**ANCHORED**

PRESENTED BY WEST MONROE HIGH SCHOOL

CHARACTERS

**Narrator:** Mysterious voice that starts the story and shows up to describe the scene.

**Henry Montague**: Main character of the story. Scrooge-like character. The man who codes the program for the Adonis I AI. age 21.

**Vincent Harper:** Man who delivers the AI parts onto the W.M. Titanic. Works for Campaignia, a secret organization, the “dark” version of the FBI

**Crew Member:** A very optimistic english boy who works on the W.M. Titanic

**Adonis I:** an AI, the first prototype that is presented and “malfunctions”

**Beatrice:** strong independent woman with an elegant personality. Very Spunky.

**Audience:** audience.

**INTRO:**

**Narrator:** The tragic event of the W.M. Titanic has marked a major significance in history. A once grandiose and regal structure, now lies at 1300 ft below the surface of the world along with the souls that are trapped in the abyssal depths. Tonight, we will shadow the life of one significant professor, a world renowned inventor from Paris abroad the W.M. Titanic, *and* the untold story of why the Titanic really sank.

*Narrator bows and EXITS the stage.*

**END INTRO.**

**SCENE 1**

***1:45 pm Thursday, April 11, 1912***

**Crew Member:** All Aboard! All passengers of the W.M. Titanic, please make your way to the boarding ramp! The ship will leave in 15 minutes!

*People are shuffling towards crew member with tickets and boards the ship.*

*The crew member takes ticket from everyone.*

**Crew Member:***(with Boyish english accent)* Thank you ma'am!

*(admits the boarding pass tickets)*

Thank you sir! Enjoy your stay with us!

*(admits boarding pass tickets.)*

Alrighty sir! *(motions toward entrance)* If you will just continue up these

ramps to the first-class cabin. Enjoy!

**Dr. Montague:***(Huffs)* Peasant. *(EXITS after snatching the tickets)*

*The boy stares at the man, his feelings hurt and stares at Montague before exiting on stage.*

*MOMENTARY PAUSE BEFORE VINCENT APPEARS ON STAGE.*

*On board the ship already, a man in his thirties is fidgeting and pacing around when Dr. Montague walks in. Montague taps the man’s shoulders and he jumps, and puts a hand over his heart in surprise.*

**Dr. Montague:** *(impatiently speaking.)* Vincent. Do you have it?

**Vincent:** You scared me Henry! I was waiting for you and you just appear out of nowhere! Don’t do that ever again!

**Dr. Montague:***(mocks like that spongebob meme)* ‘You scared me Henry!-’ I don’t care, I am asking you if you have her Mr. Harper!

**Vincent:** *(mutters under breath)* aren’t you a peachy one.

**Dr. Montague:** Care to speak louder so I can hear?

**Vincent:** *(sighs)* Nevermind*. (straightens suit)* Come this way Henry, I have the parts in my cabin, so just make your payments to Campaignia, and everything will be set.

**Dr. Montague:** You have wasted precious time for me Vincent, hurry on with it, I have much to do and must present this tomorrow.

*Vincent bows his head and sighs as the two walk behind the projector screen, and EXITS.*

**END OF SCENE 1.**

**SCENE 2**

**7:00 pm April 12, 1912**

*Adonis I steps onstage, front and center, head bowed down. Dr. Montague stands next to Adonis I.*

(scene 2 BEGINS)

**Narrator:**  The evening had just begun. Outside, the sky was clear with the light of the moon reflecting the ship’s silhouette on the sea of stars. Musicians sat on deck, music permeating the crisp air, playing gently to the somnolent rock of the boat. It twas a perfect night, even for the foul professor.

(*Narrator EXITS stage)*

**Dr. Montague:** *(stands up straight, and is checking functionality on Adonis.)* Alright. We are all set. *(shuffles around for final changes and faces the audience.)*

**Narrator:***(walks on stage)* Ahem. Ladies and gentlemen, May I please have your attention this evening. This display you are about to see is the first of it’s kind- a truly remarkable specimen created by the world renowned inventor, Professor Henry Montague. I now present to you, an artificial intelligence robot, the *Adonis I.*

*(everyone CLAPS.)*

**Dr. Montague:** *(Tight smile)* Thank you. This highly advanced machinery that you now see before your eyes took most of my life’s career to master. It is completed with 398 screws and made of a sturdy and lightweight material similar to the structure of a bone. There is a chip behind the ear in which is used to store my program and codes. Adonis can help with various tasks like for example-(*pretends to look around for something)* here let’s start with a simpler task like this- *(takes jacket off and holds it out)* Adonis, I need assistance.

