

RED TIDE

by

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TITLE**FADE IN:****EXT. SPLASH'S HOUSE - MORNING**

Zoom over Finley home, then into Splash's bedroom.

INT. SPLASH'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Splash is sleeping in his clamshell bed. His bubble clock alarm goes off, but he closes his eyes and pretends to be asleep.

SPLASH
(Getting out of bed)
OK, OK, I'm up.

(Sleepily, to himself, yawns)
I'm getting up...
I'm closing my bed...

Splash closes the clamshell and splash exits to the bathroom.

BATHROOM

This is somewhat similar to a normal human bathroom.

SPLASH
(To himself)
I'm getting ready...

(Splash opens his mouth wide, exposing teeth)
I'm waiting...

(with mouth still open, out loud now)
OK! I'm ready!

Cleaner Brigade enters through bathroom window.

CLOSE SHOT

Close-up of Brigade in front of mirror, we see Splash out of focus in the background.

SARGE
Cleaner Brigade! Attention!

Brigade forms a line at attention.

SARGE

Scrub! I want you to pay extra attention to the upper left molar this time! We are experiencing some plaque buildup.

SCRUB

Yes Sir!

SARGE

Scrape! You need to clean beneath the gum line today!

SCRAPE

Sir! Yes! Sir!

SARGE

Scour! Make sure you don't forget a tooth, like you did last time! Do I make myself clear?

SCOUR

Sir! It won't happen again, Sir!

SARGE

Cleaner Brigade! Now, get in there and make me proud! GO! GO! GO!

The brigade enters Splash's mouth.

BATHROOM

Splash from the side - Splash's mouth shakes, we hear rapid buzzing, swishing sounds. The Brigade leaves Splash's mouth.

SPLASH

Thanks, guys!

SARGE

At your service!

Brigade exits through bathroom window.

INT. PROFESSOR PINCH'S LABORATORY - MORNING

Various assortment of shell containers and seaweed tubes. Several shells near hot water vents. Crustin is with Professor Pinch.

Professor Pinch uses the seaweed bulbs (kelp float bladders) like eye-droppers to add to shell's contents.

CRUSTIN

(adding drops to the green shell, Pinch pinches)
One, two, three; Ow!

PROFESSOR PINCH

(gruffly)
Math flunky, I said three drops in the green shell and five drops in the blue shell.

CRUSTIN

(rubbing where Pinch pinched him)
Yes, Uncle Pinch. Three in green; five in blue. And all this will make a red tide to wipe the reef clean.

PROFESSOR PINCH

Yes, Crustin. Bring the blue and green shells here. I'll get the shells near the hot vent, and then we will mix them together simultaneously.

Professor Pinch retrieves two of the shells near the vent, and starts back toward Crustin and the larger mixing shell.

CRUSTIN

I'm surprised you asked me to help you again after the last experiment I ruined. I'm glad I'm still useful.

PROFESSOR PINCH

(disregarding Crustin's humility)
I needed another pair of pincers.
Ready? Pour!

They pour into large shell, and Professor Pinch quickly covers the large shell with a shell top. Professor Pinch carefully returns the large shell close to the vent. Krakken enters.

KRAKKEN

And what is that brat doing here?

Crustin cowers and slips out.

PROFESSOR PINCH

His assistance was necessary.

KRAKKEN

Well then it should be ready.

PROFESSOR PINCH

The batch of red algae has been prepared success(fully) . . .

KRAKKEN

(interrupting)

Then let's get on with it. I've got a kingdom to destroy. If they won't serve me, then they'll serve no one.

PROFESSOR PINCH

But we must wait for the tide to shift towards the reef.

Camera now follows Crustin out of the lab and up the cliff as he swims with a panicked expression. Crustin looks back to see if he's being followed, and becomes entangled in one of Krakken's seaweed traps, with his pincers wrapped and useless to him.

CRUSTIN

(to himself)

Oh great, now I'm sure to be a Krakken snack.

As Crustin continues to struggle, the King approaches.

CRUSTIN

(to himself, but in the King's hearing)

Make that whale food.

KING

This is Krakken's trap; I don't steal. But I can provide a means of escape to those who ask me.

CRUSTIN

As if you'd really help me.

King turns to swim away.

CRUSTIN

You're not just going to leave me here? (pause, then yell)
Pacificus! I thought you protected those in your kingdom.

KING

(turns head back)
Am I your king?.

EXT. KING MEETING LARGE GROUP OF FISH AT REEF ABOVE HOUSES

KING

I've called you here to warn you that Red Tide is coming.

CROWD

(gasps, cries)
Oh, no. When?

MR. FINLEY

Which direction should we escape?

KING

This is not a natural red tide that your scouts could see in a distance and tell you which direction to swim.

CROWD

(gasps, huhs)
What?

KING

Krakken has a concoction which he will release as soon as the tide shifts toward the reef. It will destroy all life here.

CROWD

Fish change color, bloat, swim erratically.

