

LEVIATHAN

A play in three acts

“Hell is truth seen too late” -Leviathan, Thomas Hobbes

Cast of Characters

(The roles are open to all races and genders. The gender distinguished is an identifying gender)

Carter: *Third Officer, The most senior officer of the workers. Wears a discerning uniform from the rest of the crew. Tall, Male, 39*

Constance: *Electrician, juggler, Male 24*

Fisher: *Second officer, Higher officer in rank than Carter. Head of acquisitions. Male 50*

Gavi: *Deck crew, newest crew member. Muscular but on the shorter side. Male 20*

Inessa: *Russian Stowaway, Female 16*

Kamen: *Deck crew, Male 70*

Leo: *Deck crew, Male 29*

President: *President of the United States, out of breath and over emotional Male 57*

Stanley: *Captain, Male, 58*

Willem: *Translator, grew up around books Male, 28*

Note on the World of the play: The year is 1967. Lack of mitigations against climate change since the industrial revolution have resulted in a world covered in darkness and fog. The rising temperature has caused a split through the center of Greenland allowing for a trade route to open up, saving countries an enormous amount of time getting from port to port. Methane gas has spewed from being trapped in the ice for many millennia. The play takes place on a cargo ship returning back to Baltimore Maryland from its regular route to Russia. The ship carries an assortment of coal, grain, and oil, as well as break-bulk cargo such as machinery, vehicles, and other oversized or heavy items. The crew is made up of 100 people. The world revolves around hierarchy. The ship is enormous. Standardization of shipping containers is a new concept used only by the US at this time. Russia has yet to conform resulting in the need of an enormous ship to have space for all of the mixed items. The ship is called the Mitzuvi, after the wife of the CEO of the company Shuba directing the trade route. Shuba has been taking the world by storm from their humble beginning as the inventor of the innovative waffle maker spinner (a waffle maker that you can spin to cook waffles evenly) they now own land and assets ranging from cell phone makers to psychiatry offices. They have a finger in every pie. Recently they opened up Shuba Charity, which gives an enormous amount of money to anybody willing to say publicly they pulled themselves up by their bootstraps. The cold war lingers on. People have been publicly burning all their red shirts and throwing away all of their ketchup bottles favoring mayonnaise as a topping for their freedom fries. The world is cold, and it seems hope is on the minds of the few rather than many.

Note on the notation:

... only in front of a name is a non-verbal reaction by the character. Determined by the actor, but does represent a pause in action. A normal ellipses in the middle of dialogue represents a new thought forming.

ACT ONE

Stanley's office. LEO knocks twice, waits in the doorway of the ship looking at STANLEY. LEO is dressed in an arctic work suit. STANLEY is writing on a piece of paper, looks up.

STANLEY: Come in. Close the door.

Beat.

STANLEY: The radiators are shot. There's enough hot air leaving from those to let anymore out. Sit down.

LEO stays standing, looking out of the windows.

STANLEY: Ok.

Beat.

STANLEY: Are you hungry?

Beat.

STANLEY: How's your hold doing?

LEO: Good, am I in trouble?

STANLEY: Can't I just talk to you? I heard we ran out of good eggs yesterday. Canned stuff is terrible. Wait till we reach the north camp. You'll be crying for those salty eggs.

LEO: They ain't so bad. Just the smell. Everything tastes like eggs.

STANLEY picks up a file.

LEO: I thought evals weren't for another month.

STANLEY: No, it's not that. Will you just sit please! I can't stand you pacing about.

LEO sits.

STANLEY You're from Connecticut, huh? I had an aunt there. She used to send me pistachios through the mail. Told me they tasted best there.

LEO laughs.

STANLEY Look, I just wanted to get to know the crew a little before we get home. I really want to know what you think.

STANLEY pulls out a cigarette.

STANLEY: You want one?

LEO: No.

STANLEY: Are you enjoying yourself Leo?

LEO: What do you mean?

STANLEY: I mean, how are you?

LEO: I'm fine.

STANLEY: Good. I'm glad. You know, I was where you are. I was a little man in the big ocean like this. Breaking ice. Before we had the tuggies we used C4. You ever wonder why we can't have alcohol on the brig? Old lessons die slow.

Beat.

LEO: Windows always cold in our room. The first pane cracked. Constance threw that bottle at it trying to juggle. Maybe you could give us a few of those.

STANLEY: Sure, sure.

LEO: And the hot water takes 20 minutes to get good pissin quality.

STANLEY: I'll take a look at that... Leo?

LEO: Yeah?

STANLEY: (*Looking through the folder*) 679,920 minutes, 11,332 hours, 4,700 days... Not one complaint. Not one write up. Not one request. Not even a single fucking noise complaint.

LEO: Thanks.

STANLEY: No mail. Why's that? Folks think you're dead?

LEO: Nah.

STANLEY: You'd be surprised. There's a lot to get away from. And if this isn't the perfect place for it. Are they dead?

LEO: (*Laughs*) No... you ever heard of a commune?

STANLEY: Like hippies?

LEO: Yeah that's the word. They live in a commune. In California.

STANLEY: Doing what?

LEO: Reaching Nirvana.

STANLEY: They don't believe in sending letters?

LEO: They don't believe in reading. Says it was the real apple after all. Both spent years unlearning it. Recognizing the shapes I mean.

STANLEY: What kind of parenting is that?

LEO shrugs.

STANLEY: Are you content in the starboard hatch? I could move you easily.

LEO: No, I like it better there.

STANLEY: Do you enjoy this job?

LEO: What's not to love?

STANLEY: Why have you stuck here for so long?

LEO: Something about how the ice floats by. And this time of year the northern lights are out.

STANLEY: Yes, but you're working the nights. You don't have time to check out the stars.

LEO shrugs.

STANLEY: I mean for lower maintenance we pick up stragglers on the way, but people come and go that's the nature of the job. Noone stays for long.

LEO: I don't know what to tell you.

STANLEY: It's not a bad thing,

A bell rings. LEO begins to rise

LEO: Thanks for the heat.

STANLEY: *(Laughs)* Stay here.

He sits back down, STANLEY gets up approaching the window.

STANLEY: Do you know why we do this?

LEO: Yes.

STANLEY: I think you do. I think that's maybe why you stayed so long with us. You understand the importance of trade. The importance of commerce. Of competition... You notice anything different this week?

LEO: We're moving faster.

STANLEY: How fast, do you think?

LEO: Usually we're in A4 around now.

STANLEY: How fast?

LEO: Faster than I've seen.

STANLEY: The fastest you'll ever see. And still we're not fast enough. The permafrost is coming Leo. And I need you on the Forthright.

LEO: What?

STANLEY: I need you Leo. I want you to take Kursevi's position.

LEO: No, I'm not doing that.

STANLEY: Look, I'm not just asking out of charity.

LEO: I thought you just wanted to talk.

STANLEY: You don't understand the kind of pressure I'm under here. I need someone who can do this thing that speaks more than ten words of English...It's a Northerly storm. The wind will hit us head on.

LEO: Ask Slick I didn't sign up to drive.

STANLEY: This isn't an argument Leo. I know you're going to do it.

LEO: I'm not. You can't make me.

STANLEY: The cold to come... men die. People die.

LEO: You're just worried about the Greybeard passing us. That's it isn't it? I saw the new engines they had. Spit right past us before.

STANLEY: Who are you?

LEO: I'm a soldier.

STANLEY: You're a child.

LEO: Why put a child at the helm?

STANLEY: I just need you out there for a week or two. You have the most experience, you're the only one that's done it before.

LEO: I can't.

STANLEY: Just a couple weeks. By then we'll have enough time to rig up the regular tuggies we need.

A bell rings.

LEO: That's two bells.

STANLEY: Get out of here.

LEO Exits.

STANLEY: It is difficult for me to describe this. This pass. This wonder of our trade. I had a dream of it opening like a bloody wound ripping through the stitches. Make way for the fist of man! And here, upon this bank of iron, I made our way through-riding the horse to battle. Gridy work it was. But it was our work then. Now I am ready to make my last voyage, a great leap into the dark.

A News Anchor is projected sitting behind a desk with a stack of papers.

NEWS ANCHOR: Due to rising temperatures, a new passageway has formed in the deepest regions of the previously unexplored, uninhabited area of Northern Greenland. The ice has split in such a way creating a new trade route meeting the Western and Eastern powers. Just now breaker ships are widening the canal. Officials all over the world are concerned with how jurisdiction over such a peculiar section of land used by so many industrial countries will be divided. Canadian officials are concerned about the high velocity of ships off its Eastern coast fearing that the conditions may be too dangerous. Research suggests that this new trade route will hold 10x the value for weighty objects cutting the time in half. Many companies are chomping at the bit to get a piece of the action. Just now cargo ships are starting their icy voyage into the great North. Fascinating stuff don't you think?

Evening. Interior breakroom of the cargo ship. There are two nautical doors on either side of the stage. Table stays upstage. A couple of stools are laid across the middle and downstage. A metal cabinet holding work suits and gear is upstage center. WILLEM is working on a typewriter. There are old paintings of the sea behind him. CONSTANCE is working on a juggling routine. LEO is leaning back on a stool eating a piece of bread. A very crude looking record player and records sit on one of the tables near the container holding all of their work clothes. A rock and roll song is heard, though the quality is quite bad. GAVI sings along to the song eating his break sandwich and at some point pausing to work on carving something out of wood. His

work overalls are half off revealing a white tank top. KAMEN enters after some time and sits on a chair sweating from the day's work.

KAMEN: You are a beamish romanticist! A stinky, slimy, skunk. I saw you again yesterday with calluses on your fingers rather than your knees...Are you playing that ridiculous thing again? Cat gut strings... DO YOU HEAR ME!

GAVI: I hear you Kamen I hear you. It's called rock and roll, nothing dangerous.

KAMEN: Well, the name alone sounds dangerous! Rocking and rolling around! We should throw that thing out for all the good it's doing us barely works half the time anyway.

GAVI: You know rock and roll, you're not deaf.

KAMEN: I choose to be deaf when my ears are subjected to torture. You hear me?

GAVI: I hear ya!

KAMEN: How was it today? Status report!

GAVI: Cold. Very cold. Uh... Wind is picking up I think.

KAMEN: You think?

GAVI: Yeah, yeah um...

KAMEN: HOWWW many knots?

GAVI: Gota be at least forty five.

KAMEN: Forty five, forty five! A slow day for the chill don't you think Gabriel?

GAVI: Yup.

KAMEN: Forty five knots. A light canary breeze. Don't you think Gabriel?

GAVI: Sure.

KAMEN: Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful. I feel safer already in your sailor arms. More to report?

GAVI: You heard about the damage to the sheer line? Turns out it was the boys in 1165 forgot to reseal the rivets.

LEO: Really?

GAVI: Whole place is actually a fire hazard. Stanley hasn't gotten it checked in years. Terrified of the rivet inspectors.

KAMEN: Inspector, inspector, ridiculous...

GAVI: No really, I seen it! I seen it! Cracks all the way up the spine. That's why we couldn't dock at DC.

KAMEN: Ships don't have rivet inspectors, boy.

LEO: Leave him alone.

CONSTANCE: Yeah leave him be. He's got mice to feed.

KAMEN: Mice! Feeding the mice!

CONSTANCE: Don't you see all the crumbs on the floor?

GAVI: I don't do that!

CONSTANCE: C'mon we know there isn't anyone on the planet hungry enough to eat tack.

KAMEN: You feed the mice!

LEO: Leave him alone.

CONSTANCE: Leaves water out for 'em too. That bowl's never on the table is it? Always on the floor.

KAMEN: Never in my life have I heard such a ridiculous thing. Such an incandescent infringement. Boy you should-

LEO: Leave him alone Kamen! He's just riling you up. Tacks missing because it went stale last winter. And here, this bowl isn't nailed to the floor see? Stop being so gullible.

KAMEN: OOOOOO I see, I see. Playing one of your magic tricks again lobster? I can draw my own conclusions thank you very much...Constance I hope you die in a fire, and for you Gabriel: Mice ain't gonna keep you warm at night. Ain't gonna tuck you in and tell you sweet nothings.

CONSTANCE: Right. We got you for that Kamen.

KAMEN: Damn straight. Mice are rodents. Nothing's gonna change that.

CONSTANCE: Everything smells like eggs! Good thing I kept a bundle of 'em.

KAMEN: What? When did you do that?

CONSTANCE: When I wasn't decomposing.

KAMEN: I love eggs, really do. Firm. White. Round. Lovely shape to 'em. Have you tried boiling them? Fantastic snack.

CONSTANCE: When are you going to die?

GAVI: Where's Carter?

KAMEN: Here you go again! Looking and not seeing. I am a seer. I see things! Old bones make the greatest soups. Marrow my boy, it ages like wine. I can't run a deer to ground, but I can pick a daisy out of the chamomile if you get my meaning.

CONSTANCE: (*Under his breath*) Old bag.

KAMEN: What did he say? I don't like the way you snicker at me.

GAVI: Carter said he'd be back by now.

LEO: He's coming.

CONSTANCE: Four alligators on my cousin's porch. Not even the season for the fuckers.

LEO: A storm is coming.

GAVI: That's what they said, but I don't believe 'em.

LEO: Why not?

GAVI: My arm would be aching. It always aches when a storm is near.

CONSTANCE: No it's for sure.

WILLEM: I'm glad to hear it. We've gotten quite complacent. Last month leaving Murmansk: Those spires stacked in the air. Towering over us as we docked on the black sand. Noise like stones down a deep well. Cooling towers they call them. More like the fingers of God. A great hand waiting to crush the city. Twittering machines. We were just ghosts. Hardly could tie a knot. It was like landing on another planet. Couldn't see through the coal. All those hollow faces. I wonder if some of us are getting tired of this.

CONSTANCE: Not to mention all those great big eyes like the wrong end of a telescope. Boney skeletons holding IVs like lanterns.

WILLEM: Did you not see any birds?

CONSTANCE: Fat insects with bat wings. Great long shadows of skinny men.

GAVI: The Ocean was green.

WILLEM: Strange; I know.

KAMEN: I remember when dogs would lay out in the street. And you could see the moon during the day.

CONSTANCE: When's the last time you got some sleep?

KAMEN: Oh, I used to get sleep before you piglets came into my life...I am so tired of being tired.

Time passes. KAMEN desperately tries to hide he's napping. WILLEM lets out a sigh and rubs his eyes adding another piece of paper to the growing stack on his desk. CONSTANCE has started to try juggling four balls but they keep dropping to the floor.

KAMEN: Will you stop that?

CONSTANCE: Make me.

KAMEN: It's not like a circus is coming through; looking for someone who can juggle three balls, and fail at managing four.

CONSTANCE: Shut up old man.

KAMEN: You're starting to sound like Nicholas the way you talk back to me. In my day we had some respect for the wise.

CONSTANCE: Oh yeah, when was that?

LEO: The Cretaceous period I believe.

KAMEN: Haha! very funny, I'm old! What a knee slapper. Next time I'll steal Willems lunch money.

The boat rocks. Sounds of heavy water on the windows. The lights flicker in and out.

WILLEM: That power is not going to hold for long.

LEO: *(looks to Gavi expecting something)* The storm is wrought with skulls and bones.

GAVI: *(Nervously)* I don't know if it's really the-

ALL: *(Not in unison but encouragingly)* The storm is wrought with skulls and bones!

GAVI: *(Gaining confidence, singing slowly)* The storm is wrought with skulls and bones...

GAVI:*(Singing)* The moons gone down, the sun is up. The shifting sea is warm ahead. My hammock strings are worn too thin. The salty air too rich to think. The rum is gone, jump in the drink. The whales sleep in after dawn. The anchor finds no land to hit. The doldrums will not lend to us. Irons far from sailing point. God's green grace is on the rocks. Reaching on a beam to us.

As they sing, they pound the tables rhythmically.

ALL: *(Continuing to sing in a chorus)* The wind is fair, my lady too! The wind is fair, my lady too! The wind is fair, my lady too! The wind is fair, my lady too!

CONSTANCE: I want air. I want sunshine. Gouda and crackers. If I could live for 10 more minutes. And I could see into the eyes of the bat itself I could be free. Oh I could be so free!

WILLEM: Gouda or a bat?

CONSTANCE: The bat cave!!!! UHHHHHHH A pigeon stuffed in a chicken stuffed into a turkey stuffed in a duck wrapped in bacon-

WILLEM: You are a vice itself.

CONSTANCE: I am a fucking banana.

KAMEN: Got a hell of a voice on you boy. Who taught you to sing like that?

GAVI: My mother.

The ship lurches forward. They all head to the windows.

CONSTANCE: Faster! Fucking faster, are you serious? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US STANLEY!

KAMEN: Be quiet! I need to listen.

CONSTANCE: *(Mocking)* I need to listen. I need to listen hmmmmmm.

Sounds of the ship creaking. Waves crashing against the side of the ship. The sounds get louder and louder. The lights start to flicker again. CARTER enters carrying a lobster cage.

CARTER: Hello.

The sound and lights revert to normal. They all startle.

KAMEN: Jesus Christ! Almost sent me back to hell.

GAVI: What's that?

CARTER: That, ladies and ladies, is a lobster. A big one too.

GAVI: No way!

CONSTANCE: Great you brought food!

