

The setting: Seven people meeting in a candlelit room on Montgomery Street.

Sandra: I have gathered you here to pitch a business opportunity to you. Alma de Bretteville Spreckels is starting her own aquarium. She's asked me to assist her in planning and operations. You all have crucial knowledge in order to make her endeavor work.

Earl: I already run an aquarium.

Sandra: Yes, true, but how else am I going to learn to run an aquarium except from someone who runs an aquarium. Or how to acquire animals.

Earl: You can take them.

Sandra: Steal them?

Earl: I didn't say that, just that, sometimes, animals cannot live out in the ocean anymore, and then you can provide them a home.

Sandra: Noted. If you wanted to run this aquarium I'm sure it would be a pay raise.

Earl: Will there be lungfish?

Alice sighs heavily.

Sandra: What?

Earl: Lungfish, the most beautiful of fish? Will you be devoting time and money to the lungfish?

Sandra: I haven't really thought about it. It's Mrs Spreckels call, it's her aquarium.

Earl: My board of directors is going to approve funding for the lungfish any day now, I'm going to start a breeding program.

Alice: They're not going to do that.

Sandra: Are lungfish hard to care for? Are they unusual?

Alice: They can live a long time but they aren't that special.

Earl scoffs.

Alice (chastising Earl): It's important for our aquarium to be well rounded, and devote research funds to many different animals. Not just the lungfish. My research on manatees is equally important.

Her: Okay but what are we here for?

Him: Yeah what do you want us to do?

Sandra: Yes I'm getting to all of that. Earl is here to help discuss how to run an aquarium. Alice is here because she knows how to take care of all the animals. Edgar is here because he's good with decor and it needs to look nice for Mrs. Spreckels. The two of you I thought, until we opened could help me gather specimens and animals. Once we open, I'm going to need some tank care people, and I know you've been studying up on that,

Him/Her: We want to do that! Count us in! We want to swim with the dolphins!

Sandy: If we get a dolphin...

Him: Or a big ray.

Her: A manatee.

Him: A WHALE.

Edgar: They aren't going to have a whale. Can you build a tank big enough for a whale? The fencing alone would be astronomical.

Her: Would be nifty to swim with a whale.

Alice: You'll have to do it in the ocean. Whales would be very hard to care for in an aquarium. They eat so much. More than Butterball, he eats about 60 pounds of cabbage and lettuce. Of course, he is very popular, so he's worth it.

Myrium (to herself): Group is discussing about how a fish is “worth it.”
Unlikely. Fish are never worth it.

Alice: Did you hear that?

Her: Yeah, it was coming from over there.

Myrium (to herself): These people would let fish run rampant over our history. You have to stop them.

Him: Myrium! We didn't invite you!

Earl: For good reason –

Sandra: You hate fish and this is a meeting about an aquarium.

Myrium: DOWN WITH FISH! DOWN WITH FISH! DOWN WITH FISH! (Myrium keeps chanting over garbled speech.)

Sandra: Meeting adjourned!! Can't even hear myself think over that.