

Cassie Lolita of the Sea

By Mari'a Krause Icaza

"Cassie Lolita" sounds like "Cacerolita" which means horseshoe crab in Yucatan

Once upon a time, there was a horseshoe crab named Cassie Lolita de la Mar. Cassie lived happily with her family and friends in a mangrove forest. They all had a normal life until the tourist came. Cassie loved it when tourist came to admire the beautiful shapes of her body and her movements. Her favorite part of these visits was when these visitors gave her little sardines. But these tourist were different, instead of sardines, they gave her flat objects with many colors and drawings on them. Some horseshoe crabs stumbled over each other to get to and eat these things, but upon the first bite, they fell to the bottom, dead.

Cassie got really angry and came out to the shore to complain. She shouted to the tourist: Hey, you! Stop dumping your garbage here! Can't you see you've already killed half of my family?! The tourist replied mockingly: Oh, yeah? Do you think that you, beings so little, will be able to stop us? Cassie felt a bit embarrassed, but she was still very mad and asked: Whom do you think you are, that you can come and pollute my habitat? The tourist answered, "Well, we are TOURISTS!" and laughed their lungs out like they were crazy.

Cassie didn't like being mocked, so she got even angrier, but she decided to stop fighting because she knew that wouldn't get her anywhere. After a while, the tourist started feeling remorseful and mumbled to each other, "I think that horseshoe crab was right." But then a boy named Pancho Sweet-tooth Trasher came to the beach and said: "Who cares about cleaning?! Cleaning is boring, throwing stuff anywhere you want is easier and fun!" Everybody looked at him in awe; Cassie was as red as a tomato. She shouted: "Do you think it's fun to kill us?!" Pancho said: "How about settling this with a race?!" Cassie said: "I accept the challenge."

The race consisted of seeing who could work faster, Pancho throwing trash from a bag he brought with him or Cassie picking it up. At the end, Cassie could pick up the trash faster than Pancho could dump it, so she won. After that, Pancho said: "Cassie, I think you are right about this trash dumping thing..." So, Pancho changed his name to Pancho Clean

Good Trash Picker Upper. Cassie could now go back to her home at the bottom of the sea.

Her family and friends were all waiting to congratulate her on her victory. Then, among the crowd, Cassie saw her sweetheart, Mario de la Marina. Cassie swam to Mario and they looked into each other's eyes (all of them). Sometime after that, Mario and Cassie got married, had children and lived happily ever after.

The end