

SYNOPSIS OF BIG FISH

Big Fish centers on the relationship between Edward Bloom and his son, Will. The show begins with Ed on the banks of a river with his son. Will is getting married the next day and wants his dad to not tell any of his crazy stories at the wedding. Edward reluctantly agrees.

The story then flashes back to Will as a child and his dad not wanting to read his son a bedtime story from a book, but rather tell a story about life, which introduces many characters from Edward's impossible stories including the Witch who showed Edward how he would die.

The plot returns to present day and the preparation of the wedding. Edward reveals his suspicion that Will's fiancée, Josephine, is pregnant. Will confirms the hunch and swears Edward to secrecy, but Edward can't help himself, revealing the news in a toast to the crowd. In parallel scenes at doctors' offices, Will and Josephine learn they're going to have a son, while Edward and Sandra learn that Edward's cancer has progressed. In the midst of Will's wonder and mystery of his future child, his joy is interrupted by a phone call from his mother, telling him about Edward's condition. Will and Josephine return home. Upon their return, Edward launches into stories to the eager Josephine of his high school days including his small-town girlfriend, his arch-rival and his journey to a cave to confront a giant that is frightening the town. Edward befriends this giant and convinces him to join him on an adventure to see the world.

Back in the present, Josephine gets Will to tell her the story of how his parents met, which brings them to the Calloway Circus. Sandra and two friends audition for ringmaster AMOS CALLOWAY during which Edward falls in love with her at first sight. Amos hires Karl The Giant, while Edward agrees to work for the circus for free in exchange for one monthly clue about Sandra.

After three years of toil, Amos (secretly a werewolf) finally reveals that her name is Sandra, she goes to Auburn University, and she loves daffodils.

In the present, Josephine discovers a mortgage signed by Edward and Jenny Hill. Will wonders why his father would buy a house with a woman other than his mother. Edward travels to Auburn, only to discover that Sandra is engaged to be married to Don Price from Ashton. Don beats up Edward, but that convinces Sandra to break up with Don. Edward promises to love Sandra forever.

Reeling from the discovery of the mortgage, Will wonders if his dad had a second life. A second family. During this wonderment, Will recalls past events to try and piece together clues: a campfire where Edward tells Young Will and other scouts about his adventures during The War in which he defeats the poison assassin Red Fang and Edward telling Sandra and Young Will he'll be traveling more for work.

In the present, Will attempts to ask his father about the mortgage, but Edward keeps derailing the conversation with jokes and talk of wooly mammoths. When Will brings up Ashton, Edward grows angry and throws him out.

Will travels to Ashton, where he meets Jenny Hill. She tells him the story of what happened when Edward returned to Ashton. The valley is about to be flooded by a new reservoir, yet the townsfolk refuse to leave, chaining themselves to a statue in protest. Edward convinces them to build a new Ashton. He gets land from Amos and money from Karl, both of whom have become successful because of Edward. Only Jenny Hill refuses to leave. She'd been waiting in Ashton all these years for Edward to return. To save her life, Edward reconnects with her, and co-signs the mortgage on a new house. They kiss — but Edward breaks it off. From the moment he saw her until the moment he dies, Sandra is the only woman he'll love. As Jenny Hill finishes the story, Will gets a phone call. Edward's condition has worsened.

Alone in the hospital with the unconscious Edward, Will tells him that he went to Ashton, and that he now understands the reason for his stories. Edward stirs, in pain, and asks Will to tell him how he dies. Will has to make up the story on the spot of how Edward escapes the hospital and travels to the river, where everyone from his stories is waiting for him. At the river, Edward sings about his life and what it meant.

Back in reality, Edward dies in the hospital bed. The funeral takes place at the river's edge. As the guests shake Will's hand, he sees that each is the real-world equivalent of the characters from Edward's stories. A few years later, Will teaches his own son to fish, and the secret his father taught him.