MAN, WOMAN, AND WILD

by

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# EXT. SALT WATER MARSH - DAY

It's late Summer. DOLPH, the leader of a pod of spotted dolphins, makes a rest stop somewhere in South Carolina to set some ground rules to make life with his three females easier.

## DOLPH

(with a lisp) Alright, it took some doing, but I think I finally found a way for the four of us to get along without any conflict. Wanna hear it?

#### WHEEZY

I'm all ears.

# DOLPH

Okay, Wheezy, you will be with me on Mondays and Tuesdays. Flora will be with me on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Choral will be with me on Fridays and Saturdays, and I'll have Sundays all to myself.

### FLORA

That's all well and good, but why does Wheezy automatically get Mondays and Tuesdays?

# DOLPH

Okay, Flora, you can have Mondays and Tuesdays... Happy?

## WHEEZY

Whoa, is that how it's going to be, Dolph? You're going to give in to Flora just like that? You already gave me Mondays and Tuesdays.

### DOLPH

Do you have to make a big deal out of everything? Why can't you two be more like Choral here? She never gives me any lip. Right, Choral?

### CHORAL

Don't even get me started. I should have my head examined for putting up with your crap in the first place.

# CHORAL(CONT'D)

Why can't one female be good enough for you? Why do you have to have three?

# DOLPH

We've talked about this before, haven't we, Choral? I already told you that the alpha male has to have more than one female at his beckon call.

ZIGGY, a low ranking member of Dolph's pod, makes himself heard.

ZIGGY

The rut season isn't over yet, Dolph. You can't state your claim to any female until you've beaten every last one of your challengers. I'm calling you out.

DOLPH (squints his eyes) Are you lost? I think you got the wrong pod, son.

WHEEZY

That's Ziggy, Dolph. He's one of yours.

Dolph takes another look.

DOLPH It is Ziggy. What are you thinking, talking to me that way, Ziggy?

ZIGGY You call yourself the leader of this pod, but I say it's not official until you've beaten me.

DOLPH

Until I've beaten you at what?

PIVOT, Ziggy's best friend, tries to talk sense into him.

PIVOT Nothing! Don't mind him, Dolph. (turns to Ziggy) Please, don't do this, Ziggy?

ZIGGY It's too late, Pivot. I'm doing this. DOLPH

Pivot, if you're any kind of a friend, you'll do Ziggy a favor and put some distance between us right now.

Ziggy baits Dolph.

#### ZIGGY

Distance? Like the gap between your teeth? Is that the kind of distance you're talking about? The gap between your teeth is so big, it could've been a stand-in for the 50 foot gap that was in that Speed movie.

Pivot gets out of the way. Ziggy and Dolph charge at each other and mix it up. They both trade tail swats. Ziggy tires himself out, and Dolph gets the better of him.

> ZIGGY (CONT'D) Okay, I'm going. (to Dolph's females) Come with me. I promise that the three of you will be much happier with me than with him.

Wheezy, Flora, and Choral get behind Dolph.

DOLPH

Well, it looks like you've got your answer, Ziggy. Now, get out of my sight before I start to lose my sense of humor.

ZIGGY You wait and see. You haven't seen the last of me.

DOLPH

What a shame. Your rhyming skills will surely be missed around here.

Dolph allows Ziggy to swim away unscathed.

DOLPH (CONT'D) As for you, Pivot, I have nothing against you, but because you and Ziggy are so close, I can't risk keeping you on board, so I'm going to have ask you to join your vanquished friend. If you hurry, you could still catch up to him. Pivot shows himself out.

DOLPH (CONT'D) Anyone else have something they want to say to me? Are we done with the foolishness?

Dolph waits for a response.

DOLPH (CONT'D) From here on out, anyone who mentions the name Ziggy or Pivot will pay the ultimate price. Now, let's get on with our lives.

Dolph leads his pod out of the marsh.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN.

EXT. FIFTY MILES OFF THE COAST OF AUSTRALIA - DAY

It's early Winter. CAFFY, a baby sperm whale entangled with commercial fishing gear, gets a piggy back ride from his mother, MOM DUKES, to stay afloat.

MOM DUKES How are you feeling, Caffy? Talk to me.

CAFFY

I don't think I could hold on much longer, Ma. You should just leave me here. If you hurry you could still catch up with the rest of the pod.

MOM DUKES Stop talking and save your energy, Caffy.

CAFFY The whaling ship is gaining on us fast. There's no sense in the both of us losing our lives.

MOM DUKES Alright, hang in there, Caffy. I'll be right back.

Mom Dukes surfaces and churns the waters with her pectoral fins and large fluke to try and capsize a sea rescuing vessel.

# EXT. SEA RESCUING VESSEL - CONTINUOUS

With cameras rolling, CARMEN, a sea rescuer, briefs a television news crew on how she intends to free Caffy without losing her entire fleet.

#### CARMEN

After checking our data rolodex, it turns out that we've helped disentangle this particular sperm whale calf from commercial fishing gear once before. His name is Caffy, and, as you can see, Mom Dukes is being uncooperative, which is making it harder for us to get in there and do our job.

HENRY, a fellow sea rescuer, confronts Carmen.

HENRY

Listen here, Carmen! We've been out here for hours, and now we've got a crazed sperm whale on our hands! She doesn't want us anywhere near her baby! You're endangering all of our lives!

ERNESTO, a fellow sea rescuer, gets in Henry's face.

ERNESTO

(light Spanish accent) That's enough out of you, Henry! Mom Dukes doesn't know that we're here to help. Now, get back there and start cutting away at those lines!

Henry walks away and arms himself with a long pole with a large serrated blade attached to it.

CARMEN Thanks for that, Ernesto.

ERNESTO Just tell me your plan for freeing Caffy.

Carmen picks up a pole with large blade attached to it.

CARMEN Grab a pole and come with me. Carmen and Ernesto join the rest of the crew at the side of the vessel and start hacking away at the fishing lines.

#### ERNESTO

The tail is free, at least! We're almost there, Carmen!

Carmen gets a mouth full of sea water and accidentally spits it in Ernesto's face.

## CARMEN

Yeah, I know!

Mom Dukes doesn't let up and nearly capsizes the vessel with her big tail.

ERNESTO We can't stop now. Keep cutting!

Caffy feels the fishing lines loosening up and both of his pectoral fins go free.

CAFFY

Stop what you're doing, Ma! You don't have to sink them. I'm free. See?

Mom Dukes sees that Caffy is free and lets the sea rescuers off the hook.

CARMEN I don't see them. Where did they go?! Does anybody see them?!

Ernesto spots two sperm whales breaching in the distance and points them out to Carmen and the television news crew.

### ERNESTO

There they are! They're breaching. Caffy's okay!

Ernesto and Carmen high five each other and thank the rest of the crew.

CARMEN Well done, guys. Great job, even you, Henry.

Henry puts on a face, but the rest of the sea rescuers give themselves a round of applause.

ERNESTO Okay, let's turn this thing around and head back to land.

CUT TO:

# EXT. SOMEWHERE OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA - DAY

Ziggy, and his mega pod are in town for the Annual Sardine Run. Ziggy scours the ocean floor and turns over a rock.

> ZIGGY There's nothing under this one. Anything under yours, Pivot?

Pivot turns over a rock.

PIVOT

There's nothing under this one either.

### ZIGGY

Look at us. Here we are in town for the Annual Sardine Run, and we're turning over rocks for food, like little human children looking for loose change under the sofa cushions.

### PIVOT

If you ask me, I think this whole global warming thing is throwing everybody. The sardines probably don't even know what time of year it is. It's getting harder and harder to tell the seasons apart.

#### ZIGGY

Maybe Lickety-Split and the others will have better luck and find something worth while.

Ziggy rummages through the sand and scares a flounder fish out of hiding.

PIVOT I doubt it. We would've heard from them by now.

### ZIGGY

Let's just keep our eyes open. Something's bound to turn up sooner or later.

# PIVOT

Yes sir.

Pivot swims to the surface, and Ziggy continues to turn over rocks.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHARK BAY - DAY

LICKETY-SPLIT, a spotted dolphin, schools WHOOP-DE-DO, ALLEY-OOP, FLOATER, and BUBBLY on the basics of how to hunt for fish in shallow water.

