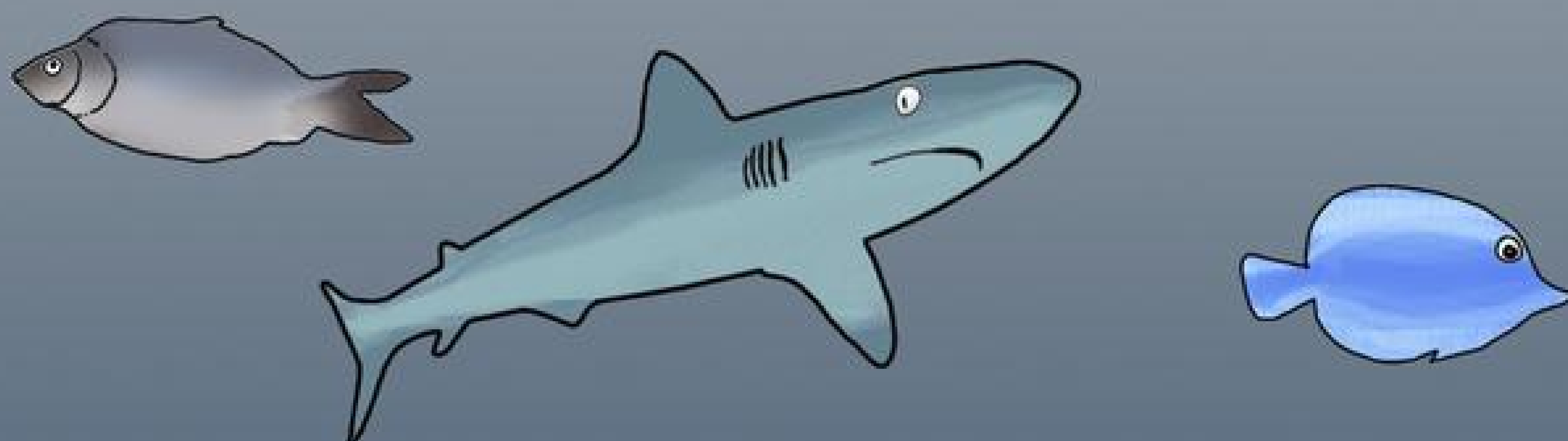
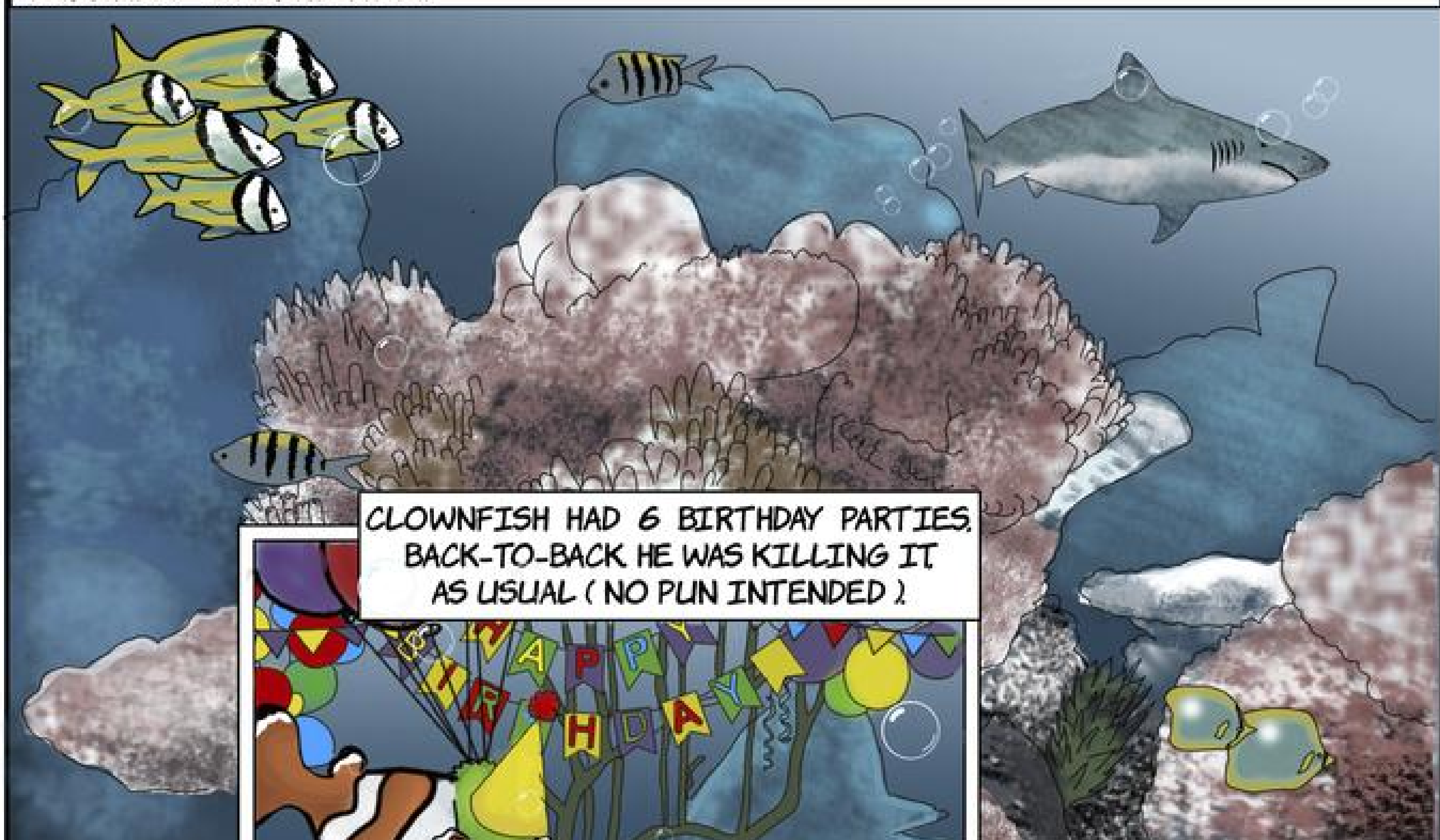


MOSA MACK

AND THE INCIDENT ON THE REEF



BLUESTREAK CLEANER WRASSE : WHAT CAN I TELL YOU? IT WAS JUST ANOTHER SATURDAY ON THE REEF



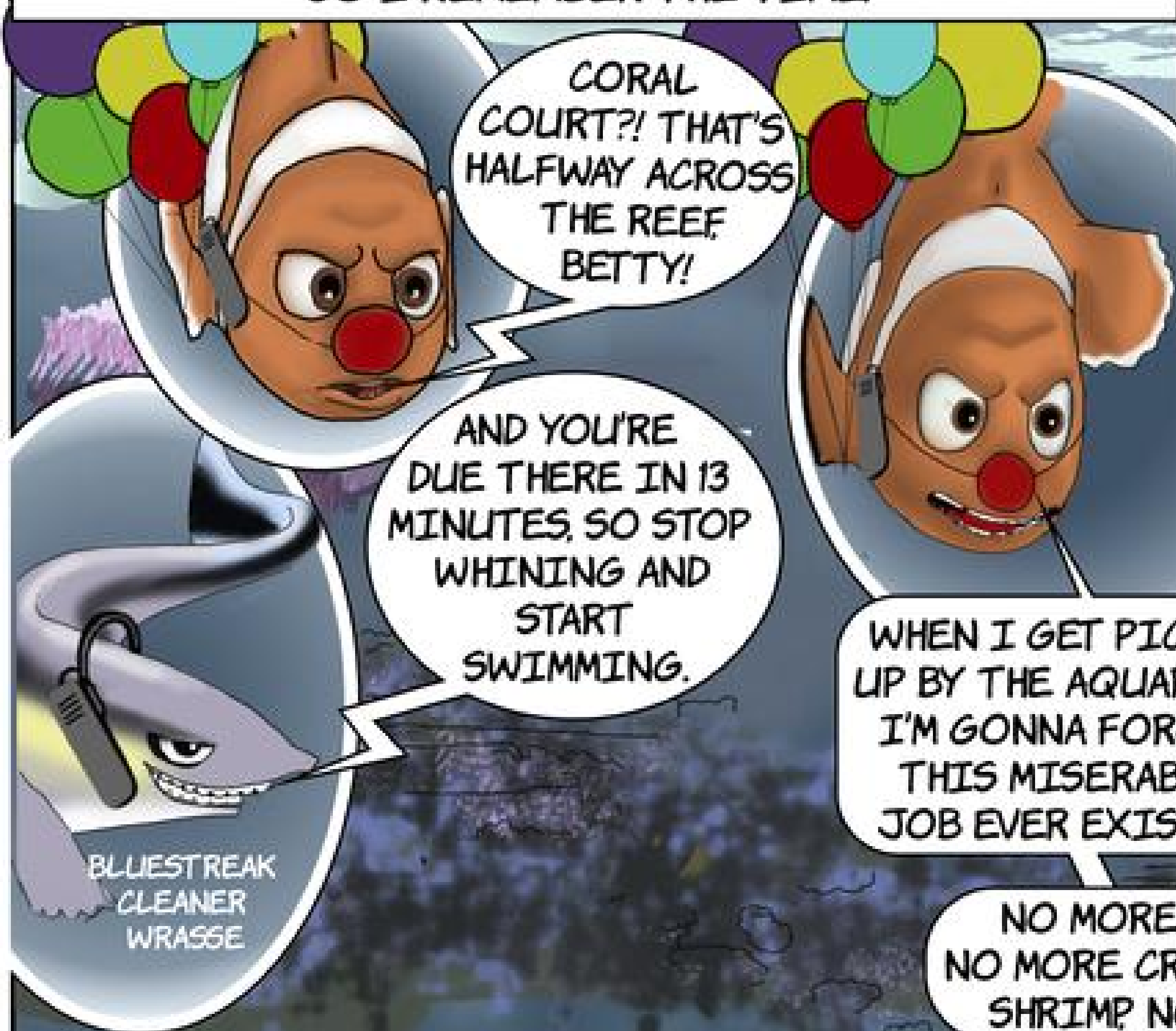
CLOWNFISH HAD 6 BIRTHDAY PARTIES. BACK-TO-BACK HE WAS KILLING IT AS USUAL (NO PUN INTENDED)

AT 2:02 HE CALLED IN FOR THE LOCATION OF HIS NEXT GIG.

