

EXT. FLASHBACK - PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

A violent storm rages amidst a bright, yellow sky. Shards of ice CRACK and shoot upward. Wood SPLINTERS. A sleek, futuristic COAST GUARD CUTTER battles the storm.

SUPER: Pacific Ocean: Thirty Years Ago 2075

Bodies bloat the deck. They spill over the side as the wind changes direction. The ROAR is enormous.

A LONE FORM struggles upright. The Storm lifts it into the air. ANGUS ACKMAN, a worn 30 or so, crashes to the deck.

He screams "No" into the fray. The storm grows and spits in his face, swallowing the sound. He struggles up again.

The water throbs and presses Angus against a rail. The bow slices through a tremendous wave and tosses him across the deck.

An obscene, metallic THUD cuts through the din as he tries to stand. His face distorts in pain. He drops.

An eerie silence descends. Nothing moves, nothing makes a sound. Angus passes out.

CUT TO:

EXT. CUTTER'S COVE - DAY

SUPER: 30 years later. Pacific Northwest: 2105

Tall, efficient buildings line the upper hills of a ragged, coastal port town. Older, run-down buildings circle the shore at the bottom of the hill. It's the future and it shows.

A pair of worn sneakers hits the sand. A glint of light reflects off a metallic left leg as it runs.

Angus Ackman, now in his 50's, runs through the old-fashioned, bucolic streets of downtown, eyes straight ahead.

His wife LAUREL, a well put together blonde in her 40's, struggles to keep up.

LAUREL

Angus, you're moving too fast.

Angus furrows his brow and quickens his pace. Laurel's voice fades behind him.

EXT. FLASHBACK - CERBERUS ONE SHIP - DAY

SUPER: Cerberus One: Thirteen Years Ago

Angus hauls a frozen SEBASTIAN STEVENS, a stiff, rugged man, out of a deep snowbank on the deck.

Stevens gasps awake. Three men lie dead behind them, frozen to the side of the boat under a hot, summer sun.

EXT. END FLASHBACK - CUTTER'S COVE DOWNTOWN - DAY

Angus leaves Laurel behind as he reaches the bottom of a steep hill. He leans heavily on his artificial leg and starts upward.

A Girl's VOICE interrupts his determination.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Hey tin man, you leave your oil can
at home?

A slight girl with small-town good looks bounds across the street. She balances a box on one hip. Angus looks past her.

EXT. FLASHBACK - CAMBELL'S COVE DOCKS - NIGHT

SUPER: Cambell's Cove: Nine Years Ago

Through a fiery blaze Angus watches KEG, a massive, bulging Polynesian, pull bodies from a storage warehouse.

Behind Keg five lifeboats deform in the flames.

EXT. END FLASHBACK - CUTTER'S COVE DOWNTOWN - DAY

Angus reluctantly stops his upward climb and turns to the young girl approaching him.

PHOEBE "PIGEON" CRABBE pecks Angus on the cheek. Looking, for all the world, like the only person who can do so.

ANGUS
(curt)
Pidge. Your father have you
scuttling about?

PIDGE
Nah. Just some stuff for the bar,
some old books for me. They smell
amazing. Like a damp cellar.

ANGUS
They usually do.

PIDGE
Coming by for a bucket tonight? My
dad would be glad of the company.

ANGUS
I told you to stop asking me that.

PIDGE
I might... if you ever say, "Yes."

Angus is already jogging away.

EXT. FLASHBACK - OCEAN - NIGHT

SUPER: Cove Corporation Oil Tankers: Three Years Ago

OLIVIA MOORE, a stern, attractive woman in an ensign's
uniform, jumps off a sinking oil drilling vessel.

Angus screams as he steers a lifeboat in her direction.

EXT. END FLASHBACK - CUTTER'S COVE UPTOWN - CONTINUOUS

The nature of the bustle changes as he jogs his way up the
hill. People in uniforms and suits move with urgency. The
buildings reflect the sun.

At the bottom of a long set of wide, ornate steps, he passes
a sign that reads "Weather & Atmospheric Reconnaissance &
Rescue Patrol." He shoots past it up the steps.

EXT. COVE CORPORATION W.A.R.R.P HEADQUARTERS - DAY

A sprawling complex of glass and steel stretches beyond the
steps. The tops of the buildings taper in the sky.

Angus runs past a fountain depicting an old-fashioned Coast
Guard rescue. He stops dead. He's done running.

He waits for Laurel to catch up. His eyes drift past her. She
reaches him.

LAUREL
So much for breakfast. At least now
I'll have time to get cleaned up
before you meet with the Board.

ANGUS

You don't need to be here. It's nothing. Formalities for the transition.

LAUREL

Angus, it's not a problem.

ANGUS

Go home.

She eyes him for a moment. He stands rigid, his mechanical leg planted firmly as he massages the flesh above it.

LAUREL

I want to be there for you.

ANGUS

I don't need you here.

He turns and disappears into the building. Laurel watches him go, a determined expression on her face.

INT. HEADQUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Angus enters and approaches a security desk. Olivia Moore stands on the other side, a uniform folded over her arm.

OLIVIA MOORE

Captain Ackman. Cutting it a little close. You barely have time to change.

An OFFICER approaches and performs a security check. Angus proceeds. He and Olivia Moore walk briskly through the long, cavernous halls.

ANGUS

Make sure all new recruit files are forwarded to my hand-held.

OLIVIA MOORE

Yes, sir.

ANGUS

And tell Lieutenant Stevens to be less creative with his appointments. If I say someone's down in the lab, they're down in the lab.

OLIVIA MOORE

Of course, sir.

They arrive at a rest room.

ANGUS

And Lieutenant Commander Moore?

OLIVIA MOORE

Sir?

ANGUS

If I were you I'd worry more about
your reports than what I'm wearing.
Understood?

She nods. He grabs the uniform and pushes into the rest room.

INT. COVE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Hi-tech computer screens show stained glass windows along the walls of a welcoming, wide conference room.

Olivia Moore sits beside GENERAL HORTENSE, a weathered looking man with a concerned expression. IVAN MAPLE, an ancient man in a wheelchair, sits up front, distracted.

Keg stands at the back, behind a seated STEVENS, who wears a pair of EYEZ - two way picture in picture glasses. Pairs of them glow on several faces in the crowd.

Various Cove employees, from white to blue collar, pay rapt attention.

CURTIS PORTER, Cove Corps C.E.O, sits behind a powerful looking desk. Angus sits at a small table in front of it.

Laurel slips in and stands next to Keg.

CURTIS

...and this was around the time
that your first Lieutenant
Commander quit after filing several
complaints. And he's not the only
one. Would you care to address
them?

ANGUS

I already have. In my reports. It's
all there, Mr. Porter. To the
letter. We're here to move onto new
business.

CURTIS

Captain Ackman, I don't believe you understand the gravity of this situation.

Hortense whispers in Olivia Moore's ear. She nods and punches something into a hand-held digital tablet.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY

Cerberus Two, a Cove Corp. submarine, glides up to a tremendous TURBINE GENERATOR. Lights on the turbine FLICKER.

Wires slide out of the sub and plug into the turbine. Lights GLOW on the wires as data downloads.

CUT TO:

INT. COVE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Curtis taps a panel in front of him. The stained glass screens transition to images of graphs, charts, and videos.

CURTIS

I'll address them, then, shall I? October eighty-five, you were the sole survivor of the Nicodemus disaster. The rest of the crew was never found. An official review was dropped when satellite imaging showed several unusual storm patterns in the area of the ship. You've been considered a hero ever since.

Angus says nothing. His metal leg jerks up and down.

Stevens taps the side of his EYEZ. A red light changes to blue along the side.

STEVENS

(whispers)

This doesn't seem right.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

TILLARY SUTTON, a slight, handsome man in a Cove Airman's uniform, folds laundry in a small, tidy bedroom.

He gently hangs a W.A.R.R.P jacket in a wardrobe. Images from the court project from his EYEZ onto the wall.

TILLARY

You figured they might dress him down a little. For appearances sake.

STEVENS (O.S.)

This is something else altogether.

TILLARY

Good. Maybe you'll end up with your own command. Is that General Hortense?

An image of a much younger, beaming General Hortense flickers on the wall.

INT. COVE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

CURTIS

Ninety two. Three men under your command froze to death on a routine border patrol. In June. Your second in command could offer no explanation for the occurrence. Isn't that right, Lieutenant Stevens?

Stevens stands.

STEVENS

It's all in the file. Captain Ackman risked his life to save mine.

CURTIS

And earned more than a favorable loyalty by doing so, no doubt. Sit down Lieutenant.

Stevens is about to say something, but sits instead.

CURTIS

September '96, five lifeboats were destroyed in a fire in a Cambell's Cove holding facility. A - what was it, a deck hand? - was on the scene. He never filed a report. Sir, would you care to make a statement on your Captain's behalf?

Keg doesn't move. He just folds his arms.

CURTIS

December '02, an entire patrol of oil tankers - brand new, I might add - went down in the ice. Not one of their crew survived.

Olivia Moore quickly stands, ready to speak. Curtis waves her down.

CURTIS

Stand down, Commander Moore. You already have your appointment. We're considering Captain Ackman's.

ANGUS

(Flustered)

When did this turn into a review? I'm just here for the goddamn confirmation.

