

PART I

KAT's aqua blue scales shimmered in the sunlight as he laid down into the sand. *Ahhhhh*, he thought. He was visiting Pearl Beach with his best friend, Koi the SeaWing for their annual bestie trip. The two always stayed at the special Entangled Vine Hut that was on the coast, and went to the beach every day.

"I'm so glad we made this yearly," Koi said happily, playing with some crabs on the shore. KAT smiled, outstretching his wings.

"Yeah," he agreed. "Do you remember how we met here?" KAT waited for Koi to respond as the waves made their soothing crash sound.

"Of *course* I do!" Koi giggled. He tried to spin and face KAT in a cool way, but stumbled, his snout getting covered in sand. KAT laughed as Koi tried to wipe the sand off. KAT could see he was struggling, so he helped get the sand off.

"There," KAT said, wiping the sand off with ease. "You were saying?" Koi laughed.

"What I was *trying* to say is that when we met, I was the happiest I'd ever been," Koi turned to face the ocean, trying to hide his red face. "It was a very —Koi coughed— *lucky* moment." *Is he* blushing? KAT thought. Koi was very sweet, but he never blushed—at least not in front of him.

KAT was about to ask about it, but he then realized: Koi had grabbed his forearm? What? Yeah Koi was goofy, but he never was this...this *emotional*.

"Be right back," Koi leapt up out of the sand, dashing back to the Entangled Vine Hut. At least he was giving KAT time to think about what just happened. Why was Koi being so sweet all of a sudden? A thought crept its way into KAT's mind. What if Koi *likes* me?