

DISCO, VERY!

Written by

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THE ROAD - DAY

A School bus from Dwayne Middle School travels down the highway. The Highway sign simply reads, THE ROAD.

INT. SCHOOL BUS

The camera scans the interior of the bus including the BUS DRIVER and MR. MOORE, a tall slender man with a mustache, in the front right seat.

The camera continues crawling over the rows of children until it reaches two boys in the seat on the right, fourth from the back.

The boys are MCKENZIE WYNNE (MAC), a redhead with freckles, and AMIR Abdellah, who's black and wears glasses. Mac finishes drawing a picture of a giant octopus holding the school bus inside of a giant fish tank. Mac shows Amir the picture and Amir laughs.

AMIR

Mac, I doubt the Aquarium will have a giant octopus since there isn't a record of them actually existing. Plus, the aquarium isn't a fish tank. You, you know that, right?

MAC

Yeah, but I don't know what it looks like yet. I wish we were going back to the zoo. It's so much easier to draw and gorillas riding rhinos into the bus is a lot more believable than a giant octopus, apparently.

Mac continues to doodle.

AMIR

New year, new school trip. We're obviously going to the aquarium because we've been studying the ocean for the last few months to fulfill the sixth-grade curriculum.

Mac looks up from doodling.

MAC

We have?

Mac continues doodling.

AMIR

Yeah, they've been kind of forcing it down our throats. Language Arts papers about our favorite trips to the sea? How many whales would eat X amount of kelp if each ate X amount an hour? None of this is ringing a bell?

MAC

Was that homework?

AMIR

Yeah, for like the last two weeks.

MAC

Oh, now I get it! I didn't do any of that.

AMIR

Careful, Mac, I know they were lenient in fifth grade, but sixth grade is different. If you want to make it to seventh grade, I'd start paying attention.

MAC

I am paying attention to you, Amir, and I've listened to you closely.

Mac holds up a picture of the school bus inside of a fishbowl inside of a giant clam shell as the shell is closing. Amir laughs and shakes his head.

The camera leaves Mac and Amir and goes across the aisle, one seat forward to two girls. The girls are PATTY BETHANY WEI, a tough Chinese girl staring out the window, and MARIA SANCHEZ, A Latina girl wearing a big smile.

Maria makes a funny face at Patty. Patty turns from the window, sees Maria, smirks, and looks back out the window.

MARIA

(DEEP VOICE) Patty...Patty.

Patty continues to smirk and shakes her head as she stares out.

MARIA (CONT'D)

P.B. And Wei, what's going on?

PATTY

This trip is dumb. An aquarium? So we can watch fish? I'd rather be in Social Studies.

Maria is shocked. She reaches over and feels Patty's forehead along with her own.

MARIA

Wow, social studies? You hate maps. I promise this will be better than social studies. We're going to get your fight video and lunch is going to be amazing.

Patty turns from the window, interested.

PATTY

Why, what's for lunch, my Maria?

Maria accordions her fingers out and smiles at Patty.

MARIA

Whatever we catch, we eats. I'm thinking we go exotic. Like sea urchin or pelican.

Patty laughs hard and loud. Mr. Moore looks back in annoyance.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I know for a fact dolphin makes me yak.

Patty laughs hard and loudly again. Mr. Moore is suddenly in front of the girls, holding his hips and looking upset.

MR. MOORE

Ms. Wei, Ms. Sanchez, this is the third time I've had to speak with you. Don't let it happen again.

Mac watches Mr. Moore and quickly sketches a drawing. Mac shows the drawing to Amir and Amir laughs awkwardly.

As both Amir and Mac admire the picture, Mr. Moore slowly lifts his head over the seat behind Amir and Mac. Mr. Moore examines the picture. The picture is of Mr. Moore screaming with a huge mouth, sharp teeth, and stink lines coming out of his rear.

MR. MOORE (CONT'D)

Stink lines, huh?

MAC

Yeah, well I figured your butt probably sme...

Mac and Amir look up from the drawing and see Mr. Moore.

AMIR

I think they look like action lines. They make you look really fast Mr. M...

MR. MOORE

Ok, that's it! If you four are going to be such a problem on the bus, I can't imagine how you'll behave inside the aquarium with less supervision. I want you four to switch partners.

AMIR

For the whole bus ride?

MR. MOORE

No, Amir, for the entire day. Maybe it will teach the four of you a lesson along with the plethora of information that the aquarium has to offer. Since Maria and Amir are on the ends, how about you two switch?

MARIA

Mr. Moore have mercy! I'm so comfortable!

MR. MOORE

I can have Mr. Wynne and Ms. Wei switch, but the result will be the same. Come on.

Both Maria and Amir hesitantly stand and look at each other, terrified.

AMIR

Mr. Moore, with all due respect, do you think it's safe for us to move about the bus while it is in motion?

MR. MOORE

I think the three feet between you two is safe to ford under these conditions.

Both Maria and Amir realize they must switch seats and, in slow motion, pass each other and take their new seats. Patty and Amir share an awkward look before Patty angrily stares back out the window.

