

Man, Woman, and Wild

By

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FADE IN.

EXT. SOUTH AFRICA - THE AGULHAS BANK - DAY

MRS. PILCHARDS, a sardine mother, checks up on her adult daughter.

MRS. PILCHARDS  
River, honey, Gill will be here  
any minute. Are you ready to go?

RIVER is beautifying herself before the big Annual Sardine Run event.

RIVER  
Almost. Do you see that sea  
sponge next to you?

Mrs. Pilchards looks to her left and finds the sea sponge.

RIVER (CONT'D)  
Bring it over here, will you?  
There's still some loose skin that  
I have to scrape off.

River rubs her body against the rough sea sponge to scrape off the dead skin.

MRS. PILCHARDS  
Let me look at you.

RIVER  
What do you think?

MRS. PILCHARDS  
Beautiful. You're going to have  
so much fun at the Annual Sardine  
Run, River.

RIVER  
I still don't know why you and Dad  
decided to sit this one out. Gill  
and I already talked about it, and  
you guys are more than welcome to  
come with us.

MRS. PILCHARDS  
That's sweet of you, dear, but you  
know how old school your daddy is;  
Migrating conditions just haven't  
been up to his standards for the  
past few years.

RIVER  
No, I suppose not.

MRS. PILCHARDS

But you could bring back a doggy bag of zooplankton from the Annual sardine run.

RIVER

You bet.

GILL, River's friend, finally shows up.

GILL

Hello, Mr. Pilchards, I'm here to pick up your daughter.

MR. PILCHARDS, River's Dad, welcomes Gill inside for small talk.

MR. PILCHARDS

Ah, Gill, come on in.

GILL

Thank you, Sir.

MR. PILCHARDS

So, what do you kids have planned for this evening?

GILL

Nothing much, Sir. Just the Annual Sardine Run event, and then right back here. You know, you and the Mrs. Pilchards are still welcome to join us.

MR. PILCHARDS

It's good of you to offer, but I'm afraid not. I don't know how you kids do it. Back in my day, sardines wouldn't even think about migrating up to KwaZulu-Natal, unless the water temperature was lower than seventy degrees Fahrenheit/twenty one degrees Celsius. Anything higher than that was unheard of.

GILL

Well, is River almost ready?

MR. PILCHARDS

Wait here. I'll go see.

Mr. Pilchards leaves Gill to go check on River.

EXT. OFF THE COAST OF KWAZULA-NATAL - DAY

The ocean surface is blooming with Zooplankton. Gill and River arrive and join the millions of migrating sardines that have been stuffing themselves for hours.

GILL

Wow, this is some turn out, huh, River?

RIVER

Yeah, I wonder how long they've been here.

GILL

I don't know, but let's not waste anymore time. Get your grub on.

RIVER

This one looks pretty good.

A deformed zooplankton gives River the slip as she tries to reach for it.

RIVER (CONT'D)

Hey, it got away from me.

GILL

You want that one? That's okay. I'll get it for you.

Gill swims after the zooplankton that got away from River and bumps into another sardine that looks seriously ill.

GILL (CONT'D)

Sorry, guy, I didn't mean to run into you. I was going for that zooplankton that swam right past you.

The sardine starts coughing up zooplankton.

GILL (CONT'D)

You all right, dude? I don't really know you all that well, but you don't look so hot.

The sardine turns over on his side and dies before Gill's very eyes.

GILL (CONT'D)

Hey, dude, do you want me to get you some help?

Gill looks around and sees other sardines reacting to the zooplankton.

GILL (CONT'D)

River.

Gill looks for River and tries to stop her from eating another zooplankton by calling out to her.

GILL (CONT'D)

River, don't eat that! Spit it out!

RIVER

What?!

GILL

How many have you eaten?!

RIVER

I don't know, twenty, thirty!

GILL

Don't eat anymore. You gotta throw up right now!

RIVER

What are you talking about? I don't feel like throwing up.

GILL

I don't think you understand. Look around you! There are sardines dropping dead all over the place.

River looks around and sees sardines getting violently ill.

RIVER

Oh my goodness, Gill, what is happening?

GILL

I think it's the zooplankton. There must be something wrong with them.

River doesn't feel so good and starts twitching.

RIVER

No, Gill, I don't feel so good. I think I'm gonna be sick.

Gill gets a hold of River.

GILL

No, you're gonna be fine. You're gonna be fine.

Gill gets behind River to do the Heimlich Maneuver. River starts coughing up the zooplankton she ingested, and goes into convulsions.

GILL (CONT'D)

Help! Somebody, help me! I need help over here!

Gill holds River close and calls for help, but nobody comes.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. OFF THE COAST OF KWAZULA-NATAL - DAY

MR. FISHER, a principal at the school for sardines, is rehearsing what he is about to say to the grieving families.

MR. FISHER

Okay, are we good to go here?  
Good morning, My name is Mr. Fisher, and I'm a principal of one of the schools of sardines that was here at the Annual Sardine Run.

Mr. Fisher thinks he could do it better and starts again.

MR. FISHER (CONT'D)

Good morning, my name is Mr. Fisher. I'm the principal of one of the many schools of sardines that was here for the event last week. Let me first start off by saying that my heart and my thoughts go out to all those who were affected...

MR. PIKE, the sardine responsible for setting up the conference, interrupts Mr. Fisher in the middle of his rehearsal.

MR. PIKE

Are you okay, Mr. Fisher? What are you doing?

MR. FISHER

Just trying to figure out what I'm going to say. I'm not very good at public speaking. I wanna get everything just right.

MR. PIKE

What is there to rehearse? Just take a page from the speaker that's out there now, and tell the family of the victims that we are still in the early stages of the investigation, and that we have nothing more to add at this time, that's all. Do you think you could handle that?

MR. FISHER

Yeah, no problem, Mr. Pike. We're still in the early stages of the investigation, and we have nothing more to add at this time. How was that?

MR. PIKE

Okay, that was good. You're up next. Now, you be out there when I announce you.

Mr. Pike leaves Mr. Fisher alone and swims away.

EXT. CONFERENCE - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Pike is not taking questions from family members demanding answers.

MR. PILCHARDS

We're sick of this! What aren't you telling us?! We deserve to know the truth!

MRS. PILCHARDS

Yeah! What exactly are we dealing with here?!

MR. PIKE

I'm sorry, but, because we are still in the early stages of the investigation, there isn't much more that I can tell you, other than that we are going to fight our hardest to combat the ocean acidification crisis that has rendered the zooplankton unsafe to eat. In the mean time, we have decided that the best course of action is to postpone the Annual Sardine Run until further notice. Coming to the stage now is someone who can tell you more about that. His name is Mr. Fisher, and he is the Principal at Sardine Prep.

Mr. Fisher comes out to address the victim's families.

MR. FISHER

Good morning, Everyone. Thank you all for being here in this difficult time. My name is Mr. Fisher, and I just want to express my condolences to all of you who have been affected by this tragedy.

EXT. SHARK BAY - DAY

A pod of bottlenose dolphins are in town for the Annual Sardine Run event that was just postponed.

LOOP-THE-LOOP, a high ranking male member of the pod with a defective tracking device attached to his dorsal fin, makes an example out of one of his subordinates by making her do sit-ups on the sandbar in front of the whole pod.

LOOP-THE-LOOP

Anybody else have any questions about the sardines' whereabouts?

SMILEY, a low ranking female pod member with skin lesions all over her body, counts off every sit-up she completes with Loop-The-Loop holding down her tail fluke.

SMILEY

Forty-eight, forty-nine, fifty!

LOOP-THE-LOOP

Now, get back in formation, Smiley!

SMILEY

Thank you for that, Loop-The-Loop!

LOOP-THE-LOOP

And let that be a lesson to all of you!

Smiley gets back in the water and sneaks away from formation when Loop-The-Loop turns his back to address the rest of the pod.

LOOP-THE-LOOP (CONT'D)

For the last time, I don't know what is keeping the sardines. The sardines will turn up when they turn up. In the meantime, what we're going to do is take this time to bone up on some hunting fundamentals.



EXT. THE OTHER SIDE OF SHARK BAY - CONTINUOUS

ZIGGY, a low-ranking male dolphin with cookiecutter shark bite marks all over his body, is on the look out for migrating sardines.

ZIGGY

What do you suppose is keeping the sardines, Dolph? I'd hate to think that we've traveled all this way from Puerto Rico for nothing.

DOLPH, a low-ranking male with battle scars all over his body, wants Ziggy to help him catch a pufferfish.

DOLPH

Look, you know what finicky divas these sardines can be --- water conditions have to be just right for them to be out and about.

ZIGGY

They are rather finicky, aren't they?

Ziggy and Dolph circle each other in the water.

DOLPH

I'm sure they'll turn up soon enough, Ziggy.

ZIGGY

You're probably right. We better get back, before Loop-The-Loop comes looking for us.

DOLPH

You don't really wanna go back to formation, do you?

ZIGGY

Yeah.

DOLPH

Forget that. I got an even better idea.

ZIGGY

What idea is that?

DOLPH

I saw a puffer fish around here not that long ago. You know how slow they are. If we hurry-up I'm sure we could catch up to it.

ZIGGY

What do you want with a puffer fish?

DOLPH

You don't know about Puffer fish? How do you not know about puffer fish? Well, I won't spoil it for you, just help me catch it, all right?

A puffer fish senses danger and inflates itself. Ziggy gets ahead of the puffer fish and stops it in its tracks.

ZIGGY

What do you want me to do with this thing, Dolph?

Dolph swims over to assist Ziggy with the puffer fish.

DOLPH

Good job, Ziggy. I'll take that. Give it here.

Ziggy watches Dolph take the puffer fish in his mouth.

ZIGGY

Are you nuts? Don't you know how fatal a mouthful of toxin from a puffer fish can be?

DOLPH

In high dosages, that's true, but, in moderation, all you'll get is a little light headed.

Ziggy looks on as Dolph gnaws on the puffer fish without killing it.

DOLPH (CONT'D)

Oh yeah, I feel a buzz coming on now.

ZIGGY

Yeah?

DOLPH

Oh, this feels so nice. Wow. You've got to try this, Ziggy.

Smiley is using echo location to track Ziggy down.

DOLPH (CONT'D)

Do you hear that? Somebody's got their echo location on blast.

ZIGGY

Yeah, I hear it. It's Smiley.

DOLPH

How do you know it's Smiley?

ZIGGY

I recognize her echo location  
anywhere.

Dolph answers Smiley back with clicks and whistles  
against Ziggy's wishes.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

No, what are you doing? Don't  
answer her.

DOLPH

Why not? You just said it was  
Smiley.

ZIGGY

That doesn't mean I want her  
knowing where I am.

DOLPH

Uh-oh, what happened? Are you two  
fighting?

ZIGGY

No, we're not fighting.  
Everything is fine between us.

DOLPH

Then why don't you want her  
knowing where you are?

ZIGGY

I just need a break. The girl is  
wearing me out. She's like a  
machine.

DOLPH

Really? I never would've guessed  
that about Smiley. She always  
seemed so quiet.

ZIGGY

Yeah, she had me fooled, too.

DOLPH

Well, it's too late to bolt now  
because here she comes. Sorry,  
Ziggy.

ZIGGY

Great! I think I will take a hit  
of that puffer fish after all.

DOLPH

Sure, here you go.

Dolph passes the puffer fish over to Ziggy.

ZIGGY

Just gnaw on it, right?

DOLPH

That's right.

Ziggy is careful not to bite down on the puffer fish too  
hard.

ZIGGY

Okay, I see what you mean. This  
stuff really works fast.

Smiley finally reaches Ziggy and Dolph.

SMILEY

Hi Ziggy. Hi Dolph.

DOLPH

What's up, Smiley?

SMILEY

Ziggy, why didn't you answer me?  
Didn't you hear me calling you?

