

[Book cover - back]

Trianglefish returns ...

to save the deep and stop Aris's evil plans for a Submarine Circus.

Trianglefish returns ... to show that real life is not what we see on the screen but what we live.

Trianglefish returns ... to free the fish from the slavery of a theme park planned in his name without his consent.

Trianglefish returns ... to become a human for a short time, with the help of ecologist Betty and her magic pearl, so he can stand up to Aris.

Trianglefish returns to tell everyone:

I'm not a hero, I'm an anti-hero.

I'm not a TV star with great looks

I'm only a little fish

Swimming in children's books ..."

[Book cover - front]

Vangelis Iliopoulos

TRIANGLEFISH RETURNS

translated by J.K. Mabin

For Dimitri, Jenny and Ioanna
from the New Theatre of Thessaloniki
who were the reason for
the return of Trianglefish

This book will be illustrated by YOU! Read the story first. Then take up your colours and let your imagination lead you to the bottom of the sea. There you will watch the adventures of Trianglefish, scene by scene. He and his friends will be waiting to pose for you. If you need help, read the legends on the blank pages. If you find the whole business really difficult, you can use the fish outlines provided on the book cover. Your copy with your own illustrations will be truly unique! Keep it for your own, but if you wish, you can come to the Patakis Bookshop (65 Academias Str., Athens, Greece) on Trianglefish day, which is on the third Saturday of March, at noon, and show it in the special Trianglefish exhibition. There will be a surprise waiting for you there! Book early, by phoning 210 36 500 71 or email at ekdiloseis@patakis.gr

Though I live in the deep, I know that the best way to communicate with humans is to write a book. There are six books about me and my adventures, but in each one of them it is the author who speaks. He tells my stories; I star in them. As if this was not enough, he wrote that the sixth book would be the last one. Well, not if I can help it.

You haven't read my greatest adventure yet.

You do not know why I had gone away. You do not know why I had to come back and transform myself in order to save the deep and all its inhabitants. You do not know that I, a fish, made friends with a human, Betty. Now she is my best friend. We have been through a lot, Betty and I, and telling you children about it will make it even more special. So I had a meeting with the author and I said to him: "You just write what I say; I'm telling the story this time."

Chapter 1

Terrible things were happening in the deep. The fish society was suffering. All the fishes were oppressed. And who was to blame? Humans, that's who! Well, not all humans, but those who fished extensively and used illegal fishing methods, those who polluted the water, and of course one particular individual who had done all he could to turn our home into desert, a wicked human who was only interested in profit and never thought of the consequences: Aris. He was very powerful because he used technology. He controlled everything through a screen. At least that is what he thought....

So the deep looked almost like a desert. There was no food. When there is no food, the fish become slaves to the person who feeds them. Simple as that.

As for me, I had been away for a long time, wandering in the ocean with my wife, Sole, and our little Trianglesoles. From time to time news reached me from the deep, and it was not good: there was danger of total devastation. I missed my dad, Alectis, and my mum, Butterfly, who had stayed behind. I longed to see Triangekid, my little brother, and Blackscapes, my best friend, and all my other friends. But I knew I could not go back. More than anything, Aris wanted to catch me. He wanted to keep me captive and take advantage of my fame. As long as I kept away from him I messed up his plans. So I stayed away.

Four or five years passed and finally I could not take it any longer: I had to see my family, my friends, my favourite old haunts. So I decided to return - in secret. I did not show myself to anyone at first. I kept out of sight and I watched. I wanted to see if there was a way to help them fight against Aris. Of course I longed to speak to my parents but I could not. I could only look at them standing outside their own little patch of reef, and listen to their talk:

“So many of us have left!” Dad was saying “The deep is almost deserted.”

Mum answered: “We're ruined, I'm telling you. There's no food at all! At least our boy got away and saved himself.”

They sounded angry with those fishes who quarrelled with each other even in times of hunger and trouble. Wouldn't the conflict between red sea fishes and blue ocean fishes ever end? All this was to the advantage of only one person: Aris. If we had been united in the first place, perhaps he could have stood up to him.

Can you draw the deserted deep?

A few days later, as I was watching my dear parents, still hidden from view, I saw her.

Who was she? She was so beautiful. What was she? A Siren, a Mermaid, a Nereid, perhaps? I did not know, but soon I realized she was just a human. Humans can be very beautiful sometimes. She wore the special suit they all wear when they visit our parts. She wore a mask as well, but her beautiful eyes shone more brightly than the torch strapped on her forehead. Mum took her for a fish with arms. I wanted to laugh, but I was transfixed. She was not holding any weapons as humans usually do, but a little box with a hole in it. She looked through the hole, she pressed a button, and a flash of light shone all over the deep. At the first flash of light, the few fishes hanging around ran away to hide. Then she began to sing:

Loneliness ...
Anybody here?
Emptiness ...
And fear.

I'm looking for you,
I was told you'd be here.
I'm looking for you,
Can you hear?

I was enchanted. I wanted to come out and talk to her. Who was she looking for? She went on with her song:

Loneliness ...
What a desolate place!
Emptiness ...
Nothing but empty space.

I'm looking for you ...
Oh, where can you be?
I'm looking for you
In this vast, empty sea ...

For a moment it crossed my mind she might be looking for me. But then I thought she was probably looking for one of the fish-generals who kept the war going. Right at that moment, battle drums and war cries interrupted her song. She took fright and left. As she turned to go, her eyes pierced the dark hole of the rock where I was hiding and for a split second we looked straight

into each other's eyes. But before I could do anything, General Pufferfish and his army appeared followed closely by the gigantic brown Moray Eel and his army.

“There we go again,” I thought wearily. “What can they possibly have to fight about now?” They were probably fighting just for the sake of fighting, I thought. What I did not know then was that somebody was making them do it. So it seemed very bizarre when suddenly they all froze in mid-battle, as if somebody had pressed a button. What was going on?

Draw Betty as she is swimming away from the battle of the fishes.