AMIR

Hell, hello, um, hi.

Patty stares at Amir and then uses her leg to shove Amir's leg over to give herself more room and him very little.

Maria and Mac also sit awkwardly. Maria stares at Mac as Mac intently doodles.

MARIA

He-haw, what's you drawing there,
cow poke?

Mac looks at Maria horrified and covers up his sketches. Mac sees that Amir is looking at him. In slow motion, Mac and Amir reach for each other. As they reach out, Mr. Moore's head slowly rises between their glances and shakes, no.

Amir HUFFS as the camera continues over him, to the back of the bus, and out into the empty road.

EXT./EST AQUARIUM

The School Bus sits in the parking lot of the aquarium. The large sign in front of the aquarium reads: THE AQUARIUM.

EXT. SCHOOL BUS

All of the students exit the bus. Patty and Amir stand far away from Maria and Mac just exiting the bus. Both Maria and Mac stand together in the noise, still staring at Patty and Amir.

MARIA

Well, I guess this is it, better
get used to it. I hope you brought
your fishing pole, because I'm
eating at least a lobster for
lunch.

MAC

I'm, a, I'm allergic to shellfish.

MARIA

Are you allergic to jokes? Because
if you are, I'd wear a mask and
gloves or something.

MAC

Oh, I have my EpiPen.

Maria stares at Mac in so much shock, she has to laugh.

MARIA

Can I have it? You're giving me a rash.

Mac looks around confused and then starts looking through his belongings for the EpiPen. The camera leaves Mac and Maria and finds Amir and Patty at the end of the bus, looking anywhere but at each other. Patty finally looks Amir over again.

PATTY

Listen, I really can't tell you how much I really don't want to talk to you, but Maria was going to film me punching a shark or an octopus, and since she isn't here, I need you to work the camera.

Patty takes out her phone and hands it to Amir. Amir hands it back and takes out his own to show he has one.

AMIR

I don't want to do that. I don't want to do any of that, and I highly advise you to not do it either.

Patty GROANS and bangs her head against the bus.

PATTY

Yeah, why not, smart guy?

AMIR

I mean, besides the obvious one hundred percent chance of dying, sharks are like if nature designed a killing machine. You wouldn't be able to punch it, let alone escape it, let alone survive it. Have you really never watched Shark Week?

PATTY

Is that a parade for a sick shark or something?

AMIR

No, it's a, it's a television program.

PATTY

My brothers and me usually watch UFC.

AMIR

Oh, The Uninformed Financial Consumer? My parents and I watch that after dinner! Joy Lawrence is a treasure as host, don't you agree?

PATTY

No, what? What was any of that? It's fighting. Like the WWE?

AMIR

The Weekly Weather Estimate? How else will we fight global warming unless we know how it's effecting international agriculture?

PATTY

Oh wow, forget it. I'm just gonna fight the Octopus. Just so you know, I'm naming it Amir.

AMIR

Well, I will title the video, Patty makes thee worst decision of her entire life, because that's what you will be doing. I'd almost rather fight a shark than an octopus. Sharks are strong and have rows of jagged teeth, but they're fairly simple creatures. Octopi are like the evil geniuses of the sea. They're almost like James Bond villains.

Patty smile with interest.

PATTY

Really?

AMIR

Oh yes, they've even been known to escape their enclosures in order to eat other animals in their enclosures. Heck, they've even broken out of aquariums. In fact, there is a very minimal chance there is an escaped octopus in this aquarium as we speak.

Patty smiles even deeper.

PATTY

So, what are we waiting for? Let's get to punching!

Patty begins to walk towards the aquarium. Amir is unaware whether to stay or follow Patty.

AMIR

I wasn't, I said minimal. That's a nice way of saying you're crazy.

Amir gives one last glance toward Mac. Mac is preoccupied. Amir lowers his head and follows Patty.

The camera returns to Maria and Mac. Maria sees Patty and Amir walking toward the aquarium. Mac continues to draw.

MARIA

And they're off! So long, sister. See you on the other side.

MAC

Oh, your sister's here?

MARIA

No, its like a prison thing. Never mind.

Mac watches Amir leaving and not looking back.

MAC

(TO SELF) See you later, buddy.

MARIA

Don't worry, they'll be right back. They said they were just going to get a bunch of shellfish to toss into your mouth like a trained seal.

MAC

Hey, I didn't, like, ask for this, you know? Like I'm bummed too. It'd be nice if you cut me some slack.

MARIA

You're right, I'm sorry. I just, when things are bad and I don't like them, I make jokes.

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

And this is really bad and you're easy because you're like allergic to stuff and your face. I'm sorry. Like I get it, I'm sorry.

Mac hands Maria a piece of paper.

MAC

No, I get it. Let's get this over with, Chuckles.

Mac begins walking. Maria looks at the picture. The picture is of Maria doing stand up comedy in front of an empty audience. Maria's speaking bubble reads, I'm Hilarious.

Maria laughs, looks ahead, and walks to join Mac.