GAVI: Look at it movin'. You didn't kill it?

CARTER: Didn't think I needed too.

WILLEM: Fascinating! Exactly what I needed. That's a real rarity. Good on you Carter.

CONSTANCE: It's got whiskers...Reminds me of this girl I used to see.

WILLEM: Be quiet. It's interesting. Look how it's moving. Its eyes are white. Why is that?

KAMEN: Why don't you ask Leo?

LEO: Why don't you go fuck yourself?

KAMEN: I would if I could.

CONSTANCE: Probably would fuck the lobster if we weren't here.

CARTER: Hey now, no one is touching this lobster. It's mine.

CONSTANCE: What are you gonna do? Make a stew, maybe a roast?.

CARTER: No, I'm going to juggle it.

CONSTANCE: Very funny. The man does have a sense of humor.

CARTER: This is a symbol. A point on a star. Lobsters mean a lot of different things: Strength, resolution, perseverance.

CARTER begins to clear a spot for the lobster cage upstage center.

WILLEM: Regeneration.

CARTER: Yes. Regeneration... It's a beginning.

Beat.

CONSTANCE: So we're not gonna eat it.

GAVI: What's its name?

CARTER: Don't have a name for it.

GAVI: What about Mitsuvi? Honor the ship.

CONSTANCE: I think we sucked off the ship enough.

GAVI: I mean it's cliché but... why not? Wouldn't be here without the ship. What about Mitch?

KAMEN: What about Leo huh?

CONSTANCE: What about dick cheese?

CARTER: Mitchel. Mitchel. I like it.

KAMEN: I like it too. Knew a nice guy named Mitchel. Used to work the billows in the main. Ended up killing his wife with a marlin spike and hanging up his kids like Christmas stockings.

CARTER: Then it's settled. Mitchel the red.

KAMEN: Looks a lot like a Leo to me.

WILLEM: I think this is a great addition to our little recreational hangout.

CONSTANCE: Could just call it a breakroom.

WILLEM: We could use a little more life here. A little less juggling.

GAVI: You guys heard anything from Fish?

CARTER: I heard they're getting rid of him.

GAVI: What do you mean?

CARTER: Apparently he's gone a little (*coo coo whistle*) in the ol' mantle piece.

CONSTANCE: Can't fire him for that, the whole crew would be gone if you could kick someone for that.

KAMEN: It does smell like eggs.

CONSTANCE: See! Kamen would be the first to go.

CARTER: Officers don't talk about acquisitions, but he's the exception. They say he got in a lot of trouble in Indonesia.

LEO: What kind of trouble?

CARTER: Something about when he was serving. He used to mess around too much with the natives. They were all complaining.

CONSTANCE: Messed around?

CARTER: He was fucking them from what I heard. Probably thought he was some kind of God. I'm sure.

CONSTANCE: He was always a slimy piece of shit.

CARTER: You should show him some respect, even if he is a bastard it'll keep you alive longer. And it's not the first time it's happened. Won't be the last. He's gonna be a scapegoat.

GAVI: That doesn't sound good.

CARTER: No it does not.

LEO: Why is this coming up now?

CARTER: Some of the officers were talking about it. He's hopping back on when we get to the North Camp. I'm sure he'll stop by.

CONSTANCE: Oh great.

CARTER: I'd be careful if I were you.

GAVI: Why can't we get you? I like Fish, but he's barely here. Do you even take lunch with the officers?

CARTER: I do. I just like you guys better.

CONSTANCE: Nah, you're just bullied up there admit it.

CARTER: ...

A bell rings. CONSTANCE starts putting on a strange suit with a gas mask, begins to leave.

CONSTANCE : Alright, Don't touch my shit! Fuck all of you. C'mon old man let's go.

KAMEN: Right, right: I'm coming, I'm coming.

WILLEM: Udachi!

They exit. Time passes. LEO stares out of the window. CARTER rearranges things on the lobster cage. GAVI works on his wood carving. WILLEM is working furiously on a typewriter. He has papers strewn about on the table.

CARTER: You think he's happy?

LEO: It's a lobster.

CARTER: I know, but he may be missing his friends. I know I would be. Maybe I should move him to the window?

GAVI: Why's that?

CARTER: He might be missing the sunshine.

WILLEM: Lobsters are deep sea divers. Don't even see the sun.

CARTER: Well, I guess I'll go kill myself then.

LEO: When are you going to be done with that?

WILLEM: Not when, but how? I didn't realize charting the oceans like this would be so difficult. Interesting new piece of technology coming out from the OESS. These wonderful scientists finally released maps of the sea floor. Gavi you'll find this interesting. There is this ring around the Pacific Ocean called the Ring of Fire. A ring of thousands of volcanoes. It's the center of a lot of earthquakes. Nevertheless, I find some discrepancies with their conclusions of the effects of this ring.

LEO: I thought you were writing a book about paintings.

GAVI: Yeah about kelp.

WILLEM: Not quite a book, but a dissertation. My life's work. I don't want to be a translator forever. Working on things people have already created. I want to make my own. Kelp drawings are just the tip of the iceberg if you'll forgive me for the terrible pun... There used to be an interesting creature within these waters called a whale. We have paintings of the things. Wonderfully mysterious creatures. Largest mammals on the planet. I discovered them while translating the journal of WHS Winslow. He was a whaler and a not very good painter as you can see. I seem to have found something particularly interesting with the food source of these giant creatures.

GAVI: You're not gonna use Mitchel are you?

CARTER: Yeah, geneva code for the lobster.

WILLEM: I won't need to use your lobster boys. Just my observation of it is enough for me. Do you notice corrosion around the edges of the shell? Little white spots. I can't seem to find how these appeared through evolution in such a short amount of time. These paintings here. Look. Look! The vibrancy. The strength as you said before Carter. Full red no white to see. Fascinating don't you think?

CARTER: I think your job is to be a translator.

WILLEM: Radi Boga! Can a man have dreams?

LEO: It's nice to see you this excited about fish.

WILLEM: Don't mock me. I'm close. Winslow is the answer! His book. His diaries are everything. The most expansive expedition of the seas ever recorded in the last 100 years. And I have them. I actually have them. Once I finish this letter I'll be sending all my research to the NOAA. Then we will be making progress. I'll be a PHD candidate, and all your grandchildren will read about me in their textbooks.

CARTER: I'll make sure to burn any copies my kids bring home.

WILLEM: I would love to talk to you soon about the flooding in Vietnam. If you would allow me to inquire?

CARTER: (*Snorts*) Good thing for the flooding. Consolidation and displacement was good for the aerial assaults.

WILLEM: Did you happen to notice any kelp within the flooding. Especially the Rhodophyta? It's just kelp that looks red.

CARTER: Uh, no.

WILLEM: Worth a shot. Well gentlemen. I will be heading to bed. God save you all...Touch my shit all you like if that means anything?

WILLEM exits

CARTER: Thought that conversation would have lasted longer.

GAVI: Do you think we'll be home by Christmas?

CARTER: I'm sure we will.

GAVI: But the Russians have such a faster ship than ours. What if they send us back out again?

CARTER: Won't happen I know it.

GAVI: How?

CARTER: Cause I got a feeling Gavi, and my feelings are always right. Most of the time.

GAVI: I still think it's gonna be another two months at least.

LEO: It'll be alright as long as we keep moving.

GAVI: You have been here the longest. Besides old Kamen I guess.

LEO: Winter is always long. But we dock before Christmas most times. It's been a while since I've seen this kind of wind though. The ice is what really slows us down.

GAVI: I knew it was high! Kamen is always messing with me like that.

LEO: He really does like you. Don't take what he says too seriously.

CARTER: He always does that. Especially when he thinks he can get you to do things. Once you start washing his feet for an “externality radiation cleanliness check memo” from corporate, you know you’ve been played.

LEO: Speaking from experience?

CARTER: Good night you two. May God be with you both. Oh and one last thing: I wanted to wait until the others had gone. I got you a gift, Gavi.

GAVI: Really?

CARTER: Yes. From my lovely wife. It just was processed this morning. It's a knife, so it took a while.

He pulls out a small knife with an ivory handle from one of his pockets.

CARTER: It’s from when I was serving. I found it in one of the old antique shops in Con Dao.

GAVI: Carter, it's beautiful. Why are you giving to me?

CARTER: Every young man needs something sharp he can hurt himself with.

GAVI: I can’t take it. It’s yours. It wouldn’t feel right. Give it to your kids!

CARTER: They’re more interested in getting those new RCA color TV’s you hear all about in the newspapers.

LEO: It’s a wonderful gift Carter.

CARTER: Don’t worry about it. It was just collecting dust with me anyway. There is a new blade on it, so really be careful.

GAVI: I will. Thank you Carter, it means a lot.

A bell rings.

CARTER: I guess I’ll see you up there then?

LEO: Yup.

CARTER exits. LEO puts down the bread he's been picking apart and starts to get dressed in a similar outfit as CONSTANCE previously.

GAVI: Good luck out there Leo.

LEO: What, you're not coming?

GAVI: No I am. Yeah, yeah just gotta finish arranging Willems paintings. I forgot to do it yesterday. He'd be really mad if I didn't.

LEO: Alright, I'll see you up there...Gavi?

GAVI: Mhm?

LEO: You gonna feed that mouse right now aren't you?

GAVI: Mouse! No...what? I just gotta arrange these. You know?

LEO: It's ok. I know you feed the mice. Constance is an idiot, but he's practical. Next time don't be so obvious.

GAVI: I don't feed any mice Leo. Thanks for trying to cover for me but I can stand up for myself. We ran out of tack months ago because we ran out of flour. I saw it in the log books, seriously. I should know! Clint only has me read them back to him everyday. You know, cause of his "visual imperative". Just... stop acting like you can read everybody and let me finish this or we'll be late.

LEO: Ok I'm sorry, I know I can do that sometimes. You can stand up for yourself. I know you can.

GAVI: I appreciate it. Now please let's go.

LEO: Ok! Ok, mr bossman.

LEO fits his mask and exits. GAVI zips up his suit and exits.

GAVI OFFSTAGE: Shit. Mask, hold on!

GAVI runs back and looks around. He reaches behind a cabinet and pulls out hard tack. He then fills the water bowl and places it in the same spot.

GAVI: Here you go little guys. He'll never understand us will he.

Another Bell rings.

LEO OFFSTAGE: Gavi!

GAVI: Coming!

GAVI grabs his mask then exits. Time passes with the stage empty. INESSA emerges from a trapdoor beneath a cabinet. She eats the hardtack and drinks the bowl of water.

GAVI OFFSTAGE: Shit yeah! I'm running to grab it.

INESSA hides under one of the tables. Suddenly GAVI enters running and sees the hardtack on the table. His demeanor suddenly changes.

GAVI: Oh, my furry little friends you guys have been so naughty haven't you.

He imitates the mice. Putting his hands to his face like whiskers and making mice noises. He crawls on the table, beginning to search the ground like a mouse.

GAVI: Where's our little water bowl boys? I'm so thirsty. All this disgusting hardtack. I just want some parmesan cheese. I can hardly...

He comes face to face with INESSA under the cabinet. He gives a girly scream and doubles backwards, knocking over all of WILLEMS research. They stare at each other for a long time neither of them saying a word

GAVI: You are not... a mouse... You are a woman... On the ship. A woman on the ship. Okaaayyyy. No, no, don't be scared, ummm. Do you speak English?

INESSA shakes her head so so stares at him ready to sprint like a deer.

GAVI: I'm Gavi. What's your name? Gavi. And you are...

He gestures emphatically. Doing a strange dance. She chuckles at this then acts as if she will say her name but instead motions him to come closer. He complies and she whispers in his ear.

GAVI: Inessa. That's a beautiful name. What does it mean? Oh right.

OFFSTAGE LEO: Gavi the spray!

GAVI: Coming, it got jammed in the cabinet! Look, I can't really help you right now. But... Here

GAVI goes to CONSTANCE'S backpack and grabs a big paper bag that says DO NOT TOUCH on it and hands it to her.

GAVI: This has some actual food. And the water is over there by the window... Are you from Murmansk?

She nods furiously at the mention of Murmansk.

OFFSTAGE LEO: Gavi!

GAVI: Look I have to go but you should hide. They can't see you, or they'll turn the whole ship around.

He grabs an insect spray container from a cabinet and begins to leave. INESSA follows him

GAVI: No, You have to go back for now. Just until I figure out what to do. I'll be back later, I promise.

He turns and begins to leave INESSA grabs him furiously. He almost falls over.

GAVI: (*Furious*) Argh! You need to-

They look into each other's eyes. There is a small moment. GAVI breaks eye contact first and slowly removes her hand then leads her back to her hiding place. She complies. He turns and exits. She heads to her hiding place. Passing the lobster she knocks on the glass and makes a funny face. She exits trapdoor. The stage goes almost black. STANLEY'S voice is heard as if recorded through a tape recorder.

AUDIO OF STANLEY: 1:48 am October 2nd 1953. I had many questions going into this. It all seemed to melt away. I can't hear the waves. It's been so long... I can feel it breathing down my neck...I hate knowing nothing. I think that's it. Never liked a mystery. I even hate turning out the lights at night. Maybe that's why I liked the ice so much. So pure...So open. I never worried what was out there. It was always the same. So I thought. Today...I had some things I wanted to

get off my chest. Today is my... today I got a telegram from my aunt. My mother passed away last night. 2:00am. 2:00am. In the dark...

Music of the time plays. Projections are shown depicting historical events of the late 50's early 60's. Civil rights movements and photographs/videos of the vietnam war. Unintelligible speeches. Commercials and comedy shows from the time are cut between these shots. The video and audio begin to play faster and faster until the visual blurs into a bright white projection and the audio into a high frequency noise. After a moment, the presidential noise and graphics are shown. The PRESIDENT then appears projected behind a stand.

PRESIDENT: Let all these people in. Come, come, come, come in. It's easy just a little twist to the left and a shout to the right. I'm only taking questions from those who voted for me today. Just kidding... My fellow Americans. Great, great strides taken today! We are reaching our full potential. Taking the helm of democracy and shoving it into the throats of those commies. Taking it to the man. Sticking the butter under the turkey skin AND the cavity! Anyway, I was saying something very important. Just a minute ago. How much time do I have? Oh ok thank you. Progress... Progress! That is, um, what we need. A function of that ball of rubber bands! Who invented that thing? Anyway... Progress! Progress will be made. The slow wheel of change is moving at a creeping pace. But it is moving to... to... to... to... ONWARD! Into the fire of the demon spawn that runs rancid through the bowels of our great country's blood. "Then you call on the name of your God, and I will call upon the name of our Lord. The god who answers by fire- he is God! Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice. The wood, the stones and the soil," I am brimstone! I am the eyes of God! The sun and the moon! My fellow Americans. (*Crying*) My... Fellow... Americans... what I was trying to-

The light comes up on WILLEM upstage center holding a badly beaten leather journal belonging to WHS Winslow. The rest of the break room is dark.

WILLEM: "She stood out before me this time in her true glory. We've been chasing the beast for a while now. She slips between our fingers like sand. Leading us deeper into the freeze. But they all give in eventually. We're approaching her spawning ground now. I wonder if she knows why we're here"... That was his first entry on the last voyage Winslow took. He was here. In these very waters. Feeling the cold under his fingertips. You'd think a man in his position would rhapsodize endlessly about the hard work, or maybe about the sea. You'd be wrong. He wrote letters mostly: Drafts of letters he never would send. Confessing to his Mother or Sisters about the mistakes he made with them. To his wife about how he thought he never really had the knack for being a father. The love he truly felt for them but could never admit. It was the style back then. Some of their letters are cleverly tucked into the binding... He also wrote about painting; About color! Not just of the kelp, but of the sky and the eyes of his fellow sailors, of

palettes and tones and how every object needed light to give it depth, and thereby give it purpose. He wrote about his first time seeing a gray whale, and the sheer magnitude and beauty it struck him with. I like to think he became a whaler so he could better paint them. But, the answer is much more simple...It was work. He had a family to feed. And it paid enough...I like to think about old Winslow now and then. Now I'm using his life to better mine. Sifting through his most intimate thoughts. Picking out things that serve me best. Like a prince at a buffet.

Breakroom, night. One week has passed. GAVI sneaks to Inessa's place and gives a signal that they have been using with each other. Inessa enters from the trapdoor. GAVI is holding a sack of food. He is also whispering.

GAVI: You won't believe what I just found.

GAVI takes out a can of condensed milk. He opens it gingerly.

GAVI: Clint fell asleep. I managed to snipe it from the top shelf. Barely got out of there alive.

GAVI starts drinking out of the can unselfconsciously. He gestures for her to have some but she is hesitant. She looks at him.

GAVI: What?

He realized his face was dripping with the milk.

GAVI: Oh right. Here take some...It's sweet. Like sugar.

She dips a reluctant finger in then tastes it. Her eyes widen and she smiles.

GAVI: I lived on a farm back home. It was a vegetable farm mostly: Zucchini, tomatoes, lettuce, kohlrabi, cabbage... You get the point. We always had condensed milk on hand. It was the only sweetener in the house. After the war my Pop got used to using it instead of sugar. I like it more anyway. What do you think?

