

SOAKED

By

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TEASER

EXT. MIAMI, FLORIDA - CRUISE SHIP - PIER - MORNING

SUPER: PortMiami - Miami, Florida

CREW run around, loading and unloading supplies. Cranes move like a terrible ballet, with crates that read 'INSPIRATION OF THE SEAS' on them.

Hungover GUESTS exit the ship like zombies while dragging luggage and cheap items every tourist buys in the Caribbean. They pass signs that read, "Thank you for cruising with us!"

INT. CRUISE SHIP - BACK LOUNGE

SUPER: Cruise Ship "Inspiration of the Seas" Back Lounge

Center-stage is CHRIS, 25, American, lovable slacker, Cruise Staff, dressed in a PRIEST outfit. In a TUXEDO, is LENNART, either 25 or 50, no one knows, German DJ and human enigma.

He holds hands with JEN, 28, British, Assistant Cruise Director, workaholic, who's wearing a stiff WEDDING DRESS.

CHRIS

Dearly beloved, we're gathered here, not just in the lounge where we host karaoke and bingo, but at a place where love has anchored.

Jen starts judging Chris' speech.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Love between our maestro of music from Germany, and our psycho-organized, overly caffeinated, temporary cruise director from England, in holy shit they are getting married, matrimony.

JEN

This is unbearable.

CHRIS

That's marriage. Drink it in.

JEN

(to Lennart)

Do you have what you need yet?

Lennart looks to his ASSISTANT who's adjusting lights amidst a sea of blue and pink BALLOONS spread all over the lounge. Each pair of balloons is tied to a TIMER.

LENNART

Your gender parties interfere with lighting our wedding.

JEN

First, it's not "our" wedding. Second, the over a dozen gender reveal parties were scheduled before the half a dozen weddings for this upcoming cruise soooo, can't be helped. That light needs to bounce off the wall, not go directly at the bride if you want --

Jen spots Lennart's judgmental stare.

JEN (CONT'D)

Your lounge.

CHRIS

Excuse me. I spent five minutes asking ChatGPT to write this speech. Can we continue?

JEN

I swear to god.

CHRIS

That's next, be patient.
(reads from his phone)
Our temporary cruise director has been steering our hearts for years. But today, she's on a course correction. One where --

Lennart's assistant gives him the thumbs up.

LENNART

We're done.

JEN

Thank god.

They leave Chris, dejected. Jen, Lennart, and his assistant start putting away wedding supplies and resetting the room for gender reveal parties, while Chris doesn't lend a hand.

JEN (CONT'D)

Did you really need me to dress up?

LENNART

To light for a wedding, you must be the wedding.

CHRIS

Shoot. Jen was supposed to be on my right, Lennart on my left, I think.

LENNART

Do it again.

JEN

No. One fake wedding in my life is enough.

CHRIS

Why are you more wound up than normal?

JEN

(sarcastic)

No reason. We just have new recruits coming onboard today, shoreside booked too many events, and our ratings are in the toilet. Do I need any other reasons or are my feelings justified?

LENNART

In nature, justice is another sunrise...where you are alive.

CHRIS

(to Lennart)

I need pot to be your friend.

(to Jen)

Bad week to be temporary Cruise Director huh? Or...eh?

Jen shoots him a glance.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

One of our rookies is from Canada. 'Sasky' something. And it's not like the company will fire us. No one gets fired on cruise ships.

JEN

What if someone wants a permanent promotion to Cruise Director?

LENNART

That is in jeopardy.

CHRIS

Why are there so many gender reveal parties?

JEN
It's a religious event.

CHRIS
What religion?

Jen and Lennart look at one another, unsure.

JEN
Could be a cult.

LENNART
It's a cult.

Lennart spots something and walks off screen.

JEN (CONT'D)
But they are a paying cult so who cares. Go find the new recruits, Penelope and Carlos.

CHRIS
Can we do midnight whale watching with Penelope? Carlos has been on a ship before so...he knows.

JEN
Sure, whatever. Lennart and I will make sure the timers on all these balloons are set properly.

Lennart returns.

LENNART
What happens if all the balloons for all the gender reveal parties all go off at the same time?

JEN
I'd rather not see hundreds of balloons stuffed with pink and blue powder explode in an airtight room.

Chris spots the reason for Lennart's question.

CHRIS
I think that question was rhetorical.

Jen looks at Lennart's assistant as she desperately tries to stop the timers from a spontaneous two minute countdown.

JEN
When are guests coming onboard?

LENNART
Two hours, thirty minutes.

CHRIS

Brace for impact.

Lennart dons retro 1980s SUNGLASSES, Jen drops her VEIL, Chris uses a BIBLE for cover, and the assistant dives behind the lighting booth, all waiting for the imminent explosion.

EXT. CRUISE SHIP - CREW SECURITY AREA - CONTINUOUS

PENELOPE, 21, fish-out-of-water, talks the ears off of a SECURITY GUARD at the X-RAY machine while she goes through Penelope's paperwork. Behind her is a long line of crew from around the world, all weary travelers.