ZIGGY

No, I didn't.

SMILEY

That's good to know because for a  
second there I thought you were  
avoiding me.

ZIGGY

Avoiding you? Don't be silly.

SMILEY

Yeah right.

ZIGGY

What are you doing out of  
formation, anyway? Does Loop-The-  
Loop know where you are?

SMILEY

I snuck away as soon as his back  
was turned.

ZIGGY

You're bad, Smiley. I hope I haven't been rubbing off on you.

SMILEY

No, that's not it. Do you know that the crabby jerk had me do sit-ups on the sandbar in front of everybody just because I asked him about the sardines? How do you like that? He couldn't think of an explanation, so he took it out on me.

Ziggy offers Smiley a hit of puffer fish to shut her up.

ZIGGY

Here, why don't you hit some of this puffer fish to tide you over?

SMILEY

Puffer fish? Are we still living in the 1990s? If you guys really wanna party I could take you to the spot.

ZIGGY

What spot? There's a spot?

DOLPH

Yeah, okay, if you've got something to offer that's stronger than puffer fish, lead the way.

Ziggy sets the puffer fish free.

EXT. THE INDIAN OCEAN - CORAL REEF - MOMENTS LATER

Smiley brings Ziggy and Dolph to a gorgonian.

SMILEY

Well, here we are.

Ziggy and Dolph look around and couldn't be less than impressed.

ZIGGY

What's the big deal, Smiley? You've seen one coral reef, you've seen them all. Am I missing something?

SMILEY

It's not any old reef. It's a gorgonian.

DOLPH

Okay, so it's a gorgonian.

SMILEY

The thing about gorgonian fronds is that they're covered with a mucus that contains anti-inflammatory and microbial properties. One lick of that stuff, and you'll float right up to the surface like a dead goldfish in a bowl.

DOLPH

You first, Ziggy.

ZIGGY

All right, I'll try it.

Ziggy gets close to the gorgonian fronds and takes a lick.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

I'm not feeling anything.

DOLPH

Give it a minute, Ziggy.

Ziggy continues to lick the fronds and gets a taste of hallucinogen in his face.

ZIGGY

There it is. I think I just got zapped with something.

Ziggy looks around and starts tripping.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

Whoa. You weren't kidding, Smiley. We've been missing out, Dolph.

Ziggy loses sight of Smiley and Dolph.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

Smiley, where did you go?

Ziggy looks around and catches Smiley and Dolph getting it on.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

There you guys are. I thought I lost you.

(pause)

Man, this stuff really is strong.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

For a minute there, it looked like  
the two of you were, you know.  
That's crazy, right?

Ziggy cracks himself up and takes another lick of the  
fronds.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

EXT. THE SHALLOWS - DAY

Two Summers later. Ziggy has fallen on hard times and  
has had to resort to being hand fed by people at tourist  
attractions to keep from starving to death.

JACK, the hand-feeding instructor, supervises as tourists  
line up to feed the dolphins.

JACK  
(thick Australian  
accent)

Okay, people, gather around. If  
you're lucky enough to be called  
out for a feed, please do not be  
tempted to pet the dolphins.

Ziggy comes forward to be fed.

JACK (CONT'D)  
Ah, here comes a dolphin now.  
Let's get started. Who wants to  
be first?

Tourists raise their hands at once.

JACK (CONT'D)  
How about you, Ma'am? You with  
the fisherman hat. That's right.  
Step right up. Don't be afraid.

UMA, tourist wearing a fisherman hat, steps forward to  
pet Ziggy.

JACK (CONT'D)  
Hello, Love, tell us who you are,  
and where you are from.

UMA  
My name is Uma, and I'm from  
Belfast.

JACK

Well, Uma, from Belfast. My name is Jack, and welcome to Australia.

UMA

Nice to meet you, Jack.

JACK

Have you been enjoying yourself here so far?

UMA

Oh, I've been having the best time.

JACK

Glad to hear it.

UMA

I'm so nervous. I love dolphins, but I'm so nervous. Dolphins don't bite, do they?

JACK

Don't worry, Love, you just listen to my instructions, and everything will turn out fine.

UMA

Okay, I'm ready. What do I do?

JACK

You know what? Before we get started, let me see if I could get him to work for his meal. Wouldn't you like to see him do some somersaults in the air?

UMA

To see him somersault would be awesome, I believe that is the word the young kids are saying these days.

JACK

Well, then, let me see if I could get him to do that.

(to Ziggy)

Okay, you've got a request. You wanna fish?

Jack holds a fish by the tail and teases Ziggy by waving it in his face.

JACK (CONT'D)

Not so fast, you're gonna have to somersault for me, first.



JACK (CONT'D)

Give me five somersaults in a row,  
and then you'll get your fish.

ZIGGY (V.O.)

Oh, so, now, I'm like some kind of  
circus animal.

JACK

What's the matter? Don't you want  
to eat? Let's see you  
somersault.

ZIGGY

What did I do to deserve this?

Ziggy starts reminiscing about the falling out he had  
with his old pod a year earlier.

EXT. RESEARCH BOAT - DAY - FLASHBACK

ERNESTO and CARMEN, a husband and wife team of wildlife  
filmmakers are being rocked by choppy waters.

CARMEN

We've been out here for hours,  
Ernesto. If the sardines haven't  
turned up by now, I don't think  
they're ever going to turn up.

ERNESTO

No, don't talk like that, Carmen.  
I have a feeling this year is  
going to be different. Let's give  
it another hour, okay? If nothing  
turns up by then, we'll call it a  
day.

CARMEN

Hey, what do you think of "Man,  
Woman, and Wild" as a title for  
the documentary?

ERNESTO

"Man, Woman, and Wild?" I think  
that works. Yeah, I like that.

Carmen tilts her head back when she rolls her eyes and  
spots a flock of seabirds hovering over something in the  
water.

CARMEN

Wait a minute. I think  
something's happening.

Carmen looks through the binoculars hanging around her  
neck.

ERNESTO

What do you see?

CARMEN

I can't really tell from here, but they're either Gannets or shearwaters.

ERNESTO

How far?

Ernesto gets his own binoculars to see what Carmen sees.

CARMEN

About a mile away from here.

ERNESTO

A mile away it is.

Ernesto raises the anchor and starts the engine.

EXT. OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA - MOMENTS LATER

BOBBY, Smiley's offspring, is too afraid to swim through the ring bubbles his mother keeps blowing out of her blowhole.

SMILEY

You don't have to be afraid of them, Bobby. They're only bubbles. They won't hurt you.

The bubbles burst before Bobby could build up the courage to swim through them.

SMILEY (CONT'D)

Okay, I'll blow some more bubbles for you.

Smiley is distracted by the boat speeding across the surface above her.

SMILEY (CONT'D)

Crazy people. Where are they heading in such a hurry?

(to Bobby)

Sorry, Bobby, play time is over. Now, come along. Mommy's got to check on something.

Smiley and Bobby break the surface and see the back of Ernesto's research boat.

EXT. CORAL REEF - MOMENTS LATER

Dolph catches Ziggy indulging himself in the gorgonian and confronts him about his substance abuse problem.

DOLPH

I thought I'd find you here. Get out of the Gorgonian, Ziggy!

ZIGGY

(groggy)

Why?! What are you talking about? You again, huh? Why don't you leave me alone?

DOLPH

What about Bobby? He looks up to you, although, I don't know why. If you won't clean yourself up, the least you could do is think of him.

ZIGGY

I told you to mind your own business. Go get a kid of your own, and stop telling me how to raise mine. How bout that?

DOLPH

Ziggy, we've been through this. You don't know if Bobby is yours.

ZIGGY

I do know!

DOLPH

Any male in this pod could be Bobby's father. It's not a pretty situation, don't none of us like it, but it's just a fact that you're just going to have to accept.

ZIGGY

And I'm telling you for the last time that Bobby is mine. What do you want me to do, hit you over the head with a 23andMe kit? How am I supposed to do that in the middle of nowhere?

Smiley shows up to stop the bickering between Ziggy and Dolph.

SMILEY

Would you two knock it off?!  
Unless, of course, you want some  
other pod of dolphins to beat us  
to the shoal of sardines just  
about a mile away from here?

DOLPH

How do you know there's a shoal of  
sardines a mile away from here?

SMILEY

Because there's a flock of  
seabirds hovering over something  
in the water. That could only  
mean one thing.

DOLPH

What do you say, Ziggy? Are you  
up for it?

ZIGGY

Let's do it.

EXT. OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN - MOMENTS LATER

A flock of Gannets are hovering twenty feet in the air,  
looking down at a massive shoal of sardines that are  
about fifty feet below the surface.

GANNET #1, an adolescent, arrives at his first Annual  
Sardine Run event ever and gets schooled by some of the  
older Gannets who have been around the block a few times.

GANNET #1

How does it look? Do you see  
them? What are we waiting on?

GANNET #2, who is like a mentor to some of the younger  
gannets attending the sardine run for their first time,  
won't dive in until the sardines are well within diving  
range.

GANNET #2

They're right down there.

GANNET #1

Oh yeah, I see them. Thanks old-  
timer.

Gannet #2 stops the young Gannet from diving in too soon.

GANNET #2

Whoa! Where do you think you're  
going?

GANNET #1  
 What does it look like? I'm going  
 in.

GANNET #2  
 No, you're not.

GANNET #1  
 I'm not, huh? Well, who's gonna  
 stop me?

GANNET #2  
 How old are you, kid? It really  
 doesn't matter. Whatever your  
 age, I'm guessing that this is the  
 first time you've ever been to one  
 of these things, right?

GANNET #1  
 Yeah, so what?

GANNET #2  
 That's what I thought. Well, I've  
 been doing this for a long time,  
 and I'm not about to let one of  
 you young, know nothing, punks  
 ruin the feeding frenzy that's  
 about to go down by diving in too  
 early, so you're gonna stay up  
 here with the rest of us old-  
 timers until the sardines are well  
 within diving range. You got  
 that?

GANNET #1  
 Okay, Okay. Chill out.

EXT. RESEARCH BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Ernesto and Carmen stop their boat twenty feet away from  
 the sardine run to avoid any impact from dive-bombing  
 gannets.

ERNESTO  
 Okay, this is close enough.

CARMEN  
 Aye aye, Captain.

Carmen slows the boat down and brings it to a complete  
 stop.

CARMEN (CONT'D)  
 Here you are, Ernesto. I know how  
 much you've been dying to put your  
 spy cam to the test.

Carmen hands Ernesto the SPY CAM, a lifelike cape fur seal with a built-in camera.

ERNESTO

Yup, give it here.

Ernesto looks into the eyes of the spy cam and sees himself on the monitor.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)

Whatever you do, don't blow your cover, Spy Cam.

Ernesto tosses the spy cam overboard.

EXT. THE FEEDING FRENZY - CONTINUOUS

The spy cam sinks about fifteen feet below the surface before swimming close enough to film a meeting of the minds between a bunch of seals and a school of reef sharks.

REEFER, ring leader of a school of reef sharks, can't wait to prey on the sardines.

REEFER

Hey, Shadow, are we ever going to get this feeding frenzy going, or what?!

SHADOW, the dominate male in a herd of cape fur seals, is daunted by the sheer size of the shoal of sardines.

SHADOW

Hold on, Reefer, look at the size of that thing. It's best that we wait for the dolphins to show up. You know we can't do this without them.

REEFER

Who says? We could at least give it a shot, right? We got the gannets up top, seals and sharks are all accounted for. What do we need with the dolphins?

SHADOW

With all due respect, Reefer, but you've seen the dolphins at work. None of us could swim laps around a bait ball of sardines this big and hold it together the way dolphins can.

REEFER

I'm just afraid that if we wait  
any longer...

The sounds of clicks and whistles alert the sharks and  
seals of incoming dolphins.

REEFER (CONT'D)

Those dolphins really know how to  
make an entrance, don't they?