She stares at him

GAVI: How can we get you out of here? I was thinking last night. I think maybe it would be a good idea for me to teach you some English. That way, people will think you're a Sally. You know what I mean?

She stares at him. Taking big scoops of the milk.

GAVI: Ok... I've never taught English. But I've been speaking it for a long time. Let's see, what are the words I use most. We'll, there's I. And There, and there's. And and. And I and... well I guess there's kind of a lot of important words. People swear a lot. So maybe I'll start there. Say, "What a shittown". No, no, no. If you really wanna talk American you do it like this. *In a thick southern accent* "What a shittown". My uncle used to say that all the time. "Shittown 3000". Like it was some kinda badge of shit honor or something. "This town just a bug squirming under a boot"

She smiles and laughs.

GAVI: Yeah I think he's pretty funny too. Why don't you give it a try?

She shakes her head no.

GAVI: C'mon it'd be fun. Say "Shit town". "Goddammit I found myself in a shittown! I-I found myself in a shittown-more like a shitboat floating through shit ice marry Jesus!"

She finishes the whole can and looks at him.

GAVI: Wow you really must have liked that. I'll try to find some more if I can. No promises though. Clint is... well he's blind but he says he can see with his bandana. I don't really understand what he means by that, but he always seems to be able to catch things from farther than you'd think. Did you run away?

She nods her head.

GAVI: Why?

She looks down and away, opening up the water bottle he gave her.

GAVI: Was it the government?

She keeps looking down.

GAVI: The radiation?

She stays looking down.

GAVI: I'm sorry I don't need to know really I don't... Your family?

*Without looking up she puts a hand on his arm, looks up and whispers in his ear.
Blackout. Projection of the president is shown again.*

PRESIDENT: I was thinking of this joke about a talking dog at a gas station. Anyone wanna volley a couple jokes, a couple one liners? I can't really wrap my head around it anymore. I'm looking for fish and I'm finding sand! What was I saying? I wanted to be frank with you. Every man. Every woman. Every child. All in search of happiness. In search of something greater. I raise my fist! I look into the eyes of fear itself. Am I satisfied? To see the sun rise and set should be enough for some! But you cannot seem to be content! You want MORE! You NEED MORE! Well let me tell you for those who work. For those that became the bread they earned. To live in hope. To die too short. I say to you... Stay strong my friends. STAYYYYYY STRONG. I have not abandoned you. WE HAVE NOT ABANDONED YOU...I need water. Water. Not evian...I was like you. I was just like you. Living on rabbit feces and Levi blue jeans. My Mother used to say: You can't take what you don't have with you. Prepare my friends. Something is coming.

Lights up in the breakroom. CONSTANCE is working on a juggling routine. All except CONSTANCE are messing with knobs on a broken tv.

CONSTANCE: You have to submit to the chaos of it. That's the point. Forget everything else and submit. Someone throw me a fourth.

KAMEN: It's too low, that's the problem.

WILLEM: That's not going to work.

KAMEN: Well, I can hardly even see it from here! Damn things broken.

WILLEM: It's not broken, we just don't have a signal.

GAVI: I almost got it I think.

Noise from the tv starts but it is scrambled.

WILLEM: Hmm strange maybe if we-

CONSTANCE: The fourth! The fourth, I got a rhythm now.

No one acknowledges him.

CONSTANCE: That thing hasn't worked right the whole time we've been here. No use in seeing that shithead anyway.

KAMEN: Maybe we should ask the lobster! What do you think my friend?

LEO: Audio, no sound, scrambled.

KAMEN: Maybe your fish friends have an answer.

LEO: Go grab that ax.

KAMEN: Oh yes, needs to be higher so I can see it! Sounds good to me.

GAVI gets up.

CONSTANCE: Woah, not necessary!

LEO: There's a tool box behind it.

CARTER rushes in.

CARTER: Hey, sorry i'm late, has it started yet?

CONSTANCE: Oh, I've been juggling for a long time.

LEO: No. You see we got the audio but there's nothing showing. I think it really is busted.

CARTER: Let me look at it.

LEO: You see, there's nothing showing. We have the AV cord connected but I think we have to-

KAMEN: It's too low!

WILLEM: Kamen will you just-

CARTER: Have you tried switching the power cord?

LEO: Yeah, we did twice.

KAMEN: Too low!

WILLEM: For the love of God Kamen-

GAVI hoists the tv high in the air and immediately the video turns on.

KAMEN: What did I tell you!

They all shush him to be quiet

FISHER:*(Very faintly through the TV)* It was a continuous lapse of accountability. I offer my deepest-

WILLEM: Wow, look at him.

GAVI: He looks...different.

FISHER:*(Still faintly through the TV)* Therefore I am resigning, and taking full responsibility for my actions.

CONSTANCE: Never thought I'd see the day Fish went under.

KAMEN: They're more comfortable there anyway! Get it? Because he's a fish!

CARTER: He really did it. Shuba's going to float him back...You can put it down now Gavi.

LEO: Gone. Just like that.

CONSTANCE: What in the world could you wish for, but love?

WILLEM: Strange way to end. What are the uppers saying?

CARTER: It's the usual. Everyone is vying to take his spot.

LEO: How about you?

CARTER: What in the world could I wish for.

LEO: You're not going to go for it?

CARTER: It's not worth it. I want to see my family every once and a while.

GAVI: Who was he thanking at the end?

LEO: His priest. I think it's an old Irish thing.

CONSTANCE: I knew a priest. He used to skateboard around the church and grow weed.

WILLEM: Sounds like a good marketing tool.

CONSTANCE: Aye Constance get over here man. Try some of this shit. This shit fire. And you would get high as fuck, and he would tell you about John 12:16 while you could literally see God pissing on you or whatever. Never seen so many people become God fearing citizens. He got a little too friendly with some of the folks though. They found him naked in one of the Pulpits with a blunt in one hand and the girl that collects the money for communion in the other.

They all laugh.

LEO: Is that true?

CONSTANCE: I don't know Leo, is it?

WILLEM: Finally some real accountability.

KAMEN: God comes to the hungry in the form of food.

CONSTANCE: Maybe we can get the game on here. Gavi, hold that shit up again.

LEO: Don't talk to him like that.

CONSTANCE: Ok attorney for the defense, how do you stand?

LEO: What are you talking about?

CONSTANCE: Fuck, Leo. He's gotta grow up sometime. Do you hold his hand when he takes a piss, I mean...

Beat.

LEO: Do we have a problem?

Silence.

CONSTANCE: No problem little fish no problem.

KAMEN: Shifts starting soon. Maybe you should get up there early. Captain said now we're working overtime on those engines. You don't want to be late huh, Isn't that right Carter?

CARTER: True enough. True enough.

CONSTANCE: Ok. I'm going to head. But not because you told me too. Because I am a big boy in this small world. I am a big boy!

He exits

WILLEM: Yes he is. And this big boy needs to get some work done as well.

He exits

CARTER: I would say "and then there were three". But, I don't want to say that.

LEO: And then there were three Carter. And then there were three...Are you worried?

CARTER: About what?

LEO: You think you're next or something?

CARTER: Like Fisher? No, no, no. The tallest weed gets pulled, my friend. I am happy where I am. Close to the dirt.

LEO: If you say so. I can feel everything sort of shifting. It's strange. I can't put my finger on it.

CARTER: Are you alright Gavi? You're kinda spacing out.

GAVI: Yeah, yeah- I am. I'm just...

LEO: What?

GAVI: Who did I replace?

LEO & CARTER:...

GAVI: What? No one ever told me. Who used to run deck and help Constance?

LEO: He was just another worker. His name was Nicholas.

GAVI: Ok...Did he get fired? Did he quit? What happened to him?

A bell rings.

LEO: I'll tell you later Gavi I swear.

They all get on their suits and leave. The President is immediately projected.

PRESIDENT: It was kind of all of you to keep a watchful eye on me. I had many a thing to complain about. Don't worry me one bit anymore. You want to know what it is made of. What this brings, to wear a suit in place of a crown. How could I...hmmm... I can press a button and get a milkshake and a hooker at 10 in the morning. That's real power right there. Real power my friends. It's what the French call a wednesday afternoon. Lazy bastards. Hardest working waiters in the world I'm sure of it...It all comes down to fear if you think about it. Fear is more powerful than love. Love is for fools. Fear lasts. They must fear you, but they cannot hate you. They can never hate you. If they hate you...If they hate you, you've lost the game.

Lights up immediately. Same breakroom as before. The next day: KAMEN, WILLEM, LEO, CONSTANCE, CARTER. CONSTANCE is at a low table with KAMEN and CARTER. They are throwing cards. LEO is by the window. WILLEM is at his desk which is now very neat.

KAMEN: Goddammit Constance!

CONSTANCE: I can tell you're just guessing now.

CARTER: Four.

KAMEN: What? How did you, when did you, who did ya?

LEO peers over

LEO: What is it this time? Oh, four Kamen c'mon it's right in front of you.

KAMEN: This is what we like to call in the old business, ageism!

They all give a cacophony of boos and complaints as if he's done this a million times.

KAMEN: No, no, no I don't wanna hear this time I'm serious. It is bodacious! It is, I tell you. 40 years I've worked in this place. Have I ever complained? Yes once, once I know. But can you blame a fellow who feels his luck, tastes it, sees it in the air around him and follows it? No. You can't blame a storm for tearing apart the house. It's just it's nature. It just does what it does. So do I do what I do. When I get one Marry Jesus hail almighty Joseph and the three goddamn bears number off from that lotto ticket. They shoulda just given it to me at that point.

CONSTANCE: I'll give it to you this time. I promise Kamen.

LEO: Watch his hands.

CARTER: Did he tell you to watch his hands?

CONSTANCE: Watch my hands Kamen.

KAMEN: Fine.

CONSTANCE finishes another game. He lays his fingers out right in front of himself showing 4.

KAMEN: A load of bullcrap this is.

CONSTANCE: Did you watch my hands?

KAMEN: Oh I watched your hands asshole. SIX!!!!

CONSTANCE: Nope.

KAMEN: A LIZARDS ASSHOLE!!!!

KAMEN, infuriated exits. They are all stunned. Beat. LEO looking over.

LEO: It's four again isn't it.

CONSTANCE: Yup.

GAVI enters.

GAVI: Beautiful day today! (*Singing*) Sun shining bright above!

CONSTANCE: It's night.

GAVI: I meant during the day.

CONSTANCE: It was a blizzard.

GAVI: (*Singing*) Heat from the sun melting my heart

CONSTANCE: It's below 34.

GAVI: We need...Do you know what we need? A musical instrument.

CONSTANCE: A musical instrument.

GAVI: A musical instrument. A harp maybe, or a grand piano.

CONSTANCE: A harp?

GAVI: Yes to play lovely angel music with. Leo always talks about a guitar.

LEO: Talks.

GAVI: (*Mocking him*) Talks.

CONSTANCE: What is going on with you.

GAVI: No work today. No bills to pay. No stupid jams from Amy. We are smooth sailing.

CONSTANCE: You ate my fucking sandwich didn't you.

WILLEM: Actually, we're nearing the North camp. Can't believe we're going to be hitting it at such speed.

GAVI: Better to go too fast than too slow.

LEO: Fast through this narrow of the canal.

CONSTANCE: I have something special for you gents today!

CARTER: Why today?

CONSTANCE: It's a special day today: My 24 and ½ birthday thank you very much for not saying anything.

CARTER: Not another one of these. No Constance, it's too dangerous. Th-

CONSTANCE: If you'll allow my sir...If I look back on this brave country's day. Gavi listen up to this one. If we look back...way back. 1776 where the sperm met the egg of America.

WILLEM: Moving.

CONSTANCE: Where blood was shed and lobsters were boiled. Where we could spit on the ground and not have to apologize.

He spits on the ground.

CARTER: Constance!

CONSTANCE: I'm not sorry! I am a revolutionary child! SO I say to you my brother's in arms. To my sisters across this dead ocean. To God himself. Are you with me!

LEO: No boozes on the ship.

WILLEM: No boozes on the ship.

CONSTANCE: (*Exacerbated*) Can we just maybe perhaps have a sip?

GAVI: I'm ready, let's do it!

CONSTANCE: Yes that is what i'm talking about. The true spirit of liberty.

CARTER: First of all it's illegal on the ship, and we're literally floating in a soup of flammable gas. Your homebrewed horse wine isn't exactly exciting.

CONSTANCE: Funny you should say that. I may have had the patriotic duty to liberate some fine accouterments from our good soviet friends across the frozen pond. One hat of terrible design, one spot of dysentery and above all a carton of Moscow spirits.

CARTER: Oh great! Literally the most flammable type of alcohol there is!

LEO: Good spirits?

CARTER: No, no! Why are you encouraging him? Gavi?

GAVI: You know I really could take the edge off this long day.

CARTER: Willem?

WILLEM: I'm not in this.

Carter exits.

CONSTANCE: And the angels weep to see it don't they.

LEO: You're quite the menace for them aren't you?

CONSTANCE: I really am aren't I? Now big boys, this is good, good, good! An Ivan usually drinks potato swill I hear you there, but this is different. This will really send your books to the whales.

WILLEM: Not likely.

CONSTANCE: *(In a Russian accent)* Krepkaya my comrades. A true beverage for all in Russia, the poor and the... rest of the poor among us. 56 proof to forget about the goat I fucked yesterday.

GAVI: Enough flirting, get it out before shift takes.

CONSTANCE: Not very much for the dramatic effect are you?

CONSTANCE heads to the place where INESSA is hidden.

GAVI: WOAH!

CONSTANCE: What? Jesus.

GAVI: What are you uh... why are you heading there?

CONSTANCE: To get the drink comrade.

GAVI: But, but, why do you need to go there?

CONSTANCE: Because, that's where I put it.

GAVI: Are you sure?

CONSTANCE: Yes I'm sure, what the fuck are you talking about?

GAVI: Well, maybe someone could have taken it.

CONSTANCE: How the fuck would anyone take it? It's our breakroom.

GAVI: People get in here all the time from all over the ship. They take things all the time. You got that record taken from you, right Leo?

LEO: Yeah.

GAVI: And you Willem! You had those crocs or what over taken from your locker. Like straight out.

WILLEM: Loafers. Not crocs.

CONSTANCE: What's your point here?

GAVI: My point is...that...

CONSTANCE goes over to the place where she is hiding.

GAVI: I saw Leo speaking with Stanley!

CONSTANCE: What?

LEO: Gavi, woah what?

CONSTANCE: You spoke to him?

WILLEM: Is that true?

LEO: Uh, yeah, yeah it is.

CONSTANCE: Are you in trouble?

LEO: No. I'm not. I was just...He just wanted to meet with me because. Goddammit Gavi, how did you see us?

GAVI: I'm always in the top deck chopping that early.

WILLEM: What does he want?

LEO: He wants me to go break ice.

CONSTANCE: Break ice? That's insane.

WILLEM: It really is a polar vortex if that's true.

LEO: I guess it is.

WILLEM: Are you going to do it?

LEO: I don't know. I said no, but he offered me a spot in Iceland. Head consulter.

CONSTANCE: Like permanent?

LEO: Yeah. Just to break ice. For like a month or something.

CONSTANCE: Well that's great Leo. Great. Iceland. Man, clean air. Clean air: No smells, no more dust clouds, the sun breaking through... We're going to miss you here.

WILLEM: I think it's wonderful Leo. You really do deserve it. If that's what you'd want of course.

LEO: I don't know if I want to. It's not something I expected.

CONSTANCE: But, and I mean this in no disrespect, why did he choose you?

LEO: I speak English I guess.

WILLEM: There are a lot of Russians working this run.

CONSTANCE: I think he wants you dead.

LEO: Wouldn't be the worst thing.

CONSTANCE: Found himself someone with no family, no connections. Leo this is a death trap you have to know this.

WILLEM: Not necessarily; We really may need it in the end. You've done it before haven't you?

LEO: I have.

WILLEM: Then it's not completely out of the ordinary.

CONSTANCE: You're mad Will. Leo, don't do this.

LEO: I never said I would! Goddammit Gavi.

WILLEM: Fastest we've been going since I can remember.

CONSTANCE: If he's putting you on breaking ice, who is going to man your station?

LEO: They're sending Pachinkov from the engine room.

CONSTANCE: Pinko? He's a piece of work.

LEO: Yeah he is.

Beat.

CONSTANCE: But if you need to get out of here I understand. It's not exactly disneyland.

WILLEM: It is a good gig.

Beat.

CONSTANCE: Damn this is sad. Fuck you Gavi. Why do you have to be in everyone's business all the time?

GAVI: Hey! I just saw them talking through the window. Could've been about anything. I'm sorry Leo I didn't mean to force your hand like this.

LEO: It doesn't mean anything. You're all acting like I'm setting off tomorrow. I'm not.

CONSTANCE: What would you ride in?

LEO: The Forthright.

CONSTANCE: Oh, nevermind you are definitely a deadman.

LEO: It's not so bad. It's the newest model.

CONSTANCE: New doesn't mean better, my friend. Take a reliable one over some new shit any day. It's just like women. You could go for one of these new broads: With all their hairy armpits, and daisy chains, where you brush by them in the hall and end up with some shyster trying to own half your ballsack. Or, you could go with the tried and tested. The resilient. The lysol marine.