ALLEY-OOP Hey, Lickety-Split, are you going to let Ziggy and the others know what we've got here?

LICKETY-SPLIT That won't be necessary, Alley-Oop.

ALLEY-OOP How come? Ziggy's probably wondering where we are.

Lickety-Split shows Alley-Oop to the small school of fish they have trapped in front of them.

LICKETY-SPLIT Are you crazy? Ziggy would throw a fit, if I called him over here just to see that this is all there is to eat.

ALLEY-OOP Yeah, you're right.

LICKETY-SPLIT Get back to practicing your tail slapping.

Alley-Oop stuns the fish he has cornered against the sandbar with his tail and marvels at the way they float to the surface.

### ALLEY-OOP

(admiring his work)
Look at me! It's like I'm bobbing
for apples over here.

BUBBLY, the only female in the bunch, wants Lickety-Split to give her some pointers on hydroplaning. BUBBLY Lickety-Split, am I doing this right? I'm not getting this hydroplaning thing.

LICKETY-SPLIT I'll show you. Give me some room.

The fish brace themselves for what's about to come.

LICKETY-SPLIT (CONT'D) It's all in the tail.

Lickety-Split pumps his tail to build up enough speed to skid through inches of water and snatches up a fish, while the others watch closely.

BUBBLY

That was awesome.

LICKETY-SPLIT Go ahead, Bubbly, give it a try.

BUBBLY

Me? Okay, I'm game.

Bubbly rushes up the sandbar, uses her teeth to grab a fish she sees thrashing around beside her, and works her way back into the water.

BUBBLY (CONT'D) I love my streamlined body!

LICKETY-SPLIT Hey, Whoop-de-do, I want you to work with Floater.

Lickety-Split looks around as if someone is missing.

LICKETY-SPLIT (CONT'D) Where is Fleet?

Lickety-Split goes looking and finds FLEET gazing at the open ocean.

LICKETY-SPLIT (CONT'D) There you are! I've been looking everywhere for you, Fleet. What are you doing all by your lonesome?

FLEET I'm just keeping an eye out for any signal that Ziggy may be trying to send us. large enough for all of us to enjoy?

Lickety-Split and Fleet make a game out of jumping over waves to keep their heads above water.

FLEET Well, Ziggy isn't our leader for nothing.

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

FLEET They are rather finicky, aren't they?

Fleet and Lickety-Split circle each other in the water.

LICKETY-SPLIT I'm sure they'll turn up soon enough, Fleet.

The dolphins are washed ashore by a huge wave and go for the fish as they thrash around on the sandbar.

> LICKETY-SPLIT (CONT'D) Get 'em! Get 'em! Get that one next to you, Whoop-de-do!

Whoop-de-do, Alley-Oop, Floater, Bubbly, and Lickety-Split catch their fish and work their way back into the water.

#### FLEET

(to fish)
I see you! Where do you think
you're going?!

BUBBLY That's too far up, Fleet! Back off!

Fleet catches up to the fish and gets stranded.

FLEET Uh, guys, I think I'm stuck!

Fleet rocks his body from side to side and makes the divot he's in even deeper to get out of.

EXT. ERNESTO'S TRUCK - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

Carmen looks out her side of the window, sees the commotion in the water.

ERNESTO (O.S.) I don't know about you, but the way Mom Dukes was throwing her weight around makes me want to stream one those classic Godzilla movies... maybe the one with the radioactive lobster.

CARMEN Ernesto, stop the truck!

ERNESTO

Why?

CARMEN I see dolphins in the water. It looks like one of them may be stranded.

Ernesto stops the truck.

CARMEN (CONT'D) Come on! Grab the buckets in the back seat.

Ernesto and Carmen jump out of the truck and rush to Fleet's aid.

CARMEN (CONT'D) Awe. Poor thing. What do you think happened?

Fleet warns Carmen and Ernesto to stay back with clicks and whistles.

ERNESTO He doesn't appear to be sick or anything. He probably chased a fish up the sandbar and got stuck, which would make him Charlie Brown.

Ernesto sees the other five dolphins in the water.

ERNESTO (CONT'D) That must be Linus, Peppermint Patty, Marcy, and the other two laughing at him must be Snoopy and Woodstock. LICKETY-SPLIT Whoop-de-do, Floater, stop laughing at Fleet! It's not funny.

From miles away, Ziggy can be seen blocking out the sun with somersaults.

BUBBLY

(looking around) Where's this shadow coming from? Are we having an eclipse?

LICKETY-SPLIT (looks out into the distance) No, it's Ziggy. He must have found food. It's time for us to go.

BUBBLY How do you know it's Ziggy? You can't tell from here.

# LICKETY-SPLIT It's got to be Ziggy. I don't know anyone else who could somersault high enough to block

out the sun.

BUBBLY What about Fleet? We can't leave him here.

# WHOOP-DE-DO

Whose idea was it to bring Fleet along in the first place? We're going to miss out on all of that food because of him.

## CARMEN

(to Ernesto) Well, let's pour some water over him and get him back in with his friends. There's no telling how long he's been here.

Carmen and Ernesto get ankle deep in the water to fill their buckets and run back out.

### ERNESTO

(to Fleet) Don't worry, big guy. You'll be back in the water with your friends in no time.

Carmen and Ernesto pour water over Fleet.

CARMEN Listen to him... he must be going out of his mind.

Ernesto puts down the bucket and tries to drag Fleet into the water by his fluke.

ERNESTO

He's pretty heavy. He won't budge. Give me a hand, Carmen.

The tide comes in and makes it easier for Ernesto and Carmen to drag Fleet into the water.

ERNESTO (CONT'D) That's good enough, Carmen. He could take over from here.

Lickety-Split and the others crowd around Fleet to check on him.

LICKETY-SPLIT We thought we've lost you there for a second, Fleet.

BUBBLY

Are you okay, Fleet?

FLEET

I'm fine, but if it's all the same to you, I just want to make this place a distant memory. Can we do that?

LICKETY-SPLIT Yeah, but the least we can do is show our thanks to the people who helped us out.

Lickety-Split and the others leave Carmen and Ernesto with a display of acrobatics.

CARMEN Yay! You're welcome, guys! Be safe out there.

CUT TO:

# EXT. GANNET NEST SITE - DAY

An expecting female gannet and her lifelong mate FLAP take turns incubating their single egg.

# FLAP'S MATE

Flap, I just had a scary thought... What if the sardines decided to skip the Annual sardine Run altogether this year?

FLAP

Come on, baby, relax.

### FLAP'S MATE

Don't tell me to relax. It just so happens that I was counting on the sardine migration to get us through the Winter.

FLAP

Well, one of us has got to remain calm at times like these. Besides, we still have at least two weeks before our chick gets here.

Flap and his mate hear the egg cracking.

### FLAP'S MATE

Uh-oh.

The chick kicks his way out of his egg and demands food.

FLAP

Alright, I'll get out there. Maybe the sardines have turned up some place where I haven't already looked.

### FLAP'S MATE

Yeah, and here's a little incentive, Flap... If you don't find anything, don't even bother coming back.

FLAP You're beautiful, babe... You are beautiful.

Flap gets a running start and flaps his wings for lift off.

A cape fur seal decoy is being talked about behind his back by two fur seal scouts named SHADOW and MONK, patrolling the waters for any sign of predators.

#### MONK

So, Shadow, what's the deal with the new guy? I saw you talking to him earlier.

### SHADOW

I don't know. I asked him what his name was, where he was from, but he was pretty tight lipped about it.

MONK

He didn't give you anything? That was weird of him.

## SHADOW

Well, cut him some slack, Monk. He's new. He'll come around once he gets his bearings.

# MONK

Speaking of getting his bearings, he better do it quick because he's about to be taken out by Gigante.

Shadow calls for the decoy to look out for a great white shark named GIGANTE.

SHADOW HEY, NEW GUY! WATCH OUT BELOW!

Gigante bites into the decoy and breaks it.

MONK

Is it over? I couldn't bring myself to watch.

## SHADOW

Yeah, it's over. It's okay for you to look now.

### MONK

I thought it would be messier than this. What's with all the nuts and bolts?

Gigante spits out his teeth.

# SHADOW

It must have been another one of those spy-cams that researchers keep leaving out to film sharks on the hunt.