INT. AQUARIUM

Amir and Patty stand in awe in front of an Octopus tank with a large Octopus inside.

AMIR

You're gonna fight that?

Patty seems far less confident as she looks at the octopus and its tentacles.

PATTY

uh, yep.

AMIR

That's a pretty deep tank as well. How long can you hold your breath? Remember, you'll also be exerting energy in the fight, so I'd take off at least twenty seconds from your best time.

Patty is almost hypnotized with fear by the octopus.

PATTY

I don't know, count.

Patty holds her breath as she stares at the octopus. Amir notices Patty is holding her breath, so he checks his watch to count the time. As Amir looks at his watch, Patty lets out her breath.

PATTY (CONT'D)

How long was that?

Amir is confused.

AMIR

I don't know, normal breathing time?

PATTY

I knew this was going to happen!

Patty slaps the glass of the octopus enclosure.

AMIR

Oh, no, definitely don't do that.

PATTY

I always do this!

AMIR

What?

PATTY

My dumb brothers kept teasing me about how I wasn't as tough as them. So, I said I was going to fight a shark or something at the aquarium and then they laughed at me more! How am I gonna prove it? They're just going to laugh at me all weekend.

Amir notices how upset Patty has become.

AMIR

Hey, it's no big deal. I don't have siblings, but I tell my mom and dad, even Mac, all the time about stuff I think I can do and don't. Oh man, one time, I thought I could drink a half gallon of milk in an hour. Oh my...

Patty sees a giant sculpture of an Octopus alluding patrons to the octopus enclosures and moves quickly towards it. Amir stands alone.

AMIR (CONT'D)

Ok, and now we're going over there. I feel like this wasn't on the permission slip.

OCTOPUS STATUE

A giant octopus statue with a baby octopus statue to its right, stands in front of the wall toward the entrance of the octopus enclosure. Patty begins to climb onto a square trash receptacle in order to jump onto the giant octopus statue.

Patty prepares to jump. Amir stands in front of her with his hands in the air, begging her to not jump. Patty almost ignores Amir as she rocks on the unstable square trash receptacle and readies herself.

AMIR

Patty, come on. This is silly.

PATTY

I don't care! I don't care if I get hurt. I'd rather get hurt than have my brothers laugh at me. Just take the video. I'm doing it.

AMIR

I never said, don't jump.

Patty looks at Amir, confused.

AMIR (CONT'D)

I said silly, because if you jump from the trashcan, you'll definitely get hurt, but if you jump from the baby octopus statue to the right, you definitely won't die, and I can get a really cool action shot.

Patty slowly climbs down from the trash can, intrigued.

PATTY

Oh yeah?

AMIR

I'm sure. And I can put the jump in slow motion and add rushing water and music. I'll make you look like a superhero.

PATTY

I didn't know you could do that.

AMIR

Yeah, well I really like making little movies.

(MORE)

AMIR (CONT'D)

They sometimes bug my parents, but Mac makes these epic looking movie posters for them.

PATTY

That's like me and Maria. Except she probably would have let me jump and laughed at me for weeks when I fell. She'd play it on the bus ride to school every day, I know she would.

Patty and Amir smile as they think about their friends. Then Patty and Amir smile at each other.

PATTY (CONT'D)

You'd really help me?

AMIR

Yeah, I mean, as psyched as I am to memorize everything about octopi, I'd rather make an action movie.

PATTY

Listen, I know I can be a little overwhelming. Some people call it rude, I call it not being a pushover. But I was definitely being rude to you. My bad, I'm Patty Bethany Wei. Put it there.

Patty extends her hand. Amir shakes Patty's hand.

AMIR

Amir Abdellah. I'm happy to be directing your vision.

JELLY FISH TANK

As the camera backs out of the jelly fish tank filled with dozens of large jelly fish, Maria is standing next to the glass, making both of her hands mimic the movement of the jelly fish. Mac watches Maria from a nearby bench in between drawing.

MARIA

I'm doing it! Right? I feel like I'm doing it.

MAC

What are you doing?

MARIA

They're jelly fish... I'm being a jelly fish, because of all the... forget it.

MAC

Forgotten.

Mac continues to draw. Marie Huffs in border and oddly walks and dances around the space in front of Mac. Finally, Maria sits down next to Mac.

MARIA

Seriously, my hands didn't look like Jelly fishes? I was really jellifying my fingers and everything.

Mac becomes irritated from Maria's want for attention.

MAC

Fine, you want to be a Jelly Fish?

Mac turns toward Maria and looks at her briefly between sketching. Finally, Mac hands the picture to Maria. Maria sees that the head of a Jelly fish has her face.

MARIA

That's pretty good. You're really good at drawing, especially when its about me.

MAC

Yeah, well, you move around a lot. The motion catches the eye.

MARIA

Oh, is that what your eyes are doing? I thought we were sitting too close to the jelly fish and you were having some kind of reaction.

MAC

Like this?

Mac draws over Maria's eyes in the picture, making them large and pulsating.

MARIA

Exactly. You know, my dad draws. He works for a studio.