WILLEM: Very funny. I'm sure you love to amuse yourself this way.

LEO: I like to think about myself 5 years from now. When I do I'm either dead, or I'm off this ship. Makes me think I should shoot for the latter. Cut my losses now.

CONSTANCE: Death ain't so bad. It's sliding in a pool of warm honey. Makes me so sad.

WILLEM: And poetic it seems.

CONSTANCE: And poetic... Which calls for a drink.

CONSTANCE heads over to the spot where INESSA is hiding.

GAVI: WAIT!!

CONSTANCE: What!! Jesus Christ Gavi what the fuck is your problem? Messing up my whole poetic arc shit.

CONSTANCE keeps going to the trapdoor. GAVI jumps on CONSTANCE wrestling him away from the door.

LEO: What are you doing?

CONSTANCE: Get off me!

WILLEM: Gavi stop

GAVI: Let's wrestle! C'mon let's, let's wrestle. We haven't done that in years. C'mon just me and you. Mano y mano.

LEO: Gav, what the fuck is in there?

WILLEM: You're clearly hiding something. Is it a doll?

GAVI: It's not a doll!

CONSTANCE: Get off!

CONSTANCE trips while GAVI is wrestling him. He crashes into the table knocking over all of WILLEMS things and him in the process and spilling hot coffee on himself. They tumble in a mass of limbs. LEO walks over to the trapdoor curious.

GAVI: Leo don't please!

GAVI runs up to stop LEO, but both WILLEM and CONSTANCE grab a hold of his leg and he trips and falls reaching for LEO. LEO opens the trapdoor. Beat.

LEO: Uhh. Umm.

CONSTANCE: What's in there?

LEO: It's...mice. A whole family of them. Curled up.

CONSTANCE: Eww Gavi I knew it you
fucking weirdo.

WILLEM: Dammit Gavi I just had this all
organized.

GAVI: I'm sorry I...Just didn't want you guys to know.

CONSTANCE: We already knew you fucking Neaderthal! FUCK. Now there's probably mice shit everywhere you're cleaning that up you know. Clean all that shit up. It probably spoiled the alcohol, let me see.

LEO: No, no it's fine. Here I got it.

GAVI: I'm sorry guys I'll deal with it right away. I swear you don't have to worry. I'll get rid of them right now you don't have to do anything.

*LEO reaches down and grabs a milk carton full of bottles. He hands it to CONSTANCE.
Closing the lid.*

LEO: See, good as new.

CONSTANCE: Eww. Fuck you and your weird rodent kink FUCK.

WILLEM: I need to wash up. I can't believe there are mice here.

WILLEM exits.

CONSTANCE: I need a bottle opener... And when I am back. Those rats are in a trash bag smashed and thrown in the furnace. Ok?

GAVI: Yes. They will be, I promise.

CONSTANCE exits

LEO: Gavi?

GAVI: Mhm?

LEO: Gavi?

GAVI: Leo...Let's get these mice??

LEO: Why the fuck is there a woman in the fucking hatch?!!!

GAVI: SHHHH they'll hear you. Look just please. Her name is Inessa. She's a stow away from when we docked in Russia. She's really cool and I think she was in a lot of danger. You know

the protocol, if they find her, they'll send her back. What if Fish comes early? We can't take any chances.

LEO: She looks sick, Gavi. What the fuck! We need to get her out of there.

GAVI: I know, I know, I'm figuring it out! OH THESE MICE ARE REALLY FUCKING DEAD.

LEO: This is crazy Gav! Why didn't you tell me earlier about this? We could have done something! Does anyone know?

GAVI: No. Noone. I should have told you I know I'm sorry. I was just so worried about them turning around like how you told me they did before. I was going to figure it out. I just need time...Can you please help me on this one, please?

LEO: Ok. What are we going to do?

GAVI: If we can find-

WILLEM enters

GAVI: OHH SEE YA LATER DUMB RODENTS!

WILLEM: There we go seem to all be cleaned up now...What's going on?

LEO and GAVI: With what?

GAVI: Oh, we're just discussing how best to dispose of our little visitors.

WILLEM: No, I mean, with the hatch.

The hatch door is moving up and down.

GAVI: Oh that's a that's a...

INESSA finally gets the hatch open enough to come out. She looks very pale. She is experiencing severe sea sickness. She takes a seat on the ground and looks at all of them.

GAVI: That's Inessa.

LEO stops WILLEM from screaming

WILLEM: What the hell is wrong with you two. Who is this person? Did you bring her on the ship? This is the most insane thing I've ever seen. How could this day get any worse! Oh my my fucking God. The nerve on both of you to hide this kinda-

LEO: Just be quiet for a second!

WILLEM: Don't tell me to be-

LEO: She's a stowaway from Murmansk. She's in danger. Gavi's been feeding her. All this time we thought it was mice.

WILLEM: Get off of me. Don't treat me like a child Leo... Well she can't stay here I mean...

GAVI: Where else? They'd turn the ship around if they found her.

WILLEM: Not for asylum.

GAVI: She doesn't even speak English shithead. It's ok... He's a friend. They all are.

WILLEM: They wouldn't...

GAVI: Are you going to say anything?

WILLEM: I don't want any part of this.

GAVI: Then don't tell anyone. Please, that's all I'm asking from both of you.

WILLEM: I won't. I just... I don't need this right now.

LEO: It's ok Willem.

WILLEM: I'm submitting tomorrow, and all my work is now on the fucking ground.

CONSTANCE & KAMEN and heard coming closer.

KAMEN OFFSTAGE: I've been telling you for years it's a bad idea.

CONSTANCE OFFSTAGE: Shuuuap.

LEO WILLEM and GAVI all jump to hide her under tables and chairs finally deciding on the closet. While they are moving her around she seems very sick.

CONSTANCE: Hello lovelies. How are we this fine evening?

LEO GAVI WILLEM: GREAT!

CONSTANCE: Woah, take a chill pill.

KAMEN: Krepkaya! Drink of the ancients. What the hell happened here?

CONSTANCE: Just don't ask.

GAVI: Hey, Kamen! How's the arm, feeling tired? I know I would be.

CONSTANCE: Are our new roommates gone?

GAVI: Gone. Yep.

CONSTANCE: *(to LEO)* Really?

LEO: Yes. They're gone.

CONSTANCE: What's wrong?

LEO: What do you mean?

KAMEN: What are you talking about, roommates?

CONSTANCE: Nothing old man, take a seat. Relax.

LEO: You know Constance, it has been a long day. Why don't we just turn in?

CONSTANCE:...What? What do you mean I just got the cork thingy!

LEO: Let's do it another night.

CONSTANCE: I can't even-

LEO: Carter will be back soon. We don't want him to get upset.

KAMEN: He wouldn't tell his officer friends if that's what you're worried about.

CONSTANCE: Carter will survive i'm sure.

WILLEM: Well I'm going to sleep.

CONSTANCE: It's 8:30.

WILLEM: I need to work on my submission and clean all of this up. Which was your fault Gavi. You're helping me with this tomorrow.

CONSTANCE: SO lame. I guess it's just you, me and Gav.

GAVI: Actually, I have to work early tomorrow also. I'm gonna leave with Will.

CONSTANCE: Just you and me old man.

KAMEN: I'm not drinking with you...It's like a burnt cheese smell...

CONSTANCE: I'm...I'm gone. Fuck all of you.

He exits

KAMEN: Aren't you all going as well?

GAVI: Yup, yup, yup.

WILLEM: Right, of course.

LEO: Yes, right.

They all exit. KAMEN comes a bit after.

KAMEN: Oop left my socks.

KAMEN opens the cabinet and INESSA falls out laying on the ground. WILLEM, GAVI, and LEO rush back in.

GAVI: KAMEN STOP!!!

KAMEN: What...

LEO: She's hurt. C'mon Gavi, hold her head. Did she hit it?

GAVI: I don't know, I don't see anything.

LEO: No blood?

WILLEM: I'll go to the med bay.

LEO & GAVI: No!

LEO: She's ok. She's just really sea sick.

KAMEN: Leo... What is this?

LEO: Just sit down for a sec.

KAMEN: Leo!! A woman. A woman on the ship. I...I

WILLEM: Sit down, we'll explain.

KAMEN: No no no no no no no-start explaining right now! Right now I'll tell you! You really are done for!

CARTER enters and they don't see him.

WILLEM: She's a stowaway-

KAMEN: I can see that!

WILLEM: She's from Murmansk.

KAMEN: Murmansk?! From our last run?

LEO: Yes.

Beat. CARTER runs to her.

CARTER: Move, she's dehydrated, idiots.

He gives her his canteen and props her up on the cabinet.

CARTER: There, drink up all of it.

GAVI: Carter...I...I...I'm so sorry.

CARTER: Stop crying, it's ok.

She nods her head.

CARTER: You can hear me?

GAVI: She understands english Carter, she does.

CARTER: Let's get her to the quarters c'mon. Will you just stop crying, you're not in trouble.

They all help her to the ship's quarters. Blackout.

ACT TWO

Nighttime, the only light you can see is from the remnants of the Northern lights coming through the upstage window. From offstage: C'mon through here I want to show you something. GAVI enters with INESSA.

GAVI: Ok you can open your eyes now.

She opens her eyes and catches the light. They both go to the window.

GAVI: I don't know if you see them in Murmansk; but we see them all the time on our runs through here. It's about the best thing there is working this far North.

INESSA Looks at him

GAVI: Most of us get used to 'em pretty quickly. It's kinda incredible how easily we can get used to such beautiful things. I guess, if we didn't, then we wouldn't get much done.

INESSA Shivers

GAVI: Cold right? The window is freezing. It's a good reminder for what's really out here.

INESSA She cranes her head up looking past the lights and sees the shipping containers. Then she points to them.

GAVI: Those are containers. Most of them are empty, we just dropped ‘em off in your home town. Though we’re taking a couple of the big grain loads with us. It’s crazy to think that you guys started growing so much food. The climate really favors you.

INESSA gestures putting food in her mouth.

GAVI: Are you hungry?

INESSA Nods her head. GAVI pulls out some dry biscuits, splits it in half, and gives it to her

GAVI: I know you must be scared because of all these new people that know about you. I’m sorry about that. I wish it could have been easier. But now, we’re really close to getting you home. The North camp is our last stop before DC. Once we’re in open waters again everything will slow down. And my friends are the coolest people I know. I hope you get to like them as well. Kamen is a bit of a hardass but he’s got the heart of a puppy. Willem knows everything. He can be kinda annoying about it, but he never is judgemental. You can ask him to explain something a hundred times and he’d probably do it. He also speaks Russian! That’s a big reason why he’s on this run to Murmansk with us. I think he’ll be a great help when we reach DC for you. Constance is just kinda an asshole, but he’s one of the only people working on this level with an actual degree in engineering. Sometimes I think he acts more stupid than he is. Carter is an officer, he’s the most well off out of all of us. Leo is like my older brother: He was the one that found me when I was working at my uncle’s butcher shop. He told me about what he did and I just hopped on right away. Shuba has this awesome branch called acquisitions, where people just go out into the world and discover new trade routes and goods for the company. That’s the goal for me. To travel the world. I wanna move to every continent. Honestly, I thought in this job we’d be able to leave the ship more than a couple hours at a time when we docked. This is my last run before I qualify for an application. Once I get to DC that’s it. I’m off this ship for good. I’ll check in with my family in Connecticut, then I’ll be off! Willem will probably be gone as well. He’s applying for professorship at all these awesome schools... I got something for you.

He pulls out a wooden carving of a whale that he was working on.

GAVI: It’s called a whale. They’re an extinct species that Willem goes on and on about. He’s writing a whole paper about them. They were the largest animal alive. But, I think we hunted them to extinction, which is too bad because I really would have liked to see one up close. No one knows much about ‘em, but they were huge that’s for sure. 15 buses long. We have

paintings of the things. Can you imagine an animal that big? It's rare, like you, so I thought you could have it.

INESSA takes the whale and begins to cry.

GAVI: No, no, it's ok don't cry. I'm sorry I'll take it back, there's no reason for me to give this to you anyway. It was stupid I know.

INESSA shakes her head in protest then wipes the tears away. She kisses the whale, then smiles and kisses him for a second.

GAVI sits back amazed.

GAVI: Woah...cool.

Blackout. Projections of more events in the 60's, snippets of advertisements are shown. The NEWS ANCHOR is projected and heard from within this sequence.

NEWS ANCHOR: The new SS Sotarian cuts straight through the canal like sand through an hourglass. Isn't that what you said Gabriel? Sand through an hourglass.

The audio of STANLEY is heard again in stage dark.

STANLEY AUDIO:(*Drunk*) I was so cold before this. (*Laughs*) I was like eskimo pussy cold. Real fucking cold. I dry my clothes out by the space heaters. It makes me feel so primitive. Makes me feel like a man in the wilderness. What a fucking joke. Gas covers everything here, but it's invisible. At least that's what they say. A new danger. The invisible enemy- as if we already didn't have enough to deal with. There's an old story about one of our ships trapped in the ice. Had to break it out with pickaxes. One of them lit a cigarette and blew the whole fucking crew sky high. It's a story yes, but stories hold a kernel of truth don't they? I looked...I was...I am a creator: That's what I am. I am a machine that creates other machines all working in machines for machines; all believing they somehow escaped the machine. Speaking this into a fucking machine... 5,000 new jobs added with Shuba. 5,000 families cared for. 5,000 seats at the dinner table...But do I feel good? Do I feel like I've become something? That I am serving something? No...I want...I want the sun on my face again. I want the heat in my bed again. November 28th. 1953.

The PRESIDENT is projected again.

PRESIDENT: A bald eagle landed on my front yard today... and I shot it with a 12 gauge. And I'll tell you why: Our forefathers did not intend for us to worship a bird. For us to worship these idols these idealistic idiosyncratic discrepancies of "hope". We are meant for greater things! For greater good! For reality over fiction. We are not bird watchers! We are the road, and the map that shows the road. We are both together...Do I sound like the kind of man who would lie to you? What is a lie? What's in a lie? You all fall under this spell. This idea. There was a time when we respected these things without asking so many goddamn questions. There was truth, and there was...garbage. Trash. Disposable diapers everyone could smell from a mile away... Are you doing enough? Are you enough? Always remember...We do not pray to the priests, WE PRAY TO GOD.

Lights up. Days have passed. CONSTANCE is flipping idly through a book leaning back in a chair. INESSA is rearranging things in the breakroom cleaning . She starts to tap on the glass of the lobster cage. She seems very restless.

CONSTANCE: So...uh, you're our new Russian doll huh?

INESSA Nods and smiles.

CONSTANCE: Damsel in distress all the way to KGB agent...Why do the dolls have so many more little ones in them?

INESSA Shrugs her shoulders.

CONSTANCE: Cool, cool. Well, I hope you're not up to anything nefarious. And by that I mean sabotage, and by sabotage I mean eating my food. Cause that will not fly around here honey, you understand that? Everytime I look, somebody is reaching for things they're not supposed to.

INESSA: Speak...slower.

CONSTANCE: You can talk? I thought you were deaf. Now, what I was saying sweetheart, and I'll say it real slow for you, is that this food here. This, this food, right here, is mine. Do not eat. See, it's written on the cover. I'll translate it for ya if that'll help. This, over here, this food, eat all of that. We straight?

INESSA: So straight.

CONSTANCE: Mitchels off limits also; that's Will and Carter's girlfriend... You know girlfriend? Sex buddy? Yeah, that's Mitchel so hands off.

LEO enters and takes of his suit putting it into the cabinet

LEO: We're connected to the dock finally.

CONSTANCE: How long this time?

LEO: Just a day.

CONSTANCE: It's getting shorter and shorter. It's that deck crew burn baby.

LEO: Where's Kamen?

CONSTANCE: Asleep. I think he's not feeling very well.

LEO: We need him to get to an actual doctor.

CARTER enters carrying what looks like a suitcase. He drinks water. He sits down. He looks exhausted.

CONSTANCE: Going somewhere?

CARTER: Fucking hell.

LEO: Are you going to help load up?

CARTER: We were just working the crane for an hour lifting those dozen spin wheels on the deck.

CONSTANCE: You drew bad again?

CARTER: Yep, again. Since we're only here for a day we had to move fast. My back is done for. Throw that old piece of garbage out. Look at this-

CARTER places a suitcase record player on the desk.

CONSTANCE: Sweet God that's a find!

CARTER: Someone left it.

CONSTANCE: Music! Real music! We have evolved from the stone age.

CARTER: Sorry to disappoint you, but just as dusty as it looks, the record that came with it could be dustier.

He puts in the record and an early 20's record starts playing.

LEO: Kamen would probably know this.

CONSTANCE: I can work with this.

He starts doing a dance to the music. WILLEM enters.

CONSTANCE: Gimme a little scotch to ease the pain. Gimme a little smoke to numb my brain. Duwap duwap duwap. Get that old bastard out here no one can move like him.

LEO: How is he?

WILLEM: It's not looking good. His cough has come back. He'll be out here in a bit, you know how embarrassed he gets.

CARTER: Maybe there's a med bay here.

WILLEM: It's not operational anymore. And besides we're only here for a day anyway.

CONSTANCE: Hey that rhymes. Day, anyway.