I DIDN'T THINK HE WAS FUNNY.

ENCORE! ENCORE!

I WAS JUST GETTING BACK FROM MY LUNCH BREAK SO I REMEMBER THE TIME.



CORAL COURT?! THAT'S HALFWAY ACROSS THE REEF BETTY!

AND YOU'RE DUE THERE IN 13 MINUTES, SO STOP WHINING AND START SWIMMING.

WHEN I GET PICKED UP BY THE AQUARIUM, I'M GONNA FORGET THIS MISERABLE JOB EVER EXISTED.

YEAH YEAH

NO MORE BAD JOKES, NO MORE CRYING LITTLE SHRIMP, NO MORE...

AAGGGGGGHHHH!!!

AND THEN THE LINE WENT DEAD.

LATER THAT DAY ...

SO ...
THE QUESTION BEFORE
US IS: WHO DID THIS
EVIL DEED?

HE WAS A
PAIN IN THE DORSAL,
BUT HE DIDN'T
DESERVE TO DIE

WHO
KNOWS?! THERE MUST
BE A THOUSAND DIFFERENT
SPECIES ON THIS REEF!

AND
THEY'RE ALL
SUSPECTS!

WHICH ONE
OF YOU
KILLED THE
CLOWNFISH?!!

BILLY!

LISTEN, LAND-LUBBERS. IF YOU THINK
EVERY CREATURE IN THE SEA IS A SUSPECT,
YOU'LL NEVER SOLVE THIS CASE. LET ME
SHOW HOW THINGS WORK DOWN HERE AND
KNOCK DOWN YOUR LIST.

FOR STARTERS ...

SOME SPECIES KILL ...

... AND SOME SPECIES DON'T.

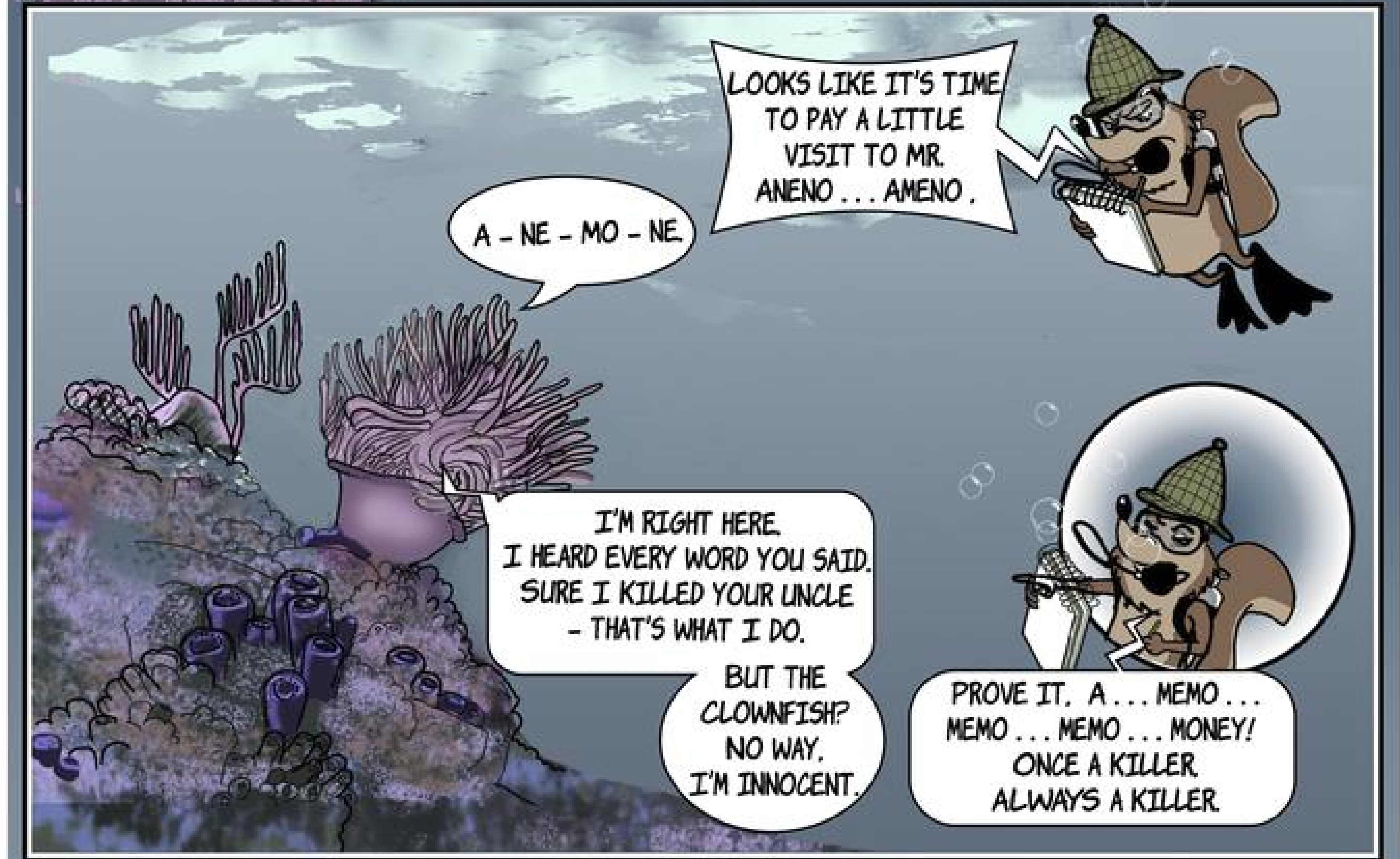
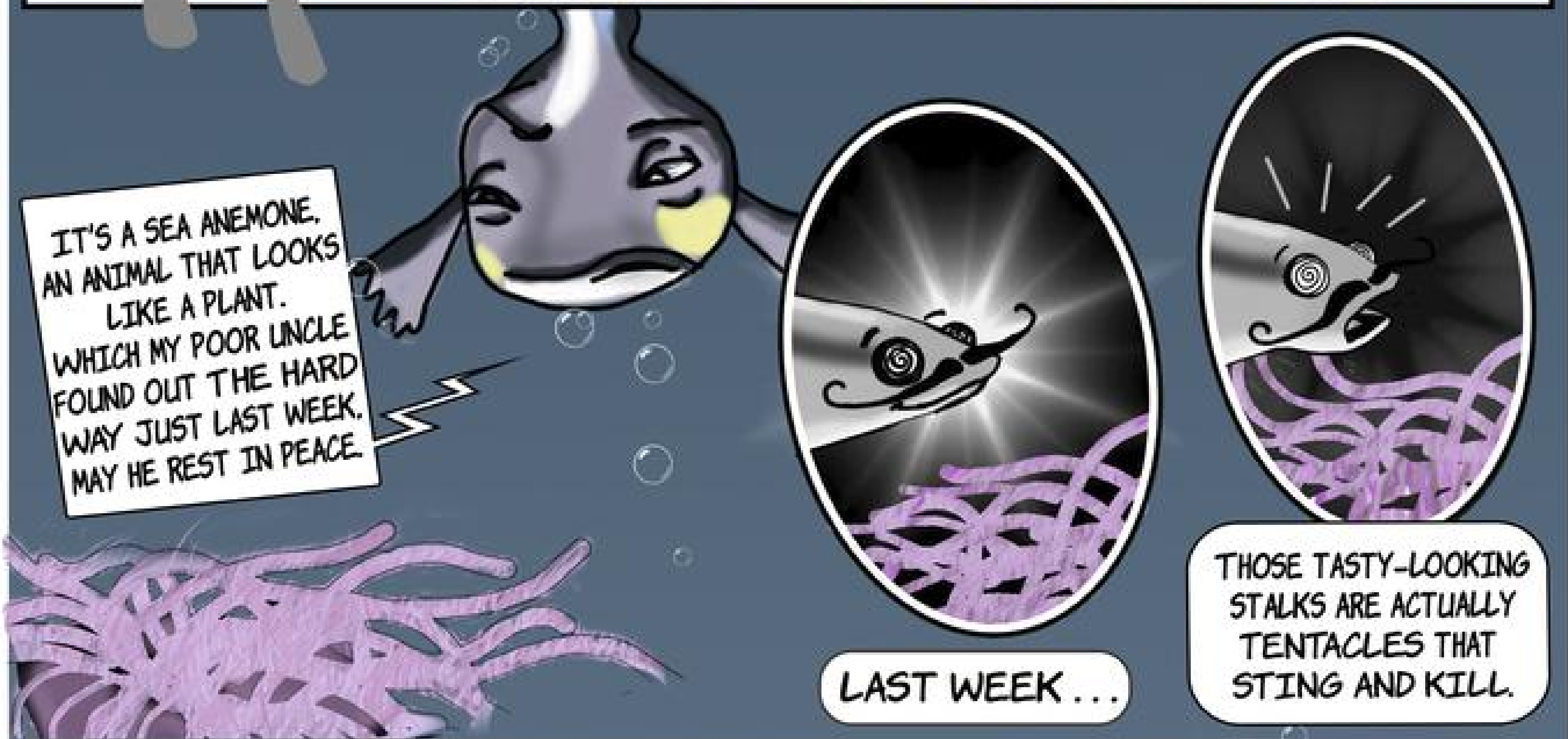
SOME SPECIES
ARE FRIENDS...

... AND SOME ARE
ENEMIES.

WHICH MEANS WE'RE
LOOKING FOR A SPECIES
THAT KILLS ...
AND IS AN ENEMY OF
THE CLOWNFISH.