PENELOPE

(nervous/excited)

Sorry I'm not American. I'm Penelope Cameron, from Elbow Saskatchewan, Canada.

She spots a crew member ahead, her suitcase open and contents being displayed: a bra, clothes, pink furry handcuffs etc... In a panic, while the security guard is distracted, Penelope throws a small VIBRATOR from her luggage, into a TRASH CAN.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

It's a one grain elevator town. That's how we measure population in Saskatchewan. By how many grain elevator's...exist. This is my first time even being near an ocean. I've never been outside of my province, let alone Canada.

The deadpan security guard gives her the paperwork and waves to the next guard. Behind Penelope, the trash can starts BUZZING. Crew look in, mildly curious.

Penelope's suitcase doesn't get checked. She's upset at the loss of her vibrator but dares not look back while security starts to investigate the buzzing. She grabs her luggage and inches towards the intimidating cruise ship.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

Okay. You can do this.

She takes one step as an EXPLOSION of pink and blue powder bursts out of the lounge window. Penelope, stunned, glances at the unfazed security who waves her towards the ship.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. CRUISE SHIP - BACK LOUNGE

Jen, Chris, and Lennart, still using the VEIL, SUNGLASSES and BIBLE to shield themselves, are covered in pink and blue POWDER. Some of it has mixed, forming purple. Lennart removes his sunglasses and examines himself.

LENNART

What gender is purple?

Jen removes her veil.

JEN

How and why did this happen?

Chris lowers his bible.

CHRIS

Protestors?

Jen and Lennart look at Chris.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

What? There's a reason I only use social media on international waters.

LORA, 28, a jaded and sarcastic Port and Shopping Guide, and her twin sister, EMILY, Social Hostess, polar opposite and clueless, rush into the room.

CHRISTINE

Mazel tov!

LORA

That's not what this is.
(judging)
You sure we're related?

Christine mock-laughs, but it just makes her seem dumber.

LORA (CONT'D)

Shut up.
(to everyone else)
What happened?

CHRIS

We blew up over a dozen gender reveal parties.

JEN

We didn't do anything. There must have been a glitch or something.

CHRIS

Never thought I'd say this...wait till the cult finds out.

Lennart's assistant, a powdered cloud, hands him a NOTE. He reads it, then hands it to Jen.

LENNART

This was in the debris.

She reads it out loud.

JEN

There's more where that came from. Good luck trying to get promoted to Cruise Director.

CHRISTINE

(oblivious)
Ahhh that's nice.

CHRIS

You have an arch-nemesis?! I have people that hate me, but a secret evil villain? I wonder if they're like Dr. Claw, only showing their hands on zoom meetings, their face in the shadows so we can't see --

JEN

It's Becky.

CHRIS

What?

JEN

My old manager, Becky. She's still pissed I got Assistant Cruise Director faster than she did. She's threatened I'll get Cruise Director before her.

LORA

How did you...?

Jen displays the note, written on BECKY PRATT stationary.

CHRISTINE

Ohhh. That way we would know it was her...smart.

LORA

I pushed you too much as a kid
didn't I?

CHRISTINE

(shocked)
You said I tripped a lot!

INT. CRUISE SHIP - I95

The I95, a busy hallway in Deck 1, buzzes with crew pushing LUGGAGE CARTS, trays with food or ice sculptures, and driving FORKLIFTS in all directions. Penelope, on her PHONE, hides in a corner like a scared puppy, avoiding the chaos.

PENELOPE

Mom...Mom I'm...I'm fine. It's just
a bit crazy and I wanted to hear
your voice. No. I'm not coming
home. I just started this job. It's
fine. No I'm not worried. As soon
as I find the other rookie and we
get settled in, I'm sure --

CARLOS (O.S.)

Excuse me.

TIME SLOWS - PEN'S POV

Pen turns around to see CARLOS, 25, the most beautiful man in the world, smiling at her. The song 'Heaven,' by Bryan Adams plays in her dream-like state. Carlos' hair blows in the wind as he reaches out to her. She reaches out to him.

END PEN POV

Carlos is actually holding out his hand to shake hers, but Pen's is near his face, almost caressing it. She quickly whips it down and over-correctively shakes his hand.

PENELOPE

Hi. Sorry. I. Hi. How are you? I
mean, who are you?

CARLOS

(smiling)
Carlos.

PENELOPE'S MOM (V.O.)

(over the phone)
Penelope? Where did you --

Penelope hangs up on her mom.

CARLOS

Are you Penelope, the other rookie?

PENELOPE

Yup. It's you and me together.
(correcting herself)
Working! Working together.

CARLOS

Nice to meet you.
(looks around)
I'm a bit lost.

PENELOPE

(looking into his eyes)
Me too.

INT. GUEST HALLWAY / LOUNGE BARS / CASINO / SHOPS

Jen, Chris, Lora, and Christine walk-and-talk throughout the ship. Jen and Chris are still covered in pink and blue powder, unwittingly leaving a trail in their wake.

JEN

Becky isn't that smart, but what she lacks in intelligence, she makes up for in evil. We have to find out what other areas of the ship she sabotaged before guests for the next cruise come onboard.