Save us, King Pacificus, save us!

KING

Look among you and note those who are missing. You have just enough time to bring those fish and a piece of reef life back here to hide in my mouth.

MR. FINLEY

What if they don't believe us?

MRS. FINLEY

What parts of the reef?

KING

When you speak in the authority of my name, they will come if they honor me. And you will each know what reef life to bring.

EXT. FOCUSED ON THE FINLEY FAMILY AS OTHER GROUPS OF FISH SWIM PASSED THEM.

MRS. FINLEY

(to Mr. Finley)

Oh dear, we need to go to the other side of the reef to get Grampa Grouper. Do you think the children will make it there and back with us in time?

MR. FINLEY

(to Mrs. Finley, then children)

No, I don't. Splash and Coral, listen carefully. Find your piece of reef life quickly, and then wait here with the King. We'll be back with Grandpa as soon as we can.

SPLASH and CORAL

Yes, father.

Mr. and Mrs. Finley and Splash swim off.

CORAL

(to herself)

But how will I know?

KING
 (to Coral)
 Coral, you know me and what I
 like, and I know you and what you
 like. I trust you will bring back
 something special. [song]

Fish swim about taking parts of reef life back to the King.

EXT. GRAMPA GROUPEL'S HOME

Mr. and Mrs. Finley arrive heavily blowing bubbles, which they
 blow toward Grampa's bubble chime at his door.

GRAMPA
 Yes, come in.

Mr. and Mrs. Finley swim into Grampa's home, still catching
 their breath.

GRAMPA
 How nice of you to come for a
 visit. Where are the children?

MRS. FINLEY
 (still breathing heavily)
 Papa, we need to go.

GRAMPA
 (hard of hearing, misunderstanding)
 They're at the show. That's nice.
 Then we can talk among ourselves.
 But you two need a rest first.

MR. FINLEY
 There's no time. We must go.

GRAMPA
 (misunderstanding)
 No line at the show. That's good.

MR. FINLEY
 (having caught his breath, says loudly)
 King Pacificus says you must come.

MRS. FINLEY
 (slowly in his ear)
 Red Tide.

GRAMPA

Oh, dear.

Grampa follows M/M Finley our the door.

INT. KRAKKEN'S CASTLE: KRAKKEN WITH CREEPER

KRAKKEN

Yes, and what news do you bring me?

CREEPER

I regret to inform you that our enemies know of our plans, and will . . .

KRAKKEN

(in a rage)

Not again! I might kill hundreds more to stop this leak of information, but I will find the source.

CREEPER

Yes, fearless feeder, I mean leader. To escape the red tide, they plan to take refuse, er, refuge in the whale's mouth.

KRAKKEN

(chuckling to himself)

No, . . . he wouldn't. That's like my baiting the dimwitted cleaner fish to scrape my beak when I haven't time to stop for a big meal.

CREEPER

Pacificus has commanded them to bring portions of reef life with them, and they are currently scurrying about the reef doing so.

KRAKKEN

(stroking his head with a tentacle)

Slugger lays flat on the sand.

CORAL
No, boy. Sniff!

Slugger turns into a ball.

CORAL
Oh, well. (pause to think) But
I've found my piece of reef life.
Let's go, boy.

Coral and Slugger head toward King.

EXT. SPLASH ON TOP OF THE SEA CLIFF LOOKING AT PLANTS.

SPLASH
(to himself)
No, no, not that. I better find
something soon. . . . What?

Splash looks over the edge, and sees Crustin in the trap.

CRUSTIN
(to himself)
That no-good whale. He'll get
what he deserves.

SPLASH
Hey, you want some help?

CRUSTIN
No, I don't need anyone's help;
especially if it's connected to
Pacificus.

SPLASH
What do you have against King
Pacificus?

CRUSTIN
That 'tyrant of the seas' and his
pitiful servants will soon see who
has the real power under the waves.
My uncle and I made something to
scour the loyal subjects of
Pacificus off the reef forever.

SPLASH

(upset)

So you and Professor Pinch made
the red tide for Krakken?

CRUSTIN

(proudly)

Yup. But how do you know? It was
a secret.

SPLASH

King Pacificus always seems to
know when his kingdom, or just one
fish, is in danger. But, if you'd
rather serve Krakken's destructive
power than the King's protective
power, then I guess I better go.

CRUSTIN

(sarcastically)

That's right. Swim away from me
just like your 'amazing' king did.

SPLASH

(shocked)

You mean he saw you in this trap
and didn't help you?

CRUSTIN

Yeah, not very protective, was he?

SPLASH

That doesn't sound right. But
I'll help you if you want.

Crustin sees Krakken and Prof. Pinch releasing the red algae.

CRUSTIN

I don't have much of a choice,
look.

The amount of red grows larger and closer. Splash bites the
seaweed off from Crustin's pincers.

SPLASH

Get your pincers busy.

Crustin cuts enough of the seaweed to escape.