MAC

I don't know my dad, but my mom works for a paper supplier, so I have lots of paper.

MARIA

She works for a paper supplier?

MAC

Yeah, and at an auto dealer, and at a diner on the weekends. Sometimes she watches people's houses, too.

Maria looks sad and then incredibly interested in Mac.

MARIA

What else does she do?

MAC

What do you mean?

MARIA

I don't care, anything.

MAC

Why?

MARIA

Because my mom's dead.

MAC

Oh, I'm, I'm sorry.

MARIA

Yeah, well, what can you do, right? Just gotta make some jokes and try to smile.

Mac puts down his drawing and looks deeply at Maria.

MAC

What did she look like?

MARIA

Like me, actually, that's what my poppa says.

Mac starts drawing on a fresh sheet of paper.

MARIA (CONT'D)

She was so great, so just, I don't know, alive. Like a superhero. I don't know how I would have gotten though it without Patty.

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

She's so tough, it's like complaining to a stone about being soft, you know?

MAC

Totally. Like me and Amir. My mom's had so many jobs forever, it's almost like I don't see her. It was really rough and sad in first grade, but then I met Amir. Me and him were just kind of, I don't know, it was like we were from the same pack of trading cards.

MARIA

Trading? Why would you trade cards? Like money? Are you guys just trading money back and forth?

MAC

No, he just, he just felt the same. Anyway, since my mom worked so much, I started getting dropped off at Amir's house every morning because he lived so close to school. Some nights, a lot of nights still, I eat dinner with he and his parents. It, he feels like family.

Mac finishes his picture and shows it to Maria. The picture is of an older woman that looks like Maria.

MARIA

Wow.

MAC

What do we call her?

MARIA

Super Maria Sanchez like me.

Mac signs his picture McKenzie Wynne.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Mac is short for McKenzie?

MAC

Yep, McKenzie Wynne. I know an older girl also named McKenzie, so I try and go by Mac.

MARIA

Of course, I knew three boys named Maria, but I overpowered them and claimed the name for all of women kind.

MAC

Seriously?

Maria smiles and laughs.

MAC (CONT'D)

Not seriously, I got you. Sorry, sometimes things take me a minute because I'm usually, um...

Maria holds the picture and admires it.

MARIA

Somewhere else?

MAC

Exactly. I don't know, drawing is like making my thoughts real. It feels like a superpower. Speaking of, what awesome, funny thing should we have Super Maria Sanchez say?

MARIA

Oh, what was that thing my mom always said when she finished cooking something great?

The camera fades out on Maria and Mac huddled close around the picture.

AQUARIUM HALL

A large crowd occupies the space in the hall connecting different sections of the aquarium. Amir and Patty smile and laugh while they watch Amir's phone and the video that he's created.

Maria and Mac walk together admiring a stack of small papers, a flip comic about Super Maria Sanchez kicking Mr. Moore into outer space.

When Patty and Amir, Mac and Maria, are twenty yards from each other, they finally look up from their projects and connect across the busy room. Patty, Amir, Maria, and Mac are all surprised and stunned to see each other again.

All four run to each other in slow motion. Patty and Maria embrace, as do Mac and Amir, like they haven't seen one another in decades.

Patty, Maria, Amir, and Mac all talk over each other fast and incoherently. In the incoherent conversation, Patty is introduced to Mac and Amir is introduced to Maria. The incoherent conversation is halted by Patty.

PATTY

Oh, no! Mr. Moore at twelve o'clock!

Patty points. Amir, Maria, and Mac all follow Patty's pointing until they see Mr. Moore. Mr. Moore is looking at the exhibits and has not noticed the four together.

AMIR

Technically you're pointing to ten o'clock...

PATTY

There's no time!

Patty pushes Maria, Amir and Mac a few feet into the covered deck of the aquarium's Ship Exhibit.

EXT. SHIP EXHIBIT DOCK

Patty continues to shove Maria, Amir, and Mac until they are under an overhang, next to a dock running along the Aquariums perimeter.

MAC

That was close.

MARIA

It's not over.

Maria points. Mr. Moore begins to walk past the Ship Exhibit but stops and looks fascinated by it.

PATTY

I think we're in trouble, gang. He looks like he really likes boats.

AMIR

If he catches us together, we'll all get in trouble. That's just a fact.

MAC

Amir, my mom can't miss work to come to school again. If I get her fired...

AMIR

Don't worry, don't worry. Just let me think.

MARIA

What's there to think about? Let's just hide in there.

Maria points to the dock. Suddenly, there is a medium size, faded pink submarine with the word, DISCOVERY painted across it in also faded white letters.

AMIR

Um, I don't think that's an exhibit.

MARIA

Um, I don't see anything saying it's not an exhibit, so I think we're ok. I'm sure it's just one of those, hey come see how a real working submarine filled with a million ancient farts works.

MAC

I mean, I'm sure they wouldn't word it just like that.

Patty sees that Mr. Moore has decided on entering the Ship Exhibit and again shoves Maria, Amir, and Mac toward the submarine.

PATTY

No sign, old farts, whatever. Move it, people!