LORA

Which is in two hours.

CHRIS

Where did Lennart go?

JEN

He needs to blow-up --

CHRIS

Don't say blow up.

They pass by CLEANING STAFF that notice the trail of pink and blue powder.

JEN

Inflate hundreds of balloons and get the lounge back to normal.

CLEANING STAFF #1

Hey!

Everyone stops. Jen and Chris see the trail of powder they've been leaving.

JEN

Sorry.

Jen removes her wedding dress, revealing that she's been wearing her uniform SUIT underneath. She shoves the dress into a TRASH CAN.

CHRIS

Sorry. I'll pay for your next Independence Day party.

Chris takes off his priest costume, revealing just a TANK TOP and BOXERS underneath. He tosses the costume out the window, drawing judgmental looks from everyone.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Ever notice there are a lot of independence day parties on cruise ships?

Everyone looks at the only British person in the room, Jen.

JEN

(sarcastic)

It's England's biggest export.

CHRISTINE

I thought that was Shakespeare.

Lora shakes her head. They go back to their walk-and-talk.

JEN

We have less than two hours to stop whatever sabotages Becky created or else I'll never be Cruise Director.

LORA

Also the ship might sink or something?

JEN

My promotion takes priority. Chris, find the rookies.

Chris starts to leave.

CHRIS

I can't wait for midnight Whale Watching.

JE

Lora, Christine and I will find the
booby-traps.

Chris went the wrong way and back-tracks, walking past them.

CHRIS

Wrong way. Also, ha! Booby.

EXT. CRUISE SHIP - GUEST HOLDING AREA

Guests are clearly getting impatient as they lounge around
the warehouse style area.

INT. I95

Carlos and Penelope carefully walk down the long hallway,
avoiding all the crew rushing in every direction.

CARLOS

Are you nervous?

PENELOPE

(badly faking confidence)
Me? No. I haven't done this before,
but it's just like any other job
right? Except it's on the
ocean...which I've never even seen
before today.

CARLOS

I had one contract before this, but
I don't know if you get used to
life on a cruise ship. It's crazy
and sometimes kind of dangerous.

PENELOPE

(enthusiastic)
Well I'm ready for anything.

WAYNE (O.S.)

Head's up.

A BUCKET falls right on Penelope's head.

PENELOPE

Ow.

Carlos removes the bucket. They look up and see WAYNE, 50s,
FILIPINO crew member, on a ladder, signaling to give him the
bucket. Carlos hands it back. They walk away as Wayne goes
about his business.

CARLOS

You okay?

PENELOPE

(trying to act cool)
Happened all the time on the farm.

CARLOS

Really?

PENELOPE

I mean...it could have.

Carlos looks in another direction, giving Penelope a moment to bite her lip and try not to scream from the pain.

CHRIS (O.S.)

Rookies! Oohhh Rookie Cruise Staff!

Carlos and Penelope spot Chris, now in UNIFORM, riding one of the luggage carts that's being pushed by two CREW MEMBERS. Chris spots Penelope then...Carlos.

CHRIS' POV

TIME SLOWS as Chris has the same reaction to Carlos' beauty as Penelope did, but his song is "Smack That," by Akon. Instead of Carlos smiling, he looks at Chris, confused.

Carlos spots something before Chris does. A bucket falls on Chris' head and knocks him off the luggage cart.

END CHRIS' POV

Chris takes the bucket off his head.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

What the hell Wayne?!

Wayne does an "up yours," gesture.

INT. CRUISE STAFF OFFICE

The office, cluttered with paperwork, bingo cards, and party supplies, has a large WINDOW overlooking Deck 5, designated for walking, Shuffleboard, and lifeboat drills.

Jen brings up BECKY'S FACEBOOK ACCOUNT on a COMPUTER. Becky has a mischievous smile as her profile picture.

JEN

This is Becky.

CHRISTINE

Chanel.

Jen and Lora look at Christine, confused.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Her foundation. Les Beiges
Foundation to be specific.

LORA

(astonished)

That's actually good French.

CHRISTINE

It's not French. That's what they
call her foundation, duh.

LORA

So close.

JEN

Her make-up doesn't matter.

CHRISTINE

But it's the wrong shade for her
skin --

JEN

Christine. Okay we know Becky is
ruthless and ambitious. She won't
sabotage anything that will destroy
the ship.

LORA

Only things that will make you look
bad.

JEN

So what can make me look bad?

CHRISTINE

Clogged pores?

Jen and Lora shake their heads as a CREW MEMBER, outside on
Deck 5, uncontrollably slides past their window.

JEN

What was that?

Two more people slide past, then a crew member slides in the
opposite direction. Jen, Lora, and Christine look at one
another, then run out of the office.

EXT. DECK 5

Jen stops everyone just before she, Lora, and Christine step onto the deck.

JEN

Well this would fit the description of sabotage.

They look down the deck that wraps around the entire ship. Everyone is slipping and falling. Wayne, slides by without a care in the world, holding onto his paint supplies.

WAYNE

It's cooking oil.

LORA

Thanks Wayne. I like Wayne.

JEN

Oh yeah.

