

A BIT FISHY

WGA Registration #: 2094905

ACT ONE

**FADE IN:**

EXT. CALIFORNIA BEACH - SUNSET

The SPINES of a ROOSTERFISH pop up out of the water like a dolphin fin. We follow the roosterfish underwater as it dives deep.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - UNDERWATER - NIGHT

It's dark and murky. The camera follows the same roosterfish. We can't really see anything yet, but we can hear a mixture of deep moans and some sobs. Is something gravely hurt? Or, wait... could that be something having sex?

The moans and sobs grow louder.

CUT TO:

INT. REEF - FOWL FAMILY HOME

FLO FOWL (Female, the roosterfish equivalent to a human 55 years old), enters a quaint alcove nestled in a reef bustling with marine life.

The moans and sobs grow even **louder**.

Flo swims towards the back of the alcove, entering a small cave and swims in on -

INT. FOWL FAMILY HOME - RICKY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

RICKY FOWL (Male, the roosterfish equivalent to a 22 year old, think Ricky Gervais' personality) appears to be hunched over a cake made of sardines jacking off. How can a fish jack-off you're wondering? In this world nothing is off limits.

Hanging on the wall above Ricky's head is a framed photo of Ricky's sister, BUBBLES FOWL (Female, human age = 16). It looks like a memorial you would find on the side of a road after a car accident. Votive candles with POSEDIAN on them surround Bubble's photo.

Flo's EYES POP OUT of her head.

FLO  
(screaming)  
AHHH!!!!!!!!

Ricky is startled.

RICKY  
(screaming)  
AHHH!!!!!!!!!!

FLO  
What are you doing?!

Noticing his body posture, Ricky turns around to face his mother and raises his hands away from his nether regions.

RICKY  
It's not what it looks like! I was crying!

GIL (O.S.)  
(panicked)  
What's going on?!

FLO  
I think I'm going to faint.

GIL FOWL (MALE, human age = 55) swims into the room. Just as he does so, Flo faints. Gil catches her in the nick of time.

GIL  
What in the ocean is going on in here?!

Gil starts hitting Flo's face with his fins to get her to come to.

RICKY  
Mom thinks she walked in on me... you know... But, I swear I wasn't!

GIL  
You know what?

RICKY  
Well... Yanking the old bait and tackle. But I wasn-

GIL  
Yanking the old bait and tackle?

RICKY  
You know... giving my lower third a quick one two.

GIL  
I don't get it.

Ricky, frustrated, mimics masturbating.

RICKY  
Masturbating! Jesus Christ fish.

Gil looks horrified. Flo regains consciousness.

RICKY (CONT'D)  
But I wasn't okay! I'm just  
mourning Bubbles like a normal  
fucking fish.

FLO  
There is nothing normal about what  
you're doing!

GIL  
Truly son. Bubbles was eaten so  
long ago.

RICKY  
Are you kidding me?

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - 1 DAY EARLIER

Bubbles swims ahead of Ricky.

RICKY  
Slow down, will you.

BUBBLES  
I'm not going to be the fastest  
roosterfish in my class by slowing  
down silly.

RICKY  
Who even car -

THEN - a dark shadow torpedos past Ricky's face.

RICKY (CONT'D)  
BUBBLES WATCH OUT!

It's a BULL SHARK. The Bull Shark moves at the speed of a bullet. Before Bubbles has time to register what's happening, she's head deep in the Shark's mouth.

POV: On Ricky's face. Ricky is frozen in fear. His face is overcome with horror. We hear intense chewing sounds. Blood fills the water.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. FOWL FAMILY HOME - RICKY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

FLO

It's time to move on.

RICKY

I disagree. And, anyways it's like Nana Fowl always said, "Grief is itself a medicine". So by mourning, I actually am trying to move on.

FLO

I told you to never speak of my mother. My gills can't take that type of talk.

RICKY

So, I can't talk about my dead grandmother and now I'm not allowed to grieve my dead sister? Who, by the way, tragically died right in front of *my* eyes YESTERDAY. But don't worry, I'm fine.

GIL

Why would you not be fine?

Ricky's had it. He picks up the sardine cake and stuffs the entire thing in his mouth with one gulp. He then swims past his parents, bumping into them on his way out.