MONK

You mean to tell me that the new guy wasn't even real? He was a decoy?

SHADOW

That's right. Nice replica, huh?

MONK

Well, it looks like Gigante is gonna be out of commission for a while... now that he's all gums.

Monk bites Shadow on his flipper.

SHADOW OWWWW! That hurt, Monk! What are you biting me for?!

Shadow takes back his flipper and shakes it off.

MONK I was just checking to make sure that you were really you.

EXT. FALSE BAY - SEAL ISLAND - MOMENTS LATER

STAR, a fur seal mother, walks her pup BUSTER to the edge of the rookery and explains the flock of gannets hovering in the sky just miles away.

> STAR Look out there, Buster.

BUSTER What am I looking for?

STAR

The gannets. Do you know what it means for them to be circling like that?

BUSTER No, what does it mean?

STAR

It means that the drought is over. The sardines are finally on the move.

# BUSTER

So, this is the gannet's way of ringing the dinner bell for us to come and get it?

# STAR

It's not just us. It's sharks and dolphins, too. We all put our differences aside and come together to break bread.

BUSTER

Did you say sharks? What kind of sharks?

### STAR

Silky sharks mostly. Believe it or not, you couldn't corral a large shoal of sardines into a tight, compact bait ball successfully without them.

# BUSTER

Cool.

### STAR

Yep, it's quite a scene, man. Well, let's put a pin in this for now. Mommy will be back soon.

BUSTER

Please don't go, Ma!

STAR

Buster, I'll be fine. You heard what the scouts said... Gigante won't be bothering anyone for a while.

## BUSTER

No, you don't understand. It's not safe for me to be left alone. I've been getting dirty looks from some of the mature males.

# STAR

Like who?

Star looks around and a mature male named BULL waves at her with a big smile on his face.

STAR (CONT'D) Bull? Bull is so sweet. He says nothing but the nicest things about you.

# BUSTER

Yeah, that's just him trying to win you over. He doesn't mean any of that stuff.

STAR

### You're exaggerating, Buster.

Buster looks over at Bull and gets bad vibes from him.

BUSTER

No, Ma'am. I don't know why, but he doesn't like me for some reason.

STAR

I'm sorry, baby, but I can't take you with me. Now, don't do anything to draw attention to yourself, and you'll be safe. I won't be gone long... I promise.

### BUSTER

Yes, Ma'am.

Star kisses Buster on the nose.

### STAR

I'll bring back a nice juicy sardine for you.

Star dives into the water along with the other moms.

BUSTER

Be careful.

Buster sees Bull make a cut throat motion with his flipper.

BUSTER (CONT'D)

I'm dead.

CUT TO:

EXT. OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA - DAY

Dolph and his pod are in a hurry to get somewhere.

DOLPH Flora, is that your stomach I hear?

# FLORA

No.

Yes, it is. Don't lie.

### FLORA

Okay, that was me. What do you expect, Dolph? We've been hunting for hours and getting nowhere fast.

## CHORAL

Dolph, I hate to be the one to tell you this, but it looks like this year's Annual Sardine Run is going to be a bust.

### DOLPH

Let me stop you right there, Choral. I had my mind set on sardines for weeks, and we didn't come all this way for nothing, so we're going to stay the course.

## WHEEZY

Then, can I make a suggestion?

DOLPH What do you suggest, Wheezy?

### WHEEZY

Why don't we try to find the guy we saw doing the somersaults?

## DOLPH

For what?

#### WHEEZY

Well, he might have found something.

#### DOLPH

Maybe, or maybe an Orca was just playing with his food.

#### WHEEZY

Well, it won't kill you to check it out. What do we have to lose?

### EXT. THE INDIAN OCEAN - DAY

Gannets hover over a school of sardines so big that it can be seen from space. Flap meets another gannet named DOWNEY on the wing.

CUT TO:

FLAP

It looks like I've come to the right place.

### DOWNEY

Yeah, this spot is jumping. I love how sardines get all tense and nervous just before the divebombings, don't you?

FLAP

I like that look in their eyes too.

DOWNEY

(laughs) That's what it's all about.

Downey and Flap shoot the breeze, while they wait for the dolphins, seals, and sharks to show up.

FLAP

What do you think? Do you think they're close enough to the surface?

DOWNEY

No, not yet, but I'm sure that the dolphins and fur seals have spotted us by now. It won't be long now.

Flap and Downey introduce themselves to each other.

FLAP I'm Flap, by the way.

### DOWNEY

Downey.

FLAP Glad to know ya, Downey, glad to know ya.

EXT. BELOW THE SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

A female sardine helps herself to plankton and spits it out.

FEMALE SARDINE

(disgusted)
Yuck! Boy, you could really taste
the acidity in this plankton.
What is up with the water's pH
levels?

The female sardines mate is distracted by all the seabirds.

FEMALE SARDINE'S MATE

What?

FEMALE SARDINE Don't tell me you can't taste the acidity in the plankton?

FEMALE SARDINE'S MATE This is no time to be cutting carbs or counting calories, babe. Hurry up and eat.

The female sardine's mate won't take his eyes off the seabirds.

FEMALE SARDINE Why do you keep looking up?

FEMALE SARDINE'S MATE Why do I keep looking up?! Don't you know what will happen if those crazy, kamikaze seabirds keep hovering over us like this?

A super pod of spotted dolphins, and a bunch of cape fur seals arrive to feast on the migrating sardines. The sardines see the danger and huddle together to form a huge bait ball as a defense mechanism.

> FEMALE SARDINE'S MATE (CONT'D) Babe, get in the center of the bait ball!

FEMALE SARDINE What's the point? It takes even fewer licks to get to the center of a bait ball than it does to get to the center of a tootsie roll tootsie pop.

FEMALE SARDINE'S MATE Trust me, Babe. We'll be much safer in the center.

Ziggy is daunted by the size of the shoal.

ZIGGY

Whoa, this shoal could very well be big enough to see from space. We're going to need every able body on this one, Pivot.

Pivot waits to hear a plan of attack.

PIVOT

Lickety-Split, and the others still haven't returned from that errand you sent them on.

ZIGGY

We can't wait for them. We've got to work fast.

The dolphins swim underneath the huge shoal, release bubbles from their blowholes to corral the sardines into a tighter bait ball, and drive them closer to the surface.

PIVOT

How do you like it, Ziggy? Is this bait ball tight enough for you?

ZIGGY

Good work, Pivot. Now, keep an eye out for rival pods that may be coming to crash our feeding frenzy.

EXT. ABOVE THE SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

The shoal is now within the gannets diving range.

DOWNEY Okay, that's close enough. I'm goin' in. AIR RAID!

FLAP

AIR RAID!

The gannets shoot out of the sky and hit the water at forty miles per hour. The gannets dive about sixty feet below the surface and snatch up as much fish as they can.

EXT. BELOW THE SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

A spiritual sardine recites PSALMS 116 from the Good News Bible.

SPIRITUAL SARDINE I love the Lord, because he hears me; he listens to my prayers. He listens to me every time I call to him. The danger of death was all around me...

The female sardine and her mate are safe in the center of the bait ball.

FEMALE SARDINE I don't think I can hang on much longer! I'm having trouble breathing!

FEMALE SARDINE'S MATE I know. We're being deprived of oxygen.

The spiritual sardine is still reciting.

SPIRITUAL SARDINE The horrors of the grave closed in on me; I was filled with fear and anxiety. Then I called to the Lord, "I beg you, Lord, save me!"

Star is struck by an incoming gannet.

STAR

I'm hit!

Monk and Shadow come to her aid.

MONK

Star's badly hurt, Shadow! I hope she got her affairs in order.

SHADOW

There's a Surgeonfish who runs a reputable medical practice out of an air-filled underwater cave, not too far from here. Come on, we'll take her to him.

Star is carried away from the feeding frenzy.

MONK It's worth a try. Let's go.

Dolph shows up to assist Ziggy and his pod with the bait ball.

ZIGGY Looks like we've got company, Pivot.

PIVOT

What do we do?

ZIGGY Let's see what they want. Fall in behind me.

With the dolphins distracted, the female sardine and her mate seize the opportunity to escape to the depths.

# FEMALE SARDINE'S MATE

Come on, Babe!

