

Soaked

By Joshua Young

TEASER

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

The ship rocks up-and-down to a near deadly degree in the stormy, 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 in one hand, a WALKIE-TALKIE in the other, is PENELOPE, 21, Pen for short. The rookie of the ship; she's exhausted, stressed, scared, and being filmed by an UNKNOWN, woman FILMMAKER with a British accent.

UNKNOWN FILMMAKER (O.S.)

(to Pen)

Okay go!

PEN

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.

UNKNOWN VOICE (V.O.)
 (over the walkie-talkie)
 Are you finished?

Unknown Filmmaker grabs the walkie-talkie.

UNKNOWN FILMMAKER (O.S.)
 (into the walkie-talkie)
 No I'm not sure I got it!

UNKNOWN VOICE (V.O.)
 (over the walkie-talkie)
 Do it again.

UNKNOWN FILMMAKER (O.S.)
 (to Pen)
 Okay last time! Let's go!

They run out onto the deck again.

UNKNOWN FILMMAKER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 This time just say 'there are no
 whales' like ten times! Say it ten
 times without stopping! That way I
 know we have it! And go!

PEN
 (to camera)
 There are no whales, there are no
 whales, there are no --

The Unknown Filmmaker/Camera POV spots a big wave about to hit the deck. The camera lowers to the ground as Unknown Filmmaker starts running away.

UNKNOWN FILMMAKER (O.S.)
 Time to go!

Pen, confused, looks behind her to see the wave. She starts running towards the camera that is running away from her.

PEN
 (to camera)
 There are no whales, there are no
 whales!

The wave hits the deck. Unknown Filmmaker gets knocked over and their camera hits something off screen, falls to the ground, and goes black.

ACT ONE

EXT. CRUISE SHIP INSPIRATION OF THE SEAS - PIER - MORNING

SUPER: 15ish hours earlier

The pier is bustling with activity as crew run around, loading and unloading supplies. Cranes and forklifts swing in every direction like a terrible ballet, with crates that read 'INSPIRATION OF THE SEAS' on them.

Hung-over tourists exit the ship, stumbling down the catwalk like zombies, each carrying cheap items one buys on a trip to the Caribbean.

INT. GUEST GANGWAY - CONTINUOUS

A never-ending line of guests walk past the crew, saying their goodbye's. The ones sober or least hung-over enough to speak that is.

JEN, Assistant Cruise Director, natural leader, but hindered by an insatiable need to fix everything, is in the crew line-up, faking her love of the guests who are departing. She discreetly tries to get Chris' attention over her WALKIE-TALKIE.

JEN
 (over walkie-talkie)
 Chris?
 (to guests leaving the
 ship)
 Thank you for coming. It was a
 pleasure having you on board. Thank
 you. Thank you.
 (over walkie-talkie)
 Chris you son-of-a --

INTERVIEW -- JEN

SUPER: "Jennifer: Assistant Cruise Director"

Due to stress, Jen smiles from time-to-time through gritted teeth.

JEN (CONT'D)
 I'm Jen, the Assistant Cruise
 Director onboard the Inspiration of
 the Seas Cruise Ship. Today is day
one of the cruise.
 (MORE)

JEN (CONT'D)

It's the most chaotic day in our week which means we are the most vulnerable for bad ratings today more so than any other day in the cruise. Every cruise ship lives and dies from guest ratings. So if we don't make this place look and feel like paradise 24/7, the head office will eventually visit and show us a kind of hell that people who work on land wouldn't believe could exist in a work environment. My job today is to cheerfully kick off the hung-over passengers from last cruise, tell crew what to do, then welcome new passengers onboard, all in under two hours. On top of that, I have new rookies whom I'm going to avoid, a missing motorcycle we need for our magic show tonight, and I can't find Chris...who lost the motorcycle. But I've had four coffees already so I should be able to fake happy and get through the day.

GUEST GANGWAY - CONTINUOUS

JEN (CONT'D)

(to walkie-talkie)

Chris for the love of --

CHRIS (V.O.)

(over walkie-talkie)

-- Sorry Jen. On the hunt for the mysterious, missing, motorcycle! It's like a Scooby Doo episode. Remember those? Talk later.

ZAN, either 30 or 50, hard to tell his age, long ponytail though, ships Magician, walks up to Jen. He acts fake around the guests, but only the crew know he's insincere.

ZAN

Did he find it yet?

(to a guest)

Thank you for coming.

JEN

(to Zan)

No. But I'll need to send someone else to continue the search.

(to Chris over walkie-talkie and Zan)

(MORE)

JEN (CONT'D)

Chris needs to meet the new Cruise Staff who are starting their contracts today.

CHRIS (O.S.)

(over walkie-talkie)

Cruise ENTERTAINMENT staff. Why can't you do it?

JEN

I don't meet new staff until I know they can survive one day on a cruise ship on their own.

CHRIS (O.S.)

That's cold. But deep down...wait you're actually angry with me aren't you?

Jen doesn't respond.

ZAN

(to Jen)

I need that second motorcycle or else I can't do my grand finale. Everyone knows that if your Welcome Aboard Show ratings tank, the guests will stay cranky for the rest of the cruise.

(to guests)

Thank you. Thank you. Oh I'll miss you!

MS. DAISY, an energetic, oblivious to personal space, senior woman walks up to Zan and grabs his hand.

MS. DAISY

Thank you so much! This was the best time of my life!

Ms. Daisy gives Zan a kiss on the cheek and hugs him tightly.

ZAN

I know you think it was! You really, truly were the best guest I've ever met!

