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Container of Sharks!

A play in one-act

By Don Zolidis

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One-Act Comedy

19 any gender plus ensemble

Welcome to Container of Sharks, a TV show where entrepreneurs put their ideas to the test in the hopes of winning start-up money from a panel of billionaire investors and one actual shark. Will these apex predators invest in a jetpack that rockets kids from activity to activity so their parents never have to leave the sports bar? What about a fire-beam laser that targets annoying people? Or Jordan's grandma's cookie recipe? The stakes are high – any business hopeful who fails to convince the panel their idea is worth investing in gets thrown to the sharks... literally!

Cast of Characters

THE VOICE, possibly a disembodied voice, or an actual person with a microphone. The Voice is cool and effortless in that television announcer kind of way.

The Sharks:

RAMINA MOUNTJOY, a colossus in the industrial chemicals, superconductor, and petroleum industries. She is very serious. Any gender. (change pronouns accordingly)

VISPAN JACK, the bad-boy billionaire of silicon valley. He's into apps, motorcycles, and putting himself into space wearing a leather jacket. He is friends with a lot of famous people. Any gender. (change pronouns accordingly)

YAGTAR, a literal shark. Any gender.

The Entrepreneurs:

SASHA, bff with Trista (may be any gender)
TRISTA, bff with Sasha (may be any gender)
SHIRLEEN, a frustrated person
JERRY, her husband
JORDAN, (any gender)
SPENCE, a bro
TRIPP, a bro
VERONICA, a teenager
BRANSON, her father
CHARLY, a very adorable fiancée
BRENDEN, an equally adorable fiancé
JOYCE, a woman on the verge of a nervous breakdown
TODDRICK, a mad scientist (any gender)
ELLIE, a Mom that thinks she is very cool (any gender)
MADISON, her daughter, an aspiring ventriloquist (any gender)

Bonus Scenes:
LANDRY, any gender
ELLA, any gender
DR. AMBROSE, an unethical scientist, any gender
DR. JONES, a scientist with concerns, any gender
JIMMY, the ringleader (any gender)

Casting: Any role could be done by a person of any gender, adjust names and pronouns accordingly. No reason the married couple couldn't be two men or two women.

To Cut This Show: Simply remove some of the pitches as necessary.
To Make This Show Larger: Use one or both bonus scenes at the end of the script.

Lights up on an expensive-looking boardroom.

THE VOICE

This. Is The Container… of Sharks!

Cool music happens.

A cauldron where aspiring entrepreneurs come asking for money. Lots and lots of money. So much money. From a group of powerful self-made billionaire investors with the resources to make – or break – their dreams.

More cool music happens.

The task is simple: Convince these apex predators that your idea is worth investing in, and you will walk away with their own money. Fail to convince them… and it's possible terrible agony awaits as you are torn limb from limb by actual sharks. All filmed live in front of an audience of your loved ones and childhood elementary school teachers.

Let's meet the investors!

RAMINA enters powerfully, looking tough in a power suit. She has a briefcase.

Ramina Mountjoy started as a janitor for Exxon and built a multi-billion dollar petroleum and industrial chemical empire that operates in twenty-four countries, most of them legally. Her colossus of environmentally-insensitive products is in everything from "organic" meat to your children, and all the toys they play with. She did not come to play. She came to slay.

Ramina sits powerfully.

Noise – VISPAN enters to the sound of motorcycles.

Vispan Jack was raised by a commune of hippies on values of freedom and self-expression, but he ignored all that and is now known as the bad boy of Silicon Valley! His first app, Candy Crush, is in four billion phones worldwide, even in those phones that think they deleted it. Candy Crush watches you every hour, every day, and knows everything about you and your loved ones. I'm sure that's comforting. He's planning a trip into outer space just for himself, just so he can look down on everyone.

Vispan does a twirl, and sits in a really cool way.

Maybe the theme from Jaws here.

Another Noise.

And finally, Yagtar, a literal shark.

YAGTAR enters.

An eighteen foot long apex predator murder machine capable of feasting on three percent of its body weight per day, Yagtar also did not come here to play. He came to slay. And then eat.

Yagtar sits, all business.

Container of Sharks is not affiliated with any other television show and any resemblance is completely coincidental how dare you suggest it, how dare you, how dare you.

VISPAN

All right let's do this I'm in a good mood today!

RAMINA

You're always in a good mood.

VISPAN

It's easy to be in a good mood when you look like this! And you're worth billions. Man I want to go into space so bad right now. Earth is terrible. Mostly because of us.

RAMINA

Yagtar, how are you doing?

YAGTAR

Hungry.

RAMINA

Love it.

VISPAN

All right what do we got?!

1.

THE VOICE

The first to enter the Container of Sharks are best friends Sasha and Trista.

SASHA and TRISTA enter. Sasha is bursting full of confidence. Trista… less so. They are dressed up a bit like Renaissance figures.