FLO

Now where are you going?

RICKY

I signed up for group therapy. The one Nana... I mean this older, now deceased roosterfish who I had no relationship with whatsoever, went to.

Flo starts to obnoxiously wail again, falling into Gil's arms. Gil tries to console her.

GIL

(meekly)

Don't stay out too late.

(MORE)

GIL (CONT'D)

You have to be at the reef by 8am  
to register for classes.

Ricky turns back towards his parents.

RICKY

(under his breath)

Don't forget your life has no  
purpose and you'll most likely die  
in a year by stabbing yourself on  
one of your own spines you half-  
witted sun of a bitch.

GIL

I can't hear you. What did you  
say?!

Ricky paints an embellished smile on his face.

RICKY

(sardonically)

I'll be sure to come home early  
Father. I am so looking forward to  
school tomorrow.

Ricky turns back around, the smile now gone from his face. He  
swims slowly into the distance.

CUT TO: OPENING  
CREDITS

**"A BIT FISHY"** slowly slides into view from above as we see  
two ROOSTERFISH FORNICATING. The roosterfish don't notice the  
TITLE CARD yet, lost in their own aggressive sexual  
experience.

Then, the title card hits the roosterfish. The roosterfish  
continue to bone unfazed, so the title card keeps trying to  
push them out of the way.

Finally forced to stop what they are doing, the fish  
acknowledge the title card. The title card PERSONIFIES and  
gives them an impatient shove. The fish then break the fourth  
wall and notice the audience. The FEMALE roosterfish screams  
and covers her fish lady bits as she swims off screen, while  
the MALE roosterfish starts to ham it up.

MALE FISH

You filthy little peeping toms. You  
could just ask if you wanted to  
join.

The title card squishes the Male roosterfish and plants  
firmly in the sand.

We pause on the "**A BIT FISHY**" title card while the male roosterfish struggles to get out from under the "Y".

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. REEF - NIGHT

Ricky swims. Fish bump into him, and he doesn't even flinch.

He passes a SCHOOL OF ROOSTERFISH being conducted by a ROOSTERFISH WHO RESEMBLES THE LATE, GREAT LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN. The Beethoven roosterfish ("BEE" for short, Human Age = 60) holds a GARDEN EEL like a baton stick as he conducts the school. Bee has OLD WHITE HAIR and speaks with a GERMAN ACCENT.

BEE

Und one und two und three!

At Bee's command, the school changes from a SMILEY FACE to two cowboys in a GUNFIGHT to MARILYN MONROE with her skirt flying over her head.

Ricky looks at the fish, shakes his head, and continues to swim along. Lost in his own world, he bumps into JERRY PHISH-STYX (Male, roosterfish, human age = 40).

RICKY

Sorry Mr. Phish-Styx.

Ricky goes to keep swimming, but Jerry blocks his way.

JERRY

Oh please Ricky, call me Jerry. I let all last year roosterfish call me by my first name. I find it's good preparation for the schoal.

RICKY

Right. Okay then.

Ricky goes to swim around Jerry, but Jerry moves in front of him again.

JERRY

I just love teaching the last years. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing the pupils, whose minds' you have molded, taking those final steps to get ready for the real world.

Ricky grows impatient. His temper rises.

RICKY  
Mr. Phish-Styx will you PLEASE get  
out of my way?

JERRY  
(smiling)  
Hey - what did I say? It's Jerry  
now.

Completely oblivious to Ricky's agitation, Jerry puts his fin  
around Ricky and gives him an awkward hug.

JERRY (CONT'D)  
We are just two adult roosterfish,  
taking on the high seas!

Ricky rolls his eyes.

RICKY  
Alright Jerry - and I say this with  
*some* respect. Get your flipping fin  
off of me or else.

Jerry, shocked by Ricky's tone, releases Ricky from his  
grasp.

Ricky jets by, leaving Jerry in his wake.

JERRY  
(calling out)  
Alright well, see you tomorrow bud!

EXT. THE DROP OFF - MOMENTS LATER

Ricky approaches the DROP OFF. Think of the drop off as where  
the 10 meets the 405. It's all hustle and bustle; where the  
reef ends and turns into open ocean.

There is a HUMPBACK WHALE crossing guard directing a myriad  
of different sea creatures entering and exiting the reef.

