

# SUN DAZED

by Ken Bradbury



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*The lifeguard sits in a chair or ideally a higher object. Most lines in quotes are directed at the inhabitants of the swimming pool.*

**GUARD:** You want to see a picture of bored? Then take a look at me ... a lifeguard. All day long sitting on my perch watching children trying to drown each other. Okay, they don't exactly do that but sometimes I wish ... oh never mind. *(blowing an imaginary whistle)* "Hey! Hey! No running!" I get so sick of this ... the same thing every day. Parents drop off their kids and expect us to ... "I said No Running! Look kid! I've got a gun and I know how to use it! Okay, it's a squirt gun, but it's loaded with ice water! Now slow down!"

Okay, it's not a hard job. I hardly ever go in the water except to give some old guy a boost out of the shallow end. Sometimes their trunks get waterlogged and they need a lift. Anybody gets in trouble I throw them a lifebuoy. That's what they teach ... only go in the water as a last resort and in this pool we don't have any last resorts. The big problem? Just staying awake. I mean, you get in real trouble if you fall asleep on the job. It's embarrassing to wake up and see the paramedics hauling someone off. "Hey kid! Your trunks are sagging! Pull 'em up! Pull 'em up!" That is so disgusting. Man, I'm tired ... got in too late last night. Gotta fight it ... but my eyes ... heavy ... so darned ...

*(He nods off just briefly, then springs to life as Ishmael.)*  
 Captain! Captain Ahab! I see him! The great white whale! *(as Ahab)* Argh! My old enemy, Moby Dick! Man the harpoon boats, lads! We're off to kill that whale! *(as Ishmael)* But Captain, he's too large! He'll sink us! *(Ahab)* Who cares? As long as I take him down with me! He got my leg and now I'm about to cut out the villain's heart! Give me that harpoon!

*(Ishmael)* But Captain! *(Ahab)* I said give it to me! *(Ishmael)*  
But Captain! *(Ahab)* Get back, you cowards! I go it alone!  
Captain Ahab and Moby Dick, fight to the death! *(Ishmael)* I  
can't look! Moby Dick's got Ahab in his jaws! He's closing his  
mouth on the Captain and ... look out, Captain! Look out! ...  
*(yawns and comes to his senses)* "Look out! Hey kid! Look out!  
You about hit that lady with your inner tube! I don't care if it  
was your mother, cut it out!" Man, I must have dozed ... no ...  
no sleeping on the job. I wasn't asleep ... just ... maybe the sun.  
Maybe it was just the sun and ... *(yawns)* Oh, this is so boring. I  
gotta stay awake ... I gotta stay awake ... I gotta ... I gotta ...

Weather report, seaman! What? Only icebergs? Ha! This  
ship laughs at icebergs! The Titanic is unsinkable! *(gets thrown  
off his feet a bit)* What was that? An iceberg? Big one, wasn't it?  
Ah, never fear! I'm Captain Edward John Smith of the White  
Star Line! They picked me! The finest captain to ever ... *(gets  
thrown off his feet again)* What was that? The engine? Why is  
the engine bumping? It's not bumping. It blew up! Darned  
inconvenient if you ask me! *(gets thrown down again)* I say!  
The passengers in the cocktail lounge won't care for this!  
Steady as she goes! Steady as she ... What's that? What's that  
young man doing on the bow of my ship? He's shouting, "I'm  
King of the World!" Get him off of there! Makes us look bad!  
*(gets thrown to the ground again)* Hey, kid! Stop that! Stop that!  
*(yawns)* Stop! "Hey kid! Stop that! No pushing people into the  
pool! Yeah? I don't care if it was your mother, cut it out or I'm  
gonna kick you out of here! Yeah! You with the sagging trunks!  
Pull 'em up! There's kids in here!" What a bum job. Nothing  
exciting ever happening, just sitting here in the hot sun and ...  
and ... boy, I'm so tired ... so very ...

Aloha! *(standing quickly and balancing himself on an  
imaginary surfboard)* Hawaii! The World Surfing  
Championship! I made it! I finally made it! Just Biff Oahu and  
me left in the competition! Oh, come on, wave! Come on! Give  
me a barrel! Give me a tube! I'm hangin' ten, Daddy! Here goes  
a kick flip! A layback! Aloha, Baby! Aloha! The big one! Here

comes the big one! Here comes ... here comes ... (*yawning*) ... here comes ...

(*waking*) “Hey kid! I’m gonna give you the big one if you don’t get down off the high dive! No! No! You’re too young! (*whistles*) Okay! You’re outa here! Go ahead! You’re kicked out of the pool!” Geesh. I kick the same kid out every week! Three-year-olds are not allowed on the high dive. Next time I’ll just let him jump ... and maybe sink. I should have taken the job at the burger place. At least I wouldn’t get sunburned. Two hours. Two more hours up on this silly platform screaming at ... “Hey kid! Let that lady up! Yeah! The one you’re holding under water! Look, I don’t care if she is your mother, you’re not gonna drown her on my watch!” Idiots. Nothing but idiots all summer. I am so sick of water. I see water, I think water, I dream ... I dream ... (*yawns*) ... I dream ...

Sailor! Up periscope! Bring up the periscope! Aye, we’ve been sailing the coast of Pandamonia for two months, waiting for a chance to sink the Barbarella! Ah! There she is! There she is! The Barbarella, fast astern! Port! Port! Fast a-port! Man the torpedoes! Full speed! Full speed! She’s got her guns trained right at us! Faster! Faster! Hard a-port! Hard a-port. Prepare to fire! Faster! We’ve got to turn faster! She’s closing in on us! Dive! Dive! We can’t make it! Dive! (*waking*) “Dive, you wacko! Stop dancing on the board and dive! You’re gonna fall and kill yourself! You want a taste of this squirt gun? I’m warning! I’ll shoot! I’ll shoot!” I should have listened to Mom. She said, “Get a nice summer job mowing lawns. Being a lifeguard will bore you to death. Cut grass, Son, just cut the grass.” Oh Mom, you’re always right. Why don’t I ever listen? This whole summer’s like a bad movie ... a really bad movie ... (*yawns*) ... so tired. Just sitting here day after day ... movie after movie.

I can’t believe I made it! Right here on the set of Beach Blanket Bongo-Bongo! And all those gorgeous girls/guys! And I’m the star of the movie! Okay, now all I have to do is stand right here by the water and look great. What? Pose? You want



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*by Ken Bradbury.*

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