The spy cam gets a good shot of Ziggy coming in fast with  
the rest of his pod behind him.

SHADOW

We were just talking about you.  
How good of you to finally show  
up.

ZIGGY

(slurring his words)  
Hey, don't start, all right?  
We're here, aren't we? Now, how  
bout letting us get to work?

Shadow looks into Ziggy's eyes and can see that they're  
dilated and shaky.

SHADOW

All right, what are you on? I  
know you're on something, what is  
it?

Dolph vouches for Ziggy.

DOLPH

No, he's not on anything. He's  
clean.

SHADOW

Okay, go ahead, but remember  
what's at stake here. This is the  
first Sardine Run in two years,  
and with climate change wreaking  
havoc on our ecosystem, who knows  
if we'll ever get another chance  
at a bait ball like this again, so  
don't screw this up.

DOLPH

Absolutely, I couldn't agree with  
you more. We'll do a good job,  
not to worry.

Spy cam tries to get a close up shot of Ziggy and is told  
to back off.

ZIGGY

(to Shadow)

You wanna get your boy outta my  
face?

Shadow pulls spy cam out his Ziggy's way, and not even he  
can tell that spy cam is a fake.

SHADOW

(to spy cam)

It's all right, just stay out of  
their way.

The sardines see the dolphins coming and huddle together  
to form a massive bait ball, their only defense  
mechanism. Ziggy and his pod swim laps around the bait  
ball to hold it together, bringing it closer to the  
surface, so that they'd be easier to catch.

EXT. OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

The sky is so packed with gannets, they're running out of  
elbow room.

GANNET #1

All right, look, they're within  
our diving range. Now, can we  
dive-bomb the heck out of these  
things?!

GANNET #2

Yeah, kid, this is what we've been  
waiting for. Follow my lead.

Gannet #2 shoots out of the sky with his wings pulled  
back and hits the water at 40mph. Gannet #1 follows  
suit, and so do all the other gannets there to feed on  
the sardines.

EXT. RESEARCH BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Carmen looks through her binoculars and watches the  
action.

CARMEN

Are you seeing this, Ernesto?!  
Where are you? You're missing  
everything.

Ernesto is glued to the monitor watching the action  
taking place below the surface through the eyes of spy  
cam.



ERNESTO

I'm watching everything on the monitor. Spy cam is capturing everything. This is Emmy award winning stuff I'm watching.

EXT. THE FEEDING FRENZY - CONTINUOUS

Swimming laps around the bait ball starts to disorient Ziggy. Fear of getting struck by a dive-bombing gannet makes it harder for Ziggy to concentrate on what he's doing.

ZIGGY

Watch it, you crazy birds!

GANNET #1

Oh, sorry, my dude, I didn't see you there.

Dolph has to go behind Ziggy's back to pick up his slack.

DOLPH

Come on, Ziggy, what are you so afraid of? You're letting the sardines get away from you.

ZIGGY

Take over for me would you, Dolph?

DOLPH

What's wrong with you? You're making us look bad in front of the sharks.

ZIGGY

Just take over for me.

DOLPH

Get out of the way.

Shadow is observing the Dolphins at work.

SHADOW

Where did these dolphins learn how to corral a bait ball? They're letting the sardines slip right past them.

REEFER

It's a good thing you got us sharks to pick up the slack.

(to his fellow  
sharks)

We're up, guys. Damage control.

The reef sharks snatch up the sardines trying to escape into the abyss.

SHADOW

You know, I thought you dolphins were coming here to make our job easier, but you only doubled our work load.

Shadow and the rest of the seals eject the dolphins from the bait ball to do damage control.

DOLPH

I know we're a bit rusty. But you gotta keep in mind that we've been out of practice for quite some time.

SHADOW

Your services are no longer required. My seal team and I will take over from here. Please, gather your pod and go.

DOLPH

Whoa, whoa, whoa, wait a minute! The bait ball's not tight enough yet. We could make it even tighter.

SHADOW

And I know that your friend over there is strung out on something. My guess is that it's Puffer fish. Whatever the substance, you should really think about getting your friend the help that he needs.

DOLPH

All right, fine, we'll go, but good luck trying to hold that bait ball together without us.

Shadow asks the spy cam to help him with the bait ball.

SHADOW

Come on, guy, you're with me.

Spy cam stays back to film the seals and sharks at work.

DOLPH

Ziggy, come on. We're leaving.

ZIGGY

What are you talking about? We're not finished here.

DOLPH

Yeah, we are. You got us all ejected.

ZIGGY

Ejected?! What do you mean I got us all ejected?! Who said we're ejected?! The seals?! The sharks?

DOLPH

It doesn't matter, Ziggy. Leave it alone. We're not wanted here.

SMILEY

Hey, guys, what's going on?

DOLPH

We're leaving. We've been ejected from the bait ball.

SMILEY

Why?

DOLPH

Let's not talk about it here. Come on, everybody.

The dolphins leave what is left of the bait ball to the sharks, seals, and gannets.

SHADOW

You can't trust anybody these days. If you want something done right, you gotta do it yourself.

Shadow and the other seals are working with the sharks to salvage the bait ball.

REEFER

Forget it, Shadow, you've done all that you could. The bait ball is lost.

SHADOW

What a shame.

The sardines take advantage on the shortage of predators and make their escape to the abyss. Spy cam wraps filming and returns to the research boat.

EXT. THE SOUTH AFRICAN COASTLINE - MOMENTS LATER

With the feeding frenzy behind them, Ziggy's pod ambush him with an intervention.

SMILEY

Okay, can we talk now? What happened back there? Why were we ejected?

DOLPH

Nice going, Ziggy, the one time outta the year when we get to collaborate with predators other than our own species, and you had to mess everything up because of your habit.

ZIGGY

Is that how you all feel about me?

Ziggy looks to the other members of his pod and sees that none of them could look him in the eye.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

Well, if that's how you all feel, then maybe it's time for me to go.

DOLPH

What do you mean maybe?

ZIGGY

Very well, then. I'm outta here.

Smiley stops him from leaving.

SMILEY

Ziggy, don't go.

DOLPH

What are you doing, Smiley? It's the best thing for all of us.

SMILEY

I'm sorry , Dolph, but I can't help to feel somewhat responsible, especially, when I was the one who took him to the spot and got him hooked on gorgonian fronds in the first place.

ZIGGY

Yeah, and don't think for a second that I didn't catch the two of you getting it on that day at the spot.

SMILEY

You saw that?

ZIGGY

At first, I thought the whole thing was just a hallucination, but it wasn't a hallucination, was it? The two of you really were getting it on.

SMILEY

I'm sorry, Ziggy, I'm not proud of what I did, but it was the only way I could think of to ensure Bobby's survival.

ZIGGY

Cheating on me with my friends was the only way to ensure Bobby's survival? That doesn't make sense.

SMILEY

I had to go out of my way to make it look like any one of you could've fathered my Bobby, if I hadn't, you all would've been tempted to end his life just to get me back on my estrus cycle, and don't any of you tell me that wouldn't have happened because you boys know how you get.

Smiley lets out a big sigh of relief.

SMILEY (CONT'D)

There, I said it. Oh, what a relief. I've been carrying that around with me for so long.

Ziggy looks around at all the other male members in the pod.

ZIGGY

Whatever Smiley. How could you do this to me?

SMILEY

Well, I really don't know what else to say, except that this is what goes on in Dolphin society, Ziggy.

Ziggy takes one last look at Bobby.

ZIGGY

I'm sorry, but this is all too Maury Povich for me. Take care of yourself, Bobby. Be good.

Ziggy swims away, and Smiley tries to stop him from leaving.

SMILEY

Ziggy, don't leave like this!  
Come back!

Ziggy can hear Smiley pleading with him to stay in the background but doesn't look back.

EXT. THE SHALLOWS - DAY - PRESENT

Jack is still trying to get Ziggy to perform tricks for him and the tourists by waving a fish in his face.

ZIGGY

(thinking out loud)  
Oh yeah, that's how I ended up here.

JACK

So how bout it? You gonna perform for us, or what?

ZIGGY

I'm just glad that no one from my old pod is around to see me like this.

When an empty bag of Famous Amos cookies floats past him, Ziggy comes to his senses and shames the tourists that are waist-deep in water, waiting on him to perform tricks.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

(to the tourists)  
Hey, hey, hey, what is this?! Do I come into your homes and crap on your floors?!

Ziggy scoops the empty bag of Famous Amos cookies with his tail and gives it to a tourist to take with him when he leaves the water.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

Then, I would appreciate it if you wouldn't do it in mine!

Ziggy swims past Jack and leaves the tourist attraction for good.

JACK

So, you're leaving?! That's okay, if you wanna leave, go ahead and leave. That's just fine by me.

JACK (CONT'D)

Good luck trying to hunt for food  
without friends.

Ziggy swims out into deeper waters and doesn't look back.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE OPEN OCEAN - DAY

Ziggy is mocked by a school of flying fish that he is  
trying to make a meal out of.

FLYING FISH #1 turns to a friend on his left and says...

FLYING FISH #1

Hey, Check it out.

FLYING FISH #2 looks back at Ziggy and can't help but  
feel sorry for him and tries not to laugh.

FLYING FISH #2

Yeah, I know, I saw him --- Poor  
guy.

FLYING FISH #1

Poor Guy?! You're not going soft  
on me, are you?

FLYING FISH #2

No, I'm not going soft, but I'm  
not gonna humiliate the guy  
either.

Flying fish #1 skims the surface of the water on his tail  
backwards and continues to mock Ziggy.

FLYING FISH #1

Look at you, you call yourself a  
dolphin?!

Flying fish #1 sees Ziggy coming and laughs as he takes  
flight.

FLYING FISH #1 (CONT'D)

Ha-Ha! Missed again. Nice try,  
though.

Flying fish #2 tries to lift Ziggy's spirit.

FLYING FISH #2

I shouldn't be the one to have to  
tell you this, but the odds of a  
lone dolphin making a success of  
himself in the wild is slim to  
none.

## FLYING FISH #2 (CONT'D)

You ought to find some friends,  
you might get better at this.

Ziggy doesn't appreciate being lectured to and goes after flying fish #2.

## FLYING FISH #2 (CONT'D)

I'll just leave you with that.

Flying fish #2 takes flight and Ziggy gives up the chase.

## ZIGGY

(thinking out loud)

This was a mistake. I must have  
been out of my mind for turning my  
back on Jack. What is going to  
happen to me now? Think, Ziggy,  
think.

Ziggy is tempted to fall off the wagon when he sees a puffer fish floating nearby without a care in the world.

## ZIGGY (CONT'D)

(to the puffer fish)

Oh yeah, sure, you I could catch,  
right? But not the flying fish  
that was taunting me.

The puffer fish inflates himself to keep from being eaten.

## ZIGGY (CONT'D)

What a weakling I am... three  
months of sobriety, and here I am  
about to relapse on the first  
puffer fish that comes floating my  
way.

Ziggy cocks back his tail to smack the puffer fish out of the water and away from him.

## ZIGGY (CONT'D)

Go on. Get outta here.

Ziggy stops himself before going through with it.

## ZIGGY (CONT'D)

Hold up. Wait a minute! Let's  
not be so hasty. Let's think  
about this for a minute.

Ziggy's darkside starts talking into his right ear.



## ZIGGY'S DARKSIDE

That's what you need, all right,  
Ziggy, just one hit of that puffer  
fish to take the edge off. If not  
for yourself, do it for me.

Ziggy's good side starts talking into his left ear.

## ZIGGY'S GOOD SIDE

Don't listen to the darkside of  
yourself, Ziggy. You know what  
you have to do. You worked so  
hard to clean yourself up. Don't  
throw it all away. Besides, how  
are you to survive on your own if  
you're getting wasted on puffer  
fish every chance you get?

Ziggy's darkside intervenes.