Ricky waits in line to enter the open ocean.

BAIT FRY (Male, roosterfish, human age = 22) notices Ricky as  
he re-enters the drop off from the open ocean.

BAIT  
Ricky! Hey.

Ricky spots Bait and tries to dodge him, hiding behind  
different sea creatures in line. Bait continues to try and  
approach Ricky, too dim to realize Ricky is trying to avoid  
him.



BAIT (CONT'D)  
Ricky! Ricky! Over here.

Ricky reluctantly stops hiding and acknowledges Bait.

RICKY  
Bait! Hi. Didn't see you there. Or,  
hear you.... Sorry.

BAIT  
Whatcha up to man? Oh wait, Don't  
tell me you're going back to  
Hook'EM. We barely made it out of  
there last time!

RICKY  
No, You barely made it out of  
there.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - HOOK'EM BAR - ONE WEEK AGO

There are a bunch of fishing hooks in the water with worms on them. A TIKI HUT is set in front of the hooks with the words, **"HOOK'EM - if you don't survive the Hook, you get your money back!"** plastered on the roof of the hut.

All of the fishing hooks are crowded. Picture a rowdy college bar filled to the brim with frothing testosterone and estrogen.

At one of the hooks, Bait does a hook stand (a head stand on the hook while you eat the worm upside down) as Ricky cheers him on. The hook starts to jig. Then, the fishing line gets yanked up and Bait, holding on for dear life, starts rushing towards the surface.

RICKY  
Bait let go!

BAIT  
(scared)  
What?!

RICKY  
Let go!!!

The lightbulb goes off.

BAIT  
Oh.

Just before reaching the surface, Bait releases his grasp on the fishing hook and floats gracefully back down to the ocean floor.

BAIT (CONT'D)

That was a close one.

Ricky stares blankly at Bait.

RICKY

Imagine a piece of coral. Okay? Now imagine that I am stomping on said coral. Still with me? Now imagine that that coral is your brain.

BAIT

(offended for the wrong reasons)  
Are you saying you want to beat me up?

RICKY

No, I'm calling you stupid.

END FLASHBACK.  
CUT BACK TO:

EXT. THE DROP OFF - CONTINUOUS

Ricky and Bait move up in line.

RICKY

I am not going to Hook'em.

BAIT

Well then where are you going? We have to be up early. The first day of our last day of school is tomorrow! I'm so excited.

RICKY

Why? It just means we are one day closer to throwing our lives away to the school. Where I might add, we will just waste away, day after day, swimming in the same direction with a bunch of other idiot fish who will constantly be farting and shitting in our faces, until we die or get eaten.

The surrounding fish give Ricky a crazy stare and inch a bit away from him. Bait's eyes goes wide.

BAIT

What are you talking about?! We have been eagerly waiting to join the shoal our whole life. We are one school year away from finally being badass roosterfish! It's our life's purpose.

RICKY

None of us have a purpose. And, there is nothing badass about being a roosterfish.

BAIT

Dude, in what world! You sound barnacles right now.

Ricky goes from 0 to 100.

RICKY

You all think I'm the crazy one. But you all are the crazy ones! It's not normal to not even flinch when someone dies! Death is scary! I don't want to die!

Bait is confused.

BAIT

Alright, now I don't even know what you're talking about.

RICKY

My sister was brutally eaten by a Shark yesterday. Do you remember that?

BAIT

I know man, we hate to see it. But, it happens. And that was a whole day ago anyways.

RICKY

Why is everyone acting like a day is such a long time?! It's **no** time. How am I supposed to go through the 7 stages of grief in 24 hours?

BAIT

The 7 stages of grief?

RICKY

Right, I forgot that I'm the only roosterfish in this whole goddamn ocean that is capable of the slightest bit of emotional intelligence.

(beat)

It must be nice to be a half-wit like all the others. You only think about eating and fucking instead of being all-consumed about how depressing our lives actually are. But, that's not me. Instead, I'm burdened by my own thoughts and feelings.

Bait starts to notice the other fish at the drop off staring at them. Bait pulls Ricky to the side, trying to block him from the other fish as much as possible.

Bait smiles at the other fish and talks through his teeth.

