

THE SEA GYPSIES

an original screenplay by

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FADE IN:

EXT. PORT OF HAMDEN, MASSACHUSETTS - DAY

The docks of Hamden are bustling with activity as fishing vessels of all shapes and sizes prepare for their next voyage. Nets are hoisted by huge cranes, sailors swab the decks, rinsing them clean in a mist of salt water spray.

Dodging his way through the throng of fishermen is RICHARD "FLASH" GORDON, 26, while clearly not a bookworm, he does have a studious sensibility to his overall appearance and demeanor. He carries a bright orange case, emblazoned with a lightning bolt design, which swings precariously as a counterweight to the heavy duffel bag strung across his back.

He sets his course down the long dock towards the end of the pier where THE CALLISTO, one of the older but well maintained fishing trawlers, is moored.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - CONTINUOUS

Muffled angry voices can be heard coming from the bridge of the boat as two fishermen make their way down the gangway to the bulkhead of the pier. They swing their duffel bags over their shoulders so they can better count the crumpled bills of money in their hands.

FISHERMAN ONE

(annoyed)

Jesus... what a trip. That's a week of my life I'm never gonna get back.

FISHERMAN TWO

At least we still have our lives. I wasn't so sure there. That was some storm and way too far out for my liking.

(shakes his head)

I was convinced the Captain would have sailed to the end's of the earth no matter what, just to catch even a goldfish.

FISHERMAN ONE

True. I've seen better fishing in the Sahara desert.

(dismayed)

At least we got paid, even given the outcome.

"Flash" Gordon approaches the bulkhead and makes his way up gangway to The Callisto.

FISHERMAN TWO

That's one thing I heard about Captain Marius. He's a real stand-up guy.

(MORE)

FISHERMAN TWO (CONT'D)
Doesn't take no bullshit but also
doesn't dish that shit out either.

FISHERMAN ONE
Sure,
(chuckles)
But it kinda looked like they were
gonna have to break open their piggy
bank and pay us in pennies.

The fishermen go back to counting their money as "Flash" looks
to squeeze by them.

FLASH
(to the fishermen)
How's it going guys?

FISHERMAN ONE
It's going well but if you're headed
up to The Callisto, keep walking
back the way you came. Not a whole
lotta action on that boat.

FISHERMAN TWO
Ah, don't scare him off. Every
greenhorn has got to start somewhere.

FLASH
Hey! I'm no greenhorn!

FISHERMAN TWO
No? Well, you surely don't look
like no fisherman either.
(shrugs)
Suit yourself.

The fishermen continue their way down the gangway to the pier.
Flash watches them, looks up at The Callisto, shrugs his
shoulders, and continues on his way to the waiting boat.

The muffled voices become apparent and clearer as he gets
closer. There is a loud and angry argument underway.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Holding court is CAPTAIN WILLARD MARIUS, 59, his well-worn
uniform complements his sun-weathered skin and greying beard.
He sits perched on his command chair, formidable and stoic.
On the back is a stylized embroidered naval crest with the
names "Annika" and "Agnetha" evident in the design.

Everything about the cabin is clean and maintained but with a
faded look of age, the same as Captain Marius himself.

The cabin is a treasure trove of awards, both military and
professional, along with various photos of Captain Marius
with a pretty blonde woman and a young girl, who bears a
striking resemblance to the older woman.

DYLAN CARTWRIGHT (O.S.)

I always liked this photo. Aggie
must have been, what, about eleven
here?

Pointing to one of the photos is DYLAN CARTWRIGHT, 32, a man of slight but athletic build. His suit is finely tailored in a manner that exudes arrogance and wealth in all the fine details, yet there is a touch of humility hidden beneath the clothing.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

She was ten. Always tall for her
age. Same as her mother, rest her
soul.

Captain Marius reaches for a cigarette, a faded tattoo of the same crest design is visible on his right forearm.

DYLAN

I'd have thought you would have given
those up years ago, Willard,
especially knowing-

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(curtly interrupts)

Knowing what? And it's still Captain
Marius to you, regardless of whether
we're out on the open sea or land-
locked in this god-forsaken port you
cynically call home.

Before Captain Marius can even light the cigarette, Dylan walks over and promptly takes the cigarette from him, tosses it and the whole pack into the trash.

DYLAN

Knowing what I know, is all I meant.

(pointedly)

And yes, Hamden is my home, I was
born here, raised here, went to school
here and have my house here. And
regardless of what you may think of
me or my family, I've done my fair
share of being out on the open sea.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

That may be true "sonny boy" but it
was on the wrong side of the dock
you were born to be considered a
real sailor.

(proudly)

A Fisherman.

Captain Marius waves his hand dismissively.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)

The hardest you ever worked was
hoisting a tray of caviar and
champagne on that preposterous yacht
of yours.

DYLAN

(exasperated)

Look Wil-

Captain Marius gives Dylan an angry glance, evident even
through his thick beard.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Captain Marius... why don't we leave
the personal out of it and focus on
strictly the business. Your business.
(Dylan motions across
the bridge)
The Callisto.

Captain Marius reaches into his desk, pulls out another pack
of cigarettes and lights one up.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Sure thing "sonny boy." Say what
you came to say before I have you
keelhauled for trespassing on board
my boat.

DYLAN

It may be your boat today but it's
tomorrow I wouldn't be too sure of.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - CONTINUOUS

Making his way to the bridge is JONAS WILLIAMS, 62, his skin
is dark weather-beaten ebony in color, with pronounced facial
character lines that would accentuate his laugh when present.

Although he is getting up in years, his greying temples the
only giveaway of age, he carries himself with a strong posture
and arms that could only be had from years of hard work.

Jonas hears the muffled conversation, shakes his head in a
knowing manner before knocking on the door.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Excuse me, Captain!

There is no reply back so he knocks again, this time a bit
firmer.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

(loud enough to be
heard through the
door)

Captain? ... Captain Marius? Don't
mean to interrupt, I just need a...

CAPTAIN MARIUS (O.S.)
Not now Jonas!

Jonas looks down at Flash, who is waiting on the dock peering up back at him.

JONAS WILLIAMS
(knocks again)
Sorry, Captain but the greenhorn is-

CAPTAIN MARIUS
I said not now!

Jonas begins to walk away as the door flings open and Dylan Cartwright tries to rush out of the bridge, only to be pulled back in.

DYLAN
JONAS! Thank God! The Captain-

CAPTAIN MARIUS
You're not going anywhere yet, Dylan!
We're not done here!

Captain Marius sits back down in his chair as Dylan finds safer haven on the other side of the bridge.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
Sorry Jonas. I didn't mean to be so disrespectful here. Why don't you welcome the greenhorn aboard while I tend to the business at hand.

The door of the bridge slams shut as the heated conversation continues.

INT. CREW QUARTERS - LATER

Jonas escorts Flash through the bowels of The Callisto, giving him a tour, passing through the various decks of the boat.

Flash peers around, taking it all in, struggling to fit his gear through the tight passages.

JONAS WILLIAMS
This should all be somewhat familiar,
most trawlers are pretty much the
same give or take a thing here or
there.

FLASH
(tentatively)
Oh, sure. You've seen one, you've
seen them all.

They arrive by the Crew Quarters and Jonas motions to the many empty bunks.

JONAS WILLIAMS

(smirks)

Here you go, welcome to the Ritz Carlton. You can have any which one you want as we're not quite sold out today.

FLASH

(looks around the
tight bunks)

Whew! I should have called for the bellhop to take my bags.

Flash struggles with his heavy duffel bag, carefully puts down his orange case.

FLASH (CONT'D)

Is there room service?

JONAS WILLIAMS

Hah! Room Service! That's as good as it gets. I like you already, greenhorn.

Jonas shakes his head, gives Flash a friendly pat on the back.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

Why you're a regular comedian! We're gonna get along just fine.

Jonas's smile is broad and contagious as Flash laughs along with him.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

C'mon, there's plenty of time to get settled. I got some things to take but let's go find Gary. He's probably down with the girls. He can take it from here.

Jonas motions to Flash to follow him.

FLASH

Sure. Who's Gary?

JONAS WILLIAMS

Gary? He's the master of all things Callisto. If I didn't actually know his real Mama, I'd swear this boat gave birth to him itself.

FLASH

You mentioned his girls. Does he have kids?

JONAS WILLIAMS

Kids?

(MORE)

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

(chuckles)

Hah! Gary a father? Hah! That's a good one. Not Gary, that's for sure. I don't think he's even reached puberty yet!

Jonas laughs at his own joke as they both continue down through the bowels of The Callisto.

INT. THE BRIDGE - LATER

With Jonas present, the general atmosphere of the room seems a bit more sedate and less confrontational.

DYLAN

As I was telling the Captain, there are very little options available. We can't extend any more credit to him. The returns just aren't there.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

And neither are the fish. At least for now, but things are bound to change.

DYLAN

Yes, and we've accommodated you and The Callisto every opportunity we can afford.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

It's not as if you're starving.
(angrily)
I'm sure your bank account is flush with cash and-

Jonas gives Captain Marius a knowing and firm look, and the captain turns away with an unspoken understanding.

JONAS WILLIAMS

We're not the only ones, the whole industry is under duress. Things we just can't control are affecting us all. Give it some time, it'll rebound.

DYLAN

It won't and you know it Jonas. This isn't a temporary dry spell. We've weathered that before. It's something else. Regardless, we've paid forward a substantial amount over the years, more than any reasonable return on investment proposition.

Jonas reluctantly acknowledges him.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

So that's it? We just pack it in,
give up. No Way!

Captain Marius rises to emphasize his point.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)

I'd sooner scuttle her then turn her
over to you

(emphatically)

OR WORSE, YOUR FATHER!

DYLAN

Can't you just leave my father out
of this. Not everything is about
him.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Everything is about him! He casts a
long net in this town along with an
even darker shadow. I thought better
of you, but now you've become nothing
more than one more disappointment.

DYLAN

STOP! I've heard this too many times.
Just stop!

Dylan rolls his eyes, motions to Jonas to intercede.

The side door of the bridge opens quietly and GARY MEADOWS,
26, enters the room, unnoticed but clearly interested in the
conversation. He is slight of stature and with even smaller
muscles, a t-shirt hangs loosely on him but his hands are
quite large with strong noticeable tendons evident. A
permanent smear of grease is evident across his forehead.
There's no mistaking him for an accountant.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Please, Jonas, You're a reasonable
man. Can you understand the position
we're in?

JONAS WILLIAMS

Truthfully Dylan, I've never
understood the position you're in.

Jonas gives that look again to Captain Marius, who sits back
down.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

All I know is this.

(pointedly)

This is more than spreadsheets, return
on investments or fancy calculations
for earning potentials. If we don't
fish, we die. It's simple arithmetic.

DYLAN
 (acknowledges)
 I'm sorry. We can't fund another trip. The well's bone dry.

GARY MEADOWS
 (interrupts)
 But the gas tanks aren't. This here should be enough fuel for them for one more trip. We can top them off before we sail!

Everyone turns to face Gary, who hands Captain Marius an envelope flush with cash.

GARY MEADOWS (CONT'D)
 (apologizes)
 Sorry Captain, I didn't mean to eavesdrop but I heard what you said about scuttling The Callisto here and you know I can't let you do that.

Gary hands Captain Marius and envelope filled flush with cash.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
 What's this? I can't take your money. Sorry. I appreciate the gesture and thanks but we'll find another way.

Captain Marius hands the envelope back to Gary but he refuses to take it.

GARY MEADOWS
 From what I heard, there really isn't another way. Besides, It's not for you, it's for the girls.
 (smiles)
 I was putting this away to buy Thelma and Louise a little gift but they'll understand. There should be just enough to cover the costs right there and then.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 (to Gary)
 Why you little devil. Where'd you come up with money like that? It sure as hell isn't your poker skills.

GARY MEADOWS
 (proudly)
 Let's just say, I'm a man of few means and material possessions.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 (teasing)
 What you really mean is you still live at home with your mother.

GARY MEADOWS

(to Jonas)

I'll ignore your snide innuendo.

(protectively)

She's a remarkable woman and a helluva cook. Nothing wrong with a home cooked meal every now and then.

Gary faces Captain Marius, never looking more serious than now.

GARY MEADOWS (CONT'D)

Look, I'm willing to do my part if it helps you Captain Marius. You've been more than genuine with me, and if I can give something back for everything you've given me, I'll do it. In a heartbeat!

Captain Marius put the envelope in his pocket, looks squarely at Dylan.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

See that Cartwright. That's a real bond between men that you'll never understand.

(to Gary)

Son, I won't ever forget this. Not ever. It brings a tear to my eyes.

DYLAN

Okay, great. You have gas for one more trip at best but where are you going to go that you haven't been before?

All of the men look at each other, not sure of even how to acknowledge.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

And look at you all. Even if we count the greenhorn, you don't even have a minimum crew to handle The Callisto, let alone trawl for fish.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Don't you worry yourself about that. We can fish and still meet the standards for operating the boat.

DYLAN

You're still short a another deckhand and more importantly, a licensed navigator.

A knock at the door breaks their attention for a moment.

GARY MEADOWS

Sorry, that must be the Flash, the greenhorn. I kinda forgot about him.

Gary moves towards the door, opens it and looks surprised.

Standing before him is AGNETHA MARIUS, 26, her golden hair hidden under a baseball cap, a baggy jacket hides her obvious femininity, which never really mattered to her anyway.

She takes her cap off, shakes her blond locks free and enters the cabin like a breath of fresh air in the tense atmosphere.

Everyone is surprised to see her.

GARY MEADOWS (CONT'D)

Miss Marius?

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Agnetha!

DYLAN

Aggie?

Jonas walks over to her, gives her a warm embrace.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Welcome aboard Aggie. Welcome home.

AGGIE

I hear you're in need of a navigator, so here I am.

CAPTAIN MARIUS / DYLAN

(together)

Absolutely not!

Aggie puts her jacket aside, walks over to Captain Marius and gives him slight kiss on his cheek, which melts his heart but he remains steely silent.

AGGIE

Hi Dad. It's nice to see you too.

Aggie looks over to Dylan, gives him a cold and acknowledging look.

DYLAN

It's nice to see you again Aggie.

Aggie ignores Dylan, makes her way to Jonas and gives him a warm hug, which catches him off-guard but welcome in so many ways.

AGGIE

How are you Jonas?

(glances around)

How is everybody doing?

JONAS WILLIAMS
 (unconvincing)
 Just fine, Aggie. The Same ol' sh...
 (apologizes)
 Sorry, didn't mean to say shit.

AGGIE
 (laughs)
 Please Jonas, I've been around this
 boat long enough to have heard a lot
 more than that.

Aggie looks over to Captain Marius.

AGGIE (CONT'D)
 A lot more.
 (changes subject)
 Now, about that navigator job. When
 do we sail?

CAPTAIN MARIUS
We don't. You know where I stand on
 this. Nothing's changed.

AGGIE
 From what I've heard, everything has
 changed! Dad...
 (corrects herself)
 Sorry, Captain Marius. I have to do
 this. You need me-

CAPTAIN MARIUS
 What I need is for you to march back
 out of my Bridge, off my boat and go
 home.

AGGIE
 I am home!

Aggie looks around the cabin.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 (clears his throat)
 Perhaps it's best we secure Miss
 Marius aboard.
 (to Gary)
 Gary! Why don't you escort Aggie
 down to her quarters. I'm sure she'll
 find them to her satisfaction.

AGGIE
 Thank you Jonas, but I prefer to
 bunk with the crew.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
 Now hold on here. No daughter of
 mine is bunking with the crew.
 (MORE)

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
Not on my boat. You'll sleep in
your cabin. That's an order!

AGGIE
Aye...aye.. Sir!

JONAS WILLIAMS
We're still short a deckhand.

Everyone turns to face Dylan Cartwright.

AGGIE
Are we?

Aggie stares Dylan down, tempting fate.

DYLAN
Me? I'm no... I mean...

CAPTAIN MARIUS
I think that's a splendid idea!
(sarcastic)
Besides what better way to protect
your investment? Kinda keep a look
on things first hand. Make sure
we're keeping you honest.

Jonas leans into Aggie.

JONAS WILLIAMS
I'm not so sure this is a good idea.
That boy has never really been out
to sea. He's still weaning off his
mother's teat and-

Aggie shakes her hand at Jonas to cut off his further remark.

AGGIE
(shakes her head)
Careful Jonas. I'd leave it at that.

Jonas gives her a knowing look.

JONAS WILLIAMS
Sorry, what was I thinking?

AGGIE
Besides, he just might surprise us.
How bad could it be?

EXT. THE CALLISTO - MORNING - NEXT DAY

The Callisto makes her way out of the port of Hamden and into
the open seas. At first the water is calm but the further
the ship gets from shore, the rougher the waves become.

MONTAGE

-Jonas supervises the two deckhands, Dylan and Flash, both dressed in full fishing safety gear.

-Captain Marius is on the bridge checking The Callisto, while Aggie assists him at the navigation console.

-The Callisto bobs up and down from some rough waves, Dylan runs over to the side of the ship to throw up.

-Gary tends to the mechanical components of the vessel, carefully ensuring everything is running perfectly.

-Aggie walks along the deck of The Callisto, eyeing Dylan in particular from afar. At some point, Dylan runs over to the side of boat and heaves an "aero-barf" into the churning sea. Aggie chuckles at the sight.

-The seas begin to settle down to a calming presence, the setting sun casts long shadows across the boat as the day comes to a close.

INT. THE BRIDGE - EVENING

Captain Marius sits alone on the bridge of The Callisto, he takes a long drag from his cigarette, staring out at the darkened sea that lies ahead.

INT. CREW QUARTERS - EVENING

Everyone is gathered around the small table, finishing their meals except for Dylan who is peacefully snoring deeply.

JONAS WILLIAMS
Good work today, everyone. I have to admit, even Dylan surprised me. He might have the makings of a fisherman yet.

AGGIE
(shrugs)
Nothing has ever surprised me when it comes to Dylan.

Aggie begins to clear the table of the dishes.

JONAS WILLIAMS
You can leave those Aggie.
(motions to Flash)
That's greenhorn work.

FLASH
Oh, sure. I don't mind.

AGGIE
Look, our crew is small enough this trip. Why don't we suspend that greenhorn crap and just be ourselves.

Aggie continues to clean up, motions to the sleeping Dylan.

AGGIE (CONT'D)
Besides, he's the only one that's
probably never been this far out
from shore.