## ZIGGY'S DARKSIDE

I'm hearing nothing but noise over  
there, Ziggy. You need to hit  
that puffer fish hard like  
yesterday.

Ziggy shakes the voices out of his head.

## ZIGGY

All right, enough, get outta my  
head, the both of you! I've made  
up my mind.

## ZIGGY'S DARKSIDE

So, what's it going to be?

Ziggy gives the puffer fish one last look before swatting  
it out of the water.

## ZIGGY

Now, get out of my head, the both  
of you! I could go cold turkey  
without hearing voices in my head.

The voices in his head go away.

INT. ANIMAL PLANET GENESIS AWARDS CEREMONY - NIGHT

MARTY STOUFFER, one of the presenters at the award show,  
is being announced on his way to the stage.

## ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Please welcome to the stage two  
time Animal Planet Genesis Award  
recipient, Marty Stouffer.

With the theme music from his Nature show "Wild America" playing in the background, Marty Stouffer walks up to the podium and waits for the applause from audience to subside.

MARTY STOUFFER

We live in a time when now more than ever all of us need to understand the level of threat that Land and Sea animals alike are under. That is why wildlife documentary filmmakers who are revolutionaries play such a vital role in shining the spotlight on, not only the level of threat, but on the solutions available for us to combat them. Here are the nominees for best Wildlife documentary feature.

The audience watch the jumbotron as Marty Stouffer reads off the names of the nominees and their work.

MARTY STOUFFER (CONT'D)

Omar LaRue, "I don't crap where I eat."

A round of applause from the audience for Omar LaRue.

MARTY STOUFFER (CONT'D)

Ernesto Beltran and Carmen Winslow, "The Thing About Lemurs."

A round of applause from the audience for Ernesto and Carmen.

MARTY STOUFFER (CONT'D)

Sho Kasuki, "The Arribada."

A round of applause from the audience for Sho Kasuki.

MARTY STOUFFER (CONT'D)

Mandla Adisa, "Fire and Ice."

A round of applause from the audience for Mandla Adisa.

MARTY STOUFFER (CONT'D)

And the award for best Wildlife Documentary feature goes to...

All four of the nominees on the jumbotron in split screen.

MARTY STOUFFER (CONT'D)

Man, these things are really tough to get open.

Marty Stouffer struggles to get the envelope open, and accidentally tears it in half.

MARTY STOUFFER (CONT'D)

Whoops!

A gasp from the audience.

MARTY STOUFFER (CONT'D)

That's okay. No body panic. You know what I'll do? I'll just hold the two halves together like this.

Marty Stouffer holds the two halves together and reads the name of the winner.

MARTY STOUFFER (CONT'D)

The award goes to Omar Larue, "I don't crap where I eat."

Omar LaRue gets a round of applause from the audience, but the look of disapproval on Ernesto's face is displayed on the jumbotron for all to see.

CARMEN

(whispers in  
Ernesto's ear)  
Ernesto, change your face.

ERNESTO

Change my face?

CARMEN

People can see you. You look like you're being a bad loser, smile or something.

Ernesto sees himself on the jumbotron and claps with a forced smile.

INT. THE AFTER PARTY - MOMENTS LATER

Carmen watches Ernesto apologize to the Animal Planet Genesis award winner from a distance. Ernesto walks away from the winner and makes his way to Carmen.

CARMEN

So, how did he take it? Did you apologize?

ERNESTO

Yeah, I apologized. I told him that I was actually happy for his win, and that I was sorry if it didn't appear that way on the jumbotron. Whether he believed me or not, that's another thing.

Ernesto and Carmen head for the exit doors.

CARMEN

Well, no matter what, you did the right thing, Ernesto. I'm proud of you.

ERNESTO

If only those dolphins had stuck around long enough for us to get the footage we needed to shoot the documentary we wanted to make...

(beat)

I mean, not that I'm knocking lemurs, but come on...

Ernesto annoys Carmen when he gestures with air-quotes.

CARMEN

You couldn't get all that off your chest without air-quotes, Ernesto? You know how much air-quotes irk me.

ERNESTO

Sorry. I keep forgetting about that.

CARMEN

Look at it this way, Ernesto. This year's Annual Sardine Run is just around the corner. Why don't we just go back to South Africa and get the footage we need to finish the "Man, Woman, and Wild" documentary once and for all?

ERNESTO

What's the use? Even the sardines know that the Annual Sardine Run isn't what it used to be. Thanks to global warming, most of the world's natural phenomena aren't what they used to be.

CARMEN

Yeah, but you won't be able to stop kicking yourself, unless we finish what we've started. So we might as well get back there.

ERNESTO

You're never gonna let this go, unless we do, right?

CARMEN

Nope.

ERNESTO

I didn't think so.

Ernesto holds the door open for Carmen and follows her out the building.

EXT. THE INDIAN OCEAN - DAY

It's the kickoff to a new sardine migrating season. A school of sardines follow a bloom of zooplankton up to the water's surface.

FLAKY, a friend of Gill's, gorges himself in front of him in an attempt to help him overcome his PTSD.

FLAKY

Gill, look around you. What do you see?

Flaky can't find Gill anywhere.

FLAKY (CONT'D)

Gill? Where are you, Gill?

Gill turns up on Flaky's right side.

GILL

I'm right here, Flaky.

FLAKY

Oh, there you are. Look around you. Tell me what you see.

GILL

I see about two million sardines gorging themselves.

FLAKY

That's right, and do you see anyone keeling over from tainted zooplankton? No.

GILL

Not yet, no.

FLAKY

Okay, now, watch me. Are you watching?

GILL

Yeah, I'm watching.

FLAKY

Here I go.

Gill watches Flaky pop a zooplankton into his mouth.

FLAKY (CONT'D)

You see?

GILL

How do you feel? Are you feeling okay?

FLAKY

Am I feeling okay? I feel fine, Gill. I'm telling you there's nothing to it.

Flaky grabs another zooplankton floating by.

FLAKY (CONT'D)

Here you go. Now you.

Flaky is having convulsions in front of Gill.

GILL

What's with the twitching? Are you sure you're feeling okay?

Flaky's eyes roll to the back of his head.

GILL (CONT'D)

Oh God! Flaky! Oh God! See, I knew it! It's happening again!

Gill moves in to help Flaky.

FLAKY

Ha-ha, I gotcha!

GILL

Not cool, Flaky! Not cool at all!

FLAKY

I'm sorry, Gill, I had to. I couldn't help it.

FLAKY (CONT'D)

But, in all seriousness, there is nothing tainted about this bloom of zooplankton.

Flaky grabs another zooplankton floating by.

FLAKY (CONT'D)

Okay, now you.

Gill examines the zooplankton before putting it in his mouth.

GILL

Why does it feel like I'm getting ready to eat something out of Mrs. Lovett's Pie Shop?

FLAKY

Come on. That's enough stalling, Gill.

Gill takes the zooplankton from Flaky and sucks it into his mouth.

FLAKY (CONT'D)

Yes! He's back! He is back!

Gill starts to think of River and spits it back out.

FLAKY (CONT'D)

Awe! What happened, Gill? Why did you do that?! You were almost there.

GILL

It's too soon! I'm not ready.

FLAKY

Of course, you are! It's been like three years. It's time that you get on with life, Gill.

Flaky grabs another zooplankton floating by and tries to force it on Gill.

FLAKY (CONT'D)

Here, try again.

SHELLY, a third party, doesn't like Flaky trying to force the zooplankton on Gill and puts a stop to it.

SHELLY

That's enough, Flaky! You heard him. He says he's not ready.

FLAKY

Well, if not now when, Shelly?  
He's gotta get over this PTSD  
thing of his sometime.

SHELLY

What's the hurry?! We've got all  
season to help him with that.

FLAKY

Whatever, man, look, we can't be  
out in the open like this. Let's  
go back to the depths, before we  
attract unwanted attention.

SHELLY

That's a good idea. Come on,  
Gill. We're leaving.

GILL

I'm sorry. I thought I'd be okay.

SHELLY

Don't worry about it.

FLAKY

You make me sad, Gill.

SHELLY

Lay off him, Flaky.

The sardines make their way back to the abyss.

INT. OCTOPUS LAIR - DAY

MOTHER OCTOPUS is in one corner, oxygenating a clutch of  
over two thousand eggs, and has not moved from that spot  
in weeks. A DECORATOR CRAB ventures into the Octopus's  
hideout and tempts her into leaving her clutch alone.

MOTHER OCTOPUS

Don't you tempt me, Crab! Get  
outta here!

The decorator crab heeds the octopus's warning and leaves  
the crevice. The octopus is torn between staying with  
her clutch or going after the crab.

MOTHER OCTOPUS (CONT'D)

But I'm so hungry, though. Don't  
worry, my babies, Mommy's not  
going anywhere. But it's been so  
long.

Mother Octopus moves from her spot for the first time in  
weeks.



MOTHER OCTOPUS (CONT'D)

I'll be right back, my babies.  
Mommy's got to go stretch her sea  
legs. I won't go far, though.  
You'll be able to see me the whole  
time.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE OCTOPUS LAIR - CONTINUOUS

Mother octopus comes out looking for the crab she shoed  
away.

MOTHER OCTOPUS

All right, where did you go,  
Crab?!

Mother octopus catches the decorator crab trying to  
disguise itself as part of the coral.

MOTHER OCTOPUS (CONT'D)

Ah-ha! Nice try, Crab. I see  
you. Don't you run from me. Come  
here.

His cover blown, the decorator crab hightails it out of  
there.

DECORATOR CRAB

Don't even think about it! Get  
away from me.

Decorator crab is in reverse with its pincers up to  
defend itself against the octopus.

MOTHER OCTOPUS

Give it up, little guy! You ought  
to know you don't stand a chance  
against me.

DECORATOR CRAB

Wait a minute. What am I doing?  
You don't have any strength left.  
You've been wasting away in that  
lair of yours for weeks,  
oxygenating your clutch.

MOTHER OCTOPUS

I'm warning you!

DECORATOR CRAB

No, I'm warning you. You better  
go back to your lair, before you  
fall prey to that moray eel behind  
you.

Mother octopus sees a MORAY EEL approaching but can't get away fast enough.

MOTHER OCTOPUS

Oh Crap!

The moray eel closes in on the mother octopus and gets a face full of ink.

MORAY EEL

Not the eyes! Don't let her get away!

Mother octopus uses jet propulsion to escape the eel only to run into its hunting partner, a GROUPER FISH.

GROUPER

Gotcha!

A school of sardines happen upon the life and death struggle between the octopus and the Grouper.

FLAKY

What do we have here?

The sardines look on but have a hard time seeing through the cloud of ink coming from the octopus.

SHELLY

Let's not stick around to find out.

FLAKY

Wait a minute! There's something not right here.

SHELLY

What are you talking about?

FLAKY

The way the grouper was able to tear the octopus apart from limb to limb with such ease.

SHELLY

What's so strange about that?

FLAKY

Are you kidding me? That could only mean one thing?

SHELLY

And what is that?

FLAKY

It means that her eggs have got to be around here somewhere.

FLAKY (CONT'D)

Spread out, everybody. Help me find them.

INT. OCTOPUS LAIR - MOMENTS LATER

The school of sardines venture into the crevice Mother Octopus was hiding in and find the clutch of eggs.

SHELLY

Wow.

FLAKY

That's what I thought. No wonder the octopus didn't put up more of a fight. She's been withering away in here looking after all these eggs.

Shelly can see through the capsules at all the larvas moving around inside.

SHELLY

How long will it be before they hatch?

FLAKY

It shouldn't be too long.

SHELLY

And now that their mother is gone, they have no one to look after them when they do. What a bummer. Let's get outta here.

FLAKY

Not so fast, Shelly. I just thought of something. If we can't get Gill here to overcome his fear of zooplankton, why don't we stick around and prey on these things?