CHRISTINE

He's so nice it's extra.

INT. I95

Penelope, Chris, and Carlos are on the LUGGAGE CART, being pushed by crew down the I95.

CHRIS

I still owe Wayne a hundred bucks. Probably why I got bucket-ed. I asked mom for the next hundred thousand, but have you tried wire transfers on a cruise ship? Internet is crap. So I'm broke.

The crew pushing the cart, stop pushing at the word 'broke.'

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(to the crew)

And I will pay you all the thousands I promised later this week.

They walk away.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Dammit. Come on let's hoof it.

They walk down the I95, avoiding crew coming and going in all directions.

CARLOS

You give people a lot of money.

CHRIS

Is thousands of dollars a lot?

Penelope and Carlos look at each other, then shrug.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

My family's rich. I do this so I can be far away from them. Think the TV show Succession, but on The Love Boat. I'm the cute, lovable child from Succession.

Penelope and Carlos can't figure out which one fits that description.

PENELOPE

Uhm...I'm Penelope.

CHRIS

Right. Pleasantries. Chris.

Chris and Pen shake hands.

CARLOS

Carlos.

Chris shakes Carlos' hand.

CHRIS

Queer.

CARLOS

Sorry?

CHRIS

I...Me gay, but queer-gay. For me it means I sail wherever the wind takes me and I'd really love you to sink my battleship.

CARLOS

I don't get that reference.

CHRIS

(to Penelope)

He's young too!

(Penelope's confused)

You're probably too young for my references. Alright lets get you two to good old, ironically named safety training.

PENELOPE

Ironic?

CHRIS

You'll see.

INT. TRAINING ROOM / CREW BAR - LATER

Chris escorts Carlos and Pen into the room. OFFICER CONNOR, 60, an exhausted, thin, and very Irish Chief Security Officer, stands next to his all-FILIPINO SECURITY GUARDS behind a desk with a computer.

Rows of ROOKIE CREW sit hesitantly, eyeing Officer Connor and his team as if facing a firing squad. Next to each chair is a VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSET and cable, leading to Officer Connor's computer.

CHRIS

Officer Connor, I have two new virgins for you to sacrifice.

(gestures to Pen)

She's not going to survive the day.

(gestures to Carlos)

And I'm pretty sure he posed for Michelangelo.

(to Pen and Carlos)

Good luck.

Chris leaves Carlos and Pen standing in judgmental silence with Officer Connor. They quickly put their luggage next to the other rookie crew luggage and have a seat.

OFFICER CONNER

Every...single...one of you is going to die if you forget anything I teach you.

Officer Connor turns on an old school PROJECTOR which displays the title: HOW YOU CAN DIE AT SEA in big, bold font. Pen and Carlos share a worried glance.

INT. DECK 5

Jen, Lora, and Christine are with HOUSEKEEPING ATTENDANTS. HOUSEKEEPING ATTENDANT #1, from Trinidad, looks over the slippery mess and shakes her head.

HOUSEKEEPING ATTENDANT #1

And how are we supposed to clean this up?

CHRISTINE

If this were a human face --

JEN

Christine, no more makeup thoughts.
Deck five isn't a human face.

Christine pouts away to a corner.

JEN (CONT'D)

(to Lora)
What'd I say?

LORA

Nothing helpful oh Cruise Director.

JEN

Temporary Cruise Director. What
does that have to do with it?

LORA

When you were Assistant Cruise
Director, it was fine barking
orders.

JEN

(offended)
Barking?

LORA

But you're Cruise Director now. Yes
just for a week. But it means
you're our leader.

HOUSEKEEPING ATTENDANT #1

Be a leader, not a boss. A leader
inspires. They let their staff do
things their way to get the results
the leader wants. And they give
encouragement.

LORA

A boss is just a dick.

Jen looks to the housekeeping attendants who nod in unison.

JEN

But Christine hasn't said anything
useful.

LORA

You think.

HOUSEKEEPING ATTENDANT #1

How do you know if you don't let
her be her?

Jen considers this as Wayne slides by.

HOUSEKEEPING ATTENDANT #1 (CONT'D)

Hi Wayne!

INT. BACK DECK - CREW AREA

Half the group is shaking and soaking wet while Officer Connor orders the bored Filipino engineers and security to turn on the huge MARINE WATER HOSE.

Water shoots out of the hose. Holding onto it is Pen, with Carlos behind her, pushing on her back, using all his strength to keep her from flying away. The force is too strong. Pen is thrown into a pile of HOSES.

OFFICER CONNOR

Next!

Pen shakes her head as a sexy, drenched Carlos rushes over and offers a hand.

CARLOS

You okay?

Pen waves off Carlos' hand, then gets a good look at his see-through top.

PEN

Kind of?

(composing herself)

Thank god I took Rugby in high school, otherwise I'd be broken.

She tries to get up, but she's too sore.

PEN (CONT'D)

Actually I need a minute.

Doubt crosses her face when Carlos isn't looking.

INT. DECK 5

Jen walks up to Christine who's still sulking.