CUT TO:

INT. CERBERUS TWO - DAY

A small, efficient crew work as a tight unit around the pale glow of view screens and research equipment.

CAPTAIN SHEA, a red faced man, studies the main display.

CAPTAIN SHEA

I told them this was hogwash. It's just the display lights, isn't it? There's nothing wrong with the power. Pull the lines in. We'll switch out the leads and head over to the Landshark for some grub.

He watches the monitor. The external wires start to pull away from the turbine. When they run out of slack they get stuck.

CAPTAIN SHEA

Why are they still locked in?

The sub drifts away from the turbine, tearing the wires out. An ALARM sounds.

CAPTAIN SHEA

Goddammit. Get those lines in. I don't want them exposed.

The sub lurches drastically to one side.

CUT TO:

INT. COVE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

ANGUS

You know as well as I do how dangerous this job is. Sometimes people die. I do what I'm supposed to better than anyone else.

CURTIS

The fact remains - this Board is responsible for a tremendous amount of oversight. Every single person on this seaboard depends on our due diligence.

ANGUS

I don't understand this. I was hired because of my experience dealing with the perils we face out there every day with the situation that presents itself to every able seaman on my deck.

CURTIS

What situation might that be?

ANGUS

The one you used to understand before you traded your uniform for a well-tailored suit.

CURTIS

Surely you're not implying -

ANGUS

I've survived in the water's ebb and flow longer than you've been alive. Sometimes sacrifices have to be made.

CURTIS

That doesn't change the fact that your negligence gets people killed. As does your arrogance.

ANGUS

Go to hell.

INT. TASTEFUL APARTMENT - DAY

Tillary stops mid-fold. He turns his full attention to the courtroom scene projected on his wall.

TILLARY

Smart. Bite the hand that feeds you.

STEVENS (O.S.)

He's saved more lives than he's lost.

TILLARY

It's like he wants to get fired.

STEVENS (O.S.)

Back off, Till.

TILLARY

(Hurt)

Fine.

STEVENS (O.S.)

Things may never be any different.
No promises.

TILLARY

No. There never are.

INT. COVE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

CURTIS

All you're doing is proving my point, Captain.

ANGUS

Proving what point? This is only a formality. A dog and pony show before I get command of my new ship.

CURTIS

Your ship, Captain? The vessel you've helped design is property of the Cove Corporation.

ANGUS

Cove? I'm the one that's spent the last ten years customizing her with every advantage we need out there. Every advantage, Ivan -

CURTIS

Doctor Maple, Captain. Having discovered the resources that helped found the Cove Corporation, I think he's earned more than a little respect. Don't confuse yourself. You work for him.

ANGUS

(shoots Ivan a look)
Ivan?

Ivan doesn't say anything. A look of shocked anger crosses Angus' face. He fumes.

CURTIS

Captain, this hearing is to determine whether or not you're fit to continue Command at all. You'll be lucky to leave this court with your pension.

Angus stands without a word.

CURTIS

Sit down. You may not respect me, but you must respect my position. I've earned it. You were recruited to the Search and Rescue division because of your outstanding military record. I'm not here to take away the glory of your past heroics. I'm here to ensure the safety of every member of your crew, and every resident of this town. The job has changed, and from the looks of it you have too. You're no longer saving lives, but trading one disaster for another.

ANGUS

Ridiculous. I won't let you put me out to pasture.

He turns to walk away but Hortense stops him with a stern glance.

CURTIS

I served my time on deck. I have a great amount of respect for what you've done. But now I'm the one saving lives.

A strained silence fills the court as Angus tenses every muscle in his body. He's about to say something when -

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY

One side of the turbine EXPLODES outward, pushing the sub farther into the depths.

The turbine's metal FAN BLADES spin faster and faster. The water starts to SWIRL.

INT. CERBERUS TWO - DAY

The whole sub SHAKES.

CAPTAIN SHEA

The hell was that? Did the junction box just blow?

CEREBELLA OFFICER

The turbine blew, Captain. It's going vertical.

CAPTAIN SHEA

Christ. Get Angus on the horn. We're gonna need help down here.

CUT TO:

INT. COVE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Several alarms BEEP throughout the room. Olivia Moore responds first. She presses a small COMMUNICATOR into her ear.

OLIVIA MOORE

(listens a moment)

Captain, General, we've got a situation.

Stevens stands.

STEVENS

(whispers)

Tillary?

TILLARY (O.S.)

It's big. They've called me down to port. I'm in the air in ten.

Hortense approaches Curtis, who brings up images on his view screen. Several ships struggle to navigate a gigantic whirlpool that grows under them.

CURTIS

It's the main turbine twenty miles west of Crate's lighthouse. We cannot - repeat, cannot - lose that turbine. Do whatever you have to do to shut it down, but keep it intact. Do you trust Stevens to -

Angus leaps to the front of the court without missing a beat.

ANGUS

Lieutenant Commander Moore, brief the new recruits en-route. Make sure Science Officer Jane has everything she needs.

Hortense shoots Curtis a look. They both glance over at Angus. Curtis nods.

CURTIS

Fortyeight hours. Then he's done.

Angus motions to Stevens. The members of his crew stand at attention as he files past them.

He passes Laurel at the door.

LAUREL

Be safe.

He pushes past her without a word. Hortense follows behind.

HORTENSE

Captain - we have business.

ANGUS

In case you missed it, I just got fired. Take it up with Stevens.

Angus keeps moving.

HORTENSE

(stern)

Angus.

(Angus stops)

It's about your crew.

He pushes a button on a hand-held tablet. An image of a WELL-DRESSED YOUNG MAN flickers to life above it.

EXT. CERBERUS ONE DECK - DAY

ISAIAH COMMONWEALTH, the well-dressed young man, stands by a stack of crates.

Absorbed in a hand-held tablet, he pays no attention to the bustle around him as Cerberus One prepares for action.

JINGLE WELLS and ALICE SHELLY, two young, excitable recruits from the board room, rush up the plank.

SLAM. Jingle runs right into Isaiah. His tablet slides across the deck.

ISAIAH
Goddammit.

JINGLE
Out of my way, ding-bat. We have work to do.

ISAIAH
Watch where you're going, dammit.

Jingle turns on his heel.

JINGLE
What did you say?

ALICE
Wells, leave it alone.

JINGLE
Say what you said again.

ISAIAH
Pardon. I said watch where you're going, ingrate.

Jingle advances on Isaiah. Alice shies away behind him.

ISAIAH
(picks up his hand-held)
This is extremely delicate.

Jingle grabs him. A huge, dark shadow appears on the crates.

JINGLE
Officially I'm not on the clock.

ALICE
We're on deck.

The shadow grows.

ISAIAH

Really? We're going to fight? You think that's what makes the most sense at this particular moment in time?

Jingle brings his face closer to Isaiah's. A deep laugh interrupts them.

All three turn on Keg, who balances a harpoon gun over his shoulder. He watches them and says nothing.

ALICE

(looks down the gangway)
Jingle, it's the Captain. The Captain is coming, we have to go.

JINGLE

(looks at Keg)
The hell...?

Alice rushes him off. Keg stands and stares at Isaiah.

He lumbers off just as Angus and Stevens approach.

STEVENS

Tillary's in the air. It's massive.

ANGUS

This is what you're in for as Captain.

STEVENS

(Considers)
We'll get to the bridge and go from there. I'm sorry it happened this way.

ANGUS

Get to work.

Stevens peels from him. Angus passes Isaiah without stopping.

ISAIAH

Captain Ackman, I'm -

ANGUS

Stay out of my way.

Isaiah stops.

ISAIAH

I don't think so.

ANGUS
(Turns on his heel)
Excuse me?

ISAIAH
I've been appointed to this crew
for a reason. I'm here to help.

ANGUS
Now is no time for a science
lesson, boy. We have lives to
save.

ISAIAH
Now is the precise time -

ANGUS
Report to Science Officer Jane.

ISAIAH
I haven't had time to set up my -

ANGUS
Get off my deck.

The gangplank shoots into the ship. Cerberus One jolts into motion. Isaiah steadies himself as Angus strides confidently across the deck.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

Tillary guides Cerberus Three, a mammoth RESCUE HELICOPTER over the coast. The sun glares and the windows tint.

TILLARY
Lieutenant Stevens? Airman Sutton.
I've got a visual. What's your
ETA?

The MASSIVE WHIRLPOOL churns just off a thin peninsular outcrop. The top of the turbine spins beneath the surface.

Civilian ships pull away from it towards a Lighthouse. The WHIRLPOOL steadily picks up speed.

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE - DAY

A blue-lit, electric machine of a room whirrs and hums with life. Stevens stands at the command console.

The WHIRLPOOL fills the main display.

STEVENS
We're on course at 150 knots,
Airman.

Angus enters the room. He waves down their atten-hut.

ANGUS
At ease. Where are we?

STEVENS
Most of the civilian ships have
made it safely to shore. Captain
Shea is somewhere near the center.

Angus nods.

ANGUS
Officer Jane, get me a status on
the turbine. How bad is it?

DELIA JANE (O.S.)
I've gone over the information from
the sub recorders. They read
normal, sir. Nothing too severe.

ANGUS
Good. I need your eyes on that.
Dagmar? How is she?