SASHA *(with a flourish)*

Greetings Apex Predators of the Sea!

VISPAN

I love this already!

YAGTAR

YES.

SASHA

I'm Sasha and this is Trista and we are…

SASHA *(supposed to be in unison, but not)*

The Ethical Makeup Maidens!

TRISTA *(a little late)*

The Ethical Makeup Maidens!

She curtsies.

SASHA *(to Trista, as an aside)*

We're not doing the curtsy there.

TRISTA *(out of the side of her mouth)*

I thought we were.

SASHA *(out of the side of her mouth)*

Well I thought you had listened during rehearsal but I guess I was mistaken.

Back to the sharks

Take it away, Trista!

Sasha steps back and watches Trista present with increasing disappointment.

TRISTA

We are two awesome friends and you know what we hate? Makeup. Not wearing it, we love wearing it, but there's a big problem with makeup: It's tested on animals.

RAMINA

There's plenty of makeup that's not tested on animals.

TRISTA *(thrown)*

Yes. Yes. That is a good point. Um… You are right.

RAMINA

I know I'm right. I didn't get to be a billionaire without being right about everything.

TRISTA

Good! But uh – what about using green energy to power your makeup factory? Or using makeup that bio-degrades to create good soil after you wash it off? Those things don't exist. I think. Pretty sure.

SASHA *(trying to save it)*

Until Now!

TRISTA

Until now.

She takes a deep breath. Takes out a makeup case.

With Pure Green Makeup you can live a pure green life and still look beautiful. We are seeking one hundred thousand dollars for a fifteen percent stake in our company. From you wonderful sharks.

YAGTAR

Sharks!

RAMINA

That's a lot of money for makeup.

VISPAN

I like it! Yes!

TRISTA

So now we will demonstrate just how awesome this makeup makes you feel inside…

She forgets the next part

SASHA *(whispering)*

And out!

TRISTA *(trying to whisper back)*

What?

SASHA *(louder)*

And out!

TRISTA

What about…

SASHA

Inside and out!

TRISTA *(realizing it)*

Oh. Inside and out!

Sasha steps forward

SASHA

Okay Trista have a seat.

There is no seat.

TRISTA

Sure! There's no – there's no chair.

SASHA

You were supposed to bring the chair.

TRISTA

Why was I supposed to bring the chair?

SASHA

So we wouldn't stand here looking like idiots.

TRISTA

I'm not the one making a big deal –

SASHA

I'm supposed to put makeup on you standing up? I'm just gonna stand up straight like a robot putting -

TRISTA *(overlapping)*

I thought they would have a chair!

SASHA *(overlapping)*

You always do this.

TRISTA *(overlapping)*

Oh I always do this?!

SASHA

Yes. Yes you do. Remember 7th grade when we had the presentation on the moon, and you were supposed to bring the moon model?

TRISTA

Oh my gosh that was *your* moon model! You were the moon model person! I wrote the song!

SASHA

The song was trash! That you took five minutes –

TRISTA

But you always blamed the model on me and I didn't have anything to do with it!

SASHA *(singing the moon song mockingly)*

What do I see when I look up at night?
It's the moon
it's the moon
it's the moon
it's the mo-oo-oo-ooon –
That was CRAP! You were supposed to do the model and you -

VISPAN

Hey um… maybe you guys could just a get a chair from the set somewhere?

SASHA

Thank you! Thank you so much! Yes! Trista is going to go find a chair right now.

TRISTA

Am I?

SASHA

Yes you are.
Stare down.

It seems like the person who forgot the chair should go get the chair. I mean that makes sense, right?

TRISTA

Maybe the person who didn't plan on the chair should get the chair.

SASHA

I planned on the chair.

TRISTA

Where is it then? Is it an invisible chair? Can I sit on the invisible chair?

She tries to sit on the invisible chair.

Oh look I'm sitting on the invisible chair this is super comfortable I wonder if I can lean back in my invisible chair.

Sasha just stares at her.

SASHA

Get it. Get the chair. Get it now.

TRISTA

You get it.

SASHA

You get it. Get it. Get it now. Get it.

VISPAN gets up.

VISPAN

You know what? Take my chair.

YAGTAR

I don't even need a chair because I'm shark!

VISPAN

Okay take his chair.

SASHA

Thank you.

They both stand there.

TRISTA

Okay I guess I'll get the chair because I'm the servant I guess whatever.

She gets the chair, plops it down, and sits.

They go back into their routine.

SASHA *(high energy again)*

What we're going to do now is demonstrate how fantastic ethical makeup can look when it is applied to a human face instead of an animal face.

YAGTAR

YES. Faces. Mmmmmm…

SASHA

Exactly! Faces. Okay, Trista will be my human guinea pig –

TRISTA

But not an actual guinea pig!

SASHA

Certainly not. Because we love guinea pigs! We love them so much.

TRISTA

They're so cute.

SASHA

They are.