SHELLY

What's the matter with you, Flaky? These babies are all that will be left of Mother Octopus's legacy. You leave these babies alone.

FLAKY

What do you say, Gill? Are you with me?

GILL

Yeah, I'm with you.

FLAKY

It's settled then. We'll wait.  
It won't be long now.

SHELLY

You guys are monsters.

EXT. OFF THE COAST OF AUSTRALIA - DAY

A series of clicks and whistles lead a pod of bottlenose dolphins to some missing pod members.

FLEET, a dominate male whose got remora fish clinging to his body, answers back with clicks and whistles of his own.

FLEET

Are you sure the distress calls  
are coming from this direction,  
Aquanetta?

AQUANETTA, a high ranking female with a chunk of her dorsal fin missing, is trying to keep up with Fleet.

AQUANETTA

Yes, I'm sure of it, Fleet?

FLEET

Please, let my guys be all right.  
Did you hear the urgency in the  
distress call? I've never heard  
Whiz sound so scared.

AQUANETTA

Don't go jumping to conclusions,  
Fleet. Let's find them, first.

EXT. OFF THE COAST OF AUSTRALIA - CONTINUOUS

WHIZ, a male dolphin with a swollen black eye, nurses his wounds while he waits for Fleet and the rest of the pod to arrive.

WHIZ

How does it look? Don't lie to  
me, Pinky. Is it bad?

PINKY, a high ranking female in Fleet's pod, checks on Whiz.

PINKY

No, don't touch it, Whiz. You're  
gonna make it worse. Any sign of  
Fleet, Squirt?

SQUIRT, Whiz's best friend, continues to send distress calls.

SQUIRT

No, I don't know what is taking them so long. It can't be the coordinates I've been giving them.

WHIZ

A part of me is actually dreading to see Fleet. I don't know how I'm going to explain to him what happened to Joy.

PINKY

What do you mean? Why don't you just explain to Fleet exactly what happened? We'll back you, won't we, Squirt?

Squirt sees a large pod of dolphins approaching and tries to flag them down.

SQUIRT

Not now, Pinky. I see a pod of dolphins coming in fast. This might be them.

Fleet tracks down his missing pod members and finds them in one piece.

FLEET

Thank goodness, we've found you. We've been worried sick. Is everyone okay?

AQUANETTA

Whiz isn't. Look at his eye.

WHIZ

My eye is fine. It looks worse than it feels.

FLEET

What about the rest of you? Pinky, are you hurt?

PINKY

Just a couple of scrapes, Fleet, nothing serious.

FLEET

What about you, Squirt? Are you hurt?

SQUIRT

I'm a little soar, but I'll live.

FLEET

We could hear your distress call from a mile away. We tried to get here as fast as we could, so is anybody going to tell us what happened here?

WHIZ

We were lucky to get away with our lives, that's what.

FLEET

Wait a minute! Aren't you missing someone? Where's Joy?

Whiz can't look Fleet in the eyes.

FLEET (CONT'D)

Whiz, where's my sister?

WHIZ

Okay, here's what happened.

Whiz walks Fleet through the moment his sister, Joy, was taken by a pod of juvenile dolphins.

WHIZ (CONT'D)

The four of us were swimming along just minding our own business when a gang of juveniles just swam up to us out of nowhere and surrounded us.

EXT. OFF THE COAST OF AUSTRALIA - DAY - FLASHBACK

Whiz, Joy, Squirt, and Pinky are using sonar to navigate through some murky waters.

WHIZ

Quiet, everybody!

Whiz can still hear clicking sounds.

WHIZ (CONT'D)

Joy, shut off your echo location.

JOY, Fleet's little sister, is on her guard.

JOY

I heard you the first time, Whiz. It's not me.

WHIZ

Squirt?

SQUIRT

It's not me either. I don't know where it's coming from.

JOY

Who do you think it is, Whiz?

WHIZ

I don't know, but keep your eyes open.

Whiz, Squirt, Joy, and Pinky find themselves surrounded by a large gang of Juvenile dolphins.

JOY

I'm scared, Whiz. What are we gonna do?

Whiz tries to stop the bachelor pod from swimming off with Joy.

WHIZ

I can't let you swim off with our friend.

MEANIE, ring leader of the juvenile pod, accepts Whiz's challenge.

MEANIE

Tough guy, huh?

Meanie has Bobby hold on to Joy while he kicks some butt.

MEANIE (CONT'D)

Take her, Bobby.

BOBBY

Yeah, sure, Meanie, I'll hold on to her for you. Go handle your business.

Meanie claps his jaws as a show of intimidation.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Uh-oh, you guys are in for it now. Whenever my friend starts clapping his jaws like that, you know he means business.

Joy pleads with the gang not to hurt her friends.

JOY

No, please, leave my friends alone!

Bobby keeps an eye on Joy while Meanie and the rest of his gang have it out with Whiz, Squirt, and Pinky.

WHIZ

There are too many of them! We  
gotta get outta here!

The gang of Juveniles allow Whiz, Pinky, and Squirt to  
get away with their lives.

JOY

You're never gonna get away with  
this.

MEANIE

Yeah, let's go guys. They might  
come back with more friends.

The gang of juveniles flee the area, taking Joy with  
them.

EXT. OFF THE COAST OF AUSTRALIA - DAY - PRESENT

Fleet blames himself for his sister's abduction.

FLEET

My poor sister. It's my fault.

AQUANETTA

It's not your fault, Fleet.

FLEET

How is this not my fault? It was  
my idea to split the pod up into  
groups and let them go off on  
their own.

AQUANETTA

No one here is blaming you, Fleet.  
Your idea for us to branch out was  
a good one. We were getting  
nowhere fast with all of us  
hunting for food in one place.

FLEET

Whiz, you say you heard one of  
them call the other Bobby?

WHIZ

That's right, I heard the ring  
leader call one of his goons  
Bobby.

FLEET

Well, it ain't much to go on, but  
at least it's something. All  
right, we've got to get Joy back.  
Whiz, I want you take us back to  
where it all went down.



WHIZ

I could do that. Follow me.

Whiz leads Fleet and the rest of the pod to the place where Joy was taken.

EXT. THE SHALLOWS - DAY

Meanie and his gang of juveniles come across a small school of fish in shallow water and see it as a good opportunity to practice some of their hunting techniques.

JOY

You guys are making a big mistake. My brother's probably looking for me right now, and he will stop at nothing to find me. Let me go now, and I'll do what I can to stop him from hurting you too bad.

MEANIE

Big brother, huh? Well, let me tell you something, baby girl, I eat overprotective big brothers for breakfast. Speaking of eating, you must be hungry by now.

JOY

I am.

MEANIE

Why didn't you say so? Would you like a fish from the sandbar?

JOY

I don't care.

MEANIE

Well, just to show that I'm not such a bad guy, my boys and I will fetch one for you. Maybe then you'll start being nicer to me.

JOY

I wouldn't hold my breath.

MEANIE

Let's go, fellas.

Meanie stops Bobby from tagging along.

MEANIE (CONT'D)

Not you, Bobby. Somebody's got to stay here and keep an eye on her.

BOBBY

Why does it have to be me?

MEANIE

Because you're the new guy.  
Everyone's got to pay their dues.  
Don't worry, we won't be long.

Meanie and his gang chase after the fish, leaving Bobby alone with Joy.

JOY

Don't get any ideas.

BOBBY

What ideas?

JOY

Whatever ideas you got going on in  
your dirty mind.

BOBBY

How long does it take to catch a  
single fish?!

The school of fish are trapped between the dolphins and the sandbar.

MEANIE

All right, so, we're all on the  
same page, right? On the count of  
three...

HUNTER, Meanie's bestie, has scars from jellyfish stings all over his body.

HUNTER

And try not to get stranded on the  
sandbar.

MEANIE

Thank you, Hunter. Okay, here we  
go. One, two, three!

Meanie and his gang charge the fish, push them out of the water, and up the sandbar.

HUNTER

Careful, Meanie, you don't wanna  
go too far up the sandbar.

Hunter grabs a fish with his teeth and works his way back into the water.

MEANIE

I'm okay. I could get him.

Meanie is trying to go for a fish that is out of his reach.

HUNTER

You're gonna get stuck, Meanie.  
You better start working your way  
back into the water.

Meanie finally gives up on the fish and starts working his way back into the water.

MEANIE

Uh-oh.

HUNTER

Uh-oh? What's uh-oh, Meanie?

MEANIE

I'm stuck.

HUNTER

Well, don't panic. Try rocking  
your body from side to side. That  
might work.

Meanie shifts his body and digs a deeper hole for himself.

MEANIE

Nothing.

Bobby watches the commotion happening on the sandbar from deeper water.

BOBBY

Looks like Meanie's only hope is  
for the tide to come in and pull  
him back into the water.

Joy sees that Bobby is distracted and seizes the opportunity to make a break for it.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Hey, where did she go?!

Bobby looks around for Joy and sees that she's got a big lead on him.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Hey, get back here!

Bobby tries to catch up to Joy.

JOY

Why don't you just leave me  
alone?!

Ziggy is close by and hears Joy's calls for help.

ZIGGY

Whoa! What seems to be the trouble, little lady?

JOY

Please, help me! Help me, please! You help me, and I'll owe you one.

ZIGGY

That won't be necessary. Just tell me what can I do to help.

JOY

I was being held against my will. I managed to get away from the creeps, but one of them is still after me. No matter what happens, promise me you won't let him take me again.

ZIGGY

Okay, I just hope I don't end up embarrassing myself.

JOY

Here he comes now. Oh my God, I can't even look at him.

Bobby finds Joy with some male he's never seen before.

BOBBY

Nice try, but play time is over. You're coming with me.

Bobby finally acknowledges the male Joy is hiding behind.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Beat it, guy! You don't wanna be sticking your nose in my business.

Ziggy recognizes Bobby.

ZIGGY

Bobby, is that you?

BOBBY

Who are you? How do you know my name?

Joy feels that she can't trust Ziggy.

JOY

Yeah, how do you know his name? Are you with him?

Ziggy tries to put Joy's mind at ease.

ZIGGY

Wait a minute. It's not what you think.

JOY

It's not what I think?! You just called him by his name. What else am I supposed to think?

ZIGGY

You don't understand. I'm his father.

JOY

His father?

ZIGGY

Well, at least, I think I am. We never could figure that one out, and we probably never will. The whole thing is very complicated. Anyway, I've been estranged for most of his young life, which is why he's having such a hard time remembering me.

BOBBY

So, you're Ziggy?

ZIGGY

That's right, Bobby.

BOBBY

Well, how do you like that? I thought you were dead, we all did.

ZIGGY

Well, I'm not.

BOBBY

Yeah, I can see that. So, where have you been all this time?

ZIGGY

I've been...

Bobby cuts Ziggy off.

BOBBY

You know, I would love to shoot the breeze with you, but I'm in a bit of a dilemma here. If I don't bring that female back with me, Meanie will get suspicious and think that we ran off together.

JOY

That's too bad because I am not going back with you.

ZIGGY

Come on now. I'm sure there's a way that we can resolve this.

JOY

Hey, unless your resolution involves me not going back with him, there's nothing else to talk about! I'm not going back with him, that's all there is to it.

ZIGGY

I don't think I like the sound of this friend of yours, Bobby. Whatever happened to Smiley, Dolph, and the rest of the pod?

BOBBY

Are you kidding? I aged out of the pod. I've been out on my own and running with my new friends for months now.

JOY

Give me a break. Those guys are not your friends. They treat you like a pledge who wants in on their fraternity.

BOBBY

No, they don't.

JOY

Look, I'll tell you what. If you help me get back to my family, I'd be willing to forget the whole thing. As a matter of fact, if all you want is to be a part of a crew, I'll even talk my brother into letting you join us.

ZIGGY

You've got to hand it to her, Bobby, at least she's trying to work with you. What do you say?