She releases her hold and teasingly slaps him on the arm.

MS. DAISY

You probably say that to everyone.

ZAN

A Magician never lies.

REACTION - Jen - WHAT?!

Ms. Daisy walks down the gangway.

JEN
(whispering)
That didn't make any sense.

ZAN
(whispering)
Doesn't matter. Ms. Daisy is too
deaf to hear a word I say anyway's.
(to Ms. Daisy)
Pumpkin Sasquatch Area 51!

Ms. Daisy turns around, smiles and waves as she walks off the ship. Zan waves at Ms. Daisy, then shrugs at Jen.

CHRIS (O.S.)
(laughing)
Pumpkin Sasquatch.

Jen turns the volume down a bit, but Chris can still be heard laughing.

JEN
(whispering to Zan)
You really are just the worst kind
of person.

ZAN
How does an entire motorcycle even
go missing on a cruise ship?

CHRIS (O.S.)
I mean...your magic act is all
about that very question isn't it?

JEN
(to Chris)
Find the rookies and take them to
safety training or I'm going to
kill you. I'm turning you off now.

CHRIS
As opposed toooo --

Jen turns off her walkie-talkie

Zan gives a disapproving glare to Jen.

The doors to the ship close behind the last guests leaving. The crew wait a minute to ensure the guests are gone, then take a big deep breath in and out.

JEN

(to the crew around her)
 Alright everyone check your watches! We have less than two hours before the new guests come onboard. Let's vacuum, wash windows, get ten thousand eggs from storage, pray to whatever god or goddess you believe in. Today has to be perfect.

The crew scramble: Vacuum cleaners start rushing over the carpets while other crew speak in various languages over walkie-talkie's.

Jen gives a nod at all the hustle and bustle then marches off.

INT. CREW SECURITY AREA - CONTINUOUS

A line-up of new crew from various countries slowly creeps its way towards ship security. The area is packed with X-Ray machines, handheld scanners etc...while FILIPINO SECURITY GUARDS pat everyone down, check documents and so on.

Poking out of the line-up is a nervous but excited Penelope. She awkwardly smiles to exhausted crew who stare back at her unenthused.

INTERVIEW -- PEN

SUPER: "Penelope/Pen: Rookie Cruise Entertainment Staff"

PEN

Uhm...Hi...yeah I'm Pen. I'm new to all of this. I'm from Elbow, Saskatchewan, Canada. It's a one grain elevator town...That's how we measure population in my province. By how many...grain elevators are...there. Anyways I really need my friends and family back home to be proud of me. My father always says I bite off more than I can chew but I'm going to prove him wrong. Today my only goal however is to get settled in and get a routine going. We small town folk love routine.

(MORE)

PEN (CONT'D)

I always knew it was eight in the morning on Saturdays, cause I'd hear farmer Bruce driving past our house in his old, loud truck so he could get to the grocery store, buy some eggs, then sell them for twice the price to city folk at the farmer's market.

(pause)

I'll feel less nervous once I have my routine.

CREW SECURITY AREA - CONTINUOUS

Pen watches the security guards open a female crew member's suitcase and examine every item: bra, can opener, handcuffs with pink fur covering them, a voodoo mask...

Panicked, Pen digs into one of her suitcases and discreetly pulls out a VIBRATOR. She finds a trash can and regretfully tosses it when no one is looking.

She finally gets up to one of the security guards who puts her suitcases, and backpack through the scanners without checking them. Pen sighs at the loss of her Vibrator.

PEN

Hi, I'm Pen. Is...ah...I --

SECURITY GUARD #1

-- Papers and Passport.

Pen passes everything over.

Behind her, several crew back, a crew member tosses an empty SODA CAN in the same trash her vibrator now lives. The trash can starts buzzing and vibrating. Crew look in the trash and at each other, confused.

Pen awkwardly smiles at security, pretending to ignore the vibration.

She's waved through and starts walking towards the ship.

PEN

(to Security Guard #1)

Oh. Where do I go?

SECURITY GUARD #1 (CONT'D)

Crew office.

PEN (CONT'D)

And where is the crew --

Security Guard #1 points to the ship. Pen looks at the cruise ship towering over her almost menacingly...

PEN (CONT'D)
 (to herself)
 Okay.

...and walks into the abyss.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Pen strolls into a frantically busy hallway, with crew coming-and-going in every direction.

Chris rushes past Pen, not putting any effort into finding her.

CHRIS
 (into the walkie-talkie)
 I'm right there now. Or here now?
 If it's about a place you're
 referring to, is it here or there
 if I'm in said place --

JEN (O.S.)
 (over walkie-talkie)
 -- Oh my god Chris just find her
 and take her to safety training.

Pen taps Chris on the shoulder.

CHRIS
 What?

PEN
 Sorry, who are you looking for?

CHRIS
 Pin.

JEN (O.S.)
 (over walkie-talkie)
 Pen.

CHRIS
 (to Jen)
 What?

PEN
 I'm Pen.

CHRIS
 (to Pen)
 What?

JEN (O.S.)
(over walkie-talkie)
Cruise Staff new hire?

CHRIS
(correcting Jen)
Cruise Entertainment Staff new
hire.

PEN
I guess.

CHRIS
Crap. I was hoping to waste more
time finding you.

PEN
Why?

CHRIS
You need to know me more.

JEN (O.S.)
(walkie-talkie)
Chris, Safety Training.

Chris takes a deep breath.

CHRIS
(to Pen)
Come on.

