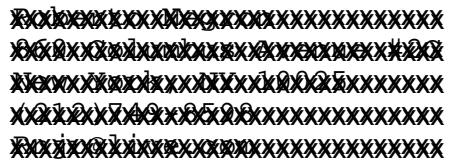


MAN, WOMAN, AND WILD

by

Roberto Negron



FADE IN.

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 drama. Wanna hear it?

WHEEZY

I'm all ears.

Dolph detects an attitude.

DOLPH

Okay, if you're going to patronize me, forget it! I won't tell you. How do you like that?!

FLORA

You see what you did, Wheezy?! Go ahead, Dolph. What were you going to say?

DOLPH

No, Wheezy doesn't want to hear it. She was patronizing me. Alpha males have feelings too, you know?

FLORA

Wheezy, don't patronize him.

WHEEZY

I wasn't! I wasn't patronizing you, Dolph.

FLORA

Never mind... Just save your two cents until after he's done. That goes for you too, Choral.

CHORAL

Me? What did I do? Go ahead, Dolph... You have the floor.

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

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?

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

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. She rams her head through the bottom of the boat and causes an oil spill.

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

Hey, you are free! Okay, that's good. Now, it's time for us to go. I think I got a little carried away. Things are about to get slick around here.

Mom Duke 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.

EXT. SOUTH AFRICA - AGULHAS BANK - DAY

MR. FISHER, the principle of a large school of sardines, gives his students a pep talk.

MR. FISHER

Alright, it's that time of year again. I want you all to get plenty of rest. We've got an early day tomorrow.

GILL, one of the principle's students, cuts him off.

GILL

Mr. Fisher, I've got to talk to you.

MR. FISHER

Gill, where have you been? I was just telling your schoolmates about the long road ahead of us.

GILL

About the migration tomorrow... I think we need to postpone it for a few days.

MR. FISHER

Postpone it? What in the world are you talking about?

GILL

I'll show you what I'm talking about, but not in front of everyone.

Mr. Fisher and Gill move away from the other pupils to speak in private.

MR. FISHER

Alright, Gill, you have my attention. Now, what's so top secret?

Gill regurgitates hundreds of disfigured krill in front of Mr. Fisher.

MR. FISHER (CONT'D)

Where did all this krill come from?

GILL

About twenty miles north of here.

MR. FISHER

You went out there alone? Do you have any idea how dangerous that was? You could've been lost forever, and none of us would've been any of the wiser.

GILL

Never mind that... Look at the krill... Don't you see how deformed they are?

Mr. Fisher inspects the krill.

MR. FISHER

This is disgusting. Are they all so nasty looking?

GILL

Yep. I don't know what's going on. There must be something wrong with the water's pH levels. Whatever it is, I think it would be a mistake for us to start the migration tomorrow.

Mr. Fisher gives the krill another look.

MR. FISHER

How I lasted this long as principle of this school I'll never know. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but what other choice do I have? I'll tell the others that we have to stay put for another two weeks, at least.

GILL

You could do it, Sir, just give it to them straight.

MR. FISHER

Gill, I want you to know that everyone is going to know what you've done. You may have just saved us all from something that could've been disastrous.

GILL

Thanks, Mr. Fisher.

Mr. Fisher leaves Gill to brief the others.

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 for anything good to eat.

ZIGGY

There's nothing over here. Look over there, Pivot.

Pivot checks the coral reef.

PIVOT

There's nothing over here either.

ZIGGY

Look at us. Here we are in town for the Annual Sardine Run, and we're looking under 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 will have better luck finding 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 him by now.

ZIGGY

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

PIVOT

Yes sir.

MEANIE, and his pod of killer whales can be heard communicating with each other nearby.

ZIGGY

Shhh! Do you hear that?

PIVOT

It sounds like Meanie. What's he
doing this far out of his
migratory route?

ZIGGY

Take cover! This is one family
reunion I don't mind skipping.

Ziggy's pod hide behind a coral reef and watch the herd
of killer whales swim over their heads.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

(thinking out loud)

Good luck, Lickety-Split...
You're on your own.

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.

LICKETY-SPLIT

Do you really think Ziggy and them
are going to find a sardine shoal
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.

