**A Well Frosted Sea**

A gentle sea breeze wafts through the hanging tangled frayed rope. A subtle crash of waves connects to the hull of a creaking aching old ship. A man dressed in slick black leathery coveralls topped by a stained yellow hat. He thrashes a net over the port side of the boat and reals in a long rusty chain attaching it to a weary winch. With his net cast he strokes his long coarse beard with his weathered battered hands wrinkles folding over his sun spotted gruff face. Taking a few steps, he makes his way over to a humble wooden bench taking a load off with a big huff.

Relaxed he sits peering into the deep blue sky above him spattered with lonely clouds. However, a loud bellowing sound rocks the boat breaking the silence of the cool waves. Startled the man jumps up and looks over his shoulder finding a pristine fishing boat teaming with fresh Cod. Seeing this the man puts on a menacing frown spiting its mere existence. Clearly upset the man screams:

“Those fools! Going further out every year to catch fish that are right under our feet! Have been for Generations now! I’ll out due those fishermen with my tried and true spot!”

In that moment the man tore open his fishing net to examine his fish. To his dismay only a couple small fish bounced about his net with most of the empty space being filled trash. Fuming the man sat in silence as the waves continued to strike his vessel. Although just as he began to settle himself his line began to vibrate jostling the winch creating all manor of loud screeching veering sounds. In a panic the man stood up and began to start pulling the line. Slowly but surly the line began to raise up. Breaching the surface of the water comes a huge haul of fresh cod clamoring to escape. With a loud yell the man jumped up rejoicing at his fortune yelling:

“Haha! I knew that I could show those land blasting fools what real fishing is like!”

However, as the line began to reach its final stretch a loud echoing creak could be heard roaring from the boat. SNAAAAAPPP!!! The line tore loose running the chain through the winch creating a large crash sheering the winch of its hinge. Distraught the man rushed over to the side of the boat as he watched his fish slowly sink into the depths below. Fuming the man clenched his fists and slammed them along the side of the boat. Slowly making his way to the captain’s quarters to head back to shore.

With a pattering boat the fisherman arrives at the port. He latches the boat to the dock and then begins to assess the damage. Peering up at the boat the man notices the damage in all of its glory. A huge streak lashes the side of the boat with a hole where the winch used to reside. With a scoff the man begins to set the rest of the lose rope handing his pitiful fish haul to a dock hand. After a long silence a man cheers out from across the dock with a huge grimacing smile:

“How’s the haul Tom!? I hope it’s enough to make your late payments for the month.”

Spiders crawling up his spine Tom stands straight up at attention and slowly turns around to face the menacing screech that greeted him. Now within yards a man cloaked in a pleated pinstripe suit with slicked back black hair approaches Tom now adjusting his stance. With a twitch of his neck the plastic man exclaims:

“Tom how wonderful it is to see you! I was just coming by to check on your haul. You do know that today is the final day on your late payments, don’t you?”

Tugging his coverall straps Tom replies: “Well you know how things are sometimes life just happens.”

With a creak in his neck the man’s grimace slowly twitches mixing his expression into a frown. Craning his neck the man notices the damage on the ship.

“Well whether or not you know it that ship is mine now. It is what you put of for collateral after all. Even says so on your contract if you’d like to take a look.”

With his scrawny hands the loan shark hands Tom his loan contract as two large burly men come up from behind Tom. Reluctantly Tom reaches out and grabs the contract. With one swift move he tears it in half. In a fit of rage he begins to step forward toward the shark one hand grasping the contract and the other pointing at the shark right between the eyes. As he takes his final step he is jerked back by the two large armed guards behind him. Squirming Tom yells out:

“You’ll never get my boat you scoundrel! You need to take your scrawny jelly legs and get out of here!”

“If anyone will be leaving Tom it’ll be you.”

As Tom gets torn away from his boat all he can see is the deafening scramble of workers pealing over every surface of the boat to find anything of value. With a smirk the loan shark turns around and watches as Tom’s boat is slowly torn to pieces. Now at the entrance to the dock the two men hurl Tom smearing his face into the mud.

Hurt and defeated Tom stands up trying to wipe off as much mud as he could. Stumbling along he comes across a worn tattered phone booth. Reaching into his jacket he pulled out the last of the money he had to enter in a number. Slowly punching number by number using the cold metal buttons he finally reached the other end of the line. His old friend John.

We cut away after the phone call and see the two in the living room of the friend’s house. He is holding his child as the fisherman explains the story to his friend from his perspective. Somewhat rudely the fisherman asks for some money to get his boat back and fix his net. Sadly, the friend cannot offer any money to the fisherman. He explains that it would put his family in even greater risk than his wife’s new business. As a final desperate attempt, the fisherman asks if there is anything that he can borrow. With some contemplation the friend asks the fisherman if he would be willing to work for his wife. Reluctantly the fisherman agrees to the proposal and starts his work at the “Cake N’ Bake” cupcake store.