INT. CERBERUS ONE BELLY

DAGMAR, a rough looking woman in a mechanics outfit, checks
dials and valves in a sprawling engine room. The room glows.

DAGMAR
Whistling along, sir.

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE

ANGUS
All right, crew. By the numbers.

He nods at Stevens.

STEVENS
Airman, we're approaching the edge
of the pool. Specialist Jones?

JONES, a short man in an unkempt uniform, looks up.

JONES
Sir?

STEVENS
Ready the Dradle. Just in case.
Eyes open everyone.

EXT. CERBERUS ONE DECK

Jingle and Alice busy themselves with routine maintenance.
Off away, Keg stares out at the water.

He presses a small, round, electrical device to his skin.
BUZZ. A tattoo appears. He scowls. BUZZ. A new one replaces
the old one.

JINGLE
(looks over the side)
Lord almighty, would you look at
that thing?

The ship pulls up to the edge of the enormous WHIRLPOOL.
Alice looks over at it.

She jumps back when lines of Whales and Dolphins break the
surface, swimming in a circle around the turbine.

ALICE
Ever seen that before?

Keg walks off without a word.

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE

The whole command shakes. Images go fuzzy.

STEVENS
Airman, what's going on?

A confused static hiss comes through the speakers.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN

Sea-Spray blasts the copter as he tries to pull it out of
range of the WHIRLPOOL. He gets some altitude.

TILLARY
Lieutenant Stevens, stay back and
clear 1000 yards. Do you read me?
Pull out now. It's changing
direction.

The WHIRLPOOL BURSTS a spout of water upward and slowly,
methodically CHANGES DIRECTION.

Cerberus One bobs directly into it, SPUN like a top.

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE - DAY

The whole room rocks back and forth. Seamen frantically turn dials, touch screens. The room stabilizes.

ANGUS

Report?

STEVENS

Sir... it's completely changed direction. The turbine must have reversed.

ANGUS

(mutters)

And they wonder why I need a better ship.

(To Stevens)

This is what you have to handle.

STEVENS

(brief hesitation)

Yes sir.

ANGUS

Is that a question?

STEVENS

(Quickly)

No.

ANGUS

Good. Keep your crew on point. You might have to blow the turbine completely.

STEVENS

Only as a last resort.

(Into COMM)

Delia? I need you to hack into the turbine's control console and shut it down.

INT. CERBERUS ONE SCIENCE CORE

Isaiah frantically pulls up images at a console behind DELIA JANE, a young, bookish woman with glasses.

She tries to keep digital charts and maps stable on a screen.

DELIA

Lieutenant Stevens, sir, I can't get an accurate read. I have that whiz-kid down here, but he says -

Isaiah pushes a COMMUNICATOR into his ear.

ISAIAH

It's the plates under the turbine. They appear to be cracking. The static is playing havoc with the interface.

STEVENS (O.S.)

I need it shut down immediately. I don't want to have to blow it.

ISAIAH

You won't. I can use the hand-held I designed to shut it down. It just needs a boost.

STEVENS (O.S.)

Then get up here. Tillary?

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN

TILLARY

She's moving too fast - I'm five miles out and it's spraying me at a thousand up.

EXT. CERBERUS ONE UPPER DECK

Olivia Moore runs from seamen to seamen, double checking their work. Sea foam sprays everything. The noise deafens.

STEVENS (O.S.)

Olivia, we're going to shoot mag-lines at the sub to tow her out. Make sure the topside crew is on its toes.

OLIVIA MOORE

(Shouts)

Good on all four, sir.

STEVENS (O.S.)

Dagmar - I want backups too. Delia, get Captain Shea online.

DELIA JANE (O.S.)
His sub is static.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN

TILLARY
It's vertical. You'll never get a
line out in time. The pool's
accelerating.

EXT. CERBERUS ONE DECK

As the WHIRLPOOL accelerates Cerberus One rocks aft and
thrusts hard in the other direction.

Olivia Moore, Jingle and Alice TUMBLE overboard. Keg
immediately dives after them.

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE

Stevens keeps his eyes glued to the main display as the
acceleration continues. Isaiah and Delia run into the room.

ANGUS
Blow the turbine.

STEVENS
Sir, I'm under strict orders from -

ANGUS
Blow it now.

ISAIAH
One second. Once I'm in, it won't
take a moment.

Isaiah connects his hand held to the bridge's main console.

ISAIAH
I've bypassed the security. It's
just a matter of -

His hand-held FLARES brightly, then goes dead. Isaiah looks
around hopelessly.

ANGUS
Useless. Jones.

JONES
Sir?

ANGUS
Target the fans.

Jones presses buttons on his console. A targeting reticule appears on the main display screen.

STEVENS
Officer Jane, get Lieutenant Moore online. Let her know to brace for impact.

DELIA
She's not responding.

STEVENS
Dammit, where is she?

EXT. WHIRLPOOL - CONTINUOUS

Olivia Moore spins in a ferocious swirl. She lets her body go limp, waits for it to drift, and swims upward.

An electric harpoon shines in Keg's hands as he swims past her. He points up. She nods.

Keg tears past her to a disoriented Jingle and Alice. Alice dips down in pain. Blood from her leg clouds the water.

Keg spins around them, letting the water work for him. A vicious DOLPHIN BASTARD swims by for a second pass at Alice.

Keg jams a harpoon into its belly. It goes inert and drifts off toward the Turbine's pull.

Alice's face grows wide with horror as an enormous ORCA WHALE rockets toward them.

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE

ANGUS
We're running hot. We can't wait.
Jones, fire the first charge.

JONES
(He taps the screen)
Charge away.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN

A torpedo zips toward the turbine. A terrific EXPLOSION follows the impact. The WHIRLPOOL absorbs the waves.

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE

The crew let out a collective sigh as the WHIRLPOOL appears to decelerate.

STEVENS

Officer Jane, set the stabilizers.
Once we've -

The ship LURCHES. The whole bridge SHAKES.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN

Without warning a huge CRACK fills the air. Tillary pulls the copter up higher.

The center of the WHIRLPOOL drops downward, swallowing the sub. The whole thing TRIPLES IN SIZE in an instant.

The lighthouse, twenty miles away, TOPPLES into the water with a surge of electrical flares.

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE

The crew scuttle from monitor to monitor, display to display. The electronics go haywire.

STEVENS

Get us back online. Quickly!

The lights FIZZLE. A grainy image of the center of the WHIRLPOOL appears on the main display.

ANGUS

It won't matter. Dammit, this is it. Get every one to the escape jettisons. Get them off the ship. I'm going on deck.

He quickly brushes past a shocked Stevens.

DELIA

Sir? Lieutenant Stevens! All the comms are down.

STEVENS

What the hell just happened?

ISAIAH

The plates must have cracked.

STEVENS

Delia?

DELIA

He's right, sir. We'll be under in five minutes, at best. We're going down.

STEVENS

Prepare to evacuate. And someone find Lieutenant Commander Moore!

EXT. WHIRLPOOL

Alice and Jingle pull into one another as the whale lunges.

Faster than he should be able to, Keg swims a chord around them and punches the Orca directly in the face.

The whale pivots around him and he jams the end of his harpoon into its blow-hole. It takes off.

The chord pulls Alice and Jingle after it.

EXT. CERBERUS ONE HULL

Olivia Moore connects herself to the hull with a magnetic harness. Blood sprays across her as the whale breaks the surface.

Keg hurls the harpoon at the ship and rides the Whale back under. Jingle and Alice appear at the end of the chord.

When she's secure, Olivia Moore pulls them in as the ship gets pulled further into the WHIRLPOOL.

EXT. CERBERUS ONE LOWER DECK

Angus stands completely upright amidst the devastation. Crew members slide across deck. Waves CRASH.

ANGUS

(Screams)

Finish it, then! Do you hear me?
Take it down! Swallow it whole!

Bodies are thrown over the side as the wind changes direction. The ROAR is enormous. Then -

The ship goes completely still and dark. Cerberus One is dead in the water.

Recognition of this EERIE SILENCE fills Angus' face. He stares directly into the WHIRLPOOL.

It clearly, distinctly, and quickly disperses. It's just gone. He turns and hurries into the ship.

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE

Angus walks in to the darkened bridge. The crew flounders. Monitors hiss back to life, lights flicker on.

ANGUS
(robotically)
Get the comms back on line.

Stevens taps a panel. Tillary's voice replaces the static.

TILLARY
I can see the sub. It's gone!

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

TILLARY
I repeat, the whirlpool has
dispersed entirely. Do you copy?

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE

The crew share a quick look of disbelief before snapping back into action.

ANGUS
Fire her up.

The ship comes back to life. Angus turns to leave.

ANGUS
Lieutenant Stevens, I'm in my
quarters. Get me full reports from
all stations. Every detail. I don't
want anything overlooked.

STEVENS
Aye, Captain.

Stevens hurries over to Delia. Angus walks out.

EXT. CERBERUS ONE DECK

Olivia Moore, Jingle and Alice collapse on the deck. Olivia Moore's on her feet and moving instantly, efficient as ever.

A shadow looms over Jingle and Alice. Blood drips on the deck. Keg holds a chunk of meat in his hand. He lumbers off.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

Tillary pulls the copter up as Cerberus One heads to the sub.