WILLEM: Dobryy vecher
(Good evening)

INNESSA: Dobryy vecher.
(Good evening)

WILLEM: Oni bespokoili vas?
(Did they bother you)

INNESSA: Net, u nas byla tantseval'naya vecherinka. Tanets! Tanets!
(No. We've been having a dance party. Dancing! Dancing!)

She laughs and clicks her heels.

WILLEM: Kak naschet etogo?
(Did he mess with you?)

He nods at CONSTANCE

INESSA: *(she laughs)* On tsvetochnyy mal'chik.
(He's a flower boy)

They both laugh very hard.

CONSTANCE: Hey! What'd she say? I know she said something fucked up.

WILLEM: She said your dance moves are irresistible.

CONSTANCE: Fuck off Will; Speak your commie trash somewhere else.

CARTER: Hey now, cool off.

CONSTANCE: Fuck you man, I don't like everyone taking the piss outta me. She's a liability out here. Fish could show up any moment.

LEO: Relax no one is coming through. We never even saw him. Right, Carter?

CARTER: Possibly. I didn't get down much.

CONSTANCE: Still, it's a fucking risk anyway.

KAMEN OFFSTAGE: Looks like a bunch of little rabbits.

KAMEN starts to walk on stage. He is slower. WILLEM and INESSA walk over to help him to a seat.

WILLEM: I told you to stay! Why don't you just-

KAMEN: *(To INESSA)* Thank you dear...

CONSTANCE: You look terrible.

KAMEN: This damn cough. Can't seem to shake it...Did you do it yet?

WILLEM: Yes, I did. This morning.

LEO: Do what?

KAMEN: The dissertation of course!

CARTER: That's great news! Are you excited?

WILLEM: I am a little nervous, but I think it will catch their eye at least. I know the man that runs the group that reviews this kind of thing.

LEO: We're all rooting for you.

CONSTANCE: This is cause for celebration!

ALL EXCEPT INESSA: No!

CONSTANCE: *(Sighs)* Fuck.

WILLEM: It's a great relief for me, but I want to get moving again. I hate being in the same spot for so long.

KAMEN: Is it time for the bookworm to find a bird?

WILLEM: It's time for me to get some actual students.

CONSTANCE: Watch out world.

GAVI runs in.

GAVI: He's here.

CARTER: Who?

GAVI: Fish. He's coming.

Everyone curses and begins to panic. They grab INESSA and usher her into the hatch.

CARTER: It's just until he leaves don't worry. We'll get you right away. Here take my water. It must be hot in there.

They all pretend to be doing something. Heavy footsteps are heard coming closer.

CARTER: Hide that.

He gestures to the record player. CONSTANCE puts it away. The footsteps stop. FISHER enters: He's wearing boots.

FISHER: Hello...Miss me? Captain.

CARTER: Hey, Fish, how are you?

FISHER: What's going on? Did someone's Grandma die? Everyone looks so fucking sad. Aren't you excited to see my new tan?

Silence.

FISHER: I brought you all some gifts.

WILLEM: You really didn't have too.

FISHER: I insist.

He puts down a burlap sack and brings out some oranges.

FISHER: Here, give 'em a good juggle.

GAVI: Oranges! Awesome Fish. That's really nice of you.

FISHER: Of course, my boy...Kamen, are you ok? You don't look too well.

KAMEN: I'm fine! It's you who should be worried.

FISHER: How so?

KAMEN: Maybe you got the plague or something! Traveling around like that!

FISHER: Just got back from my tour around Africa.

GAVI: Got any good stories this time?

FISHER: Good stories? Oh, I got plenty of those... You're more mute than usual, Conny boy.

CONSTANCE: Old age.

FISHER: You're not old... You're not old. It's been exhausting these past couple of months. Days on the sea. Living in the jungle like an animal. I tell you it's tiring. All of this moving about.

GAVI: Don't sound too bad.

FISHER: Leo. You're still chipping away aren't you?

LEO: You know me.

FISHER: When are you going to go home?

Beat.

FISHER: I hear Iceland might be on the table. Too bad. Did you piss off old Stanley?

WILLEM: Actually, they offered him a stay there.

FISHER: Really, I didn't know that. I assumed-

LEO: It's alright. I don't know if I'm taking it.

GAVI: How's it being back?

FISHER: Oh, it's wonderful to be back with the freedom fighters.

KAMEN: Not a lot of freedom left.

FISHER: What's that?

KAMEN: Oh, nothing, I'm just old.

FISHER: What's going on my friends? I feel like I've offended you.

LEO: No not all. You're welcome Fish.

WILLEM: Take a seat, please. You were here like the rest of us.

FISHER takes a seat.

FISHER: Maybe I'll bunk with you fellows till we arrive.

CONSTANCE: Why?

FISHER: For old times sake.

CONSTANCE: As long as I get your room.

FISHER: Funny one you are. Always funny...

CONSTANCE: That's my function.

FISHER: Can't move as quick as I used to.

CARTER: You're not old.

FISHER: They actually had to put the gangway out for me this time. Was a real hit in the face, I tell you my friends: Running all your life you forget to turn back once and a while. I would trade every inch of my skin for 4 more years...I'm rambling again. Carter, how's Louise?

CARTER: She's good, Fish.

FISHER: A good looking woman as I remember. Crooked nose though. With all these new things I'm sure you'll be able to fix that. Terrible thing for a woman to be ashamed of things she can't control. It's devastating for them. For us, it's a luxury. A scar shows the history of a man. Maturity of a man. Wisdom on a man. It's damaged goods on a woman.

KAMEN: Scars remind me of little spiderwebs.

FISHER: If you remember, I was the one who shot Achilles in the ankle. Got a lotta praise for that one, personally I thought it was more of a happy accident...Shot it with my eyes closed.

LEO: A world traveler.

FISHER: I saw a lot of things this time around...I saw a man made of skin. A hollow man. All skin he was. Floating in the desert. Smoked a cigarette with his left hand. Just like this. Had a poker face like you wouldn't believe.

CONSTANCE: Why are you here, man?

FISHER: Can't I just stop by... You always know how to read a man well Conny. There is something... you'll be devastated to know I'm leaving Shuba. As soon as we dock I'll be gone. Out of your hair. So, I came to say my last goodbyes to all of you before we hit the open water.

CARTER: I'm sorry to hear that.

FISHER: It's alright. I needed to move on anyway.

CONSTANCE: I thought they booted you.

Pause.

FISHER: They didn't fire me. I left.

GAVI: Why's that?

FISHER: I'm so sorry Gavi. I know I promised you that I would take you this time. My hands were full.

CONSTANCE: I'm sure they were.

FISHER: But I'll put in a good word for you. I promise.

GAVI: Really? Fish that's awesome.

FISHER: I need to recommend a replacement anyway. Can you handle the hot sun?

GAVI: I can handle anything. Fish, this is huge. I...I don't know what to say.

FISHER: It's alright it needed to happen...I took up board with a silent tribe. It was a fascinating time. It was a dangerous time. Lot's of tigers in those lands. They use clicks and whistles. It was like talking to birds. Great moon eyes they had. Kinda like you Kamen. Dark pools of black.

KAMEN: Still sharp as ever.

FISHER: I saw the branches fold in on me like a spider web. They all knew what the right words were when it came to it. It was as hot as you can imagine.

GAVI: How was Africa?

FISHER: Instructive.

CARTER: Well, it's getting late, we don't want to keep you.

FISHER: Fellas, calm down, calm down... So insistent on getting me out of here, I just managed to put my feet up. Let's have a chat!

CONSTANCE: Nothing to chat about.

FISHER: Oh, I beg to disagree, my friend. There is always something to chat about...

Pause.

LEO: It's been a longer dock than usual. We're just exhausted.

FISHER: Oh, I understand exhausted. What I don't understand is why this place is so neat! Things organized, what is this, a swept floor? Something's off and you're not telling me. You see, I know the tricks us sheep get up to when the wool starts to burn. When you're trying to hide something, you always crowd away from it. It's a dead giveaway boys, take it from me I know how to keep a secret.

CARTER: There's nothing Fisher.

FISHER: Is that so?

CARTER: Yes.

FISHER: So tall my boy, so tall you are. I'm surprised you can fit through the doorways.

CARTER: Let's all just take a breath.

FISHER: You forget I BREATHE THROUGH MY SKIN!

FISHER gets us up and goes straight to the hatch. Everyone starts. He opens the hatch.

CARTER: Fish you gotta understand it's-

FISHER: Krepkaya! Drink of the kings!

He pulls out a bottle.

FISHER: And here I thought it was something dangerous. Perhaps a bear for you all to feast on in the dark.

He laughs and laughs and laughs. They all relax and begin to laugh. He closes the hatch. Opens the bottle with a bottle opener on his belt.

FISHER: Have a drink with me fellas!

CARTER: Sorry Fish, I should have-

FISHER: Nothing to be sorry for! What a wonderful find. Anytime we can stick it to the red we should. Who found this wonder?

CONSTANCE: It was me Fish.

FISHER: Great job fruit cup, I'm surprised you had it in you.

LEO shoots a look to CONSTANCE as to say "it's not worth it".

FISHER: *(To GAVI)* C'mon, my boy, grab some glasses from the hold. Oh, you don't mind if we have a little nip do you?

CONSTANCE:...It's fine.

GAVI exits.

FISHER: And here I thought I would have to report you all to the old smelly sock upstairs.

GAVI returns, handing them all glasses. FISHER pours a shot for each of them.

FISHER: In Russia, they drink to health, and by God do we need that.

He raises his glass

FISHER: Na zdorovye.

They all take the shot unwillingly, struggling with the alcohol. He pours himself three more and takes them without a thought. Everyone watches.

GAVI: How big was your group this time?

FISHER: When?

GAVI: In Africa.

FISHER: Only about 12 of us. You see, people drop off through the tour, it's how it goes. Some of us need to stay for the next round and so on.

GAVI: Were you in Tanzania the whole time, or did you travel around?

FISHER: We stayed on the coasts. Ended up finishing the trip in the south western cape. We all were staying in this old colonial house by the end. It stood out like a sore thumb. All the other houses were made of cinder block, and then you get to this huge victorian. I thought nothing too wild about my stay there. It was the last leg of the journey before I hopped on another of Mcklellens and came back to DC. I was wrong of course. But it was normal. It was. The people were nice. The food was excellent... but there was a dog. The guard dog for the grounds. His name was Batoo. And we learned about him right away from the skinny host Modimo. It was a beast of a dog I tell you. Great fangs a hand span long. Ink fur like metal sponges. Eyes like the eyelids of dawn. Foam bubbling over its jaws like a wave crashing. Could leap 7 feet and scale a 15 foot wall without pause. Fed on 26 eggs a day; it was his pride and joy. He used to say all the time that God came to him one night and said: the time has come for the devil to test you. I guess you could say he took that challenge head on. Next day the pup showed up at his front door; Though he was full of shit I'm sure. A known liar around the whole town.... Only thing interesting about the man was that enormous fucking beast. He used to walk it around with an iron chain around its neck as a collar. People would complain, but everyone wanted to be something. And that was his way of doing it. People said the thing broke free a couple times, but the chain always stopped him. No one tried to mess with the house on account of Batoo, and I don't blame any of them. One time it killed a chicken. The dog stayed on the property after that. No more walks from our friend... We used to watch that thing at night huffing and puffing and pacing like it had bone to pick with every piece of dirt and every son of a bitch that happened to meet its eyeline. I swear on my mother that thing never slept...It was our last night there. We thought that it would be it for the old house and the dragon that guarded it... Then in the early morning, about 6 o'clock, he hears someone shuffling around in the yard. There's a noise-I heard it too. Like the screech of metal on a wood floor. Modimo was jumpy

that morning and let him out right away. He screamed dela yena! And that dog went flying out! Its muscles were thick as rope and veins popped all over its back. I was staying in the top room. We were all watching from our broken windows. I could hear the screams from there. There must have been someone there, because the son of a bitch ripped the iron ring from the wall and hopped the fence in one great stride. It landed like the devil himself. Dust flying everywhere. ...A great scream came from somewhere over the fence. I remember a crack in the sky. A streak of wispy cloud all bruised and battered from the rising sun. It all felt closer, like we were on the iris of the globe. The very top. The whole town was up. You could hear people moving and shuffling. Modimo ran out of the house after it. We came down too- curious despite our fear... When the dust settled, we saw the worst. It got a curious beggar girl by the throat. Couldn't be more than 9 years old, and dragged her off into one of the abandoned shacks. You could see her too. Wasn't even moving. Not even a sound. People called for guns. Screamed for safety... But no one tried to intervene. She was dead. That was for sure. Now it was how to minimize more loss. The whole village circled around that shack. Like Dante and Virgil 'round the gates of hell. Someone finally got a rifle- one of those old springloads with a crank handle. It was handed to Modimo. Seemed like the right thing to do. He was shaking. His boney arms could barely hold it. Then a sound. The breaking of twigs. The crinkle of glass. Badoo came out. His mouth dripping with blood. Many screamed and ran at the sight of him. He sort of waited there. Unsure of what to do with so many people around. I heard the strangest sound, like wind blowing a pile of leaves. It was only till I looked around that I realized everyone was speaking. Speaking in prayers.... Softly.... Badoo strided up to Modimo and sat at his master's foot- the barrel pointed between his eyes. One breath. He cocked and shot. Like a great bending boom the sound ricocheted on all the metal roof slats and up around the town like a vortex of sound...The thing fell with an empty thud. Its eyes were black then. Like a candle pinched out. Some were sick. Some were in cold anger. But all of us were terrified of entering that shack. Who would do it? It wasn't real until one of us stepped in...But then, like a dove rising, a woman stepped out of the shack. The same beggar girl as before! Except she must have been 15 years older. Stark naked. Face like a diamond spear. She was the most beautiful woman I have ever seen in my life. We all just went to our knees. Sniffing and crying like idiots. She had this glow about her, like a warm night in December. It was the most incredible sight these old eyes have seen...And that my boys...was my time in the cape.

Beat. FISHER gets out a cigar and lights it.

GAVI: What happened to the dog?

FISHER: The dog? Oh... we ate the dog.

ALL: What?

FISHER: We ate that son of a bitch! Spit it on the fire. Stuffed it with onion and bell pepper and thyme and paprika and danced the night away! It fed the whole town twice over!

CARTER: What did it taste like?

FISHER: Like chicken.

CONSTANCE: I thought you said it was your last night there?

FISHER: Hmm?

CONSTANCE: You said it was your last night there. How did you dance the night away if you were already leaving?

FISHER: Oh, Conny. You think a liar would have such good teeth? I know you well Constance. I've seen you sniveling about that pretty boy. That boy you chased like mellon in the heat.

Silence. CONSTANCE lunges at him. They catch him an inch before reaching FISHER who doesn't move at all.

CONSTANCE: Keep smiling.

FISHER: Oh, I will, my boy.

Blows cigar smoke in his face

FISHER: Raise your fist against an officer again and I'll gut you like a pig...Enjoy your drinks boys. I'll catch you all when the world spins.

He exits grabbing his oranges on the way.

CARTER: Get a hold of yourself dipshit. This is your idea of a low profile?

CONSTANCE: Get the fuck off of me.

GAVI: You can come out now. It's safe.

INESSA comes out of the hatch.

CARTER: Are you alright?

INESSA *Shrugs her shoulders.*

GAVI: Why don't you give her some space? Can't you see she needs it.

CARTER: I am Gav, settle down now.

LEO: I say we just call it a night.

GAVI: It's not like you really care.

CARTER: What exactly is that supposed to mean Gavi?

GAVI: You know exactly what it means.

CARTER: Why don't you explain it to me then?

LEO: Cool off.

GAVI: Always gotta be the savior. Always gotta put yourself between the hailstorm of bullets.

CARTER: Is that how you see it?

GAVI: We're the lowest rated crew on the whole ship.

KAMEN: You two need to do this right now?

GAVI: You pity us and we give you attention so you stay here. They don't like you up there. I know, I'm up there all the time working.

CARTER: Chopping vegetables.

GAVI: No, I'm fucking working! I hear what they say about you. How you ate alone every day.

CARTER: Don't you start-

GAVI: You said you would get me moved up for acquisitions. All this time I'm waiting and Fish comes in and gives it to me on a silver platter. He is our commanding officer. Done a hell of a lot more than you-

CARTER: Don't you fucking start kid.

LEO: Gavi where are you going!

GAVI exits

LEO: Gavi! Gavi come back here. Nice job.

CARTER: He was being the difficult one. Don't you see that?

Silence. KAMEN starts a violent coughing fit.

WILLEM: C'mon Kamen, let's get you to bed.

WILLEM exits with KAMEN

LEO: *(To CONSTANCE)* You got a problem?

CONSTANCE gets up and slowly walks past everyone heading to the exit.

CONSTANCE: *(Points to INESSA)* That's my problem.

CONSTANCE exits.

CARTER: I'm sorry about him...I'm sorry about all of this.

INESSA: I don't understand.

CARTER: I'll get Will.

INESSA: No, no. I don't understand why he not like me.

CARTER: He doesn't like Russians. It's not you.

INESSA: Oh.

LEO: Real patriotic of him.

CARRTER: Gavi mentioned you had some trouble with your family. I don't have the most pull, but I do know some people back home that could help you.

