

FINDING NEMO

Original Story by
Andrew Stanton

Screenplay by
Andrew Stanton, Bob Peterson, David Reynolds



A handwritten signature of Andrew Stanton, consisting of the name 'Andrew Stanton' in a cursive script. To the left of the signature is a small, simple cartoon drawing of a character's head with a large eye and a small mouth, connected to the signature by a dotted line.

FADE IN

THE DEEP OCEAN. A vast empty blue void. Anything could be out there.

MARLIN (O.S.)
Now.

CORAL (O.S.)
Mm...

MARLIN (O.S.)
Now.

CORAL (O.S.)
Mmmhmm...

Beat.

MARLIN (O.S.)
Now.

CORAL (O.S.)
Yes, Marlin. No, I see it.
It's...beautiful.

A PAIR OF CLOWNFISH look out from their tranquil anemone home on the Great Barrier Reef. It rests on the cliff face of THE DROP-OFF, where the shallow water falls steeply to the deep. Light dances over everything as it sways with the rhythm of the undercurrent.

MARLIN
So, Coral, when you said you wanted an ocean view, you didn't think you were gonna get the whole ocean, did ya? Huh?!
(swims out; breaths deep)
Oh yeah. A fish can breathe out here! Did your man deliver? Or did he deliver?

Coral rolls her eyes and smiles.

CORAL
My man delivered.

MARLIN
And it wasn't so easy --

CORAL
(feeds into him)
-- Because a lot of other clownfish had their eyes on this place...

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

You better believe they did! Every single one of them.

CORAL

Mm-hmm. You did good. And the neighborhood is awesome.

Coral steers Marlin's focus back to the CORAL REEF, where their neighbors, an array of MULTI-COLORED MARINE LIFE, happily go about their business amidst the exotic foliage that blankets the reef.

Marlin soaks it in, turns to Coral. She seems concerned.

MARLIN

So you do like it, don't you?

CORAL

No, no, no. I do. I do. I really do like it.

(leads him out to the edge)

But Marlin, I know that the Drop-off is desirable with the great schools and the amazing view and all that. But do we really need so much space?

MARLIN

Coral, honey, these are our kids we're talking about. They deserve the best. Look, look, look...

(enters anemone; acts it out)

They'll wake up, poke their little heads out and they see a whale passing right by their bedroom window!

CORAL

Shhh... You're gunna wake the kids.

MARLIN

Oh right. Right.

Marlin follows her down to a SMALL GROTTO in the rock below. They peek in at

A BED OF FISH EGGS

nestled within the rock. The nuclei of the eggs quiver at random.

CORAL

Aw, look. They're dreaming.

CONTINUED:

Mother and father lovingly observe their babies from the entrance of the grotto.

CORAL
We still have to name them.

MARLIN
You want to name all of them, right now?
Alright, we'll name, uh, this half Marlin Jr., and then this half... Coral Jr.
Okay, we're done.

CORAL
(ignores him)
I like Nemo.

MARLIN
Nemo? Well, we'll name one Nemo, but I'd like most of them to be Marlin Jr.

CORAL
Just think, in a couple days we're gonna be parents.

MARLIN
Yeah...
(beat)
What if they don't like me?

Coral swims back up to the anemone. She's heard this before.

CORAL
Marlin...

MARLIN
No really.

CORAL
(goes inside)
There's over 400 eggs. Odds are one of them is bound to like you.

INT. ANEMONE HUME - CONTINUOUS

Coral settles on the anemone floor. Turns to find Marlin staring at her through the tendrils. All love.

CORAL
What?

MARLIN
You remember how we met?

CONTINUED:

CORAL
Well, I try not to.

MARLIN
Well, I remember.

He chases Coral around the inside of the anemone, threatening to kiss her.

MARLIN
Excuse me, miss. Could you check and see if I have a hook in my lip? Oh, you gotta look closer cause it's way in there.

CORAL
(laughing)
No, No! Get away! Marlin! Get away! Get away!

Coral escapes outside, but he's right behind.

MARLIN
There he is! Cutie's here -- !

EXT. ANEMONE HOME - CONTINUOUS

Marlin pokes his head out of anemone and is startled to see that the neighborhood is eerily empty.

MARLIN
Where'd everybody go?

Notices Coral. She is absolutely still.

A BARRACUDA

floats in the murk, staring them down. Marlin tries to whisper without moving.

MARLIN
Coral. Get inside the house, Coral.

He catches her glancing down at the eggs in the grotto.

MARLIN
No. No, Coral. Don't. They'll be fine.
Just get inside. You. Right now.

Coral breaks for it. The barracuda lunges at her.

MARLIN
NO!!

Marlin collides with the barracuda -- Its jaws snap -- He dodges -- The BARRACUDA'S TAIL smacks him hard against the rocks. Marlin falls limp into the anemone...

CONTINUED:

...Everything goes black...

FADE IN ON ANEMONE TENDRILS, swaying gently with the current. It's all quiet. Marlin comes to. How long has he been out? He bolts from the anemone.

MARLIN

CORAL!!

EXT. ANEMONE HOME - NIGHT

Marlin scans the darkness. Nothing. Looks down. The moonlit grotto remains silent. He moves cautiously towards it...

MARLIN

Coral?

...looks in...It's empty.

Marlin begins to shake. Calls out once more, hoping...

MARLIN

...Coral?!

No answer.

MARLIN

No...no...

He swims aimlessly. All alone. Stunned. When he looks down, and notices

A SINGLE FISH EGG

lying exposed on the sand, quivering on a ledge below the grotto. Marlin rushes to it.

MARLIN

There, there, there. It's okay... Daddy's here. Daddy's got you.

Gently, he cradles the egg in his fins. Turns it over. The other side is scarred but intact.

MARLIN

I promise, I will never let anything happen to you. Nemo.

CLOSE ON EGG

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

The FULL MOON from underneath the water's rippling surface...

CONTINUED:

CREDITS PLAY

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

The BRIGHT MORNING SUN replacing the moon as we pull back inside...

INT. ANEMONE HOME - SIX YEARS LATER

A 6 year old NEMO sticks his head into frame.

NEMO

First day of school! First day of school!
Wake up!! Wake up!! C'mon! First day of
school!!

He jumps on top of Marlin, asleep on the floor.

MARLIN

I don't want to go to school -- five more
minutes.

NEMO

Not you, Dad, me! Get up! Get up!

Nemo is so excited he literally bounces off the walls.

MARLIN.

Okay. Huh? I'm up... What is
it? Alright, I'm up. It's
time for school.

NEMO

It's time for school! Time
for school! Time for school!
Time for school! Oh boy, oh
boy, oh boy! -- Whoa!!

Nemo loses control, and tumbles out the anemone.

MARLIN

NEMO!

EXT. ANEMONE HOME - CONTINUOUS

Marlin bursts out of the anemone to find Nemo stuck, face
first, in a vase coral. Still excited.

NEMO

(muffled)
First day of school!

MARLIN

Nemo! Don't move. Don't move! You'll
never get out of there yourself. I'll do
it.

CONTINUED:

In an anxious fervor, Marlin pops Nemo out of the vase, rushes him back inside, and frantically checks him all over.

MARLIN

Alright, where's the break? You feel a break?

NEMO

(calm)

No.

MARLIN

Sometimes you can't tell because fluid is rushing to the area. Now, any rushing fluids?

NEMO

No.

MARLIN

Are you woozy?

NEMO

No.

MARLIN

How many stripes do I have?

NEMO

I'm fine.

MARLIN

Answer the stripe question!

NEMO

Three.

MARLIN

No! See! Something's wrong with you. I have one, two, three? That's all I have?

(calms down)

Oh, you're okay. How's the lucky fin?

NEMO

Lucky.

Nemo turns to reveal

HIS RIGHT PECTORAL FIN

It is noticeably smaller than his other fin. Almost vestigial. Nemo must flap it twice as fast, like a hummingbird, to stay balanced.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

Let's see.

Nemo awkwardly slaps his dad five with the withered fin.

MARLIN

Now you sure you wanna go to school this year? Cause there's no problem if you don't. You can wait five or -- six years.

NEMO

C'mon, dad! It's time for school!

MARLIN

Ah-ah-ah. Forgot to brush.

NEMO

(protests)

Oh.

MARLIN

Do you want this anemone to sting you?

NEMO

(looks at it; beat)

Yes.

MARLIN

Brush.

Nemo huffs. Gives a brief perfunctory graze against the tendrils.

NEMO

Okay, I'm done!

MARLIN

Uh, you missed a spot!

NEMO

Where?

MARLIN

There!

(tickles him)

And right there! And here and here!

EXT. ANEMONE HOME - DAY

Marlin pokes his head out, tentatively. Nemo does the same. This anemone is a new home. It rests in the center of an ISOLATED CUL DE SAC deep inside the reef. Nice and safe.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

Alright. We're excited. First day of school. Here we go. We're ready to learn, to get some knowledge. Now, what's the one thing we have to remember about the ocean?

NEMO

It's not safe.

MARLIN

That's my boy! So...first we check to see that the coast is clear...We go out...

Marlin ventures out halfway then pulls right back into the anemone. Proceeds to repeat this routine ad nauseam.

MARLIN (CONT'D)

...and back in. And then we go out...and back in. And then one more time, out...and back in. And sometimes if you want to do it four times --

NEMO

Dad...

MARLIN

Alright, come on, boy.

Impatient, Nemo heads out. Marlin dotes over his son's progress as they swim through the coral.

NEMO

Dad, maybe while I'm at school, I'll see a shark!

MARLIN

I highly doubt that.

NEMO

Have you ever met a shark?

MARLIN

No, and I don't plan to.

NEMO

How old are sea turtles?

MARLIN

Sea turtles? I -- I don't know...

CONTINUED:

NEMO

Sandy Plankton from next door...he said that sea turtles, they live to be about hundred years old!

MARLIN

Well, you know what, if I ever meet a sea turtle, I'll ask him. After I'm done talking to the shark, okay?

(grabs Nemo)

Whoa, whoa! Hold on. Wait to cross.

He pulls Nemo back from an intersection of streaming fish. A red crossing guard fish stops the traffic, and allows them to cross over.

MARLIN

Hold my fin. Hold my fin.

NEMO

Dad, you're not gonna freak out like you did at the petting zoo, are you?

MARLIN

Hey, that snail was about to charge.

They swim to a large patch of sand - the SCHOOLYARD. Chaos reigns as children of all species run around playing while their relaxed parents talk and laugh in small groups. Marlin nervously holds tight to Nemo.

MARLIN

Hmm, I wonder where we're supposed to go?

-- A fish stops, opens her mouth, and all her kids swim out.

KIDS IN MOUTH

Bye, Mom!

BIG MOUTH MOM

I'll pick you up after school.

-- Two bratty fish play keep-away with a hermit crab's shell.

YOUNG HERMIT CRAB

Come on, you guys. Stop it. Give it back.

-- Marlin tentatively weaves through the crowd...

MARLIN

C'mon, we'll try over there.

CONTINUED:

...and joins a group of LAUGHING FATHERS. He still holds tight to Nemo.

MARLIN

Excuse me, is this where we meet his teacher?

SEAHORSE FATHER

Well, look who's out of the anemone.

MARLIN

Yes. Shocking, I know.

SEAHORSE FATHER

Marty, right?

MARLIN

Marlin.

SEAHORSE FATHER

Bob.

FLAPJACK OCTOPUS FATHER

Ted.

BUTTERFLY FISH FATHER

Phil.

(realizes)

Hey! You're a clownfish. You're funny, right? Hey, tell us a joke.

MARLIN

Well, actually that's a common misconception. Clownfish are no funnier than any other fish.

PHIL

Aw, c'mon, clowny.

TED

Yeah, do somethin' funny.

BOB

Yeah!

MARLIN

Well, alright, I -- I know one joke. Um, there's a mollusk, see, and he walks up to a sea -- well, he doesn't walk up, he swims up. Well, actually the mollusk isn't moving.

CONTINUED:

As Marlin butchers the joke, the three fathers' eager expressions slowly deflate.

MARLIN (CONT'D)

He's in one place and then the sea cucumber -- well, they... I'm mixed up. There was a mollusk and a sea cucumber, none of them were walking so forget that I said that --

BOB

Sheldon! Get out of Mr. Johannsen's yard NOW!!

Nearby, a seahorse kid (SHELDON), a flapjack octopus kid (PEARL) and butterfly fish kid (TAD) laugh as they jump up and down on the sand. They scream in surprise as Mr. Johannsen, a GIANT FLOUNDER (with both eyes on one side of his body), bursts from under the sand.

MR. JOHANNSEN

Alright, you kids!! Where'd ya go?! Where'd ya go?! Where'd ya go?!

The kids hide on his blind side as he searches in vain.

NEMO

(whispers excitedly)
Dad? Dad, can I go play too? Can I?

MARLIN

I would feel better if you'd go play over on the sponge beds.

Marlin indicates to the SPONGE BEDS, where baby fish bounce with their mothers close by. One falls over, wails loudly. Nemo looks at his dad: you've got to be kidding.

MARLIN

That's where I would play.

Tad, Pearl, and Sheldon crowd around Nemo.

PEARL

What's wrong with his fin?

TAD

He looks funny.

Not Tad, but Sheldon is smacked by his father.

SHELDON

Ow! Hey! Whaddido?! Whaddido?

CONTINUED:

BOB

Be nice. It's his first time at school.

MARLIN

He was born with it, kids...We call it his lucky fin.

NEMO

Dad...

PEARL

See this tentacle? It's actually shorter than all my other tentacles, but you can't really tell.

(twirls)

Especially when I twirl them like this.

SHELDON

I'm H2O intolerant. (Sneeze)

TAD

I'm obnoxious.

Distant singing stops the kids. They wheel around to see a MANTA RAY sailing into the schoolyard.

MANTA RAY

Ohhhhhh! Lets name the zones, the zones?! THE ZONES! Let's name zones of the open sea! Theeeeere's eipelagic, mesopelagic, bathyal, and abyssalpelagic, hadipelagic and all the rest are too deep for you and me to seeeee!

KIDS

Mr. Ray!

SHELDON

C'mon, Nemo!

MARLIN

Whoa. You better stay with me.

Marlin holds Nemo back, as the other kids rush over to Mr. Ray. The ray lands right on top of the waiting children.

MR. RAY

(mock concern)

Huh? I wonder where has my class has gone?

CONTINUED:

KIDS

(muffled laughs; giggles)

We're under here! We're under here!

MR. RAY

Oh, there you are! Climb aboard,
explorers!

Mr. Ray lifts to allow the kids to board him.

MR. RAY

(sings)

Ohhhhhh...knowledge exploring is oh so
lyrical, when you think thoughts that are
empirical.

Nemo is the last to get on. Marlin still holds his fin.

NEMO

Dad, you can go now --

MR. RAY

Well, hello. Who is this?

NEMO

I'm Nemo.

MR. RAY

Well, Nemo, all new explorers must answer
a science question.

NEMO

Okay.

MR. RAY

You live in what kind of home?

NEMO

In an anemone...amanemone...ammeneme
...anemo --

MR. RAY

Okay, okay, don't hurt yourself. Welcome
aboard, explorer!

MARLIN

(aside to Mr. Ray)

Just so you know, he's got a little fin.
I find if he's having trouble swimming, I
let him take a break. Ten, fifteen
minutes --

CONTINUED:

NEMO

(from the back)

Dad. It's time for you to go now!

MR. RAY

Don't worry, we're gonna stay together as a group.

(to kids)

Okay, class, optical orbits up front and remember: we keep our supraesophogael ganglion to ourselves. That means you, Jimmy.

JIMMY (O.S.)

Aw, man!

MR. RAY

(sings)

Ohhhhhh...a life of science is filled with wonder, when facts of the sea are ours to plunder!

As Mr. Ray sails out of the schoolyard, Marlin trails behind...

MARLIN

Bye, Nemo!

NEMO

Bye, Dad!

MARLIN

Bye, son!

...and anxiously watches them disappear.

MARLIN

(under breath)

Be safe.

The fathers gather around Marlin, who tries to feign an air of indifference.

BOB

Hey, you're doin' pretty well for a first timer.

MARLIN

Well, you can't hold on to 'em forever, can you?

CONTINUED:

PHIL

Yeah, I had a tough time when my oldest went out on the Drop-off.

MARLIN

They just gotta grow up sometime -- THE DROP-OFF?! They're going to the Drop-off? What are you insane?! Why don't we just fry 'em up now and serve 'em with chips?!

BOB

Hey, Marty, calm down!

MARLIN

Don't tell me to be calm, Pony Boy!!

Marlin frantically swims off after the class. The other fathers just float there, stunned.

BOB

Pony Boy?

PHIL

You know for a clownfish, he really isn't that funny.

TED

(shakes head)

Pity.

EXT. CORAL REEF - MONTAGE

As Mr. Ray glides through the reef, Nemo and the class take in all the wondrous sights. It is an underwater paradise, teeming with life. An ongoing parade of color. All the while, Mr. Ray is in full song:

MR. RAY

Ohhhhh, let's name the species, the species, the species, let's name the species that live in the sea. Theesere's porifera, coelenterata, hydrozoa, scyphozoa, anthozoa, ctenophora, bryozoas three. Mollusca and gastropoda, arthropoda, echinoderma, tunicate, chordata, and some fish like you and me. Come on, sing with me! Ohhhhh, the fins on the fish go swish swish swish, swish swish swish, swish swish swish -- Just the girls this time -- Ohhhhh, seaweed is cool, seaweed is fun, it makes its food from the rays of the sun...

CONTINUED:

CLOSE ON NEMO. He is in awe of everything he sees.

NEMO

Cool...

EXT. DROP-OFF - MOMENTS LATER

Mr. Ray settles on a clear sandy patch. The cheering kids tumble off his back.

MR. RAY

Okay, the Drop-off. Alright kids, feel free to explore, but stay close -- (Gasp!) Stromalitic cyanobacteria! Gather!

The class gathers around Mr. Ray as he scrutinizes a TINY FLOATING PARTICLE.

MR. RAY

An entire ecosystem contained in one infinitesimal speck! There are as many protein pairs contained in this one bacteria as all the grains of sand in the entire ocean.

Tad privately nudges Pearl and Sheldon.

TAD

(whispers)

C'mon, let's go.

MR. RAY (O.S.)

C'mon sing with me...Theeeeeere's porifera, coelenterata, hydrozoa, scyphozoa, anthozoa, ctenophora, bryozoas three. Mollusca and gastropoda, arthropoda....

Nemo catches sight of Tad, Pearl and Sheldon sneaking away. Curious, he follows after them through the coral brush, out the other side...

NEMO

Hey, guys. Wait up -- Whoa.

...and stops at the edge of

THE DROP-OFF

The reef falls sharply into the open waters of the deep: an empty ominous blue void. Anything could be out there. All four kids are riveted on the murky depths.

CONTINUED:

NEMO

Cool...

TAD

Saved your life!

Tad pushes Pearl out, then pulls her right back. She screams and squirts a CLOUD OF BLACK INK.