BAIT

Alright, you're freaking me out buddy. So let's smile and wave and casually swim away before you say anything else.

RICKY

No.

Bait is dumbfounded.

RICKY (CONT'D)

Just go okay. I'll see you tomorrow.

BAIT

But where are you even going?

RICKY

It's not important.

BAIT

We are supposed to be best friends and best friends tell each other everything.

RICKY

If you're my best friend, you'd just drop this.

BAIT

Of course I'm your best friend. My love for you is bigger than the swell of the mightiest wave Ricky.

RICKY

Right. So I'll just see you tomorrow, okay Bait.

It's Ricky's turn. He swims into the open ocean, leaving a confused and saddened Bait in his wake.

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO**FADE IN:**

INT. REEF - JERRY PHISH-STYX'S HOME

A table is set to the nines dressed with a seaweed table cloth. Two candle sticks and empty clam shell plates rest on top of the table.

Jerry's wife, ANN CHOVI (Female, half anchovy/half roosterfish, human age = 42) sits at the table looking unimpressed.

Jerry, in an apron, comes out carrying a steaming hot plate of sardines and mullet fish.

JERRY  
Dinner is served. Bon Appetit!

ANN  
Thanks.

Ann dives into her food. Jerry delicately takes a bite off of his plate. He swallows and does a chef's kiss.

JERRY  
It is magnifique!

ANN  
I hate when you do that.

JERRY  
Do what?

ANN  
Act like everything you do is Poseidon's work. You made sardines and mullet fish Jerry. Every roosterfish in the ocean eats this.

JERRY  
I was just trying to make you a beautiful meal.

ANN  
Give me a break.

Sensing the tensions rising, Jerry changes the subject.

JERRY  
You excited for the new school year to start up tomorrow?

ANN

Yeah. I'm actually really excited to get back into the classroom. CiCi is going to be a great addition to the staff. You still haven't met her right?

JERRY

No! But, I'm excited to finally meet this CiCi. From everything you've told me, she sounds like one heck of a roosterfish.

At the mention of CiCi's name, Ann's entire mood shifts. Her tone becomes more pleasant. The faintest of smiles appears on her face.

ANN

Yeah CiCi is fantastic. It's been great spending time with her.

Ann's mind starts to wander.

Jerry starts to talk but his voice is muffled as we -

CUT TO:

EXT. REFF IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME SEA GRASS - ANN'S FANTASY

Ann lays on top of a sea turtle as CICI SPLASH (Female roosterfish, human age = 45) seductively swims toward her.

CiCi is a curvy fish with a low voice. Think Jane Lynch.

CICI

Well hello there little lady. Can I be of service?

Ann flashes her eyes flirtatiously.

ANN

(desperately)  
If you must.

CiCi pins Ann against the turtle's back and kisses her. The two start energetically making out.

END FANTASY.  
CUT BACK TO:

INT. REEF - JERRY PHISH-STYX'S HOME - SAME TIME

Jerry's mouth hangs open as he watches his wife make out with the dead mullet fish on her plate. Ann's eyes are shut tight, clearly still lost in her fantasy.

Jerry yanks the mullet fish out of Ann's hands, forcing Ann to snap back to reality.

For a split second she looks embarrassed, but then she goes right back to her deflated demeanor as she takes a bite of the dead mullet fish that was just assuming the role of her pseudo-lover.

ANN  
(robotically)  
Thanks so much for dinner honey.

Ann gets up, clears her plate and sashays back over to Jerry and gives him a kiss on the cheek, then exits the room.

Jerry is left alone with himself at the table looking shocked and disturbed.

JERRY  
What the hell just happened?!

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - KELP FOREST

Ricky swims toward a kelp forest.

We hear the song "**BETTER BE GOOD TO ME**" By Tina Turner being sung in the distance.

INT. KELP FOREST - SAD FINS AND FLIPPERS GRIEF COUNSELING CENTER

In the middle of the kelp forest, the kelp bends to form a canopy over the ocean floor. A sign saying "**SAD FINS AND FLIPPERS GRIEF COUNSELING CENTER**" hangs from the canopy.

Ricky swims under the canopy.