INESSA: You could help?

CARTER: Well, it would be better if I knew what the problem was.

INESSA: The problem?

CARTER: With your family. Are they putting you in danger?

INESSA: No.

Silence

CARTER: I'm sorry if this-

INESSA: I'm looking for... I'm looking... my brother. He's gone.

CARTER: I'm so sorry.

INESSA: I need him.

CARTER: Well, we'll find him. Don't worry. We'll find him, and if you need help, or you want help we can all do something right Leo?

LEO:...

CARTER: What I'm trying to say is that we are here for you. And, it doesn't matter that the situation is up against us. I mean I-

INESSA: Thank you. Thank you.

CARTER: We'll find him.

She kisses him on the cheek. Then she looks around and exits.

CARTER: That Gavi. He's so enamored with her.

LEO: I guess.

CARTER: Young love.

LEO: You think it's love.

CARTER: Well, maybe not love. How could he know what love is?

LEO: Maybe.

CARTER: What? You're looking at me weird. What is it?

LEO: Nothing, you seem kinda shakin up.

CARTER: Not at all...

They both clean up and stack the cups, CARTER picks up INESSA's dropped headband.

CARTER: The one thing that bastard was right about. It gets tiring.

LEO: What does?

CARTER: Marriage is boring Leo, pray you never fall victim.

LEO: Is that so?

CARTER: I guess if you spend time with each other it might be different... I hope you at least sleep a bit.

He starts to exit.

LEO: Carter?

CARTER: Yes?

LEO: You're holding her headband.

CARTER: Oh, right. I'll just...you can give it to her?

LEO: Sure.

CARTER exits. LEO goes to a phone mounted on the wall. He dials.

LEO:...I'll do it.

He hangs up. Exits. WILLEM appears again with Winslow's journal.

WILLEM: "The water is clear. The sun never sets. This may be the closest to heaven we get on Earth. There is a strange feeling: As if we've dipped our toes into the eternal. Captain claims we are following the beast, but it couldn't be farther from our minds. Something calls to the spirit here. Something that defies explication. The compass no longer points North. When one loses track of time; One cannot discern the minute from the hour, the hour from the day. Never have I seen a blue so blue. Have I felt peace till now?" His last entry... In 1863 the Glupost was found essentially torn in half- dashed across the glacial ice. I want to say here that their bodies were never found. That a mystery lies over the whole expedition. That Winslow's painting in Aruba. But that would be wrong. All 15 sailors were found. Most had starved to death. Others died on impact. Winslow's body had frozen completely. He crawled out of the ship to the frozen land. A picture of his wife essentially fused to his hand... This was about the time whaling seemed to be a doomed industry. With few catchable whales left; The danger outweighed the profit, but whalers found a new market through hydrogenation- a process used to turn liquid oils into usable fats. And only three years later the Norwegians invented the explosive harpoon making it easy to decimate enormous numbers of whales; Within a decade the whale population was pushed to complete extermination. The last known whale was seen in the Bering sea, heading North. It's recorded a competition was held to bring an end to the species. I'm happy to say they all came up empty handed. I like to think maybe a little pod of whales is with us today, but it's been over 60 years without a sighting, and they were declared extinct more than a decade ago. Still I keep an eye out. Whenever I'm up there.

Blackout

STANLEY AUDIO: Everyday I wake up with a headache. With another needle shot between my eyes. Waiting for you to call me. Waiting for you to see me. If only we could not hate ourselves so much. It would be easier then, wouldn't it?

Lights up in the breakroom. A week has passed. They are all sitting around a makeshift table. KAMEN sits at the back. LEO is against a wall.

KAMEN: We are here today to remember the passing of a dear friend-

LEO: Cut it out Kamen.

KAMEN: Oh, am I a little early?

CONSTANCE: Our little boy is heading for the new world.

KAMEN: Now I would say it's appropriate to get out the drinks Conny.

CONSTANCE: Don't call me that old man.

KAMEN: The days before we standardized all these shipping containers, we had so much more time. Time to rest... Time to sleep. A good sleep too, one that leaves you at the end of the river. Now all the cargo looks the same. All the boats look the same. All the crew looks the same. Everything's fucking the same.

CONSTANCE: Cheer up will ya? We're going to be home soon.

WILLEM: We? All of us?

CONSTANCE: Yeah, that's what I said. All of us.

WILLEM: What does it really mean to be home, if no one is there to greet you?

CONSTANCE: Yay! What a great way to bring that up! Can you just cheer up, for a bit?

KAMEN: Leave him alone.

CONSTANCE: I'm sorry Will, but hey! Look at it this way... now you can be a bachelor for the rest of your life. No more worrying about shitty ass students throwin spitballs at you, or lighting your underwear on fire, none of that. And trust me you are a prime suspect. I mean those glasses alone! If I was in your class, by the end of the week you'd be running out to dig trenches for uncle Sam.

CARTER: *(to LEO)* Have you checked with Slick about those tie lines, they can be really tricky.

LEO: Yeah, he told me about it, mostly he just said don't ever take the gloves off. Even if it takes you 20 more minutes.

CONSTANCE: Where's the stuff anyway?

CARTER: Inessa's getting it. We had to put in the bilge this time in case that fucker comes back for more.

KAMEN: The storms are stilling.

LEO: We really shouldn't be having her like...out and about, don't you think.

CARTER: He's not coming down. I told you he made his mark.

LEO: I mean, what if Diego comes by or one of the uppers...I'm just saying, it's a risk. What are you going to do when you dock?

CONSTANCE: Easy, once we hit DC they couldn't care less. We can just take her to immigration there.

LEO: No, they'll think she's a spy shithead, and we won't see her until her body washes up in the East River.

CARTER: I'll figure something out.

LEO: We're all over our heads with this.

KAMEN: We're people. That's what we are.

CONSTANCE: Exquisite observation.

KAMAN: Oh, go stick it in your sock.

GAVI and INESSA enter. GAVI is carrying the box of alcohol. INESSA is dressed in WILLEM's clothes, they fit oldy around her, but she is beautiful in them, surprising to everyone.

CONSTANCE: Well, that's a *thing*. Two Willems! I could just puke kelp already.

CARTER: I think they look good. That's considerate of you Will.

WILLEM: A little disheartening that I'm the only one that fits her.

CONSTANCE: Take it as a compliment my friend.

WILLEM: I won't.

CONSTANCE: ehh I wouldn't either.

GAVI sets the alcohol down and distributes glasses to everyone around.

GAVI: What are we toasting too?

CONSTANCE: Not our health for fuck sake.

GAVI: The ship?

CARTER: What about our friend Mitchel?

KAMEN: To love.

Everyone looks at KAMEN.

KAMEN: What?

CARTER: Love?

KAMEN: We could all use some don't you think?

LEO: Don't get all sentimental on me.

KAMEN starts to cry. Noone knows what to do. His crying is matter of fact without theatrics. Silence.

CARTER: *(to Constance)* Why don't you put on some music?

CONSTANCE retrieves a record and puts on some upbeat music.

WILLEM: Suddenly the depression is gone.

LEO: *(Takes a drink)* Not the greatest Constance.

CONSTANCE: It'll do the job.

GAVI: I wish we had beer.

CONSTANCE: I wish we had cake! It's my birthday, remember.

LEO: *(To Inessa)* You want a glass?

INESSA: (*Nods her head*) In Russia, toast to love is Za lyubov.

GAVI: Za lyubov to us all!

WILLEM: Za lyubov Inessa.

They all drink in silence exhausted from the day.

KAMEN: I was in love many times. It gets easier, you know? Not that much easier, but it gets easier.

GAVI: What do we do now?

CONSTANCE: We could play corners?

KAMEN: NO!

CONSTANCE: Just a suggestion

GAVI: You got a story Carter, from the war?

CARTER: Course I do. I don't think it's the place for it right now.

GAVI: Why's that?

CARTER: Not the time Gavi.

CONSTANCE: (*Finishes his glass and opens another bottle*) One down already whew!

GAVI: What happened to that kid anyway?

LEO: What kid?

GAVI: Nicholas, the one I replaced.

They all share a silence.

GAVI: What?

CARTER: He was let go.

GAVI: Why?

CARTER: Breach of protocol.

LEO: He was staying in Russia to come back with us on our next run and he...

GAVI: He what?

LEO: He broke protocol.

GAVI: How?

CONSTANCE: He fell in love.

GAVI: That's not against the rules.

CONSTANCE: With a man.

GAVI: Oh...

CONSTANCE: They found him on the boat coming back. Well, Fish found him.

They all pointedly don't look at INESSA.

GAVI: What did they do to the guy he was with?

CONSTANCE: They took him back to the US. Locked him up for espionage.

GAVI: And Nicholas?

CONSTANCE: ...

LEO: He was just fired. That's all.

CONSTANCE: For he's a jolly good fellow, for he's a jolly good fellow, for he's a jolly good fellow, which nobody can deny!

GAVI: I wish it was cooler. It's boiling in here.

CONSTANCE: We were blessed with the-

Lights alternate in this sequence between WILLEM and CARTER downstage.

WILLEM: *inner monologue* Denied...denied. Didn't even manage to write more than 2 sentences. Denied. In red ink. Like it wasn't enough to just spit all over me. Had to put it in red ink. Like I'm a child... I mean, what else did I expect? A man with no previous training in this area. No doctorate. No real experience in...this...but I had known the board, and the man for years. Tutorted his son all through secondary school... Doesn't even sign his name. You know? I think this might be, what did Leo say before? A turning point. A move on.

CARTER: *inner monologue* I was never cut out to be a father. Not really. I was cut from soldiers. I was willing to die. I would have dreams of it. Running towards the enemy and dying to fire. It's funny, it didn't have to be heroic. I could have died from a stray bullet and would be just as happy. I was a man with nothing. Nothing to lose. That was the problem, I guess. I was reckless. Too reckless...

WILLEM:*Holds back tears* God I'm such a...a fool. To think that I could be chosen from the- I mean it was general! It was not a narrow pool. Do we need another oil study? Do we need to always look so far forward? I mean this is good stuff. This-this is great stuff. No one is thinking about this kind of stuff...all these years. I feel like a chicken without a head. Like a walrus with no tusks.

Time has moved forward; they all seem much more drunk. CONSTANCE GAVI AND INESSA are near each other.

GAVI: The minister's cat is adventurous!

INESSA: The minister's cat is beautiful.

KAMEN and LEO are on another part of the stage nearby. The dialogue is almost on top of the other:

KAMEN: Leo?

LEO: Yes?

KAMEN: Don't go.

CONSTANCE: The minister's cat is a cunt.

GAVI: That's not an adjective.

LEO: Kamen.

KAMEN: I can't see you go.

LEO: It'll be ok.

KAMEN: Why did I drink? I can't stop crying.

LEO: It's ok.

STANLEY'S voice is heard inaudible by the audience over the intercoms.

KAMEN: What does he want?

CONSTANCE: STANLEY! He needs someone to fuck his wife that's it. I'll do it Stanley I swear to God! I'll take one for the team!

LEO: Will you shut up!

CONSTANCE: No, no he needs to hear this! STANLEY!

KAMEN: Quiet!

CONSTANCE: C'mon Inessa! Say I'm gonna stick your wife good! I'm sure she swings both ways!

They try to restrain him.

CONSTANCE: Get off me!

He shakes them off and jumps on the table pounding his feet. He throws the empty bottle at the intercom, it misses and bounces off the wall breaking.

CONSTANCE: Bastard.

He slumps to the ground.

LEO: Had enough fun asshole? Someone could hear.

CONSTANCE: Everyones too far up anyway.

The same light sequence as before.

CARTER: The real shame of it is I never even fired a bullet. Never even got close. I used to sit all night waiting for a runner maybe. But that was it. I got really good at taking my gun apart and putting it back together. An M16 grand 5.56x45mm killing machine...Doing nothing more than lighting my cigarettes.

WILLEM: Where did I put my glasses?

CARTER: I was never meant to have things to lose. I served my term, was that it for me?

WILLEM: All these ridiculous paintings and all of this! What should I do?

CARTER: What do I do?

The light opens on INESSA. She has started performing a Kalinka grabbing a tissue or a napkin, holding it above her head. She starts slow, after a bit of her dancing, she begins to sing Oy, te ne vecher. WILLEM translates downstage with alcohol looking at the audience but not speaking to them. Every once in a while he looks at her.

INESSA: Mne malym malo spalos, Oy da vo
sne prividelos

WILLEM: I slept little as a child, Oh, and in
a dream it appeared...

INESSA: Mne vo sne prividelos, Budto kon'
moy voronoy Razygralsya, rasplyasalsya, Oi,
razrezvilsya podo mnoy. Razygralsya,
rasplyasalsya, Oi, razrezvilsya podo mnoy

WILLEM: In a dream, it appeared to me, As
if my black horse Became lively, started
dancing, frolicked beneath me.

She finishes the song

KAMEN: Hold my hand.

LEO: I will.

Blackout. The music cuts out. The sounds of the water raging and the wind howling. It is almost deafening. Strange radio sounds play. Lights up on the break room clearly destroyed by a drunk party. The record player plays nothing but scratch. The table is flipped over and there are bottles everywhere. You can see WILLEM and LEO and GAVI passed out on the floor. KAMEN is sitting in a chair awake. CONSTANCE is sitting downstage.

KAMEN: *(Almost passed out)* We used to go driving, my father and I. In Riverside. People used to do that, you know. We would drive on the water... I never knew my mother. Did you know that Leo?

CONSTANCE: I'm not Leo.

KAMEN: I always wanted a girl. I wanted a child Leo... I used to sit out on Sabin point with a bucket of oysters and watch the seagulls. Terrible birds. Assholes to each other. They would fight and make a terrible noise. I always wondered why the sea bird couldn't have been a nicer one. One that just eats worms and sings pretty songs.

CONSTANCE: Be quiet.

KAMEN: *(Coughing)* It's funny...now I would sell my soul to see one again. Where have the birds gone?

CONSTANCE: Shut up.

KAMEN: Still thinking about him?

CONSTANCE:...

KAMEN: Everyone knows you're a Lily. It's as plain as daylight son.

CONSTANCE: Say another word and I'll knock your lights out old man.

KAMEN: Dont. Talk. To. Me. You. Bitch.

CONSTANCE gets up and slaps KAMEN across the face, hard. KAMEN drops. CONSTANCE takes out a cigarette and lights it. CARTER and INESSA fall out of the cabinet kissing.

CONSTANCE: Fuck.

Blackout.

ACT III

Lights up on STANLEY'S OFFICE. STANLEY is looking through his window. The same as before.

STANLEY: I don't believe in ghosts...but I've seen the sirens.

LEO:...

STANLEY: Leo?

LEO: Yeah?

STANLEY: Are you listening?

LEO: Yes, I'm listening.

STANLEY: I saw them. I truly saw them. Swimming beside our ship like great knives through the wash. I saw them, Leo. I saw them.

LEO: You saw them.

STANLEY: Sometimes I think...If I had taken their hand...I knew you would come around on this. Thank you, sincerely. From me.

LEO: You're welcome.

STANLEY: Everything's rigged up for you. I inspected it myself...The waves have settled nicely. Someone must be watching over you. What does it feel like to be stopped like this?

LEO: It's strange.

STANLEY: Yes, yes it is.

LEO: Do you need something from me?

STANLEY: They wanted me to push through the ice. I couldn't do it Leo.

LEO:...

STANLEY: I couldn't do it.

LEO: Why?

STANLEY: That's why I like you. A true soldier... We wouldn't last 10 minutes in that straight. It was an easy way out for me. That Greybeard has a hull of titanium and unicorn horn. They won't stop, and I am a spent man. I can't forsake the life to come Leo.

LEO:...

STANLEY: You are a brave man.

LEO: You're a brave man too.

STANLEY: I am God's jester.

LEO: At least you're in his court.

STANLEY: (*Chuckles*) True. I always could feel it... Bring it in.

LEO: What?

STANLEY: Bring it in, my friend.

LEO: I uh...

STANLEY: What?

LEO: Don't want to.

STANLEY: Bring that skinny butt here now Leo!

LEO: Sir I-

STANLEY: C'mon... jump into these bear-like arms. Come here, submit...

STANLEY hugs LEO

STANLEY: Isn't that better? Isn't that much better?

LEO: *muffled in his chest* Uh, yeah actually. Feels good.

STANLEY: Oh I knew it would. I knew it would. Everyone needs a hug now and then. Don't you think?

STANLEY gives him a pat on the back. Lights fade on them.

A red alarm light begins to flash rotating. CONSTANCE and GAVI enter. There are pipes running on the wall out of view. They have different valves. CONSTANCE is eating a sandwich. They are very hungover. The sounds of the alarm are very loud.

CONSTANCE: Turn off the noise.

GAVI presses a button on the panel. The alarm noise goes off, regular lights turn on. The alarm light is still moving

CONSTANCE: That was annoying.

GAVI: Are you hungover?

CONSTANCE is looking at a clipboard.

CONSTANCE: We have to get up to E60 after this one.

GAVI: Right of course...Are you alright?

CONSTANCE: I'm fine.

GAVI: I don't know why Fish is always getting on your case.

CONSTANCE: Don't worry about it.

GAVI: I'm sorry about your friend.