PEARL

Aw, you guys! You made me ink!

NEMO

What's that?

Nemo spots a DIVE BOAT, anchored 100 feet out. It floats high above on the water's surface.

TAD

I know what that is -- oh, oh! Sandy Plankton saw one. He said it was called... a butt!

PEARL

Wow. That's a pretty big butt.

Sheldon surprises them all by suddenly leaping out into the open water.

SHELDON

Oh, look at me, I'm gonna go touch the butt!

He sneezes, and is propelled further out into the deep. Sheldon screams. Races back to the edge. The others laugh.

SHELDON

Oh yeah? Well, let's see you get closer.

PEARL

Okay.

Pearl swims out just a touch farther than Sheldon.

PEARL

Beat that!

Tad takes the dare even farther. All three look back at Nemo.

TAD

Come on, Nemo! How far can you go?

CONTINUED:

NEMO

Oh, um... My dad says it's not safe.

MARLIN (O.S.)

Nemo! No!!

NEMO

Dad?

Marlin comes charging out of the coral, and pulls Nemo away from the edge, thinking he's saved his son's life.

MARLIN

You were about to swim into open water!

NEMO

No, I wasn't gonna go out --

MARLIN

It's just a good thing I was here. If I hadn't shown up --

NEMO

But, Dad, no --

PEARL

Sir, he wasn't gonna go.

TAD

Yeah, he was too afraid.

NEMO

No I wasn't.

MARLIN

This does not concern you, kids. And you're lucky I don't tell your parents you were out there!

(to Nemo)

You know you can't swim well.

NEMO

I can swim fine, Dad. Okay?!

CLOSE ON NEARBY CORAL

Alerted by the commotion, Mr. Ray and the other children eavesdrop from behind the coral.

MARLIN

No, it's not okay. You shouldn't be anywhere near here

(grabs Nemo)

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

MARLIN (CONT'D)

Okay, I was right. You know what? We'll start school in a year or two.

To Marlin's surprise, Nemo pulls away.

NEMO

No, Dad! Just because y-you're scared of the ocean --

MARLIN

Clearly you're not ready, and you're not coming back here 'till you are. You think you can do these things, but you just can't, Nemo!

Nemo stares at the sand.

NEMO

(whispers)

I hate you.

Marlin flinches as if he were physically struck by Nemo's words. The wound is evident in his expression.

MR. RAY (O.S.)

Theeerrreees...nothing to see, come on kids. Gather! Uh, over there!

Mr. Ray breaks the tension, sweeps the gawking class to the side, and glides over to Marlin and Nemo.

MR. RAY

Excuse me, is there anything I can do? I am a scientist, sir. Uh, is there any problem?

MARLIN

You know, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt things. He isn't a good swimmer...and I just think it's a little too soon for him to be out here unsupervised.

While they talk, Nemo glares at his father, then looks out to the anchored boat.

MR. RAY

Well, I can assure you he's quite safe with me --

MARLIN

Look, I'm sure he is. But, you have a large class, and he can get lost, you know, from sight if you're not looking.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

MARLIN (CONT'D)

Now I'm not saying you're not looking --
You're looking...

A GAWKY LITTLE GIRL FISH in the class points out to the deep.

GAWKY LITTLE GIRL FISH

Oh my gosh!! Nemo's swimming out to sea!!

Everyone turns to see

NEMO IN THE OPEN WATER

already half-way out to the anchored boat. He zigzags with
slow determined strokes...

MARLIN (O.S.)

NEMO!! What do you think you're doing?!

Marlin rushes to the edge, but is too afraid to go further.

MARLIN

You're gonna get stuck out there, and I'm
gonna have to get you before another fish
does!

...Nemo ignores him. Eyes locked on the boat...

MARLIN

Get back here! I said get back here, now!
Stop!!

...Nemo stops under the boat. Stares back at Marlin...

MARLIN

You take one more move, mister --

...holds out his fin...

MARLIN

Don't you dare -- If you put one fin on
that boat! Are you listening to me??
DON'T - TOUCH - THE - BOA --

...and defiantly slaps the bottom of the boat.

MARLIN

Nemo!

TAD

(whispers)
He touched the butt.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

You just paddle your little tail right back here, Nemo. That's right. You are in big trouble, young man. Do you hear me? Big...

Nemo begins his long swim back, rolling his eyes at Marlin when

A GIANT DIVER

slowly rises up from behind him, filling the entire frame. Everyone sees it -- except Nemo.

MARLIN

(voice goes small)
...big...

Marlin opens his mouth, but nothing comes out. The words are stuck in his throat. The kids all scream in terror. Nemo finally looks back to see HIS REFLECTION IN THE GIANT DIVER'S MASK. He screams.

NEMO

Daddy! Help me!

MARLIN

(finds his voice)
I'm coming, Nemo!

Marlin breaks from the safety of the reef when

A SECOND DIVER

rises up, blocking him from Nemo. Mr. Ray scoops up the class of kids and heads back into the reef.

MR. RAY

Get under me, kids!

Nemo swims for his life. It is the reverse of JAWS: man chasing fish. A MESH NYLON BAG snares Nemo. Yanks him away.

NEMO

No! DAD! DADDY?!!!

The second diver looms over Marlin...A BRIGHT FLASH. The diver has taken a picture. Marlin is momentarily blinded.

MARLIN

No! Nemo!

CONTINUED:

MARLIN'S BLURRED IMAGE OF THE SCUBA DIVERS rising to the surface slowly comes into focus. He struggles to catch up to them.

MARLIN
(hysterical)
Nemo, No!...Nemo, Nemo!

But Marlin is too far away, and is forced to watch the divers exit the water with his son and climb aboard the boat.

The engine starts up. Marlin is blown back by the wake of the propellers as the boat pulls away.

By the time the turbulence of bubbles dissipates the boat is gone, leaving only a TRAIL OF WAKE. Marlin follows it, but there is no way he'll ever catch up.

MARLIN
Nemo! Nemo!

ABOVE WATER

The boat cruises by on the open ocean.

INT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

NEMO is dropped into a COOLER OF SEAWATER. Scared. Confused. As the diver closes the cooler, the boat hits some chop.

HUMAN VOICE
Whoa! Hold on!

He loses his balance, and knocks his DIVER'S MASK overboard...

UNDER THE SURFACE

...The mask plunges into the ocean. Tumbles into the murk...

EXT. REEF OUTSKIRTS

Marlin continues to follow the rapidly thinning trail of wake until finally it evaporates completely. Marlin swims back and forth, frantic, trying to pick up the trail again.

MARLIN
Oh no...No. No, it's gone. It's gone --
No, it can't be gone!

Marlin takes a deep breath, breaks the surface. GIANT OCEAN SWELLS surround him, lifting him up high. But it is gone. He's lost the trail.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

Nemo! (GASP!) No. Please, no!

Marlin is just a tiny orange speck floating in the middle of the vast ocean.

He dives back underwater. Spots a ROW OF FISH streaming across the ocean floor. Races down to them.

MARLIN

Has anybody seen a boat? Please? A white boat!

Marlin swims against the stream of fish like a crazy man in traffic. All the fish are too scared, or unfriendly, to stop.

STREAM OF FISH

Hey!...Move!...Watch it!...Get out of the way!...You're going the wrong way!

MARLIN

They took my son! My son! Help me. Please!

DORY (O.S.)

Look out!

An oncoming BLUE TANG (Dory) slams into Marlin. He's knocked against a rock, and falls to the sand, dazed.

DORY

Oh, oh! Sorry! Sir? I didn't see you!

Dory swims down to him.

DORY

Sir? Are you okay?

MARLIN

He's gone... He's gone... No, he's gone...

DORY

There, there. It's alright.

MARLIN

He's gone...

DORY

It'll be okay.

Marlin picks himself up. Tries to swim, still dazed.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

No, no, no...They took him away. I've got
-- I have to find the boat.

DORY

(perky)

A boat? Hey, I've seen a boat!

Marlin jumps to life. Fully alert.

MARLIN

You have?

DORY

Uh-huh. And it passed by not too long ago

MARLIN

A white one?!!

DORY

(puts out a fin)

Hi. I'm Dory.

MARLIN

Where?! Which way?!

DORY

Oh! Oh! It went, um...

(searches; finds it)

This way! It went this way! Follow me!

Dory leads Marlin into deeper waters.

MARLIN

Thank you. Thank you, thank you so much!

DORY

No problem.

The two fish go coursing over rifts of sand, with Marlin sticking right behind Dory.

As they swim, Dory gradually slows down. Marlin then notices her glancing back, giving him strange looks. She begins to swim faster. More erratic. Marlin has a hard time keeping up. It's almost as if she's trying to lose him.

MARLIN

Wait -- !

Dory hides behind rocks, races through coral, but she can't shake him. Finally, she stops. Faces Marlin.

CONTINUED:

DORY
Will you quit it?!

MARLIN
What?

DORY
I'm trying to swim here. What, the ocean
isn't big enough for you, or something
like that?

MARLIN
Huh?

DORY
You got a problem buddy? Huh, huh? Do ya,
do ya, do ya?
(postures to fight)
Want a piece of me? Yeah, yeah...Ooh, I'm
scared now. Wha-a-at?

MARLIN
Wait a minute --

DORY
Stop following me, okay?!

MARLIN
What are you talking about? You're
showing me which way the boat went.

DORY
(perky again)
A boat? Hey, I've seen a boat. It passed
by not too long ago. It went, um...
(searches; finds it)
This way! It went this way! Follow me!

She's off again. Marlin speeds ahead. Blocks her path.

MARLIN
Wait a minute. Wait a minute! What is
going on?! You already told me which way
the boat was going!

DORY
I did?
(realizes)
Oh no.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

If this is some kind of practical joke,
it's not funny! And I know funny! I'm a
clownfish!

DORY

No, it's not. I know it's not funny -- I -
- I'm so sorry. See, I suffer from short
term memory loss.

MARLIN

Short term memory loss.
(moves to go)
I don't believe this.

DORY

No, it's true. I forget things almost
instantly. It runs in my family -- well,
I mean, at least I think it does...Uh...
hmm...where are they?
(thinks, then notices Marlin;
smiles)
Can I help you?

Beat.

MARLIN

Something's wrong with you. Really.
You're wasting my time. I have to find my
son.

Marlin turns to go when he finds himself face to face with

A GREAT WHITE SHARK

GREAT WHITE

(all teeth)
Hello.

Marlin doesn't dare move.

DORY

(cheery)
Well, hi!

GREAT WHITE

Name's Bruce.

The huge shark juts out a fin. Marlin stays frozen.

BRUCE

S'alright. I understand. Why trust a
shark, right?

CONTINUED:

Bruce chomps for effect. Marlin leaps behind Dory. Bruce laughs hard.

BRUCE
(studies both fish)
So what's a couple of bites like you
doin' out so late, eh?

MARLIN
(from behind Dory)
Nothing, we're not doing anything, we're
not even out.

BRUCE
Great. Then how'd you morsels like to
come to a little -- a little get together
I'm having?

DORY
You mean like a party?

BRUCE
Yeah... Yeah right, a party. (Chuckle)
Waddya say?

DORY
(elbows Marlin)
Ooh, I love parties. That sounds like
fun.

MARLIN
Y'know parties are fun, and it's
tempting, but we can't because --

BRUCE
Aw, come on. I insist.

Bruce puts a big fin around each fish, trapping them...

MARLIN
O-okey, that's all that matters.

...and leads them up and over a rocky ridge into...

AN UNDERSEA CRATER

The murky crater is littered with FLOATING LAND MINES, all
moored to the sandy floor with heavy iron chains, making it
look like an underwater graveyard.

DORY
Hey, look! Balloons! It is a party!

CONTINUED:

BRUCE

(Laugh) Mind your distance, though. Those "balloons" can be a bit dodgy. You wouldn't want one of them to pop.

Bruce weaves through the minefield. From out of the eerie darkness, the haunted wreck of a SUNKEN SUBMARINE slowly takes shape. Bruce swims toward a BLASTED HOLE in the sub's hull that looks into the mess hall.

BRUCE

(calls out)

Anchor! Chum!

Marlin clings in horror as he spots a HAMMERHEAD (ANCHOR) AND A Mako SHARK (CHUM), swimming anxiously in figure eights inside the wreck. They look out the hole.

ANCHOR

There you are Bruce! Finally!

BRUCE

We got company!

ANCHOR

Well, it's about time, mate.

CHUM

We've already gone through the snacks and I'm still starvin'!

ANCHOR

We almost had to have a feeding frenzy.

CHUM

C'mon, let's get this over with.

Bruce pushes Marlin and Dory down into the sub, towards the snapping jaws of the other sharks. Marlin covers his eyes. He didn't want to go like this.

INT. SUB MESS HALL - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON SUB DIVE BELL: A shark tail strikes it.

BRUCE

Right then. The meeting has officially come to order. Let us all say the pledge.

Marlin uncovers one eye.

CONTINUED:

Bruce hovers over a sink, which acts as a make-shift podium, and addresses the other sharks. It truly is a meeting. They all lift their right fins (and so does Dory).

BRUCE/ANCHOR/CHUM

(in unison)

I am a nice shark. Not a mindless eating machine. If I am to change this image I must first change myself. Fish are friends, not food.

ANCHOR

Except stinkin' dolphins.

CHUM

Dolphins. Yeah. They think they're so cute.

(mocks)

Oh, look at me, I'm a flippin' little dolphin! Let me flip for ya'! Ain't I somethin'!

Anchor and Dory laugh. Marlin doesn't.

BRUCE

Right then. Today's meeting is "Step Five: Bring a Fish Friend." Now, do you all have your friends?

ANCHOR

Got mine.

Anchor rises to reveal a QUIVERING LITTLE FISH (BLENNY) floating under him.

DORY

(waves)

Hey there.

BRUCE

How 'bout you, Chum?

CHUM

Oh...Well...I, um...I seem to have misplaced my...uh...friend.

Chum gives a guilty smile, revealing the BONES OF A FISH TAIL stuck between his teeth. He slurps it back into his mouth.

BRUCE

S'alright, Chum. I had a feeling this would be a difficult step. You can help yourself to one of my friends.

CONTINUED:

Marlin sees Blenny make a break for it. Swims out of the sub unnoticed. Marlin moves to do the same when Chum grabs him.

CHUM

Aw, thanks, mate.

(bugs Marlin tight)

A little chum for Chum, eh?

BRUCE

I'll start the testimonies. Hello, my name is Bruce.

ANCHOR/CHUM

Hello, Bruce...

BRUCE

It has been three weeks since my last fish, on my honor, or may I be chopped up and made into soup.

The other sharks clap.

ANCHOR/CHUM

You're an inspiration to all of us...Amen!

BRUCE

Right then. Who's next?

DORY

(Raises fin)

Oh, oh, oh! Pick me! Pick me! Pick me!

BRUCE

Yes. The little Shella down the front. Come on up here.

Dory swims up to the podium.

DORY

Hi, I'm Dory.

BRUCE/ANCHOR/CHUM

Hello, Dory...

DORY

And, uh, well...I don't think I've ever eaten a fish.

BRUCE/ANCHOR/CHUM

(Applause)

Hey, that's incredible, Dory!...Good on ya' mate...

CONTINUED:

DORY

Whew! I'm glad I got that off my chest.

BRUCE

Alright. Anyone else?

Bruce eyes Marlin under Chum's fin.

BRUCE

Hello, how 'bout you, mate? What's your problem?

MARLIN

Me? I don't have a problem.

BRUCE

Oh, okay.

BRUCE/ANCHOR/CHUM

(to each other)

Denial.

Bruce swats Marlin to the podium.

BRUCE

Just start with your name.

MARLIN

(nervous)

Okay...Uh, hello. My name is Marlin. I'm a clownfish.

ANCHOR

A clownfish? Really?

BRUCE

Go on, tell us a joke.

CHUM

Oh, I love jokes!

MARLIN

(really nervous)

Well, I actually do know one that's...pretty good. Um...There was this mollusk -- and he walks up to the -- uh, a sea cucumber.

The sharks struggle to maintain their grins.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN (CONT'D)

Normally they don't talk, sea cucumbers,
but in a joke, everyone talks...So the
sea mollusk says to the cucumber --

Marlin goes still. Stares at a hole in the roof. Hanging from
some bent metal is

THE DIVER'S MASK

MARLIN'S POV OF MASK: The image of the diver, raising his
net to catch Nemo, superimposes over the mask.

NEMO (V.O.)

Daddy!

MARLIN

(under his breath)

Nemo...

CHUM

(Laugh) Nemo! Ha! Ha! Nemo!

(straight)

I don't get it.

BRUCE

(aside)

For a clownfish, he's not that funny.

Fixated on the mask, Marlin swims past the sharks, and up to
the hole in the roof...

MARLIN

No, no, no, no. He's my son...He was
taken by...by these divers.

DORY

(Gasp) Oh my, you poor fish.

CHUM

Humans. Think they own everything.

ANCHOR

Probably American.

BRUCE

(moved)

Now, there is a father. Lookin' for his
little boy...

While the sharks talk amongst themselves, Dory follows Marlin
out the hole. He inspects the mask. Notices WRITING ON THE
STRAP.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

Ugh! What do these markings mean?!

BRUCE

(bursts into tears)

I never knew my father.

ANCHOR/CHUM

Come here...Group hug...We're all mates here, mate.

Marlin points the writing out to Dory.

MARLIN

I can't read human!

DORY

Well, then we gotta find a fish that can read this!

(looks back into sub)

Hey, look, sharks!

MARLIN

No, Dory!

Before Marlin can react, Dory scoops up the mask and swims into the sub.

DORY

Hey guys! Guys, guys, guys --

Marlin chases after her. Grabs the mask.

MARLIN

No, Dory.

DORY

Hey! That's mine!

A tug-of-war starts.

DORY

Give it back! Gimme!

MARLIN

Dory! Cut it out! Give it --

The mask rubberbands hard into Dory's face. She clutches her nose.

DORY

(nasal)

Owww!

MARLIN

Oh, I'm sorry. Are you okay?

CONTINUED:

DORY

Ow. Oh yeah. Ow, ow, ow. Wow, you really clocked me there.

(tilts head back)

Am I bleeding?

She shows Marlin her nose.

A TRICKLE OF BLOOD

climbs up in the water, like a tiny red ribbon...right under Bruce's nose...

BRUCE

Dory, are you oka -- oh -- Oh... that's goood!

His eyes roll back in his head.

ANCHOR/CHUM

(Gasp!) Intervention!

Anchor and Chum pin Bruce to the wall, and struggle to hold the giant great white back.

BRUCE

Just a bite!

ANCHOR

Now you hold it together, mate!

CHUM

Remember, Bruce! Fish are friends, not food!

BRUCE

FOOD!

He breaks free. Lunges for Marlin and Dory.

MARLIN

Dory! Look out!

Bruce overshoots them. The two fish swim awkwardly away with the mask, and escape through a GRATE IN THE FLOOR.

INT. SUB CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Marlin and Dory swim down the corridor full of piping and duct work. Bruce smashes through the grate.