Patty, Amir, Maria, and Mac ENTER the submarine.

INT. DISCOVERY

Patty followed by Maria followed by Amir descend the latter. Mac is the last to enter the submarine and closes the lid behind him, leaving everyone on the latter in the dark.

AMIR

Um, Mac?

MAC
Yeah, Buddy?

AMIR
Why did you... why did you close
the lid?

MAC
I'm not gonna lie to you, Amir, it
was pure instinct. I saw Mr. Moore
and I knew if I closed the lid, I
wouldn't see him anymore.

AMIR
Is it locked?

The sound of struggling echoes through the darkness.

MAC
Um, yeah, a little bit.

MARIA
Hey, Patty, remember when we didn't
get everyone locked in a dark
submarine?

PATTY
Oh, you mean like every day? Yep,
good times.

AMIR
I'm sure it's only temporary. There
must be a mechanism or something we
can't see.

Suddenly, the lights below the entrance of the submarine
spark and the entire submarine is lit up. The submarine also
begins to vibrate and hum.

AMIR (CONT'D)
There, that's better.

Amir and Mac examine the door of the submarine.

MAC
See any, um, mechanisms?

AMIR
Nope, forget what I said, nothing's
better. This place will be our
tomb.

PATTY

Relax, boy genius, take a break from the thinking. I'm sure there's a radio or a button or something down there and we can see now. Besides, we have cell phones if we really get desperate. It will be bad, but it could be worse, right?

MARIA

Of course. We could be trapped inside TWO old submarines. Or like walking around a Staples.

MAC

What's wrong with Staples?

MARIA

Nothing, I just get really bored there. Its like, ahh, look at all these pens! I don't know. Let's just get out of here is what I'm saying.

AMIR

Ok, but we don't know what's down there. Patty, are you ok with taking the...?

Patty already descends the latter while Amir is speaking. Maria follows Patty.

AMIR (CONT'D)

Well, I guess that answers that.

Mac slightly taps Amir on the shoulder with his sneaker.

MAC

Hey, keep it moving down there. Follow Patty.

Amir looks up at Mac, irritated.

LATER

Patty, Maria, Amir, and Mac slowly move deeper through the slim halls of the submarine until they reach the controls.

Asleep and still as a statue at the submarine controls, in a chair, is an old man of four foot two wearing an eye patch, a fisherman's hat much too big for his head, and a dark Pea coat, CAPTAIN SLIPINGTON NARWHAL SLIDE.

Sitting also still and asleep on the control panel, is a monkey in small overalls, MAURICE. Also sitting still and asleep inside a birdcage resting on the control panel is a brightly colored parrot, NATASHA.

Patty, Maria, Amir, and Mac all approach the control panel with ease, thinking that Captain Slip is a statue inside the submarine exhibit.

MARIA

Ha! I was right, someone owes me a nickel or something. This is definitely an exhibit. There's a fake captain and everything.

AMIR

Not very life-like. He's awful short. All of the artist should have consulted each other. He's almost as big as the monkey.

MAC

I wouldn't even say life-like. The skin's all...

Mac reaches out and touches Captain Slip's face. When Mac makes contact, Captain Slip mumbles and swats away Mac's hand. Mac recoils. Mac, Amir, Patty, and Maria stare at Captain Slip in terror for a beat until they SCREAM in terror.

Captain Slip slowly awakens with a smile until he sees the four children SCREAMING in front of him. Captain Slip begins SCREAMING followed by Maurice waking up and SHRIEKING and Natasha SCREAMING in French as she flies around her small cage. Everyone continues to SCREAM for an extended amount of time.

CAPTAIN SLIP

(SCREAMING) Ahhhh! What are we screaming about?

Slowly everyone stops screaming.

MAC

I don't know, we thought you weren't real.

CAPTAIN SLIP

Not real? Of course, I'm real. And so are you.

Captain Slip looks at his wristwatch. Captain Slip then lifts his eye patch and looks at his watch again.

Captain Slip nods at the time and then switches the eyepatch over to the other eye.

CAPTAIN SLIP (CONT'D)

Real late, that is.

PATTY

What could we possibly be late for, mushy clam chowder and a tale of the sea?

CAPTAIN SLIP

Of course, but only as a reward. And I wouldn't count on it. Nope, it's lukewarm sardines and a mumbled sea shanty for you lot.

AMIR

I'm sorry, do you think we were sent here by somebody, or we're like your grand kids?

CAPTAIN SLIP

Ha, don't be thinking I was born yesterday. I'm not falling for the old, new crew pretending they're not the new crew routine. It was a nice try, played the same gag once or twice myself. For that, mushy clam chowder and sea tales for everyone!

PATTY, MARIA, AMIR, MAC

Crew!?

CAPTAIN SLIP

Yes, crew! You know, like a, like a oh, um, oh, what else has a crew? Like a, well, a submarine. We're going with submarine crew. Analogy over!

Patty, Maria, Amir, and Mac stare at one another in confused disbelief.

