## SPHERE

## "SQUARE'S BIG PRANK"

104

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Logline:
Square decides it's time to turn the tables by pulling an epic prank on Triangle.

FADE IN:

EXT. SHAPETOWN - MORNING
The sun peeks over the hills of shapetown. We pan down to reveal Square's house.

INT. SQUARE'S BEDROOM - MORNING
Square, wearing a nightcap and sleep mask, sits up in his bed. He slides his sleep mask up, yawns, and stretches contentedly.

NARRATOR
Square takes his morning routine very seriously.

He hops out from under the covers and removes his nightcap and mask, both of which he neatly folds before placing them carefully in his bedside dresser.

Square makes his bed in military fashion. He fluffs his pillows and fusses with the edges of the sheets and blankets, making sure they're crisp.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
He feels better when things are in their proper place.

INT. SQUARE'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING
Square meticulously organizes his record collection, carefully slotting them into a perfect pantone rainbow on his shelf.

Square walks by a picture hanging on his wall and stops. He looks up. Cut in to reveal that it is slightly crooked. Square frowns.

Cut to square standing on a stepladder, level and measuring tape in hand, gingerly adjusting the picture. He steps back, and in a wide shot we see a wall filled with perfectly hung art pieces. Square nods and walks out of frame.

INT. SQUARE'S KITCHEN - MORNING
Square sits down at his dining table. In front of him is a very picturesque breakfast scene: a plate with a perfectly peeled orange and two pieces of toast, a tall glass of milk, and a bowl of cereal - sans milk - all sitting on a crisp, clean, cloth placemat.

Square wipes away some crumbs from the placemat, then takes a moment to nudge his utensils until they line up perfectly. He looks at his favorite mug, filled with hot chocolate, sitting at a slight angle. He reaches out, his hands hovering over it.

NARRATOR

You might say that Square liked things juuuuuuust...

With his tongue sticking out, Square rotates the mug two degrees.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
So.

Square frames the scene in front of him with his hands. He sighs contentedly.

He picks up his carton of milk to pour into his cereal. Square tips the milk carton, and A FROG tumbles out! It plops comedically into Square's bowl. Cereal bits fly everywhere!

Square shouts and jumps back from the table, knocking his chair over.

Just then, Triangle jumps out excitedly from behind the fridge. He points at Square.

TRIANGLE
Gotcha!!

NARRATOR
Triangle also had a morning routine. He started every day playing a trick on Square.

Laughing, Triangle runs out through Square's door. Square sighs. He pulls out a little vacuum and begins to suck up the cereal bits.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
And Square would clean up. For example, the next morning...

INT. SQUARE'S LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Square has just finished carefully organizing his records. He places an album on the turntable and hits 'play.' Suddenly, the record player BLASTS CLASSICAL MUSIC at a crazy volume, shaking Square's house. His records fly off the shelf and out of their sleeves, burying Square in a disorganized pile of vinyl. Triangle jumps out from behind the record player and points at Square.

TRIANGLE

Gotcha!!!
Triangle runs off laughing. Square sighs and begins to pick up his records.

NARRATOR
And the morning after that:
INT. SQUARE'S BEDROOM - MORNING
Square has just finished making his bed. He dutifully fluffs a pillow and places it in its designated spot. He notices a little tuft sticking up out of his comforter and gasps. He tugs on it - causing the entire blanket to unravel at his feet! Triangle jumps out and points at him. Square cuts him off.

SQUARE
Got me. I know.
Triangle runs off laughing.
NARRATOR
And the morning aft- well, you get
12 where this is going.

INT. SQUARE'S OFFICE - MORNING
A dead-eyed Square sweeps up a huge pile of feathers and glitter / confetti. We see a box wrapped present-style next to him with the top exploded open.

INT. SQUARE'S BATHROOM - MORNING
A dead-eyed Square looking in the mirror, wiping the remnants of a pie off his face.

INT. SQUARE'S KITCHEN - MORNING
A dead-eyed Square takes a frozen pair of underpants out of his freezer.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
But one morning, Square decided

Square hurls the frozen underwear to the floor. They smash to pieces.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Square was going to prove that he14 could prank, too! He was going to pull a prank on Triangle that was so big that it would outshine any prank Triangle could imagine in a million years. After this, Triangle would never even think about pranking him again!

SQUARE
I'm going to pull a big prank on 15 Triangle!

TITLE CARD
Triangle, Circle, and Square stand holding cue cards that say "SQUARE'S BIG PRANK."