Ziggy introduces himself to Dolph and his pod.

ZIGGY

Excuse me, can I help you?

DOLPH

Ziggy, is that you? I don't believe it!

# ZIGGY

Dolph?

# DOLPH

Yeah, it's Dolph! (to his females) Hey, girls, look who it is! It's Ziggy!

The feeding frenzy continues, while Dolph and Ziggy catch up on old times.

WHEEZY Hi Ziggy. You look good.

### DOLPH

Yeah, he does look good. You look good, Ziggy. I see you're still hanging out with Pivot. What's up, Pivot? You can't say hi?

PIVOT

What's up, Dolph?

### DOLPH

I've got to hand it to you guys... You've certainly come a long way from the low-ranking pod members that I used to know.

### PIVOT

Ziggy, don't trip on your way down memory lane just yet. We still got a shoal of sardines to corral.

### ZIGGY

Yeah, I hate to do this to you guys, but, as you can see, we're very busy here. Maybe we could catch up some other time.

### DOLPH

Man, I still can't get over how far you've come.

## DOLPH(CONT'D)

It makes me proud to see you thriving like this when so many of us are struggling through this depression.

The bait ball is being decimated by the gannets, seals, and sharks.

### PIVOT

Ziggy, if we don't get back to work, the sardines are going to get away from us.

## DOLPH

Hey, here's an idea... why don't you let us give you a hand? It would be just like old times.

# ZIGGY

Sorry, Dolph, but some of my pod members are still unaccounted for, and, as a leader, I can't let their share of sardines go to a bunch of outsiders.

# DOLPH

Yeah, but you know us, Ziggy. We're not outsiders. Can't you make an exception for old friends?

### ZIGGY

I know we're old friends, but that was then... This is now.

# DOLPH

Please, tell me that you're not still mad at me for kicking you out of the pod. That was a long time ago. Besides, you kind of had it coming for calling me out in the first place, remember?

### FLORA

Forget it, Dolph! Where's your pride? You don't have to beg him. Let him have his stupid bait ball. We'll find our own.

# DOLPH

Yeah, what am I doing? If he could do it, so can I. Come on, let's get out of here.

Dolph has one last thing to say to Ziggy.

With that, Dolph and his pod leave Ziggy to tend to his bait ball.

PIVOT

How do you like that guy, Ziggy? He gives us the boot, and then he acts like nothing ever happened.

ZIGGY

Whatever. We've got a shoal of sardines to corral.

The dolphins rush to repair the damages and put the bait ball back together again. Ziggy and Pivot are careful not to get struck by incoming gannets.

> ZIGGY (CONT'D) I got this from an Orca. Check it out.

Ziggy swats the sardines with his tail to knock them out.

PIVOT

Yeah, I like that.

The scales fly off the sardines and slowly sink to the ocean floor.

CUT TO:

EXT. GANNET NEST SITE - DAY

Flap introduces Downey to his family.

FLAP Okay, you could all relax. Daddy's home.

FLAP'S MATE Hey, Flap, how did it go?

FLAP I'll show you how it went. Feast your eyes on this.

Flap sticks his beak down his chick's throat to feed him.

27.

Enjoy.

FLAP'S MATE Good job, Flap.

# FLAP

It wasn't easy. I had to fly all the way to Seal Island to find these guys.

FLAP'S MATE So, that's where the sardines have been keeping themselves, huh?

FLAP

Oh, I want you to meet a friend of mine. This is Downey.

FLAP'S MATE Nice to meet you, Downey.

DOWNEY Yeah, it's nice meting you. Congratulations on your chick. He's cute.

# FLAP'S MATE

Oh, thank you.

FLAP

I hope you don't mind, but I asked Downey to stay for dinner.

FLAP'S MATE Well, Flap, I'm sure Downey has a family of his own to get to.

### DOWNEY

Not me. I'm flying solo. I had a family once, but they were all wiped out by a flock of gulls.

# FLAP'S MATE

My goodness! That's awful!

### DOWNEY

I managed to fight off three of them, but it was my first run-in with gulls, so I had no idea how cunning they can be.

# FLAP'S MATE

Oh, Downey, I am so sorry for your loss.

FLAP Hey, babe, don't you have any single friends? Why don't you call your sister over? They might hit it off.

FLAP'S MATE Flap! Get a hold of yourself. My sister is perfectly happy with her partner.

FLAP She's still with that guy?!

FLAP'S MATE Downey, make yourself at home.

EXT. SHARK BAY - MONKEY MIA - DAY

Ernesto and Carmen are at a tourist attraction, where people get a chance to hand feed rogue dolphins. JACK, the hand-feeding instructor, supervises the feed closely to make sure everyone follows the proper guidelines.

> 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.

Two bottlenose dolphins show up to be fed.

JACK (CONT'D) Ah, here are two dolphins now. Let's get started. Who wants to be first?

Tourists raise their hands at once.

CARMEN What about you, Ernesto? Don't you want to feed the dolphins?

ERNESTO

Not me.

CARMEN

But it's so awesome.

ERNESTO I know. I just don't like the feel of slimy, slippery fish. I don't know about you, Ernesto, but I haven't been able to get those dolphins from earlier today out of my mind.

### ERNESTO

Yeah, it's too bad we didn't have time to tag them with tracking devices.

CARMEN

It is too bad. Those dolphins really got me thinking, you know?

Ernesto is distracted by the hand-feeding attraction.

ERNESTO Thinking about what?

CARMEN Well, where do you think they are right now?

ERNESTO

How do I know?

### CARMEN

Hey, maybe they're heading to South Africa for the Annual Sardine Run? It is that time of year again.

## ERNESTO

Maybe.

Jack struggles to get a hold of a slippery fish.

CARMEN

We should go there, too.

### ERNESTO

To do what?

The dolphins lose their patience with Jack.

### CARMEN

To shoot a documentary about one of the world's greatest spectacles --- the great sardine migration --what do you think?

## ERNESTO

I don't know. Shooting a documentary like that requires a lot of time and man power, doesn't it?

CARMEN No, we can do this on our own.

### ERNESTO

Are you sure?

### CARMEN

Come on, Ernesto, what do you say? At the rate of speed that the oceans are warming, there might not even be an annual sardine run next year.

# ERNESTO Since you put it that way, when do we leave?

CARMEN Yay! This is gonna be fun!

Carmen gives Ernesto a big hug.

CUT TO:

# EXT. OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA - DAY

Lickety-Split, Whoop-de-do, Floater, Bubbly, Alley-Oop, and Fleet head for the feeding frenzy.

# WHOOP-DE-DO

(laughing) There's never a dull moment with Fleet around. I knew he would be the one to get himself stranded on the sandbar -- what a crack up.

FLEET

That's alright, Whoop-de-do, go ahead -- talk about me as if I'm not even here.

# WHOOP-DE-DO You gotta admit it was kind of funny, Fleet. Was that sand hot enough for you, or what?

Bubbly sticks up for Fleet.

# BUBBLY

Lay off him already, Whoop-de-do! Have you forgotten about the number of jams we've had to bail you out of?

# WHOOP-DE-DO

There's no need to put my business on blast, is there? Not cool, Bubbly, not cool.

Whoop-de-do leaves Bubbly alone with Fleet.

# FLEET

Thanks for sticking up for me, Bubbly, but he's right about me. I mean, let's face it... I can't go anywhere without making a fool of myself.

## BUBBLY

You know, Fleet, I get the feeling that you think you deserve it when the guys give you a hard time because you lack self-confidence.

### FLEET

Am I really that transparent? You're right... I'm one pathetic sack.

### BUBBLY

You wait and see, Fleet... these guys may not think much of you now, but someday a situation will present itself and you're going to surprise everyone when you rise to the occasion.

Lickety-Split has been eavesdropping on their conversation and interrupts.

LICKETY-SPLIT That's enough talking, you two. We've got to hurry. We're late enough as it is.

FLEET Okay, but I'm asking you for a favor.

LICKETY-SPLIT

What favor?

Can you guys not say anything to Ziggy and the others about what happened to me back there?

Lickety-Split laughs.

LICKETY-SPLIT Sure, Fleet, I think we can do that for you.

FLEET

You guys rock!

EXT. GANNET NEST SITE - DAY

Flap and his partner are just about done playing host to their house guest.