LATER

Patty, Maria, Amir, and Mac continue to stare at each other and Captain Slip in disbelief.

PATTY

No, no, no, no, no, no, no. No, you got some bad information there, Long John Silver. We're not the crew of anything.

MAC

Yeah, how old do you think we are?

CAPTAIN SLIP

Old enough to man a submarine.

AMIR

Um, by definition, boys and girls can't actually man anything.

PATTY

Seriously, have you lost it? How old are you.

Captain Slip fixes his jacket, slaps his cheeks and underneath his chin, and adjusts his eyepatch.

CAPTAIN SLIP

How old do you think I am?
Seriously, I can take it.

MARIA

I don't know. Two, three hundred years old?

Captain Slip looks down in disappointment.

CAPTAIN SLIP

I just remembered I cannot take it and I should know that by now. Ouch, but that's on me, my bad. I won't hold that against my new crew on their first day.

MAC

Hey, um, sir, we're not your crew. We were on a field trip.

CAPTAIN SLIP

I don't care if you took a trip through a field or a meadow or a pasture to get here. I'm just glad you're here and able bodied.

PATTY

Guys, I don't think he's even listening to us anymore.

MARIA

Who cares? Just let him ramble until he opens up the door and we can leave.

CAPTAIN SLIP

I suppose I should start orientation since we're already behind. Welcome, crew, to the U.S. Disco, Very!

AMIR

Um, I think you mean discovery?

MAC

Yeah it says discovery on the side in real big letters.

CAPTAIN SLIP

No! It's the U.S. Disco, Very! You didn't read the giant comma and exclamation point? You should check your eyes.

PATTY

Yeah, no, there was not kooky stuff like that. It just says discovery. And maybe the guy with the eye patch shouldn't be having sight contests with people?

MARIA

Yeah, why do you wear that thing if you don't need it?

CAPTAIN SLIP

Because, smart guy, I'm practicing in case I do lose an eye. That's not something you want to be unprepared for. And other smart guy, and other smart guys, ok?...

Patty, Amir, and Mac look at each other in confusion, but figure out that they are the smart guys Captain Slip is referring to.

CAPTAIN SLIP (CONT'D)

The comma and the exclamation point are implied. You have to see them for yourself. The U.S. Navy can't do everything for you.

MARIA

Well, I'm almost one hundred percent positive that the U.S. Navy wouldn't name a serious piece of equipment the Disco, Very!

CAPTAIN SLIP

Oh really, Mr. Genius know-it-all the third? Then how do you explain this?

Captain Slip presses a large, red button on the controls. A moment later, all of the lights flash into bright and colorful dance lights.

A very small disco ball lowers out of the ceiling and spins between Captain Slip and the children as upbeat disco music plays.

Captain Slip and the children stare at each other in awkward, angry silence as the upbeat music plays.

CAPTAIN SLIP (CONT'D)

Do you see? Very disco, huh? Look at all this disco!

Captain Slip again strikes the red button on the controls and the lights and music instantly turn off followed by the tiny disco ball disappearing high into the ceiling.

CAPTAIN SLIP (CONT'D)

It's the Disco, Very! Get over it already. Now, moving on, let me introduce you to the rest of the crew. Meet first mate, Maurice.

Captain Slip snaps his fingers and Maurice the monkey jumps onto his shoulder and salutes.

CAPTAIN SLIP (CONT'D)

Not only is he the best first mate in the entire fleet, he makes a chili from scratch that is to die for. He really gets in with his hands and crushes each tomato with love. Next, we have our communications expert, Natasha. Say hi, Natasha.

Captain Slip taps Natasha's cage.

NATASHA

Quoi?

CAPTAIN SLIP
Great job, Natasha!

AMIR
Um, that wasn't hello.

CAPTAIN SLIP
Well, it doesn't matter. I mostly keep her around for when I have to communicate in international waters. Mostly the French government gives me problems from time to time. I refuse to learn that language and stoop to those bread and cheese eater's level... mmm, Maurice, bring me bread and cheese please, that sounds delicious. Anyway, I refuse to learn French, so Natasha speaks to them for me.

MAC
Wow, she knows English too?

CAPTAIN SLIP
Um, well, no. Haven't heard her say a word in English yet, but one of these days. Right, Natasha?

NATASHA
Quoi?

CAPTAIN SLIP
Yes, hello. We've all done our hello's. Oh, I guess except for me. I am Captain Slipington Narwhal Slide, your captain. Ok, moving on.

PATTY
Wait, don't you even want to know our names?

MARIA
Wait, did you just tell us your name's Captain Slip n' Slide? Seriously?

CAPTAIN SLIP
I will only know you as Crew and I will only refer to you as Crew... until you all find uniforms that fit and write your names legibly on them so that I can read.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN SLIP (CONT'D)

Then, yeah, I'll probably call you by your name. And you, the one that asked the second question, of course I'm serious. Serious as my great grandfather, admiral Serious Swirlington Slide. And as you can tell by his name... we are related, ok? But he could have never dreamed about the ridiculously serious nature of our mission.

AMIR

Oh, I can't wait to hear this.