JEN

I'm sorry Christine. I'm used to doing things myself. Or telling everyone what to do and how to do it. I didn't think I could rely on you or most of the crew 'cause everyone always makes mistakes.

CHRISTINE

Oh my god that's your apology?!

JEN

Sorry, sorry. Let me think.

(beat)

Okay, I'm probably not wrong, but I'll entertain that I could be wrong about not needing people. Being a leader...will take time for me to learn. Tell me what --

Lora clears her throat. Jen gets the hint.

JEN (CONT'D)

Sorry. Can you please tell me what your idea is?

CHRISTINE

You'll laugh or be mean to me.

LORA

What are you twelve? Don't be a baby Christine.

Jen looks at Lora, confused.

LORA (CONT'D)

She's my sister. I'm allowed to be mean to her.

JEN

What's your idea? I guess I really want to know.

CHRISTINE

Like, if the floor was a human face...

JEN

Oh my...go on.

CHRISTINE

Then like, this is just oily skin right?

The housekeeping staff and Lora perk up at this idea.

JEN

So if it was oily skin...

CHRISTINE

You need something to absorb it,
then degrease what's left and
rinse.

Jen and Lora look to Housekeeping Attendant #1

HOUSEKEEPING ATTENDANT #1

(astounded)

I can get saw dust from the
carpenters, degreasing detergent we
got, and we'll use the emergency
hoses that are only supposed to be
used if the ship is on fire.

JEN

Christine, great job!

CHRISTINE

(happy)

Wow.

(judgmental)

It sounds really weird hearing that
from you.

INT. TRAINING ROOM / CREW BAR - CONTINUOUS

A soaking-wet crowd of rookies enters the training room and
takes their seats. Officer Connor and his Security Guards are
already at the front of the room, waiting. A drenched Carlos
and Pen sit beside each other.

CARLOS

How you doing?

PENELOPE

Cold, wet and questioning my life
decisions to be honest. Was it like
this on your last ship?

CARLOS

There's definitely an Officer
Connor on every ship. It's not too
late if you really feel like this
isn't right for you.

Penelope considers this.

OFFICER CONNOR

Put on the virtual reality headsets
next to your chair.

PENELOPE

(only half-joking)

Maybe I'll decide after we simulate
the end of the world I'm guessing.

Once all the crew have their VR helmets on, Officer Connor pulls up a menu on his computer screen with the options: Ship Sinking, Bomb Threat, Crazy Passenger, Crazy Crew Member, Killer Robot, Acts of God.

OFFICER CONNOR

Here are the ways you are going to
die.

He presses the option: Acts of God.

The rookies start screaming, gripping their armrests, holding on to each other, standing up and looking around, panicked.

INT. DECK 5

The housekeeping staff finish laying sawdust on the ground as Lennart slides in with his assistant. They crash thanks to the friction from the sawdust.

LENNART

The lounge is ready.

JEN

(feeling more confident)

Okay. All we have to do now is
figure out the next sabotage.

CHRISTINE

Bingo.

LORA

Are you agreeing or does the next
sabotage have something to do with
Bingo?

CHRISTINE

(confused)

Yes? Remember when I said Becky's
foundation is the wrong shade for
her skin? Well, if she's an
Assistant Cruise Director, she
probably hosts bingo a lot. And if
she doesn't know her foundation
isn't right for her skin, she might
change the lighting on the Bingo
Board's bulbs to make up for her
appearance.

(MORE)

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

So she probably thinks about sabotaging the Bingo Board 'cause she thinks about it a lot when she thinks about her bad complexion.

LORA

(amazed)

We should change your name to Miss Marple.

CHRISTINE

Who?

LORA

Agatha Christie?

CHRISTINE

The cookie maker?

LORA

I'm done.

JEN

Let's go.

Jen, Lora, Christine, Lennart and his assistant all take off leaving the housekeeping staff to the deck 5 mess.

INT. THEATER - STAGE

Jen, Christine, and Lora wheel out the large BINGO BOARD on stage while Lennart and his assistant sit in the audience, watching.

LORA

Okay, now what?

JEN

It looks normal.

CHRISTINE

Should we turn it on?

JEN

Maybe we should get an electrician to look at it. Faulty wiring could -

-

She looks at Lora who gives her a "come on show support" look to Christine's idea.

JEN (CONT'D)

Thank you for the idea Christine,
but I'm worried if we turn this on,
the bulbs will explode.

CHRISTINE

But wouldn't the bulbs exploding
disrupt Becky's sabotage of the
Bingo Board too?

Jen tries not to lose her patience.

JEN

That. That would be the sabotage.

CHRISTINE

Ohhhh.

LORA

You don't really get it do you?

CHRISTINE

No not really.

LORA

(to Jen)

We have less than an hour and a
half before guests come onboard.

JEN

Not enough have time to bribe the
electricians to look at this.
Christine, plug it in over --
wherever you'd like.

Christine plugs it in.

The BULB for each number lights up as everyone holds their
breath except for Lennart and his assistant who are deadpan.
The numbers flash twice in unison, then go to standby mode.
Jen, Lora, and Christine exhale and laugh out of relief.

