



Tasu the orca is about to have a baby!  
The family gathers around her.



The family has been talking to the baby for months and they love him already.



Every orca has a way to help the pod. Big brother Rocky is excited to help by watching over the new baby. Grandma Florencia helps mama Tasu. She brings the baby to the surface to take his first breath. WHOOSH!



"Welcome, Tumbo!" The family swims up to greet him. He doesn't have a lot of blubber yet, so he is orange and gray.



Grandma Florencia looks Tumbo over and sees that he has a crooked dorsal fin. "He will not be able to swim very well. How will he be able to help the pod?"

Mama Tasu shrugs. "He will find a way and we will love him just the same."



Big brother Rocky wants to play with Tumbo.  
"Let's race!"



But Tumbo is too slow. He can't use his tail very well and falls behind.



Big brother Rocky finds a different game, so Tumbo can still play with him.  
"It's okay, Tumbo! I love you just the same."



Sometimes Tumbo can't keep up with the family and big brother Rocky swims slowly with him so he doesn't feel left out. Tumbo crossly tells him to go ahead with the family.  
"I can keep up just fine!"



When Tumbo falls too far behind the whole family comes back to join him. "We will travel on the tides and currents to make it easier for Tumbo," wise Grandma Florencia says.



As Tumbo grows up his orange color turns to white, but his spine gets worse. It's hard for him to swim, and he can't turn very fast. He can't help his family hunt.



"Float here quietly, Tumbo," mama Tasu says. "We will bring you food." But Tumbo wants to help, and he cheers them on as they hunt. SQUEEEEE!



"No, Tumbo," mama Tasu says. "You have to be very quiet, or you will scare the seals away. Being quiet is the most important way you can help."



Tumbo floats quietly, without making a sound. The family brings him food and everyone is happy.



One day Tumbo is waiting quietly for food and two Humpback whales approach him. He is alone, and the Humpback whales are very large. Tumbo is scared.



The Humpback whales start to tease him. "You got left behind because you can't help!" They are bullies. They push him around. "Your dorsal fin looks funny! You swim too slow!"



Tumbo cries and his family rushes back to chase the bullies away. "Thank you for protecting me," Tumbo tells big brother Rocky. "That's how big brothers help," Rocky says.



Sometimes the family chases a seal into a small cove and let Tumbo practice hunting. Tumbo tries and tries, but he can never move fast enough to catch a seal. "I am too slow!" Tumbo is sad.





Tumbo sees a boy on the shore. The boy moves slowly like Tumbo, and his back is crooked like Tumbo's. They smile at each other, and Tumbo feels less alone.



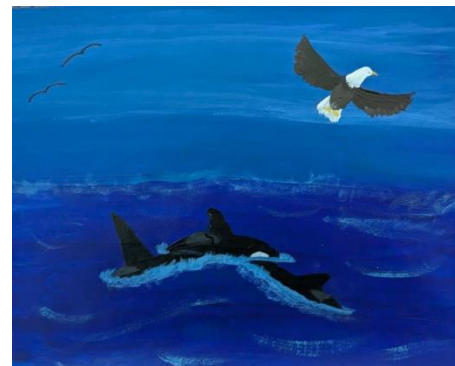
One day mama Tasu has a surprise – a new baby! Tumbo is a big brother now, too! They welcome baby Lucy. Lucy is orange and gray, just like Tumbo was when he was born.



"Can I help watch over baby Lucy?" Tumbo asks.  
"I'm a big brother now, too!"

"Yes," mama Tasu says proudly. "You can help."

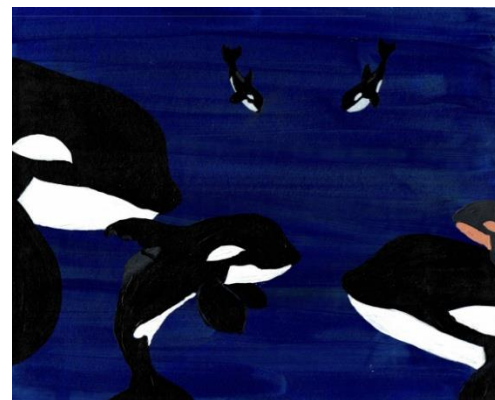
Tumbo is so happy! He has a way to help now! He swims over to baby Lucy. "Let's race!"



After all the excitement Tumbo is too tired to float. His family surrounds him and holds him at the surface so he can rest and breathe, as they often do.



"Will you be too busy with baby Lucy to take care of me, mama?" Tumbo asks mama Tasu.  
"Sometimes," mama Tasu says.  
"But you do a good job helping me take care of her, and that helps us to have more time for each other."



"It's okay if you are too busy with baby Lucy sometimes," Tumbo agrees.  
"I love you just the same."