CAPTAIN SLIP

Well your wait is over, and I promise it will be the only mercy your shown on this outing, this very dangerous outing.

MARIA

Don't you mean dangerous, very!

MAC

Ha, right? Also, I feel like were still waiting, so?

CAPTAIN SLIP

Ok, funny guy and other funny guy. Very funny.

PATTY

I think you mean funny, very!

CAPTAIN SLIP

Oh, more funny guys, eh? Just a submarine full of funny guys on a mission. But guess what, funny clown, puppet guys, you're on the U.S. Disco, Very! And is our mission serious? Is our mission dangerous? Very!

Captain Slip proudly and slowly walks away. Patty, Maria, Amir, and Mac continue to stand, perplexed.

PATTY

Are we supposed to follow him?

MAC

Did he even say to follow him?

MARIA

I am not following him.

AMIR

Oh, come on, this actor is amazing!
He's super committed to this role.
I'm wondering if he'd do one of my
films.

Amir begins to follow Captain Slip. Patty, Maria, and Mac seem to be running low on patience, but follow Amir.

SITUATION ROOM

The camera rests on a large jar filled with pale green fluid holding a severed tentacle inside. Captain Slip's head slowly raises behind the jar as he speaks.

CAPTAIN SLIP

We are destined for a two-month voyage into the heart of the Bermuda triangle to capture, dead or alive, the illusive giant Nonapus that stalks the deep.

PATTY

Wait, you mean a giant octopus?

CAPTAIN SLIP

No, I wish it was a giant octopus, they're practically puppies compared to the Nonapus. But we have an advantage, I got one of his arms the last time we tangled.

Captain Slip stares at the severed tentacle like it's his greatest possession.

AMIR

Wait, but if you took one of its tentacles, then it's an octopus, right?

Captain Slip breaks his worship of the tentacle and becomes upset.

CAPTAIN SLIP

No, no, it's completely different!
This came from the Nonapus!

MAC

And you cut it off.

MARIA

Yeah, nine minus one is eight there, captain.

CAPTAIN SLIP

No, it's a Nonapus! It will always be a Nonapus! Just because you take part of it away... then you have...

Captain Slip becomes confused. He counts his fingers to nine and then takes one away. Captain Slip becomes embarrassed.

CAPTAIN SLIP (CONT'D)

It's just different. Whatever, orientation over. I don't want to speak to any of you until we reach the triangle. We should enter in five minutes.

PATTY

Finally! All right guys, tours over. We made it. Congratulations to everyone involved.

AMIR

Yeah, fine, let's get out of here. I'm sure Mr. Moore has moved on by now.

MAC

I hope. So, um, Captain Slip, does the hatch just open now that we're done, or do you open it or is it like the next group lets the previous group out situation?

CAPTAIN SLIP

I think I was very clear about the no more talking thing.

MARIA

Seriously, crazy eyes, how do we open the hatch?

Captain Slip huffs and slowly answers.

CAPTAIN SLIP

You can't open the hatch when the Disco, Very! is moving and you certainly can't open the hatch while the Disco, Very! is submerged eight hundred feet below the surface. Come on, that's day one stuff. I'm starting to think none of you knows what you're doing at all.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN SLIP (CONT'D)

And I'm really starting to think that advertising for a crew inside of messages in bottles I randomly threw into the sea might have been a bad idea. Oh well, too late now.

MARIA

All right, and please believe this coming from an extremely funny person. This isn't funny anymore.

MAC

Yeah, man. Any baby who'd go on this ride would never believe that it was moving. Just open the hatch.

CAPTAIN SLIP

We've been moving since the hatch was closed. I told you we had a schedule.

PATTY, MARIA, AMIR, MAC

What?

NATASHA

Quoi?

CAPTAIN SLIP

Yes, yes. You're welcome to peer through the periscope if you truly don't believe your beloved captain.

A periscope lowers from the ceiling. Patty, Maria, Amir and Mac all run directly to the periscope and scramble to look through.

Inside the periscope, large animals and the sea floor move quickly beneath them toward a barrier, an underground wave of ultraviolet light.

PATTY

What's that? What's the crazy thing were heading straight for?

CAPTAIN SLIP

The Bermuda triangle, you know, the thing I've been talking about for like ten minutes? I feel like no one's listening to me.

NATASHA

Quoi?

CAPTAIN SLIP

Yes, hello, Natasha. I'm not speaking of you, of course. You're my rock.

Maurice brings Captain slip a plate of cheese and bread.

CAPTAIN MAURICE

And Maurice listens. It can't be me then. It's this new crew with their record players and Tamagotchis... Rubik's cubes and Napster!

AMIR

None of those things are things anymore!

MAC

Quick, someone look up what those things are on your phone! They might be clues about how to get out of here!

PATTY

No! Call for help!

MARIA

Phones call people! Phones call people! Let's do that!

Patty and Amir take out their smartphones. After a moment, they realize their phones don't work and the images on the screen itself rip apart and rearrange.