FLAP'S MATE I hope the food was to your liking, Downey, and not too acidic.

DOWNEY No, it was fine.

FLAP'S MATE My poor baby... I'm going to be cleaning up poop all night.

DOWNEY Well, I guess I should be going, but we've got to do this again soon.

FLAP'S MATE We loved having you, Downey. You'll always be welcomed here.

FLAP You know, Babe, you seem to have everything under control here. If it's okay with you, I'm going to take off with Downey.

FLAP'S MATE Okay, but don't fly off too far.

EXT. OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA - MOMENTS LATER Dolph has some things he wants to get off of his chest.

# DOLPH

That Ziggy could really hold a grudge. I could barely remember the fight we had.

# WHEEZY

I could. As a matter of fact, I've never been more attracted to you than I was on that day. You really showed him.

Dolph and his females swim to the surface for air.

DOLPH

What was I supposed to do? I was his leader, and the guy had the nerves to call me out in front of everyone. He's lucky I didn't have him killed.

# CHORAL

No one is saying you did anything wrong, Dolph. Stop being so hard on yourself.

DOLPH

You know what, Babe? When you're right you're right. Maybe I should take it out on them.

Dolph and his pod confront Lickety-Split, Fleet, Alley-Oop, Floater, Whoop-de-do, and Bubbly.

ALLEY-OOP

Hey, not for nothing, but we got about 50 dolphins coming our way.

FLOATER What are we gonna do, Lickety-Split?

LICKETY-SPLIT Relax, it's probably nothing. Let me do the talking.

Fleet is protective of Bubbly.

FLEET Yeah, but what if they're coming for Bubbly?

LICKETY-SPLIT And why would they be coming after Bubbly? FLEET

Well, because she's hot for one thing.

FLOATER Don't get Fleet started, Lickety-Split.

Bubbly weighs in.

BUBBLY

You guys better protect me. I don't want these brutes jumping all over me like I'm the only female in the Mclaughlin Group who could never get a word in edgewise.

LICKETY-SPLIT Just let me handle this.

Dolph and his pod stop them.

DOLPH Where's the fire, guys? What's the hurry?

LICKETY-SPLIT No hurry. We're trying to get back to our pod.

DOLPH Oh, you're trying to get back to your pod, are you?

LICKETY-SPLIT That's right.

DOLPH Hey, you guys wouldn't happen to be members of Ziggy's pod by any chance, would you?

LICKETY-SPLIT Yeah, you know Ziggy?

Dolph and his females all look at each other and smile.

DOLPH Oh, I know Ziggy. It's too bad you don't know what kind of punk your leader really is.

FLEET Come on, Lickety-Split, let's go. LICKETY-SPLIT (to Dolph) Well, we've taken up enough of your time, so we're gonna get going.

Lickety-Split and his group find themselves surrounded. Dolph ignores Lickety-Split and speaks directly to Bubbly.

> DOLPH What's good, Sexy? I love your streamlined body. (beat) Why don't you dump those zeros and get with this hero?

Fleet hides Bubbly behind him.

LICKETY-SPLIT Look, I don't know what this is all about, but let's not do this, okay?

Dolph smacks Lickety-Split across the face with his tail.

DOLPH Don't look at me! You could thank your precious leader for getting you into this!

Bubbly is afraid for her friends.

BUBBLY

Okay, I'll go, just leave my friends alone.

### FLEET

What are you talking about, Bubbly? I'm not gonna let you go with them.

BUBBLY

It's better this way, Fleet. I'll be alright.

# DOLPH

(to Fleet) Step aside, son! I'm taking your girl, and you're gonna let me, or do you think she wants something bad to happen to you on her account?

Fleet backs off.
DOLPH (CONT'D) Now, you're being smart. (to Bubbly) Let's go, Darling.

Dolph's females start to doubt the course of action he is taking.

CHORAL Dolph, maybe this isn't such a good idea after all. We should rethink this.

DOLPH Don't flake out on me now. I'm counting on you.

CHORAL Alright, I got your back.

DOLPH That's more like it.

Dolph has one last word for Bubbly's friends.

DOLPH (CONT'D) And if you ever want to see this female again, tell your leader that he has to give up the bait ball. I'll be waiting for his response.

BUBBLY (to her friends) I'll be alright, guys.

Dolph and his pod swim off with Bubbly.

# FLEET

Okay, what are we gonna do about this? We can't let Bubbly go with those creeps.

#### ALLEY-OOP

If you're planning on rescuing Bubbly from Dolph and his crew, you better get Baquero or 7 on your side.

#### FLOATER

I'm with Alley-Oop. We gotta find Ziggy and let him know what happened.

FLEET Alright, you guys find Ziggy and tell him what happened. I'm going after Bubbly.

Lickety-Split gets in Fleet's way.

LICKETY-SPLIT No, I can't let you do that, Fleet, not by yourself.

WHOOP-DE-DO Yeah, Fleet, we should talk about this some more.

# LICKETY-SPLIT What's there to talk about? It's way too dangerous for you to go after them by yourself, Fleet.

FLEET

I don't care, Lickety-Split. Don't you get it? Six dolphins were chosen for this errand, not five. We started out with six, so we're going back home with six.

Fleet goes after Bubbly alone.

LICKETY-SPLIT

Fleet, wait up.

Lickety-Split, Whoop-de-do, Floater, and Alley-Oop catch up to Fleet.

FLEET Don't try to stop me, Lickety-Split. I'm going.

LICKETY-SPLIT Relax. I'm not gonna stop you. We're going with you.

FLEET Then what are we waiting for?

The five dolphins go after Dolph and his pod.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE INDIAN OCEAN - HUNDREDS OF FEET BELOW THE SURFACE - NIGHT

There's a full moon out. Deep sea creatures make their way up to the surface to feed and provide the five spotted dolphins with sufficient light to see their way through the darkness without the use of their sonars. Fleet is in a world of his own, and Whoop-de-do tries to get through to him.

> WHOOP-DE-DO So what's the plan, Fleet?

Fleet ignores Whoop-de-do.

WHOOP-DE-DO (CONT'D) Earth to Fleet. Is this thing on?

FLEET

Huh? What?

WHOOP-DE-DO I just asked you what is your plan?

# FLEET

What do you mean?

# WHOOP-DE-DO

I mean, how do you intend on getting Bubbly back? It's not like they're just going to hand her over to us, you know what I'm saying?

#### FLEET

I don't know how we're gonna get Bubbly back. I'm making things up as we go along, Whoop-de-do.

Floater's sonar is way too loud.

# LICKETY-SPLIT

What's up with all the clicking sounds, Floater? Do you want Dolph to know that we're coming?

# FLOATER

How else are we supposed to navigate through the darkness without our echo location?

# FLEET

You mean these creatures with their bioluminescent lights aren't enough for you? You must be kidding? It's like Latin Quarters down here.

Deep sea jellies flash their lights to attract potential prey.

FLOATER Good point. Okay, I'll ease up on the sounds.

LICKETY-SPLIT

Thank you.

Aggressive giant squids come up from below.

FLEET

Great! Giant Squids -- that's all we need now. These things are armed with suckers that can scar you for life.

LICKETY-SPLIT

We're good, as long as we don't give them a reason to think that we're a threat.

The squids communicate with each other through flashing colors.

ALLEY-OOP

I don't know what these guys are saying to each other, but something tells me they're talkin' crap about us.

FLEET

If you don't give them a reason to attack us, we just might make it out of this unscathed.

The squids pick up on Floater's uneasiness.

FLOATER I think this is a mistake.

FLEET You think what is a mistake?

FLOATER These things can smell the fear all over us. I think we gotta do something to let them know we don't play that.

Floater talks tough to a squid.

FLOATER (CONT'D) What you lookin' at?!

The squid reaches out at Floater with its tentacles.

FLOATER(CONT'D)

NO!

The squid wraps his arms around Floater's throat.

FLOATER (CONT'D) Fleet, get me out of this rear naked choke hold before I tap out!

Fleet bites off a tentacle to try and free Floater.

FLOATER (CONT'D) OW! Wait, easy, easy! Don't pull so hard! The squid's got his suckers hooked into me!

FLEET Lickety-Split, I need your help over here! Floater's all tangled up!

