GOOD VIBES AT KITCHEN KETTLE VILLAGE
THE FLIP FLOP STORY – a fiction short story

Once upon a time, in the far away land of Lancaster, Pennsylvania there lived a normal sized mother and her young son, a giant named Meego. He was gentle, kind and loved life. He would eat crackers and jam every day for breakfast and meat and cheese every day for lunch. His favorite possession was a pair of blue Adidas flip flops. His grandmother, who lived in the Ukraine, sent the pair as a birthday gift, since the Ukraine was the only place in the whole world that could make a pair of shoes that would fit Meego. He loved to frolic in his flip flops in the fields of Lancaster, in the summer. Meego was the happiest in his flip flops!

Every year, Meego and his mother would travel to Ocean City, Maryland to spend a long weekend at the beach. Meego loved putting his toes in the sand and walking on the boardwalk in his flip flops. There was one particular trip to the beach though that would change Meego's life forever!

It was a sunny, Thursday morning in August. The temperature was 75 degrees and there was a cool breeze flowing through the air. Meego had been up since the crack of dawn, as he could never sleep the night before a trip to his favorite vacation spot. “Mom, Mom! Wake up, it's time to go to the beach,” Meego said, as he nudged his mother, who was soundly sleeping in her bed. Meego's mother, who was slightly annoyed to be woken up so early in the morning, out of such a deep slumber, slowly, but surely rose out of bed, with a grin on her face and said, “OK Meego. Go get packed and I will meet you downstairs. Don't forget to pack your bathing suit.” “Yay!! This is going to be the best weekend ever Mom, I just know it,” Meego responded in a high, excited tone with a smile on his face that extended from ear to ear. They quickly packed the large truck with coolers of food, a boogie board for Meego and suitcases full of clothes and suntan lotion. Meego and his mother had a fun filled four hour car ride down to the beach, singing their favorite Disney songs and reminiscing about times of when Meego was a young boy.

The next two days, Meego and his mother reveled in the joys of jumping the big waves, eating at their favorite place called Fishtales and riding the rides at the Jolly Roger Amusement Park. They took long walks on the beach and on the boardwalk so that Meego could show off his favorite pair of blue flip flops. So many people complimented him on how great he looked in his shoes. Meego was the happiest giant in the whole land, loving life at the beach and spending quality time with his mother.

All good things must come to end and that was the case on yet another gorgeous day at the beach on a Sunday morning. Meego and his mother packed up their belongings, placed them in the truck and were about to head home, but then reality had set in and Meego had a different idea. “Mom, can we please just go out to the beach for a little longer before we head home,” Meego asked in a begging, but loving manner. Although Meego's mother was eager to head home and rest up before the start of the next work week, she hated seeing her son sad, so she agreed to spend a few more hours at the beach. Meego quickly slipped into his swimming trunks, grabbed his boogie board and he and his mother headed out to the sand and surf for one last time, before heading back to the land of Lancaster.

Although the day had started out quite brisk, the sun's rays shone brighter and brighter throughout the hours, which made the temperature quite unbearable to lay on the beach any longer. “Mom, it's starting to get really hot. I would like to take a dip in the ocean to cool off before traveling back home, if that's OK with you,” Meego hinted to his mother. “That is completely fine with me Meego, but only for 20 minutes, but then we really need to be heading home, before it gets dark. Take your boogie board and enjoy yourself,” Meego's mother responded. Meego was so excited that he was
half way down to the water before his mother could even finish her sentence. Meego ran into the cool waves of the ocean. He was jumping and splashing in the water like any happy, young giant would. After what seemed to be quite some time, he realized that he should probably start heading back to shore before getting a scolding from his mother. Meego started to paddle into shore on his boogie board, when he suddenly felt a pain that he had never felt before. He yelped very loudly, so loudly that the whole state of Maryland could hear his cries. Meego's mother was the first to hear her young son cry out in such pain. She ran as fast as she could, down to where the lifeguards had pulled Meego onto the shore. “Meego! Meego! Meego! Meego it's your mother, stay with me Meego. Meego...Meego...” The sounds of his mother's voice were rapidly starting to fade into the distance as Meego's eyes closed.

