

SPONGEBOB (CONT'D)
LET ME SHOW YOU, LET ME MAKE YOU PROUD.

I'VE BEEN WAITING PATIENTLY
TO BE THE SPONGE I'M MEANT TO BE -
WON'T ANYONE BELIEVE IN MEEEEEE--

*SpongeBob is interrupted by a GIANT RUMBLE.
Everything on stage shakes. SpongeBob tries
again.*

EEEEEE--

Another RUMBLE.

EEEEEE--

Yet another RUMBLE.

SQUIDWARD
Um. Is that something we should worry about?

SPONGEBOB
Nah.

*But then, lights snap up on news anchor PERCH
PERKINS. He speaks with urgency and intensity.
Think: cable news in a moment of crisis.*

PERCH PERKINS
Breaking news: that is something we should worry about! After today's
second unexplained tremor, smoke has been sighted at the top of Mount
Humongous—the long-slumbering volcano of doom.

*On screen: MOUNT HUMONGOUS is revealed,
looking very scary indeed. Smoke is rising from
the top of the mountain.*

PERCH PERKINS (CONT'D)
And now, a live statement from the mayor of our town.

Lights rise on the Mayor of Bikini Bottom.

MAYOR OF BIKINI BOTTOM
Ladies and gentlefish, if this mountain erupts, orange rivers of steaming
lava will obliterate all we know and love. *(abrupt beat shift, placid smile)*
Don't worry, your government has everything under control.

MAYOR OF BIKINI BOTTOM (CONT'D)

I'm starting an initiative to assemble a committee to identify a strategy to evaluate the situation. In the meantime, all citizens must return home and remain indoors. The threat level is now Code Orange.

*Focus snaps back to the Krusty Krab.
Underscoring begins.*

MR. KRABS

Nooo! This means we're going to have to... *(it's hard for him to even get out the words)* close for the day.

Meanwhile, SpongeBob is looking out at the street, watching all the denizens of Bikini Bottom as they hurry home.

SPONGEBOB

I don't get why everyone's so worried. Sure, that volcano might destroy everything. But on the other hand, it might not.

SQUIDWARD

When are you going to learn, SpongeBob? The world is a horrible place filled with fear, suffering and despair. *(beat, then)* Also dashed hopes, shattered dreams, broken promises and abject misery.

SPONGEBOB

(with giant grin) But it's our horrible place... with the best abject misery there is!

Squidward, Krabs and Pearl all groan and exit, leaving SpongeBob alone.

SpongeBob looks over at Perch Perkins.

SPONGEBOB (CONT'D)

They'll see: everything's under control. Right?

Perch shakes his head, ominously, and starts to sing.