**Adonis I:** *(whirrs to life, eyes blink a few times and turns to professor and grabs the jacket and holds it.)*

*(audience CLAPS and says OOH)*

**Dr. Montague:** good, good. Now, Adonis is capable of more than just performing simple actions like holding your jacket for you. it is proficient in cooking, cleaning, assisting the handicapped. You name it. Say, you have a dusty shelf but can’t reach it? Adonis can assist. Just give a command. (*points to table)* Adonis, dust the shelves.

**Adonis:** (*glitches. Stops moving.)*

**Dr. Montague:** (*nervous laughter.)* Adonis. (*speaks firmly.)* Dust the shelves.

**Adonis:** *(unresponsive)*

**Dr. Montague:** *(frowns)* seems like we have encountered a glitch. Let’s try again….

Adonis. Dust. The. Shelves.)

**Adonis:** *(unresponsive for a few seconds and then begins to glitch, at first slowly, then uncontrollably.)*

(*Adonis starts to screams and claws at the air.)*

*Montague turns the AI off and Adonis shutsdown*

**END OF SCENE 2**

**SCENE 3**

**4:00 pm April 13, 1912**

**Dr. Montague:** *(pacing around, hand grasping hair.)* I don’t understand! Everything was fine yesterday, how can it malfunction? In front of a large group nonetheless. How infuriating! (*scowls)* Hours, days,weeks, and years spent into this one project and it’s a failure?!? (*throws paper on the floor in vain.)* I should go take a break. (*Pushes hair back)*

(*Montague EXITS.)*

***REMEMBER TO PICK THE PAPER OFF THE FLOOR AND HAND IT BACK TO MONTAGUE BEHIND THE STAGE****.*

**Narrator:** Henry Montague is a person who lacks empathy for humanity. He was selfish, rude, and impatient. But even this Ebenezer Scrooge has a soft spot for one particular person...

(*Narrator EXITS)*

*(ENTER Beatrice)*

*Montague can be seen angrily stomping across the lobby but sees Beatrice.*

**Montague:** Beatrice stands before me. What shall I do?

*Montague frantically attempts to fix his hair and grabs a crew member that is passing by.*

**Dr. Montague:** Hey! You! Do I look okay?

**Crew Member:** Let go of me sir! What do you mean ‘Do I look okay?’

**Dr. Montague:** I mean what I said.

**Crew Member:** Sir I think you look fi- hey… you’re that guy. I remember you.

**Dr. Montague:** That guy? What do you mean?

**Crew Member:** You said you want my opinion on how you look?

**Dr. Montague:** (*growing impatient)* That IS what I asked.

**Crew Member:** No no no no. I really cannot give you my opinion.

**Dr. Montague:** why not?

**Crew Member:** I assume that a *nobleman* like you wouldn’t care for the opinion of a ‘peasant’. Now, have a good day sir.

*Crew member huffs and walks away. Montague scowls and mutters things under his breath when beatrice notices him.*

**Montague:** H-hey you! Come bac-

**Beatrice:** Henry?

**Dr. Montague:** *(pretends to act surprised.)* Beatrice?What are you doing here?

**Beatrice:** *(laughs)* Well,I am going to work as an actress in New York City. How about you? You look tired. It’s been a while since I’ve last seen you.

**Dr. Montague:** *(embarrassed and softly speaks)* I’m just a little stressed is all.

**Beatrice:** (sarcastically) I can see grey hair on you already.

**Dr. Montague:** Please Beatrice. (*playful tone)* I’m twenty one.

**Beatrice:** I know…

(*awkward silence)*

**Dr. Montague:** So- uh…. I just, can I-, are you free tomorrow night?

**Beatrice:** (*looks skeptical)* yes….. Why?

**Dr. Montague:** because….well. I want to invite you for dinner.

**Beatrice:** Absolutely! Not. *(starts to walk off.)*

**Dr.Montague:** Please? It’s been so long.

**Beatrice:** (*rolls eyes)* Fine. But You’re paying.

**Dr. Montague:** *(actually smiles)* Deal! Let’s meet at 8:00 pm in front of the staircase so I can further explain my invention to you.

**Beatrice:** It’s a deal. *(smiles in an embarrassed fashion)* Good day to you Henry.

*(both EXIT.)*

**END OF SCENE 3**

**SCENE 4**

**8:00pm April 14, 1912**

**Beatrice:** So, you say that Adonis started acting weird during the show? What do you think happened? Maybe it was mis-wired?