Later that day, Meego, who was lying in a slightly uncomfortable bed, slowly awoke to the sight of a white room and bright lights, the strange noises of machines and his mother and a strange man standing over him. “Mom, where am I? What happened?,” Meego faintly whispered to his mother. With a heavy heart, Meego's mother explained, “Meego, honey, you were bitten by a great white shark. He nibbled at your toes. He must not have had his jam and crackers for breakfast this morning like you always do. He was very hungry.” “What are you talking about Mom,” Meego confusingly asked. “Son, you were attacked by a shark when you were heading into shore. He liked your toes so much that he took some of them with him. I am sorry son,” the doctor added. Meego, scared and saddened, slowly arose from the bed, moved the sheet from his toes and saw a horrifying sight. The toes, on his right foot were cut in half. “Mom, where are my flip flops,” Meego determinedly asked. “Meego's mother grabbed his favorite blue flip flops from the side of the hospital bed and handed them to him, while tears streamed down her face. Meego successfully wiggled his left foot into the flip flop, but he then tried to wiggle his right foot into the flip flop to no avail. The shoe quickly tumbled to the cold, hospital floor. The doctors were unable to save enough of Meego's toes in order for him to wear both of his precious flip flops at the same time. Meego lay back down and cried himself to sleep in his mother's arms.

A few days later, Meego was back at home. His grandmother had sent him another pair of flip flops, this time in a sand colored tone. Meego had tried them on, but the right flip flop, once again fell right off of his foot and onto the floor. Depressed and sad, Meego lay in bed for days. His mother had tried to get him out of the room, but he had refused to leave with just one flip flop. “People are going to make fun of me mom. I don't want to be kicked when I'm already down,” Meego sadly responded to his mother's attempts. Meego's mother could not take seeing the pain in her gentle giant's eyes, so one morning, she knocked on Meego's bedroom door, quietly entered and said. “Meego, I can't stand seeing you like this anymore. I know you are sad, but together we will find a way to make this work. I miss the happy Meego.” “I miss the happy Meego too Mom,” Meego quietly responded. “OK, so then I know what will cheer you up! How about a trip over to Kitchen Kettle Village? You love that place and we definitely should stock up on meet, cheese, crackers and jam for the upcoming winter months. What do you say,” Meego's mother asked in a hopeful manner. Meego responded poorly, for at least an hour, until his mother refused to take no for an answer. With all of her strength and her bare hands, she lifted Meego up out of his bed and out to the car.

Meego's mother dragged a somber Meego out of the car upon arrival at Kitchen Kettle Village. The first stop was the Smokehouse Shop for Meego's favorite smoked Provolone cheese and Kielbasa meat sticks. Meego slowly hobbled up to the store, but the store attendant quickly stopped him in his tracks. “I am sorry Meego, but I cannot allow you to entire our store,” the store attendant replied, as she pointed to the sign on the outside of the store that had stated, “No shirt, No shoes, No service!” Meego had refused to wear his left flip flop, “That would look so dumb,” he explained earlier to his mother. Meego's mother had started to say a few choice words to the store attendant, but Meego calmly turned
to his mother and said, “It's OK Mom. I could lose a little bit of weight. I don't meat and cheese right now.” Meego's mother, for the sake of her son's happiness, replied, “OK Meego. I understand. Let's try the Jam and Relish Kitchen. They should carry some good, healthy food for you.” Meego and his mother then headed to the Jam and Relish Kitchen. Once at the store, Meego went to open the door, but was stopped yet again by the store attendant, who pointed to the sign on the outside of the store and said, “I'm sorry Meego, but no shirt, no shoes, no service! Unfortunately, I am unable to let you in.” Meego was devastated. Tears running down his face, he said with a heavy heart, “Mom, it's OK. Jam is high in sugar. Maybe on the way home, we could stop at the local Giant and you could go in and pick up some celery. Celery is a good diet food.” Meego's mother felt helpless. For the first time in her life, she had felt that she could not do anything for her son, but take him home. “OK Meego. I think we should head out. It's been a long day,” she sadly responded.

Meego, with his head held low, hobbled along side his mother back to the car, but on the way, Meego's mother noticed something amazingly, wonderful! “Meego! Meego! Hold your head up high son and look over there,” Meego's mother exclaimed while, pointing to the window display of the Good Vibes store. Meego slowly picked his head up and saw the same amazingly, wonderful thing. A huge sand colored flip flop, the same color as the pair that Meego's grandmother had sent a few weeks earlier. Meego and his mother ran to the store, practically busting the door down. “May I help you,” the energetic store clerk asked. Meego and his mother explained to the store clerk what had happened at the beach. “May I please try it on? It may not be the right size, but I will never know if I don't try,” Meego explained. The store clerk responded, “Of course you may try it on.” The store clerk quickly picked up the huge flip flop and set it in front of Meego, who was sitting on a chair in the middle of the store. Meego slowly wiggled his right foot into the flip flop. He lifted his leg up into the air and to his excitement and surprise, the flip flop stayed on his foot. Meego, his mother and the store clerk all burst out into happy tears. “We will take it,” Meego's mother shouted. As Meego and his mother exited the store, he turned to the store clerk, with a huge smile on his face that extended from ear to ear and said,“This is the best day ever! Life is good!”

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