CONSTANCE: What friend?

GAVI: The...guy. Nicholas. It seems like you were close.

CONSTANCE: Look, I really don't want to talk about this right now.

GAVI: Fair enough...How's it looking?

CONSTANCE: Not too fucking good my friend. Though it definitely could be worse. Probably why they sent us east. These cold conditions are rough. The fuel starts to gel up like this. Gets stuck in these parts of the engine and could stall the whole thing. Could've just loaded better fuel at Kharkiv. But time is money I guess.

GAVI: What are you going to do?

CONSTANCE: Pour point depressant in. It's an additive, like antifreeze. It keeps the fuel from gelling up like this. Check the meters for me, are you ready?

GAVI: Ya!

CONSTANCE: What's it look like?

GAVI: Umm, Oil press: 55psi, Water temp: 183, Volt:14 Boost press:13. Tach...

CONSTANCE: Mhm?

GAVI: That can't be right.

CONSTANCE: What?

GAVI: Nothing, it's just...

He taps the tachometer.

CONSTANCE: What's up?

GAVI: I think there's something wrong.

CONSTANCE: What do you mean? What does it read?

GAVI: Tach...1000.

CONSTANCE: 1000? What the fuck are you talking about?

GAVI: Right here. Look!

CONSTANCE: Hmm...

GAVI: The fuel press too. Way too high.

CONSTANCE looks at the meters. Then goes to the fuel line. He approaches it. Putting his hand above the line. He decides, then pours some of the water from his water bottle onto the pipe. It instantly steams.

CONSTANCE: Temp.

GAVI: Uh... 350. Well That can't be right.

CONSTANCE: This stupid piece of shit ship.

GAVI: What's happening?

CONSTANCE: With all these high waves, the fly wheel is working overtime. We're going through fuel like water through a sieve. It's overheating this whole unit.

GAVI: I'll give a call.

CONSTANCE: No! We don't have time.

GAVI: What do you mean we don't have time?

CONSTANCE: Fuel ignites without a spark at 410.

GAVI: What? It's going up. Constance it's going up. Like fast.

CONSTANCE: I understand. I understand.

GAVI: How can you eat when this is happening?

CONSTANCE: It helps me think. Think, think, think, think, think... We need to isolate the damaged component and redirect the heating system around it. If this oil gets too hot it could ignite. I'm telling you. We're burning too much oil! We're going too fast. Do you understand!

GAVI: I hear you. I hear you.

CONSTANCE: Sorry, sorry Gav. I need you on that line over there. We need to disconnect the lines that run to the main. We need to isolate this whole section. You see that valve there?

GAVI: Yeah.

CONSTANCE: Close it.

GAVI: Done.

CONSTANCE: There are about four from this component, the other three are there.

GAVI: *(Opens the vent valve)* Pressures out.

CONSTANCE: Keep going.

CONSTANCE grabs a wrench from his belt and starts to loosen and remove the fuel line nut causing the line to fall to the ground. Hot air streams out.

CONSTNACE: Oww, Fuck!

GAVI: Are you alright?

CONSTANCE: Yeah, yeah I'm fine.

GAVI goes to each valve releasing the pressure.

GAVI: Out...Out...Out. Ok I'm done.

CONSTANCE: Watch the monitor for me?

GAVI: Temp...400 and rising.

CONSTANCE does the same with another one of the lines.

CONSTANCE: Fuck fuck fuck.

GAVI: Let's get the fuck out of here!

CONSTANCE: Temp!

GAVI: 401.

CONSTANCE frees another.

CONSTANCE: Shit dick.

He frees another.

GAVI: 405. Constance?

CONSTANCE: Just get ready to shut it down!

The wrench is stuck on the last line.

CONSTANCE: C'mon!!!!

GAVI: 408!

CONSTANCE: AHHHHHH

The nut frees and the pipe falls

CONSTANCE: NOW!

GAVI pulls a lever on the control panel. The system shuts down. CONSTANCE falls to the floor exhausted. They start to cough.

CONSTANCE: Open up those windows.

GAVI: How did we not die?

CONSTANCE: Just stop talking for a second... Too fast. We're moving too fast. The fuel pump is probably shot. There's a blockage somewhere in the pipe. All the extra fuel being pumped got clogged up there.

GAVI: Right.

CONSTANCE: Thanks for moving so quickly.

GAVI: It's nothing.

CONSTANCE: It's important. You got any more water?

GAVI: Yeah, here.

CONSTANCE: Food?

GAVI: Yeah. Just take all of it.

CONSTANCE: Thanks.

GAVI: We should tell someone.

CONSTANCE: Yeah. Maybe.

Beat.

GAVI: Do you think...when we get to the mainland, me and Inessa.

CONSTANCE: Yeah?

GAVI: What if we just eloped as soon as we got to DC?

CONSTANCE: Oh God, Gavi I can't hear this right now.

GAVI: No listen, I'm being serious! She needs citizenship right? And if we got married it would be the easiest way! They couldn't send her back after that.

CONSTANCE: I don't know if that's a good idea.

GAVI: Why? Look, I know what you're going to say. I would tell her the whole plan, and if she doesn't want to do it; then it's fine we'll figure something out. Yeah, I like her. Maybe I love her. I don't know, but it isn't about me. This is more than me. It's about a revolution! It's about survival don't you understand that?

CONSTANCE: ...

GAVI: What?

CONSTANCE: Look...Gavi. Last night...I saw...

GAVI: What?

CONSTANCE: I saw them kissing.

GAVI: Who?

CONSTANCE: Carter and Inessa.

GAVI: What?

CONSTANCE: I think they were just drunk, you know, but-

GAVI gets up and takes off the suit he has on. He goes to his backpack and rifles through it looking for something.

CONSTANCE: Where are you going? Gavi we have too-

GAVI pulls the ivory pocket knife out and flicks it open. Only the audience sees this.

CONSTANCE: Where are you going? Gavi stop!

GAVI exits A loud announcer beep plays over the intercom in the room.

ANNOUNCER: Constance Jacobs, please report to the top desk immediately. Please report to the top desk immediately. Please report to the top desk immediately.

CONSTANCE struggles which direction to go, then regretfully goes the other way than GAVI.

CONSTANCE: Fuck.

Lights up on the break room trashed. INESSA is picking up some of the bottles and things humming to herself. WILLEM can be seen in the doorway watching her. He looks very

hungover and disheveled. She doesn't see him. She takes out a locket from around her neck and opens it. She looks out to the audience. Then with steeling determination she tucks it back under her shirt and turns to finally see WILLEM. She gives a startled scream.

INESSA: Willem! You scared me.
(Villem! Ty menya ispugal.)

WILLEM: Sorry.
(Izvini.)

INESSA: What are you doing up so late?
(Chto ty delayesh tak pozdno?)

WILLEM: It's a holiday.
(U nas prazdnik.)

INESSA: What holiday?
(Kakoy prazdnik?)

WILLEM: Thanksgiving.

INESSA: Oh, I don't know it.
(Oh, ya ne znayu ego.)

WILLEM: That's ok.
(Nichego strashnogo.)

INESSA: Are you ok?
(Ty v poryadke?)

WILLEM: Can I touch you?
(Mogu li ya tebya kosnut'sya?)

INESSA: What?
(Chto?)

Beat.

WILLEM: Can I touch you?
(Mogu li ya tebya kosnut'sya?)

INESSA:...I

(Ya...)

WILLEM: You're in my clothes. You sleep in my bed. It's like I'm already around you. You're so beautiful.

(Ty v moey odezhde. Ty spish' v moey krovati. Kazhetsya, chto ya uzhe ryadom s toboy)

He walks toward her

INESSA: Willem.

(Villem)

WILLEM: I just want to touch you, that's all. Just for a moment. For a second. You're so beautiful.

(Ya prosto khochu tebya kosnut'sya, vot i vsyo. Prosto na mgnovenie. Na sekundu. Ty tak krasiva)

*He comes up to her and puts his hand on her face, she is like a deer in headlights. There is a pause while he looks into her eyes then to her body. He moves his hand to her throat, then to her breasts feeling them, **WILLEM: I'm so sorry**, she stiffens. Footsteps are heard coming. **WILLEM** rushes to the table flipped over and rights it, pretending to be cleaning. **CARTER** enters. He is in a cheery mood.*

CARTER: What's going on?

Silence.

CARTER: This place is a mess, damn. Have you seen Leo yet? I need to say goodbye before he parts.

CARTER: Inessa. How are you?

Beat. INESSA goes back to cleaning, then she exits discreetly.

CARTER: Are you going to help pick this all up, or are you just going to gawk like a fish?

WILLEM: Sorry, just a little mixed up that's all.

CARTER: *(to offstage)* Leo! Are you there Leo!

WILLEM: He's already left.

CARTER: Damn... What is going on with you?

WILLEM: What do you mean?

CARTER: You look like you haven't changed since last night.

WILLEM: I haven't.

CARTER: You smell terrible.

WILLEM: Shut up. Just shut your mouth for a second.

He goes to the window and presses his head against it.

WILLEM: Why.

CONSTANCE enters with a bag of his engineering equipment. He heads straight for the rooms exiting into them

CARTER: Constance! Where have you been? Leo's just left but you could probably still catch him if-

CONSTANCE: They fired me.

CARTER: What?

WILLEM: What?

CONSTANCE: Just now, they fired me.

CARTER: I don't understand.

CONSTANCE: You're all liars.

CARTER:...

He's packing up all his things

CONSTANCE: Those uniforms, they make you liars.

CARTER: Why did they fire you?

CONSTANCE: Where is my fucking ID.

CARTER: Why?

CONSTANCE: This place is a fucking shithole. It's all fucking bullshit. Don't you understand that?

CARTER: Why are you packing your things?

CONSTANCE: I'm being moved, permanently. I'm under investigation for breaking engine room protocols. You take one misstep you make one wrong decision you think one inch out of the fucking box and you are done. How can we live like this? How can we work like this? And for what? FOR WHAT!

CARTER: What are you talking about?

CONSTANCE: Tell them Carter. Why don't you just tell everyone you piece of shit?

CARTER: ...Tell them what?

Silence.

CARTER: Tell them what?

CONSTANCE: I'm going to see Kamen then I'm "confined to my room" like a fucking child.

WILLEM: They can't do that.

CONSTANCE: Oh yes they can.

CARTER: Constance you're not going. Let me talk to my superiors they-

CONSTANCE unfurls a paper with one hand and thrusts it to CARTER.

CONSTANCE: From the man himself. Get out of my way.

CARTER: I...

CONSTANCE: You what? You what!

CARTER: I'm going to get someone.

He exits.

CONSTANCE: My ID Will my fucking ID!

INESSA enters with a picture frame. She looks at him.

WILLEM: I'll help you look for it.

WILLEM exits.

CONSTANCE: What?

CONSTANCE tries to follow after failing to find it again. INESSA blocks him.

CONSTANCE: What do you want?

She points to the picture.

CONSTANCE: Where did you find that?

She points even more emphatically

CONSTANCE: What?

She tries to speak but can't find the words her eyes fill with tears.

CONSTANCE: Get out of my way Olga.

INESSA grabs his arm fiercely

INESSA: I seen him!

CONSTANCE: What?

INESSA: I know him! I know him! I seen him!

CONSTANCE: Nicholas?

INESSA: Him with my brother. My brother! My brother!

CONSTANCE: What?

INESSA: Please Constance. Please! Constance!

CONSTANCE: I don't know what you're telling me I can't help you...look I'll get Willem

INESSA: NO!

He tries to push past. She pushes him back. Points.

CONSTANCE: What the fuck?

INESSA: Maxim! Maxim! Maxim! My Maxim!

CONSTANCE: That's not Maxim it's me and Nicholas I...

He pauses looks at her

CONSTANCE: The russian.

INESSA: He was here! On this boat! Here right here!

CONSTANCE: Oh my God. That's why you're here.

INESSA: It took him. He took, he took-

CONSTANCE: You're brother.

INESSA: I need to find him. I need to find him. This took him away! PLEASE!

CONSTANCE: I can't help you... I'm sorry. Maxim. That was his name.

Pause.

INESSA: Constance. Maxim. Please help me.

CONSTANCE: I can't, I can't. Look your brother is, he's-

WILLEM enters

WILLEM: I found it. It was under the-

CONSTANCE: Thanks.

CONSTANCE takes his ID and starts to exit.

CONSTANCE: *to INESSA* I'm sorry...I know he loved him very much.

She doesn't understand.

CONSTANCE: Here, just take this.

He hands her a bag.

CONSTANCE: I'm sure it has a picture of both of them. Goodbye.

He exits. She opens the bag.

WILLEM: I'm...I'll leave

He exits. She empties out picture frames and picture books onto the ground. Frames break and crash. She pulls out a photo from one of the books and starts to cry clutching it close and looking at her pendent. After some time CARTER enters.

CARTER: What happened?

She continues to cry. He rushes over to her consoling her. She falls into his arms crying.

CARTER: It's ok. It's going to be ok.

Time passes. GAVI enters..

GAVI: Get off her.

CARTER: Gavi it's not-

He gets up.

CARTER: ...Where have you been? Gavi?

He rushes forward tackling CARTER to the ground. He starts punching him. CARTER takes a couple blows before kicking him off. He scrambles to his feet.

INESSA: STOP! STOP! STOP!

GAVI: *(crying)* FIGHT BACK

GAVI charges him again but CARTER is ready this time, he throws GAVI to the ground. He lands on all of the broken glass screaming.

CARTER: STOP THIS!

He lunges towards CARTER unlocking the pocket knife he was given. They struggle with it. WILLEM enters.

WILLEM: What the hell is going on?

He rushes over and helps disarm GAVI then he holds him back. CARTER punches GAVI once, twice, then hits him again. He passes out. He kicks him on the floor in the back, stomping on his legs. GAVI doesn't move.

WILLEM: Carter enough!

CARTER: Fucker tried to stick me!

WILLEM: Carter!

CARTER: Say another word and I swear to God you won't have a job in the morning. I am your standing officer! And you will treat me with some fucking respect!

WILLEM: ...We should get him to the med bay at least.

CARTER: He's stinking drunk. Do you want to get us all fired?

WILLEM: ...

CARTER: Get him into his bed and clean him. He'll be ok.

WILLEM drags GAVI offstage.

CARTER: (To INESSA) Are you ok?

INESSA nods her head. The PRESIDENT is projected. Answering a question from the audience. He looks very out of breath diabetic sleepless and ragged.

PRESIDENT: Like a willow tree speaking dawn to the wind. A golden steed we saw ride like thunder through the west. Break bones like arrowheads. Struck fire from stones. This was the horde. This was John's hand: Seeing the word of God. Tasting it on our fingertips. And I have come to repeat the same genius, as before: The ones that took our land from us. The ones with hairpin, radio heads and harpy talons waving white flags at the sign of danger. This is the truth I'll tell you with one broken song... Any minute now we will prevail, and in time we will know what it means to be above the height we dreamed of on earth when we were shoving through the open canal of our mothers into this world, screaming and kicking. We are one country. One unit. One man... Prepare yourselves for the end; A man walked in here with 35 bones in a barrel of sand. Started rambling and mumbling about the war, and said each of these bones belong to each of his ancestors. Like a walking mausoleum. He opened his mouth to speak again- his face melted like candle wax around our feet. I have seen this. I have seen the waves. I have seen the blue water. I have seen the night men striking up their torches. I've drank from the pool of kerosene. I know the taste of snake brains. I've seen the rooster cry murder. I've lived 'neath the flannel moon. I know the compass needle points up. I steal turtle eggs and sell them to Saudi Princes- I AM DEATH DON'T SPEAK TO ME OF WAR BOY!

Lights up immediately on the same set. 2 months have passed. Same set as before. However, the set is lit by kerosene lamps. The power must not be working. GAVI is sitting by the window looking out. He has crutches beside him. WILLEM is sitting at the table.

GAVI: I dreamt it was warm last night. I dreamt it was cold inside, and cracking warm outside. I dreamt the sea was ice, and the land was sea. I dreamt the moon moved clouds, and the sun moved oceans. I dreamt ground above me, and sky below. I saw a triangle cut into the sea. And hollow birds with long necks sang trumpets... I don't dream, Willem. I don't dream... What does it mean?

WILLEM: I don't know.

LEO comes in holding a kerosene lamp. He places it on the table.

GAVI: How was it?

LEO: He passed away...I wish there was more light in here.

Pause.

WILLEM: I'm sorry.

GAVI: What was it like?

LEO: I held his hand. He was mumbling like he does. For a while. Something about a dog. Then he said he couldn't see anymore. And he asked me to hold him. I...

Silence.

GAVI: Did he have any family?

LEO: He has a sister.

WILLEM: We should send a letter.

LEO: They don't talk anymore.

GAVI: We'll send it anyway.

Pause.

WILLEM: Lung cancer.

LEO: He knew he had it.

WILLEM: How do you know?

LEO: He told me the night I left.

WILLEM: How long has he known?

LEO: Long Will. Long.

WILLEM: God help us all.

GAVI: God isn't going to help...Power is.

LEO: (*noticing his typewriter out again*) You're writing again?

WILLEM: Oh...Yes I, I did. Shortly after you left.

LEO: What is it?

WILLEM: It's a novel.