SHAPES
Square's big prank!
We cut back to Square still standing where we left him. He quickly sweeps up the frozen underwear bits and places them in a dust bin.

SQUARE
Ok, now I'm going to pull a big prank on Triangle.

INT. SQUARE'S HOUSE - NIGHT
Square stands at a table with a single bulb hanging above it. He lays out a blueprint that says "MY PLAN TO PRANK TRIANGLE" at the top.

NARRATOR
Square got to work on his big prank.

On the blueprint is a hand-drawn map of the island, featuring a drawing of Triangle, and dotted line paths indicating his favorite places to hang out. Question marks, arrows, and various notes fill the page. Square takes a marker and scribbles a square around Triangle's house.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

EXT. TRIANGLE'S HOUSE - DAY

A whistling Triangle walks out of his house to go for a walk. Square pops out of some bushes, covered in ferns and leaves. He watches Triangle through binoculars. Square pulls out a notebook and hastily writes in it.

INT. SQUARE'S HOUSE - NIGHT
A close-up shot of a corkboard. Square pins a note to it.

EXT. CREEK - THE NEXT AFTERNOON
Triangle fishes at a creek. Square, perfectly camouflaged as a rock, quickly turns and takes a photo of him. The flash goes off, scaring off a fish and startling Triangle, who turns around to see what happened - but Square spins back into position before he can catch him. Triangle looks confused.

INT. SQUARE'S HOUSE - NIGHT
Another close-up shot of the corkboard. Though we can't see much of it, it is filled with Square's reconnaissance. Square pins the photo up.

EXT. MEADOW - MORNING

Triangle, Square, and Circle sit on their favorite log. We don't hear what he's saying, but Triangle is talking. We pan over to a sweaty Square, who has a clunky old-timey tape recorder duct taped to him like a mafia rat wearing a wire. Triangle points at the tape recorder quizzically and Square freaks out and runs off. Triangle and Circle watch him go.

INT. SQUARE'S HOUSE - NIGHT
Square looking intense as he pores over papers and photos, placing them into piles.

Square paces back and forth dictating into his tape recorder.
Square draws out Triangle's walking routes annotated with dates and times. He has studied his every move for weeks. He knows all his habits. He picks up a photo of Triangle feeding a squirrel and walks towards his cork board.

Square pins this one last piece of the prank plan up on the wall.

He steps back, and the camera trucks back with him to reveal a huge conspiracy-theory style string map on his wall. Square looks satisfied. His prank is ready.

END MONTAGE

EXT. TRIANGLE'S HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING
The first morning rays hit the roof of Triangle's house.

INT. TRIANGLE'S HOUSE/ROOM - MORNING
Triangle is still in bed, snoring loudly. His room is a complete mess.

Triangle blinks unevenly, yawns, and plops out of bed, leaving his blankets on the floor where they fell.

INT. TRIANGLE'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING
Triangle groggily shuffles through his house wearing one sock. He brushes his teeth as he walks, dripping toothpaste on the floor.

NARRATOR
Triangle's morning routine wasn't very much like Square's.

He shuffles past a triangular piece of furniture that seems to be leaving a strangely square shadow. As Triangle passes, two eyes appear in the shadow. It's Square, hiding from his prey.

Square follows Triangle as he goes about his morning. He somersaults and sneaks around the house, diving behind furniture, pressing up against walls, etc. Triangle does not notice a thing, despite Square's clumsy efforts.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
He didn't seem to care if things were out of place. Square wasn't sure if anything in Triangle's house had a place at all.

Without even looking, Triangle picks a random record out of the middle of a high stack, which topples over. He puts the record on: it's punk rock, extremely unsuitable for a relaxing morning breakfast. Square is stunned.

INT. TRIANGLE'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Triangle steps over some dirty laundry on the kitchen floor and grabs his favorite mug, a cereal bowl, and a carton of milk. He drops everything with a clatter on his breakfast table and takes a seat. Square narrows his eyes - it's prank time.

Triangle is just about to start eating when his doorbell goes off. He walks to his open door. There's nobody there.

TRIANGLE
(confused)

NARRATOR
Square's distraction had worked! This was his chance. Triangle wouldn't know what hit him...

Square rubs his hands together gleefully, arches them menacingly towards the table...and slides Triangle's mug from its current spot on the table to a spot about two inches away.

Square laughs giddily. Success! Triangle is SO pranked. He runs off and hides (very poorly) behind a triangular piece of furniture.