END ACT 1

ACT 2

EXT. CUTTER'S COVE DOWNTOWN - NIGHT

Angus and Stevens walk in and out of the HOVERING LIGHTS in silence until they reach the street.

STEVENS

Shocking. Not a scratch on the ship.

ANGUS

Something out there tried to see otherwise.

STEVENS

I suppose.

They continue on in silence. DOYLE, a messenger in a rumpled suit, runs into their line of sight.

DOYLE

Lieutenant Stevens, sir...
Lieutenant.

ANGUS

Christ.

Doyle reaches them. He nods a greeting. Angus ignores him.

STEVENS

Doyle.

DOYLE

Lieutenant Stevens, Mr. Porter wants to see you. He's with General Hortense.

STEVENS

All right. I'll be up as soon as I change. Captain, I'll -

ANGUS

Tread lightly, Captain Stevens.

Stevens walks off with Doyle. Angus continues on, a dark expression on his face.

He turns to a huge, glowing building atop a cliff. A bracing wind blows. He walks into it.

EXT. THE WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Angus approaches a retinal scan at a side entrance to a very HI-TECH research facility.

INT. THE WAREHOUSE

Several different labs occupy an immense space. Fan blades turn, engines hum, test crafts move to and fro. Angus moves through it, unimpressed.

Another set of doors opens on a smaller, though still massive room. 3-D holographic schematics of a ship fill every inch of it.

Laurel, dressed in a lab coat, rushes to Angus.

ANGUS

Where is he?

LAUREL

I watched the feed from the Whirlpool. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. Thank god they let you take the helm.

ANGUS

Where is he?!

LAUREL

I have some reports you should see. Analysis of the erosion, imaging -

ANGUS

Where's Ivan?

She pulls him into a --

CRAMPED OFFICE

Pictures of the two of them HOVER on the walls. Their wedding, their youth, their life together.

ANGUS

Something's not right out there, Laurel. Something doesn't feel right.

LAUREL

It's just today. You're always wound up after a mission. The lab will cover the data. Commonwealth is especially meticulous.

ANGUS
I saw something I've seen before.

LAUREL
When?

ANGUS
(Looks down at his leg)
You know when.

LAUREL
Gus... It's this job. Maybe what
happened with Curtis was for the
best.

Angus steps away from her in anger.

ANGUS
What the hell were you doing there?
I told you to go home.

LAUREL
Take your anger out on someone
else. I'm where you are. You know
that.

ANGUS
(Sags slightly)
I'm tired.

Laurel cradles his face in her hands. He jerks it away.

ANGUS
Hell with it. I'll go over the
files at home. Ivan owes me an
explanation. He didn't lift a
finger in there this morning.

Laurel looks a little hurt. He doesn't notice.

LAUREL
He's a senior member of the board.
He is the board. It wouldn't have
looked right. You know that.

They face off. He relents and kisses her apologetically
before stalking out.

INT. IVAN MAPLE'S OFFICE

Wild flora fills a wide, oval room. Fountains gurggle. Screens
FLOAT and display video from every facet of the Warehouse.

Ivan looks down on the entire lab. Digital images of the ship plug together, jigsaw pieces forming a whole.

He glances over when the door opens and quickly turns his chair to face Angus.

IVAN

What the hell were you playing at
in court today?

ANGUS

Me? You should have done something.
I've spent ten years of my life
designing this ship.

IVAN

And I've spent ten years building
it.

ANGUS

Did you know they were going to
screw me? Did you have a hand in
it?

IVAN

It's Cove, plain and simple. You
are relieved of your
responsibility.

Angus paces.

ANGUS

No. No, they need me. Especially
now...

He stops to face Ivan.

ANGUS

That whirlpool changed direction.
You saw it. It turned itself
around... with a kind of intent.

IVAN

What intent?

ANGUS

I don't know. Consumption, maybe.

IVAN

Nonsense. There are plenty of ways
to explain what happened.

ANGUS

Like what?

IVAN

Isaiah Commonwealth, for one.
Corrosive Algae. He's astute.

ANGUS

Is that why they appointed him?
He's practically a child. There's
no place for him on my boat.

IVAN

It's not yours anymore.

He wheels himself over to his genetically bred orchids.

ANGUS

There's something happening, Ivan.
Something familiar. I saw it with
my own eyes. I felt it in my bones.

IVAN

(rubs the bridge of his
nose)

Look. I was as surprised as you
were that Curtis did what he did.
But after today... maybe it's for
the best.

ANGUS

You have to get me back on deck.

Ivan smells his flowers.

IVAN

No I don't. Your drive served its
purpose. The ship is almost
complete. They have no use for your
pride, and I don't want to see it
burn you up.

ANGUS

(Advances on him)

My pride? You pathetic coward.

He slams the wheelchair back against the wall.

ANGUS

After that goddamn storm took my
leg, I watched it move away. Still
breathing, still drinking.
Understand? It did what it did and
it quit the boat. I never said a
goddamn thing.

(MORE)

I went on doing my job, always
feeling that for every life I saved
I should have saved more. Accepting
every twisted little disaster, even
when they didn't make any sense. No
more. Not after what I saw today.
Do what you have to do to get me my
ship. Call in every favor, pull
every string. Make it happen.

IVAN

No. I won't help you fail. I can't.

Angus hoists him out of the chair.

ANGUS

You can accept your own failures,
but I won't accept mine. I won't do
it.

He drops him down. Ivan rights himself in his chair. Angus
motions at the stumps of his legs.

ANGUS

Look at you, wheeling yourself
around in that chair. You could
build yourself new legs if you
wanted to. But you don't. That's
the difference between us. I'd grow
a new one if I could.

IVAN

And how would that serve this giddy
anguish? How would that help repeal
your sin?

ANGUS

My sin? You mean my conviction. I
took an oath a long time ago..."For
those who God hath no Mercy, I give
myself." You know it as well as I
do. Or have you forgotten?

IVAN

I see Mercy all around you, Angus.

Angus turns and walks toward the door.

ANGUS

And I see weakness all around you,
like a sickness. I'll get my boat
with or without you.

IVAN
Give my best to Laurel.

The door slams behind Angus. Ivan trails his fingers over the petals of an Orchid.

INT. LANDSHARK TAVERN - NIGHT

A wide, circular room made up to look "old-fashioned," curves around a scatter of people eating and drinking at tables.

Holograph projections cut quickly, almost subliminally from scene to scene. A smiling face with too many teeth advertises another perfect day in Hawaii, etc.

Isaiah and Keg sit a few seats apart at the bar. Isaiah stares at his hands. Pidge rushes in and grabs an apron.

PIDGE
Sorry, Pop. Had an errand to run.

ANSEL CRABBE, a thick man who used to be in good shape, playfully scowls at his daughter from behind the bar.

ANSEL
Daughter, the real marvel will be if you ever show up on time. Hit the planks.

She leans over the bar and kisses him.

PIDGE
Yeah, yeah. Keg, bucket up?

Keg nods. Ansel slides a bucketful of beer down the bar. Pidge stares as he finishes one in a single sip.

ANSEL
Shoo. Get to work.

Pidge drifts off to the tables, a digital pad in hand.

A can CRACKS, followed by the moist, electric BUZZ of Keg's tattoo machine.

The sounds shakes Isaiah out of his torpor. He watches Keg apply and re-apply different tattoos.

ISAIHAH
That's incredibly unsanitary. Not to mention out of date. Try this one. I built it myself.

He tosses Keg a smaller, similar looking device from his bag. Keg cocks an eyebrow.

KEG
You don't use it?

ISAIAH
No. Just a hobby.

Keg presses it to his arm. A brighter, more vivid tattoo appears. He slides over a seat and hands Isaiah a beer.

Jingle and Shelly shuffle in through the far door.

JINGLE
...and the bear says..."You didn't come here to hunt."

ALICE
Yes. You told that one already.

Jingle leans on the bar while Alice scans the room.

JINGLE
Short stack and a couple of frosty jars.
(To Alice)
Check it out, it's that puffed up peckerwood.

ALICE
Don't. He's not so bad. Kind of cute.

Jingle ignores her and leans farther over the bar, about to say something to Isaiah. Keg shakes his head.

Jingle balks. He and Alice take a seat at a nearby table.

JINGLE
(under his breath)
Hell is he, anyway?

Olivia Moore's voice answers him from the door. Delia and Jones enter with her. Jingle jumps a little.

OLIVIA MOORE
Keg's our Captain's man. Ears like a gull, Seaman.
(Taps her head)
Remember that. Evening, Ansel.
Whiskey, neat down.

ANSEL

You sure?

OLIVIA MOORE

Captain got fired today. Almost
lost the ship and I got my best uni
wet. Whiskey, neat down.

Ansel pours her a short one. Jones and Delia join Alice and Jingle.

ALICE

I've never seen anything like that
whirlpool before. And those...
fish. They didn't train us for
that kind of thing.

DELIA

Those weren't fish. They were
mammals. Warm-blooded.

Olivia Moore sits down beside her.

OLIVIA MOORE

Get used to it. Strange things are
our bread and butter.

JONES

I can't believe the turbines blown.
Cove's numbers will take a hit.
Ivan'll feel that on the market.

Pidge drifts by the table.

PIDGE

Evening, guys. Same as always?

DELIA

Same as always.

Pidge leans on the bar while Ansel prepares their drinks.
She punches panels on her digital pad.