As they are about to exit the hallway of rookies, Chris spots CARLOS, 23, somehow kind and humble despite the fact he's one of the most beautiful men in the world.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
(to Jen over walkie-
talkie)
Jen didn't you say there were two
rookies?

JEN
Yes but I don't have the other's
name yet.

CHRIS
I think got'em.

Chris and Pen approach Carlos, both are insanely attracted to him.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Hi.

CARLOS
Hello, I'm Carlos.

CHRIS
Of course you are. I'm queer.

CARLOS
That's your name?

CHRIS
Born lifestyle. And in case you don't know but are curious, it means I sail wherever the wind takes me and I really hope you want to one day sink my battleship.

Carlos looks at Pen, then back to Chris, confused.

CARLOS
I...don't...understand that reference.

Chris looks excitedly at Pen.

CHRIS
He's young too!

He reads her confused expression.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
You're probably young too. Okay whatever.
(to Carlos)
Cruise Entertainment Staff?

Carlos, out of fear of saying anything that will trigger more flirtation from Chris, he just nods.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Right, this way.

They rush out of a hallway.

INT. I95 HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Chris successfully dodges LUGGAGE CARTS flying in every direction down the hallway. Crew members nonchalantly send the huge carts into every direction.

Carlos and Pen are having a much harder time, especially since they have their luggage with them, and almost get hit every time a cart passes by.

CHRIS

IF you two survive safety training, you'll have to get used to the I95. This is the hallway for crew so we can get from one end of the ship to the other while avoiding guests.

CARLOS

This isn't safe.

CHRIS

Ironic I know. I find it best to keep telling myself, "Life is pointless, I've got nothing to lose, just go for it, sleep with Chris...Carlos." Just say that over and over again. Pin, you can leave out the last part of that sentence. Life is pointless, got nothin to lose, go for it. Like a million times.

Chris gets hit by a luggage cart which sends him in the opposite direction. Carlos and Pen helplessly watch Chris being carried away.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Oh my god, this hurts so much more than you think it does!

INT. TRAINING ROOM / CREW BAR - LATER

A bruised Chris escorts Carlos, Pen into the room.

OFFICER CONNOR, 60, an exhausted, thin, very Irish chief security officer, stands next to his all-FILIPINO SECURITY GUARDS behind a desk and computer.

Rows and rows of chairs, filled with hesitant, rookie crew members, face Officer Connor and his guards like they're in front of a firing squad.

Next to each chair is a VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSET, and a cable, leading to Officer Connor's computer, but we'll get to 'why' that is, later.

CHRIS

Officer Connor. I have two new victims.

(gestures to Pen)

She's not going to survive today.

(gestures to Carlos)

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

And he is the definition of perfect genetics and I'd like a bronze statue of him naked.

(to Pen and Carlos)

Good luck.

Chris takes off, leaving Carlos and Pen standing in dead, judgmental silence from Officer Connor. They quickly put their luggage next to all the other rookie crew luggage and have a seat next to one another.

Pen moves her hand close to Carlos' who happily holds it as the two try to comfort one another before the predictably traumatizing safety training begins.

INT. ENGINEERING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Chris opens a door and creeps into the room.

CHRIS

(overly cheerful)

Sooo how's it going?

FILIPINO ENGINEERS are repairing the missing motorcycle.

FILIPINO ENGINEER #1

This bike did not fall over because of a wave.

CHRIS

Oh it was a HUGE wave!

FILIPINO ENGINEER #1

We work ten hours a day, seven days a week. There was no wave last week.

Chris sways side-to-side, desperately trying to figure out another lie.

INTERVIEW -- CHRIS

CHRIS

I crashed the bike into a Jamaican jerk chicken food truck...in Jamaica.

He shrugs.

ACT TWO

INT. CRUISE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

DAVE, 37, suit jacket off and tie slung over his shoulder, is straining through a few push-ups.

On his desk sits a bowl of M&Ms, a candy bar, mic/intercom system, and a family photo: Dave's Captain/father in full-dress navy uniform, mother dressed like a Stepford Wife, and Dave in an unflattering suit.

Jen pokes her head in.

JEN

Doing good!

Dave collapses.

DAVE

No I'm not. I can only get up to nine a day.

He slowly gets up off the floor.

JEN

That's nine more than I can do.

He grabs the bowl of M&Ms and starts popping while giving Jen a 'doubtful' glance.

JEN (CONT'D)

Okay. Fifty's my record, but you're making progress!

DAVE

I don't think it's helping my anxiety like you suggested. How much time until the new guests are on board?

Jen grabs the bowl from Dave.

JEN

One hour and forty minutes. Sugar adds to anxiety. And you were supposed to see someone for your nerves?

Dave collapses into his chair.

DAVE

I don't have time for a therapist to pull the last thread of what fragile fabric of confidence I have left. Thanks to my captain father, I have the emotional capacity of a 15 year old boy.

INTERVIEW -- DAVE

SUPER: "Dave: Cruise Director"

DAVE (CONT'D)

My father is a retired Navy Captain...Just like my grandfather, and great grandfather...And great, great grandmother on that secret mutiny mission. Needless-to-say he doesn't approve of my career choice...or life.

(pause)

This is my first cruise as Cruise Director, so my mother forced my father to visit the ship. Luckily we were fully booked so they're coming next week.

(pause)

But my father still found the time to send me this letter.

Dave pulls a letter out of his pocket and shows it to camera.

LETTER: I'm sorry about your micro-penis. From Captain Macdonald.

REACTION: Dave = bitter.

CRUISE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

JEN

It won't be as bad as you think. And you have a whole week to mentally get ready.