They have a moment. They get really emotional.

I am so sorry. It's just there's so much pressure right now – with you and the sharks and losing my job and the whole thing with Darrel –

TRISTA

You were too good for him.

SASHA

I know!

TRISTA

We all knew he was trash!

SASHA

I should've listened to you!

TRISTA

I love you so much!

SASHA

I love you!

Getting herself together

Which is why I am going to put this ethical makeup on you right now so you look as beautiful as you are on the inside –

TRISTA

And you are beautiful –

SASHA *(in tears)*

I know!

Sasha starts applying foundation.

So we start with the foundation –

TRISTA

It's tingling!

SASHA

The tingle tells you it's ethical –

TRISTA

It's like a million little bees are stinging my face –

SASHA

Because the bees are still alive –

TRISTA

And they are crawling all over me! Which is great! We love bees.

Trista is trying to hold it together but it HURTS –

SASHA

You are so pretty now!

Trista whimpers in pain. She can't speak.

Okay just a few more minutes…

Trista whimpers louder. It hurts so much.

Now we ethically source the materials for our makeup from organic plants, which are grown organically without pesticides. If you look closely you can see the organic-ness working.

Trista is in agony.

The sweat beading on her forehead is actually a good thing. It's the body's natural reaction to being coated in a film.

TRISTA

OH IT HURTS SO MUCH I'M SO SORRY AAAAAH!!!!

She flees.

Sasha takes a moment.

SASHSA

And it helps you run faster.

Lights down.

2.

THE VOICE

Coming up next on Container of Sharks… A husband and wife team from Little Rock, Arkansas. Jerry and Shirleen Reynolds!

SHIRLEEN bursts out – intense and well-prepared.

JERRY enters, looking a bit confused.

SHIRLEEN

Hello Apex Predators! How are you doing today?

VISPAN

Amazing! I am so rich.

RAMINA

Actually I've been having a bit of a –

SHIRLEEN

Fantastic! Now I love my husband Jerry! Say hi Jerry!

JERRY

Hi Jerry.

SHIRLEEN

Isn't he a stitch! He is SO funny! But you know what's not funny? His SNORING!

JERRY

I don't even realize I'm doing it.

SHIRLEEN

I know! Which is part of the horrible, horrible problem! He falls asleep first every night –

JERRY

Shirleen likes to read her stories in bed.

SHIRLEEN

We're not making this about me, Jerry! This is about you! He falls asleep every night and then it sounds like this!

She makes a ridiculously loud snoring sound.

Actually!

She takes out a microphone or bullhorn and snores as loud as she can into it.

But like right into the side of your face!

She puts it up to Jerry's face. Snores again.

All night long! For hours! And hours! And I need my beauty sleep!

JERRY

She sure does!

SHIRLEEN

Ha ha ha ha quiet Jerry! Sometimes he doesn't know when to stop making noise! Like all night long! Am I right?

JERRY

Am I supposed to say something now?

SHIRLEEN

Do you think you're supposed to say something.

JERRY

I think the key to a happy marriage is just saying, yes, dear. Whatever she's saying? Yes, Dear.

SHIRLEEN

That's because Jerry doesn't take the time to understand or listen to what I'm saying!

JERRY

Yes, Dear.

SHIRLEEN

Now my first solution to the Jerry snoring problem was called "The Other Room!" Ha ha ha. But that had its own problems because it was my crafting room!

JERRY

Shirleen makes bespoke kitten figurines. They stared at me while I slept. Sometimes they talked.

SHIRLEEN

Sometimes that was just me making voices!

JERRY

`I'll kill you, Jerry. I'll kill you dead.'

SHIRLEEN

Ha ha ha we have fun!

JERRY

I stopped sleeping entirely. I would see the kittens in my nightmares. Their big eyes staring at me. Always staring.

SHIRLEEN

So he couldn't sleep in the other room anymore! So what could I do to fix him?

JERRY

She's always trying to fix me.

SHIRLEEN

Because he's so broken!

JERRY

Well I wouldn't say broken –

SHIRLEEN

Ha ha ha I would! Anyway, what to do? So I created this! The snore-destroyer!

Shirleen produces a huge helmet.

VISPAN

Whoah that is awesome. I could use that for space.

RAMINA

How does that possibly work?

SHIRLEEN

Apex predators – I am asking for two hundred thousand dollars for a ten percent stake in snore-destroyer!

RAMINA

I'm not seeing how this works.

SHIRLEEN

It works great! Watch!

She settles the helmet on his head. Straps it on.

Now sleep, Jerry.

Jerry does nothing.

She knocks on the side of the helmet.

Go to sleep, Jerry. Shhhhh….

Jerry tries to lie down with the massive helmet on his head.

YAGTAR

I'm having flashbacks to the sea. When they watched me. In their cages. Always watching.

RAMINA

Is he alive in there?

SHIRLEEN

Probably! Give a thumb's up if you're alive, Jerry.