FLASH
Actually, I've never been this far
out either. This is my first time.

AGGIE
Oh right. Where are you from Flash?

FLASH
Actually, from North Dakota. My Dad
owned an old TV repair shop, when
people actually repaired TVs. It's
kind of a lost art now.

Flash helps Aggie with the plates, putting them in the sink.

FLASH (CONT'D)
But I went to MIT, not far from here.
Got a Masters in Electrical
Engineering and like a lot of people,
drowning in student loans.

AGGIE
I know the feeling. Just a few more
years and I'll be clear myself.
It's not easy on a teacher's salary.

FLASH
You're a teacher?

AGGIE
Why does that surprise you? I teach
marine biology in Miami. High school
program, pre-college.

Aggie washes the dishes as Flash dries them.

AGGIE (CONT'D)
Closest I can be to the ocean without
being out to sea. Of course, Dad...
I mean, Captain Marius, would have
preferred that I actually teach
kindergarten in Boston, but that's
not going to happen. We're too much
alike.

Jonas walks over to Aggie and Flash.

JONAS WILLIAMS
I'm going topside for a bit, check
on the Captain.

AGGIE
Sure. I'll join you shortly when
I'm done here.

JONAS WILLIAMS
I told you that's greenhorn work and-

AGGIE
And I told you it's not!
(teasing)
I guess you'll have to throw me in
the brig for disobeying orders.

JONAS WILLIAMS
We don't have a brig, at least not
yet.

AGGIE
Well then, as the Captain's daughter,
I'm giving you a direct order.
(firmly but joking)
We shall not refer to the greenhorns
any longer, as greenhorns. Is that
understood?

JONAS WILLIAMS
(laughs)
Aye, Aye...sir

Jonas salutes Aggie in a silly manner, chuckles as he heads
topside.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - MOMENTS LATER

Jonas makes his way to the main deck, ensures everything is
secured and proper.

INT. CREW QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Gary and Flash are chilling in their bunks, Aggie brings over
some cold beers, hands one to each of them.

FLASH
Are you sure this is okay?

AGGIE
Just what the Captain ordered. Drink
up boys because after this we'll be
in for the long haul.
(winks at Gary)
Salud!

The all clink bottles.

Gary looks over to Flash's bunk, sees the orange case with
the emblazoned lightning bolt.

GARY MEADOWS
Hey Flash! I meant to ask you, what's
in the orange case with the lightning
bolt? Are you a superhero or
something? Carrying around your
uniform?

Flash jumps off the bunk, takes the orange case and places it on the table.

FLASH

No, just some cool stuff I saved from my Dad's store before we had to close it. Here, take a look.

Flash opens the case and takes out some very old and odd looking electrical equipment including a small tv contraption and various other vintage radios and meters.

Gary comes over, enthralled with the tubes galore of all shapes and sizes, which he handles with care.

GARY MEADOWS

Wow! Vacuum tubes. I used to love playing with these things at Sears, where they had that tube tester display. Mom would have to pull me away to go home.

FLASH

Yes, we had the same thing in Dad's store. Who doesn't love old tubes?

Flash singles out a particular radio with a multitude of dials and knobs, along with a vintage microphone attached to a coiled cable.

FLASH (CONT'D)

From what I've seen so far, The Callisto looks like its been keeping up with electronics, looks pretty state of the art. So, I bet you haven't seen one of these before.

AGGIE

What is that thing? Some kind of radio?

FLASH

(proudly)

It's more than a radio, it's a high frequency transceiver utilizing ionospheric propagation for unrestrictive transmissions.

Aggie and Gary look at each other, perplexed and not understanding a word that Flash just spoke.

GARY MEADOWS

Is that like a CB Radio, you know, what truck drivers use?

FLASH

(playfully insulted)

Truckers?

(MORE)

FLASH (CONT'D)
Do I look like a person who would
spend their time conversing with
terrestrial truckers...

Flash turns on the radio, a general hum emanates from the receiver, with various other squeaks obvious through the speaker.

FLASH (CONT'D)
...When I can speak to actual extra-
terrestrials?

Flash makes one final adjustment with a satisfying grin.

FLASH (CONT'D)
(speaks into the
microphone)
N-A-One-S-S, this is Rich from M-I-
T, Massachusetts, my call sign is F-
S-ZERO-X. Do you copy N-A-ONE-S-S?

After a few seconds of static and some frequency noise the radio speaker light activates, indicating an audio connection.

VOICE (O.S.)
Hello F-S-ZERO-X, this is N-A-ONE-S-
S. Commander Bronson aboard the
International Space Station speaking.
Is that you Flash? Long time no
hear my friend. Over.

FLASH
N-A-ONE-S-S, yes this is Flash. How
are you Commander? Over.

A groggy Dylan, wakes up and makes his way to the group by the radio.

DYLAN
What's going on?

AGGIE
Shhh!
(whispers)
Flash is talking to the space station
from his radio.

Flash continues to carry on the conversation with the astronaut using call letters and radio jargon.

DYLAN
Really, that's interesting.

GARY MEADOWS
(obnoxiously)
It's a high frequency radio
transceiver.

DYLAN

Oh, you mean a "Ham Radio"? We have one of those on Dad's boat but we upgraded to new satellite phones. We kept it because it looked vintage. That's pretty old school, though.

GARY MEADOWS

Old school or not, Flash is talking to an astronaut! How cool is that?

AGGIE

Well, I'll leave you boys to your toys and head topside. I need to check the bearings for the night before turning in.

Aggie grabs her jacket, makes her way out of the crew quarters.

AGGIE (CONT'D)

Don't stay up too late. We have some serious work ahead of us. Good night gentlemen.

INT. THE BRIDGE - LATER

Navigation charts are spread out on the deck console as Aggie checks the course of The Callisto. She takes careful measurements with a ruler and compass.

Captain Marius peers over her shoulder with some concern, his hovering presence becoming an annoyance.

AGGIE

Dad... Captain, you don't need to hover over me. Could you just give me some space? I got this.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Oh, I know that. Just making sure-

AGGIE

You don't have to make sure of anything. That's my job and it's a good thing I checked.

Aggie puts her ruler and tools down.

AGGIE (CONT'D)

You had the destination plot points set through the North Atlantic G-P-Z, so I made the adjustment and recalculated the course.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Oh, I hadn't realized that.

(questioning)

Do you think we need to do that?

(MORE)

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
It's gonna cost more in fuel and
that'll limit time to actually trawl.
We have precious little time and
fuel. Wouldn't want to waste it.

AGGIE
How could you ask such a question?
You know better than that.

Aggie grabs the rough and weathered hands of Captain Marius
in a tender manner.

AGGIE (CONT'D)
What's going on Captain... I mean,
Dad?

CAPTAIN MARIUS
(looks somewhat
defeated)
Nothing...nothing's going on. I'm
just a bit tired, that's all.

Captain Marius releases his grip, makes his way to the charts,
looking them over as if he is acknowledging Aggie's
calculations, but that's far from his mind.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
You are so right. I did teach you a
thing or two.
(changes subject)
I'm glad you're here Aggie but I
really wish you didn't come.

AGGIE
(perplexed)
Why would you say that?

CAPTAIN MARIUS
(sadly)
I honestly don't know.

AGGIE
(her voice trails off)
You never had a problem before...

CAPTAIN MARIUS
(continues the thought)
Before your Mom passed? Yes, I never
had a problem before your Mom died
and now that's all I have.

AGGIE
Well, I can help. You don't have to
shut me out. To you I may be your
little daughter, but I'm also an
adult. I can take care of myself.

Captain Marius puts down the various tools and the compass, pushes the charts out of the way.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

I think I need a smoke, or better yet a drink.

Aggie eyes him suspiciously.

Captain Marius opens the door to the bridge, walks out.

AGGIE

I don't think you need either but who am I to care?

(firmly)

I'll program the coordinates into the GPS and set the auto-pilot, for now. Be back shortly, you have first watch.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - BOW OF SHIP - NIGHT

The sky is a inky black velvet color, with millions of brilliant stars illuminating the night sky.

The ship slowly bobs up and down as The Callisto slices through the slight waves. The bridge is illuminated in dark amber color, the silhouette of Captain Marius holds watch over them.

The navigation lights bathe Aggie and Jonas in shades of green and red, as they stand by the railing looking out over the darkened sea ahead. Their waterproof parkas are wet and glisten from the spray of sea foam as the ship journeys forward.

JONAS WILLIAMS

I'm not really sure what to make of it. I've never seen the Captain like this, ever. He seems desperate, which I can tell you first-hand is a place Captain Willard Marius has never come close to.

AGGIE

I know Mom dying had a great effect on him.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Your Mom dying had a great effect on all of us, Aggie.

Aggie nods grimly.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

But this, right now, is not something She would even recognize in the Captain.

(MORE)

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
(harkening back in
time)

Even when we were pinned down back
over there in Karbala, behind enemy
lines, and it looked like we had
bought the farm for sure, your Dad
figured something out. He has that
way about him.

A spray of water hits them lightly. Jonas inhales deeply,
relishing the taste of the salty mist.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
It just never grows old. There's no
place I'd rather be, than out on the
open sea!

AGGIE
Me neither. I'm not a person who
likes land too much.

Aggie also inhales deeply, her eyes closed in thought.

AGGIE (CONT'D)
It's too solid, too complicated.

JONAS WILLIAMS
(chuckles)
That's an interesting way of putting
it.

The lines on his face deepen with his laugh. Aggie smiles in
agreement.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
That's why I wrote you. I know things
between you and your Dad are
"complicated" but there comes a time
when you have to address things head
on before time runs out.

AGGIE
It's not me, Jonas. I know my place.
And it's not in some classroom.
(sighs)
Look, I love teaching kids about the
ocean, about that hidden world that
seems so mysterious, because it really
is. But I seem so restless inside.

JONAS WILLIAMS
You know, you look just like your
mother when you said that. Your Mom
was one hell of a First Mate.

AGGIE
 Mom? First Mate? I thought you
 were always the First Mate of The
 Callisto.

Jonas gives a hearty laugh.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 Well sure, later I was, but your Mom
 was the *first* First Mate of The
 Callisto. Before even your Dad was
 Captain.

AGGIE
 I never knew that.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 Oh, sure. That's how they met.

Aggie lightens up, her tension evaporating like the salty
 mist itself.

AGGIE
 Oh! Do tell, Jonas. I like a good
 love story.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 (laughs)
 Don't we all!

INT. CREW QUARTERS

The ham radio begins to overheat, slightly smoking as Flash
 opens the back of the vintage radio, pulling out various tubes.

Gary and Dylan try to fan away the wispy smoke.

DYLAN
 I hope this doesn't set off any
 alarms.

GARY MEADOWS
 Wow! What was that?

FLASH
 Sorry, it happens sometimes. The
 tubes overheat every once in awhile.

Flash caresses one, blows on it until the thin wire inside
 the glass cools down.

FLASH (CONT'D)
 See? All good.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - BOW OF SHIP - CONTINUED

Jonas zips up his jacket, pushes his cap down to prevent it
 from blowing away from the breeze.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Well, you know that your Dad and I served together in the Gulf War, the first gulf war back in '91. Special Ops, clandestine surveillance they called it, and it was dangerous. Very dangerous stuff.

Aggie nods.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

When you spend time with a man, not knowing if you even have another day left to come, well, you talk about all kinds of things.

(chuckles)

And your father could really talk about all kinds of things, more than I care to remember.

(somewhat serious)

But when he spoke about the sea, there was a calm that came over him. He'd go on and on about fishing, this kind of boat or that kind of boat, and how the ocean would lure you out, like the Sirens beckoned Ulysses. For me, what the hell did I know of the sea? Where I came from, the ocean was a million miles away.

Jonas looks up at the silhouette of Captain Marius, his presence felt even now.

AGGIE

You're from Kansas, right?

JONAS WILLIAMS

(nods in agreement)

That's right. The most land-locked state, if there ever was one.

(changes subject)

Anyways, after we done our time we both returned home. Safely, healthy, thank God, but different. After what we did and saw, how could you not. Sleep was an ordeal, waking hours even more so. My life had become... *complicated*.

Jonas rubs his chin in thought.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

So your Dad invited me up to the Cape, to go fishing, he said.

(MORE)

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

At least what I thought would be fishing, you know with poles, throw a line in the water, sip a beer and wait for a bite.

(smiles)

No, he booked both of us as greenhorns on The Callisto!

Aggie chuckles.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

Don't you be laughing at me, at least not yet.

(a bit more serious)

Here I was, a landlubber from Kansas, out in the farthest reaches of the sea, hauling nets, swabbing decks and all that stuff. It was grueling work, for sure. The captain was a salty old dog, Captain Marcus Hagen the third, commanded a P.T. Boat against the "Japs" during the "Big One." The crew were pretty hardened sailors alike, but it was the First Mate that caught my attention,

(laughs)

And obviously your Dad's too.

Aggie smiles, tightens her jacket a bit.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

Under all that fishing gear and safety clothes, I hadn't even realized the First Mate was a woman, let alone your Mom. Oh sure, she was a looker, but when **Miss Annika Halvorsen** gave orders, there was nothing feminine about her. She was like a real Viking Valkyrie! That pretty Miss Halvorsen gave no quarter and took no prisoners.

(affirming)

Except from your Dad. He knew it, she knew it and the crew knew it too. Now, I wasn't interested in any of that stuff. I just wanted to keep myself from falling overboard in the churning sea and stay alive 'til the next day. But that first night, for the first time in a very long time, I slept like a baby, and I have ever since. Under the stars in the open ocean, gentle waves lulling me into slumber. What more can you ask for?

AGGIE

(teasing)

I didn't realize you were such a romantic.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Hardly.

(snickers)

There's no place like home and it sure as hell ain't in Kansas!

They both chuckle at the thought.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

Anyway... One day, while we were out on the far-side of the banks, Captain Hagen collapsed during a pretty violent and heavy storm. Your Mom took charge, as usual, and your Dad took the helm.

Aggie looks on concerned at the tale.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

The crew and I hunkered down in the decks below, pretty much powerless to do anything other than pray, while your parents fought the ocean, wave after wave. At one point, when it seemed like it was simmering down, I headed topside to the bridge, and what I saw, I hope I never see again.

(wide-eyed)

A wall of water, so tall it could touch the heights of the thundering clouds, was off in the distance, heading our way.

Jonas makes the sign of the cross.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

For the first time in my life, I did wish I was back home, in Kansas. As far from that ocean as I could get. Quickly, I confessed my sins, as many as I could remember, and said my final prayers. Then I held on for dear life!

AGGIE

And...?

JONAS WILLIAMS

And... there were your parents laughing at the spectacle in front of them. I mean hysterical laughing!

(MORE)

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

(wipes his brow)

Then your Dad grabs hold of your Mom, plants a kiss that would last for eternity, and takes the wheel of the ship and somehow guides The Callisto down the breaking wall of water like he was running a surfboard through the Banzai Pipeline. All the while your parents are howling with glee, screaming with excitement, challenging King Neptune to come and get it.

AGGIE

(questioning)

You're making this up.

JONAS WILLIAMS

(shakes his head)

Trust me. I know what I saw.

(calmly)

At this very point in time, with everything on the line, my fishing buddy Willard Marius was baptized the new Captain of The Callisto.

Jonas proudly looks around the very ship they're standing on.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

We hobbled back to port, battered and bruised, but nothing that couldn't be fixed. A short time later, we buried Captain Hagen out to sea, as he wished since he had no family. But in his will he left The Callisto to your Mom, as his "First Mate" and the "First Daughter" he never had. His insurance paid off whatever remained of the boat lien. It was all their's, free and clear.

AGGIE

Wow! I never heard that story before.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Captain Marius returns to the bridge, checks on the coordinates and the ship's compass heading. Once everything is verified, he disengages the auto-pilot.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - BOW OF SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Aggie looks up at the stars, squinting at something for clarity, turns back to face Jonas.

AGGIE

So why are we here? You can both retire, you don't need to haul nets for a living. Take The Callisto and go fishing like you originally planned.

JONAS WILLIAMS

(with remorse)

The Callisto isn't your Dad's anymore or won't be if this trip goes down like all the others.

AGGIE

I don't understand. You said The Callisto was given to my Mom and then to Dad, right?

JONAS WILLIAMS

Yes, but-

AGGIE

But what?

Tears well up in Jonas's eyes.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Cancer. It's a killer all right, and an expensive death.

(with remorse)

When your Mom took ill, your father did all he could do to get her the best care, no matter the cost. And when insurance money dried up, he went to the bank for a loan, putting up The Callisto itself as collateral.

AGGIE

I didn't realize that.

JONAS WILLIAMS

How could you? You were just a kid. These are decisions for grown ups.

(sadly)

Anyway, when your Mom found out, she just about burst apart at the seams, flushed with anger. She accused your father of not accepting the inevitable, of not being reasonable. In her mind, she was done. In his mind, this was just another crisis, for which he would find a way out of. He always did.

Jonas rubs his chin in thought.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
 All the years I spent with them, I
 never saw a cross word between them,
 let alone an argument. Until then.

Aggie looks pained at the thought.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
 Eventually it all seemed to settle
 down. Your Dad agreed he'd go to
 the bank settle up with them, but
 deep down he knew he would never
 give up. And so did she.

Jonas takes a deep breath, not sure to continue but Aggie
 acknowledges he should.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
 The next day, instead of heading out
 to fish, the Captain went to the
 bank and met with Dylan's father,
 (venomously)
 Mister Prescott Cartwright himself
 to make his case. The old man turned
 him down with a firm NO!
 What little remained of The Callisto
 wasn't enough to carry the debt and
 lien. So your Dad left, completely
 defeated for the first time in his
 life.

Aggie upwards at the stars, squints a bit, but something is
 not quite right.

AGGIE
 (whispers to herself)
 What the...?
 (to Jonas)
 Sorry, you were saying.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 I think I've already said too much.
 (changes subject)
 Why don't we turn in? It's been a
 long day.

AGGIE
 Please finish.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 (reluctantly)
 Well, on the way out of the bank,
 Dylan catches up to your Dad and
 offers to lend, or rather "give,"
 your Dad the money for Annika's
 treatment.

Aggie looks very surprised.

AGGIE

What? He never told me that.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Yes, that's right. And when his father found out, and from what I heard, just about exiled him from the family business. He's been making Dylan pay for his indiscretion ever since, to teach him a lesson. Poor guy. His father is one ruthless mother fucker.