BRUCE

I'm havin' fish tonight!

CONTINUED:

Bruce gives chase as Chum and Anchor stick their heads through the hole he's made.

CHUM

Remember the steps, mate! The steps!

Marlin and Dory weave through the dark maze with Bruce right on their tails.

BRUCE

Ahh! Just one bite!

The fish shoot up through another grate. Bruce stays in the sub-level below them, his dorsal fin knocking out grates as he goes.

BRUCE

G'day!

The rabid shark smashes through the floor grate onto their level. The tiny fish speed around a cracked open door with ease...but the bulky Bruce slams into it, knocking it closed.

INT. TORPEDO ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Marlin frantically searches the room.

MARLIN

There's no way out! There's gotta be a way to escape!

Bruce repeatedly rams the door.

DORY

(sing-song)
Who is it?

MARLIN

Dory. Help me find a way out!

DORY

(to Bruce)
Sorry. You'll have to come back later.
We're trying to escape.

Another pound. A BOLT pops off the door that is now beginning to bend inwards...

MARLIN

Okay, there's no way out! There's gotta be a way out.

CONTINUED:

Dory floats to the top of the room, eyeing a valve handle with the words "ESCAPE HATCH" printed on it.

DORY

Look, here's something: "es-cap-é." I wonder what that means? It's funny, because it's spelled just like the word "escape."

MARLIN

Let's go!

Marlin grabs her, and exits through the hatchway. Bruce forces his snout through the gap he's made in the doorway:

BRUCE

Here's Bruce!

EXT. SUBMARINE, TOPSIDE - SAME

Marlin and Dory swim out of the hatch. Marlin stops short.

MARLIN

Wait a minute! You can read?!

DORY

I can read?
(remembers)
That's right. I can read!

MARLIN

(lifts mask)
W-well, then here, read this NOW!

Bruce bursts through the sub's rusted hull, right under them. His teeth wrench the mask from their fins, where it remains, dangling.

The screaming Marlin and Dory are chased down the length of the wreck. Chum and Anchor once again stick their heads through the hole Bruce has made.

ANCHOR

He really doesn't mean it. You know, he never really knew his father!

CHUM

Don't fall off the wagon!

At the bow, Marlin and Dory bank a hard right, swimming down into the torpedo tube... loaded with a torpedo.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

Oh no, it's blocked!

Bruce slams his snout into the tube, trying to ferret out the fish. He's too big. Anchor and Chum catch up.

ANCHOR

NO, Bruce! Focus!

Bruce ignores them. Slams his teeth into the tube. Anchor and Chum stick their heads into the opening between impacts:

CHUM

Sorry about --

(SLAM!)

-- Bruce, mate.

(SLAM!)

ANCHOR

He's really --

(SLAM!)

-- a nice guy.

With each slam, the TORPEDO shakes, but it is held in place by A LOOSE BOLT which blocks its path. Marlin stares desperately at the diver's mask, still dangling from Bruce's teeth.

MARLIN

I need to get that mask!

DORY

You want that mask? Okay!

She pushes in the BOLT. The torpedo slides forward...

MARLIN

No, no, no...Noooo!

DORY

Wheee!

...The two fish are shoved straight into Bruce's mouth. He bites down hard, but his jaws lock on the torpedo, sparing their lives.

MARLIN

Quick! Grab the mask! Grab it!

Together they pick up mask, and race back into the torpedo tube. Safe. Bruce spits out the torpedo in anger.

CONTINUED:

ANCHOR/CHUM
(Gasp) Oh no. Bruce?

BRUCE
What?

The sharks indicate the torpedo arcing gracefully towards the minefield, as if in slow motion. They retreat.

BRUCE
Swim away... Swim away!

DORY
(peeks out of tube)
Aw, is the party over?

The torpedo just kisses a floating mine -- It explodes, causing a chain reaction of EXPLOSIONS...

...3 mines explode...

...5 mines...

...10...

...100...

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - NIGHT

TWO WHITE CRANES sit quietly on the calm surface. A SINGLE AIR BUBBLE, from the explosions deep below, lightly POPS next to one of them. The other looks at him accusingly...

CRANE #1
Nice.

...and flies off.

INT. UNDER THE WATER'S SURFACE - DAY

Nemo plunges into the water in a whirlwind of bubbles. He lands in plant life. Peeks out. Frightened.

NEMO
Dad!? Daddy?

Slowly, he backs out of the plants, scanning, wide-eyed...and into -- GIANT SCARY TIKI HEADS!

Nemo screams! Swims in the opposite direction - BAM! - He hits a GLASS WALL. Another direction - BAM! Same result. Turns again - BAM!

CONTINUED:

...A terrified Nemo has been dropped into a FANCY MARINE AQUARIUM.

He looks out the tank at magazines on a table, a woman behind a service window, a toy chest: it's a DENTIST'S WAITING ROOM. "Girl From Ipanema" plays over tinny speakers.

The tank is imbedded in the wall of the dentist's office, viewable from both the waiting room and the examining room. Each side of the tank is decorated with a different theme: "Polynesian Island" on one side (complete with working volcano), and "Pirate Shipwreck" on the other.

DENTIST (O.S.)

Barbara! Prep for his anterior crown, wouldya please, and, uh, I'm gonna need a few more cotton rolls.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

Okay.

Nemo moves cautiously through the dense plastic brush towards the voices. He stares out the glass in wonder at a patient seated in a dentist chair when

THE DENTIST'S FACE

Leans down, right in front of him.

DENTIST

Hello, little feliah!

Spooked, Nemo hides inside a fake plastic barrel.

DENTIST

(to patient)

Beauty, isn't he? I found that guy struggling for life out on the reef and I saved him...

(beat)

So, that novocaine kicked in yet?

PATIENT

Ifbwinksho.

Nemo backs away from the dentist. Bumps into a FAKE TREASURE CHEST. He gasps as the lid opens and bubbles spring forth.

Out of the dark interior of a PLASTIC PIRATE SHIPWRECK, A YELLOW TANG (BUBBLES) charges at Nemo.

CONTINUED:

BUBBLES

Bubbles! Bubbles! The big bubbles! The little bubbles! My bubbles, all the bubbles!

The spastic fish grabs at the bubbles, slams the lid shut, and lays on the chest to keep it closed.

BUBBLES

(protective)
My bubbles.

On the nearby glass, a STARFISH (PEACH) unsticks above Nemo. One of her arms flops on his head.

PEACH

He likes bubbles.

Nemo shrieks, and hides in a FAKE MINIATURE DIVER'S HELMET.

NEMO'S POV INSIDE THE HELMET: shadowy fish emerge from their cover and approach the helmet. Hushes. Eerie whispers.

Nemo shrinks farther into the helmet. A pair of eyes stalks lower next to him and blink.

JACQUES

Bonjour.

Nemo screams, bolts out of the helmet and into the arms of a PUFFER FISH (BLOAT). A BLACK AND WHITE HUMBUG (DEB), a ROYAL GRAMMA (GURGLE) and Bubbles float around him.

BLOAT

Whoa. Slow down little fellah. (Laugh)
There's nothing to worry about.

DEB

Oh, he's scared to death.

NEMO

I wanna go home. Do you know where my dad is?

PEACH

(on the glass)
Honey, your dad's probably back at the pet store.

NEMO

Pet store?

CONTINUED:

BLOAT
Yeah, you know, like uh... I'm from Bob's
Fish Mart.

GURGLE
Pet Palace.

DEB
Fish-O-Rama.

BUBBLES
Mail Order.

PEACH
Ebay.

Gurgle puts a fin on Nemo's shoulder.

GURGLE
So. Which one is it?

NEMO
I'm...from the ocean?

GURGLE
Ah, the ocean.
(alarmed)
THE OCEAN?!
THE OCEAN?!
THE OCEAN?!

Gurgle rips his fin away, clutching it as if it were on fire.

GURGLE
He hasn't been decontaminated yet!!
(calls out)
Jacques!!

In a flash, a TINY CLEANER SHRIMP (JACQUES) zips out of the
diver's helmet.

JACQUES
Oui?

GURGLE
Clean him!

JACQUES
Oui.

Jacques skitters over to Nemo. Perches on top of him.

GURGLE
Ocean!

CONTINUED:

JACQUES

Ooh. Le Mer. Bon.

A true professional, Jacques spins Nemo like a cob of corn, cleaning him in seconds. Nemo sparkles.

JACQUES

Voila! He is clean.

The shrimp zips back in the helmet, pops his mouth, and slams the face plate shut.

BUBBLES

Wow. The big blue. What's it like?

NEMO

Uh...big...and blue.

BUBBLES

I knew it.

DEB

Kid, if there's anything you need, just ask your auntie Deb, that's me...

(Deb points to her reflection)

Or, if I'm not around you can always talk to my sister, Flo.

(to Flo; with love)

Hi. How are you?

(to Nemo; conspiratorially)

Don't listen to anything my sister says. She's nuts!

PEACH (O.S.)

(muffled)

~~Mwemottamivemone!~~

The tank gang looks up to Peach stuck high on the glass.

BLOAT

Can't hear ya, Peach.

PEACH

(unsticks)

I SAID WE GOTTA LIVE ONE!

Excited, the tank gang ditch Nemo, and swim up to Peach's level. They look on with keen interest as the dentist begins work on the patient.

GURGLE

Yes!

CONTINUED:

BLOAT

Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy!

DEB

Whadda we got?

PEACH

Root canal, and by the looks of those x-rays it's not going to be pretty.

SFX: DRILL/SCREAM

BLOAT

Rubber dam and clamp installed?

PEACH

Yep.

GURGLE

What'd he use to open?

PEACH

Gator-Glidden drill. He seems to be favoring that one lately.

Deb tries to look past her reflection.

DEB

I can't see, Flo!

PEACH

Uhp, now he's doing the Schilder technique.

BLOAT

Oh, he's using a Hedstroem file.

GURGLE

That's not a Hedstroem file. That's a K-Flex.

BLOAT

It's got a tear-drop cross section. Clearly a Hedstroem.

GURGLE

No, no. K-Flex.

BLOAT

Hedstroem.

GURGLE

K-Flex!

CONTINUED:

BLOAT
HEDSTROEM!

Bloat suddenly inflates to the size of a beach ball, and lists helplessly away from the group.

BLOAT
There I go...Little help...Over here.

DEB
I'll go deflate him.

She swims after him. We hear Bloat deflate offscreen.

DENTIST (O.S.)
Alright, you can go ahead and rinse.

The fish watch the patient rinse into the SPIT SINK.

GURGLE
Oh, the human mouth is a disgusting place!

Without warning, a PELICAN (NIGEL) bounces off the window by the tank. The fish don't react. Keep their eyes on the dentist. The bird thrusts his head into the room, out of breath.

PEACH
Hey Nigel.

NIGEL
What did I miss? Am I late?

PEACH
Root canal, and it's a doozy.

NIGEL
Root canal, huh? What did he use to open?

PEACH
Gator-Glidden Drill.

NIGEL
He's been favoring that one. Hope he doesn't get surplus sealer at the secondary portal terminus...
(spots Nemo)
Hello. Who's this?

DEB
New guy.

CONTINUED:

GURGLE

The dentist took him off the reef.

NIGEL

(studies Nemo)

An outie?! From my neck of the woods, eh?
Sorry if I ever took a snap at ya! Fish
gotta swim. Bird's gotta eat!

DENTIST (O.S.)

Hey!

The dentist is heading for the window, waving the bird away.

DENTIST (CONT'D)

No, no, no, no! Those aren't your fish,
they're my fish. Come on. Go. Go on.
Shoo! Shoo!

Nigel takes off, knocking over a FRAMED PHOTO. The dentist
picks up the frame. Sees the glass has cracked.

DENTIST

Aw, the picture broke.

(shows the patient)

This here's Darla. She's my niece. 'Gonna
be eight this week.

(shows Nemo in the tank)

Hey little fellah. Say hello to your new
mummy. She's gonna be here Friday to pick
you up! You're her present. Oh shhshhshh!
It's our little secret!

The photo is of a CUTE LITTLE GIRL IN PONYTAILS. She smiles
through her braces, holding a PLASTIC BAG with a fish. The
dentist places the picture on the counter by the tank, and
heads for the bathroom.

DENTIST

Well, Mr. Tucker, while that sets up I'm
gonna go see a man about a wallaby.

The tank fish swim over to the picture. Awkward silence.

BLOAT

Oh. Darla.

NEMO

What? What's wrong with her?

GURGLE

She wouldn't stop shakin' the bag.

CONTINUED:

CLOSE ON PICTURE

We now see the fish in Darla's bag is belly up. Dead.

BUBBLES

Four Chuckles.

DEB

He was her present last year.

BLOAT

Hitched a ride on the porcelain express.

WE HEAR A FLUSH. The fish look across to the dentist emerging from the bathroom, revealing the TOILET.

PEACH

She's a fish-killer!

NEMO

I can't go with that girl. I have to get back to my dad.

Nemo panics, swimming out of control. He passes too close to the FILTER, and is sucked into the end of the intake tube. Plugs it up.

NEMO

No! Daddy! Help me!

TANK GANG

Oh no!...He's stuck!...Oh boy...

The fish rush to get him out...

GILL (O.S.)

Nobody touch him.

...but instantly freeze on command. From behind a plastic skull, a MOORISH IDOL (GILL) glides into view. The majestic fish's dorsal and pelvic fins seem to extend the full height of the tank. A commanding presence. He stares intensely at Nemo.

GILL

(quiet)

Nobody touch him.

Calmly, Gill approaches the filter and stares Nemo down, considering his situation. His intentions unreadable.

CONTINUED:

NEMO
 (struggles; small voice)
 Can you help me?

GILL
 No. You got yourself in there, you can get yourself out.

DEB
 Gill --

GILL
 (sharp)
 I just wanna see him do it, okay?
 (to Nemo)
 Calm down. Now, alternate wiggling your fins and your tail.

NEMO
 (panicked)
 I-I can't. I have a bad fin.

GILL
 Never stopped me.

Gill turns to reveal his **SEVERED PECTORAL FIN**. Nemo gasps at the sight of it.

GILL
 Just think about what you need to do.

This time Nemo concentrates, and tries again. All the fish look on with rapt attention. Can he do it? Nemo struggles, winces...and surprises himself by popping free from the tube.

GILL
 (to himself)
 Perfect.

TANK GANG
 Yay! He's out!...He made it!...Alright!

Peach notices Gill is still studying the filter.

PEACH
 Wow, from the ocean. Just like you, Gill.
GILL
 (distracted)
 Yeah.

CONTINUED:

PEACH
 (Chuckle) I've seen that look before.
 What are you thinkin' about?

GILL
 I'm thinkin'...tonight we give the kid a
 proper reception.

The exuberant tank fish surround Nemo.

BLOAT
 So kid, you gotta name or what?

CLOSE ON NEMO SMILING

NEMO
 Nemo. I'm Nemo.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OCEAN - MORNING

CLOSE ON MARLIN ASLEEP

MARLIN
 (mumbles)
 ...Nemo...Nemo...Nemo...

He lies inside the dive mask, his face squashed against
 glass. Dory lies next to him, snoring loudly.

DORY
 (In her sleep)
 ...You gonna eat that?...

Slowly, the CAMERA PULLS WIDE to reveal the mask hanging like
 a hammock from a shard of metal protruding from the sub's
 bow. The explosions from the night before have dislodged the
 entire wreck, which now balances precariously over

A MASSIVE ABYSS

DORY
 ...Careful of that hammer...

Marlin opens his eyes. Finds himself looking straight down
 into the dark depths below. He jumps back...sees the diver's
 mask...touches the writing...

...The sub shifts slightly.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

(under breath)

The mask!...What does it say?...What does it say? Dory!

DORY

...That sea monkey has my money...

Marlin shakes her.

MARLIN

Wake up! Get up! Come on! Get up!

DORY

...Yes, I'm a natural blue...

MARLIN

GET UP!!

Dory jumps awake, unknowingly taking the mask with her. It hangs off her back like a saddle.

DORY

Aagh! Look out! Sharks eat fish! What?! Who is it?! Aagh!

Her broad actions do the trick, and the sub slides full bore off the cliff. Straight at the two fish. They swim for it, but run right into the OPPOSING ROCK WALL...

...Too late.

The sub slams into the rock wall, consuming the fish in an explosion of dust. As it settles, Marlin is shocked to find he and Dory still alive, spared by inches.

DORY

(coughs)

Wow. Dusty.

Marlin notices something is missing...

MARLIN

(Gasp) The mask. Where's the mask?

They look down just in time to see the mask disappear completely into the blackness.

MARLIN

No! No, no, the mask! Get it! Get the mask, get the mask! Get it!

CONTINUED:

Marlin dives down after it, but the second he enters the inky black he backpedals to a more visible depth. Clings to the trench wall, spooked.

Dory swims jauntily past, humming. Marlin watches her disappear into the darkness...

DORY (O.S.)

It just keeps going on, doesn't it? Echo!
Echo!

...and then pop back up next to him.

DORY

Hey. Whatchya doing?

MARLIN

It's gone. I've lost the mask.

DORY

What'd you drop it?

MARLIN

You dropped it! That was my only chance
of finding my son. Now it's gone.

All she sees is a sad clownfish, and that just won't do. She makes a pouty face.

DORY

Hey, Mr. Grumpy Gills...when life gets
you down, you know what you gotta do?

MARLIN

I don't wanna know what you gotta do.

DORY

(sings)

Just keep swimming...just keep
swimming...just keep swimming, swimming,
swimming...what do we do...we swim, swim.

Dory takes Marlin by the fin, and gently leads him down into the abyss.

MARLIN

Dory, no singing.

DORY

(opera singing)

Ho ho-ho ho-ho-ho! I love to swim! When
you want to swim you want to keep on
swimming --

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

See, I'm gonna get stuck now with that
song! Now it's in my head!

DORY

Sorry.

Slowly everything goes BLACK.

Beat.

MARLIN (O.S.)

Dory, do you see anything?

DORY (O.S.)

Ahh! Something's got me!

MARLIN (O.S.)

That was me. I'm sorry.

DORY (O.S.)

(Gasp) Who's that?

MARLIN (O.S.)

Who's that?! Who could it be?! It's me!

DORY (O.S.)

Are -- are you my conscience?

MARLIN (O.S.)

(SIGH) Yeah. Yeah, I'm your conscience.
We haven't spoken for a while. How are
you?

DORY (O.S.)

Can't complain.

MARLIN (O.S.)

Good. Now Dory, I want you tell me, do
you see anything?

DORY (O.S.)

I see a... I see a light.

MARLIN (O.S.)

A light?

A TINY BRIGET LIGHT appears, hovering alone in the blackness.

DORY (O.S.)

Yeah. Over there. Hey conscience, am I
dead?

CONTINUED:

MARLIN (O.S.)
No, I see it too.

Marlin and Dory swim into the glow of the light. It is simply a SMALL GLOWING ORB, floating by itself in space. The orb is mesmerizing. It's almost as if Marlin and Dory are under a spell.