Nothing happens.

Give a thumb's up if you're alive, Jerry!

Nothing.

He does this sometimes! Little jokes! Such a stitch!

She taps on his helmet again.

He gives a thumb's up.

See?! So, when I go to bed…

She lies down somewhere near him.

I can't hear him at all! And now, with the super snore-destroyer –

She takes out a black blanket or towel and wraps it around the helmet –

I don't even have to look at him! Marriage solved!

She gets back up.

Who needs couples therapy when you don't have to see or hear your husband. Am I right?

Lights down.

3.

THE VOICE

Coming up next is Jordan, with a great new way to discover cookies.

JORDAN enters, holding a few Tupperware containers filled with cookies.

JORDAN

Some of my favorite people are apex predators!

She laughs at her own joke.

Little joke to start things off! Hi there. My name is Jordan and I have a new take on an old favorite: the chocolate chip cookie. Now I know many of you are thinking: how can you possibly improve a perfect cookie? And for most people, you can't! You seriously can't. You think you can do better, but you can't. It's impossible. But none of you people are my grandmother.

VISPAN

At least not that I know of!

JORDAN

You're not. You're not my grandmother.

VISPAN

I was making a joke.

JORDAN

I don't joke about my grandmother.

VISPAN

Good to know.

JORDAN

She was a very special woman. And I won't have her mocked.

VISPAN

I wasn't –

JORDAN

You think you can fool me?

RAMINA

Uh – maybe we can get back to the presentation.

JORDAN

Sure.

Jordan holds VISPAN's gaze for a moment. Then switches back.

So welcome to Grandma's Cookies!

RAMINA

Isn't there a Grandma's Cookies already?

JORDAN

Not my grandmother.

RAMINA

No I but I think it's an actual brand –

VISPAN *(checking his phone)*

You can get it from Amazon.

JORDAN

They are not my grandmother's cookies. These are my grandmother's cookies. Made with her recipe. Which she brought over from the old country. That was the only thing she brought. And now – I will share them with you.

Jordan hands out a cookie to each of the judges.

Yagtar eats his like a shark in a feeding frenzy.

YAGTAR

OM NOM NOM NOM NOM GOOD COOKIE.

The others take bites.

VISPAN

Yum. This is pretty good.

JORDAN

I'm sorry?

VISPAN

It's pretty good. Not the best chocolate chip cookie I've ever had, but solid.

JORDAN

Those are my grandmother's recipe.

VISPAN

Yeah I got that part.

JORDAN

First you pretend you are my grandmother and now you disrespect her like this?

VISPAN

I said they were good.

JORDAN

These are the best cookies you've ever had.

VISPAN

No they're actually not.

RAMINA

I'm gonna agree with him – these are decent.

JORDAN

Decent?! They're *decent* cookies?!

YAGTAR

I LIKE.

JORDAN

Thank you! At least one of you has taste!

YAGTAR

I eat anything that moves. Sometimes tires.

JORDAN *(holding it together)*

Let me tell you something about my grandmother. Because you people don't know anything about cookies or love or grandmothers or beauty. She was a beautiful woman. And she told me… she took my face in her hands and said, "Jordan… share my cookies with the world. Let them know."

Jordan takes a moment

And I said, "Gram-Gram" I will do it. I will do it for you.
And she said, make sure they give you three hundred thousand dollars for a five percent stake in the company.

So much emotion

And I said, "I will Gram-Gram. If it's the last thing I do! Because I love you!"

Even more emotion
And she said, "I love you to the moon!"
Oh God the emotions
And I said, "I love you to the stars!"
You cannot imagine how much emotion is in this next sentence
And she said, "I love you more than that!"
Everyone should be crying now
And I couldn't even think of what's past that but I LOVE YOU SO MUCH.
Jordan cannot continue. She is overcome with tears.

VISPAN

Uh…

YAGTAR

I WILL EAT THIS GRANDMA.

RAMINA

No Yagtar we don't eat Grandmas.

YAGTAR

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.

VISPAN

Look, I'm sorry about your grandmother –

JORDAN

Spare me your lies.

VISPAN

But just because she died doesn't mean we're going to invest in your company.

JORDAN

Who said she was dead?
Lights change.

4.

THE VOICE

Coming in next on Container of Sharks – Can two classy young gentlemen solve a problem that's been vexing humanity since the beginning of time? We doubt it but we're going to pretend like they've got a shot anyway to keep you from changing the channel. And yes we know that you can be watching this on Hulu or whatever but please keep watching because we need that sweet, sweet ad revenue.
Two bros, SPENCE and TRIPP, enter with a lot of energy.

SPENCE

Yo yo yo what up?!

TRIPP

What is UP, sharks!

SPENCE

Great entrance, Tripp!

TRIPP

Back at ya, Spence!
They high-five.

SPENCE

You know how I'm doing?

TRIPP

How are you doing, bro?