Emily walks past the doorway.

DAVE

Oh...uhm...Emily?

EMILY ALURR, 26, Social Hostess, twin sister to Lora who we'll meet, annoyingly cheerful, and naive, pokes her head in and does a passable impression of 'Hal 9000,' from the movie 2001 - A Space Odyssey.'

EMILY

Hello Dave.

JEN

(to Emily)

Do you even know what movie you're referencing?

EMILY

No. But Chris paid me ten dollars to do it.

Jen and Dave exchange a glance.

JEN

Ten dollars every time you do it, or just ten dollars one time?

EMILY

I'm confused.

DAVE

Speaking of money, are you betting this week?

EMILY

We have new hires?

Jen holds out her hand, Emily digs in her purse.

Dave strolls over to look out his floor-to-ceiling port-hole window that reveals the guest gangway, and an impressive lineup of guests waiting to come on board.

DAVE

What are the numbers?

JEN

Most crew are betting the new hires will quit today. Our Chief Security Officer has scared more new crew than we've hired.

EMILY

Don't we want the crew to stay?

DAVE

Not if they can't handle every disaster that happens on a cruise ship.

JEN

Lennart.

LENNART, unknown age, Russian with a German name and German accent, wears his signature sunglasses along with very tight pants and a florescent green T-shirt. He pops in and stands in the room, silently staring.

JEN (CONT'D)

Betting?

Lennart starts fishing around his very tight, pants pockets.

DAVE

(to Jen)

Are you going to meet the new hire before her safety training.

JEN

No one was there for you on your first day, or mine. Even Emily got through her first day.

EMILY

(blissfully unaware of the insult)

Yep!

JEN

Why meet our new hires until we know they can pass the tests?

Lennart gives Jen some money.

LENNART

Never name a cow you're going to kill. When you eat it, you won't know if the meat is tough because of the kill, or because you loved the cow.

A very awkward pause ensues. Then...

JEN

Did you walk past the new hires again?

LENNART

My money is on the cows.

Lennart shakes his head in regret, knowing that chances are, he'll lose the bet. He walks out of the room.

JEN

Right. Okay, well I better continue the hunt for Chris so he can do some semblance of work.

Dave nods towards the window he's looking out of.

DAVE
He's down there.

Emily and Jen join Dave.

CHRIS, 20s, mischievous rich boy, tries to get the attention of all the guests in the lineup by waving at them frantically. He starts handing out one strip of TOILET PAPER from a roll he has to each guest.

EMILY
What's he doing?

JEN
Handing out single pieces of toilet paper to each guest and telling them that's their ration for the cruise. He did this on the last ship we worked on.

DAVE
Well there go our ratings.

JEN
(over walkie-talkie)
Chris! We have an hour and a half before the new guests are onboard. Crew gangway now!

CHRIS
(over walkie-talkie)
You can see me can't you?

JEN
(over walkie-talkie)
Yep.

CHRIS
(over walkie-talkie)
Oh are we betting on the newbies today? Put me down for a thousand against.

JEN
(over walkie-talkie)
Go get the new
Cruise...Entertainment Staff.

EXT. CRUISE SHIP - GUEST LINE-UP - CONTINUOUS

Chris chucks the roll of toilet paper in the air and walks away as guests dive for the roll like vultures.

CHRIS

Already did. Dropped them off cause
you said that if I didn't do my job
today I was --

CUT TO:

INT. TRAINING ROOM / CREW BAR

OFFICER CONNOR

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

Pen and Carlos share a worried glance at one another.

OFFICER CONNOR (CONT'D)

If you're too scared to continue by
the end of my demonstrations today,
you can leave my ship. If you're
not scared enough, that means you
don't care if you live or die, and
you can leave my ship. In fact, you
must have just the right amount of
fear to stay onboard, and I'll tell
you ALL if you're the right kind of
scared for this job.

CARLOS

(whispering to Pen)
Isn't our job hosting bingo?

Pen gives Carlos' lame joke a small giggle in an attempt to
flirt. Sadly, Officer Connor sees all and stares them down.

After a moment, ALL the rookie crew turn in their seats and
stare at Pen and Carlos who look like deer in headlights.

OFFICER CONNOR

Let's go see who the survivors are
shall we?

INT. RECYCLING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Officer Connor is now holding a 2X4 PIECE OF WOOD in hand,
while standing next to a WATERTIGHT DOOR with his Filipino
Security Guards beside him.

The rookie crew watch, eyes wide to make sure they don't miss
a thing.

OFFICER CONNOR

This is a watertight door. It is designed to stop thousands of pounds of water from rushing in and sinking the ship. It is NOT designed to stop once it starts closing. Do NOT get drunk and start jumping back and forth to impress your mates. I have six of those a year where one person turns into two.

The crowd's eyes widen.

CARLOS

(whispering to Pen)
That's insane.

Pen smiles and blushes.

PEN

(whispering/blushing)
That's nothing. You've never been stuck in a grain bin.

CARLOS

A what?

That was all the conversation needed to grab Officer Connor's attention. He stares them down.

Officer Connor nods to the Filipino Security Guards. One guard takes the piece of wood while the other pulls a lever.

METAL GUARDS flip up to signal for no one to pass. Yellow and red lights flash everywhere. The massive watertight door slowly creeps out of the wall.

A Filipino Security Guard holds the piece of wood in front of the door that slowly crushes and flattens the piece of wood as it finishes closing.

REACTION: Crowd's jaws drop. One new crew member faints. CREW MEMBER #1 walks away.