Jingle motions to a PISTOL hanging behind the bar.

JINGLE

That's not electric. Are those
bullets? That can't be legal. What
kind of maniac has an actual gun?

PIDGE

Mind your manners, Seaman. Your
rank is showing.

JONES

Two still active in the Cove.
You'd do well to remember that.

ALICE

Who has the other one?

DELIA

Captain Ackman.

Jingle looks at the gun with real disgust. Pidge sets a tray of drinks on their table and strolls off down the bar.

JONES

They served together, Captain and Ansel. Ansel took over the bar right before the Captain lost his leg. Haven't spoken since.

JINGLE

Former Captain, you mean.

The veterans at the table tense. Delia raises a glass.

DELIA

Captain Angus Ackman. One mad, mean son-of-a-bitch, but I won't feel as safe on deck without him.

They toast.

INT. TIDY BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tillary arranges digital images on a screen at a small desk. Stevens stands by a bureau.

He holds his uniform up and stares at it. Brushes down the sleeves, smooths out the creases.

STEVENS

They need to reinstate Angus. I was a disaster out there today.

Tillary flicks off his screen impatiently.

TILLARY

No one blames you for anything.

STEVENS

They've got me hand-holding crab ships through the North West Pass tomorrow... with the Cerberus.

(MORE)

If that's not evidence of blame, I don't know what is.

TILLARY
Angus on deck with you?

STEVENS
(shakes his head)
He's done. He'll watch with the Eyez and sign the reports, to keep up appearances, but he's finished.

TILLARY
That's good.

Tillary watches Stevens slowly hang the uniform.

TILLARY
Isn't it?

TIME CUT TO:

INT. LANDSHARK TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Empty drinks litter Olivia Moore's table. More people crowd the room. Pidge deftly navigates the crowd up to the bar.

PIDGE
I saw him today.

ANSEL
Oh yeah?

PIDGE
Dad. They took his ship. You could at least -

Ansel turns red for a second. He CLANGS a huge bell. All the townies let out a "huzzah," tap their cans, and drink.

PIDGE
Fine, be that way for all I care.
What's with the suit?

She motions at Isaiah.

ANSEL
Dunno. Why don't you find out?

He smiles as Pidge saunters down to the end of the bar.

Isaiah focuses on his tablet. Images cascade by at an incredible speed. Pidge's voice catches him off guard.

PIDGE

Let me guess... journalist, right?
Come to do a piece on the -

ISAIAH

I'm on the crew of this ship.

He pulls up an image of Cerberus One.

PIDGE

Might want to update your
projection settings. The new O.S
holograms should work on every
system now.

ISAIAH

I'll be fine, thanks. Wait, what
was that?

He looks up at her for the first time. He SEE'S her.

PIDGE

See, here, if you align the -

She leans over his tablet. She doesn't know what to touch.

PIDGE

Wait, where did you get this? This
is just the preliminary display.
What system is this?

ISAIAH

Sub menus... there we go. Here are
the layer algorithms.

A more detailed image of Cerberus One springs to life.
Isaiah changes its dimensions, zooms in and out; the works.

PIDGE

Impressive mapping. Where did you
get the code?

ISAIAH

I wrote it.

She looks impressed. But only for a second.

PIDGE

I did something like that with this
here. Not as fancy.

She waves her pad at him.

PIDGE

It's just a simple order pad, but I rigged it so it keeps track of everything. The whole Cove.

She quickly and expertly traverses her design.

PIDGE

Inventory, accounts, orders. It can do a whole lot more too. I'll show -

JINGLE (O.S.)

Oi, we get some service down here?

They look over at Olivia Moore's table. Jingle waves an empty glass at Pidge. Olivia Moore glares at him.

OLIVIA MOORE

Leave it out.

JINGLE

What? I've got up a perishing thirst.

He turns back to the table.

JINGLE

So what's the story with this Captain of yours, anyway? He always lay down his hat when the weather gets a little rough?

JONES

I'd watch your mouth, son.

ALICE

He did give up, though. A friend of mine is on the Dutch over at Pacific Co. They don't pay as well, but she says it's a cakewalk.

OLIVIA MOORE

Lord. Show some stones.

JONES

There's no blood in the Captain's veins. Only salt water.

JINGLE

I signed up with Cove because they help make the world a better place, and I believe in what they do.

(MORE)

Not to go down with the ship
because of some puff-pastry who
doesn't know his ass from his
elbow. You ask me, it's goddamn
good he got fired.

The table CRASHES over. Olivia Moore grabs Jingle by the throat. Jingle forces out of her grip and DECKS her hard in the face. She hits him right back. That's all it takes.

The fight spreads to the surrounding tables. Locals get involved. Olivia Moore has Jingle on the ground in seconds.

Alice shoves Delia. Isaiah moves in front of Pidge, who pushes him behind her and clobbers Alice with a tray.

Keg sits and enjoys his beer. It gets mean. Ansel flips a switch. Three green lights turn red behind the bar.

PIDGE
(Shouts)
Blow the man down!
(To Isaiah)
Feet up, kiddo.

She jumps on a stool. All the regulars quick enough get their feet off the ground. Isaiah follows suit.

A CRACKLE fills the air. The floor glows blue with electricity. Those without their feet up crumple.

ANSEL
Any more of that and I get the
pistol down, understood?

The room recovers. Pidge spins around on the stool.

PIDGE
He'll use her, too.

ANSEL
It's a gun, sweetie. Not a woman.

Olivia Moore, Delia, and Jones hop down off their tables, unshocked. Jones helps Alice up.

ALICE
That's a dirty trick.

Olivia Moore belts a whisky and watches Jingle stand. His legs shake, his hand tries to find the bar for support.

Olivia Moore's Communicator goes off. She taps it. The chatter of the post-fight winds down even more.

OLIVIA MOORE
(Into COMM)
Oh Six-hundred. Got it.

She shoots the members of her crew a stern glance.

OLIVIA MOORE
Listen up. Lieutenant Stevens has a
line of crab ships to show through
the North West Pass tomorrow
morning. All hands on deck at Oh
Six Hundred.

Her crew settle back at their tables, full of murmurs. She
leans on the bar. Pidge pours her one last shot.

Isaiah approaches.

ISAIAH
All right, that's me done for the
evening. They call you Pidge?

PIDGE
They do.

He stares at her.

ISAIAH
Well. Good night.

Father and Daughter share a grin as he walks out stiffly.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Angus stands sweating by the water's edge in his running
gear. He leans forward on his knees and takes deep breaths.

Cerberus One comes to life by the docks. He jogs away from
it. A pair of EYEZ hang around his neck. They glow blue and
vibrate. He puts them on as the ship slides out to sea.

EXT. CERBERUS ONE LOWER DECK

Stevens joins Olivia Moore in front of the crew, lined up on
deck. They come to atten-hut.

STEVENS
As commander on deck, I intend to
live up to Captain Ackman's example
and run a fair and balanced crew.
Not a democratic one.
(MORE)

If you know what you're doing,
these two things won't come into
conflict. We're here to help
people, plain and simple. Grand-
standing, blow-hardening, or heroics
of any kind are out of the
question. They get people killed.
Lieutenant Commander Moore will
brief you on our mission. Be safe.
Be worthy.

They salute. He leans over to Olivia Moore.

STEVENS
Where the hell is Keg?

OLIVIA MOORE
Where do you think?

Stevens turns and walks off. Olivia Moore addresses the crew.

OLIVIA MOORE
The ice in the Northwest Pass can
be temperamental. In recent years
it's taken on a... how shall I put
this? A life of its own.

Olivia Moore shares the mission specifics as Cerberus One
heads out to sea.

EXT. CERBERUS PORT BOW - LATER

Jingle and Alice work. Jingle checks the lines, Alice works
on a lifeboat jettison.

ALICE
How's the eye?

JINGLE
It's fine. I just wish I'd gotten a
poke at that prick.

He jerks his head at the -

UPPER DECK

Isaiah stands, eyes on the horizon. He greets Stevens as he
passes.

ISAIAH
Captain Stevens.

STEVENS
It's still Lieutenant, Mr.
Commonwealth. For now.

ISAIAH
My instruments are set. Delia
wasn't much help, but -

Stevens turns on Isaiah.

STEVENS
This is how this works. You're a
civilian. Your presence puts this
entire crew at risk, so you will
respect the chain of command. Now
get off my deck and report to
Science Officer Jane.

He turns and walks off.

ISAIAH
She works for me, Lieutenant. As
does your entire science staff.
Check the appointment papers.

Stevens disappears into a hatch. Isaiah watches.

EXT. NORTH WEST PASS - DAY

A line of twelve crab ships bob in the water on the far side
of two huge, crackling sheets of ice. A thin line of water
snakes between them.

Two HYDRAULIC LOCKING ARMS extend, drill, and tighten
themselves into the sheets.

Lights FLARE to life on the crab boat decks. Cerberus One
pulls a 180 and faces the ice again.

STEVENS (V.O.)
Captain Gerard and fleet, this is
Lieutenant Stevens of Cove Corp.
W.A.R.R.P Division. We're going to
see you through one at a time. Our
Science Officer is sending over the
shipping order now. We'll have you
through in no time.

The boat pulls starboard. The ice is stabilized. The first
crab ship gets in position.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. NORTHWEST PASS - NIGHT

All but one of the crab ships rest on the other side of the pass. The CLAWS retract into Cerberus One.