MARLIN
What is it?

DORY
It's so...pretty...

MARLIN
I...I'm feeling...happy....which is a big deal...for me.

DORY
I want to touch it.

She reaches out. The orb comes to life, dancing like a fairy. They chuckle in drugged wonder.

MARLIN
Hey...Come back...Come on back here.

The orb rises. They giggle and follow it.

MARLIN
(sing-song)
I'm gonna get you. I'm gonna swim with you. I'm gonna be your best friend --

DORY
(to the orb)
I'm gonna getcha...I'm gonna getcha...I'm gonna getcha!

A LARGE ANGLERFISH

silently fades into view. It is horrifying. A prehistoric creature, with huge fangs, and lifeless eyes. The orb is attached to the tip of a LONG ANTENNA that juts from its forehead. It was bait, and Marlin and Dory fell for it.

MARLIN
Good feeling's gone.

They scream. The voracious anglerfish chases after the two of them, who have only the glow of its antenna to navigate by.

MARLIN
I can't see. I don't know where I'm going!

CONTINUED:

Suddenly, the light shines over the DIVER'S MASK. Marlin stops.

MARLIN

The mask!

DORY

What mask?

He pulls her down just as the anglerfish shoots past them, leaving them in the pitch black.

DORY (O.S.)

Okay, I can't see a thing.

As they fumble in the dark, the anglerfish u-turns. The beam from its light swings onto them.

MARLIN

Whoa geez!!

DORY

(sees mask)

Hey, look, a mask!

MARLIN

Read it!

Marlin plays decoy, leading the anglerfish away. Its jaws snap right behind him. Once again, Dory is left in the dark.

DORY (O.S.)

Uh... I'm sorry, but if you could just bring him a little closer... I kinda need the light.

Marlin lures the beast back to Dory. Light falls on her and the mask.

DORY

That's great. Keep it right there.

MARLIN

JUST READ IT!!! (SNAP!)

DORY

Okay, okay! Mr. Bossy!

(reads)

Uh...P... Okay, P, Sher-r-r...Sher... P,
Sher-r...P. Shirley...P. Sheerrr...

CONTINUED:

Marlin ducks between two rocks. The anglerfish tries to ferret him out, but can't fit. Marlin grabs its light. Aims it at Dory.

DORY
Oh! The first line's "P. Sherman!"

MARLIN
"P. Sherman" doesn't make any sense -- !

Still holding the antenna, Marlin is yanked from the rocks.

DORY	MARLIN
Okay, uh... Second line...	(very fast)
"42 -- 42 waaay...Waaa -- "	Don't eat me, don't eat me --

The anglerfish swallows Marlin and its own antenna whole. Everything goes dark...

DORY (O.S.)
Light, please!

The ANGLERFISH'S STOMACH lights up. Marlin's silhouette bounces inside, still holding the antenna. The fish spits him out, and lunges for him, but bites down on its own antenna instead. Roars in pain...

...Marlin rushes over to Dory. The anglerfish, now furious, gains its bearings, and barrels straight at them.

DORY
Wa -- Walla -- Walla-by...Wallaby
Way...The second line's "42 Wallaby Way!"

MARLIN
That's great. Just finish up here. Speed read.

DORY
Sssss...sid --

MARLIN
(eyes on anglerfish)
Take a guess. No pressure, no pressur --
Well, there's a LOTTA pressure! PRESSURE!
TAKE A GUESS! NOW! WITH PRESSURE!!

DORY
"Sydney!" "SYDNEY!" It's "Sydney!!"

MARLIN
Duck!

CONTINUED:

In one swift move, Marlin lifts up the face plate of the mask, closes his eyes and lets the anglerfish crash into him. There is a **BLINDING FLASH!**...

MARLIN (O.S.)

I'm dead. I'm dead. I'm dsad, I'm dead,
I'm dead --

Marlin opens his eyes. The anglerfish is wedged tight between the mask and the rock. Flaps around helplessly. Marlin's fear turns to laughter. He gets in the creature's face.

MARLIN

Woo-hoo!
(sings)
We did it. We did it. Oh yeah, yeah,
yeah. No eating here tonight -- woo! --
Eating here tonight!

Dory appears from behind the rock. Sees Marlin celebrating. Doesn't remember why, but joins in anyway.

DORY

No, no, no, eating here tonight! You on a
diet --

MARLIN

Dory! Dory! So what'd it say?! What did
the mask say?!

DORY

(automatic)
"P. Sherman, 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney."
(stops; gasps)
I remembered what it said! I usually
forget things, but I remembered it that
time. "P. Sherman, 42 -- "

MARLIN

Wait! Now where is that?!

DORY

I don't know.
(beat)
But who cares? Ha-ha! I remembered!

The anglerfish roars in frustration. Marlin and Dory scream, and take off towards the surface.

DORY

"P. Sherman, 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney!" I
remembered it again!

INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The office is closed up for the night. The rotating red glow of the tank's fake volcano illuminates everything.

IN THE TANK

Nemo sleeps soundly inside a plastic Tiki hut. From out of the dark, a PEBBLE strikes him. Nemo doesn't wake. A second pebble...

JACQUES (O.S.)

Psst. Nemo!
(louder)
Nemo...

Nemo is pummeled by a BARRAGE OF PEBBLES. He jumps awake. The tiny shrimp figure of Jacques stands in the entranceway.

JACQUES

Suivez-moi.

Jacques swims off, but Nemo just floats there, confused. Jacques pokes his head back into the Tiki hut.

JACQUES

Follow me.

The boy is led through the plastic underbrush to the center of the tank. The mood is eerie and somber. No one speaks. Tribal chanting can be heard as they near the base of the volcano...

...Rising from behind the Tiki heads are Bubbles, Gurgle, and Bloat, the source of the chanting. Jacques begins the long climb up the face of the volcano with Nemo nervously in tow.

Halfway up the mountainside, Deb and Peach hold fake kelp fronds, and ceremoniously whack Nemo as he passes. Jacques continues to lead him up to the peak of the volcano...

...where Gill waits. Silent and stern.

A wimpy stream of bubbles continuously stream from the volcano between him and Nemo. The tank gang rise up behind Gill. Their chanting crescendoes.

Gill gestures with his fins and the chanting stops.

He milks the silence.

Looks through the column of bubbles directly at Nemo.

CONTINUED:

GILL
State your name.

NEMO
N-N-Nemo.

GILL
Brother Bloat, proceed.

Bloat advances. Fully commits to his tribal role.

BLOAT
Nemo. Newcomer of orange and white. You have been called forth to the summit of Mount Wannahockalooogie to join with us in the fraternal bonds of tankhood.

NEMO
Buh?

PEACH
(unsticks from volcano)
We want you in our club, kid.

NEMO
Really -- ?

BLOAT
...IF!! You are able to swim through...
(dramatic pause)
THE RING OF FIRE!!!

Nothing happens. Nemo looks around, confused. Bloat glances at Jacques, who rests on the control valve of the volcano.

BLOAT
Turn on The Ring of Fire...the Ring of Fire -- you said you could do it!

Jacques realizes he's missed his cue. Quickly turns the volcano to maximum power. A TORRENT OF BUBBLES erupts at full force out of the volcano.

BLOAT
(back in character)
THE RING OF FIRE!!!

The fish kick back into chanting. Bubbles is compelled to touch the column bubbles...

BUBBLES
Bubbles! Bubbles -- Ow!

CONTINUED:

Dab swats Bubbles fin with her frond.

Gill motions for Nemo to swim through the bubbles to him. The chant's tempo picks up. It is time.

PEACH

Isn't there another way? He's just a boy!

Dab covers her reflection's eyes. Nemo braces himself...

...and swims right through. So fast he bumps into Gill. The chanting stops.

Nemo opens his eyes. Gill smiles down at him. He proudly lifts Nemo up high in proclamation.

GILL

From this moment on you will now be known as "Shark Bait."

BUBBLES/GURGLE/BLOAT

Shark Bait. Oo-hah-Hah!

GILL

Welcome, Brother Shark Bait.

BUBBLES/GURGLE/BLOAT

Shark Bait. Oo-hah-Hah!

GILL

Enough with the "Shark Bait."

GURGLE

(all alone)

Shark Bait. Ooh...bop...pa-do.

Gill lowers Nemo into a huddle with the gang.

GILL

Okay. Shark Bait's one of us now, agreed?

TANK GANG

Agreed.

GILL

And we can't send him off to his death. Darla's coming in 5 days. So...whadda we gonna do?

No answers.

CONTINUED:

GILL

I'll tell you what we're gonna do. We're gonna get him outta here. We're gonna help him escape.

NEMO

Escape? Really?

GILL

We're all gonna escape.

GURGLE

Gill, please, not another one of your escape plans...

DEB

Sorry, but they just -- they never work.

BLOAT

Yeah, why should this be any different?

Gill grins at them with confidence. Points to Nemo.

GILL

Cause we've got him.

NEMO

Me?

He faces Nemo towards the glass.

GILL

You see that filter?

NEMO

Yeah?

GILL

You're the only one who can get in and out of that thing.

As Gill pitches his plan, THE CAMERA RUSHES THROUGH ALL THE IMAGINARY STEPS AND LOCATIONS HE TALKS ABOUT:

GILL

What we need you to do is take a pebble inside there and jam the gears. You do that, and this tank's gonna get filthier and filthier by the minute.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

GILL (CONT'D)

Pretty soon the dentist'll have to clean the tank himself -- and when he does, he'll take us out of the tank, put us in individual baggies, then we'll roll ourselves down the counter, out of the window, off the awning, into the bushes, across the street and into the harbor.

BACK IN THE TANK

GILL (CONT'D)

It's foolproof.
(to the gang)
Who's with me?

Each raises a fin, except Gurgle who keeps his folded tight.

TANK GANG

I...I...I...I

GURGLE

I think you're nuts! No offense, kid, but, um... You're not the best swimmer.

GILL

He's fine! He can do this! So, Shark Bait. What do you think?

Nemo puts on his game face. Looks up at the filter.

NEMO

Let's do it.

EXT. DEEPER WATERS - DAY

The distant orange and blue specks of Marlin & Dory travel through the open underwater country. Dory has been chatting non-stop. Marlin ignores her.

DORY

(to herself)
...you can't hear me? I've already told you, I'm going to P. Sherman, 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney...Where are you going?...I'm goin' to P. Sherman, 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney if you ask where I'm going. I'll tell you that's where I'm going is P. Sherman, 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney...

MARLIN

(groans)
Ohhh...

CONTINUED:

DORY

Where? I'm sorry I didn't hear you...P.
 Sherman, 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney...I
 didn't hear you, I was listening to
 someone else...

Marlin spots a SCHOOL OF MOONFISH swirling in the open water.
 Swims over to speak with them.

MARLIN

Excuse me. E-excuse me? Um, hi! Do you
 know how to get -- Hello!

DORY

(to school)
 P. Sherman, 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney!

The SCHOOL DARTS AWAY. Marlin follows after them, but they
 keep ditching him.

MARLIN

W-w-w-wait! Wait! Can you tell me --
 (school swims away)
 Hey, hold it! Wait a minute, I'm trying
 to talk to you!
 (swims away again)
 Okay fellahs, come back here, please! One
 quick question. I need to --
 (and again)
 And they're gone again...

He gives up. Dory swims over to him, still spouting her
 soliloquy. Marlin looks like he's going to have a migraine.

DORY

...if you need me, I'll be at P. Sherman,
 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney. Why do I have to
 tell you over and over again? I'll tell
 you again. I don't get tired of it. P.
 Sherman --

MARLIN

Okay, alright...

DORY

Uh-huh.

MARLIN

Here's the thing...

DORY

Uh-huh.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

You know, I think it's best if I
just...carry on from here...by myself.

DORY

Okay...

MARLIN

You know, alone --

DORY

Uh-huh...

MARLIN

Without...Well, I mean not without you --
I mean just -- But I don't want you with
me.

DORY

Huh?

MARLIN

Am I...Am I? -- I don't want to hurt your
feelings.

DORY

You want me to leave?

MARLIN

Well, I mean not -- Yes. Yeah. It's
just...you know...I just can't afford any
more delays, and you're one of those
fish that cause delays. And sometimes
it's a good thing. There's a whole group
of fish -- They're... delay fish.

DORY

You mean...You mean you don't like me?

MARLIN

No. Of course I like you. It's because I
like you I don't want to be with you.
It's a complicated emotion.

(Dory begins to cry)

Oh, don't cry. I like you --

MOONFISH (O.S.)

Hey, you!

Marlin turns. The SCHOOL OF MOONFISH have massed behind him.
A SINGLE VOICE can be heard, but not seen, from within.

CONTINUED:

MOONFISH (O.S.)

Lady, is this guy bothering you?

DORY

Um...I don't remember. Were you?

MARLIN

No, no, no, no, no. We're just --

(remembers)

Hey! Do you guys know how I can get to P. Sherman --

MOONFISH (O.S.)

Look, pal. We're talking to the lady, not you.

(to Dory)

Hey, you like impressions?

DORY

(Sniff!)...Mmm Hmm.

MOONFISH (O.S.)

(to the others)

Okay, just like in rehearsal, gentlemen.

The entire school forms the shape of a SWORDFISH.

MOONFISH (O.S.)

So, what are we? Take a guess.

DORY

Oh, oh, I've seen one of those!

MOONFISH (O.S.)

I'm a fish with a nose like a sword!

DORY

Wait...wait...um...

MARLIN

It's a swordfish!

All the moonfish moan with disappointment.

MOONFISH (O.S.)

Hey! Clown boy. Let the lady guess!

The school rapidly changes into a LOBSTER.

MOONFISH (O.S.)

Where's the butter?

CONTINUED:

DORY

Ooh! Ooh! It's on the tip of my tongue...

MARLIN

(as a sneeze)

Lobster!

MOONFISH (O.S.)

Saw that!!

MARLIN

What?

The moonfish change into an OCTOPUS.

MOONFISH (O.S.)

Lots of legs. Live in the ocean.

DORY

CLAM!

MOONFISH (O.S.)

C-lose enough!!

The moonfish change into a CLIPPER SHIP, complete with waving flags, firing cannons and a fish walking the plank.

MOONFISH (O.S.)

(sings)

Oh, it's a whale of a tale. I'll tell you
lad. A whale of a tale. I'll tell you --

DORY

Oh they're good.

MARLIN

Would somebody please give me
directions?!The moonfish turn into a dead ringer of Marlin: A FISH SHAPE
WITH A FROWN.

MOONFISH (O.S.)

(mimics Marlin)

Would somebody please give me
directions?!

Dory bursts out laughing.

MARLIN

This is -- I'm serious!

CONTINUED:

MOONFISH (O.S.)
 Blah, blah, blah...Me, me, blah...blah,
 blah, blah, blah, me, me, me...

MARLIN
 (sarcastic)
 Thank you.

Marlin swims off in a huff.

DORY
 Oh, dear. Hey! Hey, come back!
 (follows Marlin)
 Hey! What's the matter?

MARLIN
 What's the matter?

In the background, the moonfish imitate Marlin's gestures.

MARLIN
 What's the matter? While they're doing
 their silly little impressions, I am
 miles from home, with a fish that can't
 even remember her own name.

DORY
 (genuine)
 Boy, I bet that's frustrating.

MARLIN
 Yeah. Meanwhile, my son is out there.

DORY
 Your son, Chico?

MARLIN
 Nemo.

DORY
 Right. Got it.

MARLIN
 But it doesn't matter. 'Cause no fish in
 this entire ocean is gonna help me!

DORY
 Well, I'm helping you.

He pauses. She's right.

DORY
 Wait right here.

CONTINUED:

Dory jaunts over to the school, friendly as can be.

DORY
Hey, guys?

MOONFISH (O.S.)
What, is he bothering you again?

DORY
No, no. He's a good guy.
(looks back at Marlin)
Go easy on him. He's lost his son, Fabio.
Any of you heard of P. Sherman, 42
Wallaby Way, Sydney?

MOONFISH (O.S.)
Sydney?! Oh sure!

The school changes into the SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE, then punctuate it by hitting an operatic high note.

MOONFISH (O.S.)
Why, Ted here's got relatives in Sydney.
Don't ya, Ted?

TED (O.S.)
Sure do.

DORY
Oh!
(calls to Marlin)
Hey! They know Sydney!

Marlin rushes over, ecstatic.

DORY
You wouldn't know how to get there, would you?

MOONFISH (O.S.)
What you wanna do is follow the E-A-C.
That's uh, East Australian current.
(changes into the CURRENT)
Big current. Can't miss it. It's in...
(turns into a GIANT ARROW)
...that direction. And then you're gonna
follow that for about -- uh, I dunno --
oh, what do you guys think? 'Bout three
leagues?

SCHOOL
Yeah...three leagues...sounds about
right...

CONTINUED:

MOONFISH (O.S.)

And that little baby's gonna float you
right past Sydney.

The school accent their giant arrow with an outer border of
fish that flash their reflective scales like blinking lights.

SCHOOL

Ta-da!

MARLIN

Great! That's great! Dory, you did it!

Marlin hugs her. She blushes.

DORY

Oh, please. I'm just -- your little
helper. Helpin' along, that's me.

MARLIN

Well listen, fellahs. Thank you.

Marlin takes off in the direction of the arrow, not waiting
for Dory.

MOONFISH (O.S.)

Don't mention it. Just, uh, loosen up.
Okay, buddy?

The school turns back into MARLIN, changing his FROWN into a
SMILE. Dory giggles in recognition.

DORY

Oh, you guys. You really nailed him. Bye.

MOONFISH (O.S.)

Oh, hey, ma'am? One more thing.

DORY

Yes?

The fish form into two sides of a TRENCH.

MOONFISH (O.S.)

When you come to this trench, swim
through it, not over it!

DORY

Trench. Through it. Not over it. I'll
remember!

She swims through the mock trench, and chases after Marlin.

CONTINUED:

DORY

Hey! Hey! Hey, wait up, partner! Hold on!
W-wait, wait, wait! I got -- I gotta tell
you something!

She follows Marlin around a hill of rocks, where she finds
him floating in front of

A DARK, FOREBODING TRENCH

DORY

-- Whoa. Nice trench.

She peers into it.

DORY

Hello!

Her shout echoes eerily down the crevasse. She heads in.

DORY

Okay, let's go!

MARLIN

(pulls her back)

No, no. Bad trench. Bad trench. Come on.
We're gonna swim over this thing.

DORY

Who-whoa, whoa, partner. Little red flag
goin' up. Something's telling me we
should swim "through it, not over it."

MARLIN

Are you even looking at this thing? It's
got death written all over it!

DORY

I'm sorry but I really, really, really,
think we should swim through.

MARLIN

And, I'm really, really done talking
about this. Over we go.

DORY

Come on. Trust me on this.

MARLIN

Trust you?

DORY

Yes. Trust. It's what friends do.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN
(points behind her)
Look! Something shiny!

DORY
Where?!

Dory turns around, excited.

