

The Wonders of the Great Barrier Reef
By Elliot Pope

EXT. A CORAL REEF- DAY

(filmed like a typical nature documentary)

Fade in to waving sea grass. There are colorful fish swimming everywhere, and the coral is thriving.

NARRATOR

The Great Barrier Reef. A sprawling, flourishing city teeming with some of the greatest wonders of the natural world.

Focus on a small crab scuttling across the sand.

NARRATOR

Over 1,500 species of fish call this place home. Other creatures, like this crab, also/

CRAB

/Hey, I'm walkin' here! Do ya think you could get that ugly hunk of junk out of my way?

Somehow, we are able to hear the crab, even though sound doesn't travel underwater. Don't think too hard about it.

NARRATOR

(confused and less professional)
Um, excuse me?

CRAB

Yeah, ya heard me. We are all sick and tired of you land dwellers bringin' your metal devices down here to film our private lives. We're just tryin' to be down here!

The crab puts his claws on his hips, or where his hips would be if he wasn't a crab.

CRAB

So could you kindly get out of my way? You're in the middle of the road.

NARRATOR

Uh, yeah. Um, one second.

The camera backs up and changes direction and the crab scuttles away.

NARRATOR

(professional again)

That was just one species of crab that is found here in the Reef. Of course, the thing that this place is the most famous for is its many species of tropical fish and living decorations.

The camera swims farther through the water and lands on a large patch of coral and sea anemones.

NARRATOR

If you've seen the popular Disney movie *Finding Nemo*, you'll recognize this creature. These are sea anemones. If you ever stumble upon one in the wild- don't touch it! They have a stinging mechanism that can hurt people- and predators.

A larger fish approaches the sea anemones.

NARRATOR

This is a flounder, one of the primary predators of the sea anemone. We will see its defense mechanism in action.

The flounder stops in front of the sea anemone and begins to open its mouth.

SEA ANEMONE

NO PLEASE DON'T EAT ME. I HAVE A FAMILY. Lol, just kidding. I'm just way too pretty to die. Unlike you, oh my GOD. Those colors you have make you look so ugly. Like, you couldn't've at least *tried* to match your eyes? Not that those are any better either. Do you even look at yourself in sea glass before you leave your dark, dingy cave? Because damn do you need to. Oh, I bet the only reason you're trying to eat me is because you're jealous. You need to

go pick on someone your own level
because I'm way too good for you.

The flounder bursts into tears and swims away. The sea anemone waves innocently.

NARRATOR

The... stinging mechanism at work. Um.

SEA ANEMONE

Who the hell are you? You're really messing up my sun here, can you get out?

NARRATOR

But I had wanted to talk to the residents/

SEA ANEMONE

/I am MUCH more than a home for some bratty fish. I'm one of the hottest items in this reef and I deserve some spotlight!

A tendril from the sea anemone reaches out and pulls the camera to it. The Narrator makes a noise of protest.

SEA ANEMONE

Listen, Leggers. You have to start paying attention to the sea anemones of the world. Fish ain't shit. They're entitled and not even as stunning as the coral. We're what makes this place memorable. Let go of *Finding Nemo* for the love of Poseidon!

The sea anemone lets go of the camera and it floats back.

SEA ANEMONE

Now get out of my water.

The camera pans away from the sea anemone and swims away, fast.

NARRATOR

(professional again, but
shaky.)
Isn't nature beautiful?

The camera pauses over different parts of the reef, but the Narrator does not stop to talk about anything. Music plays lightly.

Finally, the camera stops at the reef's edge, looking out into the deep sea.

NARRATOR

The edge of the reef. The deep blue.

More music.

NARRATOR

The ocean can be a terrifying place. There is so much we still don't know about it, and so many places yet to be discovered with our current technology. For now, we have this reef and the inhabitants of it.

A school of fish swims by, and the camera follows.

NARRATOR

A school of Coral Groupers. See how their colors shine in the ocean sun.

CORAL GROUPE KID 1

Oh em peeee! A documentary crew!!

CORAL GROUPE KID 2

Woah. Are we going to be famous?

The school has begun to crowd around the camera.

CORAL GROUPE KID 1

I bet so.

The kid fluffs its fins.

CORAL GROUPE KID 1

Hi, land dwellers! My name is-

The fish lets out a stream of bubbles.

CORAL GROUPE KID 1

- and I want to be the next Reef Idol!!
Me and my school can do crazy tricks.

(to the school)

GUYS. FORMATION THREE.

The coral groupers scatter, bubbling up a storm. They push and shove until BAM! A middle finger made of fish. It is blurred out for TV, but the image is clear enough

NARRATOR

How do you kids know that?

CORAL GROUPEK KID 2

I don't know, we saw it drawn on a piece of metal someone threw in here. They throw in a lot of things.

CORAL GROUPEK KID 1

We have lots more formations! They're all off of the graffiti we've seen/

NARRATOR

/I saw enough, thank you!

The fish break their formation and swim closer.

CORAL GROUPEK KID 1

Did we make it!!

NARRATOR

Well, I'm not/

CORAL GROUPEK KID 2

/Yeah, did we? We're the best school around.

NARRATOR

Well, I don't doubt it but/

CORAL GROUPEK KID 3

/Come on man!! We gotta get to class!!

NARRATOR

Um, I/

CORAL GROUPEK TEACHER

STUDENTS. BUS FORMATION.

The fish swim together in the shape of a bus, but they form it right over the camera. There are only fish now.

NARRATOR

Would you all mind getting off of the camera? Please? Please?

The narrator's pleas get lost in the school of fish as they swim on, taking the camera with them.

CORAL GROUPEK KID 1
Guys, we're going to be famous now!!

END!