

MYRTLE DICK

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Set in the New England Aquarium, Boston's Blue Line, and Revere Beach.

MYRTLE: a 90 year old turtle, living in the NE Aquarium viewing tank.

PEGGY: a 26 year old penguin, living in the NE Aquarium viewing tank.

BURGUNDY BASTARD: a marine biologist wearing a burgundy shirt.

PROLOGUE:

New England Aquarium. The Tank.

Myrtle is a Turtle and Peggy is a Penguin.
Together they float in the viewing tank @ NE Aquarium.
They are friends! They play a game of chase, or tag. Peggy does loop de loops
around the jellyfish. People applaud!

Peggy sings “Somewhere Beyond the Sea” and water-dances with Myrtle. People
laugh and clap.

A man in burgundy walks by and waves at Myrtle, tapping on the glass. He sighs and
walks away. Myrtle looks after him. Peggy tries to grab her, still playing.

MYRTLE, furious, does a big swirl thru the water, dashing the jellyfish away, and she
swims off. Peggy follows.

SCENE ONE

Aquarium Station.

PEGGY and MYRTLE, in disguise as trash, follow BB onto the platform and onto a
train. PEGGY holds the door while MYRTLE crawls on.

MYRTLE:

Thanks buddy.

Quick – under here. Stay here under the seat, ok Peggy? Don’t go out past this pole.

PEGGY:

Ok, I won’t.

MYRTLE:

Oh, that wore me out. Hold onto something, the train’s about to move.

PEGGY:

But you’re not holding – WHOA!

(PEGGY falls when the train moves)

MYRTLE:

You ok?

PEGGY:

Uh huh.

This is so neat! You said it’s called a train? It looks a lot like the Tank except there’s
people not fishes.

Shh...stay quiet.

MYRTLE:

Myrtle? Where are we going?

PEGGY:

We're following that man.
He got on the train, right?

MYRTLE:

Uh huh. He's down at the other end of the car.

PEGGY:

Ok. Good work. Don't let him see you. Promise?

MYRTLE:

Who is he?

PEGGY:

The Burgundy Bastard. An old friend.
Keep your feet still.

MYRTLE:

But I'm swimming.

PEGGY:

You don't have to swim on land.

MYRTLE:

You don't?!

(Peg experiments with not moving her legs).
No one's looking at me.

MYRTLE:

That's a good thing.

PEGGY:

But people always look at me.
(she gets up and tries to flip like she would in the water. This goes poorly).
OW!

MYRTLE:

Would you cut it out! I said to stay behind the pole.
Did he see you?

PEGGY:

I don't know.

I'm fun. That's why people like to watch me, don't be jealous.

MYRTLE:

You're fun, but you'd be smarter to watch them. You'll learn more.

PEGGY:

That's never happened before. My flip never hurt like that.

This place is strange. People don't stay together in this Tank, and they don't stare or take pictures. They aren't talking. What are they doing?

MYRTLE:

Commuting.

You know how I always said there's a world outside the Aquarium? This is it.

PEGGY:

Where are we going?

MYRTLE:

We're following him.

PEGGY:

We're going to see Boston?

MYRTLE:

No, Revere.

PEGGY:

Oh! It must be even prettier than Boston?

MYRTLE:

Sure is. Sit down.

Uh oh.

PEGGY:

What?

MYRTLE:

That running got to me.

PEGGY:

No, Myrtle. Not here.

MYRTLE:

Can't help it. It's all that cabbage I ate for lunch.

PEGGY:

Can't you hold it?

MYRTLE:

After 90 years the sphincter is just for show.
Oh. Oh god. Ohhhhhh

PEGGY:

Aw Jesus. If you smell something, say something.
(to passengers)
The rest of us call her Myrtle the Squirtle. Ba-dum-bum.

VO:

Maverick. Doors open on the Left.
(Everyone gets off the train except our friends).

MYRTLE:

Quick! Look! Is he getting off?

PEGGY:

WOW! It's pretty! So open!

MYRTLE:

Do you see the burgundy bastard? He's staying on the train?

PEGGY:

Uh-huh.

MYRTLE:

Good. Other people still on the train?

PEGGY:

That fart pretty much cleared them out. Three more, plus double B.
Can I please take this off now?

MYRTLE:

No.

PEGGY:

I like land!

MYRTLE:

You've really never seen land?

PEGGY:

Only the rocks in the Tank, where they feed us.
That's another thing strange. Why come don't people feed me here.

MYRTLE:

I'm hungry too. Hey Peggy, I'll make a bet with you. You see those nuts over there?
If you get those and sneak back, without anyone seeing you, you can take off the disguise.

PEGGY:

Without anyone seeing me? Oh I don't know.

MYRTLE:

Don't you want to get out of that trash?
Just remember: use the Fours.

PEGGY:

The fours?

MYRTLE:

Four lessons to stay safe: Be Quiet. Be Calm. Be Quick. Be ready to bite.

PEGGY:

Be quiet. Be calm. Phew.

(Peggy dashes across to grab a few nuts.)

Be quick! Got 'em! Be ready to bite...

(She peeks back down the car and dashes back to Myrtle).

Whoo! Safe!

MYRTLE:

Well done! Good job, kid. Now you can take off your costume.

PEGGY:

That was fun!

MYRTLE:

Good. Hey, Peggy listen. I know the people fed you all the time in the Tank. But they won't out here. So remember that: keep your eye out for food, because you'll never know when it'll come. And remember: use the Fours.

