

Rough Draft

By

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Year: The Semi-distant feature

Time: 12:00 a.m.

Location: The ocean

Depth: 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

The shots delves into the ocean. Going further and further into the depths.

A few fish swim past the camera as we dive further to the point where the screen goes completely black.

Save for one light down below. The camera zooms in on this solitary beacon of light.

It stops at what turns out to be a window.

INT. UNDERWATER BASE - NIGHT

Staring out the window into the blackness is 28 year old African American JENNIFER HICKS.

She is in a small bedroom with most of the essentials you'd expect from someone like her.

As sub-machine gun rests on the table, along with a shotgun, 9 millimeter, and some hand grenades tucked under her bed.

She has a rather tight grip on the dog tags around her neck and small beads of sweat form on her forehead.

HEATHER

You know there's nothing to see out there.

Jennifer jumps out of her bed startled. Pointing the 9 millimeter in her shaking hands.

HEATHER

(calmly)

Remind me... why do you have weapons with you?

Jennifer sets the gun aside and wipes her forehead.

(CONTINUED)

JENNIFER

Precaution. Never know what'll
happen down her Dr. H-...um Dr...

HEATHER

(chuckling)

Stop trying to pronounce my actual
name. We both know you can't.

DOCTOR HEATHER ZHANG is a few years older than Jennifer,
short cut hair, Japanese, and caring eyes.

JENNIFER

Sorry Doc. I know there isn't
anything to see. It helps calm me
down to be honest.

HEATHER

Is there something wrong? I'm not
that kind of Doctor, but I could
try to help.

JENNIFER

It's no big deal...and kind of
embarrassing.

Heather crosses her arms and gestures for Jennifer to
explain.

Jennifer sighs and opens her mouth when the base suddenly
shakes slightly. Jennifer puts her sheets into a death
grip.

Heather hangs onto the door frame until the shakes stop.

JENNIFER

What...what was that?

Heather lets go of the door frame and collects herself.

HEATHER

It's why I came here. Thought you
might like to see it.

Jennifer smiles.

JENNIFER

Alright. Just give me a minute and
I'll be right out.

Jennifer stares back at the window and Heather looks out
with her.

(CONTINUED)

From their sight everything out of the window looks green like in a night vision-ish way.

Jennifer can faintly make out something. It looks like...an octopus.

It gets closer to the window, but then something shocks it and the octopus swims off leaving a trail of ink behind it.

JENNIFER

I hate fish.

HEATHER

Octopi aren't fish.

Jennifer lightly hits Heather's shoulder and goes to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jennifer shuts the bathroom door behind her and turns on the faucet.

She tightly grips the sink before splashing cold water into her face.

She takes a long breath then turns the faucet off.

She dries her face, puts her hair into a ponytail, and exits the bathroom.

INT. UNDERWATER BASE HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

The door to Jennifer's room opens and she exits to see Heather waiting for her. They start to walk.

JENNIFER

So what is it you want me to see?

HEATHER

You'll see.

JENNIFER

As long as it isn't my commanding officer.

HEATHER

Exactly what did you do to him to get assigned here?

(CONTINUED)

JENNIFER

I don't want to talk about it. It was bad enough to give me a choice between being discharged or sent down here where nothing ever happens.

ALEX

You just haven't been down here long enough, Hicks.

ALEX HEDGE steps in the ladies paths. He wears the same military attire as Jennifer.

He isn't quite built, but he isn't scrawny either.

He has his black hair in a buzz cut.

Alex is also rather carelessly twirling his dog tags around one of his fingers as he circles Jennifer.

A bag is slung over his shoulders.

ALEX

(whispers)

I'll give you an hour...two tops before this place gets to you. They might even send you out into the dark depths beyond the protective field. Do you know what's out there?

JENNIFER

(dead pan)

Fish.

Alex smiles and loses his serious attitude.

ALEX

Pretty much. Yeah, I'm about ready to go nuts myself from all the boredom and I've only been here a few days longer than you. Had you going for a second didn't I?

JENNIFER

Maybe a micro-second Hedge. Now if you'll excuse us.

Heather and Jennifer continue their walk and Alex hangs back. His radio starts to buzz and he answers it.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

These things really do work all the way down here. I'm impressed.

SERGEANT ADAM

(on the radio)

Never mind that. What is Jennifer Hick's status?

ALEX

Oh, sir! It's you.

Adam clears his throat.

ALEX (CONT'D)

She hasn't done much. She has kept patrol of the areas you've assigned her without question.

SERGEANT ADAM

Good. See to it that she is fully occupied. Understood?

ALEX

Yes sir!

The radio goes to static. Alex walks off while whistling "In the Navy", heads for a ladder, and starts to descend.

INT. UNDERWATER BASE MAIN AREA- CONTINUOUS

Heather and Jennifer enter a bright and spacious room. Monitors showing parts of the ocean floor and spread throughout.

There is another break of seismic activity and everyone grabs onto the closest thing to them.

Jennifer stares at one of the monitors as it violently shakes.

JENNIFER

Should we be worried about that?

HEATHER

No. When the big one hits we'll have transferred most power to the shields to keep us safe...you can let go of me now.

(CONTINUED)

JENNFIER

Sorry.

INT. UNDERWATER BASE GENERATOR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The door to the generator room slides open and Alex casually steps inside still whistling.

He checks to make sure the coast is clear. Not a soul in sight.

He opens his bag and pulls out a small metal dish. He attaches it to one of the generators.

The dish glows and disappears into the machine. Alex smirks and rushes out the room.

INT. UNDERWATER BASE MAIN AREA- CONTINUOUS

Heather takes a seat at a computer and types in a few random keys.

HEATHER

This is the source of these seismic disturbances.

At the end of the room two metal doors suddenly open revealing a large window.

Like the view from Jennifer's window, the view is also night vision colored.

JENNIFER

Is that...?

HEATHER

Yep. Underwater volcano and a massive one at that.

JENNIFER

I didn't think they could form this deep.

HEATHER

Neither did we.