An oil slick closes in on Fleet and Lickety-Split.

FLEET

Hey, what's this black stuff.
It's coming right at us.

LICKETY-SPLIT

Get away from it. Don't let any
of that stuff get on you. We
better round up the others and get
out of here.

Whoop-de-do, Alley-Oop, Floater, and Bubbly are in a
panic.

BUBBLY

Lickety-Split, what's going on?
What is all this stuff?

LICKETY-SPLIT

It's an oil slick.

BUBBLY

Yuck! What are we going to do?

Bubbly splashes the water away with her flippers.

LICKETY-SPLIT

Everybody, up the sandbar.

BUBBLY

You want us to beach ourselves?

LICKETY-SPLIT

We have to, Bubbly. Look
around... There's no other way
around this. If any of this stuff
gets on us, we're done for.

BUBBLY

Okay, up the sandbar it is.

FLOATER

It's getting closer, so, if we're
really going to do this thing...

LICKETY-SPLIT

We'll all go together... Ready?
Now!

The oil slick forces the dolphins to beach themselves.

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

Look at that crowd of people...
There's something going on over
there.

EXT. SHARK BAY - SANDBAR - CONTINUOUS

Ernesto and Carmen work their way through a crowd of tourists and find six stranded dolphins.

CARMEN

(shames the
onlookers)

Did any of you bother to help
these poor animals? No, of course
not. You're all too busy taking
selfies with them!

ERNESTO

Never mind, Carmen! There's no
time to lose... let's put them
in the back of my truck.

CARMEN

What are we doing?

ERNESTO

You'll see. I have an idea.

Carmen helps Ernesto carry one dolphin to the truck.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)

(to the onlookers)

Alright, you jackals, make a hole!
There's nothing to see here...
The show's over!

EXT. ERNESTO'S TRUCK - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

The six spotted dolphins are covered with wet blankets and hauled away to a safe location.

ERNESTO

Don't worry, Carmen. I know it
looks bad, but we will recover
from this.

CARMEN

Yeah, I know, but if this oil
slick isn't contained soon...

ERNESTO

Wait a minute... This looks like
a good spot to release the
dolphins.

Ernesto and Carmen get out of the truck and carry the dolphins to the water one at a time.

BUBBLY

Hey, where's this shadow coming
from?

Lickety-split looks up at the sun and sees what could only be Ziggy blocking it out with somersaults.

LICKETY-SPLIT

That's got to be Ziggy. He must
have found food.

BUBBLY

How do you know? You can't tell
from here.

LICKETY-SPLIT

It's got to be him... I don't
know of any other dolphin who can
somersault high enough to block
out the sun.

FLEET

So, what are we still doing here?
Let's blow this joint.

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.

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

Okay, I get the message... I guess I better get off my butt. Maybe the sardines have turned up some place where I haven't already looked.

FLAP'S MATE

Remember, Flap, we want our chick to know that he's in good hands with us as his parents, so make us look good.

FLAP

Yes dear.

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

EXT. FALSE BAY - SEAL ISLAND - DAY

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.

Gigante has a run in with Meanie and his herd.

GIGANTE

Hey Meanie... Hey guys. You boys in town for the Annual Sardine Run?

MEANIE

Heck no! We're in pursuit of a sperm whale and her newborn calf. Have you seen them around?

GIGANTE

No, I can't say that I have. What do you want with a couple of sperm whales?

MEANIE

What do you think? We wanna tear the little one's tongue out and eat it.

GIGANTE

Right. I knew that. Well, I'm sorry I couldn't help you. I guess I'll be going now.

MEANIE

Hold on, Gigante. As long as I've got you here, you wouldn't mind letting me practice my Tenkai-Kote-Hineri on you, would you?

GIGANTE

Not at all... Wait... Practice your what now?

Meanie gets a hold of Gigante and flips him over.

GIGANTE (CONT'D)
Hey, come on now!

MEANIE
You're getting very sleepy.

Meanie and his pod get a laugh at the catatonic state Gigante is in.

MEANIE (CONT'D)
(with a bow)
Tenkai-Kote-Hineri.

Meanie lets Gigante go. Gigante sinks to the ocean floor and snaps out of his trance.

GIGANTE
(thinking out loud)
One of these days that guy is going to get his... I only hope that I'm around to see it.