Triangle returns and sits to eat his cereal. Square peeks out to watch the scene unfold. Tense music plays as Triangle takes a bite of his food, then, while reading the newspaper, he slowly, dramatically reaches out to where his mug originally was and closes his hand on... nothing. He folds the newspaper down a bit and looks.

Overjoyed, Square leaps out from behind the furniture and points at Triangle, just like Triangle had done to him so many times.

SQUARE
Gotcha!!!!
A beat. Triangle looks at Square, blinking. Square stays in his dramatic 'gotcha' pose, still pointing, looking at Triangle expectantly.

TRIANGLE
(utterly nonchalant)
Huh. Hello Square.

SQUARE
(triumphant)

Hello is right! Notice anything... unusual about your breakfast this morning?

Square nods exaggeratedly towards Triangle's slightly-moved mug. Triangle thinks for a second.

TRIANGLE
Hmm. Unusual... Let me take a sip from my mug while I think.

He sips. Square stares in anticipation.
TRIANGLE (CONT'D)
Oh! Yes. I did notice one thing.
SQUARE
Mm -hmmmmmm? ?
TRIANGLE
You were there standing behind my couch! You're not usually there behind my couch when I eat my breakfast.

Triangle thinks.
TRIANGLE (CONT'D)
At least, as far as I know. I suppose I don't usually check.

Triangle goes back to eating. Defeated, Square sighs and slouches out the door.

EXT. CIRCLE'S CAVE - DAY
An establishing shot of Circle's cave.
SQUARE (O.S.)
It's not fair, Circle!

INT. CIRCLE'S CAVE - DAY
Square is lying on Circle's floor, staring at the ceiling and ranting. Circle is listening quietly.

SQUARE
I put all that time into pulling didn't even notice!

CIRCLE

Hmm. And you said you... moved his cup?

SQUARE
His mug! His favorite mug! If someone moved my favorite mug like that I don't know what I'd do!

CIRCLE
(being nice)
Um. Right. Well Square, I know Triangle pretty well, and if you really want to trick him - if you want to prank him so hard he never even thinks about pranking you again - you're going to have to go a bit... bigger.

Circle grows a little bit on the word "bigger."
SQUARE
(incredulous)
Bigger? Than the mug thing?
CIRCLE
BIGGER. Huge, even. Oh! I know the perfect thing! What if we -

SQUARE
(interrupting)
Bigger! Huge! I've got it! I'm going to prank the heck out of him this time! Thanks Circle!

Square runs out the door, excited. Circle sighs.

INT. TRIANGLE'S LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING
A devious-looking Square nudges one of Triangle's hung pictures so that it's crooked, then hides. Triangle walks by, notices, and stops. He looks curiously at his wall of art. Square, still hidden, giggles to himself. Triangle sets the rest of the art on his wall at weird angles to match the crooked picture, then steps back and nods, satisfied. He walks off and a horrified Square rushes out and fixes all the artwork.

INT. TRIANGLE'S FRONT DOOR - DAY
Square ties Triangle's boots together. Triangle comes in and puts them on. Square jumps out from behind a piece of furniture and points at Triangle.

SQUARE

Gotcha!!!
Triangle looks at him blankly before awkwardly shuffling outside, noticing nothing. Square sighs.

EXT. POND - EVENING
A turtle sits on a log. A chuckling Square picks it up, carrying it off under his arm.

INT. TRIANGLE'S ROOM - EVENING
Square lifts up Triangle's blankets and places the turtle in Triangle's bed. He giggles to himself and then sneaks out of frame.

Triangle walks into his room, ready for bed. He yawns, then shoves a bunch of random junk off of his bed. He pulls the covers up and seems like he's about to get in, but then he quickly pulls an absurd amount of junk out from under the blankets as well. He reaches his hand under the covers one more time and recoils with a small yelp. He peeks under the blankets and from Triangle's POV we see the turtle staring back at him.

TRIANGLE
What the! There's a turtle in my bed!

Square, from just outside Triangle's room, prepares to do his standard leap-in-and-point manoeuvre, but Triangle's tone changes from alarmed to overjoyed. Square stops himself and lowers his hand.

TRIANGLE (CONT'D)
Well! Hello, little friend! Have
you come in from the cold? I don't know how you got in there, but you can stay as long as you need. You look like you need some love, and I have so much to give.

EXT. TRIANGLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT
The moon hangs high over Triangle's house. We hear Triangle snoring steadily.

INT. TRIANGLE'S ROOM - NIGHT
Triangle and his new pet turtle are cuddling in bed like a boy with his beloved dog. The turtle is also snoring happily.

