

## BEWARE OF SEA URCHIN, TRIANGLEFISH!

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*[Dedication] To every child who has ever felt like Trianglefish*

[ 1 ]

Once upon a time, perhaps a very long time ago or possibly only yesterday, Sea Urchin - who was not a real sea urchin - threatened the Deep.

It all started when Aris Fisheater, a human, planned to turn the Deep into a Submarine Circus. But who was stopped him? None other than Trianglefish, who thwarted his evil plans and transformed Aris into a sea urchin with the help of a magic sea pearl.

[This story is told in *Trianglefish Returns*]

But soon Aris Sea Urchin was up to mischief again. He began to spread lies and incite hate among the creatures of the Deep. And he was so cunning that he even managed to trick Trianglefish into believing his lies, not once, not twice, but three times!

*They think I have changed!*

[ 2 ]

Trianglefish's first big mistake was to trust Sea Urchin when he pretended to be friends with all the sea creatures. Trianglefish invited Sea Urchin to play along with them. "How wonderful!" Trianglefish said. "Finally, joy and peace for all the inhabitants of the Deep! Time for games and laughter! Time to forget about the past!"

*[Sea Urchin says:] Fishball is part of my cunning plan to destroy them.*

[ 3 ]

What did they play? The favourite game of children all over the world: football. Sea Urchin taught it to the fishes, and it became their favourite game too.

"Humans may call it football", Trianglefish said. "But since we haven't got one foot among us, we shall call it ... FISHBALL! We shoot with the head and we score with the tail!"

He was thrilled with the new game and scored the most fantastic goals!

[ 4 ]

One day, Sea Urchin set his big plan in motion...

“Well, since you like fishball so much, why not play in the championship?” he said. “But only the right type of fish can play well. Let’s get rid of the rest. The right-shaped fish are superior, and they will help us win the Sea World Cup!”

[ 5]

Trianglefish did not like the sound of this.

“What are you talking about?” he said. “All our friends have a right to play together in the team!”

“No! I’m telling you that Mighty Shark and the Sharp Jaws are spoiling the game. Sorry, but they have to go. Otherwise our supporters out there in the terraces will be angry. Listen to them chanting:

*Losers, losers, fishball abusers  
Go away, you’re spoiling our day!*

“How did this happen?” Trianglefish wondered.  
“I had a word with them,” Sea Urchin cackled.

[ 6]

Trianglefish then made his second big mistake. He asked Mighty Shark and his posse to leave the game and go play somewhere else.

“Why don’t you move out to the Great Ocean Prairie?” he told them. “You’ll be out of everybody’s way there.”

So they left. They had no choice, really.

But as Mighty Shark was leaving with a sorrowful look on his face he gave Trianglefish a seashell. On it he had written:

“Today it’s me he kicks out, tomorrow it’ll be you.”

[ 7]

Now the team thought they were playing much better without Mighty Shark and all his awkward shark friends. But Trianglefish was not happy.

“It was wrong telling my friends to go away,” he thought. “I miss them, and nobody deserves to be thrown out like that.”

He turned to Starfish:

“Please, go and ask the Sharks to come back. Fishball matters only when we are all playing together. That’s the real joy of the game.”

*[Sea Urchin says:] I did it. I chased some of them away.*