Suddenly, a SANDBAG on a rope swings in like a wrecking ball.
Lennart and his assistant watch, unfazed as it crashes into
the Bingo Board, knocking it offstage and shattering into a
hundred pieces.

Jen, Lora, and Christine are shocked. Number sixty-nine is
the only number still flashing.

CHRISTINE

Ha. Sixty-nine.

Lora and Jen shake their heads.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

It's a sex joke.

Lora and Jen walk offstage.

INT. TRAINING ROOM / CREW BAR

The crew, wearing their VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSETS, are huddled together behind a barricade of chairs, tables, and their own luggage. In the center of the room is a TENNIS BALL.

OFFICER CONNOR'S COMPUTER SCREEN: A digital representation of the room. Overlaid on the tennis ball is a cartoon version of a BOMB. The crew on the computer screen have a cheap, digital, ugly AVATAR of themselves.

BACK TO SCENE

Chris is now with Officer Connor and the security guards.

OFFICER CONNOR

One of you has to do it.

PEN'S POV - VIRTUAL REALITY WORLD

Pen looks at the creepy digital avatars that is everyone in the room. They are cheap and pixelated. Chris' avatar, however, is a high render, photorealistic version of the 1980's cartoon character He-Man.

CHRIS

Come on Carlos. I believe in you!

PEN

Chris?! Is that you?

CHRIS

You like my avatar? I paid eighty thousand dollars to make me look like He-Man.

He leans into Officer Connor's cheap avatar.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Bet she doesn't get that reference.

His phone DINGS. He checks it.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Sweet the wire transfer! I'm rich.

BACK TO SCENE

Pen looks at her fellow crew, too frightened to move.

PENELOPE

I can't take this anymore. This is insane! It's my first day and I'm hiding behind a wall made out of my own luggage!

CARLOS

It's okay if you need to quit. Even I'm not sure --

PENELOPE

What?! I'm not fed up with the job. I'm fed up with being scared! I've been sheltered in Elbow, Saskatchewan all my life.

CARLOS

Elbow?

PENELOPE

But if this is how the real world is --

CARLOS

It's not. This is how cruise ships are --

PENELOPE

-- then I have no choice do I?

CARLOS

Quitting is an option.

PENELOPE

If that weird guy Chris can survive in the real world --

CARLOS

Not the real world and he's rich --

PENELOPE

-- then so can I. I already lost my vibrator, I'm not going to lose my dignity.

CARLOS

Vibrator?

PEN

I'm stronger than I think, stronger than my family thinks, and I'm going to prove it.

She turns to Carlos.

PEN'S POV - VIRTUAL REALITY WORLD

She looks at the creepy digital avatar of Carlos.

PEN (CONT'D)

I'll save you. I'll save everyone.

Carlos smiles, which normally would be very attractive, but his avatar's digital smile is just too weird.

CARLOS

Are you sure you --

Pen grabs his face.

PEN

Please...don't smile.

BACK TO SCENE

Pen runs around the barricade.

PEN

(to herself)

Oh my god, oh my god, oh my god.

TIME SLOWS

She heroically throws herself into the air. The rookies peak through the luggage, astonished, while Officer Connor and his team watch, unimpressed.

Pen covers the tennis ball / aka bomb, with her body.

OFFICER CONNOR'S COMPUTER SCREEN: The cartoon bomb goes off, destroying Pen's avatar, but saving the avatar's of all the other rookies. The simulation ends.

BACK TO SCENE

OFFICER CONNOR

Next time die sooner.

Carlos helps Pen up.

CARLOS

(smiling)

My hero.

PEN

(with pride)

It was nothing.

The rookies tip over and fall with the pile of luggage. A second VIBRATOR falls out of Pen's suitcase. She quickly pocket's it in front of everyone.

CHRIS
(Mike Myers impression)
Hellllooo.

CARLOS
(awkward)
I...thought you lost yours.

PEN
(nervous laugh)
Forgot I had a back up.

Chris, smiling ear-to-ear, puts his arms around Carlos and Penelope.

CHRIS
I think this is the beginning of a
lot of embarrassing moments for all
of us huh? Sorry Pen...eh?

Still with his arms around, he guides them out of the room.

INT. THEATER - LATER

Jen, Christine, Lora, Lennart and his assistant stare at the totaled Bingo Board as Chris escorts Penelope and Carlos in.

CHRIS
Everyone, I have two rookies who
just passed safety training,
surpassing oscillating odds.

He winks at Penelope who doesn't know how to react. Everyone is too busy staring at Carlos.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
No? Despite the vibrating tension?

LORA
Chris, who is that?

CARLOS
I'm Carlos.

LORA
Of course you are.

CHRISTINE
You should be in magazines.

LENNART

The marble in statues would blush
at the site of you.

CARLOS

I've heard...well most of all that
before, but please treat me
like...well.

Carlos doesn't want to say 'normal person.'

LORA

Nah we get it.

CHRISTINE

Am I like marble?

LORA

Thick as a rock.

JEN

I'm Jen, temporary Cruise Director.
Next week I'll be back to Assistant
Cruise Director, probably
permanently.