It HOVERS along beside the final boat. The crab ship rocks into the ice and stops.

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE - NIGHT

An image of the crab ship shows on the displays. It stops.

DELIA
They've stopped, sir.

STEVENS
I can see that. What's going on?

ISAIAH
Their intake's fogged.

DELIA JANE
Can't be. The water's not cold enough.

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. ICEBREAKER - NIGHT

Angus watches Cerberus One through a telescope on the deck of a small, private patrol ship, THE ICEBREAKER. Behind him, Keg uses his tattoo machine.

A pair of EYEZ hangs around Angus' neck. Isaiah's voice comes through at a low volume.

ISAIAH (O.S.)
(Statically)
...take...gged.

He snaps on the EYEZ.

ANGUS
What did he just say?

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE

Baffled, Isaiah struggles with his instruments.

STEVENS
(to Angus)
We think their intake's fogged.
(to the crew)
Get me ears on Gerard's boat.

INT. CRAB SHIP BRIDGE

The small civilian crew rock back and forth as the ship turns more and more into the ice.

STEVENS (O.S.)
Captain Gerard, report. Do you
need a push?

WALT GERARD, an older man, motions to SULLIVAN, a younger woman in a grease stained jump suit.

GERARD
One moment, Captain. Sullivan?

SULLIVAN
Intake's fogged.

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE

GERARD (O.S.)
Nothing to worry about, Captain.
Our intake's fogged.

STEVENS
Get on it quickly. Temperature
must be dropping. That means the
ice is about to shift. I don't
want to have to burn you out.

GERARD (O.S.)
Understood. Gerard out.

STEVENS
Delia, ready the lasers. Just in
case.

ISAIAH
You won't need them. It's just a
core pocket. The ice sends them
out all the time.

DELIA
He's right, sir. We should ready
for a push instead.

STEVENS
Whatever's quickest.

Stevens touches the side of his EYEZ.

STEVENS
(quietly)
Kid was right. Nothing to worry
about.

INT. ICEBREAKER

Angus takes the wheel of his ship. He brings it around to
face Cerberus One, way off in the distance.

ANGUS
That's the kind of lazy thinking
that gets people killed. Bring up
the main view screen. I want a
closer look at what's going on.

Stevens points his EYEZ at the main view screen.

EXT. CERBERUS ONE DECK

The crew perks up as the speakers come on line.

STEVENS (O.S.)
Keep alert, Seamen. We might have
to push.

The crew rush to their ready positions. Jingle heads to the
lines, Alice to the anchor.

EXT. NORTH WEST PASS - NIGHT

Cerberus One changes position. The sheets on either side of
the crab ship PRESS in. It gets stuck as ice climbs its hull.

EXT. ICEBREAKER - NIGHT

Angus accelerates toward Cerberus One.

ANGUS
It's happening. I told you to pay
attention. The ice is climbing too
fast. The lasers better be hot. I'm
on my way.

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE

Stevens disregards Angus and focuses on the screen.

STEVENS
(into his COMM)
Dammit. We need to burn her.
Dagmar - lasers. Officer Jane, I'm
going out.

ANGUS (O.S.)
Stay with command. I'm on my way on
the Ice-Breaker. Ready the beams
and stand down.

STEVENS
With all due respect, sir, we've
been watching you for 30 minutes.
I'm Commander on deck. If you come
anywhere near this ship I'll have
to have you arrested. I'm handling
it.

He takes off his EYEZ.

ANGUS (O.S.)
Dammit, Sebastian.

Stevens moves briskly to a hatch.

EXT. CERBERUS ONE DECK

Olivia Moore emerges from below-decks. The wind picks up.
She pushes through it to Jingle and Alice.

ALICE
(glances over the side)
Look at the ice... it's halfway up
their starboard.

A massive LASER DRILL slides out of a compartment port side.
A beam shoots out. The beam goes from red to white as the
laser cuts deep incisions.

INT. CERBERUS ONE HALLWAYS

STEVENS
(into his COMM)
Dagmar, report.

DAGMAR (O.S.)
The ice is angling. Gotta expand
the beam.

STEVENS
Do it carefully. We don't want to
burn through their hull. I'll be on
deck.

EXT. NORTH WEST PASS - NIGHT

Cerberus One hovers to adjust its position. A LINE OF ICE
creeps up its hull.

The whole boat sways. The crab ship jerks down into the
water as the Ice Breaker arrives at Cerberus' starboard.

Angus and Keg climb up Cerberus' deck.

EXT. CERBERUS ONE UPPER DECK

Stevens moves quickly to the railing. He watches as ice
forms on the crab ship faster than the LASER DRILL can cut.

The crab ship is almost completely encased in ice.

STEVENS
What the hell is that?
(Under his breath)
I've never seen ice move that fast.
(Into his COMMUNICATOR)
Dagmar, heat it up.

He looks down at Olivia Moore, Jingle, and Alice on the --

LOWER DECK

Cerberus One blinks as the LASER DRILL surges with power,
melting the ice until the top of the Crab Boat emerges.

Stevens races down the stairs and across the deck. Angus and
Keg appear behind him.

Angus stares as a line of BLACK ICE forms on a cable. It
SNAPS as it pulls through a pulley joint, and SWIPES Alice in
the face. She staggers overboard.

JINGLE
Alice!

OLIVIA MOORE
(into her COMMUNICATOR)
Dagmar, kill the fire. Quickly.

DAGMAR (O.S.)
We can't do that. The ice is
moving too fast. If we cut it now
that crabber will go down.

They gather at the side. Alice hangs dangerously close to the heat. She looks up, terrified.

Stevens scans the deck. The BLACK ICE slithers toward the anchor in a jagged line. Angus and Keg reach him.

STEVENS
(to Angus)
Stand down, Captain. Stand down.

ANGUS
I know you saw that ice. Now get
the tow lines in and kill the heat.
We're getting out of here. Now.

STEVENS
(Dismissive)
I can't do that.

Keg grabs a mass of chains from a lifeboat. Jingle wraps a nylon chord around his waist.

JINGLE
I'm going down.

STEVENS
Negative, Seaman.

OLIVIA MOORE
(pushes Jingle back)
Orders, Lieutenant?

STEVENS
(Into his COMMUNICATOR)
Officer Jane.

INT. CERBERUS ONE BRIDGE

Isaiah shoves Delia out of her seat and responds.

ISAIAH
You need to shoot a tow line in
now.

(MORE)

The ice is growing too fast, the
lasers can't keep up. We have to
pull them out.

EXT. CERBERUS ONE LOWER DECK

STEVENS
(into his COMMUNICATOR)
Dammit. Dagmar, get a tow line out
under the lasers.

Jingle motions at Keg and the two prepare to lower the chains
to Alice.

ANGUS
Don't. The heat will melt the
chains right onto our hull, not to
mention the girl.

Keg drops his end of the chains immediately. Jingle shoots
Stevens a look. He reluctantly nods.

ANGUS
Sebastian, listen to me. You can't
save everyone. If we don't move
right now we'll lose the crabber.

Alice screams. The laser burns through her sleeve. Jingle
pulls the chord around his waist taut.

JINGLE
(To Angus)
I'm in the goddamn club aren't I?

He jumps over the side. The line of BLACK ICE covers the
entire anchor as he repels down the side to Alice.

JINGLE
Hey, Alice.

ALICE
I don't want to die.

Jingle smiles it off. He slips a GRAPPLE BUCKLE on her belt.

JINGLE
(With a grin)
No one ever does.

He slams the buckle with his fist. Alice shoots up the side
of the boat. Keg scoops her on deck with one hand.

Over the rising wind Angus realizes that "IT'S" happening again.

ANGUS

Lieutenant Stevens, abort the towline. Abort. We have to go.

STEVENS

I can't do that. I won't lose that ship.

(screams down to Jingle)

Cover your ears. The Lines coming out five degrees bow in four... three... two...

With a terrific ROAR a TOW-LINE shoots out. The BLACK ICE contracts on the anchor. It CRACKS and drops.

The anchor chain and tow-line tangle around Jingle.

The tow-line embeds itself into the crab ships hull. Ice immediately forms around it and covers the entire ship again.

Cerberus One leans more and more port. The ice encasing the crab ship doesn't melt under the heat from the lasers.

Stevens looks hopelessly at Angus as Cerberus tilts more and more. Angus takes his COMMUNICATOR and jams it in his ear.

ANGUS

(in to COMMUNICATOR)

Dagmar, haul anchor.

ALICE

He'll be cut in half!

ANGUS

(in to COMMUNICATOR)

Haul anchor. All engines forward. We have to tow the crabber while we still can.

A pause grows.

STEVENS

(Frantic)

Do it!

Angus looks down at Jingle, sliced through with metal chains.

JINGLE

(delirious)

I'll be all right, won't I?

ANGUS

No. You won't.

A slow WINDING starts. Everyone but Angus looks away. The WINDING gets faster. The anchor zooms up its chain.

Jingle is cut apart. Blood SPRAYS up the side of the ship, freezes immediately, and hits the deck like red hail.

ANGUS

(into the COMM)

Full speed ahead. Go, go!

Cerberus One lurches forward, strains against the weight of the tow-lines for a second, then zooms across the ice.