Lickety-Split is tied up himself.

LICKETY-SPLIT Well, hey, join the club, huh?!

Floater is afraid of the squid's beak.

FLOATER Whoop-de-do, if you're free, I could use you over here!

WHOOP-DE-DO I'm here! Hang tight, Floater. I'll get you out of this.

Floater warns Whoop-de-do about the squid behind him.

FLOATER Don't say "hang tight," Whoop-dedo!

The giant squid tries to squeeze the life out of Whoop-dedo. WHOOP-DE-DO (constricted) I think this is it, guys! It's been nice!

Fleet submits to a giant squid.

FLEET I'm sorry, Bubbly, we tried. Please, forgive us!

A pod of sperm whales come to the rescue.

GIANT SQUID Foiled again by Mom Dukes!

CAFFY Hear that, Ma? You're legendary around here.

The giant squids release the dolphins.

FLEET

We're free!

LICKETY-SPLIT GO! GO! GO!

The dolphins flee the scene and let the sperm whales battle it out with the giant squids.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA - DAY

With the help of the gannets, and a few sharks, Ziggy and his pod reduce the shoal of sardines to a more manageable size.

PIVOT I hate to say it, but it's a good thing that the sharks showed up when they did.

Silky sharks pick off what's left of the sardines.

PIVOT (CONT'D) We could've used the extra hands.

ZIGGY Speaking of extra hands, did Lickety-Split get back with the others? ZIGGY Something's not right. They should've been back by now.

Ziggy looks worried.

PIVOT What are you thinking, Ziggy?

ZIGGY You don't suppose they might have had a run in with Dolph and his clique, do you?

#### PIVOT

Oh, yeah, I almost forgot about those jerks. Do you want me to send some of our guys to look for them?

# ZIGGY

No, forget it. We're all going. I want everyone in formation and ready to go in five minutes.

PIVOT What about the shoal, Ziggy? We're just about done here.

ZIGGY Leave the rest to the gannets and sharks.

# PIVOT

Yes Sir.

Pivot goes off to get the rest of the pod in order and gives Ziggy a moment to himself.

ZIGGY You're going to be sorry, Dolph.

CUT TO:

EXT. FALSE BAY - SEAL ISLAND - DAY

Buster looks out at the open ocean from the edge of the rookery.

BUSTER Come on, Mama, where are you?

## BULL

(loudly) Nice view, isn't it?

Startled, Buster turns around to face Bull.

#### BUSTER

You scared me. (beat) Yeah, it is a nice view.

BULL

Well, make sure you enjoy it because it's the last thing you're ever going to see.

BUSTER I was right. You are going to kill me, aren't you?

BULL I'm sorry, little dude, but there's no other way around this.

BUSTER You're an idiot, you know that?!

BULL

I know that. So what?!

# BUSTER

Who do you think my mother will suspect first, if anything happens to me? I already told her that you might try to pull something like this.

#### BULL

You did, huh? See, and I thought I was going to hate myself for what I'm about to do to you.

Bull backs Buster closer to the edge of the cliff.

BUSTER

If you take one more step, I'll do a swan dive off of these rocks.

# BULL

Go ahead. Even if you do survive the plunge, I really don't think you know enough to take on the big open ocean all by yourself, do you? Bull takes another step. Buster crosses himself before diving into the water.

BULL (CONT'D) (shaking his head) Millenials --- they always wanna do things the hard way.

Bull comes to the edge of the cliff and scans the surface for Buster's body. Buster resurfaces and taunts Bull.

> BUSTER (thinking out loud) Well, Buster, there's no going back now. Let's hit it.

Buster swims away from the island and braves the open ocean on his own.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE INDIAN OCEAN - TOPSIDE - DAY

Decked out in scuba gear, Ernesto and Carmen head for South Africa on a motor boat packed with filmmaking equipment. Carmen looks through her binoculars and spots a whale shark at the surface.

> CARMEN Stop the boat, Ernesto!

ERNESTO What do you see?

The boat comes to a stop.

#### CARMEN

Look to your left. I think it's a whale shark.

Ernesto looks through his binoculars.

ERNESTO It is a whale shark.

CARMEN We should get it on film.

ERNESTO

Okay, hold on.

Ernesto changes course to go after the whale shark.

A school of sardines crowd around the whale shark to keep from getting eaten by the yellow fin tunas that are following them.

#### WHALE SHARK

Are you guys done with my spa treatment? I'm starting to feel a little claustrophobic.

SARDINE

I'm sorry, big guy, but the tunas are still back there, and it doesn't look like they're going away anytime soon.

Carmen and Ernesto make a splash when they enter the water and scare the whale shark away.

SARDINE (CONT'D) Hey, where are you going?

WHALE SHARK There's too much commotion up here for my taste. I'm going back to the depths where I can be alone with my feelings.

The whale shark takes a nose dive to the depths, leaving the sardines totally exposed.

SARDINE

What about us? You don't want our blood on your hands! That's a stink you can't wash off!

The whale shark disappears and doesn't look back. Carmen and Ernesto communicate with each other through the builtin headset in their headgear.

> CARMEN Where did the whale shark go?

ERNESTO It was here a minute ago. I think we scared it off.

The sardines swarm around Carmen and Ernesto and lead the tunas right to them.

CARMEN Whoa, where did these guys come from? The tunas try to bump Carmen and Ernesto out of the way to get to the sardines.

## ERNESTO

Use your camera to fend them off.

Ernesto and Carmen poke their cameras at the sardines.

#### CARMEN

This isn't working, Ernesto.

The sardines are trying their hardest to stay hidden behind Ernesto and Carmen.

ERNESTO I know. We've got to get back to the boat.

CARMEN How? I'm getting bumped around by the Roxbury guys over here.

Carmen takes a hit from behind.

CARMEN (CONT'D) (to the tuna) Excuse me. Am I in your way? Oops, pardon me.

Dolph and his pod show up and keep a safe distance from the action.

DOLPH Well, well, well, what's goin' on here?

Dolph and his females add commentary to all of the action.

#### WHEEZY

It always pleases me to see how inferior humans really are when they're out of their element.

DOLPH

I know it does. I feel the same way.

## FLORA

Look at those two goofs. They're really taking a pounding from those tunas.

With the exception of Bubbly, the dolphins enjoy the battering that the tunas are giving Ernesto and Carmen.

Bubbly recognizes the two divers.

BUBBLY

(to Dolph) This is wrong. We can't just look on and do nothing. We've got to help them.

Dolph stops Bubbly.

#### DOLPH

Whoa, where do you think you're going?

BUBBLY

What are you doing?! Get out of my way! Can't you see that they need our help?

Bubbly tries to swim around Dolph.

# DOLPH

I know you're new here and everything, but we don't care much for humans.

## BUBBLY

No, you'll like these people. They care more about wildlife than their own kind. Please, let me help them?

#### DOLPH

I don't think so. For all I know, they could be the kind of people who couldn't go 5 minutes without irking me with air-quotes. I'm sorry, Bubbly, but say goodbye to your air-quote gesturing friends.

# BUBBLY

Bite me!

Bubbly does a spin move to go around Dolph.

DOLPH Get back here, you female! You're gonna pay for that!

Bubbly comes to the aid of Carmen and Ernesto.

# ERNESTO

(to Bubbly)
I don't know where you came from,
but thanks.

Bubbly hears Dolph coming with the rest of his pod in tow.

DOLPH

Okay, Bubbly, you've done your good deed of the day... Now, let's get moving.

Bubbly offers Ernesto and Carmen a ride out of danger.

# BUBBLY

(in clicks) Grab on to me!

Ernesto and Carmen hitch a ride on Bubbly's back.

#### ERNESTO

Hold on, Carmen.

Ernesto and Carmen ride Bubbly back to the boat.

CARMEN Good girl. You saved our lives.

Bubbly tries her hardest to get through to Carmen and Ernesto in her language.

BUBBLY

(clicking)
Listen to me. My name is Bubbly.
I'm being held against my will.
Please, find my friends for me.

Dolph and his pod catch up to Bubbly.

DOLPH I'll teach you to defy me!

Bubbly is chased away from the boat and swims into a transparent school of box jellyfish and gets tased.