MARLIN
Oh, it just swam over the trench. C'mon,
we'll follow it.

DORY
(porky)
Okay!

Dory gladly follows Marlin up and over the trench, and into the open waters.

DORY
Boy. Sure is clear up here.

Off in the distance, Marlin spots the wispy ribbon of the EAST AUSTRALIAN CURRENT.

MARLIN
And look at that. There's the current. We
should be there in no time.

CLOSE ON DORY: She seems to be listening, but is in fact concentrating on a TINY JELLYFISH, floating just in front of her face. She smiles at it.

DORY
Hey little guy.

MARLIN
(eyes still on current)
You wanted to go through the trench.

DORY
I shall call him Squishy and he shall be
mine. And he shall be my Squishy. Come
here, Squishy. Come here, little Squishy.

Dory makes baby talk. Reaches out to touch Squishy. Marlin turns to witness her receiving a tiny, but effective sting.

DORY
Ow!!

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

(Gasp) Dory! That's a jellyfish!

DORY

Bad Squishy! Bad Squishy!

MARLIN

(swats Squishy away)

Shoo! Shoo, shoo! Get away!

(to Dory)

Come here, let me see that.

She sucks on the tip of her fin like a child. They huddle over it, eyes completely focused on her wound.

DORY

Don't touch it. Don't touch it.

MARLIN

I'm not gonna touch it. I just wanna look.

DORY

-- Hey!? How come it didn't sting you?

MARLIN

It did.

DORY

Ow. Ow. Ow.

During their conversation, neither of them notice LARGER JELLYFISH silently floating down from above. Big ones.

MARLIN

It's just that -- hold still -- I live in this anemone and I'm used to these kind of stings -- Come here...

DORY

Ow. Ow. Ow.

MARLIN

(inspects her fin)

It doesn't look bad. You're gonna be fine. But now we know, don't we? That we don't want to touch these again. Let's be thankful this time it was just a little one.

They look up and scream. HUNDREDS OF PINK JELLYFISH surround them, blocking their path...

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

Don't move!

...Every direction Marlin looks there seems to be more and more jellyfish quietly descending...

MARLIN

This is bad, Dory.

DORY (O.S.)

Hey! Watch this!

Marlin discovers Dory bouncing on a jellyfish top, causing its bell to gracefully billow and collapse. Ironically, it is beautiful to watch.

DORY

Boing, boing, boing...!

MARLIN

Dory! Dory!

Marlin moves to stop her, but she hops over his head. It's just a game to her.

DORY

You can't catch me!

MARLIN

Dory! Don't bounce on the tops! They will -- not...sting you...

(to himself)

The tops don't sting you. That's it!

Dory hopscotches around him.

DORY

Boing! Boing! Woo-hoo! Two in a row. Beat that!

MARLIN

Dory. Alright, listen to me! I have an idea. A game.

DORY

A game?

MARLIN

A game.

DORY

A game?!

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

Yes.

DORY

Ahh! I love games!
 (her fin in the air)
 Pick me!

MARLIN

Alright. Here's the game. Um...Whoever
 can hop the fastest out of these
 jellyfish wins.

DORY

Okay! Okay!

MARLIN

Rules, rules, rules! You can't touch the
 tentacles. Only the tops.

DORY

Something about tentacles. Got it!
 (very rapidly)
 On-your-mark-get-set-GO!!

She takes off.

MARLIN

No, no, no! Wait! Wait! Not something
 about them, it's all about them. Wait!
 Dory!

Marlin tentatively follows after her. Dory playfully weaves
 her way through the shifting vacant spaces.

DORY

Got to go faster if you want to win!

MARLIN

Dory! -- Whoa!

While Dory bounces back and forth like a pinball, Marlin
 nervously comes up alongside, amazed that his plan is
 actually working.

MARLIN

(winded)
 So we're cheating death now...That's what
 we're doing. But we're having fun at the
 same time. I can do this. Just be
 careful.

CONTINUED:

DORY

Yeah, careful I don't make you cry when I win!

Dory puts on a burst of speed. Marlin takes the challenge.

MARLIN

Oh, I don't think so!

They race along through the tentacled forest at a breakneck pace, laughing the whole time. The two are neck and neck. Marlin's in to it.

DORY

Give it up, old man! You can't fight evolution! I was built for speed!

MARLIN

Question is, Dory, are you hungry?

DORY

Hungry?

MARLIN

Yeah. 'Cause you're about to EAT MY BUBBLES!!

Marlin shoots ahead at top speed...

MARLIN

(to himself as he races)

Oh, duck to the left -- back -- coming over -- right there...

...and zooms out of the jellyfish forest to find himself facing the East Australian Current.

MARLIN

The clownfish is the winner! Woohoo! We did it! Look at us! Dory?

Marlin turns to celebrate with her -- only she's not there.

MARLIN

Oh no.

INT. JELLYFISH FOREST -- MOMENTS LATER

Marlin weaves through the forest, searching for Dory as more and more pink jellyfish fill the space.

MARLIN

Dory?! Dory?! Dory --

CONTINUED:

He spots her entwined in the tentacles of a jellyfish.
Lifeless.

MARLIN
(GASP!) DORY!

Marlin shoots straight into the tentacles, screaming as they sting him, and pulls Dory free.

DORY
(weak)
...AM I disqualified?

MARLIN
No, you're doing fine...

Marlin searches in vain for some way out, but they're completely enveloped in pink, and the meager space they occupy is shrinking...

MARLIN (CONT'D)
...You're actually winning. But you gotta stay awake. Uh, where does P. Sherman live?

DORY
P. Sherman...Wallaby...Way...Sydney...

...There! Off in the distance. Marlin spots a TINY PATCH OF BLUE amidst all the pink, but it's closing fast.

MARLIN
That's it!

Holding Dory tight with one fin, Marlin swims through the pink gauntlet towards the blue. He lists into a tentacle -- STING! Another tentacle -- STING! Weakening with each contact.

MARLIN
Stay awake!

DORY
Wallaby Way...Sydney...

MARLIN
Stay awake! (STING!) Stay awake! (STING!)
STAY... (STING!)

A MASSIVE JELLYFISH drops directly in Marlin's path. With his last ounce of strength, he jettisons straight through its tentacles...

CONTINUED:

MARLIN
...AWAKE! (STING!!)

...and out into the safety of the open water. The two fish drift lifelessly, barely conscious...

MARLIN
Awake...

DORY
P. Sherman...42 Wallaby...Way...Sydney...

A LARGE SHADOW looms over Marlin just before he blacks out.

MARLIN
...awake...wake...wake up...Nemo...

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TANK - DAY

Nemo is by the tank glass, staring longingly out the window at the harbor. Gill swims up from behind, unsure whether to approach.

GILL
You miss your dad, don't you, Shark Bait?

NEMO
Yeah.

GILL
Well, you're lucky to have someone out there who's lookin' for you.

NEMO
He's not lookin' for me. He's scared of the ocean.

Gill looks away. Poor kid.

GILL
Peach, any movement?

Up on the glass, Peach keeps watch on the dentist, who's busy inspecting x-rays.

PEACH
He's had at least 4 cups of coffee. It's gotta be soon.

GILL
Keep on him.

CONTINUED:

Gill catches Nemo staring at his damaged fin. Nemo looks away, embarrassed.

GILL
(lifts bad fin)
My first escape. Landed on dental tools.
I was aiming for the toilet.

NEMO
The toilet?

GILL
All drains lead to the ocean, kid.

NEMO
Wow. How many times have you tried to get out?

GILL
Ahhh...I've lost count.
(swims off; Nemo follows)
Fish aren't meant to be in a box, kid. It does things to you.

They pass Bubbles staring down the treasure chest. The lid opens. Spews a stream of bubbles. He tries to catch them all.

BUBBLES
Bubbles! Bubbles! Bubbles!

PEACH
(unsticks)
Potty break!! Potty break!! He just grabbed the Reader's Digest! We have 4.2 minutes!

The fish watch the dentist slip into the bathroom.

GILL
That's your cue, Shark Bait!

BLOAT
You can do it, kid!

They swim up to the filter, just below the surface.

GILL
Okay, we gotta be quick. Once you get in, you swim down to the bottom of the chamber, and I'll talk you through the rest.

CONTINUED:

MEMO

(wary)

Okay.

GILL

Go on. It'll be a piece of kelp.

Nemo holds his breath, pops his head through the surface...

ABOVE THE SURFACE

Nemo gazes up at the filter's WATER WHEEL churning noisily in the tight space of air between the lid and the water. He leaps onto the wheel, wiggles through the gap...

...and plunges into the bottom well of the filter. Gill is already on the opposite side, waiting for him.

GILL

Nicely done. Can you hear me?

MEMO (O.S.)

Yeah!

GILL

Here comes the pebble.

Gill snatches a pebble from the tank floor, swims to the surface, and with perfect aim, spits the pebble into the filter.

INSIDE THE FILTER

It rattles down to Nemo, who catches it.

GILL (O.S.)

Now, do you see a small opening?

MEMO

Uh-huh.

GILL (O.S.)

Okay, inside it, you'll see a rotating fan. Very carefully, wedge that pebble into the fan to stop it turning.

Nemo approaches the fan. It whirs and growls at him. He tries to drop the pebble into the fan -- It gives a loud grind and spits the pebble back at him. Nemo yelps in fright.

GILL (O.S.)

Easy, easy. Careful, Shark Bait.

CONTINUED:

NEMO
I can't do it.

EXT./INT. FILTER - SAME

PEACH
Gill, this isn't a good idea.

GILL
He'll be fine.
(to Nemo)
Try again.

NEMO
Okay.

Nemo is scared, but still he places the pebble next to the filter again...gently nudges it into the rotating fan...

GILL (O.S.)
That's it, Shark Bait...Nice and steady...

With a loud crash the pebble jams the fan blades. Up above, the water wheel stops turning.

NEMO
I got it! I got it!

The fish all breath a sigh of relief.

GILL
That's great, kid. Now swim up the tube and out.

With more confidence than he had going in, Nemo swims through the fan blade housing and up the narrow intake tube. He barely fits, but manages to inch forward.

CLOSE ON PEBBLE IN THE FAN BLADES

It shudders...slips...then pops out. The filter roars back to life. The suction pulls Nemo backwards through the tube towards the blades.

NEMO
Oh no! Gill! Gill!

GILL
Shark Bait!
(to gang)
Get him out of there! Get him out of there!

CONTINUED:

The tank gang is frantic. Gill scrambles to pull a long plastic plant out of the tank bed...

TANK GANG

Oh my gosh!...Help him!...Whatta we do?

GILL

Stay calm, kid! Just don't panic!

...Nemo continues to slip backwards...

NEMO

Help me!

...The fish snake the plant up the tube...

GILL

Shark Bait -- Grab hold of this!

As Nemo slips closer to the moving blades, the plant appears in the tube above him...He can't reach it...His tail now an inch above the fan...Nemo tries to bite down on it, but the LEAF breaks off, and is shredded by the machine.

NEMO

No! No!

GILL

(to gang)

Feed me more!

GURGLE

That's it!

GILL

Come on, Shark Bait! Grab it!

Nemo concentrates...one last effort...bites down on the very tip of the plant!

NEMO

(through clenched teeth)

I got it!

GILL

PULL!

The gang pulls hard. Nemo flies out of the tube. All the fish crash in a pile on the tank floor.

Nemo is crying in Peach's arms. Gill rises up out of the tangle of fish, looking as shaken as Nemo.

CONTINUED:

PEACH

Gill, don't make him go back in there.

GILL

No. We're done.

Gill can't look at Nemo. He swims away. Nemo buries his head in Peach's arms.

EXT. OPEN WATERS - DAY

CLOSE ON MARLIN, waking up, groggy. Disoriented.

CRUSH (O.S.)

Duuude! Duuuude. Focus Dude! Duuuude...

MARLIN

(groggy)

Oh-hhhh!

Marlin looks up at the HEAD OF A SEA TURTLE slowly coming into focus. A big grin pasted on the leatherback's face.

CRUSH

He lives! Hey dude!

Marlin discovers he's lying on the turtle's shell.

MARLIN

Ohhh. What happened -- ?

CRUSH

Oh, saw the whole thing, dude. First you were all like -- whoa. And then we were all like -- WHOA! And then you were like -- whoooooa...

MARLIN

What are you talking about?

CRUSH

You, mini man. Takin' on the jellies. You got serious thrill issues, dude...awesome.

MARLIN

Oh, my stomach. Ohhhh...

CRUSH

(serious)

Oh man, no hurling on the shell, dude, okay? Just waxed it?

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

So Mr. Turtle --

CRUSH

Whoa. Dude. Mr. Turtle is my father.
Name's Crush.

MARLIN

Crush? Really? Okay, Crush. Listen, I
need to get to the East Australian
Current. E.A.C.?

CRUSH

(chuckles)

Dude...You're ridin' it, dude! Check it
out.

Crush gestures to look back. Marlin turns around to see

THE EAST AUSTRALIAN CURRENT

filled with HUNDREDS OF SEA TURTLES. They ride an endless
ribbon of water that weaves through the blue ocean, all
migrating together. Passing fish merge into the current, like
it was an interstate freeway, and zoom off.

CRUSH

'Kay, grab shell, dude.

MARLIN

Grab whaaaaaaa -- ?!

The current dips and they rush downward as if they were on a
giant underwater roller coaster. Marlin holds tightly to
Crush's shell as they corkscrew through the ascent.

CRUSH

Oh-ho! Righteous! Righteous! Yeah!

MARLIN

Stop!

The current smooths out and Crush resumes his leisurely pace.

CRUSH

So, what brings you on this fine day to
the E.A.C.?

MARLIN

Well, Dory and I need to get to Sydney --
(Gasp) Dory! Dory, is she alright?

CONTINUED:

CRUSH

Oh. Oh, little blue...
 (points down)
 She is sub-level, dude.

Marlin spies a blue speck lying still on the back of one of the turtles far below them. It's Dory.

MARLIN

(GASP!) Dory! Dory! Dory!

Marlin races down to her, but is afraid to touch. She seems to be delirious, on death's door.

MARLIN

Oh, Dory.

She mumbles unintelligibly to herself.

MARLIN

I'm so sorry. This -- this is all my fault.

DORY

(Mumble)...Twenty-nine, thirty! Ready or not here I come!

Suddenly, Dory jumps up. She's fine. She darts off, peeking under turtle shells. A bunch of KID TURTLES pop out. They've been playing hide-and-seek.

DORY

There you are! Catch me if you can!

As they all chase after Dory, giggling, Marlin slowly becomes aware of all the surrounding TURTLE FAMILIES:

- Kids spin upside-down on top of an adult's shell..
- Two adults swing a baby turtle between their flippers.
- A group of kids slide off an adult's back and are launched into the air by his back flippers.
- A chain of kids are whipped around by an adult. The smallest of the kid turtles (SQUIRT) is hurled off. Flies past Marlin.

SQUIRT

Whoa! Whoa! Whooooo!

CONTINUED:

Squirt breaks through the turbulent WALL OF THE CURRENT, and like someone falling off a train, tumbles into the open waters outside, quickly being left behind. Marlin moves to rescue him when Crush's flipper stops him.

MARLIN

Oh my goodness --

CRUSH

Whoa. Kill the motor, dude. Let us see what Squirt does flying solo.

ON SQUIRT: He struggles furiously to match speed with the current, then bursts back into the flow. Beams with pride.

SQUIRT

Whoa! That was so cool! Hey Dad, did you see that?! Did you see me?! Did you see what I did?!

CRUSH

You so totally rock, Squirt!

Squirt paddles up them.

CRUSH

So gimme some fin...
(they slap fins)
Noggin.
(bump heads)

CRUSH/SQUIRT

(in unison)
Dude...

CRUSH

(remembers manners)
Oh. Intro. Jellyman, Offspring.
Offspring, Jellyman.

SQUIRT

Jellies? Sweetet!

CRUSH

Totally.

MARLIN

Well, apparently I must have done something you all liked, uh, dudes.

SQUIRT

You rock, dude!

CONTINUED:

Squirt bumps heads with Marlin, and swims away.

MARLIN

(rubs his head)

Ow.

CRUSH

Curl away, my son.

(to Marlin)

Aw, it's awesome, Jellyman. When the little dudes are just eggs we leave 'em on a beach to hatch, and then, coo-coo cacahoo, they find their way back to the big ol' blue.

MARLIN

All by themselves?!

CRUSH

(of course)

Cha.

MARLIN

But, dude, how do you know when they're ready?

CRUSH

Well, you never really know, but when they know, you'll know. You know?

Crush nods his head knowingly. Marlin does the same, then catches himself.

Dory and the turtle kids swim past. Spot Marlin.

DORY

Hey!

(points)

Look everybody!

SQUIRT

I know that dude! It's the Jellyman!

Beat.

DORY

Well, go on! Jump on him!

The kids rush Marlin.

KID TURTLE #1

Turtle pile!

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

Alright, wait! Kids -- !

They pig pile Marlin on top of Crush's shell, burying him from view, while firing a barrage of questions:

SQUIRT/KID TURTLES

Are you funny?...Where're you from?...Where's your shell?...Do your stripes come off?...Are you running away?...Did you really cross the jellyfish forest?...Did they sting you?

MARLIN

(muffled)
I need to breathe...That's fine...Alright, kids. One at a time!...One at a time...

Marlin breaks free. Faces the kids, smiling. He misses this.

TINY TURTLE

Mr. Fish, did you die?

DORY

Sorry, I was a little vague on the details.

SQUIRT

So where you goin'?

MARLIN

Well, you see, my son was taken -- my son was taken away from me.

The kids (and Dory) gasp. Buddle closer together, eyes wide.

DORY

No way.

SQUIRT

What happened?

MARLIN

No, no, no, no. Kids, I-I don't want to talk about it.

ALL KID TURTLES

Aw, come on...Tell us...

SQUIRT

Please?!

MARLIN

(Sigh) Well, okay.
(where to start?)
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

MARLIN (CONT'D)

I-I live on this reef, a long, long way from here...

DORY

Oh boy, this is gonna be good, I can tell.

MARLIN

...and my son, Nemo -- see, he was mad at me...and maybe he wouldn't have done it if I hadn't been so tough on him...I don't know...Anyway, he swam out in the open water to this boat, and while he was out there, these divers appeared. And I -- I tried to stop them. But the boat was too fast. So we swam out into the ocean to follow it...

MONTAGE (DUSK TO DAWN)

-- A KID TURTLE relays Marlin's story to some NEARBY FISH:

KID TURTLE

...but he couldn't stop them. And then, Nemo's dad, he swims out to the ocean and they bump into three ferocious sharks...

-- TWO FISH, one big and the other small, swim together:

SMALL FISH

(deep voice; overlapping)

...three ferocious sharks. He scares away the sharks by blowing them up!

BIG FISH

(high voice)

Golly, that's amazing!

SMALL FISH

(deep voice)

And then dives thousands of feet straight down, into the dark.