**EXT. KING'S MOUTH IS OPEN WITH CORAL AND SLUGGER APPROACHING.
RED TIDE IS CLOSING IN.**

MR. FINLEY

(from within the King's mouth, motioning w/ fin)
Come on, Coral, swim. Swim as
fast as you can.

Coral and other fish dash to enter the King's mouth. Coral darts into Dad's fins with Slugger in tow.

CORAL

(hugged by parents, then turns to Grampa)
Oh, daddy, mommy. I made it, and I
brought Slugger. Grampa, you
brought your favorite brain coral.

MR. FINLEY

We're proud of you, Coral. (looks
around) But where's Splash?

CORAL

I think he's going to stay outside.

MR. FINLEY

But he'll die. (bangs nose into
edge of mouth)

CORAL

(barely heard over the banging)
But I'm not sure it was him.

MR. FINLEY

King Pacificus, let me out. My
son's out there.

GRAMPA

(patting Mr. Finley)
Now, son. The king has rescued
Splash before; he's more than
capable of doing so again.

**EXT. REEF: SPLASH AND CRUSTIN SWIMMING TOWARD KING, RACING THE
RED TIDE COMING BETWEEN THEM.**

CRUSTIN

I can't make it. Go on without me.

SPLASH

We're going to have to go through
the red tide to reach safety. So
hold onto my tail and hold your
breath.

Crustin grabs Splash's tail, and they go through the red tide.
We don't see them make it into the king's mouth.

EXT. CAMERA AT WAVE SURFACE

The King quickly swims for the surface, and his blowhole sprays
as he exhales to take in a new breath. Then he swims back down.

EXT. WHITE REEF

The king opens his mouth to let the fish out, which takes a
while for all of them to stream out. They say thanks as they
exit.

FISH CROWD

Thank you, Pacificus, you saved us.

CORAL

(upset and angry)

But you didn't save Splash.

KING

I did not cause this red tide, and
you still have reason to hope. Do
you trust me?

CORAL

(sheepishly)

Yes.

KING

Then have hope.

EXT. ON ANOTHER SIDE OF THE CROWD: SPLASH, CRUSTIN, AND GRAMPA

SPLASH

Grampa Grouper, wait up. Grampa!

GRAMPA

(fish hug)

Splash, you're rescued again;
thanks to the king. Your parents
were sick with worry.

SPLASH

Yes, Grampa. Where are mom and dad?

GRAMPA

(hard of hearing, misunderstanding)
Calm and glad, are you?

SPLASH

(more loudly)
No, parents. Where are my parents?

GRAMPA

I was separated from them when king Pacificus opened his mouth. I was just heading home to replant this bit of brain coral. (pause) If you stay in one place they'll probably find you.

SPLASH

(calling after him)
Thanks, Grampa.

SPLASH

(to Crustin)
Let's go back to the king and wait there.

CRUSTIN

I'm not so sure.

SPLASH

King Pacificus just saved your life. The least you can do is thank him.

CRUSTIN

(reluctantly)
OK.

Splash and Crustin swim back to Pacificus as he's giving instructions.

KING

Now replant the reef life close to where you found it, and then return to me.

Fish swim off with their various pieces.

SPLASH

King Pacificus, I'm sorry I failed
to bring any reef life.

KING

(first to Splash),
Oh, but you did.

(then looking at Crustin)
I'm glad you finally requested an
escape.

CRUSTIN

But, I . . .

Splash's parents swim by and embrace him.

MRS. FINLEY

Splash, you're alive!

SPLASH

Mom, Dad, it's so good to see you.

MR. FINLEY

My boy, I thought I lost you.

MR. FINLEY

(to King)
Thank you for saving my son.

MRS. FINLEY

(to Splash, referring to Crustin)
And who's this?

SPLASH

An escaped prisoner who is
rethinking his allegiance.

CRUSTIN

(with a quick smirk toward Splash)
My name is Crustin.

Crustin reaches to touch his pincer to Mrs. Finley's fin when Coral and Slugger come between them on a bee-line for Splash, knocking Splash end over end.

CORAL

(let's out a squeal of delight)
I found you.

Coral hugs Splash and spins him around. Slugger licks him.

SPLASH
I'm happy to see you too.

(putting fin to his head, dizzy)
Though not as enthusias . . .
(tically).

CORAL
(interrupting)
Thank you, thank you, thank you,
King Pacificus.

KING
(to Coral)
You're welcome, little hope.

EXT. REEF BEING REPLANTED BY FISH

Show Grampa replanting his brain coral, and M/M Finley replanting sea sponge and kelp, and maybe some other shots. Pan back to take in the king.

KING
(to crowd)
And now that you have replaced the
parts you salvaged, get beside me
and behold the reef's restoration.

The fish swim back to Pacificus. The king blows a great burst of bubbles which go over and throughout the reef, bringing back to fullness all that it touches. [song] As song progresses, fish interact with the newly recreated reef.