A group of sea creatures sit in a circle kumbaya style. Amongst the sea creatures in the circle are SHARKIRA (Female, hammerhead shark, human age = 60), CHRISTY PUFFERFISH (Female, pufferfish, human age = 18), GUPPI THE GUPPY (Female, rainbow fish, human age = 25) and DICK THE SEA CUCUMBER (Male, sea cucumber, human age = 30).

In the middle of the circle is the group leader, TINA THE TUNA (Female, tuna fish, human age = 50).



Tina is dressed as Tina Turner and is belting out the last few notes of "Better Be Good to Me".

TINA  
(singing)  
*Be GoooOOOOooooD. Be good to ME!*

The group applauds. Tina takes a bow and notices Ricky just arriving.

TINA (CONT'D)  
It seems we have a newcomer. Join the circle honey, we don't bite.

RICKY  
Sorry I'm late.

Ricky notices SHARKIRA and hesitates. He then takes a seat next to GUPPI.

TINA  
It's okay my sweet one. Now what is your name child?

RICKY  
I'm Ricky, Ricky Fowl.

TINA  
Group - let us all give Ricky a warm welcome.

ENTIRE CLASS  
Welcome Ricky.

TINA  
Fowl did you say?

RICKY  
Yeah?

TINA  
Interesting.

Ricky looks confused.

TINA (CONT'D)  
Now what's your story Ricky?

RICKY  
Well, my sister died yesterday. She was ah eaten, by a Shark.

Sharkira tenses up.

RICKY (CONT'D)  
 (to Sharkira)  
 No offense.

RICKY (CONT'D)  
 And well, I've just haven't been  
 having an easy time with it.

TINA  
 Naturally. It's always a sad day  
 when anyone from the reef perishes,  
 let alone a loved one.

RICKY  
 Thank you! It is, isn't it? I was  
 starting to feel like I was the  
 only one who felt that way.

TINA  
 This is a safe space. Everyone hear  
 believes in emotions and that they  
 are something we are supposed to  
 pay attention to, listen to, and  
 nourish. A balanced emotional state  
 is integral to our well-being.

These words are music to Ricky's ears.

TINA (CONT'D)  
 Now class, why don't we all go  
 around and share our stories to  
 help Ricky feel a little less  
 alone.

CUT TO:

INT. KELP FOREST - COUNSELING CENTER - MONTAGE

We cut from one group member to the next as they share their  
 story of grief and loss.

CHRISTY  
 Hi, I'm Christy, and I'm a griever.

SHARKIRA  
 (singing in a Shakira  
 voice)  
*Hi, I'm Sharkira, and I'm a  
 griever.*

GUPPI  
 Hi, I'm Guppi, and I'm a griever.

DICK

Hi, I'm Dick, and I'm a griever.

The CAMERA FOCUSES IN ON WHO EVER IS SPEAKING AND ROTATES IN A 360 DIRECTION, like *That 70s Show*.

CHRISTY

I'm a pufferfish. And it's normal for us to puff up here and there you know. It's part of who we are. But you see, I tend to puff up more than the average gal. I suffer from crippling anxiety and get nervous a lot.

(nervous laughter)

And one day, I was in line at the drop off. And I swear, this bottom feeder was making fun of me! I just know he was. Which made me nervous, so I puffed up. I felt it coming, and once I feel it coming I can't stop it. The next thing you know I puffed up and one of my spikes impaled the clown fish next to me and... killed him.

Christy's anxiety takes over and she PUFFS UP.

SHARKIRA

I love myself I do. But, It's hard being a shark. Everyone immediately is afraid of you. Fish always assume the worst from me.

Sharkira directly looks at Ricky and gives him a "side-eye". Ricky awkwardly looks the other way.

SHARKIRA (CONT'D)

Oh look there's a hammerhead lets run away before she kills us! But, sometimes I'm just looking for a chat. It's lonely being one of the best predators of the sea.

GUPPI

So there I was, just minding my own business in the reef. Swimming and playing. Then - out of nowhere this naked looking sea star comes crashing into the reef! It had a net with them and before I knew it, my whole family was gone. Who was it? Where did it take them? And, why did it do it?

Ricky whispers to himself, "naked sea star?".

DICK

I had a pearlfish living inside of my anus for awhile. But, what started as a purely landlord/tenant relationship quickly turned into something much more. We became best friends and I was starting to fall in love with her. But, she said I was coming off too strong. I was being too "intense". For crying out loud she was the one living in MY butt, not the other way around.