LEO: A novel?

WILLEM: Yes, a novel. I know it's very strange for me, but I think this is a good way of dealing with the world at the moment.

LEO: What's it about?

WILLEM: It's about these five men in a village in Norfolk England who are all drafted into the war. But one of them is flatfooted and isn't allowed to join. He ends up the only man in the village, and lives with the women.

LEO: What happens?

WILLEM: He's targeted by everyone he passes by, because he looks fit enough to fight but he's still there. I have family that live up there, in Walsingham, and when I used to visit them every summer in school- there were always 3 dogs to 1 person. So he ends up taking care of the dogs. Walking them and such, because none of the real jobs would hire him for a bent penny.

LEO: How does it end?

WILLEM: He hangs himself from the crossbeam in the only chappel in town. Facing the sanctuary.

LEO: Cheerful.

WILLEM: It's not very good. I'm not used to this kind of writing. I'd rather all these books just get to the point rather than all this extra fluff before the ending.

CARTER enters. He is sweating. He takes off his suit and gets a drink of water.

CARTER: Hey Leo, I just heard. How are you doing? It's terrible. It's just terrible it really is.

Gestures to the lobster cage.

CARTER: Woah, we really forgot about this guy. I guess Kamen was feeding it this whole time.

GAVI: I'm going to get some rest.

CARTER: Ok...

GAVI exits.

CARTER: Hey, but guess what! Thanks to our fearless friend, we're heading for open waters. It's our last day in this frozen intestine, and we'll be home in time for Christmas. Then you'll be sipping martini's in Iceland with the best of 'em. You get the news?

LEO: Just this morning. I should congratulate you as well. You got Fisher's position. Second officer. Suits you.

CARTER: Thanks, but that had nothing to do with me. More with him being a lunatic. I was so excited when I heard about you, friend. Really I couldn't wait until they told you. I'm really going to make some changes with acquisitions. Stop the ridiculous training all the newbies have to go through, and limit the amount of tours for each group. I'm telling you people just dick around when they go out there nowadays.

LEO: And you can get Gavi a job.

CARTER: Yeah...maybe. If he can heal before we get to the end of the year.

LEO: I can't believe he fell. How'd it happen?

CARTER: We had to move one of the grain shipments. He put his footing wrong, spotting where it was going. It could have been worse.

LEO: That sounds terrible.

CARTER: It was. It was.

WILLEM: Stay in Iceland if you can Leo. Don't come back here.

CARTER: Well, he's gotta come back for the wedding of course!

LEO: What wedding?

CARTER: What wedding? My wedding! You didn't tell him?

WILLEM: Didn't really come up organically.

CARTER:...Me and Inessa. We're getting married. We decided while you were gone.

LEO: What? Carter. You're already married.

CARTER: About that. Louise and I have been separated for a long time now. I didn't know how to really tell you guys that.

LEO: How long?

CARTER: Gosh, it must be 3 years now.

LEO: Do the kids know?

CARTER: No. They don't. We thought it would be best not to tell them until they got out of school, you see.

LEO: Carter she's like 15.

CARTER: She's 16. And it's not like that. It's for safety.

LEO:...

CARTER: Don't give me that. We both decided it's the best way to go about things when we land. That way they can't do anything to her. She'll be here on a marriage visa. All we need to do is get married within 90 days. Solves all our problems. I'm proud of you Leo. I really am. Now, I gotta finish packing up all my stuff! Tonight's my last night here before they hand over the room to me. Second officer does have some great perks you know?

LEO: Where is she?

CARTER: She's sleeping. She sleeps in a lot.

A bell rings. Willem gets ready to leave for work.

CARTER: Damn! Wasted all my time yapping away. Let's get out of here Will.

WILLEM: Goodbye Leo. I'll see you up there.

They both exit. GAVI enters.

LEO: Hey. How're you feeling?

GAVI: My neck is really sore.

LEO: I'm sorry man.

GAVI: It's ok.

LEO: So...They're getting married.

GAVI: Yeah.

LEO: It just seems crazy.

GAVI: It's for the best though.

LEO:...Are you ok?

GAVI: What do you mean are you ok, my legs are busted.

LEO: I could try to get you your own room. Or we can push our beds together, and you can have more room.

GAVI: It's fine Leo.

LEO:...What?

GAVI: I quit today.

LEO: Ok.

GAVI: I'm sorry.

LEO: Don't apologize.

GAVI: It's just...I was talking to the Doc...it's going to be a while before they heal and...I feel like holding onto acquisitions for a long time. Now, that I'd have to wait- I don't know if I can last another run.

Silence.

GAVI: It's hard sometimes...why is it so hard sometimes?

LEO: I don't know. Come here.

LEO gives GAVI a hug. GAVI begins to cry in earnest.

GAVI: I liked him a lot, you know?

LEO: Who?

GAVI: Kamen...He was nice to me. He used to say that in his hometown the air was so clean you could see the waves break on Prudence. You could see them like creases in a cloth he said...He used to read that book over and over again.

LEO: The Waves?

GAVI: Yeah, The Waves...I asked him why he would read a book about the sea, since he spends all his time workin' on it... he said he despised metaphors. And this was the only book that understood that.

LEO: You can take my place in Iceland.

GAVI: Leo!

LEO: I'm serious. It's yours. And you wouldn't have to move around so much. You'd just be in the control tower you know? Looking at all the ships.

Silence

GAVI: I can't. It's yours. It wouldn't feel right. And it would be nice to spend some time with my family. They always need an extra hand. I could work on the farm a bit...Or I could just...

LEO: Don't cry.

GAVI: I'm not... If that thing wouldn't have fallen on me...God.

LEO: I thought you fell?

Silence

GAVI: What?

LEO: You fell. Carter said you fell.

GAVI: Oh...

LEO:...Are you lying to me?

GAVI: No, no I'm not. He wasn't there anyway. He probably just heard wrong.

LEO: Gavi...

GAVI: I'm not lying I swear. One of the old fridges took a tumble from the bulwark and some idiot forgot to tie it down right.

LEO: You're lying to me. You know I can tell when you're lying.

GAVI: Leo please don't. It was an accident.

LEO: What accident?

GAVI: Leo.

LEO: What accident?

GAVI:...the

LEO: What happened?

GAVI: What are you doing?

LEO puts on his suit

LEO: Tell me what happened.

GAVI:...What are you doing?

LEO: Tell me what happened.

GAVI: I can't.

LEO: You can't?

GAVI: I can't.

LEO starts to leave

GAVI: Where are you going?

LEO: I'm getting Carter. I guess he's lying to me then. Is that it?

GAVI: NO! Leo, no please!

LEO:...

GAVI: Look, I'll tell you. Don't, just don't get him.

LEO stops getting ready to leave

GAVI: We...We got into a fight.

LEO: Who?

GAVI: Me and Carter.

LEO: What do you mean you got in a fight?

GAVI: It was my fault I was...I got jealous and I I I I lost control. I just lost. I don't know, please don't get him. We thought it would be best if you didn't know, you know? It was my idea! I knew how you would get! It's just too hard to explain.

LEO picks up the phone and dials

GAVI: Who are you calling?

LEO: Bridge, this is Leo (*looks at GAVI*) umm, Leo this is Leo, orlop deck. Emergency situation, over...We have a major break in our heating line. Gas leak. Requesting officer assistance, over...Understood, bridge. Standing by, over.

GAVI: No, Leo! Why did you do that!

LEO: What do you think you're doing trying to leave?

GAVI: Why did you do that?

LEO:...He broke your legs.

GAVI: It was my fault!

LEO: He broke your legs!

Silence

GAVI: Can I just go, please?

LEO: No.

Time Passes...Frantic footsteps can be heard, as well as the voices of CARTER and WILLEM getting closer and closer. CARTER enters first out of breath wearing a gas mask in full work suit.

CARTER: (*Furious*) Leo! What the hell are you doing here?! Get out of here! Where's Inessa! Did you even think to get her! Get out of my way! Get out of my-

LEO: Carter there's no leak.

WILLEM enters in a full suit as well with a wrench

CARTER: What do you mean there's no leak?

LEO: There's no leak. I needed to talk to you.

CARTER: So you call a damn emergency in. It's my first day being your officer you loon!

LEO: I don't give a fuck. You beat him up?

CARTER: What!

LEO: You heard me! You lay your hands on him!!!

CARTER:...

INESSA enters

CARTER: HE ATTACKED ME!

LEO: You broke his fucking legs!

CARTER: He tried to kill me!

LEO charges CARTER, pinning him against the wall, choking him with both hands. He takes off one hand and lands a punch on CARTER. WILLEM peels LEO off.

GAVI: Stop!

WILLEM: Calm down!

CARTER coughs trying to catch his breath.

LEO: Get off me!

CARTER: We...that fucking idiot tried to slit my throat.

GAVI: He's right Leo! He's right, it's my fault I started it.

WILLEM: It's true Leo.

LEO: You were there?

WILLEM:...I.

LEO: You let him do this.

WILLEM: I...Gavi. tell him. I tried to break it up.

Pause

GAVI:...No you didn't. You held me. While he knocked me senseless.

Pause. CARTER coughs. INESSA tries to go to him, passing LEO. LEO pushes her back, hard towards the dorm room.

CARTER: Don't you dare touch her you fucking shiteater. I will fucking kill you.

CARTER walks toward LEO

CARTER: What's your plan here? You're gonna report me? You're going to get us all fired? You're going to be a big hero? What happens when they start an investigation huh? You think they're not going to find her?

LEO: Have you slept with her?

CARTER: What?

LEO: You heard me.

CARTER:...

LEO: You're disgusting.

CARTER: You think you mean something in this world? You mean nothing. We all are nothing...

LEO: This is all over Carter. All of this. It's over.

CARTER: Are you going to be just like them? Are you really going to take this girl's future away? Throw all our futures away. Just like Nicholas did.

LEO: Maybe it's for the best

LEO starts to walk to the exit. WILLEM stands in the way of the door.

WILLEM: Don't Leo.

Pause

CARTER: You really want to do this?

Pause

LEO: Get out of my way.

GAVI: Leo don't. We've gone this far.

LEO looks at GAVI with astonishment. WILLEM swings his wrench at the back of LEO'S head hitting him hard. LEO lets out a scream of pain reeling forward. CARTER catches him by the shirt coming forward and punches him hard in the face taking LEO to the ground.

GAVI: NOOOO!!!!

CARTER: STAY OUT OF THIS! Hold him Will!

WILLEM holds GAVI back as CARTER kicks the shit out of LEO...After some time of this WILLEM stops him.

WILLEM: Enough Carter! Enough!

CARTER: Bastard. Faithless. Orphan fucking bastard.

GAVI goes to him on the floor

GAVI: You didn't have to kick him so much.

CARTER: You heard him, Gavi. He was going to turn her in.

GAVI: I know, I know but-

CARTER: He'll be ok. We'll take him to my new room and let him recover there.

GAVI: Isn't he going to report her though?

CARTER: I don't think so my boy. Leo? Leooooo?

LEO: (*Grumbles*)

CARTER: You're not going to ruin this girl's life are you?

LEO:...

CARTER: See? It's going to be alright. We'll all be eating Christmas ham together in no time...Constance loved ham. He would go on and on about it, remember that Will?

WILLEM: Yeah.

CARTER: What did he always say? He wanted his ham, dripping wet? Was that it? What a bastard...Help me carry him Will c'mon.

GAVI: He's going to get your room? Are you sure he'll be ok?

CARTER: He's going to be fine. I was trained in the Marines, remember? I know how to hit people with precision. I just...disabled him, you know?

GAVI: Ok.

CARTER: Listen Gavi: Go get some rest. I know it's been a long day. Take me and Inessa's bed, it's bigger than yours. And I'll tell you a secret: I keep a stash of milky ways between the slats. You can have as many as you like.

GAVI:...

CARTER: We'll take care of this! He's fine. Inessa, why don't you take him to bed? Inessa? Inessa!

She stares at him

CARTER: What?

She sprints for the exit. CARTER and WILLEM let out cries of protest and stop her from leaving. She starts to scream and they cover her mouth.

CARTER: Calm down, calm down, it's ok. Woah woah woah. Calm down.

She begins to calm down and her breathing returns to normal.

CARTER: It's ok. It's ok. Will, Gav. Let's get her inside c'mon.

WILLEM: I'm not...I'm not doing this anymore. I'm...I'm done Carter. This is enough.

He exits to the room.

GAVI: Isn't he going to say something?

CARTER: No. He's not. He's too smart for that.

GAVI: C'mon Inessa, let's just go to the window. We can watch the waves. Ok? Doesn't that sound good? If you run out there, we'll all just go down.

GAVI and INESSA exit to the room. CARTER drags Leo's body off. It leaves a trail of blood on the stage. The lights go down to stage dark. A close up FISHER'S mouth is projected across the whole stage. He smokes a cigar.

FISHER: I was so close...I was so close to it. I could feel it trembling on my fingertips. It was a beautiful thing. It was like a rainbow down my throat...They have no idea. None of them have any idea what I've been through. The things I've seen would destroy the average. Obliterate his brain like an exploding star. You see, I'm the only true believer left. I'm the last one to leave the wheat field. We are needed in this world. We are the teeth of the animal. Doesn't anyone understand that? We are the ones that leave a trail of fire! How could you understand that though? You don't know one inch of this world. You live like bats, seeing the world in the dark. Hanging in your caves like the filth you are. Scared of shadows on the wall. Convinced the moon is the brightest light in the sky. Whilst I bask in the sun. Drinking up my vitamin D...I see horizons you've only dreamt of. So...Crawl back into your cave. Hang from the ceiling. And close your eyes.

Stage dark in the breakroom. It is the middle of the night. Time passes. LEO enters sneakily. He is limping from his many injuries. The only light is from the northern lights coming through the window. LEO goes to the door and tries to open it. It's locked.

GAVI: He locked it.

LEO turns around quickly, startled menacing a kitchen knife.

LEO: Gavi. You scared me. I was just about to get you-

GAVI: He locked it.

LEO: Why are you awake?

GAVI: I don't sleep. I wanted to see if you would come...He said you would try something. What are you going to do, kill them in their sleep?

LEO:...

GAVI: You're a coward. Of course they would lock it. Are you stupid?

LEO: I didn't even know this door had a lock...So what, you're keeping watch, and you're going to turn me in in the morning?

Silence

GAVI: Why do you care so much about me?

LEO: What do you mean?

GAVI: All this, all this because we got in a fight.

LEO: He broke your legs.

GAVI: I started it.

LEO: Still he should know-

GAVI: I started it. I would have slit his throat and thrown my life away right there. Carter could have thrown my life away but he didn't. He made that lie to protect me. He protected me. He

could have had me arrested as soon as we landed. But he didn't. And now you're going- to what, kill him? Slit his throat.

LEO: Gavi I-

GAVI: Why do you care about me so much?

LEO: What do you mean?

GAVI: What's your last name?

LEO: What?

GAVI: I know it's not Moore. Earlier, when you called the bridge you couldn't say your last name. Because it's not real is it? It's not actually your last name.

LEO: It is.

GAVI: What's your parents names?

LEO: Gavi.

GAVI: What's their names?

LEO:...

GAVI: Where were you born? You can't answer a single fucking question!

LEO: Gavi will you shut up you'll wake them.

GAVI: What did your house look like? Did you grow up in the city or in the country?

LEO:...

GAVI: Did you have any siblings?

LEO turns away from him

GAVI: What's my last name? Leo... I thought it was really convenient that you "found me" so easily at the shop. Happen to run into me 20 miles from the shore. I'm such an idiot. Never

having time to see me at my house. Always telling me about the wonderful stories. Amazing adventures you've been going on. Digging into my mind like a fucking parasite. Manipulating me so you can steal me away from the family.

LEO:...

GAVI: You know what, it doesn't even matter. I don't know who you are. I don't know what you have to do with me. But I'm done: Here take the key.

GAVI throws him a key.

GAVI: And when you do slit their throats, make sure to fall on your knife on the way out.

LEO: Gavi please don't go I'll tell you everything.

GAVI: I don't care.

GAVI exits. LEO is conflicted with what to do. He looks at the knife and the key. He goes to unlock the door but his hand is shaking. Finally he tosses the knife aside. He looks around and thinks about just leaving. He grabs one of the kerosene lamps and lights it making sure it runs on. Then he unlocks the door and throws in the lit lamp. He slams the door. The breaking of glass, then a huge explosion is heard followed by the noises of people getting up. Footsteps are heard as smoke begins to come from under the door. Then fumbling with the door as someone tries to get it open. LEO pushes against the door, then takes the metal ax and shoves it between the door wheel jamming it shut. Curses and screams are heard. Someone breaks through the glass and you can see their arm try to unlock the door. Smoke is now coming out of the door in large quantities and the fire can be seen. They are screaming as they burn alive. LEO is pressed against the door holding it. The stage goes black. A white background is projected over the entire set. Suddenly sounds of the arctic winds drown out all of the screaming. Nothing of the original set can be seen. LEO from somewhere upstage walks across the stage bloody and in an arctic suit. He fights the wind as the sounds of it reach an almost unbearable volume. A white light blinds the audience from somewhere on stage. He covers his hand over his eyes screaming in agony. Cut to black.

End of Play