Bobby looks at Joy, then Ziggy, then back at Joy.

BOBBY

I say okay.

Joy lets out a burst of bubbles as a sigh of relief.

INT. OCTOPUS LAIR - DAY

The first baby octopus to hatch from his egg sack heads for the exit of the crevice and passes a sibling having trouble getting out of his egg sack.

BABY OCTOPUS #1  
Hey, you, a little help?

BABY OCTOPUS #2  
Uh-yeah, I don't know if I should. I wouldn't be doing you any favors by getting you outta of there. In fact, I think I would be doing you a huge disservice by getting you outta there. I just hatched out of that one all by myself and already I feel that I'm a much better mollusk for it. I'm like, look out world, you know?

BABY OCTOPUS #1  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, just save it!

Baby Octopus #1 is halfway out the sack.

BABY OCTOPUS #2  
That's it. You're almost there.

Baby Octopus #1 finally frees himself from his egg.

BABY OCTOPUS #2 (CONT'D)  
There you go! Good job! How do you feel? Tell me you're not like, look out world, on the inside.

BABY OCTOPUS #1  
Yeah, I've got to admit it does feel like I'm ready for anything.

BABY OCTOPUS #2  
I told you. See, I wasn't trying to be a jerk to you just now.

BABY OCTOPUS #1  
Don't worry about it. We're good.

Baby octopus #2 looks around for his mother.

BABY OCTOPUS #2  
So, shouldn't there be some kind of guardian here to greet us, or something?

BABY OCTOPUS #1  
Yeah, you're right. I wonder  
where she is.

BABY OCTOPUS #2  
I have no idea. Should we wait  
here until she shows up?

BABY OCTOPUS #1  
Yeah, we might as well.

A third baby octopus rears her little head.

BABY OCTOPUS #1 (CONT'D)  
I don't think we should be going  
anywhere just yet, not until every  
last one of us has hatched.

BABY OCTOPUS #2  
Yeah, safety in numbers and all  
that, right. Smart.

Baby octopus #1 and #2 tend to their sister.

EXT. SANDBAR - DAY

Two Beachcombers take time out for selfies with a  
stranded dolphin before returning him to his friends in  
the water.

HUNTER  
(to beachcombers)  
Hey, enough with the selfies, you  
idiots! Give us back our leader!

BEACHCOMBER #1 can sense the urgency coming from Meanie's  
friends.

BEACHCOMBER #1  
All right, Mate, let's put him  
back in.

BEACHCOMBER #2 gets his face as close to Meanie's as  
possible and snaps a picture.

BEACHCOMBER #2  
Hold on, Mate, what's the rush?

Meanie's underbelly is getting roasted by the hot sand.

MEANIE  
For the love of God, throw me back  
in! Have you no sense of decency?



BEACHCOMBER #1  
See, listen to that. He's going  
crazy. He wants to go back in.

BEACHCOMBER #2  
(to Meanie)  
Ah, quit your belly aching!

Beachcomber #2 takes one last selfie with Meanie.

BEACHCOMBER #2 (CONT'D)  
Okay, that will do.

Beachcomber #2 puts his phone away.

BEACHCOMBER #1  
Grab the other end. I got this  
end.

The beachcombers set a large towel down next to Meanie  
and roll him over on it.

BEACHCOMBER #1 (CONT'D)  
Ready? One, two, three.

The beachcombers both lift Meanie off of the hot sand and  
carry him to the water, releasing him to his friends.

BEACHCOMBER #2  
Be of good cheer, guys. You've  
got your friend back. You're  
welcome.

Beachcomber #2 takes his phone out again.

BEACHCOMBER #2 (CONT'D)  
(to the dolphins)  
Now, how bout one with all of you  
guys together?

The beachcombers can't decipher Hunter's vocalization.

HUNTER  
Why don't you quit now while  
you're ahead, before we pull you  
under and hold you down until you  
stop blowing bubbles.

Hunter gets aggressive and tears a whole in the backside  
of the Beachcomber's shorts.

BEACHCOMBER #2  
He's rabid! They all are!

The beachcombers run out of the water with their hands  
covering their naked backsides.

HUNTER

That's right! Get out of the water!

Hunter checks on Meanie.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

How are you feeling, Meanie?

Meanie winces when Hunter pats him on the back.

MEANIE

Owww, owww, owww! Don't touch me.

HUNTER

Oh, I'm sorry. You've got a nasty burn there. We've got to do something about that right away.

Meanie looks around for Bobby and Joy.

MEANIE

Wait a minute. Who are we missing? Where is Bobby?

HUNTER

He ran off with her.

MEANIE

He what?

HUNTER

You heard me right. He ran off with her.

MEANIE

Low-ranking, seabed wetting Bobby ran off with the future Ex-Mrs. Meanie? I'll kill him!

Hunter stops Meanie from going after Bobby and Joy.

HUNTER

Treating your burn comes first, Meanie, come on. You won't be killing anyone in your condition.

MEANIE

All right, fine, but, as soon as I'm better...

HUNTER

I know. I know.

The juveniles leave the sandbar behind them.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE OCTOPUS LAIR - DAY

Octopus babies venture out into the open ocean by the thousands. A shoal of sardines wait until they're all out before revealing themselves to them.

GILL

Look! Here they come now, Shelly. Look at them. There must be millions of them.

SHELLY

Awe, aren't they cute?

GILL

I don't know about cute. They look more like easy pickings and very appetizing if you ask me.

SHELLY

You know, Gill, I can't imagine how traumatizing that awful day must have been for you, but I gotta tell you I really don't care for what this PTSD of yours is turning you into. It's like you're a whole other you. I don't even recognize you anymore.

GILL

I don't like this anymore than you do, Shelly, but I still don't trust that the plankton is safe to eat. Do you?

SHELLY

No, not really.

GILL

Okay then. These guys are just now coming into the world, so there's no danger of any of us keeling over from food poisoning.

Baby octopus #1 doesn't know what to make of the shoal of sardines swimming towards him and his siblings.

BABY OCTOPUS #1

Hey, what do you make of that? Is that Mom?

BABY OCTOPUS #2

I hope not. She looks pretty terrifying.

BABY OCTOPUS #1  
 Yeah, I don't like this.  
 Something tells me we should go  
 back inside.

The sardines close in with their mouths wide open.

BABY OCTOPUS #1 (CONT'D)  
 Get back inside! Everyone get  
 back inside right now.

The babies scatter.

GILL  
 Nothing personal, little guy, but  
 it's survival of the fittest.

Gill closes in on one of the babies and gets a face full  
 ink.

GILL (CONT'D)  
 Hey, they could squirt ink this  
 early in life?! I didn't know  
 that!

Gill chokes on the ink and lets the octopus larvae get  
 away.

FLAKY  
 What's the matter with you, Gill?  
 Are you gonna let a little thing  
 like a face full of ink stop you?  
 Watch me. I'll show you how it's  
 done.

EXT. OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

Gannets flying overhead stop in mid-flight when they  
 notice the commotion going on below the surface.

GANNET #1  
 Hey, Hey, Hey, guys, there's  
 something going on down here!

GANNET #2  
 This better not be another false  
 alarm!

GANNET #1  
 I'm serious. There's something  
 happening down here! Come see for  
 yourself!

Gannet #2 can see the commotion going on down below.

GANNET #2

Well, what do you know? You're right. There is something going on down there.

GANNET #1

But they're not close enough to the surface, though. We'll have to wait until they're within our diving range before we could go in.

GANNET #2

Listen to the young buck! The young buck's finally learning. I'm so proud. You're so right, the sardines are not close enough to the surface, yet. But, it won't be long before the calvary gets here.

The gannets continue to keep an eye on the sardines.

EXT. THE INDIAN OCEAN - DAY

Bobby and Ziggy aren't close enough to hear the conversation Joy is having with Fleet and the other pod members.

BOBBY

What do you think she's telling them?

ZIGGY

I don't know. We'll find out soon enough.

BOBBY

Yeah, but they've been talking for a long time. I don't like it. I say we make a run for it.

ZIGGY

Relax, Bobby. Here she comes now.

Joy and her pod break from their huddle and approach Bobby and Ziggy.

FLEET

So, we talked it over. My sister explained everything to me.

Fleet gets in Bobby's face.

FLEET (CONT'D)

Bobby, is it?

BOBBY

Yes.

FLEET

You saw the error of your ways and brought my sister back to us in one piece, and for that, I'm willing to overlook your involvement in her abduction.

BOBBY

Thank you, Sir. And, again, I just want to say how sorry I am for all the trouble I caused you and yours.

FLEET

Let's not speak another word of this. The best thing for everyone right now is to let bygones be bygones and move forward from here.

BOBBY

I couldn't agree more.

Aquanetta is topside and notices a gathering of seabirds in the horizon. She then goes to Fleet to bring it to his attention.

AQUANETTA

Fleet.

FLEET

What is it, Aquanetta?

AQUANETTA

The gannets are hovering about thirty minutes away from here.

FLEET

All right, you all heard her. Let's hit it.

Ziggy decides not to tag along.

BOBBY

Come on, Ziggy.

ZIGGY

No, I won't be coming along, Bobby.

BOBBY

What are you talking about? Why not? Where are you going?

ZIGGY

Now, that we've patched things up, I could go ahead and scratch you off my list, but there are others, like Dolph, Smiley, and anyone else I might have rubbed the wrong way when I was getting messed up on puffer fish and gorgonian fronds that I have to track down.

BOBBY

You're gonna make amends with my mom?

ZIGGY

You don't think I should?

BOBBY

I don't know. I mean, wasn't she the reason why you left the pod in the first place?

ZIGGY

Her promiscuous behavior was part of it, but, you know, Bobby, Smiley wasn't lying when she said that she did what she did to ensure your survival, so don't be too hard on her.

BOBBY

Well, I better catch up to my new clique. They've got a heck of a lead on me.

ZIGGY

Yeah, go ahead. I better get going myself. You're gonna be just fine, Bobby.

BOBBY

Take care, Ziggy. I'll be seeing you.

Bobby swims away from Ziggy to catch up to Fleet and the rest of the pod.

EXT. OFF THE COAST OF AUSTRALIA - DAY

Hunter breaks the water's surface for some fresh air and sees a gathering of gannets in the horizon. He then goes to Meanie to bring it to his attention.

HUNTER

Feeling better, Meanie?

Gorgonian fronds provide relief for Meanie's burn.

MEANIE

Oh yeah. I'm feeling so much better. Thanks for caring, Hunter.

HUNTER

I'm glad to hear it. You look it. I hate to pull you away from all this fun, but I thought you should know...

MEANIE

Know what?

HUNTER

The Gannets, they're in the air hovering over something. It could be sardines.

Meanie continuously brushes his body against the gorgonian fronds.

MEANIE

Nah, I'll pass. I feel right at home here.

HUNTER

I'm sure you do. It's just that I'll bet you a hundred sand dollars that Bobby and Joy are probably on their way there now, unless, of course, you no longer want to kill him for stealing her away from you.

Meanie thinks it over.

MEANIE

You could be such a buzz kill sometimes, Hunter. All right, I'm coming. Give me five more minutes. I promise.

HUNTER

All right, five more minutes.

Hunter lets Meanie stay in the gorgonian a little longer.

EXT. THE INDIAN OCEAN - DAY

Flaky closes in on an octopus larvae and sucks it into his mouth.



FLAKY

Well, Gill? You getting the hang  
of it, yet?

Gill and Shelly detect the echo location from dolphins  
nearby and panic.

GILL

Do you hear that?

SHELLY

I do. How long before they get  
here, do you think?

GILL

Five minutes, maybe less, not much  
time at all.

FLAKY

Hey, what is it with you two?

GILL

It's over, Flaky! We've got to  
get back to the abyss now.

FLAKY

What are you crazy? We are not  
calling it quits.