Bait's eyes go wide.

DICK (CONT'D)

Then one night I lost my cool. We both said things we didn't mean. I thought it was just a lovers quarrel and you know, we would come out stronger for it. But, I fell asleep that night with her snuggled in my anus... to only wake up the next morning with an empty cavity.

CHRISTY

(a bit manic)

Okay fine! It wasn't a bottom feeder! It was a rock! I imagined it okay! Paranoid Christy freaked out and killed an innocent clown fish! HA ha HA!

Christy starts talking to herself.

CHRISTY (CONT'D)

No Christy, calm down. You can do it. Goosfraba...Goosfraba.

The group chants "Goosfraba" along with her. Ricky joins in. Christy starts to DEFLATE.

SHARKIRA

But even when I do get a fish to talk to me.

(starts to cry)

I always end up eating them!!!

GUPPI  
(vehemently)  
I will find that creature, whatever  
it is! I will revenge my family.  
And I will kill that thing!

TINA  
(interrupting)  
Guppi, what did I say about those  
violent thoughts?

GUPPI  
(reluctantly)  
They aren't healthy or productive.

Tina nods approval.

DICK  
Do you think I'm a big enough sea  
cucumber?

END MONTAGE.

INT. KELP FOREST - COUNSELING CENTER - CONTINUOUS

We are now in a WIDER SHOT as Ricky addresses the group. All  
eyes are on him.

RICKY  
Well, like I said, I'm dealing with  
the loss of my sister who died by  
shark attack.

SHARKIRA  
(sobbing)  
We can't help it!!!

TINA  
Sharkira please, let Ricky have his  
time.

RICKY  
And, I just feel like I'm the only  
one who's upset about it. Granted  
I'm her brother. But, my parents  
are completely fine! They are  
actually mad at me for grieving.

The group gets hit with sadness.

RICKY (CONT'D)

I'm also starting my last year of school tomorrow, and it just got me spiraling. Like is this all life is? You live each day, with a fake purpose, you know "to be part of the roosterfish schoal". And then boom, you get eaten or die and no one even flinches? Or ever thinks about you again? That notion is so hectic. Like if we are actually all so minuscule that nothing that we do or say even matters, then we just don't matter. And if we don't matter, what's the point of living?

No one says anything. A few of the group members start to tear up.

TINA

Life is a tormented beast. But, there is more to her than you think.

Then, the watch on Tina's arm goes off and starts to play **"The Best" by Tina Turner.**

TINA (CONT'D)

Ah and that is all the time we have for today! Great session everyone. You are all so brave.

Tina starts enthusiastically singing along with the song.

INT. REEF - JERRY PHISH-STYX'S HOME - LATER THAT NIGHT

Jerry sits in a reclining chair going through paperwork. He turns a page and does a double take.

**The paper reads: "Ricky Fowl: What I like most about being a Roosterfish - absolutely nothing."**

In the margins of the paper, there is a doodle of a Shark eating the entire school of Roosterfish as Ricky looks on with a wide grin on his face.

Jerry's face looks perturbed.

INT. KELP FOREST - COUNSELING CENTER - SAME TIME

The group is broken up into smaller groups drinking coffee and eating sardine doughnuts. Tina the Tuna still belts along to Tina Turner. Sharkira joins her.

Christy, Guppi and Dick have Ricky surrounded.

GUPPI

Is this your first experience with grief?

CHRISTY

Yeah, like, have you ever been sad like this before?

BAIT

I don't know. I sort of think I've been grieving my whole life.

CHRISTY

I hear that.

RICKY

I guess I just had no way of knowing what it was.

GUPPI

Yeah, your parents sound like narrow-minded twats that wouldn't know how to acknowledge grief even if it slapped them across the face. And by the way, all sea creatures experience grief, twats included.

Ricky laughs.

DICK

Yeah, even tough guys like me fall prey to grief.

GUPPI

We get it Dick. You're a big bad sea cucumber.

RICKY

It's been so great meeting you guys. But, I do have to get home. But, I'll see you guys next week though, yeah?

CHRISTY

Every Sunday night baby.