CREW MEMBER #1

I quit.

OFFICER CONNOR

That's one down. Now off to fire training.

Officer Connor gleefully exits with his security guards.

The hesitant, helpless rookies slowly lag behind.

INT. CRUISE SHIP - CENTRUM (MALL) - DAY

Crew members get shops and bars ready, while Jen, Emily by her side, does an inspection of all the areas.

JEN

Time?

EMILY

One hour till the guests are here.
How's my makeup?

Jen stops and inspects.

JEN

Looks the same.

Jen keeps walking with Emily trailing behind.

EMILY

I used a little less shadow around
the eyes.

Jen stops.

JEN

I'm not that kind of girl Emily.

Jen starts walking again.

JEN (CONT'D)

Okay how about the new bingo cards.

EMILY

The other Cruise Staff reported we
got them. But Lennart is still
complaining about dragging the
bingo board down to deck five every
cruise.

JEN

It's one game and we have to cause
the 'singles mingles' or as Chris
calls it, the lonely forties, got
switched from conference room to
lounge.

EMILY

He says one rogue wave could make
them trip and destroy the bingo
board.

JEN

He just doesn't want to move it.

EMILY

He said if we had two, one would always be ready if the other one had an accident.

JEN

Nothing will happen to it Lennart.

We reveal Lennart has been walking in front of them the entire time. He stops and turns around.

LENNART

It will...have...an...accident.

JEN

Go get the Welcome Aboard dance music ready. We're going to teach them the Electric Slide and Boot, Scoot and Boogie.

As he turns around and walks in the opposite direction.

LENNART

I used to be a physicist.

EMILY

God that'd be great.

Jen looks at Emily, confused.

EMILY (CONT'D)

I really need a drink right now.

Jen shakes her head and walks on.

INT. BACK LOUNGE - MOMENTS LATER

Jen and Emily peak into a room having a WEDDING. Unfortunately the fake priest is Zan.

JEN

Why is our Magician pretending to be a priest?

ZAN

Dearly beloved. Some would say love is like magic.

EMILY

Oh, you know how guests getting married can do it an hour before everyone else comes onboard? Father Patrick got sick so --

JEN

-- Why Zan?!

EMILY

He got ordained on a website. So long as we're docked in this state, he can marry people...I think...That's what he said.

CHRIS (O.S.)

(over walkie-Talkie)

Chris to Jen. Chris to Jen, over.

Zan hears Jen's walkie-talkie.

ZAN

(interrupting the wedding)

Did he find my motorcycle?

Jen waves Zan off.

JEN

(whispering to Chris)

What?!

INT. ENGINEERING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chris has some dirt on his face, as he and the Filipino Engineers continue repairs on the badly damaged motorcycle. A wheel falls off and rolls away. Chris shakes his head.

CHRIS

Just so you know, the new hires have walked past the engineering room and are off to I think the back deck for fire training. I count two less than when they started. I'm winning.

JEN (O.S.)

(over the walkie-Talkie)

What about the motorcycle?

Chris looks back at the Engineers and bike. Sparks begin to fly as they weld parts together.

CHRIS
(overly cheerful)
Still looking.

INT. BACK LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

ZAN
(to Wedding couple)
Then by the power invested in me.
By the internet website
www.ordainyourself.org, I now
pronounce you a married couple.

Cheap sparkles shoot out of Zan's sleeves as he spreads his arms wide. The wedding party torn between amazed and confused at the overly dazzled Priest.

Jen rolls her eyes.

JEN
(to Emily)
Come on.

Jen and Emily leave.

INT. BACK DECK - LATER

Half the group is shaking and inexplicably soaking wet. A dry Carlos and Pen look nervous as they watch the demonstration.

The Filipino Security Guards, and some engineers, set the massive MARINE FIRE HOSE back up.

OFFICER CONNOR
In a minute, I want two more
volunteers.

PEN
(whispering to Carlos)
So you broke up with your
girlfriend before you came onboard?

CARLOS
(whispering back)
We were eventually going to break
up anyways. She had a temper. And
she loved her routine. Wasn't much
into going on adventures.

PEN
(nervous laugh)
Yeah routines suck.

CARLOS
I just hoped that eventually I'd
find someone who was adventurous.
You know, grasped onto life and
took hold, you know?

PEN
(scoff sound)
Oh totally.

OFFICER CONNOR
Who's next?

Pen raises her hand before she realizes she has.

OFFICER CONNOR (CONT'D)
You're tiny. I need a big guy
behind you.

CARLOS
(shrugging)
I'll do it.

Officer Connor signals them to come over to the hose.

CARLOS (CONT'D)
(whispering to Pen)
I got your back.

PEN
(ugly, nervous laugh)
Haahaa okay.

Pen picks up the heavy fire hose and tries to position herself.

OFFICER CONNOR
Wider stance, head down. You're not
putting out a scented candle.

PEN
That's sexist.

CARLOS
(to Officer Connor)
Dude, you have to try lavender.

Officer Connor stares them down.

Carlos and Pen shrug it off. Pen widens her stance while Carlos' romantically massive hands lay themselves on her back.

This catches her off-guard and forces her to take a deep breath.

CARLOS (CONT'D)

You okay?

PEN

Mmmhmmm.

Officer Connor signals the bored Filipino engineers and security who turn on the water to the hose.

An incredible force of water shoots out of the hose, innocently spraying into the ocean.

Pen holds on with all of her might. Water is spraying all over her nice clothes. She grits her teeth with determination, but the hose's power is too much. She slips away from Carlos' grip and flies into a corner.