CUT TO:

INT. SURGEONFISH HOSPITAL - DAY

Star checks out of an air-filled underwater cave with a clean bill of health from a SURGEONFISH.

# STAR

This is a nice set up you've got here, Doc, but I'm glad I'm finally checking out of this place.

# SURGEONFISH

I'm glad you like it, Star. Now, I want you to give me your word that you won't partake in any feeding frenzies for at least a week.

# STAR

I promise, Doc.

SURGEONFISH And remember to come back in a month for your follow-up visit, okay?

STAR Don't worry, Doc, I'll be here.

SURGEONFISH Say hello to your pup for me.

# STAR

I will.

SURGEONFISH Okay. Now, get out of here and take your clean bill of health with you.

Star makes eye contact with Dolph as they pass each other in the waiting room.

# DOLPH

Hey, Doc, we've been waiting here for a long time. What's the story on the female we brought in?

SURGEONFISH Yes, the jellyfish sting, right?

Surgeonfish flips through the pages on his clipboard and finds Bubbly's chart.

SURGEONFISH (CONT'D) Well, she's still in shock. The amount of venom that was injected into her bloodstream really did a number on her nervous system, but we're doing everything we can for her. WHEEZY Just give it to us straight, Doc. Is she going to make it, or what?

SURGEONFISH Is she a fighter?

DOLPH

She's a fighter.

SURGEONFISH Then that's the best that we've got. Now, excuse me, but I've got other patients waiting.

The Surgeonfish swims away from Dolph and his females.

DOLPH Can you believe my luck? What am I going to do now?

CHORAL You heard the Doctor, Dolph. She's going to bounce back.

DOLPH If Bubbly doesn't pull through, then I'll lose the upper hand that I have over Ziggy.

FLORA Come on, Dolph, you'll think of something. You always do. That brain of yours never stops working.

Dolph laughs.

DOLPH Yeah, you're right about that. I'm not finished yet.

WHEEZY Come on, Dolph, let's get lost for a while. Bubbly will still be here when we get back.

DOLPH

Let's go.

Dolph leaves the hospital with his girls.

EXT. FALSE BAY - SEAL ISLAND - DAY

Star returns to her colony.

STAR Buster! Mama's back!

Star waits for Buster to come running.

STAR (CONT'D) How do you like that? I'm gone all this time, and he isn't even here to greet me.

Star tracks down Bull.

STAR (CONT'D)

Bull!

Bull turns around to face Star.

BULL

You startled me, darling. That's alright. I'm just glad you're back. I've been waiting for you.

STAR Save it, Bull. Where's Buster?

BULL Buster? You won't have to worry about him anymore.

STAR What do you mean? Did you do something to him?

BULL I never touched him.

STAR Tell me where my son is!

Star charges at Bull.

BULL This doesn't have to get ugly, Star.

Bull makes himself look larger to intimidate Star.

STAR You're not going to scare me out of beating what I want to know out of you, Bull.

# BULL Alright! That's it!

Star smacks the gravel into Bull's eyes with her flipper and blinds him.

# BULL (CONT'D) (shakes head violently) No fair!

Star has Bull at a disadvantage and viciously attacks him, scaring him into telling her what she wants to know.

STAR

Start talking, Bull.

BULL

Alright, here it is. I was going to finish Buster off in your absence; I wanted you to get back on your estrous cycle, but he dove in before I could even get to him.

STAR I'll deal with you later, Bull.

# BULL

You're not thinking about going in after him, are you? I'm sure he's been snatched up by a shark by now.

STAR

My son is alive, and when I bring him back here you better stay far away from him, or I'll hand feed you to Gigante myself.

Star dives into the water to look for Buster.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOMEWHERE OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA - DAY

A school of sardines try swimming around in circles but can't shake Buster.

BUSTER Why couldn't my mother be here to see me now? The fish huddle together to form a massive bait ball. Lickety-Split, Fleet, Whoop-de-do, Floater, and Alley-Oop swim by and watch Buster take on the massive bait ball all by himself from a distance.

# ALLEY-OOP Hey, look at the little dude go. He reminds me of me when I was a little tyke.

With Buster in his sights, Gigante moves in for the kill.

GIGANTE Time to try out my new choppers.

FLEET Uh-oh, here comes Gigante.

LICKETY-SPLIT The kid doesn't even see him.

FLOATER This is going to get ugly real fast.

Fleet moves Buster out of Gigante's way in the nick of time.

#### BUSTER

Hey, who are you guys?

# FLEET

Never mind who we are. What are you doing out here alone? Does your mother always let you wander off by yourself?

#### BUSTER

My mother's missing. I'm trying to find her. I was hungry, so I stopped to get something to eat.

#### FLEET

Well, we're taking you back to your colony right now. Gigante may be getting a little long in the tooth, but still...

Star calls out to Buster from a distance.

## STAR

Buster!

Buster hears his mother and goes to her.

#### BUSTER

Ma!

Star and Buster embrace each other.

## STAR

Thank goodness. I was so worried. I thought I lost you forever.

# BUSTER

You almost did. Gigante came this close to making a meal out of me, but these guys showed up and saved me just in time.

## STAR

Gigante was just here? We better go.

Star looks around.

## FLEET

Don't worry. We're alright. Now that Gigante's lost the element of surprise, he won't bother with us anymore.

# STAR

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# BUSTER

Can't we stay a little longer and finish off this bait ball with our new friends?

#### FLEET

I'm sorry, Buster, but I'm afraid we can't stay. We're looking for a friend of ours.

# STAR

(curious) Hey, is your friend a female?

#### FLEET

Yeah, how did you know that?

LICKETY-SPLIT Hospital? What happened to her?

STAR I'm not really sure. All I know is that she was in pretty bad shape.

# FLEET

Those creeps put her in the hospital? I'm gonna kill 'em!

LICKETY-SPLIT Where is this hospital? Can you tell us how to get there?

STAR I could do better than that. I'll show you the way. It's the least I can do.

CUT TO:

INT. SURGEONFISH HOSPITAL - DAY

Fleet, Lickety-Split, Floater, Whoop-de-do, and Alley-Oop speak to Bubbly's Surgeonfish.

FLEET

Excuse me, we'd like to speak to the Surgeonfish treating Bubbly.

SURGEONFISH You're speaking to him.

# FLEET

How is she doing?

SURGEONFISH It looks like she's going to pull through. She's doing much better now.

FLEET That's good because she has to come with us.

# SURGEONFISH

I can't let you do that. I said that your friend was feeling better. I didn't say that she was in any condition to leave here.

#### FLEET

Look, Doc, we don't have time to explain, but it's imperative that we get Bubbly outta here before the creeps that brought her in return.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE INDIAN OCEAN - DAY

Dolph and his pod corral a shoal of migrating sardines into a bait ball.

FLORA Isn't it a thing of beauty, Dolph?

DOLPH We've got to bring this thing closer to the surface.

EXT. ABOVE THE SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

The gannets are hovering over the sardines.

FLAP

What did I tell you, Downey? Stick with me and you'll never go hungry. Look down there...

A female gannet named MISSY arrives.

MISSY Excuse me, but what is this line for?

FLAP Oh, we're just waiting for the sardines to come within diving range.

# DOWNEY

Yeah, we've been hovering like this for a while. The dolphins must have spotted us by now. It shouldn't be long now. MISSY Great. Okay, thanks guys.

Downey checks Missy out as she leaves.

DOWNEY Whoa, what a looker, huh, Flap?

FLAP

What did you say?

DOWNEY I said she was some looker.

FLAP Was she? I don't know. I really wasn't paying attention.

The sardines are finally within the gannets' diving range.

FLAP (CONT'D) Alright, it's about time.

The gannets shoot out of the sky and hit the water at 40mph.

EXT. BELOW THE SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

A dive-bombing gannet misses Dolph's eye by an inch.

DOLPH Watch it, crazy birds! You almost took my eye out!

Downey sees a fish and goes after it.

MISSY Oh, were you going for that fish? I'm sorry. You could have it.

DOWNEY No, don't be silly. It's yours. Please, take it.

MISSY

Are you sure?

DOWNEY Yeah, it's no big deal. I'll get the next one.

Downey snatches another fish and gulps it down.

# MISSY

Thank you.

Missy gulps down the fish.

DOWNEY My name is Downey.