AGGIE

But if Dylan gave Dad money, I don't understand... why... what happened after...?

JONAS WILLIAMS

What happened was, your Mom knew your Dad all too well and he would not back down or listen to her. So she spared him the trouble... and not knowing that the deal with the devil was already made, took the matter into her own hands.

(with remorse)

Sadly, the rest you know.

Aggie gives Jonas a tender hug, wipes the tears from her face, as she looks up at the starry sky.

Her sad gaze quickly metamorphoses into anger.

AGGIE

What the FUCK?

Aggie makes a bee-line for the bridge, taking the steps up the decks, two at a time. Her cap blows off and floats gently into the sea, as The Callisto journeys ever-onward.

INT. THE BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Captain Marius sits by his console, entering something in the logbook and checking his bearings on the navigation screen.

Aggie barges in through the door.

AGGIE

Dad! What are you doing?

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(surprised)

Aggie! What's the meaning of this? Don't you knock? Even you can't just-

AGGIE
 (flummoxed with a bit
 of anger)
 You changed the course! Didn't you?

CAPTAIN MARIUS
 Excuse me? And watch your tone.
 Daughter or no daughter, I'm still
 the Captain here.

AGGIE
 Why'd you do it?

CAPTAIN MARIUS
 Do what? I don't know what you're
 talking about!

AGGIE
 I can read a map!

CAPTAIN MARIUS
 You set the heading yourself, what
 makes you think I-

AGGIE
 (cuts him off)
 The stars Dad. I don't need a
 navigation chart to tell me where
 we're heading, when the stars will
 do just fine.

The Captain is at once proud and embarrassed he got caught.

AGGIE (CONT'D)
 You taught me that. YOU! Now you
 come clean now, and I mean right
 now!

Aggie tries to gain some composure as Jonas joins them.

AGGIE (CONT'D)
 You purposely changed the heading
 back through to the North Atlantic G-
 P-Z and-

JONAS WILLIAMS
 (Cuts her off)
 WHAT! Willard? What the fuck? You
 know we can't go there. The G-P-Z
 is a red directive sector. We all
 know what that means.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
 Oh! Relax. We'll be in and out of
 the zone before anyone even realizes
 it.

JONAS WILLIAMS

They'll put is in jail, that's what they'll do, or even worse.

(frightened)

That's if "The Gypsies" don't get us first.

Captain Marius laughs heartily, catching them all by surprise.

AGGIE

Gypsies? I don't understand.

(shrugs)

I thought the area was just government protected waters and to be avoided for some sort of security reason.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Oh for sure it is. Jonas here, is just being superstitious, that's all.

(sneers)

Nothing more than tall tales by drunk sailors in a two-bit dive bar.

Jonas looks a bit hurt at the accusation.

JONAS WILLIAMS

You can laugh at me all you want, but either way we don't belong there. Rules are rules.

Captain Marius walks over to the table with all the navigation charts and devices.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Take a look.

(points to the maps)

At the current speed and direction, we'll be in the sector by dawn.

Captain Marius shows them his map projections and calculations.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)

We'll try our luck fishing a bit. If it's a bust, I promise we'll leave by noon. As long as we keep radio silent, nothing should give our position away and we'll be in and out before anyone is the wiser.

The navigation charts clearly identify the restricted area which is labeled North Atlantic GYRE PELAGIC ZONE and in bold red letters: "GPZ - OFF LIMITS"

AGGIE

I don't know, this seems really wrong.

JONAS WILLIAMS
It's more than that, it's stupid,
that's what it is.

Joanas points to the highlighted zone on the map. His hand has a slight tremble to it.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
(concerned)
And dangerous, if you ask me.

Jonas slams his hand down on the map to make his point.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
(snaps at Jonas)
Well, no one's asking you!

AGGIE
DAD! Uh, Captain Marius... You can't
be angry with Jonas, he's the First
Mate and has a right to ask questions.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
I know what he has a right to.

Captain Marius stares Jonas down.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
Any questions
(sarcastically)
First Mate?

Both their eyes meet, suspiciously, and for the first time in their friendship, threatening.

JONAS WILLIAMS
No Sir! Orders are orders.
(concerned)
But off the record, Will... I
I hope I'm wrong.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - MORNING

The sun is peaking over the horizon, the clouds are drenched in brilliant hues of color.

The ocean waters are fairly calm, white sea foam rises from the bow as The Callisto cuts her way through the crests of waves and slight swells.

INT. THE CALLISTO - CREW QUARTERS

The crew are finishing their breakfast, Jonas calls down from the stairs alerting them to be topside in five minutes.

Dylan takes another swig of the distasteful mess in his cup that passes for coffee.

DYLAN

Ugh! Jesus, what is this stuff?

GARY MEADOWS

It's Sanka.

(agrees)

I know, it's awful. Jonas purposely serves it so we don't drink it and have to use the toilet when we're topside.

DYLAN

I don't even like the name.

(chuckles)

Nothing on a boat should have the word "Sank" in it.

FLASH

I second that.

Flash spills out his cup in the sink, grabs his waterproof jacket and bounds up the stairs.

DYLAN

He seems anxious enough.

GARY MEADOWS

Well, you better get a move on. Jonas is a man who lives by the clock. The man can tell time down to the second without a watch. Take my word for it.

Jonas calls down from the stairwell.

JONAS WILLIAMS (O.S.)

DYLAN! Let's get a move on!

Dylan rolls his eyes at the thought.

Gary leans back, takes a swig of coffee, and seems too relaxed for comfort.

DYLAN

Hey! Aren't you coming?

GARY MEADOWS

Oh, I don't fish. At least not today. I got a date with Thelma and Louise.

Gary finishes his coffee, places it in the sink.

GARY MEADOWS (CONT'D)

But you better hurry.

(teasing)

Greenhorn!

JONAS WILLIAMS (O.S.)

DYLAN! C'MON MAN! LET'S GO!

Dylan gives Gary a dirty look, grabs his jacket and quickly heads up the stairs.

INT. ENGINE ROOM - LATER

The engine room is cavernous, at least by the standards of a boat the size of The Callisto. Although the expanse is filled with a multitude of pipes, ductwork and wires, it is spotlessly clean with nary a speck of dirt or dust.

Captain Marius is calling out to Gary through an opening between some pipes.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Just make sure there are no issues
whatsoever, Gary.

GARY MEADOWS (O.S.)
(hidden from view)
Captain? Has there ever been any
issues from the girls? Ever? The
answer is no.
(affirms)
And there won't be today either.

INT. ENGINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

In the center of the space, two large engines, one blue the other red, purr in a perfect mechanical harmony. On the blue engine cover is a plaque with the name THELMA embossed in bright chrome letters, the red engine has a similar plaque with the name LOUISE, shiny and bright. Meet Gary's girls!

Gary comes out from behind the pipes, carefully and lovingly wipes down some of the industrial components in front of him.

GARY MEADOWS
See, Captain. The girls know you're
here and are on their best behavior.
(to the engines)
Aren't you girls?

Captain Marius looks at the three of them and chuckles.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
You know Gary, sometimes I just don't
understand you. You seem almost in
love with them, more than I've ever
seen you with a real woman.

GARY MEADOWS
No more than you with The Callisto.

Captain Marius, smiles and nods in agreement.

GARY MEADOWS (CONT'D)

(a bit of remorse)

We've had our fair share of women through the years but for now, I'm fine with dating by the hour, if you know what I mean.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Uh, sure,

(snickers)

I know exactly what you mean.

GARY MEADOWS

I was really hoping to get the girls some new fittings but-

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(interjects)

I greatly appreciate the sacrifice you made for them... for The Callisto.

Both men look at each other, a moment of silence only they could understand. Gary nods, a slight tear wells in his eyes.

GARY MEADOWS

(slightly stammers)

We'll just go back to work right girls? Things to do you know and...

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Just as well. I'm gonna head up to the bridge. Duty calls.

(winks)

We got some fishing to do!

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - LATER MORNING

Jonas and Flash are busy with preparing the deck, checking everything is secured, awaiting the word from Captain Marius to deploy the fishing nets.

Dylan emerges from the toilet on the deck, adjusting his clothes and protective gear.

JONAS WILLIAMS

That's the last time Dylan! No more bathroom breaks. Next time, just go in your pants!

Flash laughs at the comment but Jonas gives him an angry look.

FLASH

Sorry, Jonas... I didn't mean anything... uh... I'll just get back to work.

JONAS WILLIAMS

You got that right greenhorn!

(MORE)

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

Both of you guys better smarten up
and real quick.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - CONTINUOUS

Moving across the open seas, the Callisto passes a series of red warning buoys floating in the water, marking the territory of the off limits G-P-Z. Some are painted with a red diamond and the word "DANGER", the most recent has a diamond and cross symbol, with a flashing red warning beacon atop. The words "RESTRICTED AREA - KEEP OUT" are a not-so welcome sign to the what lies ahead.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - CONTINUOUS

The loudspeaker on the deck comes to life as the voice of Captain Marius draws their attention.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (O.S.)

Listen up gentlemen. We're in
uncharted waters here and about to
start our first run! Time is of the
essence, so let's make it count!

The engines of The Callisto slowly roar as the ship begins to pick up speed, a slight whiff of smoke is visible from the sleek smokestacks of the ship.

DYLAN

Jonas, What doe he mean by uncharted
waters?

Jonas turns the other cheek, avoiding Dylan's inquiry.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Jonas? I saw those buoys. Given
the circumstances, if anything happens
to this boat, I'm as liable as he
is. Probably even more at risk.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Look, I wouldn't give it another
thought. I know Captain Marius better
than anyone and he's no fool when it
comes to The Callisto.

DYLAN

At one point in time, I might have
believed you.

Dylan walks away, unconvinced but with little choice.

JONAS WILLIAMS

(whisper to himself)

At one point in time, I might've
believed me too.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Captain Marius looks over at Aggie who sits by the navigation console, checking data and telemetry.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
How's it look, navigator?

AGGIE
As good as it going to get. We're
here anyway. Let's do this and get
the hell out of Dodge, while we still
can.

Captain Marius give her a perfunctory look, not willing to engage any further in the conversation. He grabs the microphone, presses the talk button.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Deploy the nets! Let's go fishing!

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - CONTINUOUS

Jonas stands by the controls of the winch, directing Flash and Dylan to assist here and there.

The net slowly deploys, spreading out behind the boat, fanning broadly before weights carry the nets down below the ocean surface, disappearing into the abyss.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
(over the loudspeaker)
Looks good, Jonas! We'll tighten up
as we make the first pass.

The Callisto slows down a bit, then lunges forward as the nets make seemingly make contact with the sea floor.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Captain Marius works the throttle, carefully balancing and adjusting the controls ever so slightly, fine tuning their performance.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
That was quicker than I thought before
we hit bottom. Must be shallower
than I realized.

Captain Marius reaches for the microphone.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - CONTINUOUS

CAPTAIN MARIUS (O.S.)
(loudspeaker)
Jonas, pull the nets up a bit. I
think we're scraping bottom.

Jonas works the winch on the right, motions for Gary to pull up on the left winch. The cables begin to tighten and soon stabilize.

When satisfied, Jonas waves up to the bridge, gives a thumbs up.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Aggie keeps an eye on the sonar and monitoring screens, taking careful notice of some of the telemetry readings.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
How's it look over there Aggie?

AGGIE
Fine, for now. The depth rose dramatically for a brief time then tapered back down. Hard to tell what would have caused that, but we're good.
(concerned)
For now.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Okay, thank you.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - LATER

The Callisto makes her way across the open sea but down below, beneath the waves is where the action is, as the nets cast a path far and wide above the seafloor.

Jonas keeps a look out on the trailing nets, as Dylan and Flash go about there business, helping where needed.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The ship seems to slow down, there's a slight increase in the engine sound as Captain Marius engages the throttle with more power. He gives Aggie a knowing look and bursts out of his chair. It can mean only one thing and one thing only.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - CONTINUOUS

Captain Marius steps outside the bridge, motions down to Jonas who gives him a welcome thumbs up.

JONAS WILLIAMS
(excited)
WE GOT FISH!

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - LATER

Jonas and Flash slow the winches as the net is hauled into the rear of The Callisto, it is heavy and filled with writhing fish, trying to escape the confines they are trapped in.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Holy shit!
 (yells over to Dylan)
 Open the tanks in the hold, we got
 precious cargo here.

DYLAN

Aye aye, sir!

Dylan helps guide the net to the open tank as Jonas and Flash
 come over to assist.

They are joined by Captain Marius and Aggie.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

I almost forgot what a great catch
 looks like.

JONAS WILLIAMS

You were right Captain!
 (apologetically)
 I'm sorry.

Captain Marius gives Jonas a familiar look, acknowledging
 their long friendship without words.

AGGIE

(concerned)
 Look, this is fantastic but we
 shouldn't spend more time here than
 necessary.

DYLAN

What do you mean, "than necessary?"

AGGIE

(dismissively)
 Not your concern.

DYLAN

It is now, my concern, if it concerns
 this boat.

Aggie walks away, makes her way to the bridge.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

(to Captain Marius)
 What is she talking about?

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Nothing that another good haul won't
 fix.

(to the crew)
 Let's go boys! We got some fishing
 to do.

Captain Marius pulls Jonas to the side.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Listen, Jonas. Keep the nets a bit higher on the depth for the next run. Aggie noticed some anomalies on the sonar transducer and the fathometer was somewhat inconsistent.

Jonas nods with understanding.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)

With this being uncharted waters, let's proceed with a bit more caution.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - LATER

The Callisto continues to haul in nets brimming with fish, it's a treasure trove made of fins and scales.

The crew work extremely hard with little respite, but are ecstatic all the same.

Each catch seems larger than the previous one as Dylan looks on, calculating the net worth of the filled tanks below deck. It's a small fortune to say the very least.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Aggie keeps careful eyes on the telemetry and scopes, carefully mapping their course across the GPZ area.

Captain Marius comes over, peers over Aggie's efforts on the nautical charts.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

You're keeping busy.

AGGIE

None of this area has ever been documented, at least from any nautical chart I've ever seen. It makes sense to at least keep track of things.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(teasing)

Of course, but we'll need to burn the evidence should we ever get caught. Then they'll probably pull out our tongues so we never speak of-

AGGIE

DAD! I'm serious. We're taking a big risk just being in this sector, and we should be cautious, that's all.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Okay, you made your point.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
We'll do a few more runs, catch what
we can then pack it up and head home.
(warmly affirming)
Happy now?

Captain Marius give Aggie a tender kiss, far prouder of her than he's ever been. It feels right having her here despite his own reservations.

He makes his way out of the bridge when The Callisto suddenly lists to the starboard side, tossing him to the deck.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - MOMENTS LATER

The Callisto rights itself quickly, continues to move forward although the engines seem to be straining.

Jonas calls up to the bridge, Aggie runs out, almost trips over her fallen father.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
What the hell was that?

JONAS WILLIAMS (O.S.)
(yells from the deck
below)
CAPTAIN! I think we hit something!

Jonas joins them up by the bridge.

INT. THE BRIDGE - LATER

The three gather around the sonar, looking for any clues of what would have caused the ship to roll to one side so violently.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
The water's clear way below the
surface except-

AGGIE
(point to the screen)
Except for this area here. Looks
like some undersea formation, maybe
the top of an old seamount, but it
also drops precariously then rises.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Interesting...but not sure why we
didn't clear it since it's pretty
far down.

JONAS WILLIAMS
We probably took on more weight from
the fish and we bottom trawled picking
up dirt, shells and who knows what.

Captain Marius nods in agreement as Gary joins them in the bridge.

GARY MEADOWS
Captain? What' going on? All of a sudden Thelma started to really strain to keep up with Louise. I never saw that happen before.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
(a bit concerned)
How are the engines now?

GARY MEADOWS
All good, as far as I can tell.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Okay, see to them. I want those girls ready to dance!
(to Jonas)
Have the crew pull in this last catch and secure the boat for the trip back.

Captain Marius looks over to Aggie.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
Plot us a course home. Let's not wear out our welcome.

AGGIE
(affirming)
I like the sound of that.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - LATER

The ship's crane strains and groans as it begins to pull the last catch of the day from the rear of The Callisto towards the tanks in the hold. The nets bulge and stretch with the large volume of fish held within.

The net is carefully dropped to the deck, spreading out so Flash and Dylan can sort the fish, saving what they plan on keeping into the main storage tanks.

FLASH
(tired)
I'm glad this is the last haul.
I've seen enough fish to last a lifetime.

DYLAN
(exhausted)
I'll be giving up eating fish after this trip. Strictly meat and potatoes for me! A nice rare ribeye-

JONAS WILLIAMS (O.S.)
 (interrupts)
 C'mon Guys! Step it up! Once this
 last catch is saved in the tanks,
 we're home free!

DYLAN
 Now that's music to my ears!

Dylan, stretches and takes a deep breath, before continuing
 with his labors.

As they clear out the net, a mechanical hand of some sort
 juts out from beneath the mass of writhing fish. They both
 jump back startled and hesitantly approach this metallic
 apparition.

Flash looks closer, a bit more intrigued than Dylan, who
 runs to get Jonas.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
 Jonas! Come quick! There's something
 in the net.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 There should be. They're called
 fish, in case you don't know that by
 now.
 (joking)
 Unless of course, you hauled me in a
 mermaid. Now that would be something.

DYLAN
 No, this something is really
 different. You need to see this.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - MOMENTS LATER

Jonas walks back with Dylan to the rear deck of the ship, the
 net is laid open with the mass of fish flipping and flopping
 about. Dylan points to the mechanical hand.

DYLAN
 See that! It's a hand!

JONAS WILLIAMS
 (peering closer)
 What the hell? You're right! Hey
 Flash! Give me that pole and let's
 see what's underneath.

DYLAN
 Are you sure you want to do that?

Jonas gives Dylan an incredulous look.

JONAS WILLIAMS

(somewhat mocking)

Well if I don't, then you won't finish
your job and we're still be here
until you grow a pair.

DYLAN

Very funny. Just want to be careful,
that's all.

FLASH

(excited)

Well I'm curious as can be.

Jonas and Flash, pull the fish away from the mechanical hand,
further exposing what lies beneath.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Well, I'll be damned.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - LATER

Captain Marius and Aggie join the crew on the fishing deck,
careful to step around the net that still contains some
wriggling fish, desperate to return to the sea or succumbing
to the air around them.

Their attention is drawn to what else lies in the net.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

What the hell...?