SHELLY

Why don't you shut up and listen  
for once in your life, Flaky?

FLAKY

All right, I'll listen. What am I  
listening for?

Flaky can hear the dolphins closing in fast.

FLAKY (CONT'D)

Those sneaky fish wannabees ---  
they snuck up on us.

SHELLY

So, what do we do? Shouldn't we  
start heading down?

GILL

No, it's too late for that now.

FLAKY

He's right. It's time to huddle  
up. Get everybody to huddle up.

Flaky, Gill, and Shelly scramble to warn all the other  
sardines of impending danger.

SHELLY

Dolphins! Come on, Everybody.  
Bait ball! Everybody, get  
together!

Dolph, Smiley, Loop-The-Loop show up with the rest of the pod.

DOLPH

You're up, Smiley!

SMILEY

I'm on it.

Smiley circles the massive bait ball of sardines and blows a net of bubbles around them.

GILL

Shelly, Flaky get in the center of the bait ball. We'll stand a better chance of surviving the feeding frenzy, if we stay in the center.

Gill, Flaky, and Shelly try to squeeze their way to the center of the bait ball.

SMILEY

That's tight enough for me. Start bringing these guys up, Dolph!

DOLPH

You heard her, Loop-The-Loop, let's do it.

Dolph, Loop-The-Loop, and the rest of the pod start herding the sardines closer to the surface of the water.

EXT. OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

The sardines are within the diving range of the gannets hovering over them.

GANNET #2

That's are que.

Gannet #2 shoots out the sky and hits the water at 40mph.

GANNET #1

Leave some for me!

Gannet #1 follows #2 in and pierces right through the sardines' defenses.

EXT. RESEARCH BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Ernesto and Carmen get close enough to the action. Carmen has a camcorder trained on the dive-bombing birds hitting the water.

CARMEN

I can't wait for you to see these images, Ernesto.

ERNESTO

I'm sure they'll be impressive. You keep filming the gannets, and I'll concentrate on the feeding frenzy going on down below.

CARMEN

Love it, and what about spy cam?

ERNESTO

We might as well use him now.

CARMEN

Right.

Carmen puts down the camcorder and gets the spy cam ready.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Here you go.

Ernesto takes spy cam from Carmen and tosses him overboard. Carmen sits in front of the monitor and can see everything going on below the surface through spy cam's eyes. Using remote control, She pilots spy cam to get him closer to the action.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

Okay, let's see the participants.

Carmen gets spy cam to scan his surroundings and sees that the seals and reef sharks have arrived. Ernesto joins Carmen in front of the monitor.

ERNESTO

Are those sharks?

CARMEN

Uh-huh, seals and sharks.

ERNESTO

Hey, you're getting pretty good at this.

CARMEN

Thanks.

ERNESTO

Now get spy cam to show us the  
bait ball. Let's see how big this  
thing is compared to the last one.

Carmen gets spy cam to face the bait ball, and the image  
comes up on the screen.

CARMEN

Oh my goodness. Look at the size  
of that thing! How big would you  
say that is?

ERNESTO

I would say it's about the size of  
a nine story building. I don't  
know if it's as big as the one we  
saw the last time we were out  
here, but it's still a respectable  
size.

Ernesto and Carmen keep their eyes on the monitor.

EXT. THE FEEDING FRENZY - CONTINUOUS

Fleet and his pod show up to help with the bait ball.

SMILEY

Who are these guys?

DOLPH

A pod of dolphins who think they  
could just show up late and crash  
our feeding frenzy.

SMILEY

Should we say something to them?

DOLPH

Nah, that won't be necessary.  
There's plenty of sardines here to  
go around. No need to get  
territorial about it.

Shadow confronts Smiley and Dolph.

SHADOW

Well, well, well, I didn't expect  
you guys to show your faces around  
here, not after what happened last  
time.

DOLPH

Shadow.

SHADOW

I hope you guys are here to work this time. I don't want a repeat occurrence of what happened the last time.

DOLPH

Neither do we, Shadow, neither do we. You won't have to eject us from this feeding frenzy. We are here to work.

SHADOW

Uh-huh, and what about your friend, the one who had the problem? Were you guys able to get him straightened out? Where is he? I don't see him around.

DOLPH

I think he means Ziggy.

SMILEY

I know who he means.

DOLPH

You don't have to worry about Ziggy, Shadow. We're pretty sure he won't be showing his face around here today.

EXT. THE OPEN OCEAN - DAY

Meanie and his pod come across a lone dolphin.

HUNTER

Meanie, look, why don't we ask him if he's seen Bobby and Joy?

MEANIE

That's a good idea. Searching for them like this is getting us nowhere.

Ziggy finds himself surrounded by juvenile dolphins.

ZIGGY

Wait a minute, fellas, what's this all about?!

MEANIE

Excuse me, friend, no need to fret. You're not in any danger. We were hoping that you would be able to help us with something.

ZIGGY

If I can.

MEANIE

We're looking for two juvenile dolphins traveling together. One is a male, the other is female. Have you seen anything like that?

ZIGGY

No, nothing like that. Sorry, but now that I know what you're looking for, I'll be sure to keep an eye out for them.

MEANIE

Okay, thanks anyway. Have a good one.

ZIGGY

Like wise, Meanie.

Meanie is ready to move on when Hunter stops him.

MEANIE

Oh well, the search continues.

HUNTER

Wait a minute, Meanie, he called you by your name just now.

MEANIE CONT'D)

Yeah, he did just call me by my name.

Ziggy realizes that he just gave himself away and takes off.

HUNTER

He's running! I knew it!

Meanie and his gang give chase.

MEANIE

Don't let him get away!

Ziggy does all kinds of maneuvers to throw the gang off his tail.

ZIGGY

I don't know how I'm gonna get out of this one.

A sixty-eight foot long fin whale on its way up to the surface makes a noise like a freight train and comes between Ziggy and the gang.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

Yes!

Ziggy manages to escape.

MEANIE

Come on! Get outta the way, you  
freak of nature!

Meanie tries to hurry the whale along by smacking it on  
its side.

EXT. THE FEEDING FRENZY - DAY

The sardines are at their wits end.

SHELLY

Is it me, or is it getting harder  
to breathe? I feel like I'm about  
to pass out. Are we sucking all  
of the oxygen out of this thing,  
or what?

GILL

No, it's not just you, Shelly.  
We're all going to be feeling the  
same way the longer we stay here.

SHELLY

Now, you tell us, Gill?! It was  
your idea for us to get in the  
middle of the bait ball in the  
first place!

GILL

And I still stand by that idea.  
We would've been dead by now, if  
we had stayed on the outside of  
the bait ball.

SHELLY

So, what are we going to do now?

GILL

The last thing you want to do now  
is panic, Shelly. Just try to  
stay calm.

Gill sees a hole opening up at the bottom of the bait  
ball.

GILL (CONT'D)

Shelly, Flaky stick with me.  
We're getting outta here right  
now.

Gill leads Shelly, Flaky and a few other sardines through the opening and down to the depths.

SHELLY

We made it! You saved us, Gill.

GILL

We're not out of the woods, yet.  
Let's wait until we're in the  
clear before celebrating.

Gill sees a reef shark going after Flaky and warns him.

GILL (CONT'D)

Look out, Flaky!

Spy cam gets in the way of a reef shark going for a sardine and is taken apart with one bite.

GILL (CONT'D)

Are you all right?

FLAKY

Thanks to you. Man, that was a  
close one, huh?!

GILL

I don't know how many more of  
these close calls I could take.

Gill and the other sardines continue their descent to the abyss.

REEFER

What in the world?

Reefer doesn't know what to make of the wires coming out of spy cam.

SHADOW

What do you think you're doing,  
Reefer? You bit one of my guys?

REEFER

Shadow, yes, I bit him, but it's  
not what you think. I was going  
for a sardine, and he got in my  
way, that's all there is to it.  
Anyway, what are you so upset  
about?! Your guy isn't even real!

Reefer hands spy cam to Shadow.

REEFER (CONT'D)

Look at this! Look at my fronts!  
I look like a ragged tooth now.  
Did you know about this?!



Shadow doesn't want Reefer to think spy cam had him fooled.

SHADOW

What are you kidding? Of course, I knew he was a fake. What kind of boob do you take me for, anyway?

Reefer isn't buying it.

REEFER

Uh-huh.

EXT. RESEARCH BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Ernesto and Carmen work feverishly to get the picture back on the monitor.

CARMEN

I have no idea. I'm still checking. None of the cables are loose. Everything is connected.

ERNESTO

Something must have happened to spy cam.

CARMEN

That's gotta be it because there's nothing wrong on this end.

Ernesto starts to change out of his clothes into his diving gear.

CARMEN (CONT'D)

What are you doing, Ernesto?

ERNESTO

What does it look like I'm doing, Carmen? I'm getting ready to go down there.

CARMEN

Are you crazy?

ERNESTO

Hey, I don't care. We are finishing this documentary today. Now, are you coming or what?

Carmen sighs before changing out of her clothes and into her diving gear.

CARMEN

I can't believe we're doing this.

EXT. THE FEEDING FRENZY - CONTINUOUS

Dolph intervenes and puts a stop to the back and forth between Shadow and Reefer.

DOLPH  
Hey, what is this? What are you  
guys doing? Break it up!

Reefer shows Dolph pieces of spy cam.

REEFER  
Did you see this? Check it out.  
There are robots among us.

Reefer starts poking Shadow.

SHADOW  
What are you poking me for?

REEFER  
I'm just checking to see if you're  
real. How do I know you're not  
mechanical?

Reefer continues to poke Shadow.

SHADOW  
You're asking for it, Reefer!

DOLPH  
All right, that's enough, you two!  
Get back to work. Reefer, you're  
not even supposed to be up here.  
You're supposed to be at the  
bottom of the bait ball with the  
other sharks.

REEFER  
I'm going, I'm going.

Reefer lets the broken spy cam sink to the ocean floor and joins the other sharks at the bottom of the bait ball.

SHADOW  
You don't really believe I'm  
mechanical, do you, Dolph?

DOLPH  
Of course not, Shadow. Why don't  
you just get back to work?

Dolph can't believe his eyes when Ziggy shows up to the feeding frenzy.

DOLPH (CONT'D)  
 (thinking out loud)  
 Get outta here.

Shadow thinks Dolph is talking to him.

SHADOW  
 I'm going, I'm going, Dolph.

DOLPH  
 Not you, Shadow. I mean, yeah, I  
 do want you to get back to work,  
 but I wasn't telling you to get  
 outta here.

Dolph stops Ziggy from joining in on the feeding frenzy.

DOLPH (CONT'D)  
 You've got some nerve showing your  
 face around here, Ziggy.

ZIGGY  
 How's it going, Dolph? It's good  
 to see you. You look good.

DOLPH  
 Surprisingly, so do you. I  
 thought you'd be dead by now.

Smiley sees Ziggy and Dolph talking and swims by to say  
 hello.

SMILEY  
 Ziggy, is that you?

ZIGGY  
 Yeah, it's me. How are you,  
 Smiley?

SMILEY  
 What are you doing here?

DOLPH  
 What are you doing here, Ziggy?

ZIGGY  
 I knew that I would find you guys  
 here, so I came to make amends.

SMILEY  
 Make amends?

ZIGGY  
 Yeah, it's this twelve step thing  
 that I have to do as part of my  
 sobriety. I already made amends  
 with Bobby.

DOLPH

You what?

SMILEY

You saw Bobby?

ZIGGY

I sure did, and we patched things up.

SMILEY

How is he? How long ago did you see him?

ZIGGY

Not that long ago, actually.

Ziggy stops in mid-sentence when he sees Joy swimming around the bait ball.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

As a matter of fact, when I last saw him he was traveling with that young female there.

DOLPH

What female?

ZIGGY

Hey, Joy!

Joy hears Ziggy calling for her and stops to greet him.