PEGGY:

Ok. But we're going back to the tank, aren't we Myrtle?

MYRTLE:

Of course.

PEGGY:

WOW! Myrtle – what is that big shiny thing over there –

MYRTLE:

Oh.... Honey that. Is the Sun.

PEGGY:

What does it do?

MYRTLE:

It gives light to the whole world. It's just like the lights in the Tank except it's just one big giant one for the whole world. Wait till we get outside the train: you'll feel the warmth on you.

PEGGY:

Like warm like when we hug?

MYRTLE:

Yeah.

PEGGY:

But it's not in the Tank? It's so pretty! It should be there too!

VO:

Wood Island, doors will open on the right.

MYRTLE:

Hey take another peek. Is he still there?

PEGGY:

The Burgundy Bastard?

MYRTLE:

Yeah.

PEGGY:

Yeah, we got him right where we want him.
What's going on? Why are we following him?

MYRTLE:

Look out there – you see the water?

PEGGY:

That's water? It looks weird.

MYRTLE:

That's just the top. Underneath it's just like home.

PEGGY:

It looks really tiny.
(she reaches out to touch it)

MYRTLE:

That's because it's far away. It's huge. It's the size of about five million aquariums.

PEGGY:

I don't believe you. There aren't any penguins out there or turtles or anyone we know.

MYRTLE:

I told you, this world is really different.

PEGGY:

I know that.

MYRTLE:

You've never been out of the tank.

PEGGY:

Don't be mean.

MYRTLE:

Listen Peggy, out here people and the water animals don't get together, like how we do at the Tank. The people stay on land mostly, and girls like us stay in the water.

PEGGY:

Why?

MYRTLE:

And in the water, the animals aren't nice to each other. It's called Natural Selection: you have to take care of your number one player, and that's Peggy. You have to find places like this, where you can hide. You have to look out for food, because no one will you. They'll try to eat you, even.

PEGGY:

People won't eat me, I'm cute!

MYRTLE:

But it's different. It's called Evil-ution: whoever can fight off evil wins.

PEGGY:

You really lived there?

MYRTLE:

I've told you all my stories, Peggy, about my family, and my mom. But there's one I never did tell you yet. You want to hear it?

PEGGY:

Sure!

MYRTLE:

It's called The Last Day.

On the very Last Day
We all went to play:
My mother, my brother, and me.
We made up a song
As we swam along
We sang it in five different keys.
After a meal
Of jellyfish veal
We each picked a spot for a float.
We'd napped for a few,
When out of the blue
Came a beastly big thing called a Boat!
My mum tried to scream!
My brother to flee!
They both made it safe to the bank.
But that burgundy bastard
Came faster and faster,
And I ended up in a tank.
And that's my sad tale:
How I wound up with whales,
Jellyfish and dear little penguins.
But I swear to you now
That I'll stick to my vow:
To never give up seeking vengeance.

PEGGY:

Him! THAT burgundy bastard?

MYRTLE:

I'm going to kill him.

PEGGY:

But That's wrong!
Why did you bring me?

MYRTLE:

Because I'm old. I'm slow.
You're young, and you have a sharp beak.
I want you to catch him and pierce him to the ground with that beak until I arrive. I
know I'm slow but the scent of blood will quicken my pace.

PEGGY:

But he didn't put me in the –

MYRTLE:

Peggy remember: the sun and the water are that way. Straight out there.

PEGGY:

But you said we're going home –

MYRTLE:

Just remember where they are and if something happens to me –

PEGGY:

What would happen, Myrtle? You're scaring me.

MYRTLE:

Go towards the water. It's home.

PEGGY:

But the Tank! The Tank is home.

VO:

Revere Beach Station. Doors on the Right.

MYRTLE:

It's time to close in on him.

PEGGY:

But Myrtle!

MYRTLE:

Follow me!

They close in on BURGUNDY BASTARD. Finally only a few steps away, Myrtle
holds Peggy back as she catches her breathe for one last push.

MYRTLE:

Upon my signal: unleash hell.

PEGGY:

What's "hell"?

MYRTLE:

Just go get him. Ready? NOW!
(Peggy and Myrtle charge towards BB).

MYRTLE:

Get him! Pin him down!
(PEGGY tackles the Burgundy Bastard and holds her sharp beak to his neck).

BURGUNDY BASTARD:

What the - ?
No! Myrtle?

MYRTLE:

(slowly slowly shuffling towards the man)
FROM HELL'S HEART I STAB AT THEE!
FOR HATE'S SAKE I SPIT MY LAST BREATH AT THEE!!
DIE!!

(MYRTLE dives onto the man and bites into him.
PEGGY lets go and breathes heavily from the struggle. Until she realizes that
Myrtle has given all she can give.)

PEGGY:

Myrtle? You ok?

MYRTLE:

(dying):

Earn. This.
(PEGGY is alone!)

PEGGY:

Myrtle? Myrtle the Squirtle? Wake up we have to go home. Wake up Myrtle we
have to go back to the tank. It's almost feeding time.
(The Doors open.)

VO:

Wonderland. Last stop. No passengers. No passengers.

PEGGY:

Use the fours, Peggy.
Go to the water. Go to the sea.
Oh Myrtle. The sun. It's just like a hug.

(PEGGY slowly steps off the train, and walks slowly up the low hill where the
sun hits her and she can see out over the ocean.)