SPENCE

I am AWESOME, bro. You know why?

TRIPP

Why, bro?

SPENCE

Because I have solved ALL of our problems!

TRIPP

All of them? No way, Broseph.

SPENCE

Oh yes, Brotato. All our problems. Let me break it down for ya.
He approaches the sharks. To Ramina:
You are super cute by the way.

RAMINA

Get away from me.

SPENCE

No doubt, no doubt. Fiery. I love it. But let me lay it out for you peeps. I don't know about you, but I have a best friend.

TRIPP

Yup.

SPENCE

And his name is Fuzzbutt, because he is a FUZZY DOG.

Spence either shows a picture of a big fluffy dog, or a big fluffy dog is actually brought on stage.

TRIPP

Fuzzy dog, yo! I be petting him all the times.

SPENCE

He's so fuzzy.

TRIPP

He's like if fur and fuzziness had a baby in dog form.

SPENCE

I love him more than my parents.

TRIPP

Not hard to do!

SPENCE

Sometimes I wrap my arms around him and bury my face in his tummy and I think this is what heaven would be like if heaven was even more awesome than it already is.

TRIPP

No doubt.

SPENCE

But that got my brain gears moving – because what happens with Fuzzbutt?

TRIPP

The dog sheds, yo!

SPENCE

Like a MANIAC.

TRIPP

For reals, I'm sitting in my crib and tumbleweeds of fuzz roll by.

SPENCE

It's in the air. We are inhaling it constantly.

TRIPP

It is doing significant brain damage.

SPENCE
The doctors say we will never recover.

TRIPP
We might have only a few months to live.
Short pause.

SPENCE
Death, yo. It is the great equalizer.

TRIPP
No doubt, bro.
They contemplate the folly of existence.

SPENCE
Bro did you just contemplate the folly of existence?

TRIPP
I did, Brosaurus.

SPENCE
As did I.

TRIPP
Deep.

SPENCE
But anyway I solved the problem!

TRIPP
For real!

SPENCE
What do I like more than petting my fuzzy dog?

TRIPP
Nothing.

SPENCE
True. But second?

TRIPP
Rolling on the ground.

SPENCE

That's right. So I invented fuzzicize!

Tripp brings out a snuggie-type bodysuit or footie pajamas. Helps Spence into it.

TRIPP

This is my favorite part, right here.

SPENCE

Thanks, bro. So what I do – now as soon as I'm done petting Fuzzbutt –

TRIPP

Love him.

SPENCE

I rolls on the floor like this.

Spence gets on the ground and rolls around.

TRIPP

Sometimes I help.

He helps roll Spence around.

SPENCE *(while being rolled)*

All the dog fur sticks to me! So not only am I cleaning the floor, I'm getting exercise, and it's fun.

TRIPP

And I keep rolling him until the floor is clean. Sometimes we both get in these and we race each other.

SPENCE

Good times.

TRIPP

Yes they are, bro. Yes they are.

SPENCE

You complete me.

TRIPP

So what do you say, sharks? Are you ready to roll?

Lights down.

5.

THE VOICE

What's better than having a Dad? A Dad who's also an inventor. And what's better than having a child? A child who is also a willing test subject! Let's meet the father-daughter team of Branson and Veronica Hedges.

BRANSON and VERONICA enter, to applause from the sharks.
They are ready for this, polished.

VERONICA

Hello Apex Predators!

VISPAN

Oh look the kid is taking the lead. This never happens!

BRANSON

You're doing great, pumpkin!

VERONICA

Boy is it hard to have kids these days!

VISPAN

That's funny because you are a kid.

VERONICA

I know! And I know exactly how tough it is to need to pick a kid up from school, and take them to soccer practice, and then to piano practice, and then to a dance recital – not to mention you've got rhythmic gymnastics lessons, horseback riding, and that internship at the tattoo parlor! How do you get your kid to all those activities!?

RAMINA

That's why I hire a driver.

VERONICA

Yes but not everyone can hire a driver.

RAMINA

Because they're losers.

VERONICA *(smiling)*

Some people who don't have drivers aren't losers at all!

RAMINA

Wrong.

VERONICA

Ha ha ha okay. But my Dad is not like other Dads! And when he saw a problem –

BRANSON

You're not a problem.

VERONICA

Instead of driving around all over the place to pick me up, he decided to spend three years in the basement developing experimental technology to solve the problem while Mom took me to all the events.

BRANSON

I missed a lot of dance recitals.

VERONICA

You didn't miss anything. I was mediocre at best. My heart wasn't into it, because you know what my heart was into?

BRANSON *(overlapping)*

Science!

VERONICA *(overlapping)*

The tattoo parlor!

BRANSON

I thought it was science.

VERONICA

Science was second. Do you know that in most states you have to be eighteen to get a tattoo, but there are no restrictions on how old the tattooist has to be? I drew a lot of smiley faces on peoples' backs.

