

## Tiny Turtle Rescue



Crack, Crack. The sound of shells opening could be heard all around the nest as the baby leathery turtles emerged from their shells and began digging away at the sand. The smallest of the turtles, Louise, looked out along the shimmering, golden beach. The sand looked like quite an obstacle, especially for her flippers, which were as wobbly as jelly. Louise however, did not know how lucky she really was, because even though her biggest challenge was still to come, many of her brothers and sisters' eggs had been already taken by humans, foxes and wild pigs, while others just didn't hatch.



Slowly, the hatchlings began making their way out of the nest and across the long stretch of beach. Louise smiled for a moment while the warmth of the sand heated her tummy as she wriggled like a worm down to the sea.

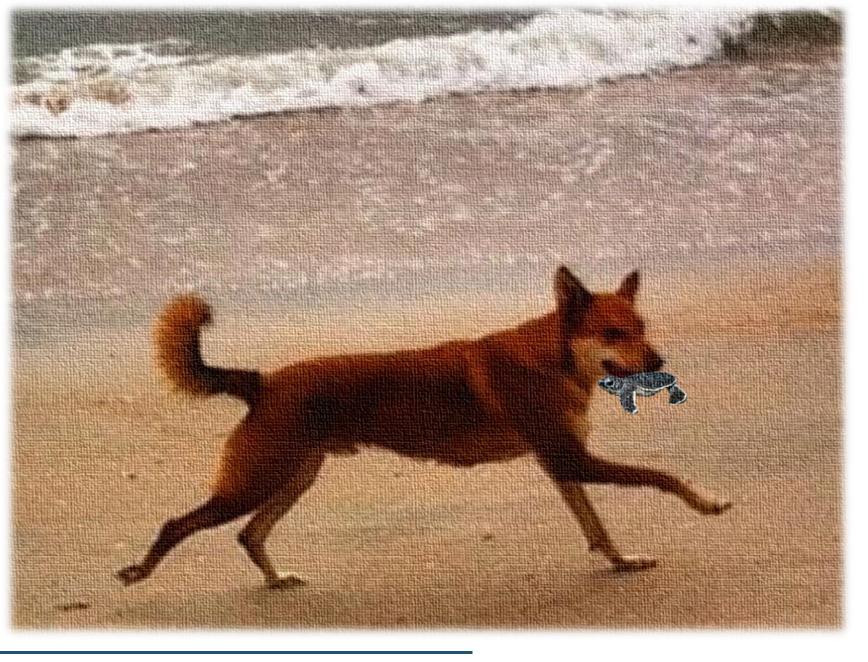


Nevertheless, this happiness did not last long as it was soon taken over by the terrifying scenes of her brothers and sisters being lifted off the sand and taken down the beach to later be used for a bird's supper.



There was now only a small handful of them left and their flippers were beginning to throb with pain. The sea birds however, had now cleared off, so they continued to plough across the sand toward the water's edge. What Louise didn't know was that there was someone watching her, someone watching her every move. While she was persisted on making it to the sea, a hungry dingo was focused on filling his tummy and to him, a fresh leathery turtle would do the job just fine.

https://iz.wp.com/www.habitatadvocate.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Fraser-Island-Dingoes-threatened.jpg



In an instant, the dingo leapt out and captured Louise in his ginormous jaws and before she knew it he was bounding along the beach. Louise was shaking with nervousness as the dingo sprinted along the beach like a lightning bolt. Flopping crazily out the side of the terrifying beasts mouth, the small body wracked her brain for a plan to escape but she was so exhausted from walking that she couldn't think straight. Just as she was about to lose hope, a turtle rescue worker further down the beach spied the small figure in the dingo's mouth.



With no time to lose, the rescue worker chased down the dingo and removed poor Louise from his mouth. Carefully, Louise was examined before being placed onto the sand to make her way down to the ocean.



As Louise neared the water's edge she was much more aware of dangers and understood that there were threats all around her. Later that day, while she was swimming through the coral, Louise felt very grateful to the rescue workers who had done so much for her and other leathery turtles like herself, though she was also greatly saddened by the loss of her siblings.