-- A LINE OF LOBSTERS walk along the sea floor. The one in front tells the story:

LOBSTER

(overlapping)

...and then dives thousands of feet straight down into the dark. It's like wicked dark down there. You can't see a thing.

(aside to a lobster in trap).

How's it going, Bob?

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

LOBSTER (CONT'D)

(continues)

And, the only thing they can see down there is...

-- TWO SWORDFISH duel as they talk:

SWORDFISH

(overlapping)

And, the only thing they can see down there is the light from this big horrible creature with razor-sharp teeth.

(aside)

Nice parry, old man!

(continues)

And then he has to blast his way out of a jellyfish forest...

-- TWO DOLPHINS repeatedly break the surface in perfect sync as one relays the story. TWO ALBATROSSES flying overhead listen in:

DOLPHIN

(overlapping)

So these two little fish have been -- searching the ocean for days -- on the East Australian Current -- which means that he may be on --

-- ONE OF THE ALBATROSSES tells the story to her flock as they fly into the sunset:

ALBATROSS INTO SUNSET

(overlapping)

...which means that he may be on his way here right now. That should put him in Sydney Harbor...

-- The full moon silhouettes an ALBATROSS relaying the story to PELICANS perched atop a lighthouse, as the beam scans the dark ocean:

ALBATROSS ON LIGHT HOUSE

(overlapping)

...Sydney Harbor in a matter of days. I mean, it sounds like this guy's gonna stop at nothing...

-- A FLOCK OF PELICANS fly through the night sky...

LEAD PELICAN

(overlapping)

...it sounds like this guy's gonna stop at nothing until he finds his son.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

LEAD PELICAN (CONT'D)
I sure hope he makes it. That's one
dedicated father, if you ask me.

...towards the evening skyline of Sydney Harbor.

DISSOLVES TO:

EKT. SYDNEY SEWAGE OUTLET - MORNING

At the mouth of the harbor, near a red buoy, SEAGULLS
congregate on a rock. They pester a GROUP OF PELICANS. Nigel
is one of them. He is trying to eat a crab, but the noise of
the seagulls is distracting.

SEAGULLS
Mine! Mine! Mine! Mine!

NIGEL
Oh, would you just SHEEYADDAP!! You rats
with wings!

PELICAN #1
...and now this bloke's looking for his
boy, Nemo.

NIGEL
Nemo?

PELICAN #1
...He was taken off the reef by divers
and this clownfish has been looking for
his son all over the ocean...

To get rid of the noise, Nigel tosses his crab at the
squawking seagulls.

NIGEL
There! Take it! You happy?!

SEAGULLS
Mine! Mine! Mine! Mine!

The seagulls chase after it. Nigel can hear now.

NIGEL
(to Pelican #1)
Hey, hey, hey. Say that again. You just
said something about Nemo! What was it?

The CRAB lands on the rocks. Is pursued to the edge. It turns
on the seagulls, and strikes defensive karate poses.

CRAB
HEEEEEEEE-YAAA!

CONTINUED:

The seagulls stop dead in their tracks, confused. The crab seizes the moment, and leaps into the water. Gone.

SEAGULL #1

Mine?

On the other rock, the pelican finishes telling Nigel everything:

PELICAN #1

...Last I heard he's heading towards the harbor.

NIGEL

Ho-ho! Brilliant!

Nigel takes to the air.

INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Nemo lies slumped in the diver's helmet, defeated. He looks across the tank at the threatening picture of Darla. Sighs. Sinks deeper inside.

Bloat, Deb, Bubbles and Gurgle quietly float down from above.

DEB

(whispers)

Is he doing okay?

GURGLE

(loud whisper)

I don't know, but whatever you do, don't mention D-A-R --

Nemo swims out of the helmet past them.

NEMO

That's okay. I know who you're talking about.

The gang watches him go. Bloat smacks Gurgle upside the head.

Nemo nervously passes the filter to reach Gill's home: the plastic skull. Timidly, he peeks through the eye hole. Gill floats motionless in the dark.

NEMO

Gill... ? Gill?

GILL

Hey, Shark Bait.

CONTINUED:

NEMO

I'm sorry I couldn't stop the fi --

GILL

No, I'm the one who should be sorry. I was so ready to get out, so ready to taste that ocean...I was willing to put you in harm's way to get there.

(beat)

Nothing should be worth that. I'm sorry I couldn't get you back to your father, kid.

Gill finally looks at Nemo. The boy doesn't know what to say.

ON NIGEL IN THE SKY

He is flying like a madman...

NIGEL

Hey! Hey! Hey!

...and slams full force into the closed window.

DENTIST

What the -- ?

The crash spooks the dentist, and he prematurely PULLS THE TOOTH from his patient... who naturally screams.

DENTIST

Well, that's uh...one way to pull a tooth.

The dentist walks over to the window. Empty. He opens the window, checks left and right.

DENTIST

Hunh...Damn kids.

(walks back to the patient)

Well, good thing I pulled the right one, eh, Prime Minister?

Nigel peeks up over the sill. Leans inside. Tries to get the gang's attention.

NIGEL

Hey! Hey! Psst.

PEACH

Oh, Nigel! You just missed an extraction.

CONTINUED:

NIGEL

Ooh! Has he loosened the periodontal ligament with the elevator yet? -- Doh! What am I talking about? Nemo! Where's Nemo? I've got to speak with him!

The gang all congregate by Nigel. Nemo swims up to the glass.

NEMO

What? What is it?

NIGEL

Your dad's been fightin' the entire ocean lookin' for you!

NEMO

My father? Really?

GILL

Really?

NIGEL

Oh yeah! He's traveled hundreds of miles. He's been battling sharks, and jellyfish, and all sorts of --

NEMO

Sharks?
(defeated)
That can't be him.

NIGEL

Are you sure?
(taps wing on chin)
What was his name? Uh, some kind of sport fish or something...Tuna...Trout... ?

NEMO

Marlin?

NIGEL

That's it! Marlin! The little clownfish from the reef!

Nemo's face lights up.

NEMO

It's my dad! He took on a shark!

NIGEL

I heard he took on three.

CONTINUED:

TANK GANG/NEMO
Three?...Three sharks?...

BLOAT
That's gotta be 4800 teeth!

NIGEL
You see kid, after you got taken by Diver Dan over there, your dad followed the boat you were on like a maniac.

NEMO
Really?

As Nigel tells the story, THE CAMERA SLOWLY MOVES IN ON NEMO'S FACE as it swells with pride. (SCORE should overtake this dialogue, allowing only snippets to peek through):

NIGEL
He's swimmin' and he's swimmin' and he's giving it all he's got. Then three gigantic sharks capture him. He blows them up, and then dives thousands of feet down where he gets chased by a monster with huge teeth. He ties this thing to a rock. What does he get for his reward? He gets to battle an entire jellyfish forest. But now he's ridin' with a buncha sea turtles on the East Australian Current, and the word is he's headed this way, right now, to Sydney!

The tank gang all look at each other in amazement.

TANK GANG
Wow...What a good daddy...Unbelievable...

GILL
He was lookin' for ya after all, Shark Bait --

Nemo's not there. Gill looks across the tank to find the boy picking up a large FUSED PEBBLE, and heading up to...

GURGLE
He's swimming to the filter!

TANK GANG
Shark Bait!...Not again!

The fish swim after him. Nemo spits the pebble into the filter, and vaults in. Gill just misses him.

CONTINUED:

GILL

Shark Bait!

TANK GANG

No!...You've got your whole life ahead of you!...

GILL

We'll help ya, kid!

Like before, the gang grabs a plastic plant.

INSIDE THE FILTER

A determined Nemo approaches the fan...gauges the size of the fused pebble in his fin...

IN THE TANK

The fish shove the plastic plant into the intake tube.

TANK GANG

Get him outta there!...Come on, kid, grab the end!...

SFX: GEARS GRIND NOISILY TO A HALT

Fearing the worst, the gang rush to the side of the filter.

TANK GANG

Shark Bait!...Are you okay?...Oh no...

GILL

Can you hear me, Shark Bait? Nemo, can you hear me?

Nemo pops up behind them, smiling.

NEMO

Yeah, I can hear you.

GILL/TANK GANG

SHARK BAIT! You did it!

GURGLE

(hugs Nemo)

Ahh! Shark Bait you're --

(pulls away; horrified)

COVERED WITH GERMS!! AAAIGH!!

GILL

That took guts, kid.

CONTINUED:

MOMENTS LATER

Gill has assembled everyone around Darla's picture.

GILL

Alright gang, we have less than 48 hours before Darla gets here. This tank'll get plenty dirty in that time, but we have to help it along any way we can. Jacques?

JACQUES

Oui?

GILL

No cleaning.

JACQUES

I shall resist.

GILL

Everybody else? Be as gross as possible. Think dirty thoughts. We're gonna make this tank so filthy the dentist'll have to clean it.

Bloat belches.

GILL

Good work.

Nemo giggles.

EXT. EASTERN AUSTRALIAN CURRENT - AFTERNOON

The turtle caravan races by at top speed. Marlin and Dory ride Crush's back. Everyone has to yell over the roar of the current:

CRUSH

Alright, we're here, dudes! Get ready!
Your exit's comin' up, man!

MARLIN

Where? I don't see it!

DORY

Right there!
(points)
I see it! I see it!

In the distance, a GIANT EDDY branches off the current -- an offramp.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

You mean the swirling vortex of terror?!

CRUSH

That's it, dude!

MARLIN

Of course it is.

CRUSH

Okay! First! Find your exit buddy!

Dory grabs Marlin real tight.

CRUSH

Do you have your exit buddy?!

DORY

Yes!

CRUSH

Okay, Squirt here will now give you a run-down on proper exiting technique!

Squirt pops up from underneath his father.

SQUIRT

Good afternoon! We're gonna have a great jump today!

(makes broad gestures)

Okay, crank a hard cutback as you hit the wall! There's a screaming bottom turn, so, watch out! Remember: Rip it, roll it and punch it!

Marlin just stares at the boy for a beat.

MARLIN

It's like he's tryin' to speak to me, I know it!

(to Squirt)

You know you're really cute, but I don't know what you're saying. Say the first thing again -- !

CRUSH

Okay, Jellyman! GO! GO! GO!

Squirt shoves Marlin & Dory off Crush's shell, and into the offramp eddy.

Marlin screams as they're sucked into the vortex. They ride the eddy like a waterslide, spinning around out of control...

CONTINUED:

...and shoot out the other end into calm open waters.

MARLIN

(screams into laughter)

Whoa. That was...fun! I actually enjoyed that!

DORY

(spots turtles; points)

Hey, look! Turtles!

Above them Crush treads water against the flow of the current.

CRUSH

(Laugh) Most excellent! Now, turn your fishy tails 'round and swim straight on through to Sydney! No worries, man!

MARLIN

No worries! Thank you, dude-Crush!

Crush is pelted with passing kids. Their weight slowly sends him downstream.

KID TURTLES

Bye!...Bye, Jellyman!...See ya!...

CRUSH

You tell your little dude I said hi, okay?

SQUIRT

See ya later, dudes!

DORY

Bye everyone!

Marlin gives a sad smile.

MARLIN

Oh, Nemo would have loved this...

(remembers; calls out)

Oh -- Hey Crush, Crush! I forgot! How old are you?!

CRUSH

A hundred and fifty, dude! And still young! Rock on!

Crush and the other turtles fade off in the distance.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

'Hundred and fifty... 'hundred and fifty,
I gotta remember that.

The two fish turn, and confront a FOREBODING WALL OF MURK.

DORY

Whoa. We goin' in there?

MARLIN

Yup.

DORY

(all business)
P. Sherman, 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney?

MARLIN

Yup. We're gonna just swim straight.

They head fearlessly into the murky void...

DORY

Just keep swimming... just keep
swimming... swi --

MARLIN

Dory.

Dory switches to humming.

INT. MURKY VOID - LATER

Deep in the thick murk, Marlin and Dory fade into view...

MARLIN

Boy this is taking a while.

DORY

Hey! How 'bout we play a game?

MARLIN

Okay.

DORY

Uh, okay. I'm thinking of something...
orange! And it's small --

MARLIN

It's me.

DORY

Right! Okay, this one you'll never
guess...

CONTINUED:

...and out of view...back into view...

DORY
...It's, like, orange...and, uh, small --

MARLIN
It's me.

DORY
Alrighty, Mr. Smarty Pants, now I'm
thinkin'...

...out of view...into view...

DORY
...It's orange...and small...and white
stripes --

MARLIN
Me. And the next one? Just a guess -- me.

DORY
Okay. That's just scary.

Marlin begins to look worried. He points to a particle in the water. As he speaks, he becomes more hysterical:

MARLIN
Wait, wait, wait. I've
definitely seen this floating
speck before. That means
we've passed it before, and
that means we're going in
circles, and that means we're
not going straight -- We
gotta get to the surface!
Come on, we'll figure it out
up there! Let's go, follow
me!

DORY
Hey, hey, hey... Whoa, whoa,
whoa...HEY!!

Dory grabs hold of Marlin. Makes eye contact.

DORY
Relax. Take a deep breath...
(they breathe together)
Now, let's ask somebody for directions.

MARLIN
Oh, fine. Who you wanna ask? The speck?
There's nobody here!

CONTINUED:

DORY

Well, there has to be someone. It's the ocean, silly. We're not the only two in here.

Dory looks out into the murk.

DORY

Let's see...

(revolves)

Okay, no one there...uh, nope...nada...

DORY'S POV: A SMALL DARK BLUR OF A FISH slides into view, deep in the gray mist.

DORY

There's somebody!

(calls out)

Hey! Excuse --

MARLIN

Dory, Dory, Dory!

(gets in her face; whispers)

Okay, now it's my turn. I'm thinking of something dark and mysterious. It's a fish we don't know. And if we ask it directions, it could ingest us and spit out our bones!

DORY

What is it with men and asking for directions?

MARLIN

Look. I don't want to play the gender card right now. You wanna play a card? Let's play the...

(makes quotes with his fins)

"Let's not die" card.

DORY

You want to get out of here don't you?

MARLIN

Of course I do --

DORY

Well, then how are we gonna do that unless we give it a shot and hope for the best? *Rum? Rum?*

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

But -- But Dory, you don't fully understand --

DORY

Come on. Trust me on this.

This line stops Marlin. He glances at the JELLYFISH WOUND on her side. The wound she received because he didn't listen to her before.

MARLIN

(Sigh) Alright.

Dory smiles.

DORY

(calls out)

Excuse me?! Woo-hoo! Little fellah?!

The small dark blur of a fish just floats there. No response.

DORY

Hello!

(to Marlin)

Don't be rude. Say hi.

MARLIN

B-Kello!

DORY

His son Bingo -- !

MARLIN

Nemo.

DORY

Nemo! Was taken to, uh --

MARLIN

Sydney.

DORY

Sydney! Yes, and it's really, really important that we get there as fast as we can! So can you help us out?

Long pause. The shape just sits there.

DORY

Come on, little fellah! Come on!

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

Dory, I'm a little fellah. I don't think that's a little fellah...

The shape unfurls. Emits a distant whale cry.

DORY

Oh. Oh, oh...big fellah. Big fell -- whale! Okay. Maybe he only speaks "whale."

(in "whale")

Weeeeee neeeded to filiiind his soooooon...

MARLIN

Uh, Dory. What are you doing? What are you doing?! Are you sure you speak whale?

DORY

Caaaaaan yooooooooouuuuuuuu giive uus direeeeeeeeeectioooooons...

MARLIN

Dory! Heaven knows what you're saying!

The whale turns away into the murk, and disappears.

MARLIN

See. He's swimming away.

DORY

Cooooooooome baaaaaaaack...

MARLIN

He's not coming back. You offended him!

DORY

Maybe a different dialect
(makes whale noises)

MARLIN

Dory! Dory, this is not whale. You're speaking, like...upset stomach.

As they debate, the whale slowly appears behind them out of the murk. They don't see it. It grows bigger and bigger...

CONTINUED:

DORY
 Maybe I should try humpback.
 (speaks humpback)
 Maybe louder, huh?
 (speaks loud humpback)
 Too much orca. Doesn't that
 sound a little orca-ish?

MARLIN
 No, don't try
 humpback!...Alright. You
 actually sound sick...Don't
 DO that!...It doesn't sound
 orca. It sounds like nothing
 I've ever heard...Oh, it's
 just as well. He might be
 hungry.

DORY
 Don't worry. Whales don't eat clownfish.
 They eat krill.

The whale now fills the entire frame behind them. A HUNDRED
 TINY SCREAMING KRILL swim past.

KRILL
 (tiny voices)
 Swim away...!

DORY
 Oh, look! Krill!

Marlin slowly turns around. The whale opens its mouth...

MARLIN
 MOVE! DORY! MOVE!!

...and swallows them up. They never had a chance.

INT. TANK - DAY

Gill and Nemo float before an entire TANK WALL OF ALGAE.

GILL
 Look at that. Would you look at that?
 Filthy. Absolutely filthy. And it's all
 thanks to you, kid. You made it possible -
 - Jacques, I said no cleaning!

Jacques turns from the glass. Caught. Green algae covers his
 face, like a kid eating chocolate.

JACQUES
 I am ashamed.

Peach, up on the glass, waves her arms, smearing the algae.

PEACH
 Hey look! Scum angel!

CONTINUED:

Gurgle weaves his way through an obstacle course of floating scum, flinching in horror. He passes Bubbles at the treasure chest. It opens and releases a disgusting mass of green bubbles.

BUBBLES

Bubbles! Bubbles! Bubb --
(they pop into noxious clouds)
Cough! Cough! Ptwi!

Deb swims past the glass, searching.

DEB

Plc! Has anybody seen Plc? Fllooooo!

Peach unsticks. The office clock is visible through the clear spot she's left.

PEACH

9 o'clock, and... cue dentist.

IN THE LOBBY

The DOOR CHIME rings as the dentist enters. The fish track him as he rushes into the exam room...

DENTIST

Hello Barbara. Sorry I'm late.

PEACH

Here we go. Okay. Okay.

...to a BOY waiting in the dentist's chair.

DENTIST

Little Davey Reynolds!

PEACH

Okay. Walks to the counter...drops the keys...

Gurgle watches Bloat wallow like a pig in the muck.

GURGLE

Bloat! That's disgusting!

PEACH (O.S.)

...Turns to the tank...

BLOAT

(swallows a floater)
Tastes pretty good to me. (BELCH!)

CONTINUED:

GURGLE

Eww! Don't you people realize we're swimming in our own --

PEACH

Shhh! Here he comes!

THE DENTIST'S HAND

Juts into the water. The fish scatter. Nemo hides in the fake plastic shipwreck.

The dentist slides his index finger up the glass, making a clear line through the algae. Pulls his hand out of the tank, and inspects the scum.

DENTIST

Krikey, what a state.

(calls out)

Barbara, what's my earliest appointment tomorrow?

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

Ten o'clock!

DENTIST

Leave it open, wouldja? I'm gonna clean the fish tank before Darla gets here.

IN THE TANK

The fish slowly emerge from hiding, except Nemo.