We pan over to Triangle's door frame, where Square stands perfectly still with his face shadowed menacingly. He has had it.

INT. CIRCLE'S CAVE - NIGHT
Square storms into Circle's cave, startling her from her meditation.

SQUARE
It's hopeless! Triangle is unprankable!

CIRCLE
Did you go big?
SQUARE
Of course I went big! I made his art crooked! I tied his boots together! I even put a turtle in his bed! And now they're best friends!

Circle furrows her brow.
CIRCLE
Square, listen. Like I said you've really got to go huge.

SQUARE I did go huge!45

CIRCLE
No. To really prank Triangle, you've got to go ENORMOUS.

On the word "ENORMOUS," Circle also becomes enormous, filling the room. Square thinks.

SQUARE
You're right. I've got to go enormous.

INT. TRIANGLE'S HOUSE - MORNING
The next morning, Triangle wakes up and goes about his morning as haphazardly as ever. He shuffles out into his kitchen with one sock on, brushing his teeth, the turtle happily trailing him. Triangle sits at his messy breakfast table, pours his cereal (plus a little bowl for his turtle), lifts his milk carton, tips it and -- the same frog from his first prank on Square falls out! It tumbles into his bowl, splashing cereal all over his table.

Square leaps out from behind the couch and dramatically points at Triangle.

SQUARE
Gotcha!!!!
Triangle completely ignores him. He looks at the bowl for a second before shrugging and starting to eat around the frog.

Suddenly, he stops. He looks at Square. Then at the frog. Then at Square. Then the frog. A beat. He looks to Square.

TRIANGLE
Wait. Square, did you just try to... prank me?

SQUARE
Uh huh! What do you think?
TRIANGLE
I mean. Nice try, I guess. But you're not really built for this. Besides, I'm un-prankable.

Square narrows his eyes and grins.
SQUARE
Is that so?
Square brings his fingers to his mouth and whistles. The frog in Triangle's cereal bowl perks up, signaled by the noise, and jumps from the bowl onto a little toy wagon sitting on the table. The wagon rolls off the table onto a ramp, which leads to a lever, which connects to a golf club that swings out and hits a ball, which bounces around Triangle's kitchen, pinging off pots and pans and cups. The ball flies up to a shelf above Triangle, smacking into a water pitcher which tips and spills onto Triangle's head. Triangle looks stunned.

TRIANGLE
Wow. Honestly Square, I didn't expect that fr-

Triangle is interrupted as the pitcher falls off the shelf, bouncing off his table. It knocks over a lamp, which falls and knocks over another piece of furniture, which dominos into another. Things quickly spiral wildly out of control. It's like an 'OK GO’ Rube Goldberg music video.

Square and Triangle run around his house trying to stop the destruction, but it's no use. Eventually, Triangle's book case gets knocked over, which knocks down his fridge, which smashes through Triangle's wall and thuds to the ground outside. A jagged crack appears in the ground where the fridge landed, stretching all the way up to the very tip top of a triangular mountain behind Triangle's home.

The crack slowly makes its way to an enormous boulder which is perched precariously at the top of the mountain. The boulder shakes loose, rumbles down the hill, and... knocks Triangle's house apart like a bowling ball crashing through pins!

As the dust settles, Triangle, Square, and the turtle stand among the blocks of Triangle's house. Circle slowly peeks out from behind a bush, looking guilty.

CIRCLE
Well, that was a bit too big.
A beat, then the entire mountain range behind Triangle cracks and crumbles to pieces.

Circle winces. Square gulps and nervously looks over at Triangle. Triangle looks devastated.

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TRIANGLE
(softly)
Square... your prank knocked my whole house down. And the mountain as well.
SQUARE ...Gotcha?
TRIANGLE
You...you went this big just to prove you could prank me?
SQUARE
(apologetic)
Circle said I needed to go big, then huge, then enormous! So... I went enormous.
Triangle looks from Triangle to Circle.
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TRIANGLE

That wasn't just enormous. That was... that was...

Square and Circle wince, prepared to make the apologies of their lives.

TRIANGLE (CONT'D)

AMAZING!!!

This gives me SO many ideas for new pranks to pull on you! Just as big as this! Bigger! Huger! Enormouser! Our prank war will never end!

Triangle runs off excitedly, already planning his next prank. Square and Circle exchange a look.

The frog from the milk carton hops from a piece of rubble onto Square's head. A defeated Square looks at the camera, blinking.

FADE OUT.