BRANSON

Speaking of backs…

VERONICA

Exactly! Backs. Right.

Branson takes the lead.

BRANSON

Now – Like most Dads, I believe there's no problem that can't be solved by avoiding that problem and spending all of your time doing something else. So I developed a little something I call "the child propulsion system," or Project Icarus for short.

He takes out a backpack and gives it to Veronica, who straps it on.

VISPAN

Is this a jetpack? Cause I am on board for jetbacks.

BRANSON
Ha ha that's a common misperception! And at first I thought jetpacks for elementary school kids was a brilliant idea. But I lost several children so I scrapped that.

VERONICA
Don't worry we found most of them.

BRANSON
Did you know the earth is 2/3rds covered in water? Good thing, too! Ha ha ha.

VERONICA
Good thing the sharks were in here and not out there!

YAGTAR
Sharks also in ocean.

BRANSON
Well I suppose that explains why we're missing a few. But don't worry! Nobody missed those kids because they were annoying.

VERONICA
Fun fact: Most children are a problem.

BRANSON
But I have a solution! And it's not a jetpack. But it's close!
He takes out a controller.
The problem with the jetpack idea was that the children could control their own jetpacks.

VERONICA
Not well, though, because the interface was really complicated, which caused a lot of kids to veer off course or crash into the sea.

BRANSON
Because they were bad at it!

VERONICA
Well –

BRANSON
The solution: Drone Technology! I have implanted eighteen whirling blades inside the backpack – watch your hands and feet and limbs! But I control the movement of the drones through this control device!
He takes out a remote control.
This way I can move a child from one location to any other location THROUGH THE AIR. Soccer practice?

Veronica acts like she's being moved.
Zoooooom done.
Oh it's time for Piano lessons? Welp.
Veronica is moved in the other direction.
Whooooosh. I can even fly her through doors and down hallways if I'm careful!
Veronica acts like she's being maneuvered through a hallway.
And I never have to leave the comfort of my favorite sports bar.

VERONICA
Do you really think you should be drinking while you're piloting me around?

BRANSON
Ha ha ha kids. When will they learn?

VERONICA
I just don't think that –

BRANSON
Do I need to remind you not to question me since I control your every movement and can pilot you into the sun?
Turns to the sharks.
And it doubles as a handy parenting tool!
Lights down.

6.

THE VOICE
The most beautiful day of your lives could also be the most beautiful business opportunity of your lives. Real-life fiances Charly and Brenden have a plan that they hope can impress the sharks. But can they? And maybe if a shark invests they can be in the wedding party!

YAGTAR
YES. YAGTAR IN WEDDING PARTY. EAT GUESTS. EAT GUESTS.
CHARLY and BRENDEN enter. They wear just a bit of wedding gear – maybe a veil for her, and a cummerbund for him.

CHARLY
Hey there! I'm Charly!

BRENDEN
And I'm Brenden!

CHARLY
And we're in love!

BRENDEN

We sure are!

They gaze at each other.

RAMINA

Next.

CHARLY

No no no we're ADORABLE.

BRENDEN

You're adorable.

CHARLY

I'm only adorable because I'm reflecting your love.

RAMINA

NEXT.

BRENDEN

And my love is only so strong because you taught me how to love.

RAMINA

Isn't there a button that lets me rain fire on them or something? Hey. HEY.

THE VOICE

Yes?

RAMINA

Why don't we a button that lets us rain fire on the presenters?

THE VOICE

That's only available in the Container of Sharks Japanese Version.

RAMINA

Darn it.

VISPAN

I want to hear what they have to say. I love people in love.

RAMINA

You would.

YAGTAR

Me too. They are easy prey for Yagtar. And usually taste great.

Charly and Brenden have been staring into each other's eyes this entire time.

VISPAN

Can you guys keep going?

BRENDEN

Oh sorry. I was lost in her eyes.

CHARLY

And I was lost in you being lost.

BRENDEN

If you ever got lost, I will help you find your way home.

CHARLY

Home is wherever you are.

VISPAN

Okay I'm coming around on the raining fire on them idea. Can we get started please!

CHARLY

Of course! Now, like any amazing couple, we are planning our… wedding!

BRENDEN

It will be the greatest event in everyone's lives!

CHARLY

And if you invest in our product you will be invited to the wedding!

RAMINA

No.

CHARLY

Or, if you want to apologize for not coming to the wedding, you can send us a wedding gift.

RAMINA

Hard pass.

BRENDEN

One thing I know about me and my fiancée, Charly, is that everyone loves us. Because we remind you of how you used to be, when you were crazy in love and attractive. I have seen many old people look at us with a tear in their eye.

CHARLY

We make a lot of old people sad.

BRENDEN

But we have a problem.

CHARLY

One day we will not be this amazing. We will be old – like you.

BRENDEN

And our wedding is only going to be happening for 17 hours of our lives.

CHARLY

So really the problem is with space and time.