OH!
I'VE GOT YOUR
SUSPECT!

WELL. THAT WAS
SUSPICIOUSLY
EASY.





YEAH! I'VE GOT A THICK MUCUS COAT THAT PROTECTS ME FROM THE STINGS! AND GUESS WHAT ELSE?!!

RIGHT NOW, I'M RUBBING ANEMONE MUCUS INTO MY COAT SO IT STOPS EVEN TRYING TO STING ME! IT THINKS I'M PART OF IT!



WELL, LOOKY HERE: ANOTHER CLOWNFISH! AM I KILLING IT? NO.

AND WHY WOULD I STING MYSELF?!

SO THE ANEMONE PROTECTS ME... AND IN EXCHANGE, I GIVE IT SCRAPS OF MY FOOD.

SHARING IS CARING.

SO THE CLOWNFISH AND THE ANEMONE ACTUALLY HELP EACH OTHER AND WORK TOGETHER?!

OUR RELATIONSHIP IS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. IT'S CALLED MUTUALISM. AND WE'RE NOT THE ONLY PARTNERS IN THE SEA, EITHER.

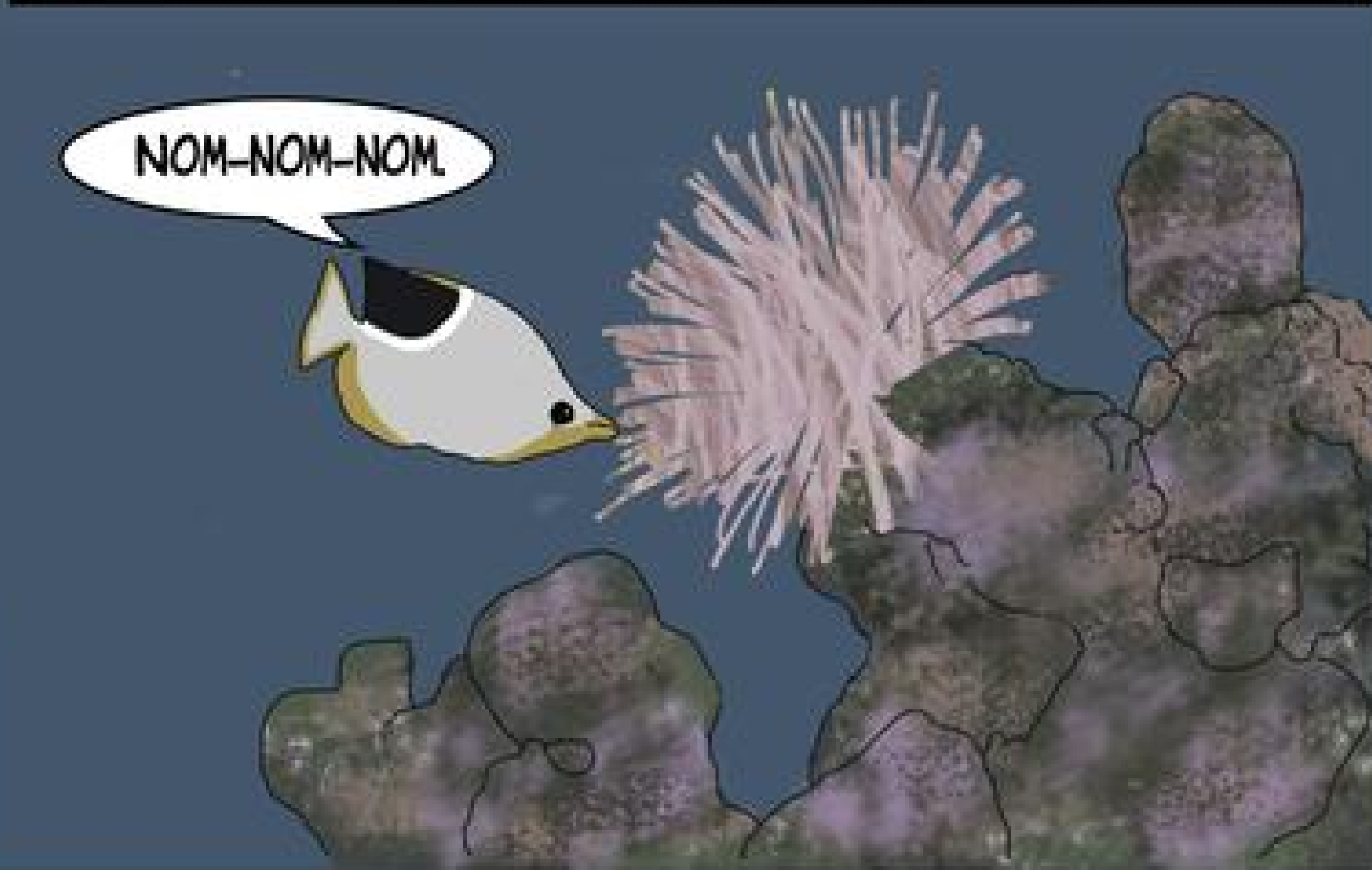
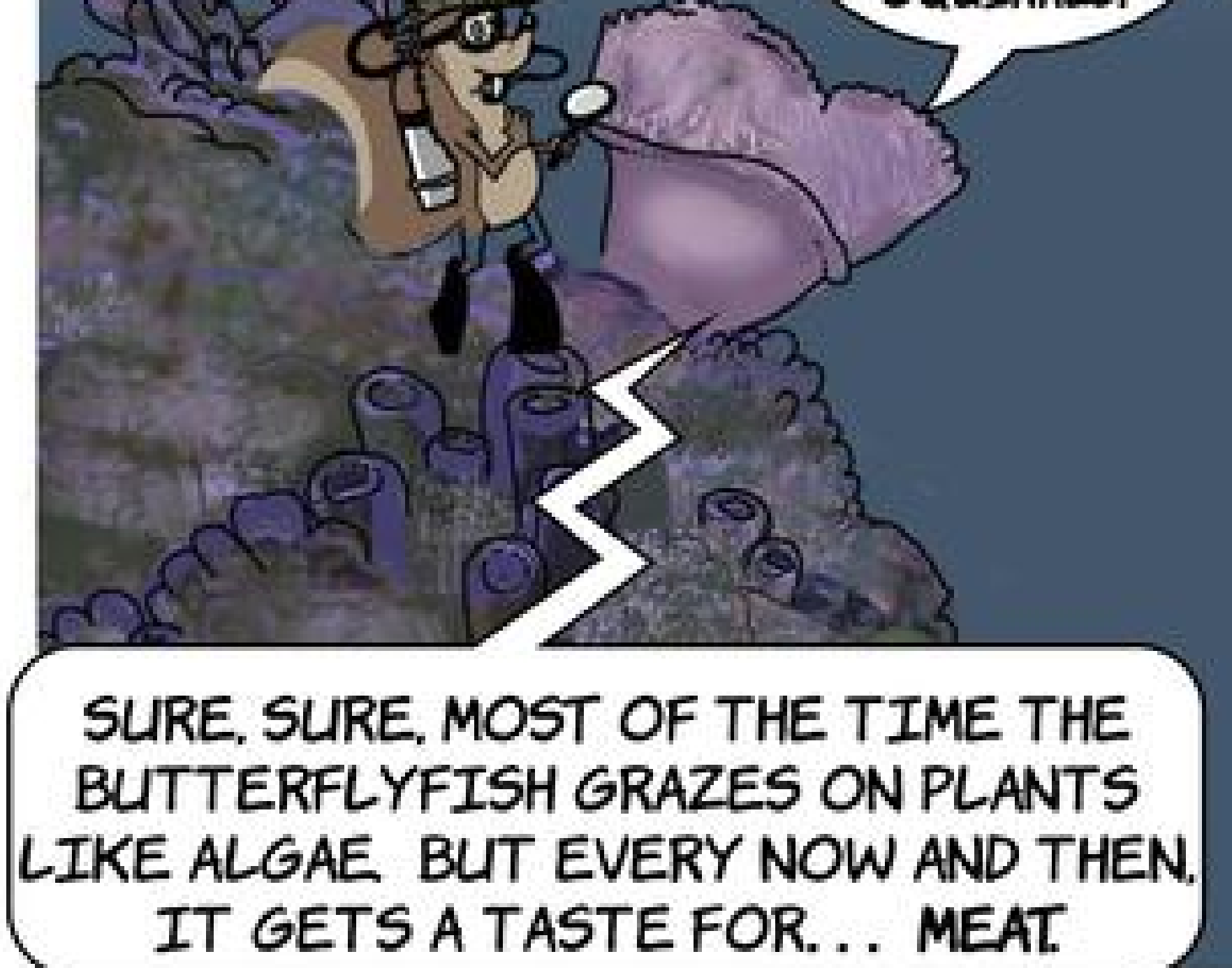
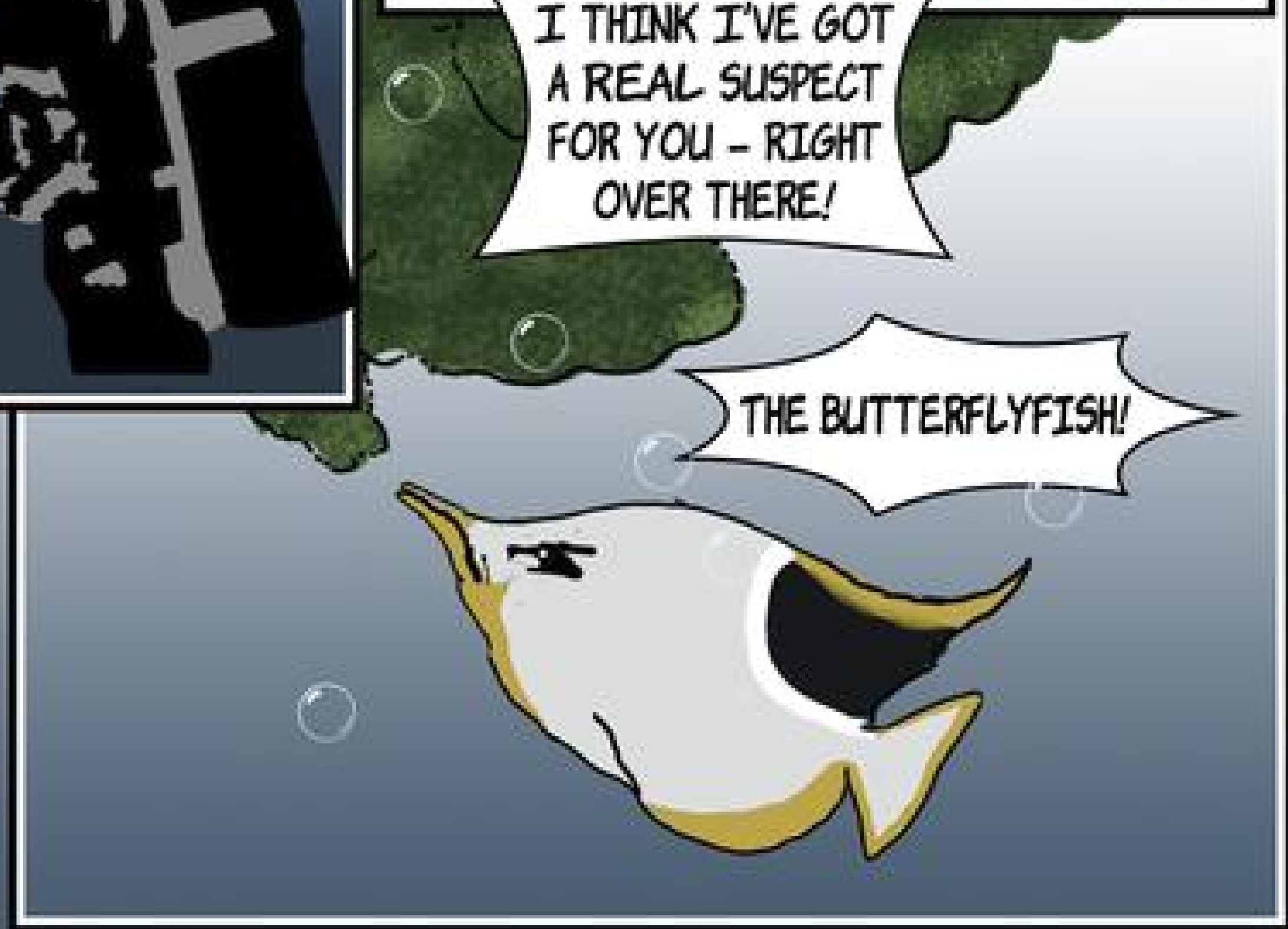
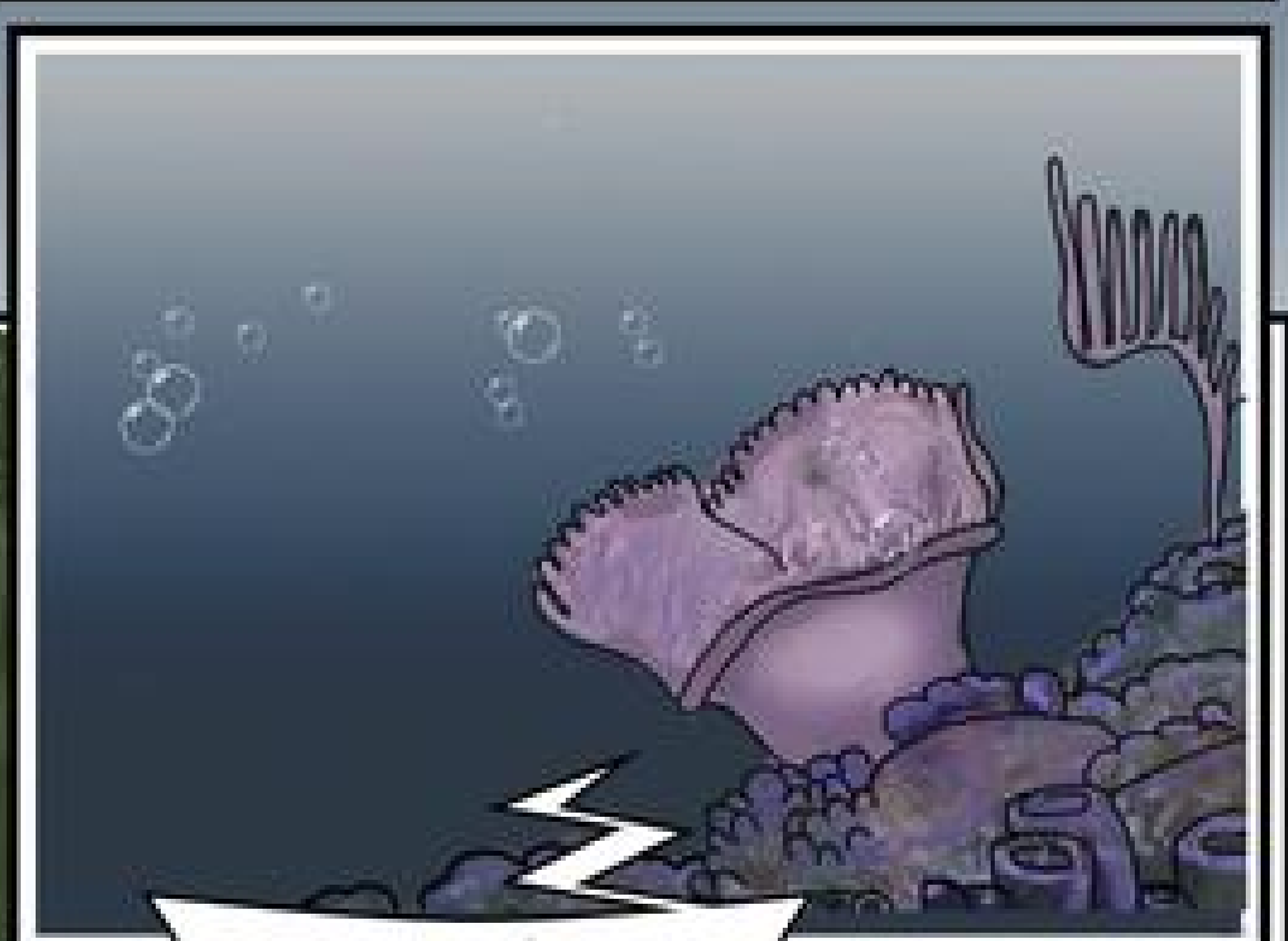
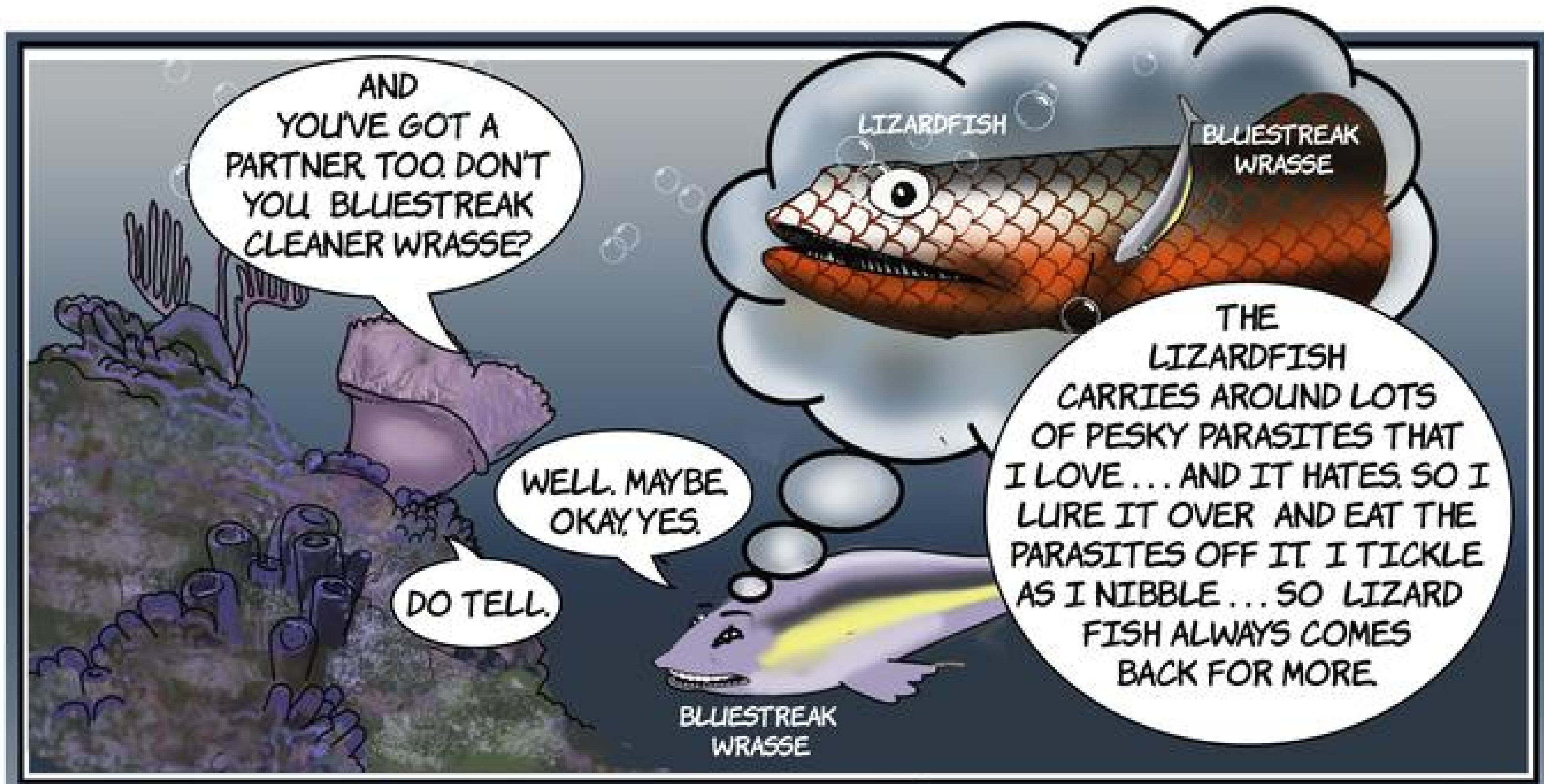
THERE'S A JELLYFISH THAT FLOATS UPSIDE DOWN UP NEAR THE SURFACE, ALLOWING ALGAE THAT GROWS ON IT TO GET SUN LIGHT AND MAKE FOOD, WHICH IT SHARES WITH THE JELLYFISH!