OFFICER CONNOR

Next!

Pen shakes her head as a sexy drenched Carlos rushes over and offers a hand. His shirt is predictably see-through.

CARLOS

You okay?

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

PEN

I'm oka...actually I'm just gonna sit here for a moment.

Carlos looks back to Officer Connor, which gives Pen a moment to creepishly check out his abs. He turns back to Pen who smiles innocently.

INT. TRAINING ROOM / CREW BAR - CONTINUOUS

A soaking wet crowd enter the training room and take their seats.

Officer Connor and his Security Guards are already at the front of the room, waiting.

OFFICER CONNOR

It's clear none of you know how to use hoses.

A drenched Carlos and Pen sit beside one-another.

Pen spots a pile of towels near Officer Connor. The rookie crew clearly want the towels but aren't brave enough to go near Officer Connor.

Pen looks at a beautifully soaking wet Carlos, clothes clinging to his defined physique, then over at the towels.

She hesitantly approaches the towels as Officer Connor and his security guards watch her. She's scared beyond belief but cautiously takes two towels.

She turns around and confidently walks over to Carlos and hands him one.

PEN

Here you go.

CARLOS

I think that was the bravest thing
I've ever seen.

Pen is overjoyed and starting to feel confident. None of the other crew attempt a towel-heist so Officer Connor continues.

OFFICER CONNOR

Put on the virtual reality headsets
next to your chair.

As they do, Officer Connor pulls up a menu on his computer screen with the button-options: Ship Sinking, Bomb Threat, Crazy Passenger, Crazy Crew Member, Crazy Crew Member versus Crazy Passenger, Acts of God.

OFFICER CONNOR (CONT'D)

Here are the ways you are going to
die.

He presses the first option: Ship Sinking.

The crowd, starts screaming, gripping their armrests, holding onto each other, standing up and looking around panicked.

INT. GUEST GANGWAY

Jen, Emily, Lennart and Dave all stand on guard, all dressed in their official, ugly pastel green suit uniforms.

DAVE

(to Emily)

How much time until we open the
doors?

EMILY
(checks her watch)
One minute.

Dave takes a deep breath.

Jen gets a text.

JEN
Okay I got a text from Officer
Connor. He's losing rookies
quickly. Apparently our two, Pen
and Carlos, are still surviving.

Jen looks through the window at the impatient line up of two
thousand guests waiting to come in.

DAVE
(to Jen)
How do you not get nervous every
week. We're about to welcome two
thousand judgmental guests who
already feel like they overpaid for
their cruise when in fact...they
did...they have.

JEN
I just try to tell myself
everything's fine and we're all
good. But I honestly think this
week, if we just show them a good
time, keep them fed and drunk, our
ratings are not gonna get any
worse.

EMILY
The Security Guards told me the
guests are bad this cruise. Like
mean.

LENNART
I heard they're more like Kangaroos
this time.

JEN
Somehow that's reassuring. I'll
take it.

Lennart apathetically shrugs.

JEN (CONT'D)
Okay here we go.

She opens up the doors and welcomes a flood of guests with millions of questions.

NEW GUEST 1
Where's my cabin?

NEW GUEST 2
Where's my luggage?

NEW GUEST 3
I have a complaint. That line-up...

It quickly becomes white noise as every guest interrogates them. Jen looks at Lennart.

INTERVIEW -- LENNART

LENNART
Kangaroos are assholes.

He sits there, staring down the camera.

BACK TO SCENE

DAVE
(to Jen)
I don't think we have this handled!

JEN
Everyone please just stay in the
line-up and we will get through --

Zan, still dressed as a priest, comes in and does another cheap sparkle light show out of the cuffs of his sleeves. It stops the guests in their tracks.

ZAN
It is a sin to harass the staff! Be
kind to each another if you want to
enter into heaven!

The guests, more confused than anything else, calm down and move in an orderly fashion.

JEN
(to Zan)
How did that work?

LENNART
Guests are also like moths.

ZAN
No one can resist a priest and a
magician at the same time.

JEN

Whatever.

CHRIS (O.S.)

(over Jen's walkie-Talkie)
Falcon 9 to Starship Enterprise.

Jen holds up her walkie-talkie. Zan is close enough to be able to listen in to the conversation.

JEN

What?

INT. ENGINEERING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chris is sitting on the repaired, and surprisingly mint-condition looking motorcycle. He gives it a few 'revs' of the motor. The engineering crew wave at him to stop.

CHRIS

Fine.
(to Jen)
Yeah I didn't lose the motorcycle.

GUEST GANGWAY - CONTINUOUS

CHRIS (O.S.)

(over walkie-Talkie)
I crashed it into a Jerk Chicken
food truck in Jamaica.

ZAN

He what?!

The guests finally, for a moment, fall silent, then carefully continue on as Zan fake smiles and laughs.

ZAN (CONT'D)

(to Chris)
I'm going to kill --

CHRIS

-- Heyo chillax.

ENGINEERING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CHRIS

The engineers say it's better than
ever now. It purrs like a kitten
with a slight cough.

JEN (O.S.)

(over walkie-Talkie)
That's great Chris.

(MORE)

JEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Now put the motorcycle backstage so Zan can get ready for the magic show, then come up here and help us with the guests.

CHRIS

You got it sir.

(to the engineers)

Thank you gentlemen. Now, let's open this sucker up and see what she's got.

The engineers sigh but help Chris by pushing the motorcycle out of the engineering room.