GILL

Did you hear that, Shark Bait?

NEMO (O.S.)

Yay! He's gonna clean the tank! He's gonna clean the tank!

Nemo pops out the ship's porthole, covered in green scum.

NEMO

Yay, we're gonna be clean!

GILL

Are you ready to see your dad, kid?

NEMO

Uh-huh.

They both look out the window to the harbor.

CONTINUED:

GILL

Of course you are. You know, I wouldn't be surprised if he's out there in the harbor waitin' for you right now.

NEMO

Yeah...

EXT. SYDNEY HARBOR/DEEP OCEAN - MONTAGE

Through a SERIES OF DISSOLVES, we move under the water, out of the harbor and into the open waters.

THE WHALE appears, moving with weightless grace. The giant mammal gently rolls past, its massive shape blotting out the light. Slowly it moves towards us.

INT. WHALE'S MOUTH - CONTINUOUS

It is a vast, dim, red, sinewy cavern, full of water. Everything undulates back and forth with haunting creaks and moans.

UNDER THE SURFACE

Marlin shoots past, hurtling towards the front of the mouth. He crashes hard into the baleen with no effect. Dory twirls up to him, enjoying the ride. He ignores her. The swells carry them away from the baleen.

Marlin swims forward for another attempt. Slams into the baleen. No good. Dory twirls by him again, swimming upside-down, laughing with glee.

DORY

Here comes a big one. Ooh! Come on! You gotta try this!

MARLIN

WOULD YOU JUST STOP IT?!

DORY

Why? What's wrong?

MARLIN

We're in a whale! Don't you get it?

DORY

(looks around)
A whale?

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

A whale! 'Cause YOU had to ask for help!
And now we're stuck here!

DORY

Wow. A whale. You know I speak whale.

MARLIN

No!! You're insane! You can't speak
whale!

{pounds furiously on the
baleen}

I have to get out! -- I have to find my
son! -- I have to tell him how - OLD -
SEA - TURTLES - ARE!!

Marlin breaks down, exhausted. Slides to the bottom. Dory
spins up to the baleen, laughing. Looks around for Marlin.
Finds him far below, lying on the tongue.

DORY

(serious)

Hey. You okay?

She gently lowers. Marlin remains still, eyes closed.

DORY

There, there... It's alright. It'll be
okay.

MARLIN

No...No, it won't...

DORY

Sure it will. You'll see.

MARLIN

No...I promised him I'd never let
anything happen to him...

Dory considers this statement.

DORY

Hm. That's a funny thing to promise.

MARLIN

What?

DORY

Well, you can't never let anything happen
to him. Then nothing would ever happen to
him.

CONTINUED:

He looks at Dory. That actually made sense.

DORY

Not much fun for little Harpo.

Suddenly, the whale lurches to a stop. Everything goes quiet.

DORY

Hmm.

MARLIN

What's going on?

DORY

Don't know. I'll ask him.

(in whale)

Whaaaaaaaaat's goooiiiiiiiiiiiiing oooooooooon?

MARLIN

Dory. Dory. Dory.

The whale responds with deafening moans.

DORY

I think he says we've stopped.

MARLIN

Well, of course we've stopped. Just -- stop trying to speak whale. You're gonna make things worse.

A low rumble.

MARLIN

What is that noise?

Marlin looks up. The WATER LEVEL is lowering...

MARLIN

Oh no. Look what you did. The water's going down...it's -- it's going down.

DORY

Really? You sure about that?

MARLIN

Look! Already it's half-empty!

DORY

Hmm? I'd say it's half full.

MARLIN

STOP THAT! IT'S HALF EMPTY!!

CONTINUED:

The whale's voice booms again.

DORY

Okay, that one was a little tougher. He either said, we should go to the "back of the throat," or he wants "a root beer float!"

MARLIN

Of course he wants us to go there! That's -- eating us!

(rubs against a tastebud)

How do I taste, Moby?! Huh?! Do I taste good! You tell him I'm not interested in being lunch!

DORY

Okay.

(in whale)

Heeeeeee's noooooot --

MARLIN

Stop talking to him --

Without warning the mammoth tongue leaps out of the shallow water, thrusting Marlin and Dory up near the roof of the mouth. They hang vertically from the tastebuds, screaming.

MARLIN

WHAT IS GOING ON?!!

DORY

I'LL CHECK --

(in whale)

Whaaaaaaaaaat's --

MARLIN

NO! No more whale! You can't speak whale!

DORY

Yes I can!

MARLIN

No, you can't! You think you can do these things but you can't, Nemo!!

Marlin catches himself. Goes quiet. The tongue reaches its peak. They dangle high over the whale's undulating throat. Again the whale moans. So loud the fish shake from the reverberation. Dory listens intently. Nods.

DORY

Okay!

CONTINUED:

She lets go.

MARLIN

Dory!

Marlin grabs her by the fin. Still clings to the tongue.

DORY

He says it's time to let go! Everything's gonna be alright!

MARLIN

How do you know?! How do you know something bad isn't gonna happen?!

DORY

I don't!

Beat. Marlin looks down at the bottomless throat...gulps...

...and lets go.

The tiny orange and blue fish tumble down the dark esophagus. Then...

WATER

erupts from every direction. Filling the frame. Rushing upwards. No more Marlin. No Dory. Just water.

EXT. SYDNEY HARBOR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The whale breaches the surface, shooting a JET OF WATER from its spout. Marlin and Dory are thrown high into the air. They pop their heads out of the water.

MARLIN

(Laugh) We're alive!

DORY

Look!

The stern of a passing boat reads: SYDNEY HARBOUR. In fact, they are surrounded by boats all labeled with the same words.

DORY

(reads)

S-s-sid-knee...Sydney! Uh, Sydney...
Sydney, again...

Their eyes fall on the SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE, punctuated by an operatic high note.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

You were right, Dory! We made it! We're gonna find my son!

They turn to the whale, whose tail is gracefully submerging.

MARLIN

(in whale)

Thaaaaank yooooooooooooo, siiiiiiiiiiiiir!!

DORY

Wow! I wish I could speak whale.

MARLIN

Okay, all we have to do is find the boat that took him.

DORY

Right!

MARLIN

Come on, Dory. We can do this!

INT. TANK - MORNING

CLOSE ON PEACH as she wakes. Yawns. Squints at the bright sun. Smacks her lips.

PEACH

Morning... It's morning everyone! Today's the day! The sun is shining, the tank is clean, and we are getting out of --
(Gasp!) The tank is clean.

WIDE ON THE ENTIRE TANK. It's crystal clear. Not a speck of algae.

PEACH

THE TANK IS CLEAN!!

ON BRAND NEW FILTER - MOMENTS LATER

The hi-tech filtration system of brushed metal and no moving parts towers over the tank gang. They stare in silent horror at the monolithic monster.

DEB

But how?

GILL

Boss must have installed it last night while we were sleeping.

CONTINUED:

NEMO

W-What are we gonna do?

GILL

What's it say, Peach?!

Peach reads the FILTER MANUAL, lying open on the counter top, but her voice is muffled.

GILL

I can't hear ya, Peach.

PEACH

(unsticks; reads)

The Aqua Scum 2003 is an all-purpose, self-cleaning, maintenance free, saltwater purifier that is guaranteed to even extend the life of your aquarium fish --

BLOAT

(inflates)

Stop it!

PEACH

(reads)

The Aqua Scum is programmed to scan your tank environment every five minutes?

GURGLE

Scan? What does that mean?

A RED LASER BEAM shoots out of the Aqua Scum. It rapidly scans the entire tank with a hi-tech hum. Gurgle covers his privates. The laser disappears.

AQUA SCUM

(automated voice)

Temperature 82 degrees. PH balance normal.

TANK GANG

(impressed)

Ooooooh....

PEACH

Nice.

GURGLE

(a la Heston)

CURSE YOU AQUA SCUM!!!

CONTINUED:

BLOAT

That's it for the escape plan. It's ruined.

NEMO

Then what are we gonna do about --

The DOOR CHIME rings.

TANK GANG

Darla!

GILL

Stay down, kid!

Gill shoves Nemo into a fake plastic barrel. Everyone else rushes over to the lobby glass.

ON LOBBY

A NERVOUS LITTLE BOY enters with his MOTHER. The gang sighs with relief.

BLOAT

False alarm.

GURGLE

My nerves can't take much more of this.

Nemo peeks out from the barrel. He doesn't see

A NET

silently lowering behind him.

BLOAT

What do we do when the little brat gets here?

GILL

I'm thinking. I'm thinking.

NEMO (O.S.)

Gill!! Help me! Help me!

The gang whips around to see Nemo caught up in the net.

GILL

Nemo! Hold on, I'm comin'!

Gill races over. Jumps in the net. The rest of the gang does the same.

CONTINUED:

GILL
Swim down! C'mon, kid, swim down!
C'mon!...

TANK GANG
Everybody jump in...Swim down!...That's
it!

DENTIST
What the -- ?

The net is wrenched from the dentist's hand, and falls to the
tank floor. They all cheer. Nemo backs out of the net...

...right into a PLASTIC BAG. He's lifted out of the tank.

MEMO

Gill!

GILL

Nemo!

The tank gang watch the dentist plop Nemo, in the tied
plastic baggie, down on the counter, and then walk away.

TANK GANG

Roll, kid! Roll!...C'mon! HURRY!...You
can do it!

Nemo pounds against the bag. Slowly, he wobbles his way over
to the open window...the sill...almost there...

...when the dentist returns. He grabs the bag, and places it
in a shallow tray next to the tank.

DENTIST

Whooops. That would be a nasty fall.

Nemo swims frantically back and forth in his bag. The gang
can barely hear his muffled pleas.

MEMO

Gill! Don't let me go belly up! Don't let
me go belly up!

GILL

Just calm down, Nemo. You won't go belly
up. I promise, you're gonna be okay.

ON LOBBY

The door slams open. The silhouette of a CUTE LITTLE GIRL
WITH PONYTAILS AND HEADGEAR stands menacingly in the doorway.

CONTINUED:

TANK GANG

DARLA!

EXT. MARINA - SUNRISE - SAME

Endless rows of sailing boats line the docks, rocking in sync with the mild swells. Marlin and Dory pop to the surface. Marlin, still in overdrive, scans the row of boats, but Dory looks tired and haggard.

DORY

Alright, do any of these boats look familiar to you?

MARLIN

No, but the boat has to be here somewhere. Come on, Dory. We're gonna find it.

DORY

(almost asleep)

I'm totally excited...are you excited...?

She lists to the side. Marlin slaps her awake.

MARLIN

Dory, wake up. Wake up. Come on.

Her eyes flutter open. She looks past Marlin...

DORY

DUCK!

Marlin turns to see a BLACK PELICAN gliding towards them.

MARLIN

(calm)

That's not a duck. It's a -- PELICAN!!
Aagh!

The bird swoops down, opens its beak, and scoops them up.

EXT. DOCKS - CONTINUOUS

The pelican lands on a piling. Throws its head back to swallow its breakfast.

INSIDE THE BEAK

Both fish scream as they slide down the tongue, and into the throat. Marlin twists sideways, wedging himself tight. Dory lands on top of him. Marlin refuses to go down easy.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

NO! I didn't come this far to be
breakfast!

The pelican's eyes go wide. Makes spastic jerks. He tries to
hack his meal onto the dock, like a cat with a hairball.

ON THE OPPOSITE END OF THE PIER

A ROW OF PELICANS are perched on the roof of a nearby pub.
Nigel is among them, sleeping. The rest notice the black
pelican stumbling on the pier like a drunken sailor.

PELICAN #1

(nudges Nigel)

Hey Nigel, will you look at that?

NIGEL

Wha,wha -- What?

PELICAN #1

Sun's barely up, and already Gerald's had
more than he can handle.

NIGEL

Yeah. Reckon somebody oughta help the
poor guy.

PELICANS

Yeah...You're right...Yeah...

But nobody moves. They continue to watch Gerald flail.

NIGEL

Aw, well don't everybody fly off at once.

Nigel swoops down to Gerald, who is now turning blue.

NIGEL

Alright, Gerald, what is it? Fish got
your tongue?

Gerald nods desperately. Opens his mouth to show a screaming
Marlin and Dory, holding onto his tongue.

NIGEL

Love a duck!

Nigel whacks him on the back. The fish fly onto the dock,
and flap about, gasping for water.

MARLIN

I GOTTA TO FIND MY SON NEMO!!

CONTINUED:

NIGEL

Nemo?!

(to Gerald)

Hey! Hey! Hey! He's that fish! You know,
the one we've been talking about. The one
that's been fightin' the whole ocean!

(to Marlin)

Hey, I know where your son is --

Marlin and Dory have flopped down the pier. Nigel waddles
after them.

NIGEL

Hey wait! Come back! Stop!

MARLIN

Dory. Keep going. He's crazy.

NIGEL

I've got something to tell ya!

Nigel is gaining on the fish when BIRD POOP lands in front of
Marlin and Dory. All three freeze.

A FLOCK OF SEAGULLS (NOT THE BAND)

are perched all over the pier, boats and rigging.

SEAGULL

Mine?

Staying frozen, Nigel ever-so-slowly lowers his beak...

NIGEL

(quiet)

Okay. Don't make any sudden moves. Hop
inside my mouth if you want to live.

MARLIN

Hop in your mouth, huh? And how does that
make me live?

...A single seagull lands beside them. Curious...

SEAGULL

Mine?

NIGEL

(quiet)

Because I can take you to your son.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

(quiet)
Yeah, right.

...Two more seagulls land...

NIGEL

No. I know your son. He's orange. He's got a gimpy fin on one side...

MARLIN

(loud)
THAT'S NEMO!

The entire flock attacks.

SEAGULLS

MINE! MINE! MINE!

Marlin leaps from beak to beak, while Dory is pulled in four different directions. Nigel snatches them both from the fray...dives off the dock, grabbing a mouthful of ocean water...and takes to the air.

NIGEL

Fasten your seatbelts!

The seagulls fill the sky, as Nigel flies perilously through the maze of masts. The pelican veers sharply...heads straight towards a sailboat crossing their path...

NIGEL

(mouth full)
Everybody hold on!

...At the last second, Nigel tilts sideways, and flies between the boat's two sails. The seagulls all slam into the canvas, their beaks punching through.

SEAGULLS

MINE! MINE! MINE!

Nigel heads for Wallaby Way.

INT. TANK - MORNING

CLOSE ON DARLA, banging her finger on the tank glass. She smiles sweetly at the fish. They are deafened by the thuds.

TANK GANG

Ow!...Whoa whoa!...Too loud for me!

She taps directly at Peach on the glass.

CONTINUED:

DARLA

Twinkle, twinkle little star...

PEACH

Find a happy place! Find a happy place!

The receptionist opens her window.

RECEPTIONIST

Darla, your uncle will see you now.

EXAM ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Darla sits in the chair, while the dentist adjusts her bib.

DENTIST

Alright, let's see those pearly whites.

DARLA

(bites at his hand)

I'm a pi-ran-ha. They're in the A-ma-zon.

DENTIST

And a piranha's a fish. Just like your present...

He moves to get Nemo. Darla bounces and claps in her chair a little too enthusiastically.

DARLA

(sing-song)

I get a fishie! Fishie, fishie, fishie!

The tank gang helplessly watch the dentist lift the plastic bag from the tray, and gasp in horror...

...Nemo floats belly up in the bag.

TANK GANG

Oh no!...He's dead!...Shark Bait!...

DENTIST

Oh, no. Poor little guy.

The dentist hides the bag behind his back. Turns to Darla.

DENTIST

Must've left your present in the car, sweetie. (Nervous laugh) I'll go get it.

Darla whines.

CLOSE ON THE BAG

CONTINUED:

Nemo opens his eyes and winks at the tank gang.

TANK GANG

He's still alive!...He's not
dead!...What's happening? Why's he
playing dead?...

GILL

He's gonna get flushed down the toilet.
He's gonna get outta here!

TANK GANG

Yeah!...He's gonna get flushed!...What a
smart little guy!...

NEMO'S POV: The dentist walks toward the bathroom. Behind the
open door, we can see the TOILET, when suddenly the dentist
turns, and heads for

THE TRASH CAN

The fish all gasp.

GILL

Oh no, not the trashcan!

BUBBLES

Nemo, no!

Just then, Nigel lands at the window, carrying Marlin and
Dory in his mouth. He sticks his beak inside.

NIGEL

(mouth full)

Hey! Hey! I found his dad!

MARLIN

Where's Nemo? Where is he?

TANK GANG

Dentist! Dentist!...He's over there!...

MARLIN

What's a dentist? What is that?

Marlin looks across the room to where the fish are pointing.
The dentist is about to drop Nemo into the trash can.

MARLIN

(Gasp!) Nigel, get in there!

CONTINUED:

NIGEL
(mouth full)
I can't go in there!

MARLIN
Oh yes you can! CHARGE!

Marlin yanks on Nigel's tongue, using it like a rudder. Nigel squawks as he is pulled inside.

Darla turns, sees the rabid bird, and screams!

DENTIST
What the -- ? Darla, Sweetie, I'll save you!

Nigel dives at the dentist (still holding the bag), who lunges for the bird. They chase each other around the room, knocking tools and equipment everywhere.

ON LOBBY

The nervous little boy, who entered earlier, looks up from his magazine. Through the tank he can see a flurry of limbs, punctuated by the sounds of screaming, drilling and squawking. His jaw drops in terror.

BACK IN THE EXAM ROOM

The dentist and Nigel collide over Darla in the exam chair. The bag drops onto the tool tray. Nemo sees Darla looming above him, and defensively plays dead.

At that exact moment, Marlin peers out of Nigel's beak...sees the image of his dead son -- and he shuts down. Time slows.

MARLIN
Nemo...

DORY
Oh my goodness...

DENTIST (O.S.)
Gotcha!

The moment is broken when the dentist clamps Nigel's beak shut and wrestles the pelican toward the window.

MARLIN (O.S.)
(inside beak)
Nemo!

Nemo opens his eyes.

CONTINUED:

NEMO

Daddy?

But the dentist shoves Nigel out the window.

DENTIST

Out with ya! And STAY OUT!

NEMO

Daddy -- !

Darla picks up Nemo's bag. Begins to shake it. Hard.

DARLA

Fishie? Fishie!! Wake up!! WAKE UP!!

The tank fish, still at the glass, realize they must act.

GILL

Quick! To the top of Mount
Wannahockalooogie!

DARLA

(to Nemo)
WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING?

Gill shoves himself inside the mouth of the volcano...

PEACH

Hurry!

GILL

Bloat!

...Bloat, wedged at the bottom, inflates, tipping the volcano
at an angle. The other fish strain to help push it over.

GILL

Ring of Fire!

Jacques cranks the control valve, and Gill is rocketed out of
the tank by the pressure.

Gill arcs across the room...lands on Darla's head...She
screams...Throws the bag high into the air...It falls onto
the tray and explodes. Nemo flops on the DENTAL MIRROR.

DENTIST

Krikey! All the animals have gone mad!

