

News from the Neighborhood

The Case of the Disappearing Sandal (and the almost Disappearance of a Woman) on a Sandy Beach in Ocean City, Maryland, USACora Dzubak¹

During the early afternoon of September 29, 2020 my son and I were casually walking along the beach, approximately 10 feet (circa 3 meters) from the ocean, near 94th Street in north Ocean City, Maryland, USA². The air temp was approximately 70-75° Fahrenheit (21-24° Celsius). Suddenly, and with no forewarning, my right leg sunk into the sand up to my knee, throwing me forward until I was nearly prone in the sand. I needed my son's assistance to extract myself (actually, my right leg) from the sand. It had felt as though there was a bottomless hole that had forcefully sucked my leg into the sand. Once I was standing on my two feet my son tried to find my sandal in the hole; he could not! He kept digging, but the tide was coming in and it started to fill with water (Figure 1). Needless to say, he was unable to retrieve the sandal! Where did it go? How did it escape? What might be an explanation?

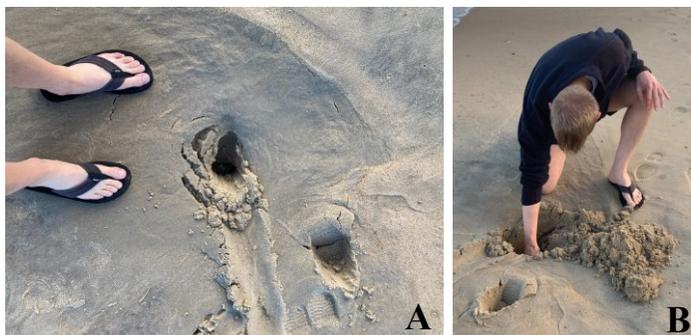


Figure 1. Sequence of events on the case of the disappearing sandal: A. Holes left by the author after her extraction from the sand. Author's son wearing his sandals shown on the left. B-D. Unsuccessful efforts to find the missing sandal.

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² The exact location of this incident can be found at this link: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/North+Ocean+City,+Ocean+City,+MD+21842/@38.3740009,-75.1049239,13z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x89b8d60e66d738f3:0x511088b3caeaeb67!8m2!3d38.3740027!4d-75.0699048>.

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