Once outside, he revs the engine, waves at the engineers and uncontrollably sends himself flying down the hallway. The engineers just don't care what happens to him as they walk back into the engineering room.

GUEST GANGWAY - CONTINUOUS

Dave is still trying to juggle multiple guests at the same time.

DAVE

We still have two thousand very impatient guests. We need more than Chris' help whenever he actually gets here.

JEN

To be honest, I'm now routing for our two new Cruise Staff. We'll need all the help we can get this cruise.

INT. TRAINING ROOM / CREW BAR - CONTINUOUS

The crew, still 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.

On Officer Connor's Computer, we see a live digital representation of the room. Overlaid on the tennis ball is a cartoon version of a bomb. All the crew on the computer screen have a cheap, digital, ugly AVATAR of themselves.

Officer Connor and his security guards watch, unimpressed.

OFFICER CONNOR

One of you has to do it.

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

PEN
(to Carlos)
I'm not going to fail again.

CARLOS
What?

PEN
I sucked at the firehose, I was scarred to death the entire plane ride to get here cause I've never been on a plane before, and I was too chicken to keep my vibrator.

CARLOS
Your what?

PEN
Never mind. I came here to prove I'm stronger than others think I am.

She takes a deep breath.

PEN (CONT'D)
(to herself)
And that's what I'm going to do.

She turns to Carlos.

PEN'S POV - VIRTUAL REALITY WORLD

Pen looks at the creepy, digital avatar of Carlos.

PEN (CONT'D)
Stay here. 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 --

Pen grabs his face.

PEN
Yes. And don't smile. Please.

BACK TO SCENE/ REAL WORLD

Pen stands up.

PEN
(to herself)
Heerrreeeee we go. Heerree we go.

She runs around the barricade of chairs, tables and luggage and throws herself onto the tennis ball.

The bomb on Officer Connor's computer goes off, but Pen's sacrificed body stops other's digital selves from dying. The simulation ends.

OFFICER CONNOR
Next time die sooner.

Carlos walks over and helps Pen up.

CARLOS
(smiling)
My hero.

PEN
(with pride)
It was nothing.

SFX: Motorcycle in the distance.

The crew turn and look at the open doorway that leads to the I95. A moment later.

CHRIS (O.S.)
AAaaahhhhhhhh!!!

Chris, on the motorcycle, zips by.

EXT. CRUISE SHIP NEPTUNE OF THE SEAS - NIGHT

SUPER: Like around 8 hours later or something.

A storm in the distance is already creating some 'choppy' waters. The ship is starting to slowly rock.

INT. CRUISE SHIP - THEATER - CONTINUOUS

A packed theater is engrossed in Zan's magic show.

ZAN
And now that the lines between
reality and magic have been
destroyed, it's time for the grand
finale!

BACKSTAGE - IN THE WINGS

Chris, dressed exactly like Zan, impatiently sits on one of the two motorcycles.

Jen holds a MOTORCYCLE HELMET while Dave is in the background, watching on bated breath.

CHRIS

So cliché.

ZAN

(on stage)

The disappearing motorcycle!

SFX: Weird techno music starts up.

SOUND BOOTH

Lennart, wearing sunglasses, bangs his head, enjoying the music he's playing. The audience is weirded out by the music, but as the light show on stage starts up, they brush it off and just keep watching.

BACKSTAGE

Pen hesitantly walks into the backstage area with Carlos, both still have their luggage in hand, both unsure as to what's going on.

Jen spots the two and rushes over. She stops like a deer in headlights when she gets a better look at Carlos' beauty.

JEN

Wow. Hey Chris you were right.

CHRIS

Right? Like is it genetics?

CARLOS

Is this about me?

JEN

Never mind. Hi, you must be Pen.

PEN

Yes I --

JEN

-- I'm Jen. We'll laugh about the one syllable names later. I'm sure we'll bond over it. Take this.

Jen grabs a nearby MOTORCYCLE HELMET. This one has a fake ponytail attached to it.

JEN (CONT'D)

When you're given the cue, give this to Chris.

CHRIS

(cheerfully)

Hi Pen!

Pen hesitantly waves at Chris.

JEN

So far today everything has worked out for me except I lost money off of you. But that turned out to be a good thing cause we need you. So don't disappoint. Oh and after the show, head straight up to deck 7 for nighttime Whale Watching.

PEN

Sorry, whale watching?

JEN

Yeah, it's your turn.

PEN

Oh.

Jen tosses the motorcycle helmet to Zan who puts it on while onstage, gives the audience a thumbs up and then walks off stage.

JEN

How was safety training?

CARLOS

Pen stopped the tennis ball bomb thing.

CHRIS

(impressed)

You're the first to actually stop the bomb.

PEN

One of the security guards said it was like I jumped onto the other building on my first try. It's a reference to some classic movie The Mattress.

CHRIS

Matrix! It's not THAT old! God I almost started thinking you were cool.

PEN

Oh.

Chris signals Pen hand to hand him the motorcycle helmet with attached ponytail. With it on, thanks to matching ponytails, you can't tell who is Zan and who is Chris.

Zan joins the group backstage and leans into Chris, visors kissing each other.

ZAN

If you ruin this, you'll --

Chris turns on the motorcycle and revs it which cuts Zan off. He salutes Zan then...

ON STAGE

...Chris drives on stage and parks. Lights now go even crazier.

BACKSTAGE

Zan runs away. Pen and Carlos have no idea what's about to happen.

ON STAGE

Chris keeps revving the engine of the motorcycle. The audience is loving it!

