

The Iron Man came to the top of a high cliff. He was taller than a house and his eyes glowed like headlamps as he looked at the sea. The wind blew hard against his back and he swayed forward.



He stepped off the cliff and tumbled down, crashing against the rocks and breaking into pieces. His legs, arms, hands, ears, eyes and head all scattered across the rocky beach. For a while, everything was silent and still.



But just before dawn, two seagulls flew down looking for food. One gull found a shiny round eye, and the other found a heavy hand with five fingers.





When the eye and the hand were placed together, something amazing happened.

The eye glowed blue and the hand stood up, tucked the eye under its finger, and looked around. It frightened the gulls away, then crept over the stones and found the other hand. Together they found the arms and legs, and bit by bit the Iron Man's body put itself back together.

The torso stood up with arms and legs, holding its eyes as it searched for its lost head. At last it found the head in a pile of red seaweed and clicked it back into place. Now the Iron Man was whole again, except for one missing ear. The gulls sat high on the cliff with the iron ear between them, watching the huge figure stride across the beach.

The Iron Man stopped and stared at the waves. His eyes turned green. Perhaps he thought the sea had taken his ear. He walked into the water, deeper and deeper, until the waves covered his head. The gulls circled above as a trail of bubbles moved slowly out into the deep sea.