

## **SID DA SQUID**

**SID**

Dis is da tale of Sid Da Squid  
And the wonderful deeds that Sidney did.  
But nobody knows – cos nobody saw,  
Cos he did what he did - on the ocean floor.

**SIRENS**

When you're wrecked on the bed of the ocean,  
When you're out of your depth in the sea,  
When the Sharks are around and the chips are down,  
Call Sidney's agency.

**SID**

I'm Sid – Sid Da Squid – Underwater Detective.  
I was sitting in Harry Da Prawn's place  
Sipping a large Seawater Cocktail On The Rocks.  
A couple of Pickled Herrings were propping up the bar.  
I wriggled uneasily. The place was full of sharks.  
Some beautiful fishes were singing a sad song.

**SIRENS**

I heard a dreadful story on my ocean TV,  
Another million plankton lost at sea.  
It's sad an' it's awful but what can you do?  
You never believe it could happen to you.  
It's just another story that you hear on the news.  
I got those microscopic creature deep-sea foodchain blues!

**SID**

Soon as The Submarine Sisters had finished their set a Shoal of Small Fry  
swam into view and started up a Conga. What I was doing in a low dive  
like this? Cod alone knows! I had a note in my pocket.

**VELDA**

Meet me at the Jellyfish Club. Help! Velda Skate.

**SID**

Who *was* Velda Skate?

VELDA

Hi Big Fish! I'm Velda Skate. I need your help, Sid. I'm in *really hot water*!

SID

O.K. Babe! What's cooking?

VELDA

I know who filleted Phil The Flounder!

SID

Holy Mackerel! I've been after that moidering fish for months.  
Now at last I had him in my tentacles! O.K. Babe – who did it?

VELDA

It was ...

NARRATION

Suddenly the lights went out and all hell was let loose.  
A great big Hammerhead Shark with a harpoon scar on his jaw  
Grabbed one of Sid's arms.  
A shifty Cod grabbed another.  
That left him with only eight – to deal with the rest.  
That should have been enough, but ...

VELDA

An Electric Eel did a dirty deal  
And slid behind Sid's back.  
Let fly a bolt -

SID

– Sid felt a jolt.

SID & VELDA

Then everything went black!

SID

No one can say how long Sid lay  
In his unconscious state.

VELDA

When the lights came on the sharks were gone.

SID & VELDA  
And so – was Velda Skate!

SID  
When I came round, Harry Da Prawn was bending over me.

HARRY  
Hey, Sid – you all right?

SID  
Don't come the *crab sandwich* with me, Harry!  
Where's Velda Skate?

HARRY  
I don't know, Sid – I swear – I don't know nuttin'!

SID  
Who's behind all this?

HARRY  
Come on, Sid! Give a Prawn a break!

SID  
Harry – it's *cocktail time*!

HARRY  
No! Not that! O.K.! O.K., Sid – I'll tell you every-fin!

SID  
Who?

HARRY  
Ray!

SID  
Who?

HARRY  
Ray!

SID

Don't try to be funny with me, Harry – or it's a quick peel and a long lie on the lettuce!

HARRY

No! No! Raymond the *Stingray*! Him and his Gang of Sharks – they're holed up in that Old Wreck down by the Reef.  
I guess dat's where dey took da skate!

SID

It might be trap!

VELDA

He might be hooked!

SID

*She* might be the bait!

VELDA

But he'd hate to see such a tasty fish

SID

Laid out on someone's plate.

VELDA

It was dark at the bottom of the ocean.

SID

It was getting kinda late,

VELDA

When Sid Da Squid left Harry Da Prawn's

SID & VELDA

On da tail of Velda Skate!

SID

The Wreck!

Ray da Ray's Place.

The kind of hole no law-abiding fish'd wanna get caught in.

Sid felt sick to his sack.

He rapped on the wreck with his beak!

A grill opened!

[F/X GRILL OPENS]

Two – or three – luminous eyes appeared.

SARDINE  
Whaddaya wan bud?

SID  
Velda Skate!

SARDINE  
We're closed!

F/X GRILL SLIDES SHUT.

SID  
Just a joke! Ha ha!

F/X GRILL OPENS

SARDINE  
Ha ha!  
What *do* ya wan then, bud?

SID  
You know, the usual - gambling, protection, illegal seawater, that kind of stuff.

SARDINE  
Why dincha sayso?  
Come on in, bud!

SID  
The place was jumping!

SIRENS  
Bee ba balloola she's my baby!  
Bee ba baloola, I don't mean maybe.

SID  
They were packed in like Sardines  
But they was havin' a whale of a time!  
Some of the nastiest sea creatures you'd see outside an aquarium: Lulu  
Lamprey

Ozzy Oyster,  
Silas Seaslug!  
They were *all there*!

SIRENS  
Bee ba ballula she's my baby - octopus!

SID  
The music stopped.  
And forty one cold eyes were trained on me.  
Then Ray Da Ray flapped slowly in.  
And that made forty three.

RAY  
Hi Sid.

VELDA  
He said.

RAY  
I'm glad to see ya!  
I just knew you'd come!

SID  
So – I bin suckered!

RAY  
Yeah!

VELDA  
Said Ray.

RAY  
Sid Da Squid's bin *done*!

SID  
Then Velda Skate swam in  
And rippled up to Ray Ray's side.

VELDA  
You fell for it, hook line and sinker, Sid.  
And now – you gonna be fried!

SID  
Who filleted Phil The Flounder?

VELDA  
Why,

SID  
Said Velda,

VEDLA  
Me!

SID  
Ray gave a laugh.

RAY  
You see, Sid,  
Fins aint what dey seem to be!

SID  
Ha Ha!

RAY  
Ha Ha!

SID  
Ha Ha!

SID  
It was no joke anymore.  
Next step – the concrete overshoes – the beach at midnight.  
When they found me my lungs'd be – full of air.  
I needed to think and think fast.  
I felt for my ink sack. It was full.  
When they swam for me – I gave them a big fat squoit!  
For the second time that day

SID & VELDA  
– everything went black.

VELDA  
In the confusion Sid flung one of the long arms of the law round Ray.

SID

It's over, bud. One false move – and it's Friday Night at the Bishopthorpe Rd Chip Shop!

VELDA

Silence. Broken only by the sound of blubbering.

SID

Ray and The Sharks were taken down the station for a grilling.

Velda – went down for a long time.

A lot of sardines – ended up in the can.

I sat in my office – wondering about the porpoise of it all.

I couldn't get that Skate out of my mind. Still,

Like my mudda used to say,

“There's plenty other – strangers on the shore!”

SIRENS/TAPE

Ba doo, ba doo, ba doo dad a dad a.

Ba doo dad a dad a – daaaa daaaa!