AGGIE

(perplexed)

It looks like some kind of old
fashioned diving suit.

Lying fully exposed on the deck, in a somewhat tangled
position, is what looks like a mechanical man, covered in
dirt, seaweed and a bit of flotsam and jetsam.

Its arms are tubular, with some sort of coil embedded within.
The legs are similar in design, with various vents and
protuberances evident.

The body is broad with a heavy glass circular shape in the
center of its chest, surrounded by two smaller circular
features near the shoulders. On its back are two large tubular
shapes with openings at the bottom.

The most compelling feature is its head, which is made of a
dome of reinforced glass, protecting a spherical device that
mounts a series of lens. Each one is a different size with
one apparently larger than the others.

It is evident that whatever this is, it has been through some
heavy duty wear and tear, with dents, scrapes and scratches
covering almost all of its parts.

DYLAN
(with concern)
Do you think someone's dead inside?

FLASH
Don't be silly. There's no one in
that thing.
(wide-eyed)
It's not a suit.

Flash reaches down to the mechanical man, brushes away dirt and sand from its chest, uncovering a badge with a faded number: 3-6-9.

FLASH (CONT'D)
(excited)
It's a robot!

Captain Marius squats down near the mechanical man, freeing its heavy arm from where it was positioned. Its hand is clutching a remnant of a shaft composed of rock or sea coral.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
What the hell is this?

DYLAN
It looks like a piece of a coral
tube.

Aggie takes hold of the shard, runs her hand over it, feeling and sensing the material.

AGGIE
This isn't a natural and it's not
coral. It's been formed.
(contemplative)
Somebody made this.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - LATER

Dylan and Flash continue to work away, stowing the gear as the ship makes its way through open water, and home.

Propped up on the forward deck, in a somewhat comical pose, is the lifeless mechanical man, a sort of ship mascot keeping watch over relatively nothing.

DYLAN
You know a thing or two about
electronics, what do think that thing
is?

FLASH
It's looks nothing I've ever seen or
read about. Looks pretty old, in
fact.

DYLAN

Whatever it is, it seems like it got the shit kicked out of it. I wonder if its worth anything?

FLASH

You think you might get a reward for returning it to its rightful owners?

Dylan shrugs, not really caring.

DYLAN

Maybe it's a movie prop?

FLASH

Oh, sure. Out here in the middle of nowhere, they'd be shooting a movie?

DYLAN

Well, maybe not out here. Maybe it was somewhere else and our friend here sort of floated away.

(affirming his own theory)

People have tossed bottles in the ocean from one continent and they ended up somewhere else across the world.

Flash completes his work, takes off his safety gear.

FLASH

Doubtful. It's one thing for a lightweight bottle to ride the ocean currents, it's another thing for a heavy thing like our friend here to do anything but sink.

(confirming his thought)

It practically pulled the nets to the bottom of the sea.

Dylan stows his own gear away.

DYLAN

I guess we'll never know then.

(tired but joyful)

Let's get some food. It's been quite the day or two and I'm beat to shit.

Flash agrees, as the two men make their way to the crew quarters below.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Aggie and Jonas sit at the navigation console, checking various readings and the course of the ship.

JONAS WILLIAMS

How much time do you think Aggie?

AGGIE

About fourteen hours. We traversed further in than I thought we would have.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Well, with fishing as good as we got, how could we not?

Captain Marius looks over the deck of the ship, its bow bouncing slightly to the rhythm of the ocean.

JONAS WILLIAMS

I don't think we've ever come close to what we just caught. It's the mother lode, for sure.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

I just knew things would turn around. They just had to.

The Callisto seems to be struggling a bit in the water, you can feel the strain through the superstructure of the ship.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)

Hmmm... Something doesn't feel right.

He reaches for the ship intercom.

INT. ENGINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gary is frantically working by the blue engine, something is obviously wrong.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (O.S.)

What's going down there?

GARY MEADOWS

(Calls out so his voice carries to the intercom)

I don't know yet! Thelma's going south, AND QUICKLY!.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK

With a deep metallic grinding screech, the ship shudders violently to the port side, throwing Flash and Dylan to the deck.

DYLAN

(looks up to the bridge)
What the hell is going on up there?

FLASH

Something must have happened to the engines.

INT. ENGINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Smoke is billowing out of some of the engine components as Gary works to address the problem.

Jonas joins him.

JONAS WILLIAMS
What do you think it is?

Gary continues to work, puts his tools down as the smoke begins to clear.

GARY MEADOWS
I know what it isn't. It's not
Thelma.

JONAS WILLIAMS
Well, that's good, right?

GARY MEADOWS
Yes and no.

The intercom light illuminates. Jonas walks over and activates the external microphone and speaker.

JONAS WILLIAMS
Jonas, here, Captain!

CAPTAIN MARIUS (O.S.)
Well? I'm sure you both felt that.
(pointedly)
I need a status report and need it
now?

GARY MEADOWS
It's me Captain.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (O.S.)
What the fuck, Gary? You assured me
the engine would be fine. I trusted
you and those girls of yours.

GARY MEADOWS
I know but it's not the girls. Oh
sure, Thelma's been a bit rough around
the edges but its not them.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (O.S.)
Then what else could it be?

GARY MEADOWS
(hesitantly)
If I didn't know better, I'd say we
threw a prop.

JONAS WILLIAMS
Are you sure? We're in open waters.
That makes no sense.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

CAPTAIN MARIUS (O.S.)
Stand by. I'm coming down.

Captain Marius ends the call, shuts the intercom off.

Aggie is at the navigation console.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
I'll be down in the engine room,
trying to figure this out.

He throttles the engines down.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
Aggie, you have the com.

AGGIE
Okay, Dad. See what you can do.
(concerned)
I really don't like this.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Neither do I.

Aggie looks over at the remnant of the strange fragment the mechanical man was clutching. A sense of dread is evident.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - LATER - EVENING

The ship remains still in the water, resting under the setting sun and the last light of day.

Near the bow of the ship, Dylan leans over the deck rail, slowly dragging on a cigarette. He glances over at the mechanical man, a listless presence of metal.

AGGIE (O.S.)
If you don't mind, I'll have one of
those.

Dylan turns, looks over to see Aggie standing there, pulls out a cigarette from an almost empty pack.

DYLAN
Sure, but I thought-

AGGIE
(completes the sentence)
That I wouldn't smoke because of
what happened to my Mom.

Aggie welcomingly takes the cigarette, Dylan lights it for her.

AGGIE (CONT'D)
(sardonically)
Well, it certainly wasn't cigarettes
that killed her.

Aggie takes a deep draw of the cigarette.

AGGIE (CONT'D)
Why didn't you tell me that you gave
my Dad money for my Mom's treatments.

DYLAN
A lot of good that did any way.
(questioning)
What difference would it have made?
Any way, I didn't do it for you or
"for us."

Dylan takes a deep draw, exhales quickly.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
I did it because it was the right
thing to do. For your mother. It
wasn't about scoring points. Besides,
you were already long gone by then.

AGGIE
I'm sorry, you know that. I thought
I had no choice.
(with remorse)
I had to leave.

DYLAN
Really Aggie? No choice?
(with emphasis)
You had to leave? Just like that?

AGGIE
It was "*complicated*."

DYLAN
Well that's an interesting way of
putting it.
(incredulously)
Complicated?

Dylan turns away from her, then turns back to face her down.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
I get it Aggie. It's hard when the
parents that raised us, the parents
we worshipped as children, turn out
to be nothing more than human beings,
full of flaws and victims of their
own "*complications*."

AGGIE
Dylan... please... it's not easy...

DYLAN
No, you're right. It's not easy
being the children of parents, or
more importantly, Fathers.
(MORE)

DYLAN (CONT'D)

(emphasizes)

Men who only want the best for us.
Who will actually risk almost
everything, including their love,
just to prove their point or betray
us in the process.

Aggie nods, acknowledges the sentiment, all too well.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

I'm not sure what happened.

(changing the subject)

I thought we had something going,
you and I. Maybe, even a future
together.

(slightly patronizing)

You would have wanted for nothing.

AGGIE

(a bit offended)

There was nothing I wanted. It was
never about your money, Dylan. I
just don't know.

DYLAN

I do know. It's "complicated."

Dylan looks away as Aggie takes hold of his hand, it's not a particularly loving grasp, but still conveys an unspoken bond.

AGGIE

Well, here we are.

DYLAN

Yes. We are certainly *here*.

Both look on across the deep blue ocean, the luminous lights of the stars begin to show, particularly bright without the moon present.

A slight mist starts to rise from the water like an evening fog.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Captain Marius is holding court with Jonas and Gary.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

It doesn't seem likely we would have
thrown a prop, just like that. And
certainly not both drives.

(eyes Gary down)

It must be the engines.

GARY MEADOWS

I'm telling you.

(MORE)

GARY MEADOWS (CONT'D)

(offended)

It's not the girls, Sir. I'm positive.

JONAS WILLIAMS

(concurring)

He's right Captain. When we disengage the driveshafts and run the engines in neutral they run just fine.

GARY MEADOWS

Well, close to fine. Louise is damn near perfect but Thelma's got a slight...

Jonas cuts him off, with a look of too much information.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Look, Thelma's fine! They're both fine!

(affirming)

My guess is, for whatever reason, during a maintenance check, the driveshaft bearings weren't properly lubed and sealed, causing them to overheat and eventually seize.

Gary nods in agreement.

GARY MEADOWS

No matter what, we'll get to the bottom of it.

(points to Jonas)

I mean, he'll get to the bottom of it. Literally, the very bottom.

JONAS WILLIAMS

What he means is, that at first light, I will do a quick underwater recon-

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(interrupts)

You? A recon under The Callisto? Not a chance. With the water this cold, you won't last more than a few minutes before you freeze your "cojones" off.

(chuckles)

Besides, when was the last time you even went over the top, except to take a bath.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Yeah, it's been a few years but I'm not that old.

(MORE)

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

I still know a thing or two, besides
who else will be able to determine
what's happening under there except
for me...

(teasing)

Or you. And you're an even bigger
risk than me.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Why, I'll have you know...

JONAS WILLIAMS

That you approve of my plan.

Captain Marius smiles at his old friend, acknowledges the
decision.

GARY MEADOWS

I'm gonna head down below, see to
the girls and prep for tomorrow.

(to Captain Marius)

Good night Sir.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Oh, and Gary. Make sure the
generators are good and battery
reserve at full capacity. If we're
not going any where, I want to be
sure we have enough juice to keep
the lights on, if you know what I
mean.

Gary nods, makes his way out of the bridge, heads down the
stairs to the lower decks.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - BOW OF SHIP - CONTINUOUS

The mist begins to thicken and condense, surrounding the boat
in a concentrated layer of fog.

Within the robot, a buzz of electric current begins to course
throughout its body and limbs, like blood flowing through
wired arteries and veins. Servos and switches activate, as a
steady rhythm of mechanical pulses commence, like a heartbeat.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - LATER

Without warning, the sea around The Callisto begins to churn
violently, bubbling as if it was beginning to boil. The fog
above the water surface intensifies.

The Callisto is floundering in the turbulent waters.

Aggie and Dylan are thrown to the deck, landing hard on the
wet surface, their limbs flailing for support.

AGGIE

Dylan!

DYLAN

Aggie, stay down. I'll be right
there. Hold on to whatever you can!

As they gather themselves, a piercing cry breaks the mood.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - CONTINUOUS

A volley of white coral projectiles pummel the deck. One particular piece grazes Gary's upper arm, cutting him severely.

GARY MEADOWS

HELP! Something hit me!

Gary staggers by, holding his bleeding arm, trying to traverse the pitching deck to get below and protected.

Hearing his cry for help, Flash opens the cabin door, helps the wounded Gary to safety.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The lights of the bridge flicker and flutter, loud klaxons of emergency alarms are heard throughout. Warning lights are evident on every control panel.

Having both been flung to the floor without warning, Jonas helps Captain Marius to his feet.

Peering out the windows of the bridge, their eyes widen in disbelief at the sight in front of them. A low lying fog covers the sea and parts of the lower decks.

A towering geyser of water and steam erupts from the ocean, like a pressure cooker releasing its contents, dwarfing and drenching The Callisto.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(alarmed)

Oh my God!

A second geyser erupts on the other side, followed by a series of others, blasts of water that batter the ship on all sides.

The rolling motion of the ship is severe, but with the propellers inoperable there is no respite from the frenzy.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - CONTINUOUS

Each soaring gusher of water, rains back down upon the ship, drenching it in a misty cloud of brine and sea-foam.

After stumbling about, Dylan reaches Aggie, helps her regain her footing on the slippery deck.

DYLAN

Just hang on to the railing as best
you can. I'm not sure we can make
it to the lower deck just yet.

AGGIE

I'm not even sure where that is. I
can't see a thing through this mist.
(squints)
It's also burning my eyes.

DYLAN

It's the saltwater spray.
(Dylan wipes her eyes)
I wish I knew what the hell is
happening! The fog is so thick, I
can't see a thing past a few feet of
the boat.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The sirens and warning signals are relentless, barraging the
men with audio overload.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Jonas! For fuck's sake, could you
please turn off the sirens! I know
we're in trouble, I can't think with
that blaring noise.

Jonas runs to each console, disabling the sirens where he
can. One particular speaker won't shut off no matter what he
tries to do. Captain Marius looks on with utter annoyance.

JONAS WILLIAMS

(frustrated)
Sorry Captain, I've shut them all
down but this last one.

Taking matters into his own hands, Captain Marius grabs one
of the navigation tools, rams it into the speaker itself,
which sputters and eventually dies in a welcome death.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

(surprised)
You know, I could have done that but
didn't want to break the merchandise.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

It's what's known as an executive
decision.

(very concerned)

More importantly, what do you think
is going on? We're helpless in the
water without the props working.

JONAS WILLIAMS

If I didn't know better, I'd say
that we're under attack.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

It seems that way but from who?
Pirates? Russians?

JONAS WILLIAMS
Remember where we are.

Captain Marius stares out the windows, the geysers are less frequent and seem to be tapering off.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
(contemplative)
The Navy? You think the military is bombarding us?

JONAS WILLIAMS
Kinda makes sense. We're in a forbidden area where we shouldn't be.
(pointedly)
Where no one should be.

Captain Marius gives him an unwelcome glance.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Well, they could have approached us, boarded the ship and detain us.

JONAS WILLIAMS
Oh sure, and then what? No way they would do that and admit to whatever is here. Kinda like them admitting to whatever is in Area 51. No way they want any acknowledgement or us going public.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
So you think they'd rather sink us then have us talk?

JONAS WILLIAMS
I'd say that was a distinct and very real possibility. Wouldn't you?

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Well, that complicates things a bit.

INT. CREW QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Flash tends to Gary's wound the best he can given the perpetual violent movements of the boat.

FLASH
Sorry, I'm not great at first aid.
Never got my Boy Scout merit badge.

GARY MEADOWS
It's fine. Do whatever you can. We have to get to the bridge and see what the Captain wants us to do.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK

The Callisto is battered in a furor of salt water spray, making it difficult to get one's bearings.

Looking for any opportunity to cross the pitching deck, Dylan and Aggie carefully try to make their way to safety.

They pass the robot, unaware that it is slowly powering up, moving its stiff mechanisms that have been clogged with dirt and age.

DYLAN

It looks like these water blasts are slowing down. I think we might have chance. When I say run, follow me and hang on to my jacket.

(commanding tone)

Got it?

AGGIE

Yes, Got it! You don't have to tell me a second time. I'm with you.

DYLAN

Okay, good. On three, then we run like hell!

(confirming)

Ready... One... two... three... RUN!

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - CONTINUOUS

Electrons begin to flow freely through the wires of the robot, energizing it with current and power. It moves slowly at first, loosening the joints that have been stilled for so long.

The cover of the optical lenses twirl open, revealing a light within. The lenses rotate and spin, as apertures inside move to gain focus and adjust to the dim light.

With great effort, the mechanical man struggles to rise into an upright position. Without warning, a large wave crashes over the deck, knocking it back down with brutal force. It tumbles across the deck in an awkward ballet of flailing arms and legs, landing with a heavy thud as another jet of water blasts upward.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - CONTINUOUS

A sudden and extremely powerful geyser erupts directly below The Callisto, pitching the bow up at a dangerously steep angle.

Dylan and Aggie make their way across the deck, desperate to save themselves. But gravity is also a force of nature and what goes up, must come down and The Callisto is no exception.

The descent is so abrupt, the boat plunges beneath the waves, covering the deck completely.

Dylan holds on desperately, but Aggie is sent sprawling and is lost in the bedlam as another geyser buffets the boat.

DYLAN
(frantic)
AGGIE!.... AGGIE!

When the boat settles, Aggie is nowhere to be seen.

Dylan calls out over and over, to no avail.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
HELP! ANYONE!
(screams to everyone)
AGGIE WENT OVERBOARD!

EXT. THE CALLISTO - LOWER DECK - LATER

The chaos that ensued has abated dramatically as The Callisto floats quietly on the calmest of oceans, flat and virtually motionless. Under a moonless sky, brilliant stars reflect back in the water, like a mirror.

The crew is gathered at the stern of the ship, tending to Aggie, who is shivering from the cold air and her completely drenched clothes.

Captain Marius drapes a thick blanket over her, trying comfort Aggie as best he can.

AGGIE
I honestly don't know what happened.
(teeth chattering)
All I remember is running across the deck when one of those water blasts hit The Callisto.

DYLAN
I know, I didn't expect that. The whole ship almost disappeared.

AGGIE
That wave knocked me completely down and I guess dragged me over the rail.
(to Dylan with emotion)
Thank God you were able to save me. I'm not sure how you even dived into that ocean, it was so scary, but-

DYLAN
(perplexed)
Aggie... I ... uh... I didn't.

AGGIE
I don't understand.
(upset)
I was going under, couldn't see a thing with everything that was going
(MORE)

AGGIE (CONT'D)

on. I knew I was drowning, then I felt you grab me and pull me up.

Aggie shivers at the thought and her ordeal.

DYLAN

As much as I'd like take credit for saving you, I didn't.... I couldn't.
(apologetic)

There was no way to even know what happened to you. Between the fog and the waves, it was just chaos.

AGGIE

That can't be.

(insisting)

You pulled me out of the water.
That's how I ended up on the deck here, alive!

Dylan shakes his head, looking down almost embarrassed that it actually wasn't him.

