocean scenery.
Camera: wide aerial shot showing the boy and old man as small figures on the beach, then close-up of their hands releasing starfish into the water.



Create a cinematic final frame for an inspirational animated short film. The boy and old man as small figures on the beach throwing one starfish into the sea. The screen slowly fades to black from a glowing sunrise beach. White text appears softly on screen:
"What difference do you want to make?"
The typography should be elegant, simple, and emotional. A small starfish silhouette appears beneath the text. The mood should be reflective, hopeful, and powerful.
Style: Disney-inspired 3D animation, emotional ending, warm golden light, family-friendly, cinematic, inspirational, beautiful ocean scenery.
Camera: wide aerial shot showing the boy and old man as small figures on the beach.

This project combines original storytelling, AI-assisted creative direction, prompt engineering, screenplay development, and motion design workflows created by Mohammed Abuzar Ansari.

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