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 sardines are finally starting to rear their oily heads.

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.

STAR (CONT'D)

We all put our differences aside
and come together to break bread.

BUSTER

Did you say sharks?

STAR

Yeah, but it's not what you think.
It's more like when the Bloods and
Crips put their differences aside
and came together during the LA
Riots in 92.

BUSTER

Oh, 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.

EXT. OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA - DAY

Dolph and his pod are in town for the Annual Sardine Run.

FLORA

If you plan on becoming a father while you're still running this pod, then we can't go on like this, Dolph.

DOLPH

I know the sardines are somewhere around here, Flora... They've got to be.

CHORAL

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

DOLPH

Let me stop you right there,
Choral. 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

I don't know. Maybe he was
calling for someone to help him
with a bait ball.

DOLPH

Maybe, or maybe it was an Orca
tossing some poor dolphin around.

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.

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 dive-bombings, 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

GILL'S GIRLFRIEND helps herself to plankton and spits it out.

GILLS GIRLFRIEND

(disgusted)

Yuck! Boy, you can really taste
the acidity in this plankton.

Gill is distracted by all the seabirds.

GILL

What?

GILL'S GIRLFRIEND

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

GILL

This is no time to be cutting
carbs or counting calories, babe.
Hurry up and eat.

Gill won't take his eyes off the seabirds.

GILL'S GIRLFRIEND

Why do you keep looking up?

GILL

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.

GILL (CONT'D)

Babe, get in the center of the bait ball!

GILL'S GIRLFRIEND

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.

GILL

Trust me, Babe. We'll be much safer in the center.

Ziggy is daunted by the size of the shoal.

ZIGGY

Whoa, I'll bet this shoal is 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

Mr. Fisher recites PSALMS 116 from the Good News Bible.

MR. FISHER

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...

Gill and his mate are safe in the center of the bait ball.

GILL'S GIRLFRIEND

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

GILL

I know. We're being deprived of oxygen.

Mr. Fisher is still reciting.

MR. FISHER

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! You know her better than I do. Do you know if she has all of 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, Gill and his girlfriend seize the opportunity to escape to the depths.

GILL

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. 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. If I let you guys join in this feeding frenzy, there won't be any sardines left for them.

DOLPH

I can see you're just being a good leader, Ziggy, but you know us. We're not strangers. 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.

DOLPH (CONT'D)

We're leaving, Ziggy, but I want you to know that I won't forget this. From here on out, we are deadly enemies, so watch your back because this isn't over.

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

PIVOT

How do you like that guy, Ziggy?
He kicked us out of his pod, and
we're supposed to act 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.

EXT. GANNET NEST SITE - DAY

Flap introduces Downey to his family.

FLAP

Okay, you can 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.

FLAP (CONT'D)

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. 50 MILES OFF THE COAST OF AUSTRALIA - DAY

Ships show up in droves to share in the clean up efforts.

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
I knew Jack wasn't going to let something like an oil spill keep him from running his business.
Good for him.

ERNESTO
And you thought the town would never recover from this... Shame on you, Carmen.

CARMEN
Don't get me wrong, Ernesto. I'm glad the town is getting back on its feet, but what about our aquatic friends? I don't know about you, but I haven't been able to get the dolphins we saved 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.

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.

Lickety-Split puts an end to the bickering.

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?

FLEET

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 looks at her chick.

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.
Don't be a stranger.

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 can really hold a grudge. I can barely remember the fight we had.

WHEEZY

Really? I remember the fight as if it happened yesterday.

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

I can hear you. You guys are
freaking me out over here.

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 can 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 ask me, I wouldn't even think about going after Dolph and his crew, unless Nationwide was on my side.

FLOATER

I'm with Alley-Oop. We gotta find Ziggy and let him know what happened. This thing is way too big for the five us to handle.

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.

WHOOP-DE-DO
I've always hated the ocean at night. It gives me the creeps.

Whoop-de-do hears the sound of Freddy Krueger scraping his claws along metal.

WHOOP-DE-DO (CONT'D)
You hear that?! What is that?!

LICKETY-SPLIT
What? I don't hear anything.

WHOOP-DE-DO
Listen. It sounds like finger
knives.

