

The flying jelly bean

We have all heard about the man on the Moon, but what if I tell you it's not a man? And have you ever heard of the man in the ocean? No? Well, let me tell you the tale of the spirits of the Moon and the ocean.

Once upon a time, in a small village in Candy Land, a baby bean was born. The moment the mother saw her baby, she knew her child was something special, that's why she named her Yue, which is Mandarin Chinese for "Moon". She had hair as white as snow, one ocean-blue and one night-blue eye. Yue did well at school and had lots of friends, but still she felt like something was missing. Like a part of her was missing. She hadn't told anyone how she felt. She just thought it was so because she was an only child and maybe just felt a bit lonely at home.

One day, all of a sudden, her mother died. After the funeral Yue's father decided to tell his daughter something, he and her mother had kept a secret from Yue.

She wasn't an only child at all! Yue had an older brother named Haiyang, which means "ocean". He had been kidnapped from the hospital where he had been born. That terrible crime had made Yue's mother really sad. A couple of years later, when Yue was born, her mother felt overwhelmed with joy again.

Yue was confused. She didn't know what to do or think. Many weeks she thought about what her father had said.

On her 18th birthday, she decided that she wanted to go and look for her brother. She started her journey in Mint City, then went to the Cotton Candy Woods and looked for her brother behind the Lemonade Waterfall, but she couldn't find him anywhere. After months of searching without any luck, she remembered that her father had said the name Haiyang meant "ocean". Yue went to the Milk Sea. She wandered on the cookie crumbs sand for many days, but still no Haiyang.

She had lost hope to find him there but all of a sudden, a mysterious young man showed up. She watched him and was filled with wonder. The man had licorice black hair, one night black and one ocean blue eye. "Could it be...?" Yue thought. Now the man was looking at her, very carefully. It was getting dark and cold, but they were both silent. After a long break he spoke to her. He had noticed the similarities between them too and asked Yue if she would like to come with him and stay at his house, so she didn't have to sleep outside. It was getting darker and the wind – stronger. Yue followed the man.

They arrived at his place and the man handed her some chocolate milk. They sat down and just stared at each other, wondering why they looked so alike. After five minutes Yue spoke and introduced herself. The man smiled. He had a smile as bright as freshly fallen snow. People always told Yue that she had such a smile. Haiyang was the name the man introduced himself with. Yue looked at him with open eyes. She told Haiyang everything her father had told her – about the kidnapping of her brother and how sad her mother had been and even about her mother's death. Haiyang found the death of Yue's mother sad, but didn't believe the rest of the story. Yue showed him a picture of her and her parents and asked him if he remembered anything, but he declined. He had never seen any of those people. He had

never traveled and had always lived by the ocean. With a tear in her eye Yue wished Haiyang good night and he showed her to her room.

Many hours later she woke up from a loud scream. She ran downstairs and saw Haiyang getting pulled out of the house into the sea by a chocolate sea monster. She rushed towards Haiyang, reached for his hand and got a hold of it just in time. At the very same moment their hair and eyes started to glow. The sea monster let go of Haiyang, but he didn't fall to the ground. Yue and Haiyang floated above the beach, looked at each other one last time, then closed their eyes. Haiyang turned into a black Hippocampus, Yue into a white Pegasus. The sea monster tried to attack them, but with their eyes still glowing, they combined their powers and defeated him. As the sea monster vanished into the ocean, Haiyang and Yue returned to their normal appearances and went back into the house. For minutes they just stared at each other, till Haiyang said, that maybe Yue had been right. Yue wondered – after all that had just happened – how couldn't she be?

The next day, Yue decided to go back home. Haiyang went along with her. As they arrived, their father couldn't believe his eyes. His missing daughter had come back and his long-lost son had come with her. His children had finally returned!

He prepared a festive meal to celebrate together. As they ate, they told their father everything that had happened. He listened to their story the whole night long. After their story was told, Haiyang asked his father if he knew what had happened to them that night on the beach – as he and his sister had fought with the chocolate sea monster. The father explained that their mother had once helped a wounded candy horse, even though everyone else thought the animal would die. The beautiful creature was lying at the side of the road. She was hurt badly. Their mother cared for the candy horse. This caught the attention of the animal's fairy. She went to their mother and thanked her for helping the candy horse. In return, she promised to give each of the children their mother would eventually have, some special power. Yue and Haiyang looked at their father with bright eyes.

Later, when they went to sleep, the man prayed to his deceased wife and said, "You were right about them, but they are even more special than you thought."

Many years passed by. Yue and Haiyang grew up and became something very special indeed. Yue became the Moon spirit and Haiyang the spirit of the ocean.

Now you know the tale of the spirit of the Moon and the spirit of the ocean. Maybe next time, when you go out at night or go swimming in the ocean, remember this tale and tell it to those, who are afraid of the dark or of the monsters hiding in the ocean, so that they know, that if something happens, they will be protected. By the miraculous flying jelly beans Yue and Haiyang.