

Lucky Stones

by John Pestrikoff

One time the old man said that if we weren't going to tell anybody, he would catch a sea otter. He also said: "don't you ever open that box whatever you do". Made me kind of wonder why he said that. So I was curious. Why did that old man tell me not to touch that box? It was a cigar box, with metal. We walked along the bank and found the box. Before I did anything, I looked at it good first so I could tie it up the same I found it. I am going to check that box and see why he told me not to touch it. I opened it. There was a rock with a shell, like a clam shell, nice and smooth. And it had something in it. It was a live rock. It was, people go find those things now days. Where do they get them? And there was another one that looked like a prune, it had a bunch of small teeth. Small teeth, the whole thing was curled up like a prune, a little bigger than a prune. With a mouth and a bunch of teeth. In the box there were two small ones. One like I described the first time, but smaller ones. And there was a fox fur in there as well. Whatever a hunter was after, there would be something from that animal in the box. There was also a piece of bread, a little piece of bread in there. The hunters would them. He fed them, so they must have been alive. And every so many years you get a young one. They don't move, but they are alive.

If you were to shake the rocks, they would make a little noise.

When I was done looking at the live rocks, I had to tie the box just the way it was before. And put the box in the same spot where I picked it from. It made me curious when he said to never touch that box. And I waited until he disappeared. And then thought: Why doesn't he want me to open that box? Never touch it. That made me curious, what is in there. And then I looked at what was in there, lucky stones they called them. Hunters take them for luck when they are out hunting. The stones are supposed to bring them luck.

They were tan in color. Not white, tan. The smaller one was a little more grayish, real light gray. The big one was a tanish color. And the black one was like a prune with teeth on it. Just like shark. Same sharp and pointy teeth as a shark.

The man who told us never to touch the box never found out that it was opened. He never did. I put the box back just the way it was, and he guessed that boys didn't touch it.

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