**Dr. Montague:** No. not possible. I ran a few tests before I got onstage and everything was fine. I calibrated it, and it seems as if nothing is wrong. I also took out the chip and checked my programs and everything seemed okay.

**Beatrice:** I’m sorry your first presentation didn’t go well. Maybe I can help you take a look at the codes later?

**Dr. Montague:** yes. I would appreciate that.

*Both silently have a pleasant conversation when one of the crew members run into the restaurant suddenly.*

**Crew Member:** Excuse me sir, are you Henry Montague?

**Dr. Montague:** (*irritated.)* Yes. what do you want?

**Crew Member:** Sir, I suggest you come downstairs. Some of your robots have murdered people on board.

*Montague and Beatrice stare at each other in shock. Both run out of the restaurant.*

*(EXIT.)*

**END OF SCENE 4.**

**SCENE 5**

**Continued**

**Narrator:** There is no beauty left on the ship. The once lively lobby filled with laughter and dances are now replaced with the dead and cries of close families. Beatrice and Montague have taken the back stairs to escape the chaos and are now examining the codes in the chip on Adonis I.

**Montague:** What is this?!? (*hand flies into air)*

**Beatrice:** *(softly speaks)* Henry, calm down please. What’s happening?

**Montague:** This code…. It isn’t mine...This bot has become a receiver…

**Beatrice:** A receiver to what?!?

(*Vincent appears from the shadows.)*

**Vincent:** Hello, Henry….(*Smirks)* looking for this? (*Holds out chip)*

**Montague:** *(surprised look)* Vincent…. What do you want?

**Vincent:** hmm…. Idk what do I want?

**Beatrice:** probably wants to find the light switch because the room is brighter than his brain.

**Vincent:** *(scowls at Beatrice)* Tsk. You’re so naive Henry. I. will. RUIN. your. Life. Do you really think you could get away with this? You treated me like a slave. You showed no gratitude. And now, because of you, Campaignia has fired me from their organization. So, as revenge, I’ve taken your code and changed it to cause chaos. Ha! Imagine this information slipping on the news! You’d be ruined. Your life’s work will. Be. in. vain. (*laughs)*

**Montague:** (*steps forward accusingly)* Me? Campaignia probably fired you because you are a weak agent. What does my job have to do with you?

**Vincent:** you promised me henry. You promised you would share your fortune with me! But your first presentation was a failure!

**Montague:**  It wasn’t my fault that this happened.

**Vincent:** Who am I suppose to blame?

**Montague:** (*sighs)* Give me the chip Vincent

**Vincent:** No!

\*\*\*\*\*\* EPIC KUNG-FU FIGHTING SCENE\*\*\*\*\*

*Montague ends up grabbing the chip, but Vincent has grabbed Beatrice.*

**Vincent:** give me the chip Henry. I have Beatrice.

**Montague:** I have eyes Vincent.

**Vincent:** play it that way if you must, but know that if you don’t hand over the chip, I won’t hand over her.

(*Montague freezes. He starts considering his options. )*

**Montague:** (*face of regret)* Don’t do this Vincent…

**Vincent:** (*shaking)* Make your choice! Remember people are still dying outside!

**Beatrice:** (*with accepting tone)* Henry…

**Montague:** I’m sorry Beatrice.

(*Montague slowly hands the chip to Vincent. Beatrice is freed and stands next to Montague)*

**Vincent:** HAHA! You really are naive! How could you choose a lady over your life’s work?! You’re such an idiot! I can’t believe this!

**Montague:** I still value life, unlike you. I am not a monster. I can *never* be as merciless, arrogant, or diabolical as you. Let’s go Beatrice.

\**Beatrice and Montague leave the cabin. Vincent turns to complete his plans.\**

*\*SPECIAL EFFECTS TEAM\**

\*GUNSHOT- *Beatrice has killed Vincent\* (montague is shocked)*

**Beatrice:** Well, this woman just ended your life’s work. Cmon we have to shut down the receiver.

**END OF SCENE 5**

**ENDING SCENE**

**Present Day**

**Narrator:** It is unfortunate to say that Henry and Beatrice failed to shut down the artificial intelligence robots in time. The captain on board had already been murdered and the news of the upcoming iceberg from the crow’s nest did not go through. There was no one to contact; the 1st officer of the ship was asleep in his cabin, and only woke up when the impact of the ship scraped the iceberg. People who could escape are stuck with the haunting image of loved ones and countless others sinking to their graves, their lost souls anchored to the bottom. This is the end of our tragic story, but hope always shines brightest in the dark and is not lost.