**Act II**

After a rough night’s sleep on the fisherman’s dingy bed he heads over to the “Cake N’ Bake” to start his first shift. Upon arrival the wife greets the fisherman and explains her company’s goal. She then forces the fisherman into the company uniform and puts him front and center at the register while she cooks some new cupcakes in the back. Unsurprisingly a young woman who enters the shop intrigued by the eccentric design of the store as the first customer. In his usual fashion, the fisherman greets her like he would a fellow fisherman with a cold frown and a furrowed brow and a gruff voice. Not to be deterred the woman flirtingly remarks back to the fisherman while she buys a dozen cupcakes to sample with her friends. With a smile and a wink, she leaves the store leaving the fisherman in a haze.

After the opening the fisherman returns the next day where the wife greets him and alludes to their poor opening. Although to the fisherman’s surprise, the owner gives him the assignment to deliver a couple dozen cupcakes to a party. She explains that as part of the service, the client requested that the delivery man also hand out the cupcakes individually at the party. Taking a deep breath, we cut away to the fisher man giving his best attempt at the party greeting the host with a crooked smile. As is part of the service the fisherman sets up a table with extra cupcakes where he is greeted with the woman who meet him his first day. Realizing that he must put on a good impression he puts on a big weird smile and starts to deliver the cupcakes to the guests. Beginning with the host’s family the fisherman heads from group to group where each one gives him a different response to his funny smile. Before leaving the party, the fisherman starts to pack up as he notices that the woman he met is smiling and looking in his direction. Giving his first genuine smile the fisherman finishes packing and heads out of the party.

Coming back to the store from the party the fisherman realizes that his performance was poor and that he was getting laughed at. Feeling defeated the fisherman returns the company car to its place and heads home for the night. Upon arriving the next morning, he learns of the success of the second day of the stores opening with him not at the counter. Learning this makes the fisherman feel incompetent and he considers quitting the job. He then takes up the counter again gloomy as ever and finishes his shift. After another hard day he heads home. However, upon returning home, he is greeted with a final notice from the loan company of his impending liquidation of not only his boat but also his home and possessions.

After learning of the potential fallout of his late payments the fisherman decides to stay with the cupcake company. However, the next morning as the fisherman is setting up he is greeted by the loan shark at the cupcake store. Being nosey the loan shark asks the fisherman when he will next be paid. Not having a valid response, the fisherman turns red and starts to become unsettled. Sensing that the fisherman would not be able to pay on his debts, the loan shark hands the fisherman a flyer for an upcoming auction with the prized item being his boat. He then smirks as he leaves the store. In a rage the fisherman crushes a cupcake sending cake flying all over the store. Seeing his distress, the owner of the store sends the fisherman home to rest for the day. However, upon returning home he is greeted with a locked door and an eviction notice. With nowhere to sleep the fisherman saunters back to the cupcake store and sleeps outside its front door.

**Act III**

The next morning the fisherman is greeted by the owner who happened to be passing by to pick up another order of cupcakes. After showing the flyer to her and explaining his situation to her, the fisherman begins to walk away from the store. He tells her that he is quitting and will not be coming back to the store ever again. While he slowly walks away the owner hears him quiver and start to tear up. Upset the owner chases him down. She explains to him that his service has been the most well received from the customers. Elaborating she mentions how his quirky smile made the party fun for the guests and that his demeanor became a talking point for customers on their second day. She then remarks that their still might be time to save his boat and fix everything if that is what he truly wanted. Accepting her plea, the fisherman straightens his uniform and thanks the owner. She suggests that the fisherman help her bake a huge batch of cupcakes and sell them in various places promising the profit of the venture to him to reclaim his boat and home.

After a rigorous cooking spree, the fisherman heads out to sell the cupcakes. During his journey, he meets with many other old fishermen, the participants of the party, and the friends of the woman. When meeting the fisherman, they scoff at him and give him a hard time. At first the fisherman gets mad but then can calm himself down. He explains to the fisherman that he is selling cupcakes to get his boat and home back. After some thought the fishermen try the cupcakes and love them. He then runs around town to meet the participants at the party. Remembering his funny smile, they greet him happily and agree to buy more of the cupcakes. Lastly with one final tray the fisherman returns to the woman’s friend’s house and sells his last tray without issue. However, after counting the total from selling all the cupcakes the fisherman only had enough money to pick between his home and his boat. In a split decision the fisherman decides with the owner that he should get his boat back while he stays with his friend. Fearing the loss of his boat the fisherman arrives at the auction house to win it back. A couple hands start to raise up. On the final bid the fisherman is beat by an over the phone bidder. Sad and defeated the fisherman begins to walk out of the auction house only to find out that the winner of the boat was the woman.

As it turns out the woman knew about the plot to win the boat back by selling the cupcakes. Baffled the fisherman asks why she would bid on his boat. She explains to the fisherman that she loved seeing him at the store and wanted him to continue selling cupcakes. Thus, she proposed that she would give the fisherman back his boat if he used it as a secondary location for the cupcake store. Happy with the idea of owning a new business the fisherman and the shop owner both agree to use the boat as a secondary location and delivery option. Overhearing the plot to use the boat, the loan shark accepts his defeat and exits the auction house in a rage. To end the story off we see the renovated boat sailing along the coast as the fisherman and woman enjoy their first date.