CAPTAIN SLIP

Oh, your fancy little Sega Game Gears won't work now due to the magnetism and overall spookiness of the triangle.

Patty, Maria, Amir, and Mac leave the periscope and instantly huddle around Captain Slip.

PATTY

Turn around right now! We have to go back.

CAPTAIN SLIP

No going back for two months. I swear I've said all of this before. And we can't turn now. If we turn, we'll only be entering the triangle sideways and that's just, well, that's ridiculous.

MARIA

Take us back right now, old man!
This is kidnapping. We are
children!

CAPTAIN SLIP

Oh really? Because I don't recall
getting on to your submarine and
claiming I was your new crew and
that I knew everything about
submarines and how to spell their
names. Was that me, did I do that?

Everyone is still and silent.

CAPTAIN SLIP (CONT'D)

You did that. You did. That's my
impression of you.

AMIR

That wasn't really an impression...
It doesn't matter! You can't keep
us on the submarine for two months.
People will be looking for us,
people will miss us.

CAPTAIN SLIP

Oh, don't worry. We'll be making
several stops inside the triangle,
so you'll get to stretch your legs
in fresh air. And I know you'll be
missing your beloved parrots and
monkeys back home, but they won't
be missing you. Time doesn't exist
inside the triangle. I'll have you
back on your field trip eating
lunch before Mr. Moore knows you
were gone and spending time
together.

PATTY

What?

CAPTAIN SLIP

What?

MARIA

You just...

CAPTAIN SLIP

What?

AMIR

You knew that...?

NATASHA

Quoi?

MAC

So, you knew we were...?

CAPTAIN SLIP

What's that? Speak up! Never mind,
I'm tired. Goodnight!

Captain Slip immediately lowers his head and fake sleeps. Maurice and Natasha instantly do the same. Patty, Maria, Amir, and Mac all huddle together.

PATTY

Guys, I don't think we're getting
out of here.

AMIR

From what I've gathered from the
situation, I believe we really have
no other choice but to be the new
crew of the Disco, Very!

CAPTAIN SLIP

First you want to be the crew then
you don't want to be the crew, now
you want to be the crew. I have to
say, this is really unprofessional.

Patty, Maria, Amir, and Mac stare silently at Captain Slip. Captain Slip realizes he's supposed to be pretending to be asleep and resumes pretending.

MARIA

Well, what do we do? Like, what are
the jobs?

AMIR

I mean, from the little I've
studied about daily life on a World
War two submarine, mostly cooking,
cleaning, and navigating.

MAC

Oh, I'll take the cleaning. I do a
lot of cleaning and laundry to help
my mom out. It would kind of feel
like being home.

AMIR

That leaves navigation and cooking.

PATTY

Maps? Nope, no maps! I'm not looking at a map, I'm not touching a map. I'll cook.

MARIA

Can you cook?

PATTY

I'll learn! No maps. Plus, I'll see if we have a lobster or a pelican to have for lunch.

Maria claps at the news of an exotic lunch.

CAPTAIN SLIP

No pelican! Every time I eat pelican my jaw clicks for a week. The doctor says it's all in my head, but what does he know? He's a pelican.

Patty, Maria, Amir, and Mac silently stare at Captain Slip. Again, Captain slip realizes he's supposed to be asleep and resumes pretending.

AMIR

Fine, fine. I'll do maps. It will give me something to do and give me a little control instead of freaking out about this entire situation constantly.

Maria looks across the room and sees an old, small organ. Maria smiles.

MARIA

You forgot a job, Amir, and it's the most important one of all.

AMIR

I don't think I did. Did I? Oh no, now I'm questioning myself. Maybe I shouldn't be in charge of maps!

MARIA

You do maps, Amir. I'll take the most important job, entertainment. I'll try and keep us all from becoming crazy straws in here. It's obviously possible.

Patty, Maria, Amir, And Mac all look at Captain Slip and nod. Maria heads over to the organ and sits down. Mac sees some used plates on a table and begins collecting them.

Patty finds an apron outside of the kitchen and begins putting it on. Amir looks around and nods.

AMIR

Ok, I guess we should get to work.

Amir sits at a table filled with ocean maps and cleans his glasses before he examines the maps deeper.

Maria sits at the organ and lights up with glee and nostalgia as she rubs her hands over the keys. Maria cracks her knuckles and places her hands on the keys, but hesitates.

MARIA

Mama, how did that one go? Oh, right!

Maria begins playing a beautiful song on the organ as the rest of the crew works.

As everyone begins their jobs and the music plays, both Captain Slip and Maurice, resting on Captain Slip's shoulder, slowly raise one eyelid together and smile.

CAPTAIN SLIP

Works every time.

Both Captain Slip and Maurice continue to smile as their raised eyes slowly close together.

EXT. DISCOVERY SUBMARINE

As the organ music continues, the camera leaves Captain Slip smiling and asleep in his chair and fades through the hall of the submarine. The camera continues to move backward until the entire rear of the submarine is exposed.

For a moment, the submarine floats in front of a massive wave of ultraviolet light before being sucked into the light and disappearing.

END