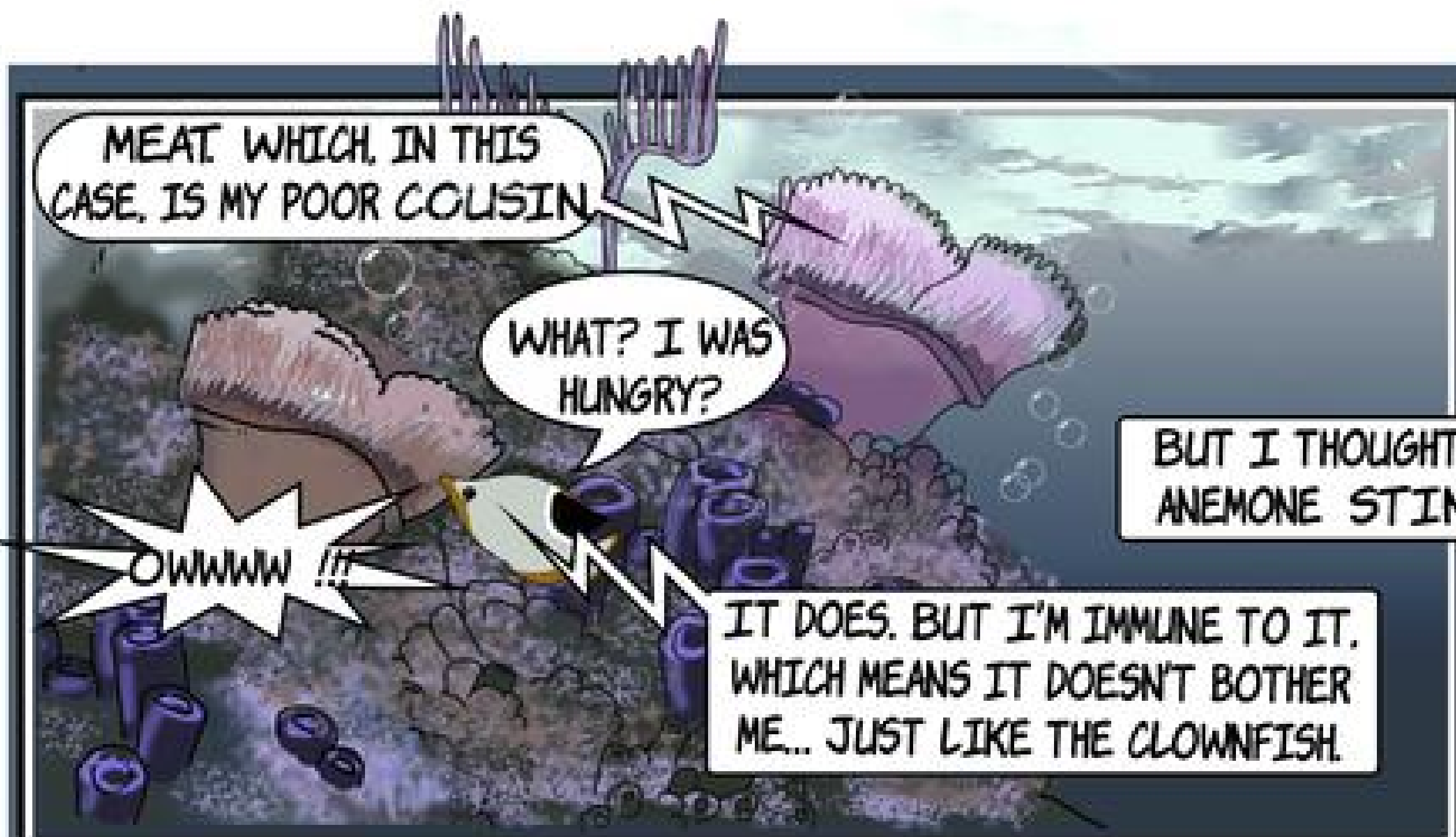
NOW, I WOULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED THOSE TWO TOGETHER.



SPEAKING OF WEIRD PAIRS THAT WORK, EVER TRIED PRUNES ON A CRACKER?







MEAT WHICH, IN THIS CASE, IS MY POOR COUSIN.

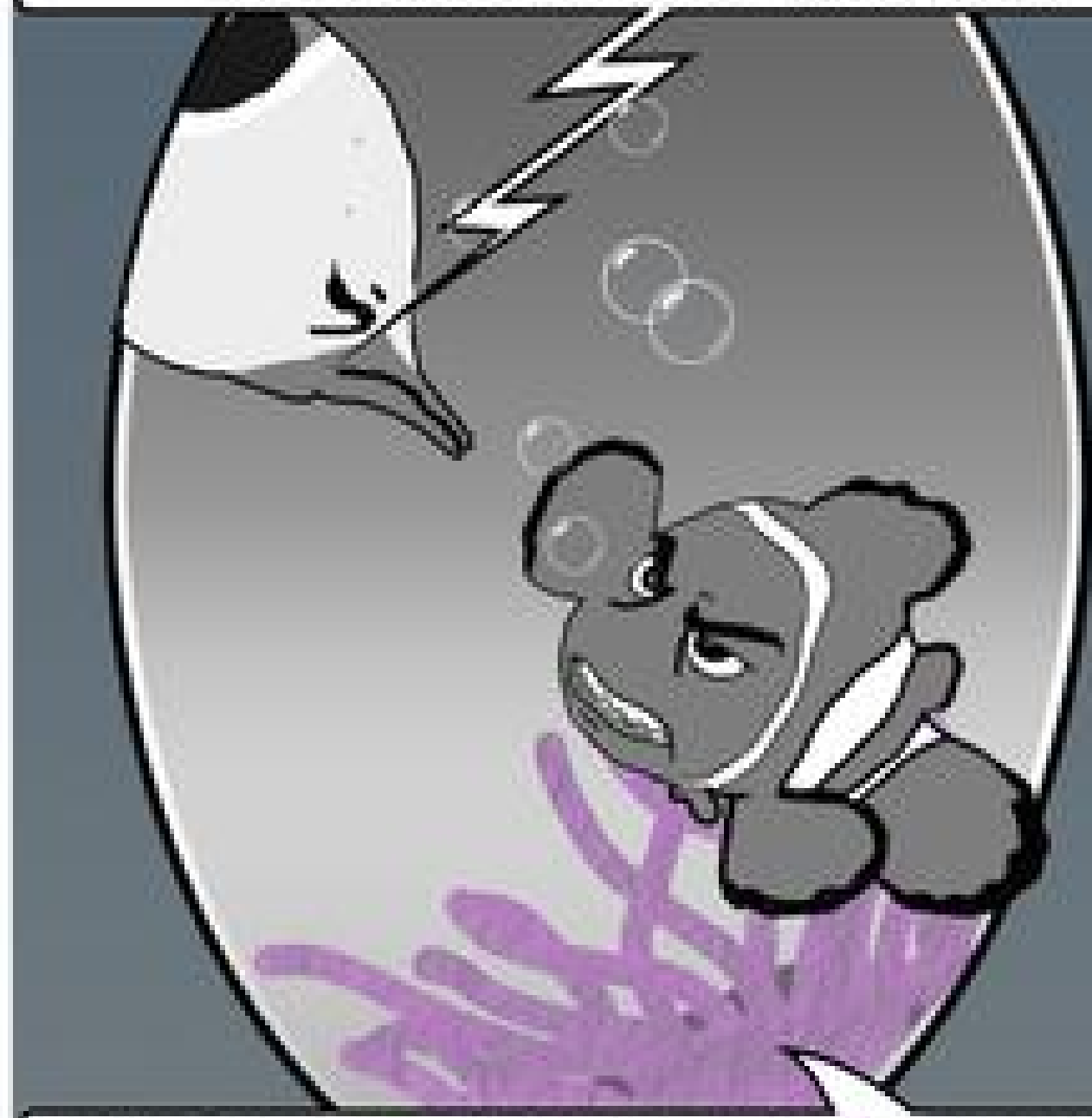
WHAT? I WAS HUNGRY?

BUT I THOUGHT THE ANEMONE STINGS.