He rushes to save his niece, and SLAMS HIS HEAD on the X-ray
machine. Falls over unconscious.

CONTINUED:

ON LOBBY

Now all the waiting patients stare nervously through the tank at the chaos.

IN THE TANK

TANK GANG

Smack her in the head!...Go, Gill, Go!

DARLA

There's a fish in my hair!

Gill flips off of Darla's head onto the tray. Makes eye contact with Nemo.

NEMO

(out of breath)

Gill?

GILL

(gasps for air)

Shark Bait -- Tell your dad -- I said -- hi.

Gill leaps onto the handle of the dental mirror, catapulting Nemo off of the tray, past Darla's grabby hands...

...and into the spit sink. Nemo swirls down the drain.

GILL

(losing consciousness)

Go get 'em...

The dentist gets up from the floor. Panics at the sight of Gill lying on the tray...

IN THE TANK

Gill is dropped into the water. The gang surrounds him, cheering.

TANK GANG

He did it!...He's in!...I'm so happy...

GURGLE

Is he gonna be okay, Gill?

GILL

Don't worry. All drains lead to the ocean.

ON DARLA

CONTINUED:

She leans into the spit sink, looking for her lost fish.

DARLA
FISHIE!

The sink breaks, and a JET OF WATER spurts her in the face.

INT. SEWER SYSTEM

Sewer water hurls Nemo through the PIPING. It's the ultimate flume ride.

NEMO
'Daddy!!!

Nemo is dumped into the MAIN FLOW PIPE. He and the rest of the city's debris rush under a concrete overhang, labeled: "SYDNEY WATER TREATMENT."

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOUTH OF THE HARBOR - OCEAN FLOOR - SAME

CLOSE ON OUTFLOW PIPE, EMBOSSED WITH: "SYDNEY WATER TREATMENT"

A CRAB scuttles over the pipe that lays along the ocean floor. PERFORATED HOLES run along its top, blowing up JETS OF PARTICLES. The piping goes on forever into the murk. OTHER CRABS can be seen in the distance scurrying all over it.

ABOVE WATER

Drizzle falls from the overcast skies. Nigel lands on the red buoy. Gently drops Marlin and Dory into the water. No one knows what to say.

NIGEL
I'm -- I'm so sorry. Truly, I am.

Quietly, Nigel takes off. The fish submerge.

UNDER THE SURFACE

The two fish float in silence, Marlin stares into nowhere. Dory moves to console him.

DORY
Hey --

MARLIN
Dory...If it wasn't for you. I never would have even made it here...so, thank you.

CONTINUED:

Dory is touched, then surprised when Marlin begins to simply swim away. She gets in front of him. Makes him stop.

DORY

Hey. Hey, wait a minute. Well -- well, wait. Where are you going?

MARLIN

It's over, Dory. We were too late.

(beat)

Nemo's gone. And I'm going home now.

Marlin swims past her. Dory is in a panic. This can't be happening.

DORY

No. No, you can't! STOP!

He stops. Keeps his back to Dory. She waits, afraid to tip the fragile balance out of her favor.

DORY

...Please don't go away. Please. No one's ever stuck with me for so long before.

And if you leave...if you leave...

(tries to hold it together)

I just -- I remember things better with you. I do. Look!

(chants)

P. Sherman, forty-two...forty...two...

ohh...

(can't remember; desperate)

I remember it. I do. It's there. I know it is. Because when I look at you, I can feel it. And...and...I -- I look at you, and I...I'm home.

No response.

DORY

Please...I don't want that to go away. I don't want to forget...

MARLIN

I'm sorry, Dory, but I do.

Marlin swims into the murk... Gone. Dory is left all alone.

AT THE OUTFLOW PIPE

TWO CRABS (BERNIE & BAZ) are greedily snatching bits from one of the perforated holes.

CONTINUED:

BERNIE
(mouth full)
Manna from heaven!

BAZ
(mouth full)
Sweet nectar of life.

Both Bernie & Baz turn to face a passing crab. They raise their claws in the air, and posture to defend their territory. The passing crab automatically does the same.

BERNIE & BAZ
Hey! Hey! Heeey....

PASSING CRAB
Hey! Hey! Heeey...

BERNIE
This is our spot!

BAZ
Go on. Get outta here!

The passing crab moves on. Bernie & Baz resume their eating.

Marlin appears in the distance, swimming slowly out of the murk. Again, the crabs raise their claws, posturing, keeping their eyes on him.

BERNIE & BAZ
Hey! Hey! Heeey...!

Marlin ignores them. Continues out to the ocean.

BERNIE
Yeah, that's it, fellah! Just keep on swimming! You got that!

BAZ
Too right, mate!

Just then, Nemo pops out of the outflow pipe between them.

BAZ
Oh, oh! I gotta a live one here!

NEMO
(Pant!) Hey! Have you seen my dad?

The crabs snap at Nemo. He dodges their attacks, and swims...

CONTINUED:

BAZ
Hey! Come back here!

...in the other direction -- back into the harbor. Bernie hits Baz on the head. They raise claws. Fight.

BERNIE
You let him go!

BERNIE & BAZ
Hey! Hey! Heeeey...!

FURTHER DOWN THE PIPING

Nemo slows. Tries to get his bearings...

NEMO
(calls out)
Dad...Dad...Dad!

...when he hears someone crying. Searches. Looks up.

DORY

Swims in circles above him around the red buoy's anchor chain, visibly fretting and upset. Nemo swims up to her.

NEMO
Um, excuse me? Are you alright?

DORY
I don't know where I am...I don't know what's going on...I think I lost somebody, but I...I can't remember...and...I need to remember --

NEMO
It's okay. It's okay...I'm looking for someone, too. Hey! We can look together!

Nemo gently leads her away from the buoy.

DORY
(sniffle)
I'm Dory.

NEMO
I'm Nemo.

Dory stops short.

CONTINUED:

DORY

Nemo?

(long beat)

That's a nice name.

EXT. OPEN OCEAN

Marlin swims out to sea towards SCHOOLS OF GROUPERS, nothing but pain in his eyes.

ABOVE THE SURFACE

A fishing boat rocks with the swells. Fishermen cast a large net into the water.

EXT. MOUTH OF THE HARBOR - BELOW THE SURFACE

Nemo and Dory continue searching. Come across another section of piping.

NEMO

Dad?! Daaaad?!

DORY

Dad?! Dad?! Wait a minute. Is it your dad or my dad?

NEMO

My dad.

DORY

Got it.

(calls out again)

Daaaad?! Daaaad?! Daa --

NEMO

Where are we anyway?

Dory looks at the piping, labeled: "SYDNEY WATER TREATMENT." She leans in to read it.

DORY

Huh? Sss...sil...shiny...sid...Sydney!

QUICK FLASH INSIDE DORY'S MIND: Images of her entire journey with Marlin fast forward at a blinding rate, building to a climax until finally...

DORY

NEMO!!!!

NEMO

What?!

CONTINUED:

She grabs his face. Squeezes it.

DORY
It's you! Ahh! You're Nemo!

NEMO
(squished)
Yes! Yes! I'm Nemo!

DORY
Oh, you're Nemo...and -- you were dead?!
I saw you! And then I...oh...here you
are...I found you...you're not dead! And
your father -- oh -- Your father...

NEMO
My father?! You know my father?! Where is
he?

Dory isn't listening. She's scanning the water. Instinctively
stops midway.

DORY
(confident)
This way! He went this way! Quick!

They go racing out of the harbor.

ON OUTFLOW PIPE, FARTHER DOWN

Bernie and Baz are feasting once again when they hear Dory
and Nemo approach. Claws raise.

DORY (O.S.)
Hey! Hey, hey, hey!

BERNIE & BAZ
Heeeey! Heeeey!

DORY
Have you seen an orange fish swim by?
(points to Nemo)
It looks just like him.

NEMO
But bigger!

BAZ
(gets in her face)
Yeah, I saw him, Blue-y, but I'm not
tellin' you where he went, and there's no
way you're gonna make me!

CONTINUED:

Dory frowns. He just messed with the wrong fish.

ON THE SURFACE

Baz is thrust out of the waves, held up by Dory's fin. Nearby seagulls, perched on a rock, take notice.

SEAGULL

Mine?

Baz screams. The seagulls come after him.

SEAGULLS

Mine! Mine! Mine...!

BAZ

Alright! I'll talk! I'll talk! He went to the fishing grounds! Ahh!

The crab is pulled back under the water just in time.

EXT. FISHING GROUNDS, UNDERWATER

Marlin joins the schools of groupers, flowing out into deeper waters. Numb. Not caring where he is going. He bumps into one of them.

GROUPEE

Hey! Look out!

MARLIN

I'm sorry. Just trying to get home.

NEMO (O.S.)

(distant)

Dad! Dad...!

MARLIN

Nemo?

Marlin snaps out of his trance. Turns around...

Off in the distance, Nemo swims towards him. Marlin, at first, thinks it's a mirage...

NEMO

Daddy!

MARLIN

Nemo?!

NEMO

Dad!

CONTINUED:

...until Dory suddenly appears. It's for real.

DORY
Nemo's alive!

MARLIN
Dory? Nemo!

The three race towards each other.

NEMO
Daddy!

MARLIN
NEMO!! I'm coming Nemo!

Father and son collide. Tumble out of the school.

Dory looks on, beaming with joy, when a schools of fish swim past her in the opposite direction. She looks back.

A HUGE FISHING NET

moves ominously towards her, scooping up groupers as it goes.

GROUPERS
Turn around!...You're going the wrong way!...Go back!...

DORY
(screams)
Look out!

Dory, Marlin and Nemo collide with the mass exodus of groupers. We lose sight of all three.

ON THE SURFACE

THE FISHING BOAT WINCH reels up the line.

UNDERWATER

The net begins to rise, taking hundreds of screaming fish with it. Out of the swarm of groupers that were not caught Marlin and Nemo appear, still holding onto one another.

DORY (O.S.)
HELP!! HAAABALLLPP!!

They look up to see the net taking Dory to the surface.

MARLIN
DORY!!

CONTINUED:

NEMO

Come on!

Father and son swim to the net. Dory is mashed against the netting, but is very quickly sucked into the mob of fish.

NEMO

Dory!

DORY

HELP! HELP! Get us out -- !

MARLIN

No, no, no! Dory!

Nemo studies the net. Thinks fast...

NEMO

Dad, I know what to do!

...Without hesitation, Nemo swims straight into the net; he is smaller than the holes. Marlin grabs his tail. Tries to pull him back out.

MARLIN

Nemo! No!

NEMO

We have to tell all the fish to swim down together.

MARLIN

Get out of there, now!

NEMO

I know this will work!

MARLIN

No, I am not gonna lose you again!

NEMO

Dad, there's no time! It's the only way we can save Dory.

Marlin catches himself, realizes what he's doing.

NEMO

I can do this.

Marlin stares in his son's eyes. Nothing but confidence.

MARLIN

You're right. I know you can.

CONTINUED:

He lets go. Nemo pokes his little fin out of the net.

NEMO
Lucky fin!

They high five.

MARLIN
Now, go! Hurry!

NEMO
Tell all the fish to swim down!

Nemo disappears into the fish. Marlin looks at all the screaming groupers in front of him.

MARLIN
Well?! You heard my son! Come on!

INSIDE THE NET

Nemo weaves through the writhing mass. Finds Dory, frightened and disoriented.

NEMO
Dory! We have to tell everybody to --

BACK OUTSIDE

MARLIN
-- swim down together! Do you understand what I'm saying to you?! Swim down!

ON THE SURFACE

The top of the net breaks the surface of the ocean.

INSIDE THE NET

NEMO/DORY.
Everybody, swim down! Come on, you have to swim down! Swim down, okay?

BACK UNDERWATER

The groupers begin to catch on to Marlin's instructions.

MARLIN
Down! Swim down!

ON THE SURFACE

The winch continues to pull up the net.

CONTINUED:

UNDERWATER

MARLIN
Swim down! Swim down!

ON THE SURFACE

Nemo and Dory are pulled out of the water. They flap about, gasping for air.

BACK UNDERWATER

MARLIN
Don't give up. Keep swimming! Just keep swimming!

ON THE NET PULLEY

Tension. It stalls. The net begins to move back down...

UNDERWATER

MARLIN
That's it!

ON THE SURFACE

Slowly, steadily, Nemo and Dory are pulled back underwater...

NEMO
It's working!

The fisherman rush to the side of the boat, looking incredulous at the sinking net.

UNDERWATER .

All the fish join in, swimming against the line.

GROUPERS
Keep swimming! Keep swimming!

MARLIN
Just keep swimming! Keep swimming!

Nemo and Dory push their way to the front. Face to face with Marlin.

NEMO
Come on, Dad!

MARLIN
You're doing great, son!

CONTINUED:

NEMO
 (to nearby grouper)
 That's my dad!

MARLIN
 Come on, let's get to the bottom! Keep
 swimming!

GROUPERS
 ...Keep Swimming...!

DORY
 (sings)
 Just keep swimming, just keep swimming!

MARLIN
 Almost there! Keep swimming!

ON THE SURFACE

The fishing boat starts to tip over...

UNDERWATER

They're almost to the ocean floor...

GROUPERS
 ...Keep swimming!

ON THE BOAT

The WINCH MOTOR smokes. The fisherman leap back as the WINCH
 BREAKS OFF, and plunges into the water. The boat kicks back,
 righting itself.

BACK UNDERWATER

The line goes slack and unravels. The net strikes the sandy
 bottom. Fish pour out, Jubilant. Marlin fights against the
 retreating mob. Collides with Dory.

DORY
 Hey!

MARLIN
 Dory!! Where's Nemo?

Weaving through the fish, Marlin and Dory search.

DORY
 (points)
 There!

CONTINUED:

Nemo is barely visible underneath the TANGLED FISHING NET, piled on the ocean floor.

MARLIN
(Gasp) Oh no. Nemo!

They race down to him. Push the heavy net off. Nemo groans.

MARLIN
Nemo? Nemo?

FLASHBACK - SIX YEARS AGO

MARLIN (O.S.)
It's okay... Daddy's here. Daddy's got you.

Marlin's fin gently cradles the EGG. Turns it over. The other side is scarred but intact.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

PRESENT

Nemo's eyes flutter open. A weak smile of recognition.

NEMO
(Cough) Daddy?

MARLIN
Oh, thank goodness.

NEMO
Dad...I don't hate you.

MARLIN
Oh, no...no. I'm -- I'm so sorry, Nemo.

Nemo offers his little fin. Marlin reaches out. Touches it. Smiles...

MARLIN
Hey, guess what?

NEMO
What?

MARLIN
Sea turtles. I met one. And he was 150 years old.

NEMO
150?

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

Yep.

NEMO

'Cause Sandy Plankton said they only live to be 100.

Beat.

MARLIN

Sandy Plankton? Do you think I would cross the entire ocean and not know as much as Sandy Plankton? He was 150, not 100. Who is this Sandy Plankton that knows everything wrong? What else did he tell you? It's wrong...

Nemo giggles.

CROSS DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ANEMONE HOME - WEEKS LATER

An upshot of the BRIGHT MORNING SUN from underneath the water's rippling surface. Marlin sticks his head into frame.

MARLIN

Time for school! Time for school!

Marlin jumps on a sleeping Nemo. The boy groans awake.

MARLIN

Get up! Let's go! Let's go!

EXT. CUL DE SAC CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Marlin and Nemo race through the coral, laughing.

MARLIN

I'm gonna win!

NEMO

Oh, no you're not!

They zoom into the schoolyard. Nemo wins.

NEMO

I did it! Woohoo!

MARLIN

Aw! My own son beats me!

EXT. SCHOOLYARD

Mr. Ray loads up the children for school.

MR. RAY
Climb aboard, explorers!

Marlin is telling a joke to the three fathers (Bob, Ted and Phil), who hang on his every word.

MARLIN
...so just then, the sea cucumber looks
over to the mollusk and says...With
fronds like these, who needs anemones!!

The fathers laugh as if it's the funniest joke ever told.

Nemo and Squirt (the sea turtle) board Mr. Ray.

MR. RAY
Well hello, Nemo! Who's this?

NEMO
Exchange student!

SQUIRT
I'm from the B.A.C., dude!

MR. RAY
Sweet.

NEMO/SQUIRT
Totally.

The fathers are still reeling from Marlin's joke.

BOB
(chuckling)
But seriously, Marty --
(completely sober)
Did you really do all the things you say
you did?

BRUCE (O.S.)
Uh, pardon me.

An ominous shadow looms over them. The fathers look up at Bruce, Anchor and Chum floating above them.

BRUCE
Hello.

Phil inks himself.

CONTINUED:

BRUCE
Don't be alarmed.

ANCHOR
We just wanted to make sure that our
newest member got home safely.

The sharks part to reveal Dory. She swims down to Marlin.

DORY
Thanks, guys!

BRUCE
Well, we'll see you next week.

CHUM
Keep up with the program, Dory!

ANCHOR
Remember fish are friends...

DORY
...not food! Bye!

Mr. Ray lifts off.

MR. RAY
Hold on! Here we go! Next stop,
knowledge!

MARLIN
Bye, son! Have fun!

NEMO
Bye, dad!
(to Mr. Ray)
Oh! Mr. Ray? Wait! I forgot something!

Mr. Ray pauses. Nemo races back to his dad. Slams into him,
hugging him hard.

NEMO
Love ya, dad.

MARLIN
I love you too, son.

Beat.

NEMO
Uh, dad, you can let go now.

CONTINUED:

MARLIN

Sorry. Now go have an adventure.

Nemo rejoins Mr. Ray. The kids yell goodbye. Marlin and Dory wave back.

SQUIRT

Goodbye! See you later, dudes!

DORY

Bye, Elmo!

MARLIN

Nemo.

DORY

Nemo! Bye Nemo!

NEMO

See you after school, Dory! Bye dad!

Marlin watches his son slowly disappear into the empty blue void. Content. Hopeful. Anything could be out there.

MARLIN

Bye son.

FADE OUT.

THE END

CONTINUED:

END CREDITS

About halfway through the credit roll WE CUT TO...

INT. TANK - MORNING

CLOSE ON THE AQUA SCUM 2003

DENTIST (O.S.)

Barbara?

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

Uh-huh?

The dentist holds the Aqua Scum in his hands.

DENTIST

I don't understand it. Here this thing has a lifetime guarantee and it breaks. I had to clean the tank myself. Take all the fish out, put 'em in bags, and --

He gestures over to the tank. The counter top is empty with only a TRAIL OF WATER leading to the open window.

DENTIST

Where'd the fish go?

We hear car honks from outside.

EXT. HARBOR, EDGE OF THE ROAD

More honking. The tank fish all float in individual bags on the water's surface by the SEA WALL - all except for Peach.

GILL/TANK GANG

Come on, Peach!...You can do it!...Just a little farther!...That's it!...

PEACH

That's the shortest red light I've ever seen!

Peach drops off the sea wall into the harbor. The gang cheers! Then slowly quiet down.

Beat.

BLOAT

Now what?