Aggie looks over at the crew, eyeing each one of them for some affirmation it was one of them.

AGGIE (CONT'D)

C'mon! It had to be one of you!

Captain Marius puts his arm around Aggie in a fatherly embrace.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Aggie, it doesn't matter. All that matters is that you're safe. If anything would have happened to you-

AGGIE

Something did happen to me! I almost drowned in the fucking ocean and someone... some thing... saved me!

JONAS WILLIAMS

It really doesn't matter. You're safe, that's all that counts to me.

(to Captain Marius)

Captain, Sir... If you don't mind, I think Gary and me should do some recon around the ship and check on things. We had a helluva time and who knows what damage we sustained.

Jonas salutes Captain Marius as he leaves, gives Aggie his trademark broad toothy grin. She returns the gesture the best she can in between shivers and shakes.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

(teasing to Gary)

C'mon, Grunt. Earn your stripes!

Gary gives Aggie an unexpected but welcome hug, quickly follows Jonas to the upper deck.

GARY MEADOWS

(teasing)

I already did, Can't you see I'm wounded!

JONAS WILLIAMS

Sure, I'll note it in the log and put you in for a medal! Let's go, soldier!

Flash motions to the robot who is lying on the deck, lost among the ship gear that litters the fishing deck, a silent witness to the discussion.

FLASH

Maybe it was him.

DYLAN

Him, who?
(points to the robot)
That thing?

FLASH

Yes, that thing. We left it topside and it ended up down here on the lower fishing deck.
(affirming)
Where we found Aggie.

DYLAN

Don't be silly. It probably fell to this deck when the ship was getting tossed around. Like everything else.

Dylan points to the scattered fishing gear sprawled across the decks, in complete disarray.

Flash moves closer to the mechanical man, presses his ear to the metal body, taking notice of the electrical hum of a transformer inside.

FLASH

I know this may sound crazy, but I think this thing has somehow turned itself "On."

INT. AGGIE'S QUARTERS - LATER

Coming out of the small shower, Aggie dries her hair, at ease for the first time since her harrowing ordeal. There's a knock on the door as she is getting dressed.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (O.S.)

Aggie? Are you dressed? May I come in?

AGGIE
Sure give me a sec.

Aggie buckle her jeans, tosses the towel on the chair and opens the door. Captain Marius enters the small but comfortable quarters.

AGGIE (CONT'D)
If you're here to give me all the reason why I shouldn't be here, just turnaround. I'm not in the mood.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
That's the point. I'm glad you are here.
(emotional)
I could have lost you in that... whatever that was... whatever just happened. But you're here!

Aggie breaks down, hugs her father dearly, comforted in his strong arms.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
You're safe.

Welling up himself, he wipes his eyes, sniffles slightly.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
You must have been so frightened. All alone in that maelstrom... trying to stay alive in that frigid water...
(lecturing somewhat)
Good thing you were smart enough to wear your wet suit. See, you did learn something from your old man.

AGGIE
Dad, I wasn't wearing a wet suit. There was no time. Didn't you notice when I was on the deck that I was in regular clothes?

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Well, no. I figured you took it off after Dylan pulled you from the water.

AGGIE
Are you sure Dylan pulled me from the water?

CAPTAIN MARIUS
He had to. No one else could've. Flash was helping Gary below deck and Jonas was with me. That leaves, Dylan.

AGGIE

It'd be easy to explain a lot if he did, but even he said he didn't, that he couldn't. He'd probably be dead himself if he even tried in those conditions.

Aggie walks over to the porthole of her cabin, glances out through the glass.

AGGIE (CONT'D)

(in thought)

The water was warm.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Well, maybe it seemed that way with everything going on. It'd be the last thing you'd think about after going overboard like that.

AGGIE

Actually, it was the first. I knew I could probably swim or stay afloat until help came, but I knew I'd never last more than a few minutes in the cold sea.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

But.... you did.

AGGIE

(stressing)

I did because the water was very... very warm. It was almost hot at a time of year when it wouldn't even be close to that temperature. In fact, it would never naturally even get that hot.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

What are you getting at?

AGGIE

I'm not sure. Remember, we are in an area we know little about.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

But the Gulf Stream is not too far from here. Maybe it shifted its current pattern. The only other thing it could be is a...

AGGIE

(completes the thought)

Volcano? More like a guyot from some of the sonar we saw.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(affirming)

Sure, makes sense, especially with those weird depth readings. That's probably why the government keeps this area off limits. It might be too dangerous to sail if it's in an active area we know nothing about.

AGGIE

It still doesn't explain how I got back onboard.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

I'm fine chalking that up as a miracle and calling it a day. Believe me, I've seen enough things in my lifetime that could only be called a miracle and let's leave it at that.

AGGIE

I guess you're right but what about that mechanical man?

CAPTAIN MARIUS

What about him?

AGGIE

Why is it even here? Maybe Flash is on to something.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Whatever Flash is on-

The Callisto's warning klaxon suddenly blares, interrupting their conversation. A loud voice comes through the ship's speaker.

JONAS WILLIAMS (O.S.)

Captain!... Captain Marius! You're needed on the bridge!

INT. THE CALLISTO - TOPSIDE - MOMENTS LATER

Jonas is standing on the outside deck of the bridge looking through a pair of binoculars at the surrounding ocean. A forlorn look of concern is apparent.

On the far side of the ship, Dylan and Gary tend to the gear, cleaning up where they can, almost tripping over the mechanical man who still lies sprawled along the side of the deck.

Captain Marius and Aggie quickly ascend the stairs, notice the completely tranquil sea off the side of the boat. The night sky stars, brightly reflect on the idyllic water.

AGGIE

This is so strange.

(MORE)

AGGIE (CONT'D)

I've never seen the ocean so still.
It's like a mirror.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Yes, but after what we just went
through I can't say I'm disappointed.
If it stays this way by morning,
Jonas will be able to make the most
of his dive, check what the problem
is and we can make headway, quickly.

Reaching the top stair, they approach Jonas, who is fixated
at something in the distance.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)

Jonas?

Startled, Jonas almost drops the binoculars.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Oh! Sorry sir.

Captain Marius seems surprised at how nervous Jonas is
reacting.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

You have news to report?

Jonas seems preoccupied with whatever he's seeing through the
binoculars.

JONAS WILLIAMS

(murmuring)

Uh! Yes, Sir... Wait!... Yes, there
it is again...

Jonas hands the binoculars to Captain Marius.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

Take a look! About thirty degrees
port, distance... give or take a
klick and a half. There's something
in the water.

Captain Marius peers carefully through the glasses, paying
careful attention to anything out of the ordinary.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

So far, all I see are stars,
reflecting in the water.

(continues focusing)

And more stars and... Wait! I think
I see what it is.

Captain Marius wipes his eyes clean, making sure he's seeing
what he thinks he's seeing. Continues looking.

JONAS WILLIAMS

That's right. Two stars, the same exact size and brightness in the water, that aren't in the sky.

(concerned)

What do you make of that?

AGGIE

Dad? Can I take a look?

Captain Marius hands the binoculars to Aggie.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

They're not stars. They're eyes.

(disconcerted)

We're being watched.

Aggie looks through the binoculars, acknowledges the same vision in the water.

AGGIE

Watched? By who?

JONAS WILLIAMS

(troubled)

The Sea Gypsies.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - LATER

For the next hour, more pairs of luminous eyes, in varying size and shades of blue and green appear in the darkened water, getting closer and closer to the ship. The lights of The Callisto illuminate the waters surrounding the ship, seemingly creating a protective barrier from the encroaching eyes.

Jonas and Dylan keep careful watch from the upper deck as a slight mist rises across the surface of the sea, but the glowing eyes are still visible and bright throughout.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - CONTINUOUS

The mechanical robot lies prone on one of the fishing tables by the side of the boat, while Flash performs what can only look like an autopsy. There are various tools and instruments displaying readings of some sort.

FLASH

(muttering to himself)

This is just unbelievable.

Flash looks at one of the meters in astonishment.

Ascending the stairs out of the engine room, on his way to the upper deck, Gary comes over to where Flash is working, his arm wound is clearly better dressed than before.

GARY MEADOWS

Hey Flash!

(MORE)

GARY MEADOWS (CONT'D)
 I don't think it's a good idea to be
 so close to the rail. Those things
 seem to be getting closer all the
 time.

Totally immersed in his task and profound findings, Flash
 ignores him.

GARY MEADOWS (CONT'D)
 (annoyed)
 Hey! Did you hear me? We need to
 get to the upper deck.

FLASH
 I'll be right there. Just need to
 check a few more things. This thing
 is powered on but in a suspended
 state and I can't get it to respond
 to anything.
 (frustrated)
 Dammit!

GARY MEADOWS
 You still think this thing rescued
 Aggie?

FLASH
 (still tinkering)
 Somebody did and it wasn't one of
 us. Forget that bullshit about angels
 or whatever.

The luminous eyes keeping watch over The Callisto, start to
 change color from blue to a deep purple.

Jonas runs out of the bridge, calls down from the deck.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 (loudly)
 Everyone! Stay alert!
 (to Flash and Gary)
 Flash! Gary! Get the hell off that
 deck and get your asses up here NOW!

FLASH
 (yells back)
 Give me a few more minutes, I'm onto
 to something.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 (angry)
 I'm not asking. That's an order,
 Greenhorn! Move it now!

Gary takes hold of Flash's hand, motions for him to stop what
 he's doing.

GARY MEADOWS

Let's pack it up for now. An order
is an order.

FLASH

But...

GARY MEADOWS

No "buts" about it. Grab your case,
and I'll help you put this stuff
away.

Gary rubs his wounded arm, which aches from a particular
sensitive area.

GARY MEADOWS (CONT'D)

You'll have to move the heavier stuff
for now. We'll stow it where it'll
be safe.

Flash and Gary make haste, quickly pack away the instruments
and tools. After the case is stowed they run up the stairs
where an angry Jonas awaits.

EXT. THE BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

JONAS WILLIAMS

What's with you two? I got better
things to do right now than babysit
a bunch of "lugnuts".

FLASH

Sorry, sir. I was trying to see
what why the robot was-

JONAS WILLIAMS

(shuts him down quick)

You leave that damn thing alone! We
got better things to do, like saving
our fuckin' lives!

Jonas points out to the surrounding sea, the mysterious eyes
glowing in shades of crimson and blood red.

GARY MEADOWS

(intrigued)

That's got to be the weirdest thing
I've ever seen. What do you think
they are.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Sea Gypsies, that's what they are.

GARY MEADOWS

(snickers)

Nah, that's just some fairy tale
stuff to scare greenhorns.

Gary kiddingly elbows Jonas, making light of his comment.

GARY MEADOWS (CONT'D)
 Ain't that right Jonas?
 (now concerned)
 Just a fairy tale?

JONAS WILLIAMS
 Sure Gary, just a fairy tale. The
 same tale that cut your arm.

Gary rubs his arm, looks a bit more frightened.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
 Whatever they are, they're sea
 creatures and as long as they're in
 the water and we're not, then we'll
 be safe.

GARY MEADOWS
 Point well taken.

The water around the ship slowly becomes a bit turbulent, the
 rising mist hovers over the glaring eyes of the Sea Gypsies.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 You guys keep watch, I'll check in
 with the Captain.

INT. THE BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Jonas opens the door to the bridge, greets Aggie and Captain
 Marius who are both engaged with the displays on the computer
 screens in front of them. They have a look of great concern.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
 So you think there's an underwater
 volcano erupting that's causing all
 of this.

AGGIE
 It's the only explanation I can see
 right now, but it only explains one
 thing. Whatever else is out there-

JONAS WILLIAMS
 (interrupts)
 Excuse me, Captain. Gary and Flash
 are on the upper deck,
 (looks around)
 But I don't see Dylan.

AGGIE
 (to Jonas)
 I thought he was with you.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 He wasn't on the lower deck when I
 did my rounds so I assumed he was up
 here on the bridge.

The lights of the Callisto flicker for some seconds, causing great concern across all their faces.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Well, I don't like that.
(To Jonas)
Tell Gary he better get below deck
and check on the generators.

Captain Marius stares out the window and the surrounding waters.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
If we have to shift to battery power,
I don't know how long the lights
will stay on. For now, that seems
to be the only thing keeping those...
whatever they are-

JONAS WILLIAMS
Gypsies! It's the damn SEA GYPSIES!
That's whatever they are!

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Fine! The lights are the only thing
keeping the...
(affirming)
Sea Gypsies, at bay.
(to Jonas)
Happy now! I said it.

JONAS WILLIAMS
Just want to make sure we're all on
the same page, that's all.

The lights flicker again, grow very bright then slowly fade to black.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
Oh, shit!

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - MOMENTS LATER

Jonas quickly makes his way to the staircase leading to the lower decks.

JONAS WILLIAMS
(Calls out)
Gary! Gary!

Gary is already making his way down the stairs two at a time, to the lower decks.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
Flash! Why don't you go help Gary,
see if you both can get the generators
working. Without those lights, those
creatures could attack the ship!

FLASH

Aye, sir!

JONAS WILLIAMS

And Flash, no stopping by that mechanical man!

Flash nods, looks down at the deck and notices the table where the robot was lying, is now empty.

FLASH

Uh, Jonas... He's gone.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Who's gone? Gary?

FLASH

No, the robot. The robot's not where I left him.

JONAS WILLIAMS

What did I tell you? We don't have time for that...

FLASH

I know, but look over there!

Flash points to the bow of the ship, where the robot stands scanning the ocean that surrounds The Callisto. The eyes of the Sea Gypsies edge ever closer to the perimeter of the boat.

The robot takes notice of a particularly large group of eyes, when suddenly two brilliant white hot lights illuminate from its shoulders, aimed directly at the Sea Gypsies and causing them to scamper below the surface.

JONAS WILLIAMS

(startled)

What the fuck? Flash? Did you turn that thing on.

FLASH

No, that's what I've been trying to tell you. It activated itself once those things-

JONAS WILLIAMS

Sea Gypsies.

(pointedly)

Those things are the Sea Gypsies.

FLASH

Okay, Sea Gypsies, then. Somehow when those Sea Gypsies appeared, the robot turned itself on.

The robot slowly trudges over to the port side of the boat. Additional lights on the top of its helmet are now also illuminated, its optical lenses focus on the situation.

The water surrounding The Callisto begins to churn, the boat begins to pitch drastically.

Without the generators running, the safety zone of the ship lights are fading fast, getting dimmer by the second.

FLASH (CONT'D)
It knows them Jonas.

Aggie joins them on the upper deck, grabs hold of the railing.

AGGIE
Who knows who?

Flash points to the robot, calmly standing firm on the swaying bow, surveying the blood red eyes that encroach closer and closer to edge of The Callisto.

FLASH
He does.

The ship's bright perimeter lights shut completely off, only the dingy emergency lights remain.

Suddenly and without warning, the robot propels itself over the bow and into the turbulent waters below.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - MOMENTS LATER

FLASH
Holy shit! Did you see that?

Everyone watches in disbelief as the robot disappears into the gloomy abyss.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The ship continues to pitch and heave in the sea as Jonas makes his way back into the bridge. Captain Marius tries desperately to get any of the auxiliary lights working.

JONAS WILLIAMS
Gary went below deck to see what's going on with the generators.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
(frustrated)
I told him to make sure everything was tip top and working! He fucked up!

JONAS WILLIAMS
(trying to reason)
It's got to be something else. We know Gary and he's meticulous to a fault.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Well, whatever it is, without those lights working, we're in some deep shit out here.

Captain Marius gazes out through the windows, trying to make sense of the situation as two bright lights appear underwater following the perimeter of the ship.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)

What the hell is that?

JONAS WILLIAMS

It must be the robot. I forgot to tell you that somehow Flash got that thing to turn on.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(perplexed)

What? You forgot to tell me that?

JONAS WILLIAMS

I've been a bit busy, trying to save our asses, so yes, I forgot to tell you.

As the underwater lights continue to move back and forth around the edge of the ship, the red eyes of the Sea Gypsies seem to scamper away quickly as the lights approach.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - CONTINUOUS

With great interest, Aggie and Flash watch the underwater lights and their effect on the Sea Gypsies.

FLASH

It must have been the robot that pulled you from the water.

AGGIE

I knew it wasn't Dylan, but how is that even possible? Who could have even built something like that?

FLASH

Beats the hell out of me. It seems beyond anything I've even studied or heard about.

AGGIE

Do you think it's some kind of weapon?

FLASH

Possibly... Somehow it knows when those things are around and turns itself on.

The dual underwater lights head toward a particularly large

cluster of peering Sea Gypsy eyes, when suddenly a huge volley of piercing blue electrical beams discharge from the ocean depths, an eery glow slow dissipates after their release.

AGGIE

That definitely does not look like a friendly greeting.

FLASH

Maybe you're right. Look how those Sea Gypsies take off when that robot approaches them.

The underwater spectacle continues, with brilliant flashes of electrical energy beneath the helpless Callisto.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Captain Marius bangs his fist in frustration as Gary speaks from the engine room intercom.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

How could that be? The fuel tanks are sealed.

GARY MEADOWS (O.S.)

The only thing I could think of is we built up a ton of condensation when we were surrounded by the hot water and then the cool ocean. Diesel fuel doesn't have vapor pressure release so between the humidity and the low level of fuel in the tanks-

Jonas nods in agreement.

JONAS WILLIAMS

We got water where we should have fuel.

GARY MEADOWS (O.S.)

That's right. It's the only thing that makes sense.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(swears)

Jesus Christ. What else can go wrong?

The lights flicker on and off briefly until the emergency lights kick back on.

Captain Marius scratches his beard in thought.

INT. ENGINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Thelma and Louise sputter and choke as Gary desperately fiddles with the fuel intake switches.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (O.S.)
Why do we keep getting power then
losing it?

GARY MEADOWS
I'm trying to regulate the fuel
mixture but the water has really
tainted the combustibility.

JONAS WILLIAMS (O.S.)
Any chance you could separate them
or filter them?

GARY MEADOWS
Not immediately with what I got on
hand right now. Since water is
heavier than diesel it'll naturally
separate over time.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (O.S.)
Like oil and vinegar?

GARY MEADOWS
Something like that.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

CAPTAIN MARIUS
How long do you think that would
take?

GARY MEADOWS
If I had to guess, and under normal
circumstances, a day or so. Given
the size of our tanks, at the very
least, a few hours.

Gary makes some additional adjustments, but the engines
continue to misfire and stall.