STAIRWELL

Zan bolts into a large stairwell containing the second motorcycle and an overly cheerful Emily who waves at him.

Zan hops on the motorcycle while Emily radios in.

EMILY

(over walkie-talkie)
He's on!

BACKSTAGE

Jen, with her own walkie-talkie, signals to the backstage crew.

ON STAGE

PYROTECHNICS and LIGHTS create a blinding FLASH.

Suddenly, Chris and the motorcycle are gone.

THEATER AISLE

Almost instantaneously Zan drives down the aisle and up a ramp onto the stage while the audience gives him a standing ovation.

Zan takes off his helmet and lets the praise wash over him.

BACKSTAGE

Crew are helping Chris drag his motorcycle backstage.

CHRIS
(pats the bike)
Well I'd say that was --

The bike falls apart.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Ahhh shit.

REACTION: Everyone is stunned.

Chris' fake ponytail falls off the helmet. Chris is more disappointed in that than the motorcycle.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Ohhh nooooo.
(to everyone)
Well time for whale watching.

Chris tosses the helmet to Pen and walks away.

PEN
Okkkaaayyy.
(to Jen)
Where do we put our luggage.

Jen sighs at Chris.

JEN
(to Pen)
Huh. Oh, later.

INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

SUPER: An hour or two later.

The ship rocks back and forth. Jen with a walkie-talkie, is next to Chris and Dave who are surrounded by amused BRIDGE OFFICERS.

Emily, Lennart and Zan are in a corner, doing card tricks. Everyone except a few officers are drinking.

Most are watching the action below: Pen and ANVI, mad-scientist and resident ship's filmmaker, who was the Unknown Filmmaker in scene one, getting pummeled by waves.

JEN
(into the walkie-talkie)
Okay do it again.

ANVI (V.O.)
(to Pen)
Okay last time! Let's go!

CHRIS
(to Jen)
So Pen and Carlos?

JEN
Not sure but she's into him.

CHRIS
Well we'll see who's gonna be in
who when --

JEN
-- Please shut up.

ANVI
(over the walkie-Talkie)
-- Time to go!

PEN
(over the walkie-Talkie)
There are no whales, there are no
whales! There --

Everyone holds their drinks and each other. The room shakes as a wave hits the ship. After a moment, everything goes back to normal.

CHRIS
That was a big one. How's Dave with
preparation for his father's
arrival next week?

DAVE (O.S.)
Finnnee.

Chris and Jen look at a wasted Dave who has his head buried in his arms.

CHRIS
Drunk or waves?

DAVE
Both.

PEN (O.S.)
(over the walkie-Talkie)
What?!!!

ANVI (O.S.)
(on the walkie-Talkie)
HHHaaaahahahahahahahaha!

CHRIS
(long pause)
Looks like Anvi told Pen Whale
Watching isn't a real thing.

Jen nods at Chris. They both take a drink in unison. Dave takes a drink a beat later.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
I love newbies.

JEN
Don't sleep with them.

Chris shrugs.

Another wave hits the ship. Chris and Jen look at each other, honestly concerned. Everyone looks out the window, down onto the bow of the ship; Anvi and Pen are no where to be seen.

A long awkward pause ensues. People look at one another, concerned. Chris, still looking out the window, just takes a long, slurpy sip from his drink. Jen reacts, unimpressed.

CREDITS

POST - CREDITS

INT. BRIDGE - LATER

Jen, Chris and everyone else are still drinking.

JEN
(to her walkie-Talkie)
Guys?

After a long pause.

ANVI (O.S.)
 (over Jen's walkie-Talkie)
 We're good!

PEN (O.S.)
 (over Jen's walkie-Talkie)
 Oh...my...god!

CHRIS
 (to Jen)
 Pen's probably pissed.

Carlos walks into the room.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
 She doesn't strike me as the 'oh I
 love being pranked cause I grew up
 in a hilarious family' type. I had
 to look up Saskatchewan. You want a
 glimpse of a future dystopian
 society --

JEN
 -- She won't be mad. Not while HE'S
 here.

Carlos walks into the room, dragging his luggage with him.

CARLOS
 Hi. Uhm are we going to get rooms
 at some point? It's pretty late.

Jen signals Carlos to join them.

CHRIS
 (to Jen)
 You invited him so Pen doesn't lose
 it on us. Clever.

Jen triumphantly nods at an excited Chris. Carlos joins the
 group. Chris snuggles up to Carlos, badly faking how drunk he
 truly is.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
 Sorry Carlos. These waves make me
 sooo dizzy.

CARLOS
 (to Jen)
 Is he really --

JEN
 -- No.

CHRIS
 -- Nope.

Chris goes back to normal as Carlos grabs a drink. A soaking wet, angry Pen, and a laughing Anvi burst onto the bridge.

EVERYONE EXCEPT PEN
Welcome aboard!

Pen spots Carlos and decides to bite her tongue.

PEN
(fake smiling)
I...hate...you...all.

An officer tosses Pen and Anvi some towels. Carlos joins Pen who acts like she needs more help than she does cause...well..it's Carlos. Everyone gathers around a table.

PEN (CONT'D)
Is it always like this?

CHRIS
Nope.

Pen looks at Chris, confused.

PEN
(to Jen)
'Nope' as in better or...

LENNART
Cruise ships are like the person you've had the best sex with ever. You won't marry them. And it ends with a crying child and a dead black bear at an abandoned train station.

DAVE
On Thursdays they serve mac and cheese in the staff mess.

LENNART
Your heart was the child.

A long pause ensues until...

CHRIS
And yes it gets worse.

THE END