LICKETY-SPLIT
It's all in your head, Whoop-de-
do. Get a hold of yourself.

Aggressive giant squids come up from below.

FLEET
Great! Giant Squids -- that's all
we need now.

ALLEY-OOP
They're not so bad. When I die, I
think I'd like to come back as one
of them.

FLOATER
No, you don't.

ALLEY-OOP
Why not? I think it's cool ---
the way they're able to change
colors and blend in with their
surroundings.

FLOATER
That's all good and everything,
but do you know about the way
these things breed?

ALLEY-OOP
No, I don't.

FLOATER
I didn't think so... There's no
fun in it at all.

FLEET
Never mind the way these things
make babies... these things are
armed to the teeth with suckers
that can strip the flesh right off
your bones.

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 can 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-de-do!

The giant squid tries to squeeze the life out of Whoop-de-do.

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.

GIANT SQUID

Things are going to change around here when Meanie and his friends finally catch up with you, Mom Dukes.

MOM DUKES

We'll see about that.

The giant squid reaches out with his tentacle and leaves a scar on the face of Mom Dukes.

CAFFY

Mom!

An angry Mom Dukes makes short work of the giant squid.

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?

PIVOT

No, still no sign of any of them.

ZIGGY

Something's not right. They should've been back by now.

PIVOT

What do you think happened to them, Ziggy?

ZIGGY
It's all my fault for splitting up
the team.

PIVOT
No, we all know you meant well.
All you were trying to do was
better our chances of finding
sardines.

ZIGGY
Thanks Pivot. That means a lot
coming from you.

PIVOT
Why don't I go look for Lickety-
Split and the others, Ziggy?

ZIGGY
No, forget it. We're blowing this
joint. I want everyone in
formation and ready to go in five
minutes.

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.

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 sneaks up on Buster.

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)

Millennials --- 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.

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.

EXT. THE INDIAN OCEAN - BELOW THE SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

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?

The whale shark disappears and doesn't look back. Carmen and Ernesto communicate with each other through the built-in 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.

DOLPH

I'll say they're taking a
pounding. I'm feeling soar all
over just from watching.

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. Dolph and his pod come to a "Whale Road Crossing" sign and yield to a large Fin Whale coming up from the abyss for air.

DOLPH (CONT'D)
 Move it, you big blowhole! You're
 letting her get away!

Bubbly swims into a transparent school of box jellyfish and gets tased.

INT. SURGEONFISH HOSPITAL - DAY

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

STAR
 I like what you've done to the place, Doc, but you gotta get yourself some marble columns.

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.

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 catch a fish and scrape off the scales with his flippers.

FLEET
What the heck is he doing?

ALLEY-OOP
Hey, little dude's making it rain up in here. What's wrong with that?

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

Well, thank you for saving my boy's life. I'm forever in your debt. If you ever need anything, you know where to find me.

(to Buster)

Let's go.

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?

STAR

I just checked out of an air-filled underwater hospital not too far from here. There was a female in the room with me.

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

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.

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 that good looks chick.
(corrects himself)
I mean, that chick looks good.

FLAP
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. Missy catches a fish and makes her way back to the surface. A flock of sea gulls try to force Missy to give up her catch.

SEA GULL #1

What you got there, darling? Give it here. Don't make me ask you twice.

MISSY

You're straight out of a comic book. Get lost.

SEA GULL #2

Whoa, you know who you're talking to, Deary? You're talking to a gull. You better show us some respect.

All this is going on right in front of Downey.

DOWNEY

(to Flap)

Do you see this? Do you see what's happening? Where do these sea gulls get off? I'm going to put a stop to this right now.

Downey intervenes.

FLAP

Alright, Bro, I'll be right here. Holler if you need me.

Downey comes to Missy's aide.

DOWNEY

Hey, Missy, is everything okay here? Are these gulls giving you trouble?

MISSY

I don't know. It depends on how you feel about harassment.

DOWNEY

Alright, beat it, clowns! The gannet chick objects to your presence here, and so do I.

The sea gulls all laugh.

SEA GULL #1

Who the heck talks like that?

Downey laughs right along with them.

DOWNEY

Okay, you got me. I'm no talker,
so we don't we get right down to
it?