Metal CRACKS. Olivia Moore steadies herself and risks a glance behind.

OLIVIA MOORE

Christ, Captain! Captain Ackman!

He turns. The tow-line trails uselessly behind them. The huge mound of ice encasing the crabber sinks downward.

It disappears into the water. A familiar EERIE SILENCE descends; the water stills, the wind disappears.

Angus watches.

END ACT 2

ACT 3

EXT. DOCK - NIGHT

Angus stands at the end of the dock, in shadow. He watches the crew drift around him.

Stevens approaches Angus with a sympathetic, imploring look in his eyes. Angus slams him against a post.

ANGUS

I told you, didn't I?! I told you
to pay attention! Open your eyes,
Sebastian.

Stevens says nothing. The crew try not to watch. They fail.

ANGUS

You think you're a Captain because
they say you're a Captain? If you
don't ask yourself what the hell
you think you're doing, you'll lose
all of them. Every single one.

Stevens lowers his head. Angus slaps him.

ANGUS

You need to ask yourself if you
even have the right to be out
there. Who are you to those waters?
You're no one.

STEVENS

What did I do wrong?

Angus lets him go.

ANGUS

Asking that question is proof you
can't run a command.

After a look Angus storms off.

INT. LANDSHARK TAVERN - LATER

Isaiah, Pidge, and Ansel lean over their drinks in the empty bar. Keg sits alone with a bucket.

Isaiah sways in to another shot.

ANSEL

Take it easy, son. I already
cleaned the bar once today.

PIDGE

Cut him a break, Pop. He had a
rough day.

ISAIAH

(Slurred)

Goddamn physics is what it was
supposed to be. There's no way that
ship goes down. None way.

He spins on his stool for emphasis and promptly falls off.
Pidge moves to help him up. Ansel stops her.

ANSEL

Save your strength, daughter.
(Looks down at Isaiah)
It's not about physics out there,
son. The sooner you figure that
out, the better off you'll be.

He tosses Keg a room key.

ANSEL

You mind getting him up to his room
in the Merry Weather?

Keg polishes off a beer, hoists Isaiah over his shoulder, and
carries him out the door.

PIDGE

Dark day all around, Pop.

ANSEL

Even darkness fades. That's what
tomorrow is for, daughter. Now get
back to work.

He rat-tails a bar rag at her with a smile.

EXT. ACKMAN HOME - NIGHT

Set off the road, overlooking a cliff, the modern steel and
glass structure has a view of the entire Cove.

Angus walks up to the porch and looks behind him quickly
before opening the front door.

INT. ACKMAN HOME

He walks through the dark house - the streamlined living room, his old-fashioned study - in one fluid motion.

He enters the -

BEDROOM

Laurel sleeps. He comes to rest on the bed. She sits up.

With one look at his posture she instantly wraps her arms around him and pulls him back to the bed.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. ACKMAN BEDROOM - LATER

The two lie beside one another in silent repose. Angus, lost in thought; Laurel, lost in Angus.

Without a word, she slips naked out of bed, and disappears into the bathroom. His eyes wander to her handheld tablet.

He sits bolt upright, grabs it, and starts pushing buttons, easily circumventing her passwords and protections.

Laurel walks in, wearing a nightgown.

LAUREL

What the hell are you doing?

ANGUS

I'm looking for something. Some indication or clue of what's out there. Anything.

LAUREL

Those are confidential.

She grabs for the tablet. He shrugs her away.

ANGUS

I saw it again, Laurel. It's out there.

She grabs the tablet away from him.

LAUREL

There's nothing out there, Angus.
You're crazy if you think there is.

He snatches the tablet back.

ANGUS

Whatever it is, took down a crabber. The whole ship. With drive or... or purpose.

LAUREL

They were right to fire you. They really were.

He grits his teeth. She tries to take back what she just said with a look. It doesn't work.

ANGUS

You knew? You knew what I was walking into this morning?

She stares right at him and doesn't flinch.

LAUREL

I heard rumors. Senior board members and heads of staff are in and out of my lab all the time.

He leaps up and charges her back into the wall.

ANGUS

You knew I was getting fired and you didn't say anything? Who the hell do you think you are?!

She shoves him away.

LAUREL

I'm your wife. The same one who kept you sane after you lost your leg. The same one who built you a new one.

He looks at her in disgust.

ANGUS

A company woman through and through. I expect it from Ivan. It's beneath you.

LAUREL

And where do you think you'd be without it?

ANGUS

If you're not going to help me, stay out of my way.

LAUREL

Help you with what? Events you can't control? Tragedies you can't cope with? You've been doing this job long enough. I've seen you handle worse than this.

ANGUS

My instincts tell me this is different. You weren't there.

LAUREL

So what, only you understand why these terrible things happened, is that it? Only you can see the truth? God. Your vanity is enormous.

She pushes him away and storms out. He follows her into the -

LIVING ROOM

Laurel pulls on a coat.

LAUREL

They're better off without you on deck, your crew. The whole town is.

She reaches the front door and throws it open, Angus right behind her. What they see stops them in their tracks.

CUT TO:

INT. MERRY WEATHER ROOM - NIGHT

Keg walks into a dark, cramped room and plops Isaiah on a bunk. Isaiah struggles with his vest.

ISAIAH

Merry Weather? S'confusin. Happy rain? Maudlin hail?

Keg turns to face the window.

ISAIAH

You don't scare me.

KEG

No.

Isaiah drifts off. Keg watches the light in the Cove change. BUZZ. He presses a tattoo on his arm and nods.

EXT. CUTTER'S COVE - NIGHT

A very faint HISS begins. A single dark WAVE rises in the distance.

It grows by leaps and bounds until it blocks out the horizon.

With a quick sound of collapse, it SWALLOWS the entire Downtown.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. PIDGE'S ROOM - MERRY WEATHER - CONTINUOUS

Pidge opens her eyes. She is completely submerged.

She quickly swims for the only corner of the room not filled with water. She gulps down air, dives, and swims out to --

THE HALLWAY

Various guests swim in the general direction of --

THE LOBBY

Where Alice struggles to pry the doors open with frequent trips to various air pockets.

Pidge swims in, with a glance back to the hallway. She watches Keg move powerfully through the water. He pulls Isaiah and two other passed-out guests behind him.

Isaiah jolts awake. He pushes off Keg for an air pocket. Keg hoists the guests up to it.

ISAIAH

I have to get to my room. Get them out.

Keg nods. Deep breaths all around. Keg swims off with the two guests at a tremendous speed.

Isaiah swims up the stairs in the direction of his room.

EXT. CUTTER'S COVE - SECONDS LATER

The broken wave sloshes through the devastated town. Locals struggle out of the water, well above the roof line. The sign for the Landshark breaks the surface.

INT. LANDSHARK TAVERN - NIGHT

Pidge forces her way in through one of the half closed doors. She scans around for a place to get another breath.

One corner of the room has a tiny sliver of space. She swims for it.

She stops in shock. Ansel drifts lifelessly halfway between her and the air.

She grabs him and swims him to the corner. She pops up and holds her fathers face next to hers.

PIDGE

Help! He's not breathing. Anybody!

She forces her breath into his mouth. The water slowly rises.

INT. MERRY WEATHER LOBBY - NIGHT

Isaiah swims in, a re-breather mask around his face. He carries a case of them in his hands.

He slips one on everyone he passes as Keg slams his full weight into the door. It moves a little.

Isaiah swims over to him and slips him a mask. Keg points at the doors to the bar and makes a woman's shape with his hand.

Isaiah's case is empty. Keg removes his mask and motions for Isaiah to go. He squeezes Keg's shoulder before he swims off.

EXT. ACKMAN HOUSE - NIGHT

Angus and Laurel stand on the porch, staring at the devastation.

A familiar EERIE SILENCE sweeps across their lawn. Wind stops in its wake. The rustling disappears from the trees.

She looks at Angus' face and sees what he sees. Their eyes meet. She touches his shoulder apologetically and nods.

LAUREL

Whatever it takes. See to your crew. I'll talk to Ivan.

He springs to life at the sound of her voice.

INT. LANDSHARK TAVERN - NIGHT

Isaiah swims into the bar. There's barely any room left for Pidge in the air pocket.

He swims over and slips the extra mask on her. He tries to pull her away from Ansel. She kicks at him.

She takes off the mask and puts it on her father. Their heads emerge at the same time.

ISAIAH

Pidge! He's dead. Get yourself to safety.

PIDGE

I won't leave him. I won't.

ISAIAH

Keep the mask on. It's your only chance.

PIDGE

I won't leave my father.

The water level rises. They're almost out of room to breathe. He takes his mask and puts it on her.

ISAIAH

Go!

The water rises above them completely.

Pidge kicks off the wall, dragging her father behind her. Isaiah tries to follow. His last breath leaves his lungs.

His pace becomes sluggish. He floats.

INT. IVAN'S OFFICE

Ivan sits at his desk. A dozen view screens HOVER in the air in front of it, showing scenes of the Cove's devastation.

He talks into a digital recorder.

IVAN

Despite the destruction, the wave generators will be maximized after a push this size. Note - increase their overflow capacity.

(MORE)

The Drone Buoys will be salvaged
and their R.O.A readings will prove
invaluable. Loss of life should
prove minimal. Tragic, yes, but -

Laurel bursts into the room. Ivan grows quiet and softens.