GARY MEADOWS (CONT'D)
Unfortunately, I have to shut the
girls down otherwise we'll be in
deeper shit if the compression
ignition injectors are compromised.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
I don't think we can wait a day.

Jonas looks out from the windows, paying careful attention
the bright light flashes and underwater discharges of
electricity.

JONAS WILLIAMS
I'm not sure we can wait even a few
hours.

The lights of The Callisto wane, then dwindle as the last vestiges of light disappear.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - LATER

Most of the glaring Sea Gypsies have moved a safe distance from the Callisto.

The underwater display of light and flashes slow down significantly until what is evidently a mass charge of Sea Gypsies heads towards the ship.

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

The visibility is difficult, almost non-existent, given the turbulent waters, thick air bubbles and blazing light bursts.

The robot meets them head on in an even greater display of underwater visual pyrotechnics, concentrating its efforts on the glowing eyes headed towards The Callisto.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - CONTINUOUS

The Callisto is helplessly tossed about in the rough seas, riding the waves as best as can be.

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

The fusillade intensifies, climaxes in an incredible final volley, then slowly dwindles down to residual flashes until everything falls silent.

A state of calm falls upon the Callisto. The ocean is still.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - LOWER DECK

With great effort, the bruised and battered robot makes its way back to The Callisto. One of its arms is particularly compromised, its servomotors strain as it desperately tries to move.

It finally comes to rest on the lower outer deck where Flash and Gary pull it safely aboard and out of harms way.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - LATER

The robot is lying dormant on the table, but it's clear that it has sustained additional scarring and bruises from its recent clash with the Sea Gypsies

Flash and Gary try to address the damage to the broken arm, referencing various electronic scopes and displays, while using delicate tools to free the servos.

FLASH

It looks like some sort of plate is jammed beneath the armature.

GARY MEADOWS

Yes, is see that but as soon as you
poke inside there, the scope red
lines. It's like there's a protective
skin preventing you to go deeper.

Flash grabs a particularly shaped instrument that allows him
to get into the space behind the servomotor, manipulating it
until suddenly the plate springs open.

FLASH

There, that should do it. See if
the arm has better travel in now.

Gary moves the arm back and forth, the servos moving freely.

GARY MEADOWS

Yeah, this looks like you did it.
Nice job there.

FLASH

Thanks. That plate was jammed in
there. It must've been pushed up in
whatever you call the shoulder on
this thing. Let's see if we can
remove it entirely.

GARY MEADOWS

(looks down at the
robot)

Where do you think this thing came
from? Maybe it's an extraterrestrial
probe or robot scout sent to the
earth. I bet that's it!

Flash reaches for a small hexagonal screwdriver, begins to
turn and loosen the screws holding the plate covering.

FLASH

Not if they're using standard 3/16
inch jack screws. This thing was
made here. The question is who-

Flash works on the small screws, releasing the tension until
the plate springs forward.

FLASH (CONT'D)

Oh my God!
(excited)
I don't believe it! Is it even
possible?

GARY MEADOWS

Hey! Let me see what you got there.

The plate swings open, revealing intricate and complex diagrams
etched on the inside of the plate door and further schematics
covering another plate the inside of the robot.

GARY MEADOWS (CONT'D)

Wow! That is impressive. I've never seen anything that complex.

FLASH

What's even more impressive is this.

Flash points to particular element at the bottom of the plate.

CLOSE UP: SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS PANNING TO THE BOTTOM WHERE THE NAME AND SIGNATURE OF NIKOLA TESLA IS VISIBLE.

FLASH (CONT'D)

See that name. It says it was built by "Tesla."

GARY MEADOWS

Well, now that makes sense. Obvious this thing was built by Tesla as part of some new artificially intelligent droid thing.

FLASH

No, not the Tesla car company. I'm talking about Nikola Tesla. The inventor.

(reiterates)

He must have built this robot.

GARY MEADOWS

But Tesla died a long time ago.

FLASH

That's right. That would make this robot old. Very old.

(affirms)

Maybe than a hundred years old.

They both scan the schematics, assessing the details.

GARY MEADOWS

I've seen wiring diagrams before but these are far beyond my knowledge base. What do you make of it?

FLASH

For what it's worth, certain sections are simple and common and others are unbelievably complex but given the universal design language of circuits, I could probably figure most of it out.

Flash pulls out his cellphone and proceeds to take photos of the drawings.

GARY MEADOWS

Are you sure it's okay to take photos of this thing? I don't think the captain would like to see any selfies on Facebook of you and this thing.

FLASH

Don't be silly.

(takes more photos)

How else am I gonna have anything to study from? This is graduate school work, more like PHD or beyond, level engineering. Just amazing!

GARY MEADOWS

Why would Tesla include these on the inside of the robot? Wouldn't you want to keep the details secret?

FLASH

That's the thing. I don't think these are the actual functionality schematics of how the robot works.

Flash continues to scan the drawings, zooming in with his cellphone and making careful notes in his own head of what they might mean.

FLASH (CONT'D)

They're directions. It's an instructions manual.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - LOWER DECK

Two battery powered emergency work lights illuminate the table upon which the inert robot lies, dormant but with a steady buzz of electric motors and servos.

The crew walks back and forth, around all the sides of the mechanical marvel in front of them, marveling at the details with curiosity abound by all.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

So let me get this straight.

(to Flash)

You're telling us that this robot is about a hundred years old and was built by Nikola Tesla himself.

(scoff)

C'mon! You can't be serious.

FLASH

I don't have to be taken seriously.

(points to the robot)

Nikki here does.

AGGIE

(amused)

You named it Nikki? Very cute.

Jonas is particularly interested in some of the features around the legs and torso.

The calf area is thick with a tapered design and closed vents. Through the pelvic area, there is a circular opening aligning from front to back, but it is in a closed position.

Across the chest, there is a reinforced glass aperture, the two spotlights anchor the shoulders.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Whatever you call it, this thing has taken a serious pounding, one way or another.

DYLAN

This looks like the find of the century, but how did you figure out how to turn it on?

FLASH

That's the thing. It turned on by itself once those Sea Gypsies appeared. It seems to sense when they're around, like being on the same wavelength or frequency. As if they are tuned into each other.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

If it's as old as you think, where does it get its power from? There's no way batteries would last that long without needing to get recharged.

FLASH

True, but what we're looking at breaks all the conventions of known science. We need to think like Tesla himself to quite understand what Nikki actually is and why he is even here.

AGGIE

Okay, so if I follow you correctly, Nikki doesn't need batteries because he has a different power supply than electricity. Atomic, maybe?

FLASH

No, he definitely uses electricity but he doesn't need to store it in batteries because Tesla claimed the earth has an endless supply of electricity available all the time,

(MORE)

FLASH (CONT'D)
all you have to do is tap into it
somehow. Free electricity!

JONAS WILLIAMS
Sounds too good to be true,
(toothy grin)
I'll remember that the time time I
pay my electric company bill.

Everyone chuckles, trying to break the stress they've been through.

FLASH
That's the sad irony of Tesla's life.
He was not only an inventor but a
true visionary. And when he died,
all of his files went missing and
have never been seen since. Rumor
has it that the FBI or some secret
government agency took them, for
whatever reason.

AGGIE
So you think Nikki might have been
one of his many experiments?

FLASH
I think Nikki was more than just an
experiment. He was the real deal.

Flash points to a very complicated schematic.

FLASH (CONT'D)
And he wasn't alone. This diagram
shows how multiple robots could be
controlled, tethered and
synchronized.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Synchronized?

FLASH
That's correct. Nikki was one of
many.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
How many are you talking about?

FLASH
His badge says 3-6-9, so that gives
you an idea. Could be a whole army
of Nikkis.

Dylan looks deep into the latent lenses of Nikki with intrigue and wonder, and an eye for opportunity.

DYLAN

Oh the stories you could tell behind
those eyes of yours.

Abruptly, Nikki's lens apertures open, focusing directly into Dylan's eyes, startling him completely.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Oh, shit!

Dylan jumps back, quickly moves away from Nikki's presence, as the robot seems to power up.

Flash takes careful notice of Nikki's start up.

FLASH

Captain Marius! I think we should
be on the lookout for those Sea
Gypsies.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Jonas! Head up to the bridge and
see if there's any sign of those
things.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Aye, sir.

(to Gary)

Why don't you head below deck and
get a status of the fuel situation
for the Captain?

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Good idea. I'd like to get the hell
out of here before there are any
more surprises.

Jonas makes his way to the stairs, where he is once again greeted by the menacing eyes of the Sea Gypsies that surround the ship. He quickly bounds up to the bridge deck.

JONAS WILLIAMS

I think it's too late for that.

The water starts to mist over, slowly roiling from within.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - CONTINUOUS

Captain Marius peers over the, calls out as a volley of coral spears fly over the open deck.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(yells)

EVERYONE! Get down, we're under
attack!

The crew dives for cover, out of harm's way, for now.

Nikki stands guard, the spears harmlessly bounce off his metallic shell, taking careful notice of a larger presence within the assembly of Sea Gypsies to the starboard side.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)

That was close!
 (calls out)
 Aggie you okay?

AGGIE

Yes! All safe here.
 (calls out)
 Flash? How about you?

FLASH

Fine, but Nikki's gone! Sorry, I lost sight him.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Well, I'm not too surprised at that.
 What about Dylan?
 (calls out)
 DYLAN!... DYLAN?

They wait for a reply, but none is forthcoming.

AGGIE

I don't see him either. That's not a good sign.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Don't worry about him.
 (tries to be reassuring)
 He's probably below deck, safe.

FLASH

(snickers)
 Knowing Dylan, he's probably in the can.

The sound of glass shattering abruptly breaks their conversation, followed by more coral spears pummeling the deck.

INT. THE BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Jonas ducks for cover as the protective glass implodes from the onslaught of coral projectiles, deadly shards spray across the consoles.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Oh! Shit!

EXT. THE CALLISTO - LOWER DECK - CONTINUOUS

Nikki is fully powered up, an aperture opens to reveal a propellor mounted like a bow thruster in his torso, his lower legs also have marine propellers.

The benign robot has turned into a fully active weapon, crackling electricity courses through its body. His cold lenses focus on the enemy at hand. The Sea Gypsies.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - MOMENTS LATER

Captain Marius pulls Aggie out of harm's way as the coral spears cascade across the deck.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Aggie! Get below deck! I'll head
up to the bridge with Jonas.

AGGIE
Dad, it's too dangerous!

CAPTAIN MARIUS
I'll be fine, but you're safer below
deck. Flash! Grab whatever gear
you got here and take Aggie below.
Make sure you both secure the outer
hatches.

FLASH
Aye, Sir!

Captain Marius grabs one of the heavy fishing jackets, covers Aggie with it.

AGGIE
Captain... Dad, I think it's best I
stay...

CAPTAIN MARIUS
No discussion, it's an order. Run
to the open hatch as soon as it seems
clear.

Aggie glances across the deck of The Callisto, then runs like hell towards the open hatch, as the coral fusillade abates for a time.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
(with emphasis)
Listen to me. If anything happens
to my daughter, you better hope those
Sea Gypsies get to you before I do!

Captain Marius grips Flash's shoulder, not in anger but protectively.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
I mean it, son. If any of those
things gets close to Aggie, you make
sure they don't...

FLASH
You don't need to say another word,
Captain. I get it.

Flash quickly grabs what he can of his important equipment. He quickly makes his way across the deck, gives Captain Marius a knowing look, as he safely secures the outer door.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - LOWER DECK - CONTINUOUS

A large congregation of Sea Gypsies move towards the ship, as Nikki propels himself into the conflagration of churning water, decisively makes his way to greet the enemy head on.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - CONTINUOUS

As soon as there's a brief lull in the onslaught, Captain Marius quickly makes his way up to the stairs.

INT. THE BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Jonas shatters the glass of the fire emergency box, pulls the large axe out for protection and whatever fate awaits him.

The door of the bridge opens as Jonas gets ready to swing his axe.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
(greets Jonas)
The very least you could have done
was clean up the place.

JONAS WILLIAMS
(surprised)
Captain! Jesus "fucking" Christ! I
thought you were one of those things.
I could have killed you!

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Sorry, I didn't quite have time to
knock.

The men warmly embrace, an unspoken bond between two dogs of war that can't be broken.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
How's it looking from up here.

JONAS WILLIAMS
About as good as could be expected.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
That bad, huh?

INT. CREW QUARTERS - MOMENTS LATER

Aggie makes her way through the lower deck, as much searching for Dylan as checking for any breaches into the ship.

Further down the hallway she hears muffled voices talking. She pauses as she reaches to doorway, listening to a deep conversation between Dylan and someone.

VOICE (O.S.)

For God's sake Dylan, it's four
o'clock in the morning. Next time
call my cell instead of this antique
radio.

DYLAN

Did you tell him what I said?

VOICE (O.S.)

(somewhat frustrated)

Yesssss... I did.

DYLAN

Word for word?

VOICE

Look, I told him as you said to tell
him. Now if you don't mind, I'd
like to get back to sleep.

DYLAN

(worried)

Wait! One more thing.

Aggie enters the room, hovers over Dylan and Flash's ham radio.

AGGIE

Yes, Dylan. What about that one
more thing?

Before Dylan can respond, Flash joins them, scrunching his
nose as if smelling something out of the ordinary.

FLASH

Hey! Do you smell that?

AGGIE

(sniffs)

Yes, it smells like something cooking.
But how can that be?

Gary enters the crew quarters, frantic and out of breath.

GARY MEADOWS

The intercom's dead. We got to get
word to the Captain and fast. The
intercom's dead.

(worried)

It's the fish.

DYLAN

What about the fish?

GARY MEADOWS

The outside water is heating up again
the holding tanks are getting very
hot.

AGGIE

Meaning?

GARY MEADOWS

Meaning, if we can't find a way to stop it, all that fish, they'll be cooked alive!

Everyone looks grim at that thought.

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

With Nikki's two spotlights beaming, the Sea Gypsies scamper away in fright. Once free from the glare of Nikki's presence, their bodies illuminate with a brilliant display of bioluminescence, ebbing and flowing throughout.

He fires his destructive death ray into what remains of the the group, killing them instantly in a display of pyrotechnics.

His thrusters carry him away quickly, as its sensors detect another group on the other side of the Callisto. His speed picks up, heading under the boat towards his enemy.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The scene surrounding The Callisto is ominous as the seas churn wildly, brilliant flashes of underwater lightning are evident, a storm without a storm.

Captain Marius and Jonas look on with wonder as they try to clear the console from the glass debris from the broken windows, desperate to gain any functionality from the ship's equipment. The maps and documents are scattered about.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(through the intercom)

Gary! GARY! Any luck down there?

There is no response and he throws the mic down in utter frustration.

INT. CREW QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

GARY MEADOWS

Someone's got to get up to the bridge.

Everyone faces towards Dylan, clearly implicating him in the mission.

DYLAN

Why me?

GARY MEADOWS

Because I need to be down here in the engine room trying to get things running.

FLASH

The Captain gave me specific orders to stay down here, with Aggie and under no circumstances is she to leave or he'll have my hide, or worse, yours.

AGGIE

Besides, Flash and I have something important to do. So that leaves you.

Flash gives Aggie a quizzical look, unsure what she is referring to.

Dylan looks over at his four crew members, resigned to the situation.

DYLAN

I guess it's unanimous then. I'll go.

Dylan grabs his heavy duty fishing jacket, makes ready to leave as Aggie grabs his arm holding him back.

AGGIE

(whispers)

About that one more thing? Whatever you're up to, I'd be very careful. We're already in enough trouble

DYLAN

I'm not sure I follow you.

AGGIE

I really don't need you messing around with Flash's radio. Right now, it's probably the only hope we might have of getting help.

DYLAN

After everything we said, everything I've done, you still don't trust me.

(confounded)

I'm not sure I should be angry or just plain, disappointed. Maybe both.

Dylan walks away, lost in his confused emotions.

AGGIE

Dylan?

(sincerely)

Please be careful.

Dylan gives her a perfunctory wave, heads down the corridor as large heavy pounding rocks the Callisto, throwing him to the floor.

FLASH

That's not a good sign.
(calls to Dylan)
Maybe it's best you stay here for
now.

DYLAN

How else are we going to alert Captain
Marius of the situation down here?

The lights continue to flicker on and off, struggling to stay
lit. Gary stares at them, somewhat hypnotized by the blinking
bulbs.

GARY MEADOWS

Wait!
(excited)
I think I have an idea.

Gary quickly leaves the crew quarters, heads down to the engine
room where Thelma and Louise continue to struggle.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The emergency lights flicker, on and off a few times, repeating
in a pattern. Captain Marius laughs and pounds his fist down
in excitement.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Son of a bitch! You were right about
Gary! He is a smart one.

JONAS WILLIAMS

What are you talking about?

CAPTAIN MARIUS

The lights! That's what I'm talking
about.

The lights continue to flicker in the same pattern, over and
over.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)

Don't you see it? It's Morse Code!
He's sending a message.

Jonas looks on, his bright toothy smile lights the dreary
circumstance.

JONAS WILLIAMS

You're right!

Captain Marius grabs one of the scattered maps, finds a pencil
and hands them to Jonas.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Here! Start taking notes.

EXT. CREW QUARTERS - MOMENTS LATER

The lights in the room flicker on and off until Aggie switches them off completely, the light from flash's radio bathe them in a warm amber color.

With much frustration, Flash tires to make contact with anyone who can pick up his transmission signal, but to no avail.

AGGIE

No luck?

FLASH

No yet, there's so much interference
it's hard to say what frequency range
would be.

The pounding continues to echo through the vessel, at times sharp and close while others are dull and distant.

AGGIE

I really don't like the sound of
that.

DYLAN

If only we could see what the hell
is going on out there.

FLASH

Wait! I have an idea.

Flash sorts through some of his vintage electronic curios, until he comes upon a very old and small television tube device, which he excitedly flicks on.

AGGIE

Dylan, why don't keep trying on the
radio.

(cynical)

I think you know how it works.

Hiding back his true emotions, Dylan takes control of the radio, adjusts the various signal bands of the transmitter.

FLASH

(to himself)

Let me see, if I was Tesla, what
would be the amplitude modulation
for a proper video signal and...

Flash moves various switches and dials, while the small screen displays all kinds of video interference.

AGGIE

What are you up to?

FLASH

Just a hunch.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Jonas quickly scribbles down letters, translating the flickering lights into a semblance of words.