Downey chases the sea gulls away.

SEA GULL #1

This dude's crazy!

Downey sees the sea gulls off and returns to Missy.

MISSY

Are you alright?

DOWNEY

Don't worry about me. Are you
okay?

MISSY

Yeah, but don't wander off too far
in case they come back.

DOWNEY

Don't worry. I won't.

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 can 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

Yep, we're definitely in the right place, Ernesto. Look at all of the activity.

ERNESTO

Check out the suds --- it's like dropping Alka-Seltzer in your drinking water... plop, plop, fizz, fizz oh what a relief it is.

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.

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.

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

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.

Gigante happens to be in the area and swims over to take
a closer look at all of the commotion.

DOLPH

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

Fleet, Bubbly, Floater, Whoop-de-do, Alley-Oop, and
Lickety-Split are surrounded by Dolph and his herd.

DOLPH (CONT'D)

Nice try, fellas, but you've got
to get up pretty early in the
morning to pull something over on
me.

Dolph talks to Bubbly directly.

DOLPH (CONT'D)

As for you, Bubbly, I've been
meaning to spare you, but you're
more trouble to me than you're
worth, so you'll have to suffer
the same fate as your friends.

Wheezy can hear Meanie communicating with his friends
nearby.

WHEEZY

Dolph, what is that?

The dolphins suddenly find themselves surrounded by a
herd of killer whales.

DOLPH
Forget this! We're out of here.

Meanie gets in Dolph's face to bully him.

MEANIE
Where do you think you're going?

Meanie tosses Dolphin in the air.

WHEEZY
Dolph!

Fleet tries to thank Meanie.

FLEET
I don't know if we'll ever be able
to repay you, but thanks...
You're a life saver.

Meanie gives Fleet the stink eye.

MEANIE
Let's get one thing straight right
now!

Meanie spins Fleet around with a swat of his tail.

BUBBLY
Hey, what did you that for?

Meanie orders his pod to go after all of the dolphins.

MEANIE
Alright, boys, let's paint this
town red.

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

FLEET
You're in for it now, Meanie!

Ziggy and his pod move in to attack.

PIVOT
How do you wanna do this, Ziggy?

ZIGGY
Just follow my lead.

The dolphins break into teams of ten and randomly pick an Orca to jump on.

MEANIE

So, you guys think you figured out
a way to take on your big cousins,
huh?

Meanie swings his enormous fluke at Wheezy, Flora, and Choral, knocking them back.

ZIGGY

Well, Dolph, what do you say we
put our differences aside and go
back to being mad at each other
later?

DOLPH

Sounds good to me.

Ziggy, Dolph, Pivot, Fleet, Bubbly, Lickety-Split, and Floater attack Meanie at once.

MEANIE

You guys can do better than that,
can't you? This is pitiful!

Meanie swats Ziggy and Dolph away with his fluke.

DOLPH

This isn't working, Ziggy. He's
laughing at us.

ZIGGY

We can't let up. Don't give this
guy a chance to breathe.

Meanie's friends are too busy to come to his defense.

WHEEZY

Grab his tail, ladies!

Wheezy, Flora, Choral, and Bubbly bite down on Meanie's tail.

MEANIE

Get off me!

Meanie swings his tail around to shake the female dolphins loose.

MEANIE (CONT'D)

No matter what you try, you're
never going to win this!

Mom Dukes arrives with her pod to burst Meanie's bubbles.

MOM DUKES

Hey, Meanie, I hear you've been looking for me. Let's get this thing cleared up once and for all.

Mom Dukes swims right up to Meanie, knocks him out cold with a swat of her tail, and flees the scene with her pod.

GIGANTE

Yeah! Go ahead, Mom Dukes!

Meanie is carried off by his pod.

ZIGGY

(to Dolph)

Dolph, what do you say we wipe this slate clean, and let bygones be bygones?

DOLPH

Yeah, why not?

ZIGGY

Hey, after what we've just been through, the least we can do is share a bait ball together before going our separate ways.

DOLPH

I'd like that. There's got to be a shoal a sardines for us to pick off somewhere around here.

EXT. THE INDIAN OCEAN - ABOVE THE SURFACE - DAY

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.

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
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.

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.