LAUREL

Enough!

IVAN

Angus is seeing to his crew, no
doubt.

LAUREL

You need to do everything you can
to get him back on the job.

IVAN

That has nothing to do with me.

LAUREL

He's seen something out there. We
both have. He's driven, now.
Compelled. He'll do what he thinks
he has to, with or without Cove
behind him.

IVAN

You've wanted him off the ship for
years.

Laurel turns her face to the view screens. One of them
focuses on Angus in action.

LAUREL

I thought I did, but look at this
wave. Look at the readings from the
whirlpool. He's right. He'll fight.
I'm worried I'll lose him if he
doesn't have Cove's support.

IVAN

You won't -

She turns and leans across his desk.

LAUREL

I will. But if you get him his ship
I can -

IVAN

(Turns away)

What, watch him destroy himself and you along with him? Believe me, keeping him on land is the best thing for everyone.

LAUREL

Where's your courage?

IVAN

I don't understand.

LAUREL

I'm where he is. You should know that by now. I won't let him do this alone. I'll walk away from all of it. Cove. The Lab. Everything.

Ivan stares at her. Laurel stands firm. Ivan pushes a button on his desk.

IVAN

Get me the Board.

EXT. CUTTER'S COVE - DAY

Isaiah's eyes shoot open. He lies on his back in the wreckage of the Cove as dawn breaks.

Angus and Hortense direct the rescue operation.

Stevens stands at a line of dead bodies, instructing Seamen to cover them. Curtis is one of them.

Pidge sits off a-ways, her hands firmly clamped around her dead father's. She doesn't move.

Isaiah sits up.

OLIVIA MOORE

(rushes over to Angus)

Captain, we've got sailors under a capsized boat over... over where the Landshark used to be. The fuel source is compromised.

ANGUS

Cut them out.

OLIVIA MOORE

We can't, sir. It's a sinkhole. It's going to blow at any second.

Isaiah rushes over to them.

ISAIAH

Don't use force. We need to pierce
the vacuum. I just need... a
pistol.

OLIVIA MOORE

Captain?

Angus stares hard at Isaiah for a split second. Small sparks
flare from the boat. He reaches into his coat and takes out
his "old-fashioned" pistol, the twin of Ansel's from the bar.

They rush off. Isaiah arms, aims, and fires.

He crouches down by the side of the boat. Electric bursts
PUFF. It stops sinking. A small space forms under it.

Isaiah slides himself under, head first. The sparks stop.
Olivia Moore kneels to help pull him out.

Angus scans the shore. It's completely still. Pieces of
destroyed ships float uselessly into one another.

HORTENSE

Captain Ackman.

ANGUS

Sir.

HORTENSE

How many dead?

ANGUS

Twenty six so far. Should have been
more.

HORTENSE

Communications are back on line.
It wasn't just Cutter's.

ANGUS

I'd imagine not.

HORTENSE

(glances at Isaiah)
He's showing something.

ANGUS

That doesn't mean he belongs on a
boat. He doesn't understand.

HORTENSE

Not yet. His father was killed at sea, did you know that? Navy officer. Ship took fire. Half the crew went down. His father saved the other half.

Angus watches Isaiah pull people out from under the capsized boat.

He catches Stevens eye and nods. Stevens stands by Tillary, who covers Curtis's body with a blanket.

TILLARY

"Respect the rank if not the man."
Like he always said.

He and Stevens stare at each other as they salute Curtis' body. It becomes something different when they stand down.

STEVENS

I'm with him on this. After what
I've seen. You have to know that.

Tillary stares.

STEVENS

Look around, Till. What other
choice do I have?

TILLARY

Plenty.

STEVENS

I know where I belong.

TILLARY

And I know where you could belong.

STEVENS

Where you think, you mean. Angus is
right. No one else dies because of
me.

Tillary starts to say something but stops.

Angus motions at the two of them to get back to work.
Stevens covers another body.

STEVENS

No promises, remember?

Tillary watches him a moment before shooting Angus a look.
Angus ignores it.

Faint whispers get his attention. He turns to see Pidge speaking rhythmically to her father's body.

He moves to her side.

ANGUS
Phoebe. Look at me, Phoebe.

PIDGE
He won't get up.

ANGUS
He's dead.

PIDGE
No.

ANGUS
Yes. He's gone, Phoebe.

She begins to cry and shake in equal measure.

PIDGE
The bar...

He tries to lift her. She won't budge. He holds onto her and waits. She leans down and kisses her father's face.

PIDGE
Bye, Dad.

He gets her to her feet. They make it a few steps before she pulls away from him.

PIDGE
No.

ANGUS
Phoebe?

PIDGE
We talked. He talked to me, you know? Like an equal.

ANGUS
I know he did.

PIDGE
No. You don't. You huge assholes could have... you should have...

Angus stares at her, showing nothing.

PIDGE

You think he hated you, but he didn't. He felt guilty. Ashamed that he'd let you down.

ANGUS

He didn't.

PIDGE

Then why didn't you ever tell him that?

Angus stares at her with sadness.

ANGUS

I have work to do.

He motions two Seamen over and indicates Ansel's body. They pick it up.

PIDGE

Don't do that. Don't walk away from my family again.

He walks away with her father's body. She turns her attention to the ruins of her life; the bar, the inn. It hits her.

PIDGE

What am I supposed to do now?

Isaiah approaches and shoots her a look . She looks from Isaiah to Angus as he walks to -

THE SHORE

Angus approaches Hortense. A GLINT appears on the horizon.

HORTENSE

I've spoken to Curtis' replacement. It's bad news from up at Campbell's.

ANGUS

(Knowingly)
Those oil rigs lit up.

HORTENSE

Whole coast line is on fire. We'll need the best we have up there.

The Glint grows into the shape of a ship. Angus straightens up and walks directly to the water.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

THE MERCY PLEDGE speeds toward the devastation of Cutter's Cove. Angus moves right for it.

EXT. SHORE - SECONDS LATER

A confident, magnificent beast of a ship, twice the size of Cerberus One, bears down fast.

Almost too fast. A collision seems imminent.

At the last second the ship stops dead, turns itself around, and backs up to the shore.

Angus waits at atten-hut. Hortense joins him. The shell-shocked townies and crew slowly gather as a platform lowers.

Angus picks up a piece of flotsam and mounts the platform. It lifts him halfway up to the deck.

He slams the piece of wood to a bolt on the hull. It sticks. He turns to the people gathered below him.

ANGUS

This isn't wreckage. This isn't a piece of flotsam left to erode in the salt. It's our town and it's being taken from us. I aim to take it back. Anyone who joins me on this ship does so to continue to save lives, and to fight.

He takes a coin from his pocket and holds it high in the air with a wild expression on his face.

ANGUS

He who spots me the wicked wind's icy jaw will receive their due.

He presses a button on the platform. It rises out of sight. A murmur of skepticism and surprise passes through the crowd.

KEG

Huzzah!!

The rest of the crew join in with a rhythmic chant of "Huzzah's!!"

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. THE MERCY PLEDGE - DECK

The boat screams through the waves. It leaves almost no motion in its wake. The weary crew busy themselves on deck.

Isaiah approaches Angus at the tip of the bow.

ISAIAH

Captain.

Angus stares at the horizon. Flames roar. Huge shock-waves tumble away from them.

ISAIAH

Captain Ackman.

Angus nods. Isaiah joins him and watches a moment.

ISAIAH

Typical. They're using charges to try and blow the flames away.

ANGUS

Standard procedure.

ISAIAH

That doesn't mean it's correct. If you'll allow me access to your lead Science Officer, I should be able to get them out in five minutes.

ANGUS

And the shock-waves?

ISAIAH

They made them already. Nothing to be done but cut around them.

ANGUS

(grins)

We'll see.

They watch the flames in the distance grow larger, the shock-waves spiral toward them.

ISAIAH

You should know, Captain, that I'm a scientist. I judge a situation by what I see. I utilize my own experience. I don't put stock in idle whispers around a bar-room.

Angus offers a barely perceptible nod.

ISAIAH
I'll prep the lab. Those waves
look nasty. Captain.

He nods and walks off, his hands behind his back.

ANGUS
(over his shoulder)
Your father was a sailor?

ISAIAH
(stops)
He was.

ANGUS
What rank?

ISAIAH
(turns)
He was a Seamen's Apprentice.
Nineteen years old. Never met him.

Angus glances behind him. Isaiah's face shows no expression.

ANGUS
World is what it is. We go where
we go in it. Way I figure, trying
to make sense of that - in any way
we do - is all there is.

ISAIAH
(Walks away)
I couldn't agree more, sir.

Angus watches the flames grow larger and larger, the shock-waves closer and closer. He buttons his coat and crosses the deck. Every member of his crew salute as he passes.

EXT. CAMPBELL'S COVE - DAY

Miles of Ocean are aflame. Oil Rigs sway from side to side. One collapses completely.

The shock-waves grow in frequency and speed. One hits the Mercy Pledge dead on.

The ship disappears. The wave carries on. The ship reappears at its crest.

Clear, crystalline panels cover the entire deck. Rudders withdraw into the hull.

The Mercy Pledge launches off the shock-wave. When it hits the water it dives below the surface.

It disappears into the flames.

END ACT 3