BRENDEN

Because no matter how much we love each other, we can't stop time.

CHARLY

Can't we?

They gaze at each other.

RAMINA

NO YOU CAN'T.

BRENDEN

You're right. But we can do the next best thing!

CHARLY

With our patented nuptial technology, we have implanted tiny cameras into the wedding dress and the tuxedo.

BRENDEN

The cameras are continuously on, uploading to the cloud, which is then beamed directly to our home DVR system.

CHARLY

This way, we can relive all 17 hours of our wedding EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

BRENDEN

We won't miss anything! Ever.

RAMINA

You're going to watch all of your wedding all day every day?

CHARLY *(overlapping)*

Of course.

BRENDEN *(overlapping)*

Not every day.

Pause. Charly looks at Brenden.

CHARLY

What do you mean, not every day?

BRENDEN

I mean that's like… that's a lot of time on our wedding.

CHARLY

A lot of time on the most magical most special day of our lives? A lot of time on the day that I have literally been planning since I was five years old? Too much time?

BRENDEN

Well I mean, you know, we need to… do other things.

CHARLY

What "other things" could be better than our wedding?

BRENDEN

I mean like… living.

She stares at him.

CHARLY

I am hearing words coming out of your mouth right now but they are insane words from a goblin which has obviously killed my true live and stolen his skin and put it over his evil goblin face. Because my true love would not say something as hurtful as that to his fiancée.

BRENDEN

We have to eat, Charly!

CHARLY

Oh oh oh okay I get it! You need to EAT! Wouldn't want to have our love take up too much time when you're too busy stuffing your gluttonous face hole!

BRENDEN

I get hungry! I need to eat things!

CHARLY

You're a monster! You were stolen by aliens and replaced by a robot!

BRENDEN

You know what?! The wedding is OFF!

CHARLY

GOOD!

BRENDEN

GREAT!

CHARLY

EXCELLENT!

BRENDEN

FANTASTIC!

They stare at each other.

They both crack at the same time.

CHARLY and BRENDEN

I AM SO SORRY I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!!!

Pause.

BRENDEN

Oh and copies of the video will also be sent to all the guests!

Lights down.

7.

THE VOICE

Next up to fish in the shark-infested waters. How many sharks are actually need to "infest" waters, anyway? I'm guessing at least two. But our next guest is a tough-as-nails graduate from the school of hard knocks. Joyce.

JOYCE, who looks like a very sweet Mom, enters.

She is very, very nervous and about to lose it.

JOYCE

Hello Sharks.

She takes a deep breath.

Sometimes with all of the trauma we are experiencing on a daily basis, we need something that's a little bit of a stick-me-up. Pick-me-up. A pick-me-up.

She is trying to hold it together.

I mean a pick-me-up. I said the word wrong. Which is really stupid of me. I always do this – as soon as I have a chance at doing something great I screw it up. I forgot to tell you my name. My name is Joyce. Actually you probably already know that from what the Voice said so why am I bothering to say it again?

She shivers and twitches

Can I start over please?

VISPAN

Um…

JOYCE

Hello Sharks!

Takes another moment.

Hello Sharks. *Hello* Sharks! Hello Sharks

YAGTAR

We're not actually all sharks.

JOYCE

Right I'm being really offensive I am so sorry. Hello Humans and Shark! My name is Joyce, and sometimes with the daily trauma in our lives we need a little something to… a pick-me-up.

She's about to lose it again. She hisses to herself.

`Get it together, Joyce. You can do this.'

`Everyone was right about you.'

`Shut your face. Shut your stupid face I'm not listening to you.'

`That's why you fail.'

`No. NO. *Nooooo.'*

She growls like the Hulk and rallies, talking really fast.

So what I decided to do was make these stickers! Yes I did! And these stickers come in packs of twelve and you can put them on things! Like this one if you need to remind yourself of your capabilities! It says "You can do it!"

She puts the sticker on herself.

But of course you can't read it if you put it on your shirt, so you need to put it somewhere else so I'm actually going to take the sticker off and put it here-

She takes the sticker off and puts it on her arm.

It doesn't really stick as well to skin because that's not how stickers work, but I'm working on that, this is just the prototype actually, but… there are other stickers, like this one that says "I believe in you!" Yes! Sometimes you need that. Sometimes you need to have someone believe in you, even if you're the only person who believes in you. Even if everyone else thinks you're a loon, and thinks you'll never make it, and says that your sticker idea is dumb and you'll never amount to anything and you should've never left Bemidji and you're going to fail in a blaze of fire and you will die alone. Even then.

She puts the other sticker on herself and looks at it. Sadly.

Sometimes the stickers don't work.

She sniffles.

VISPAN

Um…

JOYCE *(rallying)*

But I have others! Like this one which says "You will not die alone."

She contemplates that sticker.