Captain Marius peers over his shoulder, concerned at what he reads.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(reads)

Tanks hot. Fish in trouble.

JONAS WILLIAMS

He keeps repeating the same message.

(puts the pencil down)

I wish we could signal him back,
but at least we have some kind of
idea of what's going on down below.

Captain Marius looks out at the chaos surrounding The Callisto.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

What I would really like to know is
what the hell is going on out there.

The lights begin to flicker again at a much faster cadence, drawing their attention.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Uh. Oh! This looks like a new
message.

Jonas grabs his pencil, carefully noting the pattern of light, and begins to transcribe again.

INT. CREW QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

As Flash continues to adjust the knobs, the screen begins to lose its interference patterns and focus back and forth, trying to attain some form of clarity.

AGGIE

I think I see something!

DYLAN

Me too! Steady there Flash. It's
getting better.

With deft fingers, Flash rides the amplitude modulator ever so slightly, narrowing the frequency band with careful precision.

AGGIE

Wait! Stop right there.

(excited)

Look!

The black and white screen comes into soft focus, giving everyone a view through Nikki's own camera eyes.

FLASH

I don't believe it! It actually worked.

Dylan pats him on the back, congratulating his efforts.

INSERT: VINTAGE BLACK AND WHITE TELEVISION SCREEN

Nikki traverses back and forth through the water, his searchlights illuminate a path through the void. Without warning a bright burst of electrical rays crackle out in front of him, causing the water in front to disperse in waves of turbulence.

DYLAN

That's great but now what?

AGGIE

(to Dylan)

I think you should keep trying on that radio for help. We don't really have time to waste.

Flash and Aggie continue to look at the television in front of them, taking careful notice of the sights.

INSERT: VINTAGE BLACK AND WHITE TELEVISION SCREEN

Nikki powers through the turbulence, scanning the surface of the ocean floor where large vent holes are releasing jets of bubbling water. The holes are all carefully aligned with tubular forms of natural pipeline heading off into the distance.

Changing course, Nikki moves towards the surface, the bottom of The Callisto comes into view.

AGGIE (CONT'D)

Look at that! Something's attached to the bottom of the Callisto.

Flash moves in closer to get a better view but Nikki turns abruptly away from the boat as a dark shape approaches, barely defined but menacing nonetheless.

INSERT: VINTAGE BLACK AND WHITE TELEVISION SCREEN

A large pair of otherworldly eyes fills the screen, staring directly into Nikki's field of vision. Even in murky black and white resolution, the dilated pupils and irises are distinct and threatening. The screen shakes violently, the transmission loses all definition in a burbling froth.

FLASH

(points to the screen)

Holy shit! I think that was one of them!

AGGIE

I couldn't quite make it out, but
there's something going on down below
from where we are.

FLASH

What did you see?

AGGIE

I'm not sure but it looks like we're
above some sort of geo-thermal vent
that they're using for...

(thinking)

... I don't know, but it looked like
tubes or tunnels or....?

FLASH

Pipes?

AGGIE

Yes, like pipes. And these were too
perfect to be natural. They were
made for a specific purpose.

FLASH

Made?

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

Nikki is battling a large Sea Gypsy, whose bioluminescence
changes color spectrum through the struggle. A short burst
from Nikki's death ray, releases its grip, and the robot
propels itself away from the conflict and back to the boat.

INT. ENGINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gary siphons a fuel sample from the tanks, checks for water
contamination which is still evident. Making his way to the
electrical panel, he manipulates the power switch on and off
in a series of light bursts.

After sending out his coded signal, he makes his way to the
crew quarters.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The lights flicker on and off, then fade to black. Jonas
finishes transcribing the the code, hands his paper to Captain
Marius.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(reads from paper)

Fuel still bad. Better soon. Hope.

JONAS WILLIAMS

At least there's some promise there.

Captain Marius tosses the paper aside, pounds his fist on the
console.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

There has to be something else we can do! We're helpless here and I don't like it.

JONAS WILLIAMS

It has been one long night.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(looks out window)

You're right! It's been a very long night and those Sea Gypsies seem to be afraid of the lights from the ship. That's what's been keeping them at bay, so far, along with whatever that Nikki robot can do.

JONAS WILLIAMS

It makes sense. If those are deep pelagic zone creatures then they've never seen sunlight. That's why bright lights bother them.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(contemplative)

But why here and why now?

JONAS WILLIAMS

Maybe that's why this area's been cordoned off. The government knew all along what's here and why no one else should be.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

I get that, but why now?

JONAS WILLIAMS

Good question. One that will have to wait for another day.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

We may not get to another day.

Captain Marius glances at his wrist watch.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)

What time is sunrise?

INT. CREW QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Gary joins the crew in the semi-darkened room, as Dylan continues to send out an S.O.S. to anyone that might be listening.

Flash and Aggie are transfixed on the small television screen, watching as Nikki navigates back and forth under The Callisto, seemingly to protect the ship.

INSERT: VINTAGE BLACK AND WHITE TELEVISION SCREEN

A horde of Sea Gypsies follow as Nikki moves across the bottom of the ship. The propellers are tightly wrapped in kelp.

AGGIE

There! Did you see that?

FLASH

Yes, I think you're right.

AGGIE

Gary! Come watch this and see what you think. Pay close attention if he passes by the propellers.

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

Nikki maneuvers into position by the side of the Callisto, the sound of the Sea Gypsies communicating with each other draws his attention away as they prepare to attack the ship.

As Nikki turns to face them, his searchlights illuminate the stern of The Callisto clearly showing the entangled propellers.

INT. CREW QUARTERS - MOMENTS LATER

AGGIE

(points to the screen)

There! See that around the propellers. It looks like they're tangled around something.

GARY MEADOWS

Yes, you're definitely right. That's why the girls were having such a hard time.

Nikki changes direction and no longer facing The Callisto, the view of the propellers is gone.

AGGIE

Well, now that we know what it is, is there anything you can do about it and get us going?

GARY MEADOWS

Not from up here, I can't. We'd have to cut those bindings away, and disentangle them without damaging the blades. Propellers are finicky to begin with, and who knows what stress they've been subjected to.

AGGIE

What are our options?

GARY MEADOWS

Under normal circumstances, we'd do it in dry dock.

(MORE)

GARY MEADOWS (CONT'D)
 Otherwise, the only option is to do
 a scuba recon like we originally
 planned with your Dad.

AGGIE
 I'm sure that was before the Sea
 Gypsies appeared. If only we could
 ask Nikki to do it.

Dylan continues to send out his distress calls but plays close
 attention to the conversation.

FLASH
 Maybe we don't ask. Maybe we can
 tell it to.

GARY MEADOWS
 Sure.
 (sarcastic)
 All we need to do is learn to speak
 "robot."

FLASH
 Look, two things we've learned about
 Nikki.
 (counts on one finger)
 One. He knows that he has to protect
 us. Somehow it's part of his
 function. Like he's programmed.
 (holds up second finger)
 Two. He also knows when those things
 are around, like he's tuned into
 them.

AGGIE
 Maybe he hears them. Like listening
 to whales underwater.

FLASH
 That's it! He's programmed to respond
 to certain sonic frequencies that
 the Sea Gypsies use to communicate
 to each other. Once they're in a
 certain vicinity Nikki goes "full
 metal jacket" on them!

GARY MEADOWS
 What are you getting at Flash?

FLASH
 Not for me to suggest, but if someone
 were to get underneath the ship,
 Nikki could stand guard against those
 Sea Gypsies while the props were
 cleared.

GARY MEADOWS
And that someone is me?

Dylan shuts the radio transmitter off.

DYLAN
No. That someone is me.

AGGIE
You? Why you?
(snarky)
What makes you qualified?

DYLAN
Because, I'm the least qualified
here. Gary has to stay because
without him the Callisto has no chance
of getting out of here.
(pointedly)
Flash, here, is the only one close
to understanding Nikki, so that makes
him indispensable. That leaves me
and you. So let's make it unanimous.
I'll go.

AGGIE
I'm not keen on that idea.

DYLAN
Me neither, but let's not waste any
time before we both change our minds.

INT. THE BRIDGE - LATER

Nikki has cleared a wide berth of Sea Gypsies from the
proximity of the Callisto but in the distance more appear to
be gathering en masse.

The lights flicker on and off in the repetitive signal calling
as Jonas once again transcribes with a renewed sense of
urgency.

JONAS WILLIAMS
Good thing I was an Eagle Scout and
got my Signals and Codes merit badge.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
After all these years, you never
told me you were a Boy Scout.
(feigns being impressed)
Eagle Scout, no less.

JONAS WILLIAMS
I had a reputation to uphold. Not
an easy task for a kid in my
neighborhood, but I guess I always
liked they way I looked in a nice
uniform.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
 You certainly were the fairest one
 of them all in the platoon.

Jonas smiles his patented toothy grin, looks down at his paper
 as his expression changes to concern.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 Oh, boy. Take a look at this.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
 (reads from paper)
 "Doing scuba to fix props. Will let
 u know."

JONAS WILLIAMS
 Maybe I ought to go see what they're
 up to?

A new barrage of coral spears begin to pepper the deck,
 occasionally reaching up near the bridge.

JONAS WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
 I guess not.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - LOWER DECK - LATER

Standing of harm's way from the coral spears, Aggie helps
 Dylan with his scuba gear.

DYLAN
 I hope I remember my scuba lessons.
 I'd hate to have to hold my breath
 down there.

AGGIE
 The water should be pretty warm, all
 things considered.

DYLAN
 I guess that's a plus of some sort.
 (in jest)
 I just hope I don't end up like a
 lobster cooking in a kettle.

Gary hands him a heavy duty bolt cutter and a large military
 grade tactical knife.

GARY MEADOWS
 Here take these. The bolt cutter
 should be able to snap whatever is
 wrapped around the props.

DYLAN
 What's the knife for?

GARY MEADOWS

My Mom always said not to leave home without it. She was a bit of a worry wart.

DYLAN

Who raised you? General Patton?

GARY MEADOWS

Don't make me laugh. My Mom was a lot tougher than "Old blood and guts."

Flash peers over the rail, watches Nikki's searchlights moving through the water.

FLASH

From the looks of things, Nikki has cleared a good amount of space between The Callisto and the Gypsies. He seems to be patrolling the perimeter as best he can. Once you're in the water, it's a good guess he'll come closer to you and stay by your side, at least that's the hope.

DYLAN

Let's hope you're right.

FLASH

At least we'll be able to see what he sees through the television and keep a check on you. Unfortunately, there's not much more we can do to help.

DYLAN

That's reassuring.

AGGIE

I have a feeling Nikki is all the help you'll need. Don't forget, he was my guardian angel when it counted most.

Dylan secures his scuba gear, sheaths the knife and places the bolt cutters in his utility belt.

DYLAN

(teasing)

Well, I'm off to see the wizard.

AGGIE

Good luck down there.

DYLAN

I don't believe in luck, you know that.

(MORE)

DYLAN (CONT'D)

(affirming)

Besides, who better to protect my investment than myself.

AGGIE

Oh sure. That's what this is all about. Your "investment" in The Callisto. It's always the same with you.

Dylan gives Aggie a familiar and knowing look.

DYLAN

I wasn't talking about The Callisto.

He turns away, looks nervously into the turbulent water. Before he can dive in, Aggie stops him, hands him three flares.

AGGIE

Here, take these.

DYLAN

What are these for?

AGGIE

Insurance. I have my own investment to protect.

As Nikki approaches the stern of the boat, Dylan dives into the sea, making his way under The Callisto and out of view.

EXT. UNDERWATER - MOMENTS LATER

Dylan hugs the bottom of the boat, given the visibility is poor from his flashlight, and more importantly, so he doesn't draw any attention. He reaches the propellers, tugs on the kelp but they are taut around the blades and driveshaft.

Suddenly, the whole area is illuminated from Nikki's spotlights, and Dylan can see the extent of the work ahead. He nods to the robot in a gesture of thanks.

Dylan begins the task at hand and begins to cut away the growth that has crippled The Callisto.

INT. CREW QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Aggie and Flash are transfixed as they watch the television screen, through Nikki's eyes, with concern.

FLASH

I can see Dylan's hands cutting away whatever is tangled in the propellers.

(excited)

It's working! Nikki is guarding him.

AGGIE

I just hope it stays that way.

INSERT: VINTAGE BLACK AND WHITE TELEVISION SCREEN

A good amount of the vines have been removed, as Dylan keeps cutting away the debris. The lights turn away from propellers and the screen goes dark.

AGGIE (CONT'D)

Uh oh! Something's wrong.

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

Nikki turns away from the ship but Dylan pulls on Nikki, pointing back to the propellers. Nikki complies for a brief moment, but suddenly powers away as a large contingent of bright-eyed Sea Gypsies approach.

Dylan turns on his flashlight, even with the light being compromised, he continues to work away at clearing the propellers as best he can.

INT. ENGINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Once again, Gary checks the quality of the diesel fuel, the water beginning to disperse at long last. He closes the tanks, a look of optimism says it all.

INT. THE BRIDGE - LATER

The lights flicker once again, as Jonas takes notice of the signal cadence and writes down the code. Captain Marius peers over his shoulder, somewhat at ease at what he reads.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Well, that's somewhat hopeful. Maybe we can get the hell out of here sooner than later.

Jonas looks out over the horizon, the first light of dawn is still a time away, as he looks at the conflict ensuing below the surface of the seas.

JONAS WILLIAMS

Sooner would certainly be better.

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

Nikki propels himself into the advancing horde of Sea Gypsies, specifically targeting the largest and clearly the dominant leader, the Sea Gypsy Queen.

While the sea is dark and murky, she has an majestic luminous color about her, with an impressive frilled crown and multiple limbs covered in a protective cartilaginous skeleton. Her eyes are vivid and intense, as she directs her minions.

The combat is fierce in a display of electrical discharges as Nikki desperately tries to subdue his enemy, but the queen is a smart and calculating opponent.

INT. CREW QUARTER - CONTINUOUS

Aggie is engrossed in the video on the small screen, the output no less intense whether in color or snowy black and white. Intense flashes of light and movement obscure the true carnage.

AGGIE

I'm not sure I should be disturbed
or impressed at Nikki's challenge.
I just wish I knew what was happening
with Dylan. We just can't sit here
not knowing. I'm going topside.

Flash works the ham radio, desperately sending out a distress call to anyone who might be listening, shutting down for now.

FLASH

Wait! Your Dad gave strict orders.
You can't leave the quarters. You're
my responsibility.

AGGIE

You can't stop me. If there's any
way we can help Dylan we have to.
Even my father would know that. No
one gets left behind!

FLASH

It's against my better judgement but
maybe if we stay close to the hatch
near the fishing deck, we can see if
he's okay. It's the only way Dylan
will be able to make it back on The
Callisto.

AGGIE

Sounds like a plan to me.

FLASH

I'll let Gary know.
(serious)
But whatever you do, don't venture
past that hatch. If anything happens
to you, the Captain will keelhaul me
for sure.

AGGIE

Don't worry. I got your back.

EXT. UNDERWATER - THE CALLISTO STERN - MOMENTS LATER

Satisfied that the first propellor is free and clear, Dylan swims over to the second prop, bolt cutter in hand. In the distance Dylan watches as Nikki battles to keep the Sea Gypsies at bay.

As he begins to cut away the entangled kelp, he feels something brush him, which startles him causing him to drop the flashlight. The light slowly drifts down into the abyss.

DYLAN

Oh no!
(alarmed)
Oh shit.

Taking slow deep breaths, he gains his composure until he again feels something brush by his shoulder once again.

He reaches for one of the flares, lights it and checks his surroundings, realizing it was only the tangled vines.

Taking the bolt cutters, he realizes he can't hold the flare and cut the vines, so he unsheathes the large knife and uses it to cut the vines instead.

Hovering just out of range of the flares, more Sea Gypsies gather and wait.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK

Peering over the edge of the stern, Aggie and Flash observe the light of the underwater flare.

AGGIE

Look! There he is!

FLASH

That's a good sign. He must still be working at the props.

Looking out into the surrounding sea, Aggie sees the concentrated efforts of Nikki and his battle beneath the waves.

AGGIE

I hope Nikki can hold out a bit longer. He's quite the remarkable machine, especially given how long ago he was made.

FLASH

I know. He must be taking a pounding, for sure. Hopefully he was built to last. He was pretty beat up even when we first found him.

AGGIE

Have you given any thought to why Tesla would even build a Nikki?

FLASH

Sure. Because he could.

The underwater flare fades out while another one lights up.

AGGIE

Look! That's a second flare by the props.

FLASH

Good, it means he's still alive and working, but he has to hurry.

Flash looks out to the ocean with dread and concern.

FLASH (CONT'D)

Gary can't fire up Thelma or Louise if Dylan's still down there.

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

The safety perimeter that Nikki established around The Callisto weakens, bringing the Sea Gypsies ever closer to the ship, until the horde of creatures overwhelm him, making their way to the Callisto in an attempt to board the vessel.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The Callisto is rocked back and forth repeatedly, which causes the door to the bridge to swing open. Captain Marius, moves to close it and secure it fast.

Without a moment to spare, the door is blown off its hinges as the Queen Sea Gypsy tosses Nikki through the door until she grabs him back and they both plummet into the sea.

JONAS WILLIAMS

(in disbelief)

What... the... fuck... was that?

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

With her multiple limbs working in tandem, the Queen Sea Gypsy grabs onto Nikki as they sink below the surface. She is careful not to face him head on, to keep the death ray away from her. His thrusters fire in desperation but the queen holds fast.

Nikki's power supply is dwindling but he initiates a massive power surge, which not only rips through his internal components, it cascades across his outer surface in an astounding display of intense electrical power.

Nothing can withstand the power Nikki unleashes and the Queen Sea Gypsy, along with her subjects, perish in the aftermath.

Battered and bruised, Nikki makes his way back to The Callisto.

EXT. UNDERWATER - THE CALLISTO STERN

The second flare dwindles down as Dylan checks his handiwork on the propellor, confident it's good to go as the flare extinguishes.

Again, he feels something brush past him but this time he pays it no attention. Dylan turns and is facing into a large pair of telescoping threatening eyes.

He quickly lights the last flare, which temporarily blinds the creature, giving Dylan enough time to try and escape.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK

Aggie watches the second flare die out and fade. There's still no sign of Dylan until she sees the third flare ignite and head towards the stern, where they can help pull Dylan aboard from the fishing deck.