RICKY  
Perfect. See you guys Sunday.

Ricky swims off.

CHRISTY/GUPPI/DICK  
Bye Ricky!

DICK  
(to Guppi)  
Do you really think I'm big and  
bad?

Guppi swims away from Dick without answering.

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - NIGHT

Ricky swims.

RICKY  
(smiling)  
I knew I wasn't the only depressed,  
miserable, confused, emotional fish  
out there.

CUT TO:

INT. AMPHITHEATER - NIGHT - RICKY'S FANTASY

A large banner that says "THE GRIEF AWARDS" hangs across the stage.

Tina the Tuna stands at a kelp podium and reads from a GLITERRY ENVELOPE.

TINA  
And the pearl, for most depressed  
fish, goes to..... Ricky Fowl!!!

A JUMBOTRON shows Guppi, Christy, Dick and Sharkira fake smiling and clapping as an enthusiastic Ricky swims up on stage.

Tina the Tuna hands Ricky the PEARL AWARD. Ricky turns to the crowd.

RICKY  
I just want to thank Tina and all  
my fellow depressed sea creature  
nominees. Your emotional  
instability inspires me.  
(MORE)



RICKY (CONT'D)

Thank you for being brave enough to weep uncontrollably no matter where you are or who you are around. This one is for you, my fellow griever. May we always be upset and may be always be surrounded by those who are also upset. Thank you.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

Ricky laughs to himself as he continues to swim, lost in his own thoughts.

Ricky then swims by a SEA TURTLE, who looks at Ricky as though he has 5 heads.

SEA TURTLE

Why are you laughing to yourself?  
Weirdo.

Ricky is caught off guard and without realizing it, bumps into a different SEA TURTLE.

SEA TURTLE 2

The fuck. Watch where you are going.

RICKY

Sorry, my fault.

Ricky speedily swims away, his good mood now gone from his face.

SEA TURTLE

Yeah, swim away you weirdo!

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT TWO**

ACT THREE**FADE IN:**

INT. FOWL FAMILY HOME - RICKY'S ROOM - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Ricky is asleep in bed, but appears restless.

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE - RICKY'S DREAM

Ricky is alone in the middle of a cave. It's dark. Empty. Cold. He looks around anxiously in a circle.

RICKY

Hello?! Is anyone there?!

Ricky frantically moves around the cave, continuing to call out. He tires himself out and sits on the floor. Ricky puts his head in his fins and starts to cry.

Just then - a ginormous, grotesque version of FLO emerges from the sand.

DREAM FLO

Oh look. Ricky is crying again.  
What a little cry baby you are  
Ricky.

Dream Flo starts to mock Ricky and ugly cries.

RICKY

I'm not a cry baby! You're just a  
stone cold monster!

DREAM FLO

When are you going to give it a  
rest? You're the abnormal one  
Ricky. Not us.

RICKY

Just leave me alone.

DREAM FLO

No one's every going to understand  
you Ricky, because no one wants to  
understand you. Who would want to  
be friends with a weirdo with  
"feelings"?

RICKY  
Shut up Mom!

Dream Flo starts to manically laugh at Ricky. Ricky's temper rises.

RICKY (CONT'D)  
SHUT UP! SHUT UP! SHUT UP!

Ricky SLAMS his fists into the ground and the sand goes everywhere. It turns into a sand storm and we can't see anything.

The cave starts to spin before Ricky's eyes. Then - the sand falls to the ground. The cave is quiet again and Ricky is alone.

A faint light appears at the far end of the cave. It's blurry at first, but then forms into Bubbles.

RICKY (CONT'D)  
Bubbles? Is that you?

The translucent Bubbles swims towards Ricky.

RICKY (CONT'D)  
Oh my gosh Bubbles.

Ricky goes to embrace Bubbles but as he goes to put his fins around her, he falls right through her.

RICKY (CONT'D)  
Ugh, I miss you so much Bubbles.

DREAM BUBBLES  
I miss you too.

RICKY  
I wish I died instead of you.

DREAM BUBBLES  
Don't say that.

RICKY  
Why not? It's true. Everyone loved you and everyone hates me. You're the only one who ever got me and now you're gone.

Bubbles dances around Ricky.

DREAM BUBBLES  
I never got you.