This one is dark. I mean you probably don't need a sticker to say this if you were a confident person. I guess I'm the kind of person who needs a sticker to tell me I'm not going to die alone. But what does the sticker know, honestly? The sticker doesn't have some kind of stranglehold on truth. The sticker is just a meaningless saying why did I even make them? Who would do that?

She takes another sticker, reads it

"You can avoid poor decisions."

She stops.

Can I start over?

Lights change.

8.

THE VOICE

Sometimes there are ideas the sharks cannot resist. And this one, by Toddrick the inventor might just be one.

TODDRICK enters, dressed like a mad scientist.

TODDRICK

Sharks, would you like to rain fire upon annoying people?

VISPAN

YES! ABSOLUTELY!

RAMINA

SIGN ME UP!

TODDRICK

Now, with my orbiting death station –

VISPAN

I AM SOLD HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU WANT?

RAMINA

I WILL DOUBLE WHATEVER HE IS OFFERING.

YAGTAR

SHAARRRRK! SHAAAARK!

TODDRICK

Can I actually just do my presentation please? I spent a lot of time on this.

VISPAN

Please. Go ahead. But just know that I have already bought it.

RAMINA

You're going to have to outbid me.

TODDRICK

Oh first you have to imagine that I've got the hero tied up or something.

Begins evil villain monologue

`Ha ha ha ha. Struggle as you might, Mr. Bond, you will be too late. My orbiting death station is now fully operational. The Australian government never realized that I have reprogrammed their satellite. Ha ha ha. I'm afraid Kangaroo 1 is now completely under my control. With it, I can target any man, woman, or pet from space. Shall I demonstrate it on your beloved shih-tzu? Oh yes I know you have shih-tzu. Beebers. I know everything about you, Mr. Bond. But I'm not cruel, I will send you a condolences card. I know how difficult it can be to lose a pet.'

Breaks out of it

Sharks! Would you like to give a speech exactly like this one to one of your mortal enemies?

VISPAN

Yes!

TODDRICK

Well now you can, with my orbiting fire beam laser! Not only can it incinerate someone from space, you can also adjust the pain settings from mildly annoying to excruciating agony! With my personal laser targeting system, controlled by your home Alexa system, you will wield the power of life and death over the people who are pitching their ideas to you. A new take on the teddy bear? BZZZT. Ashes. A poorly designed presentation? BLZZZAP. Smoke is all the remains. Not enough visual aids? BOOM. How do you like them apples? Allow me to demonstrate. Let's say you find an annoying person.

Charly and Brenden enter.

CHARLY

Why am I being brought back out here again?

BRENDEN

Ooh I think they want to hear our pitch again!

CHARLY

I knew it. Okay – so sharks –

TODDRICK

Then, with patented government technology that hooks into your smartphone, we're able to pinpoint your location down to the nearest millimeter.

CHARLY

By the way, just so you know, our wedding will reflect our personalities completely.

BRENDEN

We have amazing personalities.

CHARLY

Pretty unique, actually.

BRENDEN

We're very special.

TODDRICK

Blzzzap! And there you have it!

VISPAN

Was something supposed to happen there?

RAMINA

I thought this was going to be a demonstration.

YAGTAR

SHAAARK.

TODDRICK

Sometimes it takes the system a little while to warm up the laser. When it hasn't been activated for a while, it takes a few seconds to build up enough charge.

VISPAN

So what happens while it's building up the charge?

TODDRICK

Oh you just have to make sure your target doesn't move at all. But also remember that sometimes the satellite glitches a bit and it can be off by thirty or forty feet.

RAMINA

Thirty or forty feet?

TODDRICK

Yeah basically the size of this stage. So…

VISPAN

So the laser will hit anywhere on the stage?

TODDRICK

Uh… I have to go.

Lights down.

9.

THE VOICE

Up next on Container of Sharks, Ellie and Madison Barnes have developed a great new fad for the youth of today!

ELLIE, the Mom, and MADISON, the daughter, enter – they are color-coordinated. Ellie is really into it. Madison is maybe not as into it.

ELLIE

Hi Sharks!

MADISON

Hey there!

ELLIE

I'm Ellie and this is Madison!

MADISON

Hey there!

ELLIE

You might think we're sisters, but I'm actually her mother! I know I look young!

MADISON

Or maybe I look really old.

ELLIE

Maybe!

RAMINA

Are you going to get to your presentation?

ELLIE

You bet! Now I don't know if any of you are parents…

RAMINA

I never had time for kids.

VISPAN

Hate them.

YAGTAR

Kids are great. Super tasty. Oh you mean do I have any kids? Are you asking me if there are any… baby sharks?

MADISON

Maybe that's not the right question.

YAGTAR

Because I could tell you about baby sharks.

MADISON

Please don't.

YAGTAR

My mate actually releases about fifty of them at a time. Most get eaten by predators.

ELLIE

Anyway… as a parent, I have found that the most annoying thing about children is regulating screen time!

End of Excerpt.
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