

Murder

The sun beats down on my pink, oversized sun hat sliding down my head as I dig my toes into the warm, beige sand. My dad goes hunting for a bathroom while my mom frantically tries to pry out the handfuls of sand my baby brother has been devouring a moment ago. If you couldn't tell already, my family and I were at the beach, more specifically, Laguna Beach.

While sunbathing on our picnic blanket, I couldn't help but notice that the hermit crab my dad plucked from its family and friends had escaped from its sand prison that I graciously dug out for the little creature and abandoned its shell. Seeing how it was caked in sand and overall looking a bit droopy, I had the brilliant idea to put it in a wrinkled snickers wrapper and give it a bath in the thundering waves of the sea instead of the puddle six feet away from me. After some waves came and went the hermit crab was nice and clean again! Ignoring its cries of agony, I returned the hermit crab to its sand prison. I picked up my iPhone 8 intending to scroll on Tiktok, only to be met with the horrifying screams of Jojo Siwa's new song "Karma" at full volume, scaring me so bad I almost chucked my phone into the ocean, ready to devour my device at any time. I felt myself flush as heads turned my way, probably wondering where the obnoxiously loud music was coming from. As I was recovering from that traumatic incident I peeked in the sand prison, only to discover the hermit crab unresponsive. I rushed it over to the Emergency Room of the sea, a puddle of water, and dropped it in, hoping for a miracle. However, it was too late for the crab.

That evening, I returned home carrying the weight of my sins as a hermit crab kidnapper and murderer. The memories I had of my past pets came back to me. There was the fish that committed suicide because of the decoration I put in its tank, the birds that flew away from its cage, and the mortifying scene of rabbit that mysteriously disappeared one night, with its cage flipped over with a pile of white feathers sprawled across the floor. That was the day I learned my lesson to never interact with an animal ever again.

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