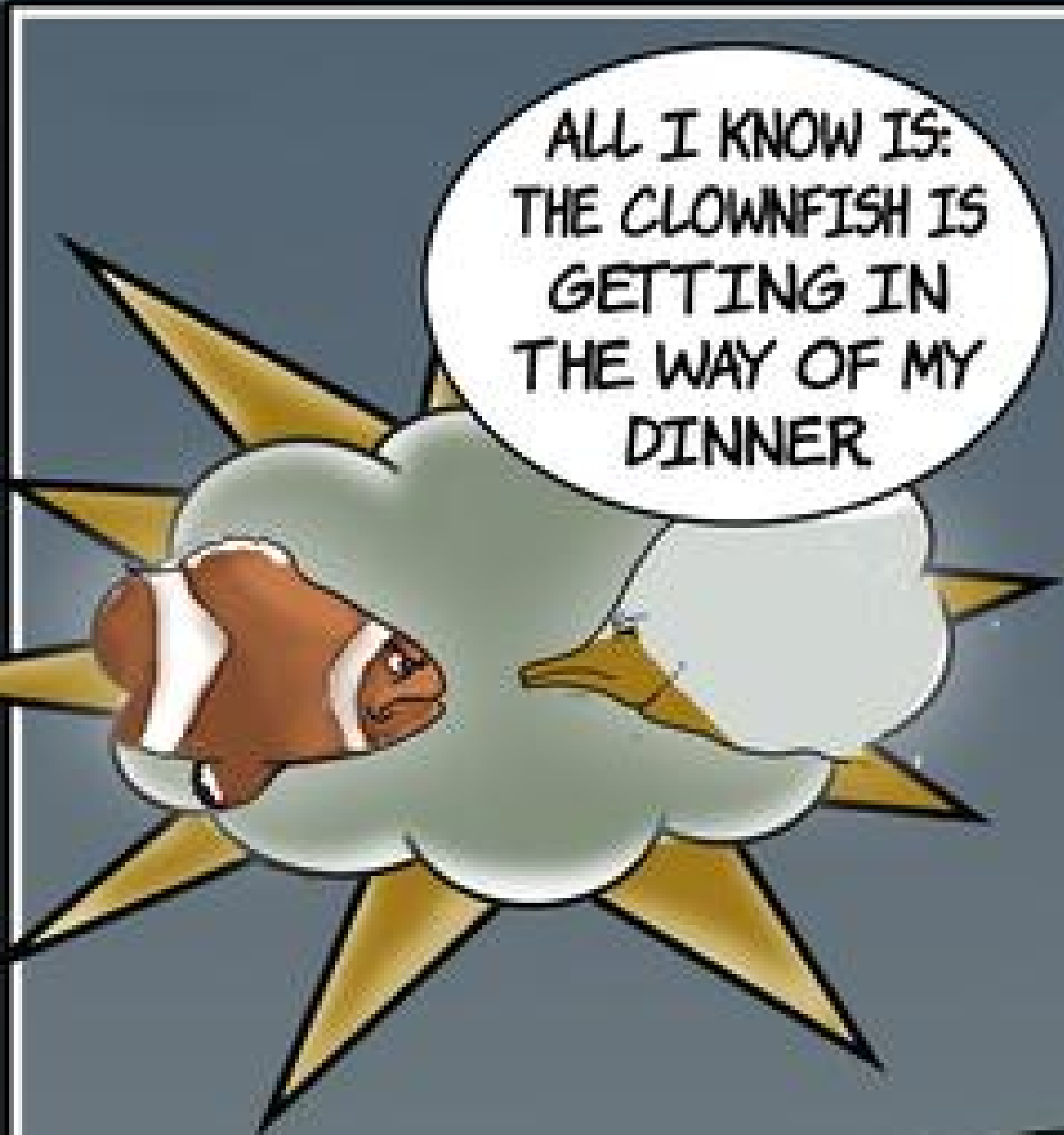
IT DOES. BUT I'M IMMUNE TO IT, WHICH MEANS IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME... JUST LIKE THE CLOWNFISH.



WHICH I SUPPOSE IS WHY THE CLOWNFISH HATES ME SO MUCH. WHENEVER I GO FOR THE ANEMONE, IF THERE'S A CLOWNFISH AROUND... IT ATTACKS ME.



IT'S PROTECTING ME BECAUSE I PROTECT IT! SOME SAY THAT'S POLITICS, BUT I CALL IT BIOLOGY.



ALL I KNOW IS: THE CLOWNFISH IS GETTING IN THE WAY OF MY DINNER

SO THE CLOWNFISH AND THE BUTTERFLY-FISH ARE FIGHTING EACH OTHER WHICH MAKES THEM...



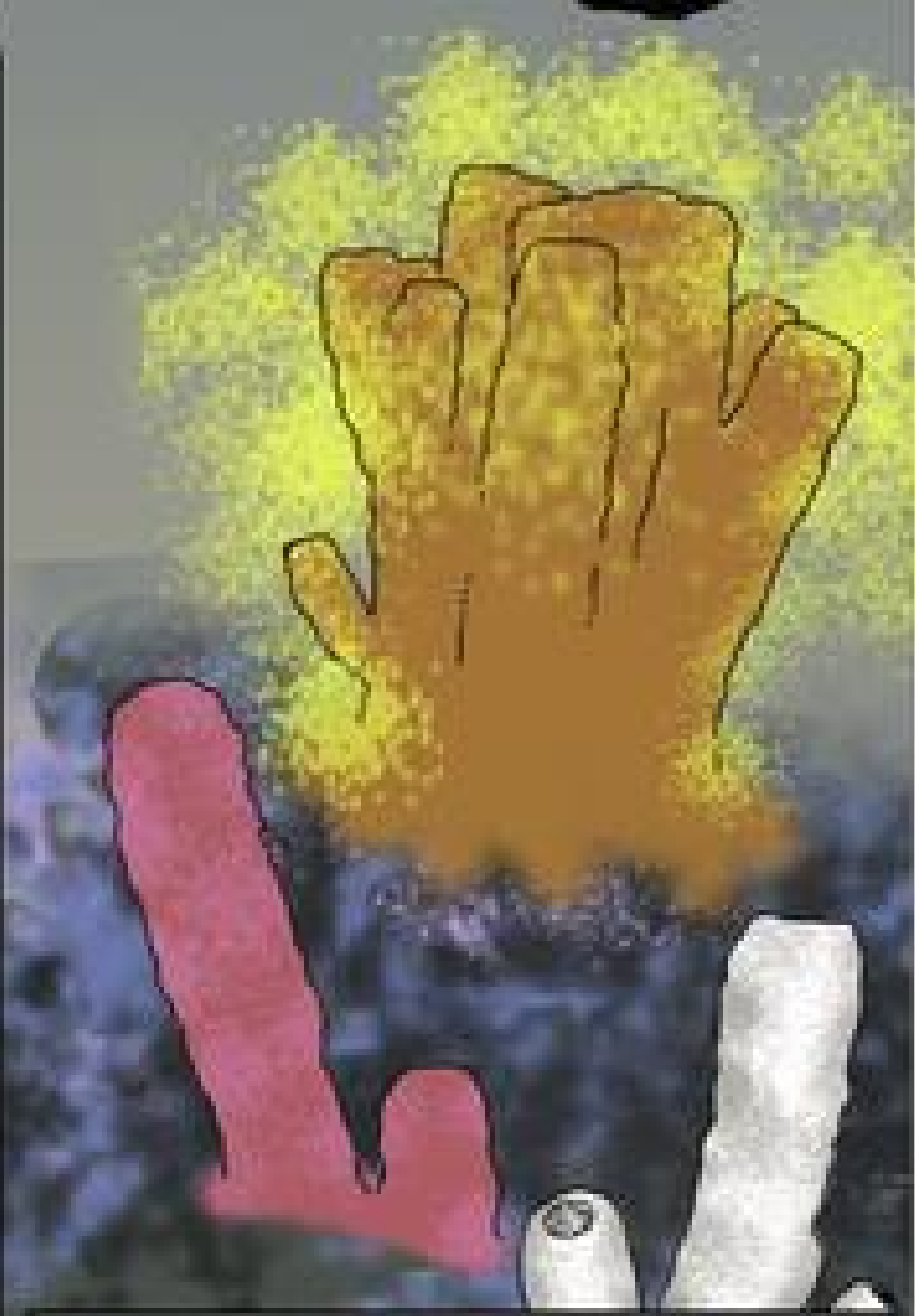
COMPETITORS. AND IT'S NOT JUST US, EITHER. ALL OVER THE REEF, ANIMALS FIGHTING OVER FOOD AND TERRITORY. ATTACKING AND PROTECTING.



GHOST CRABS AND HERMIT CRABS COMPETE FOR DEAD FISH. WHEN THEY WASH UP ON LAND.