PENELOPE

Pen, or Penelope.

CHRIS

Ha. Jen and Pen. That's not gonna
be complicated with accents from
fifty different countries on this
ship what happened to the bloody
Bingo Board?!

LENNART

Sabotage.

CHRIS

Freaking Becky.

PENELOPE

What's so bad about a broken Bingo
Board?

Everyone looks at Pen.

CHRISTINE

It's kind of a big deal.

LORA

We give out over twenty thousand
dollars a week.

Chris leans into Carlos.

CHRIS
(whispering)
Is that a lot?

JEN
So if that's what we give out,
imagine what the company makes, a
week, off of bingo. That's why I
can kiss my promotion goodbye.

PENELOPE
I can fix it.

JEN
(in disbelief)
Sorry Penelope, but you've never
been on a ship before. You don't
know what supplies we have or don't
--

Lora clears her throat.

CHRISTINE
Okay you've been doing that all
day. Do you need a lozenge?

JEN
Thank you Lora. Forget what I said.
What's your suggestion?

PENELOPE
Well every small town in Canada has
bingo. So we've all been taught how
to build bingo boards.

JEN
We don't have the plastic.

PENELOPE
Salvage what we can and make the
rest out of wood. Do you have wood?

CHRIS
(looking at Carlos)
Yup.

Carlos gives Chris the stink-eye.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Last one today, promise. Penelope
we have lumber.

JEN
Chris, did you get money --

CHRIS
Yeah I'm rich again. I see where
this is heading.

JEN
Lora?

LORA
Forty minutes before the guests
come onboard.

JEN
Penelope?

PENELOPE
I mean, if everyone lends a hand.
It won't be pretty, but...maybe.

JEN
Tell us what to do.

PENELOPE
Okay, well...uhm.

MONTAGE - BUILDING A BINGO BOARD

-- WAYNE'S WORKSHOP -- Chris hands Wayne a 'wad' of cash.
Wayne gives them lumber which they cart off.

-- THEATER -- They all suit-up with TOOL BELTS, SAFETY HATS,
GLOVES, and VESTS. Lennart puts on his 1980s SUNGLASSES,
turns on a BLOWTORCH and gives a disconcerting smile.

END MONTAGE

THEATER - CONTINUOUS

The newly formed team stare at the monumental task in front
of them.

JEN
Let's do this.

Lora checks her watch.

LORA
We're out of time.

JEN
What?

LORA

Wayne's workshop is on the other end of the ship, the elevators took forever, we spent way too much time getting dressed for this. I mean...

Lora shrugs.

INT. GANGWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Still wearing their construction outfits, Jen, Penelope, Chris, Carlos, Lora, and Christine run to the gangway where guests enter the ship. CREW open the DOORS letting in a herd of GUESTS from all walks of life pile inside.

PENELOPE

Sorry we didn't get the bingo board done in time.

JEN

It's okay. We have a solution, thanks to you.

Penelope beams with pride.

JEN (CONT'D)

We'll shove it behind the stage and work on it later tonight.

CHRIS

(excited)
After Whale Watching?

JEN

(rolls her eyes)
Oh my god yes after Whale Watching.

PENELOPE

What's Whale Watching?

She looks at Carlos who doesn't know what to say.

LORA

You know how radars and sonar can look down and forward to find and say, submarines?

PENELOPE

I guess.

JEN

Well they can't really look forward when we are on top of the water.

(MORE)

JEN (CONT'D)

So all one thousand crew members rotate and do whale watching for 30 mins each at nighttime 'cause it's so hard to see.

CHRIS

If we hit a whale, Green Peace will sue our asses.

CHRISTINE

We all have to do it.

JEN

You got the short end of the stick tonight.

PENELOPE

Oh. Well. Whatever you need.

LORA

Trust me. We all need this.

As an OLDER COUPLE strolls past the team.

OLDER WOMAN

Ohh look honey.

OLDER MAN

Huh?

OLDER WOMAN

The Village People are performing this cruise.

OLDER MAN

Where's the police man? I like the police man.

They slowly walk away as everyone ponders their failure...except Chris.

CHRIS

I'd make a great police man. Carlos stays the construction worker...who else...

Everyone leaves Chris.

EXT. OCEAN - CRUISE SHIP INSPIRATION OF THE SEAS - NIGHT

The ship rocks up-and-down in the unforgiving ocean.

INT. BOW OF SHIP - CONTINUOUS

UNKNOWN FILMMAKER'S CAMERA POV

Water hits the deck almost knocking over the only two idiots on the front of the ship.

Holding a MICROPHONE and a WALKIE-TALKIE is Penelope. She's exhausted, stressed, scared, and being filmed by an UNKNOWN, woman FILMMAKER with an Indian accent.

UNKNOWN FILMMAKER (O.S.)
Okay go!

PEN
(to camera)
The date is September 21st and my name is Penelope Cameron.

UNKNOWN FILMMAKER (O.S.)
You have two first names!

PEN
(to Unknown Filmmaker)
What?!

UNKNOWN FILMMAKER (O.S.)
You have two first names!

Pen's confused.