AGGIE
Flash! Look! There's the last flare
moving to the deck.

Aggie leaves her safe position, runs to the stern and begins to manually lower the ramp, making it easier for Dylan to climb aboard.

FLASH
Aggie, stay back! I'll do that!

Flash catches up to her, as they both watch the flare get closer to the ramp, but suddenly it veers away and continues along the side of The Callisto.

AGGIE
(distraught)
No! What's he doing?
(angry)
Goddammit!

She looks over the rail, trying to follow the flare.

FLASH
(Whispers)
Aggie, whatever you do, move slowly
and carefully back to the lower deck.

AGGIE
What?

FLASH
(firmly)
Just do as I say, and please, do not
look back.

Aggie ignores him and watches as an extremely large Sea Gypsy, the King of Kings, begins to climb aboard. In the dark, it's an impressive sight of bio-lighting, with multiple limbs that are a cross between an octopus and a crustacean. His head is crowned with a ornate nautical carapace.

As she walks back out of harm's way, she sees Dylan's flare and then himself break through the surface of the sea, followed by a multitude of Sea Gypsies close behind.

AGGIE

Flash! We got to get Dylan out of the water and fast! There's a group of Sea Gypsies heading to him.

FLASH

Copy that!

Careful not to draw attention and stay out of the reach of the King Sea Gypsy, Flash makes his way to Aggie as the lights of The Callisto turn on, illuminating the decks and surrounding ocean. The Sea Gypsies disappear below, safe from the lights.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Captain Marius clears the debris from the console, reaches for the mic and intercom.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Gary! You did it! We got power!

GARY MEADOWS (O.S.)

Yes, it's not great quality diesel and rest assured, the girls are not happy campers, but it'll do for now.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

What's the status with the props? How'd the recon go.

GARY MEADOWS (O.S.)

I wish I knew. Dylan did the dive to clear the props.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Dylan? Wow! Interesting.

Captain Marius gives Jonas a surprised glance, as Jonas looks out over the decks.

GARY MEADOWS (O.S.)

But when I checked the crew quarters, everyone was gone. They must have gone topside.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(annoyed)

I told Flash to make sure that Aggie was out of harm's way. It's dangerous out there. One of those Sea Gypsies, a really large one, made it up to the bridge.

JONAS WILLIAMS

It must have been the queen.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

What makes you think it was a queen?

Jonas points out the window at the sight on the lower deck.

JONAS WILLIAMS
Because that one must be the king.

Captain Marius looks out from the bridge as the creature makes an effort to climb aboard.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Whatever you're thinking, don't say
"We need a bigger boat."

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK

The ramp is slippery as the King Sea Gypsy struggle to gain any footing, while the deck lights keep him temporarily blinded, but he is much more resilient than his subjects.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - CONTINUOUS

Captain Marius and Jonas quickly descend down the stairs from the bridge, grabbing ropes and poles to help rescue Dylan from the churning seas.

Aggie and Flash toss life preservers to Dylan, who grabs one but loses his grip as he flails helplessly.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Keep trying but don't get the ropes
tangled or we'll never pull him
aboard.
(to Jonas)
I got an idea.

Running to the hoists, Captain Marius releases the nets, entangling the King Sea Gypsy.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
If we can deploy the nets, the weights
might pull that thing off the deck
and back into the water. Once clear,
we'll cut the nets and that Sea Gypsy
loose and get as far away as possible.

JONAS WILLIAMS
Gotcha!

CAPTAIN MARIUS
Good! I'm going to head up to the
bridge. I'll have Gary ready to
engage the props. Once Dylan's safely
aboard, we're gonna fire up Thelma
and Louise and get the hell out of
here! I don't care if we redline
them all the way back to Hamden.

JONAS WILLIAMS
You got my vote. Sounds like a plan.

Jonas makes his way to the control panel of the fishing nets, carefully avoiding the thrashing King Sea Gypsy.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
 (to Aggie and Flash)
 Do whatever it takes, but you get
 Dylan on board now!
 (looks at Gypsy King)
 Every second counts. I mean every
 second!

Captain Marius bounds up the stairs to the bridge, calls back down to the crew.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
 (yells)
 Signal me when Dylan's safe. Jonas,
 you know what to do.

With great enthusiasm, and a patented smile, Jonas engages the winch.

JONAS WILLIAMS
 Release the Kraken!

The nets tighten around the King Sea Gypsy as the weights drag it off the ship and into the abyss below.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - LOWER DECK

Dylan struggles in the water, desperate to get to safety when he feels something grab him, pulling him away from the life preserver.

DYLAN
 (screams)
 HELP! HELP!

AGGIE
 Oh my God! DYLAN!

Dylan is dragged through the water, when suddenly he realizes it's the robot that is pulling him through the water.

FLASH
 Look! It's Nikki!

Protectively, Nikki holds Dylan securely as they make their way to the ramp, careful to avoid the cables and net. Nikki struggles to get on board, his motors and servos whine and clatter until he releases Dylan into the waiting arms of Aggie.

AGGIE
 We were so worried.

DYLAN
 Me too. I wasn't sure I would make
 it back.

JONAS

Flash, get word up to the Captain.
Let him know we're good to go.

FLASH

Aye, Sir.

Flash runs up the stairs to the bridge as Jonas checks on the nets, waiting to cut them loose when given the word.

Aggie and Dylan look towards Nikki, gesturing thanks to their guardian angel.

With most of his systems severely compromised and overwhelmed, Nikki hobbles back towards the ramp.

Giving one last look back towards the crew, he dives into the sea as his thrusters engage and propel him down to the depths and his waiting nemesis below.

EXT. UNDERWATER - MOMENTS LATER

Nikki follows the cable down towards the King Sea Gypsy, who thrashes violently in an attempt to break free from the strangling net. He carefully circles around the creature, as the weights continue to pull the creature down.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - ON DECK - CONTINUOUS

Flash returns, checks on Dylan, looks around for the robot.

FLASH

Where's Nikki?

AGGIE

He left.

FLASH

Left? I wanted to see if I could help him.

(disappointed)

He did so much to help us.

AGGIE

I understand, but I guess he had one more mission to accomplish.

Electrical bursts illuminate the ocean below. He makes his way to the crew quarters, followed by Aggie and Dylan.

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

GARY MEADOWS (O.S.)

(on intercom)

The girls are dressed and ready for the prom! We're good to go.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Great! Good work, as always!

(MORE)

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
(calls out to Jonas)
Cut the nets free!

Jonas disengages the nets from the winch, the cables sink below the waves.

Captain Marius engages the throttle, the propellers spin up and the ship begins to move slowly through the water.

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

As the net is released and the cable loosens, the King Sea Gypsy stops its thrashing, looks directly into the lenses of Nikki's eyes. Suddenly one of its arms rips through the net, throwing Nikki off-balance and the death ray misses its target.

The King Sea Gypsy swims off, heading deeper towards a sea mount where numerous Sea Gypsies are gathered by the geo-thermal vents. They are directing the flow of super heated water into the miles of tubular pipes that lead north.

As beaten up as he is, Nikki gives chase.

INT. CREW QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Flash watches with great concern at Nikki's face to face encounter with the King Sea Gypsy as Aggie and Dylan look on.

INTERCUT BETWEEN TELEVISION SCREEN AND ACTUAL UNDERWATER ACTION

-The King Sea Gypsy prepares to confront Nikki but the robot swims past, instead focuses on the geo-thermal vents and the vast network of natural pipes.

-The King Sea Gypsy chases Nikki down, but Nikki seeks to hide in a vast graveyard of old sunken ships, rusting archaic submersibles and a few more wrecked modern submarines. All bear the scars of extensive battle damage.

-Littered amongst the wreckage are the broken mechanical bodies of numerous robots, all of the same design as Nikki and the skeletal remains of even more Sea Gypsies.

AGGIE
I've never seen so much death and
destruction in my life.
(haunted)
The government knew all along about
the Sea Gypsies and wanted to keep
it buried like everything else down
there.

FLASH
You were right, Nikki is a weapon.
A very powerful weapon to fight a
very powerful enemy.

DYLAN

I get that, but what was with all that steaming water from those vents? What good is trying to boil the ocean?

AGGIE

Maybe they're not trying to boil the ocean itself. What if they were using those pipes to direct the flow of the boiling water to somewhere else?

DYLAN

Like where? There's nothing but open sea here for a thousand miles and any land is even further away. I don't see how they could make pipes that long.

AGGIE

They don't have to. The Gulf Stream is close enough, only a few hundred miles at best. If they can reach that, Mother Nature will do the rest.

FLASH

The rest of what?

AGGIE

If that superheated water makes it to the Gulf Stream, the currents will push it all the way to the North Pole, melt the remaining ice up there and flood the Earth.

Everyone turns back to the television screen watching the outcome of the battle below.

INTERCUT BETWEEN TELEVISION SCREEN AND ACTUAL UNDERWATER ACTION

-Nikki can only hide for so long, and the King Sea Gypsy moves in for the kill, but Nikki has his eyes on the prize and makes his way back to the seamount.

-Using his death ray, Nikki pulverizes the connection of the pipes to the vents, rendering them useless.

-Many of the Sea Gypsies flee back from where they came.

-Nikki fires at an outcropping of rock above the vents, causing an avalanche that buries what ever remains of the Sea Gypsies and sealing the vents completely.

-Giving no quarter, the two are locked in combat while Nikki uses all of his strength and power. He engages his electrical death ray is such close proximity it flares as bright a sun.

-The screen blooms with a brilliant white light that blinds everyone for an instance.

-The screen return back as the mortally damaged Nikki floats slowly down to the graveyard of ships. His lenses close as he powers down, joining his fallen comrades at long last.

FLASH

He's gone.

FADE OUT:

EXT. THE CALLISTO - LATER

The sun breaks over the horizon as The Callisto slowly makes her way back across the sea and heading home

INT. THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The bridge is badly damaged but still functional as Jonas sweeps away a good amount of the debris. Aggie looks over whatever remains of the navigation maps and her console.

JONAS

I have seen some things in my life, for sure, and then I have seen some other things in my life that I wasn't so sure, but I am sure have never seen anything like what we just saw. That's for sure.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

You do have a way with words Jonas.

JONAS

Well, one thing's for certain. It's good to be rid of those Sea Gypsies and their evil plans.

Aggie stops what she's doing.

AGGIE

(contemplative)

Maybe we got it wrong. What if we're not the innocent party in all this?

CAPTAIN MARIUS

How can you say that? Look what they were trying to do. Melt the ice caps, flood the Earth. That's not the work of a kind-hearted people or whatever they are. We certainly are the innocent party here, not them.

AGGIE

From our point of view, yes. From their's, I'm not so sure.

Captain Marius gives her a questioning and perplexed look.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Go ahead, enlighten me.

AGGIE

Think about all the damage we've done to this planet. All the pollution, climate change and who knows what else. We kinda share this world, although it seems our neighbors decided to be a bit more reserved about it. Maybe it got to the point where they had to do something drastic, to ensure their own future from the people above who just don't give a shit!

Jonas nods in agreement.

JONAS

Reminds me of a certain passage.

(solemnly)

The Lord said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created, for I regret that I have made them. I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish." Amen.

Captain Marius eyes Jonas down, with a perplexed look.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Wait a minute. Jesus Christ!

(dumbfounded)

Are you Jonas Williams actually quoting scripture? Right here and right now?

JONAS

Sure am. Book of Genesis, Chapter Six, in fact.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Since when are you so religious?

JONAS

I've read a good book or two in my life. Is that a problem?

CAPTAIN MARIUS

No, of course not. I was just thinking that for all the time we spent together, confided in each other some very deep and personal thoughts and after today, why I don't

(MORE)

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
 think I ever knew you. First you're
 a Boy Scout, now you're a priest? I
 just don't think I can take any more
 surprises.

JONAS
 Well, a man like myself can't get by
 on just good looks alone.

Jonas breaks out in his patented smile and toothy grin, as
 Aggie joins him.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
 (shakes his head)
 This has been one rude-awakening of
 a trip and it can't end any sooner.

The Callisto is suddenly rocked by large formation of churning
 seas and turbulent waters appear from the ocean.

CAPTAIN MARIUS (CONT'D)
 Oh shit! Not again.

EXT. THE CALLISTO - TOPSIDE

Everyone runs to the main deck, holding on for dear life as a
 huge bubble of water rises from the sea, clearing the way for
 conning tower of a U.S. Navy Submarine.

The water simmers down as the top hatch opens and two officers
 emerge topside.

NAVY OFFICER ONE
 Ahoy, there. Is there a "Flash"
 Gordon aboard?

NAVY OFFICER TWO
 (whispers to his
 comrade)
 Really? His name is "Flash Gordon?"

The officer shrugs, indifferently

FLASH
 (calls back)
 Yes! I'm Flash!

NAVY OFFICER ONE
 Well, I have a collect call from a
 Commander Bronson. Do you accept
 the charges?

INT. THE BRIDGE - LATER

The two Navy Officers join the crew on the bridge, in separate
 conversations.

GARY MEADOWS

We're very thankful you came along
just in time to help us. How'd you
even know we were here?

NAVY OFFICER TWO

Your friend Mister Gordon here has
friends in high places. About 250
miles high. They got his call and...

(smirks)

Well, I can't tell you anything else
after that. We're kinda a hush-hush
group. The Navy, that is.

FLASH

My Dad would be pretty impressed
right now.

NAVY OFFICER ONE

That's one helluva a story you people
have, one that shouldn't ever be
repeated, but it doesn't change the
fact that you're all in a heap of
trouble. Very big trouble.

JONAS

Like what kind of "big trouble?"

NAVY OFFICER TWO

Let's put it this way. You won't be
making any vacation plans for the
next twenty years.

Jonas drops his head

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Look, no one else should be blamed
for this except for me. It's my
ship, I'm the captain and therefore,
it's my responsibility.

Dylan clears his throat.

DYLAN

(interjects)

Belay that Captain!

Captain Marius look on in horror at Dylan's bravado.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Actually, when it comes to this ship
and as the primary, uh, investor or
owner... nevermind.

(to the officers)

If I may have a word in private?

Dylan leads the two officers out of the bridge and back to
the submarine. Captain Marius is especially angry.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

(to Aggie)

Whatever that boyfriend of yours is up to, I hope he know what he's doing.

AGGIE

(Annoyed)

Boyfriend? Really Dad. How old do you think I am? Twelve?

CAPTAIN MARIUS

It doesn't matter what I think, now does it?

EXT. THE CALLISTO - LATER

Dylan waits by the side of the boat near the submarine, as the two officers climb back on board. The three converse back and forth until the officers are satisfied.

Captain Marius joins them all.

CAPTAIN MARIUS

Okay, spare me the surprises. What's the verdict?

NAVY OFFICER ONE

Well, it seems we're in a bit of a quandary over this situation. You're in an very sensitive area that doesn't actually exist, at least as far as anyone is concerned.

DYLAN

So?

NAVY OFFICER TWO

We want or actually need, to keep it that way. For some very obvious details, of which I needn't have to explain. So, in that regard we'll leave it as a "Don't ask, don't tell" and call it a day.

NAVY OFFICER ONE

But if it ever does leak out to the media or one of you decides to write a book... My advice is, don't. Things like this don't end well.

DYLAN

Anything else?

NAVY OFFICER TWO

Yes, your father sends his regards and said not to be late for dinner.

The two officers salute Captain Marius and make their way back to the submarine.

The hatch of the submarine closes, and it slowly dives below the surface.

Aggie catches up with Dylan and Captain Marius.

AGGIE
Where'd they go? Are we in trouble?

DYLAN
No, I think we're good.

CAPTAIN MARIUS
You did great, son. This whole time,
you did just great. I'm not sure
what else to say.

DYLAN
Say nothing then. Sometimes that's
more than enough.

Captain Marius shakes his hand with more gusto than he ever displayed to Dylan, makes his way back to the bridge.

Flash appears on deck with his radio in hand.

AGGIE
What you say to those officers?
They didn't quite look like pushovers
to me.

DYLAN
They were certainly not. I just
happened to remind them that Senator
Haines, the Chairman of the Navy
Commission happens to belong to the
same yacht club as my father and
that dear old Dad is a major donor
and...

AGGIE
(interrupts)
Wait! Senator Haines? I remember
you telling me your father hates
that guy.

DYLAN
Oh, yes. He definitely does. But
our two friends from the naval academy
don't know that. I told them to
check if they needed some assurance,
and since Dad was on his yacht, the
only way to reach him would be by
radio. So, I gave them the proper
frequency.

AGGIE
Wait, is that the same frequency you
were using on Flash's radio?

DYLAN

One and the same.

AGGIE

So you called your father when we were in real danger?

(disappointed)

I thought you might have changed by now.

DYLAN

Wait! No! I didn't call my father. I called his lawyer who happens to be staying on the yacht while his house is being renovated.

AGGIE

I don't understand. At a time when our lives were most at risk you called your lawyer?

DYLAN

Yes, of course. I had to. See, I told him that if anything happened to The Callisto, or you or anyone on board because we entered the G-P-Z, it was on my orders, not Captain Marius. Mine alone.

AGGIE

Why would you do that?

DYLAN

Because, they'd sure as hell throw the book at your father for breaking maritime law or worse. Like those kind sailors put it ever so eloquently, "Things like this don't end very well."

AGGIE

You don't think they would... do something, like what you're thinking.

Dylan gives her a look that confirms his suspicions.

DYLAN

Well, knowing what I knew, I couldn't take that risk. See, my Dad and I may have our issues, but there is no way his sole heir apparent to the family throne would be spending a minute behind bars. He'd see to that with a few well-placed calls.

(affirming)

Let's just call it an insurance policy and leave it at that.

Flash is adjusting the frequencies on the radio, trying to get a good signal.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Hey Flash! Can you get any music on
that radio?

FLASH
Sure, let me try.

The radio emits static until the clear signal of a familiar song by the Beatles is heard.

"I'd like to be under the sea, In an octopus's garden in the shade."

Dylan and Aggie laugh at the irony as he takes her hand, leading her to the railing overlooking the vast ocean.

The Callisto continues on her journey back to Hamden, as Dylan and Aggie dance their troubles away to Ringo's inimitable voice, in the comforting warmth of a nice sunny day.

FADE OUT:

*"We would be so happy, you and me.
No one there to tell us what to do.
I'd like to be under the sea,
In an octopus's garden with you."*

THE END