MALE CUTTLEFISH COMPETE FOR FEMALES BY CHANGING THE WAY THEY LOOK

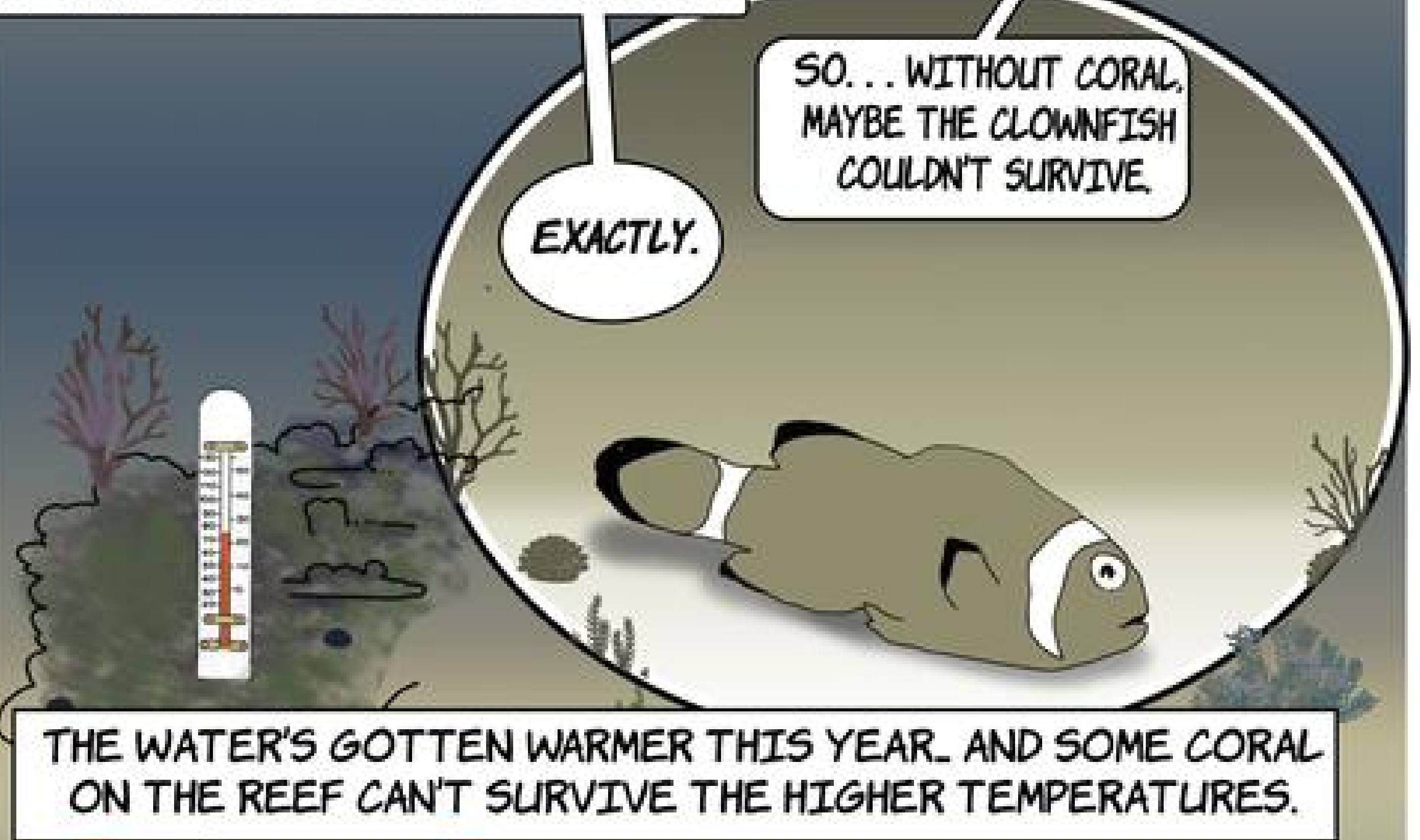
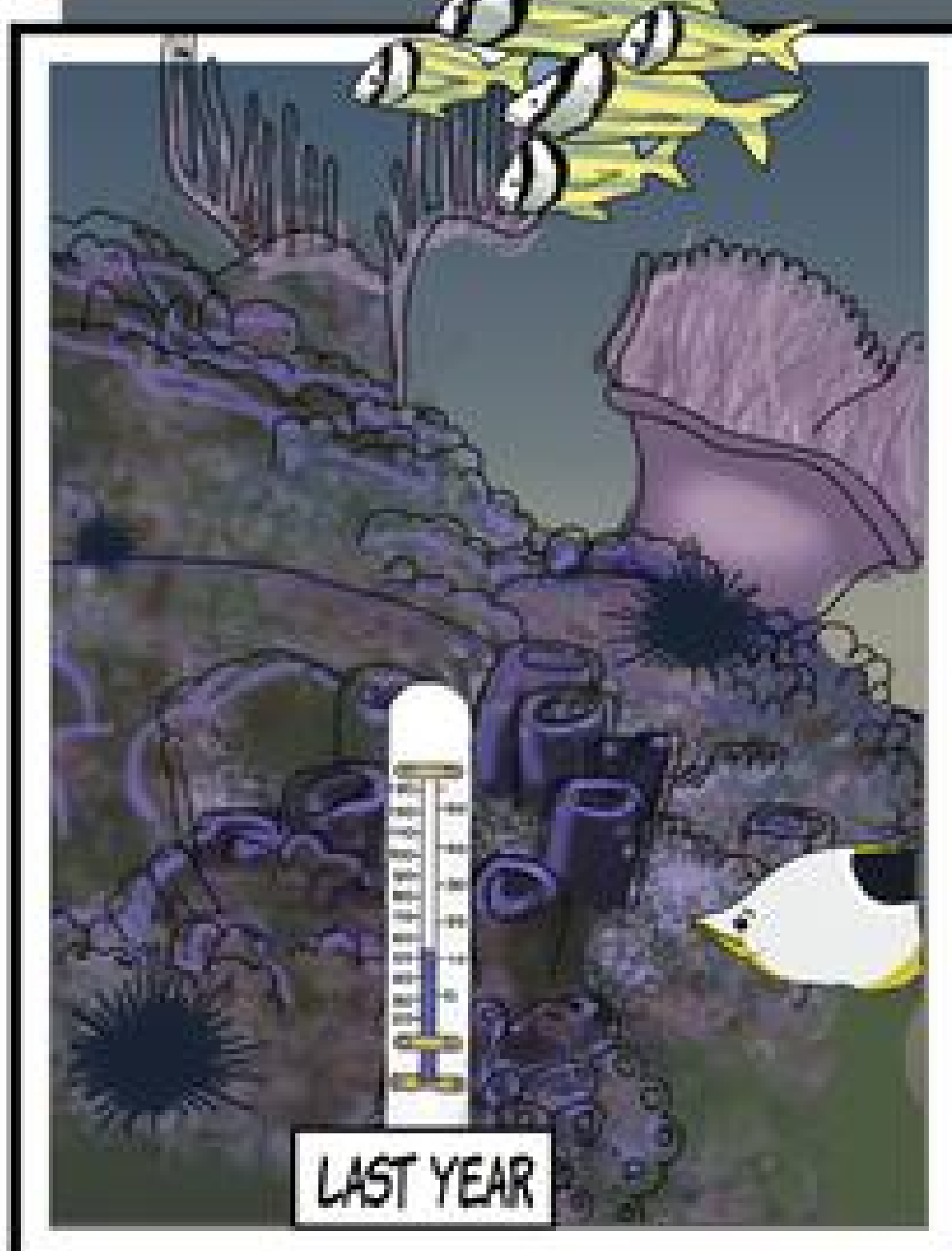


SPONGES COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER FOR SPACE SO WHEN ONE FINDS AN ANCHOR IT EMITS A TOXIC CHEMICAL TO KEEP OTHERS AWAY.

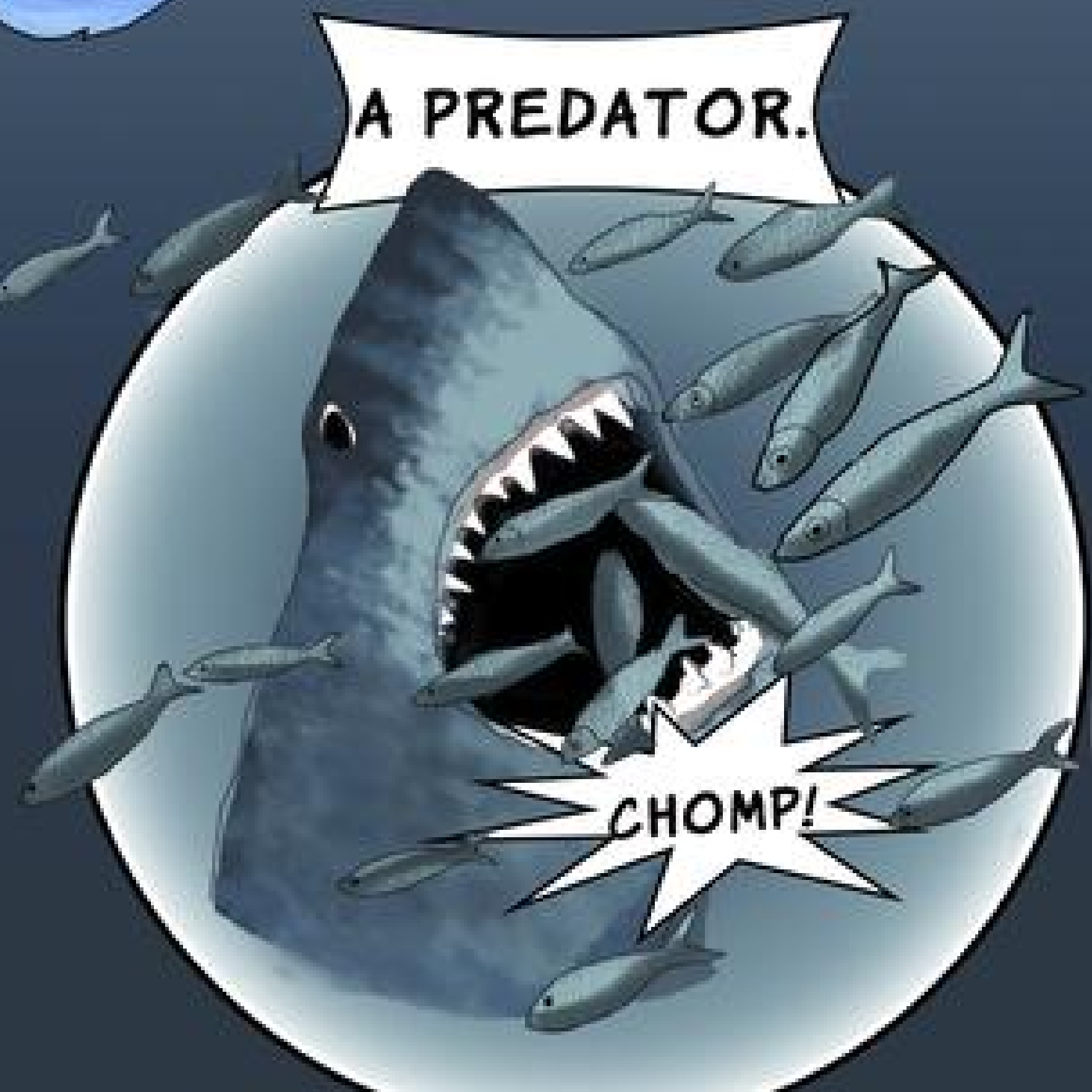
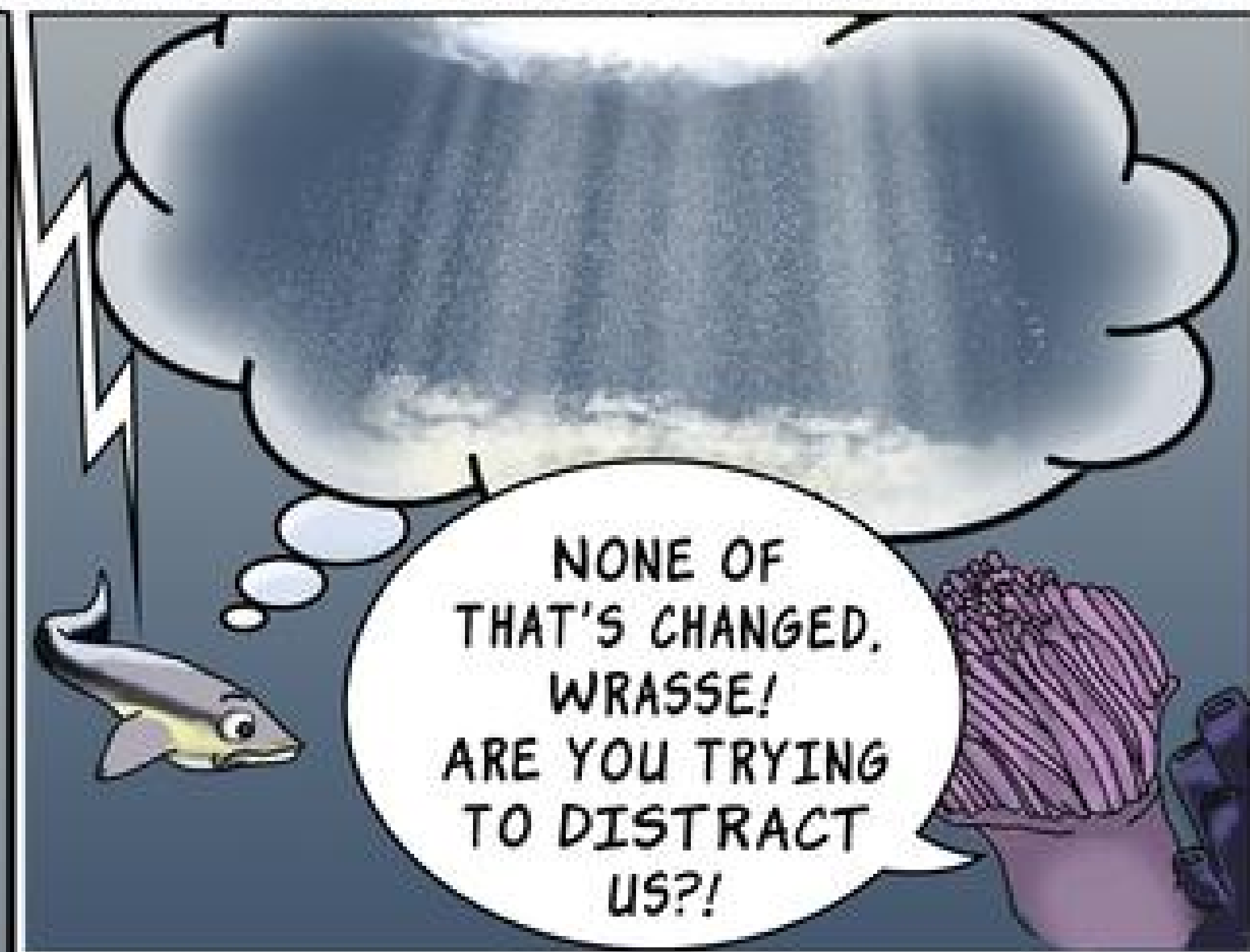