RICKY  
 (shocked)  
 What?

DREAM BUBBLES  
 Understanding and acceptance are  
 different. I always accepted you,  
 but I never understood you.

RICKY  
 Oh.

Panic consumes Ricky.

DREAM BUBBLES  
 (matter of factly)  
 You may never be understood here.

RICKY  
 So what am I supposed to do?

Bubble continues to twirl around fantastically. She opens her  
 mouth to say something, but it comes out muffled.

RICKY (CONT'D)  
 What?

Again, Bubbles opens her mouth to say something, but it comes  
 out muffled.

RICKY (CONT'D)  
 What?

Once more, Bubbles opens her mouth to say something, but it  
 comes out muffled.

RICKY (CONT'D)  
 I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU!

END DREAM.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. FOWL FAMILY HOME - RICKY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ricky aggressively tosses and turns in his bed, while  
 shouting in his sleep.

RICKY  
 (asleep)  
 I can't understand you! I can't  
 understand you!

Ricky tosses himself so hard to one side of his bed that he throws himself to the ground. Ricky hits the ground waking himself up.

Gil, in an Ebenezer Scrooge nightgown, barges into his room.

GIL

What in the deep blue sea is going on in here?

RICKY

(under his breath)

I was having a life-altering dream that you would never understand you no good spineless jellyfish.

GIL

How many times do I have to tell you not to mumble! I can't hear you.

RICKY

(sardonically)

I was just dreaming Father. I think I'm too excited for school tomorrow. I'll go back to sleep now.

Gil gives Ricky a quizzical stare then leaves the room.

Ricky turns over and tries to fall back asleep.

EXT. MIDDLE OF THE REEF - SCHOOL THEATER - MORNING

It is the first day of school. The reef is packed in every direction with roosterfish getting ready to register for classes.

A line of seaweed chairs are set up in front of a theater made of rocks. Bee conducts one of the Schools of Roosterfish to the song "SCHOOL DAYS".

Jerry hands out SYLLABI to the last year roosterfish and can't help but leap through the air like a ballerina to the music.

Ricky swims up next to Bait. Jerry Hands them their syllabi.

RICKY

Thank you Jerry.

Jerry smiles.

JERRY

You are most welcome Ricky.

Jerry swims off. Ricky turns to Bait.

RICKY

Hey Bait, I'm sorry if I was acting weird or being rude yesterday. I was just having an off day.

BAIT

It's okay. You're having a lot of off days recently though.

RICKY

(insincere)

Must be the pressure of joining the school so soon.

BAIT

Yeah I feel you man. Like what if we don't graduate, then what?! I can't even let myself think about that!

RICKY

Yeah... what a scary thought.

The music stops and Bee addresses the students.

BEE

Stille! Studenten take your seats.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIDDLE OF THE REEF - SCHOOL THEATER - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

All of the roosterfish students sit in the seaweed chairs.

Jerry stands at the podium and starts to address the assembly. Bee, Ann and CiCi stand in a line behind Jerry. Ann giggles like a school girl as CiCi whispers something in her ear.

Jerry can't help but notice Ann's giggling, but tries to ignore it.

JERRY

Now who is excited to become a true roosterfish?!

The students, minus Ricky, explode in applause.

JERRY (CONT'D)

I think we can do better than that.  
I said, who is excited to become a  
true roosterfish?!

Most of the students now rise from their seats and start to  
scream and cheer. Bait pulls Ricky out of his chair.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Now for some of you, you are just  
starting out. Others of you are in  
the throws of your learning. And,  
the rest of you are beginning your  
final steps of schooling. But, no  
matter where you are on your  
roosterfish journey, I am so  
excited to be your teacher and to  
watch you bloom into the  
roosterfish I all know you can be!  
Now, when I say Rooster, you say  
fish! Rooster!

STUDENTS

FISH!

Bait screams "Fish" so loudly, Ricky has to cover his ears.  
He looks miserable.

JERRY

ROOSTER!

STUDENTS

FISH!

As the school continues to chant like they are at a pep  
rally, Ricky rolls his eyes and looks up towards the surface.

RICKY

Shoot me Poseidon. Strike me with  
your trident, right here, right  
now. Please.

**CUT TO BLACK.**

**END OF SHOW.**