JOY

Ziggy, you're here!

ZIGGY

Joy, yeah, I just got here.

JOY

So, Bobby was able to catch up to you after all?

ZIGGY

Catch up to me? Didn't he get here with you and your family?

DOLPH

No, Bobby's not here. We would've known if Bobby was here.

JOY

He said he had a bad feeling about you going off to look for your old friends on your own.

ZIGGY

Oh boy, we've got a problem here.

EXT. THE OPEN OCEAN - DAY

Bobby is searching for Ziggy via echo location.

BOBBY

Where are you, Ziggy? Answer me.

Bobby's sonar is picked up by Meanie and his gang.

MEANIE

Hold it! I'm picking up something.

HUNTER

So am I.

MEANIE

Where's it coming from?

HUNTER

From over there.

MEANIE

Let's check it out.

Bobby spies on the gang from the coral reef he's hiding behind.

BOBBY

Me, and my stupid Echo Location.

Meanie and his gang stop in their tracks when Bobby's trail runs cold.

MEANIE

Well, does anyone see him?

HUNTER

He can't be far. His trail ends right here.

MEANIE

Everybody, spread out. Find him. I want him found.

Bobby continues to hide behind the coral reef until the coast is clear.

BOBBY

What are they doing?! Why don't they just go away?

There is a hydrothermal vent right where Bobby is hiding.

MEANIE

Where are you, Bobby? I know  
you're here somewhere.

The hydrothermal vent spouts hot water that burns Bobby.

BOBBY

OWWWW! HOT!

Hunter sees Bobby and alerts Meanie.

HUNTER

Meanie! I see him. There he is.  
It's Bobby!

Bobby makes a run for it. Meanie and his gang give  
chase.

BOBBY

Back off, Meanie!

Bobby breaches the surface of the water to flag down any  
ally that might see him.

MEANIE

Give it up, Bobby! There's  
nowhere for you to go.

HUNTER

I could stop him, Meanie!

Bobby is rear-ended and spun around by Hunter.

BOBBY

You'll never take me alive,  
Meanie!

Bobby does what he can to keep the gang at bay.

MEANIE

Now, Bobby, I've had just about  
enough of this! Just tell me  
where she is. What did you do  
with Joy? Tell me now, and I'll  
promise to end you quickly.

BOBBY

Forget her, Meanie. She's long  
gone from here. You might as well  
get over her and move on.

MEANIE

Have it your way, Bobby.

Meanie and his gang move in and use their heads to bump  
Bobby around.

BOBBY

All right, who's first?!

Hunter rams his head into Bobby's side.

MEANIE

You could put a stop to this right now, Bobby. All you have to do is tell us where Joy is.

Bobby is getting rammed from all sides.

BOBBY

You'll get nothing out of me, Meanie!

MEANIE

Nice knowing you, Kiddo.

Ziggy and his allies show up just in time to rescue Bobby.

ZIGGY

MEANIE!

BOBBY

You better leave now while you still can, Meanie.

MEANIE

Don't count us out just yet, Kid.

Meanie leads his gang into battle.

HUNTER

We have your back, Meanie.

Meanie and his gang clap their jaws in an attempt to intimidate Ziggy and his pod.

MEANIE

You overlooked one thing, old-timer. I've got youth on my side.

Meanie swings his tail and smacks Ziggy in the face, spinning him around.

BOBBY

ZIGGY!

After making short work of Ziggy, Meanie sees Joy through all the commotion and goes after her.

MEANIE

Joy!

JOY

Get away from me, you creep!

Bobby blows a burst of bubbles through his blowhole to show his anger and takes on Meanie.

MEANIE

You like getting smacked around, don't you? Well, it makes no difference to me.

Meanie bites down on Bobby's tail fluke and flings him around.

HUNTER

We'll hold them off, Meanie! Take Joy and get outta here.

JOY

FLEET!

Fleet has his hands full with a couple of Meanie's goons.

FLEET

Hold on, Joy! I'm coming.

Bobby gets in Meanie's way to stop him from fleeing with Joy.

BOBBY

You're gonna have to get through me, Meanie.

MEANIE

You don't learn, do you?

Bobby and Meanie collide once again. Meanie proves to be too much for Bobby to handle.

MEANIE (CONT'D)

Look at you, Bobby. Why don't you stop this? You know you can't beat me.

With Meanie's back turned to her, Joy sneaks up on him from behind.

JOY

Meanie!

Meanie turns around to face Joy and gets smacked in the face.

JOY (CONT'D)

Bobby, are you all right?



BOBBY

Nice tail slap.

JOY

Thanks. Now, let's send him packing.

Bobby and Joy team up to Chase Meanie away.

FLEET

(to Hunter)

Don't look now, but I think your leader just left you hanging.

Hunter sees Meanie swimming away and tries to catch up.

HUNTER

Hey, Meanie, wait for us!

Hunter and the other remaining gang members flee to catch up to Meanie.

SMILEY

Bobby, is that really you?

BOBBY

Yeah, Ma, it's me.

SMILEY

Thank goodness. I was so worried about you.

Smiley gives Bobby a kiss on the nose.

DOLPH

Hey, Bobby, you remember me, don't you?

BOBBY

Come on, Dolph, it hasn't been that long. It's good to see all of you again. It's a good thing you guys came when you did, otherwise, well, I don't think I need to tell you what would've happened.

ZIGGY

Hey, Hey, Hey, let's do all this catching up stuff later. We still got a school of sardines to coral, remember?

FLEET

Right, we better hurry up and get back to it.

## FLEET (CONT'D)

The sardines are probably swimming circles around the seals by now.

EXT. THE FEEDING FRENZY - MOMENTS LATER

The seals and sharks are losing control of the bait ball.

SHADOW

Do your job, Reefer! You sharks better wake up. You're letting a whole lot of sardines slip right past you.

REEFER

You're not the boss of me, Shadow! Back off.

The dolphins return to what is left of the bait ball.

DOLPH

I don't believe it! We leave you seals and sharks alone with the shoal for five minutes, and it all falls apart?!

SHADOW

Save the commentary, Dolph, and get back in there.

The dolphins circle the sardines and blow a net of bubbles around them to keep them contained.

ZIGGY

Might as well let the gannets in on this one.

The dolphins bring the bait ball up to the surface and nearly get clipped by dive-bombing gannets.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

I hate when they do that.

A gannet misses Ziggy's eye by inches trying to catch a sardine.

GANNET #2

Sorry about that! I didn't get you, did I?

Ziggy checks himself for puncture wounds.

ZIGGY

No, but you almost did.

GANNET #2

I'll try to be more careful.

ZIGGY

I've heard that one before.

Carmen and Ernesto are able to communicate with each other through the built in headsets in their head gear and swim close enough with their film cameras without putting themselves in danger.

CARMEN

So, how do you wanna do this, Ernesto?

ERNESTO

Why don't you concentrate on the seals and Sharks, and I'll concentrate on the dolphins and gannets.

CARMEN

Got it.

Ernesto and Carmen split up to get all the footage they can of the predators at work.

SMILEY

Check this out, Ziggy. I saw an orca do this once.

Ziggy stands by to see Smiley stun sardines with a swat from her tail.

ZIGGY

Nice. I like that.

Ziggy stuns the sardines with his tail and eats them.

ERNESTO

Fantastic.

Carmen gets spun around by a reef shark trying to catch a sardine.

CARMEN

It's getting pretty rough down here, Ernesto.

Ernesto is nearly impaled by a gannet going after a sardine.

ERNESTO

That's okay, Carmen. It looks like the dolphins are just about ready to wrap this up.

The seals zip right through the bait ball and snatch up the few remaining sardines.

ZIGGY

I don't know about you, Smiley,  
but I don't think I could eat  
anymore.

SMILEY

Yeah, I'm stuffed, too.

DOLPH

Hey, guys, what do you think? Are  
we done here?

ZIGGY

I know am I.

DOLPH

Then, let's blow this joint.

ZIGGY

Well, I guess I'll be seeing you  
around, then.

DOLPH

What are you talking about? You  
don't think we're gonna let you  
out of our sight again, do you?

SMILEY

We wouldn't hear of it, Ziggy.  
You'll always be apart of this  
pod.

ZIGGY

Okay, so, where to now?

DOLPH

To find another shoal of sardines,  
of course.

ZIGGY

But I already told you that there  
isn't anymore room in my stomach  
for anymore sardines, Dolph.

DOLPH

Don't worry, Ziggy, your appetite  
will be back by the time we find  
another shoal, all right?

SMILEY

Uh-oh, don't look now, but here  
comes Shadow and Reefer.

Shadow and Reefer stop by to thank the dolphins before  
they depart.

SHADOW

Well, Dolph, we're off. Before we go, we just wanted to compliment you on a job well done.

REEFER

Yeah, same here. You dolphins really came through for us in the end.

DOLPH

Thanks guys. Let's do it again sometime.

SHADOW

You bet.

DOLPH

All right, dolphins, we're outta here.

Dolph leads the pod away from the area.

SHADOW

Take care of yourself, Reefer.

REEFER

See you around, Shadow.

The seals and reef sharks go their separate ways.

BOBBY

Hey, Fleet, where are you guys going?

FLEET

What do you mean? We did what we came here to do. It's time to bounce.

BOBBY

No, don't go. The fun's not over yet.

FLEET

What do you have in mind?

BOBBY

Well, I don't know about you, but I think we work well together as a team.

FLEET

Yeah, you and yours are bunch of swell guys. You could really feel the camaraderie.

BOBBY

Then, we could use your help with tracking down the next shoal.

FLEET

We wouldn't want to impose.

BOBBY

Impose? Don't be ridiculous. We'd be glad to have you.

FLEET

Okay, then, count us in.

Joy confronts Bobby.

JOY

For a minute there, I thought you were going to let me leave without saying a word. You really had me going, Bobby.

Bobby pulls Joy in close and lays a big kiss on her.

CARMEN

I'm running low on oxygen, Ernesto. We better get back to the boat.

ERNESTO

Go ahead. I'll be right behind you.

Ernesto keeps his camera on the super pod of the dolphins as they swim away.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ANIMAL PLANET GENESIS AWARDS CEREMONY - CONTINUOUS

The documentary Ernesto and Carmen worked on together gets a round of applause, as their peers watch a clip of it on the big screen behind the presenter on stage.

GENESIS AWARDS PRESENTER

And the Animal Planet Genesis Award goes to...

The presenter opens the envelope, while the projects of the five nominees for best documentary feature are put up in split screen.

GENESIS AWARDS PRESENTER (CONT'D)

"Man, Woman, and Wild," Ernesto Beltran and Carmen Winslow.

Ernesto and Carmen get a round of applause from their peers, but they are not in attendance.

GENESIS AWARDS PRESENTER (CONT'D)

Unfortunately, Carmen and Ernesto couldn't make it tonight, so they're joining us from South Africa via satellite.

Ernesto and Carmen appear on the big screen and thank their fans from the inside of a truck parked a safe distance from a herd of wildebeests.

EXT. THE SERENGETI PLAINS - CONTINUOUS

Ernesto looking into the webcam of his laptop.

ERNESTO

My friends, we wish we could've been there to accept this award and thank everyone in person, but seeing how our film was so well received, we've decided to keep the migrating theme going and jump right into our next project, chronicling the days in the lives of migrating wildebeests from Kenya to Tanzania. It should make for quite an adventure.

Ernesto is getting wet and cuts away from the camera to get rid of the cheetah perched on the roof.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)

Bad Cheetah! Bad cheetah!

Ernesto puts the top back on the sunroof and dries his hair with a towel on camera.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)

See what I mean? Quite an adventure.

The wildebeests are on the move, and Carmen starts the truck with the turn of a key to follow them.

CARMEN

And away we go.

Carmen puts her foot down on the gas pedal to keep up with the wildebeests.

FADE OUT.