PEN
Yes?!

UNKNOWN FILMMAKER (O.S.)
Just checking. Go, go, go.

PEN
(to camera)
Okay. I'm at the front or BOW of the ship and there are no whales --

The two duck for cover as another wave hits the ship.

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Jen, Chris, Lora, Christine, Lennart, his assistant, and Carlos are all drinking with the BRIDGE OFFICERS. Chris is flirting with one. Jen has a walkie-talkie on her end as they all listen to the commotion.

PENELOPE (O.S.)
(over the walkie-talkie)
There are no whales.

JEN
(to Lora)
Thanks for today. I know being
helpful can be...painful for you.

LORA
With my guidance, you'll be one of
the most competent Cruise Directors
in the fleet. Also you get...one
helpful day a month we'll say. And
good work. It takes a lot for
someone to be honest with
themselves...and realize I'm right.

JEN
Sure. I guess that's what happened.

PENELOPE (O.S.)
(over the walkie-talkie)
Again?! There...are...no...whales.

CARLOS
I feel bad for Penelope.

LORA
Get over it Instagram Model. We've
all done the Whale Watching prank.

CHRISTINE
It's a prank?!

LORA
Why do you think you only did it
once and never again?

CHRISTINE
Maybe there weren't any whales on
our itinerary.

LORA
That's both dumb and sad.

Another wave rocks the ship. Jen picks up her walkie-talkie.

JEN
(over the walkie-talkie)
I think she's had enough. Tell her
the truth.

UNKNOWN FILMMAKER (V.O.)
(over the walkie-talkie)
Copy that.

LORA
Five, four, three, two --

PENELOPE (V.O.)
(over the walkie-talkie)
What?!!! Are you kidding me?!

CHRIS
She is pisssseeeddd.

LORA
It's moments like these...

JEN
That make me happy I don't work on
land.

Everyone cheers and shares a quiet, reflective moment as they
look out at the moonlit ocean.

CHRIS
How do we know we found all the
sabotages?

Everyone realizes they have no idea.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Also, did we forget to do The
Welcome Aboard Show?

EVERYONE: Horrific realization.

JEN
Shit.

THE END.

POST CREDITS

INT. CREW QUARTERS HALLWAY - NIGHT

A wet Penelope, luggage in hand, walks with Carlos who's also
dragging his luggage.

PENELOPE
(still angry)
It's fine.

CARLOS

We've all done whale watching so --

PENELOPE

Carlos. I'm angry and I will get over it. It was nice to meet you and I look forward to working with you.

She holds out her hand, Carlos shakes it.

CARLOS

Again, I'm sorry.

PENELOPE

Again, all good. This is me.

She signals to her room.

CARLOS

Night.

PENELOPE

It's 6am. Good morning.

CARLOS

Right. Good morning.

As Carlos walks away, Penelope checks him out, takes a deep breath and enters her CABIN.

INT. PENELOPE'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Penelope walks into her 125 square foot room with a desk, a tiny bathroom, BUNKBEDS and Christine dancing with Lennart's assistant while Lennart DJ's on the top bunk. Alcoholic shots are on the desk.

CHRISTINE

Hi roomie!

PENELOPE

What?

CHRISTINE

We're roommates!

Christine hugs her.

PENELOPE

I thought you and your sister --

CHRISTINE

Oh she's The Port and Shopping
Guide. They get their own room.
It's way bigger than this. I'm so
jealous. Let's dance.

Penelope blankly stares as she considers.

PENELOPE

You know. After my first day...

She takes two shots.

PENELOPE (CONT'D)

I could really use this.

She dances with Christine and Lennart's assistant.

INT. CARLOS' CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

Carlos walks into his cabin which is similar to Penelope's.
There's a NOTE on the desk from Chris:

CHRIS (V.O.)

Dear Carlos. I was supposed to be
your roommate, but due to the light-
hearted sexual harassment, Jen
thought we should split up. I'm
staying with her for now, but I'm
not Céline and my heart will not go
on. See you tomorrow!

He shakes his head, then turns on his LAPTOP and makes a ZOOM
call. After a moment, BECKY, 35, pops up on screen.

BECKY

So? How'd it go?

CARLOS

They don't suspect a thing.

BECKY

Good. You'll meet with the saboteur
this week and discuss future plans.

Becky starts staring at Carlos.

CARLOS

I think this might be enough Becky.
Jen has a lot to clean up so you've
slowed down her potential promotion
by...is your screen frozen?

Becky breaks her trance.

BECKY
Sorry. You just look really good.

CARLOS
For god's sake.

EXT. OCEAN - CRUISE SHIP

The ship sails into a sunrise over the ocean.

BECKY (V.O.)
Sorry. Did you do something with
your hair?

CARLOS (V.O.)
By Becky.

SFX: Laptop powering down.

SFX: Door opens.

CHRIS (V.O.)
Hi Carlos! Sorry, I forgot some
stuff.

CARLOS (V.O.)
Where's your shirt?

CHRIS (V.O.)
Shirts are optional. Go ahead take
yours off.

JEN (V.O.)
Chris! Get out of there!

THE END