THE CLOWNFISH LAYS EGGS IN THE CORAL, LIVES IN THE CORAL, AND EATS STUFF THAT GROWS ON THE CORAL...



BUT THERE'S OTHER STUFF IN THE ENVIRONMENT, TOO! THE AMOUNT OF SALT IN THE WATER... HOW MUCH SUNLIGHT HITS THE REEF FROM ABOVE...



USUALLY, PREDATORS ARE MUCH BIGGER THAN THEIR PREY. SO ONE SHARK CAN KILL HUNDREDS OF TINY FISH IN A SINGLE BITE.

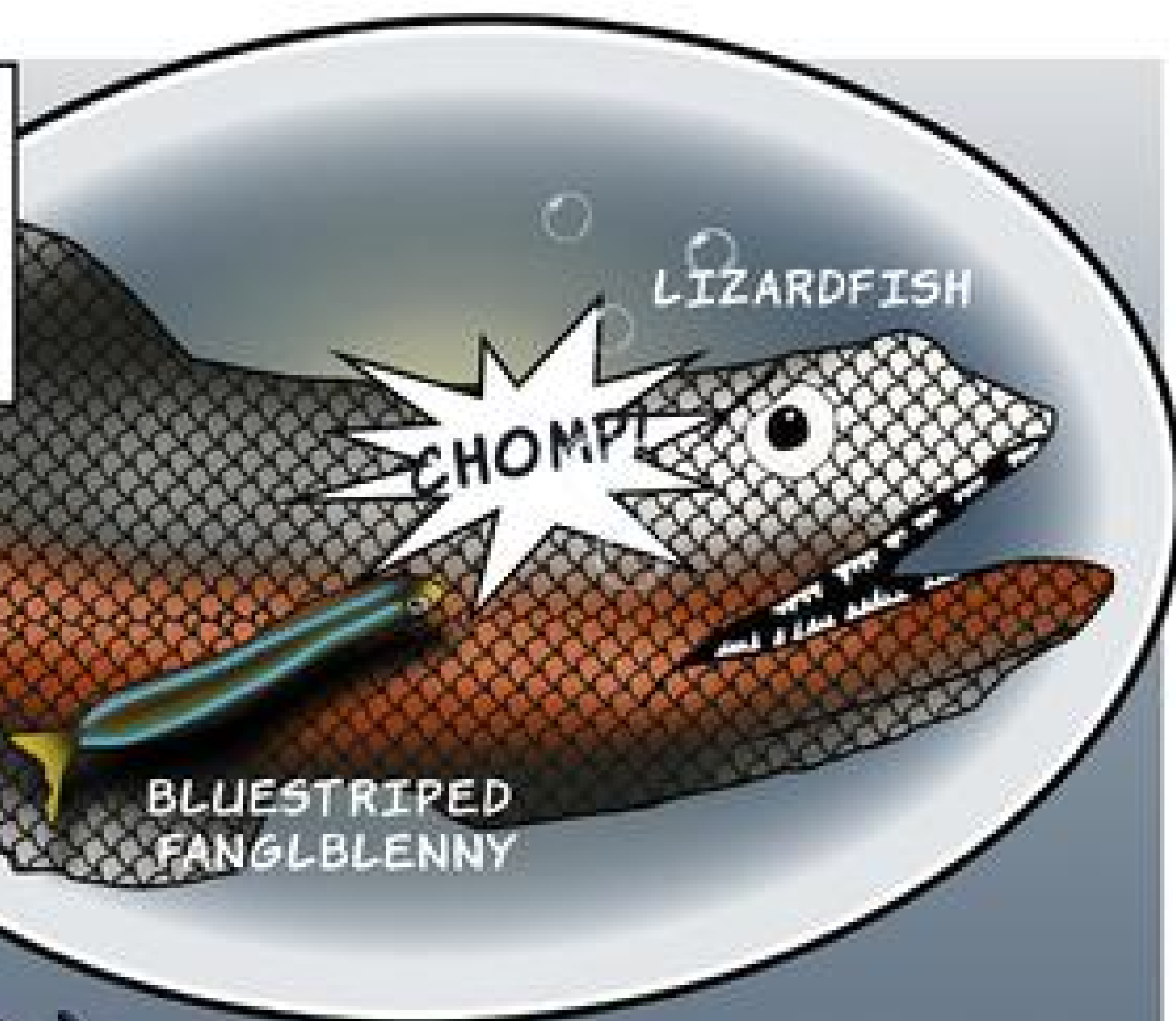


BLUESTRIPE FANGLBLENNY

SOMETIMES THE PREDATOR'S SMALLER THAN THE PREY!
EVER HEARD OF THAT EVIL LITTLE BLUESTRIPE FANGLBLENNY?



BLUESTREAK WRASSE



LIZARDFISH

BLUESTRIPE FANGLBLENNY

IT IMITATES ME TO ATTRACT MY PARTNER, THE LIZARDFISH. THE LIZARDFISH THINKS IT'S GOING TO GET ITS PARASITES REMOVED, SINCE THAT'S WHAT I DO. BUT INSTEAD OF CLEANING THE LIZARDFISH, THE BLUESTRIPE FANGLBLENNY TAKES A BIG BITE OUT OF ITS FLESH!

SPEAKING OF WHICH... ISN'T THE LIZARDFISH A PREDATOR ITSELF?!



BLUESTREAK WRASSE

STOP IT RIGHT THERE. ANEMONE!

LIZARDFISH



LIZARDFISH? A PREDATOR?

BURYING ITSELF IN THE SAND TO HIDE AND WAIT FOR PREY.

BLUESTREAK WRASSE

WHICH INCLUDES SMALLER FISH LIKE ME. THE CLOWNFISH!

LIES! LIES ALL LIES!



LIZARDFISH



OKAY, LIZARDFISH. WHERE WERE YOU AT 2:02 THIS AFTERNOON?!!



I'M TAKIN THE 5TH.

HE WAS GETTING HIS PARASITES EATEN OFF. BY ME!!

LIZARDFISH

BLUESTREAK WRASSE

BUT YOU SAID YOU'D JUST COME BACK FROM YOUR LUNCH-BREAK. WHICH MEANS YOUR LUNCH-BREAK WAS OVER.



RELATIONSHIPS
PARTNERS
COMPETITORS
PREDATOR
WHAT ELSE IMPACTS
CHANGES
ENVIRONMENT

OKAY, THEN. I THINK WE KNOW WHO KILLED THE CLOWNFISH.

WHAT DID MOSA FIGURE OUT?