MISSY Hi Downey. I'm Missy.

EXT. ABOVE THE SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

The seabirds hovering in the air lead Ernesto and Carmen right to the feeding frenzy.

CARMEN Check it out, Ernesto. Look at all of the activity.

### ERNESTO

I see it. It's amazing how these birds could hit the water so hard without ever breaking anything.

## CARMEN

We better hurry up and get down there. I wanna get a shot of the gannets as they hit the water from down below.

Carmen and Ernesto fix their goggles and respirators and go over the side of the boat.

EXT. BELOW THE SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

Ernesto and Carmen sink to the ocean floor and scare the dolphins away.

#### DOLPH

Great! More videographers. Well, if they think we're going to cooperate and give them the footage they want to make their stupid documentary, they're crazy.

WHEEZY

Maybe we should go back to the hospital and check on that other chick.

DOLPH Good idea. Let's go. Dolph and his pod leave the bait ball to the gannets.

ERNESTO Hey, where are the dolphins going? We just got here.

CARMEN I guess things were getting a bit too dicey for them.

# ERNESTO (to the pod)

Stick around, guys. Don't let these birds run you off. We've come a long way for this. Come back!

Ernesto can't talk Dolph and his pod into staying.

CUT TO:

EXT. SURGEONFISH HOSPITAL - DAY

Dolph and his pod show up to collect Bubbly.

DOLPH How's my girl doing, Doc?

SURGEONFISH Fine. She's doing just fine.

DOLPH I'm glad to hear it. So, I guess I'll take her off your hands.

SURGEONFISH No, you can't do that.

# DOLPH

(confused) I thought you said she was good to go?

SURGEONFISH And she is, she is.

DOLPH Then why can't I check her out of this place?

SURGEONFISH Well, because five of her friends already beat you to it.

Dolph finds Bubbly's bed empty.

SURGEONFISH (CONT'D) If you're thinking about going after them, don't. They're long gone by now. You'll never catch them.

DOLPH We'll see about that, Doc.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE INDIAN OCEAN - DAY

Alley-Oop leaps in and out of the water to send out a distress call to Ziggy and the rest of the pod. Bubbly finally comes out of her coma and finds herself amongst her friends.

#### BUBBLY

Fleet?

#### FLEET

Bubbly, you're awake.

#### BUBBLY

Yeah, what's going on? Where are we? Why are you carrying me?

#### FLEET

It's a long story. I'll tell you all about it later. Right now, what I need you to do is pick up the pace. Can you do that for me?

BUBBLY

Holy pressure cooker, Batman! That's asking a lot. I'm still in a lot of pain.

#### FLEET

That's okay. I'll carry you the rest of the way.

BUBBLY Who are we running from?

FLEET

Dolph and them.

#### BUBBLY

Dolph? Now I remember. It's all coming back to me now. Oh, please don't let him take me again, Fleet. He was awful. FLEET I won't let that happen again, Bubbly. I promise you.

Bubbly can hear clicking sounds close by.

BUBBLY Wait! Do you hear that? Who is that?

FLEET It's Dolph and them. They're getting closer. We've got to move faster.

BUBBLY Just leave me here, Fleet. I'm only gonna slow you guys down.

FLEET Don't talk like that, Bubbly. Don't talk like that.

Dolph and his pod catch up to them.

DOLPH We're gaining on them, fellas. They're not gonna get away from us this time.

CHORAL

Dolph, look.

Ziggy arrives just in time with the rest of his pod.

ZIGGY We've really got to stop meeting like this, Dolph.

### FLEET

It's Ziggy!

Ziggy and his pod move in to attack.

WHEEZY

What happens now, Dolph? Do we retreat?

DOLPH

He's not chasing us away this time. This time we stay and fight.

WHEEZY Come on, Dolph. There are too many of them. DOLPH That's okay, though. You wanna know why?

# WHEEZY

Why?

# DOLPH

Cause I'm a rock star.... Yeah, that's right. I'm a rock star, and I got my rock move. What about you, Wheezy? You got your rock move?

WHEEZY

What does that mean?

DOLPH I don't know. Ask Pink. She makes it sound so cool.

Ziggy and Dolph are in a fight of attrition.

ZIGGY It's you and me, Dolph. We're going to finish this right here and now.

Dolph and his females team up to take on Ziggy.

PIVOT

Hey!

WHEEZY You want some of this?

PIVOT I want a lot of that.

Pivot swings around to smack Wheezy in the face with his tail.

PIVOT (CONT'D) He's all yours, Ziggy.

Wheezy backs off.

DOLPH I've been waiting a long time for this, Ziggy.

Dolph rams his head into Ziggy's side and spins him around.

ZIGGY Not bad, Dolph. But now it's my turn. Bubbly gets the better of her fight with Choral. BUBBLY This is for kidnapping me. Bubbly swings her tail around and smacks Choral in the face. BUBBLY (CONT'D) This is for scarring me and my friends for life probably. Bubbly swings her tail around again and smacks Choral in the face. BUBBLY (CONT'D) And this is for putting us through the ringer. Bubbly rams into Choral and blows her out of the water. WHOOP-DE-DO I'll never get on your bad side again, Bubbly. Dolph smacks Ziggy around with his tail. DOLPH This is the end for you, Ziggy, but I'm sorry for the inconvenience. Ziggy shakes it off. DOLPH (CONT'D) I'll just bet you thought you were hot stuff for turning us away from that bait ball, am I right? Well, what do you think now? Ziggy retaliates and spins Dolph around with a swing of his tail. DOLPH (CONT'D) (admitting defeat) You win this time, but this isn't over yet, Ziggy. You'll see me

Dolph retreats with his pod.

again soon.

Carmen and Ernesto are back in the boat. As they remove their scuba gear, they talk about what to do next.

## CARMEN

What a disaster. I'm sorry for talking you into this, Ernesto. You were right. I should've put more thought into this.

## ERNESTO

No, you were right. It was a good idea. It still is a good idea. We'll just go home and regroup. Next time, we'll be better prepared.

#### CARMEN

#### If there is a next time.

The spotted dolphins return for the bait ball of sardines.

#### ERNESTO

Well, Carmen, it looks like we won't be wrapping after all.

The spotted dolphins waste no time in rounding up the sardines.

#### CARMEN

Let's get back down there before we miss everything.

Carmen and Ernesto hustle to put their gear back on and jump in.

# ERNESTO

Yeah, this is good stuff.

A gannet diving for a sardine misses Carmen's eye by an inch.

# CARMEN

Whoa, that was a close one.

Looking through the view finder of his camera, Ernesto captures all of the action on film.

ZIGGY It doesn't get any tighter than this! Let's dig in. Fish scales come off and sink to the ocean floor as the dolphins zip right through the bait ball.

ALLEY-OOP Lickety-Split, I think I'm getting the hang of this tail slapping thing. Check me out.

Alley-Oop stuns the fish with a swat from his tail.

LICKETY-SPLIT Way to go, Alley-Oop.

Fleet and Bubbly also slap the fish with their tail.

BUBBLY

This is fun.

In the midst of the feeding frenzy, Flap finds Downey with Missy.

FLAP Well, I had enough sardines for one day. What about you, Downey?

You ready to blow this joint? DOWNEY

If it's all the same with you, I'm going to hang out with Missy some more. Missy this is Flap. Flap, this is Missy.

MISSY Nice to meet you, Flap.

FLAP Missy, it's nice meeting you.

A school of cape fur seals show up to finish the job.

STAR

(to Ziggy) Did you leave anything for us?

ZIGGY Yeah, we're done here.

STAR Okay, Buster, you're a big boy now. Let's see what you got.

The seals clean up what is left of the bait ball.

ZIGGY We're out of here, boys. On to the next one. Ziggy and his pod swim off in search of new feeding opportunities elsewhere.

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 all the nominees are put up in split screen.

GENESIS AWARDS PRESENTER (CONT'D) "The Greatest Shoal on Earth," Ernesto Escobar 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 could not join us 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.

ERNESTO

(on camera) 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) (to cheetah) Bad Cheetah! Bad cheetah! Why don't you point that thing somewhere else?

After seeing the cheetah off, Ernesto puts the top back on the sunroof and dries off his hair with a towel on camera.

> ERNESTO (CONT'D) (to his peers) 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.