

FADE IN

BEGIN TITLES

INT. HOTEL BAR AND GRILL - SAN FERNANDO, PHILIPPINES - DAY

Outside there is a successful surfing school and up and down the beach we can see a small surfing industry - other hotels, eateries and surf shops. Students, instructors, and plenty of people in the surf.

Inside, RILEY (27) was born a male but now has all the outward attributes of a woman. She is a transgender woman and did not need surgery or makeup, nor is there a need to try and sound like a woman it is all natural for her. Riley looks and sounds NOTHING like a man. It isn't labored it is very natural.

Riley is waiting on diners, cooking and serving the surfing crowd. Riley does everything with a smile and grace.

RILEY'S MOTHER (68) is the clerk at the hotel desk. She smiles at Riley.

EXT. NAVOTAS FISH PORT - MANILA, PHILIPPINES - DAY

NOBLEZA (58) is the owner of 20 commercial fishing boats. He is out on the dock supervising the loading and unloading. He returns to his modest office.

INT. NAVOTAS FISH PORT - MANILA, PHILIPPINES - DAY

Nobleza sits at his computer; each vessel has GPS tracking equipment. He can see the location of his fleet. He pays some bills. He goes to the window and watches one of the boats leaving port. He walks out to the dock and examines food (milk, fruit, eggs and chicken) being put on a boat.

EXT. SCARBOROUGH SHOAL - SOUTH CHINA SEA - DAY

A Filipino fishing boat is busy harvesting their catch. Everyone is working even the CAPTAIN. They stop their work and look around. Ten Chinese fishing boats surround them. The Chinese crews on the boats are not working at fishing. The Filipino fishermen freeze, when they see the Chinese have moved near their boat and have automatic rifles pointed at them.

Suddenly without provocation the Chinese fisherman open fire.  
The Filipino fishing boat is riddled with bullets.

Filipino fishermen dive for cover and all manage to escape  
being shot. The boat however is riddled with bullets, some  
below the water line.

The Filipino captain fires an emergency flare.

END TITLES

The captain runs up to the wheelhouse and reaches for his  
radio microphone. With one in each hand, he addresses the  
situation.

FILIPINO CAPTAIN

This is the captain of the Princes  
Di. We are being attacked.  
International waters. Chinese fishing  
boats armed with automatic rifles.  
15.2191° N, 117.7403° E. Request  
assistance.

The captain reaches for the PA microphone.

FILIPINO CAPTAIN

The International tribunal ruled that  
both China and the Philippines have  
the rights to fish here.

CHINESE CAPTAIN

Look, there is a Chinese flag.

The Filipino captain looks at a rock sticking out of the  
water. There is a Chinese flag over the shoal.

FILIPINO CAPTAIN

It's wasn't there last week.

CHINESE CAPTAIN

And here you are in our territorial  
waters, without arms.

FILIPINO CAPTAIN

For generations, this has been a  
fertile fishing ground that has

provided a livelihood for fishermen from China, Taiwan, Vietnam and the Philippines.

CHINESE CAPTAIN

Things change.

FILIPINO CAPTAIN

We can't find new fishing grounds. Sometimes we can go for days without catching anything.

CHINESE CAPTAIN

That sounds like a personal problem.

A crewmember arrives in the wheelhouse.

FILIPINO CREW

We should have come with a smaller boat so we can sneak in under the radar.

FILIPINO CAPTAIN

I hate this cat-and-mouse game.

The Chinese begin to open fire again. It's just target practice for them.

Suddenly in the distance, we hear a military ship's alarm. The Filipino Captain looks out and there is a Chinese destroyer steaming toward them at flank speed.

The Chinese fishing ships disburse; they stow the weapons. They suddenly appear to be fishing.

The Chinese navy only laughs at the frantic efforts of the fishermen to save their boat.

INT. HOTEL BAR AND GRILL - SAN FERNANDO, PHILIPPINES - DAY

Riley is working at the grill, cooking and serving an Australian surf magazine PHOTOGRAPHER/WRITER. His photography gear and press credentials are on the counter of the bar. The writer thinks he is speaking with a woman.

WRITER

So you grew up here?

RILEY

I did. My father was a fisherman;  
when he died we sold the boat and  
bought this hotel.

WRITER

I'm sorry about your dad.

RILEY

Thanks.

WRITER

You were close?

RILEY

You might say that. We floated around  
for three days when his first boat  
sank.

WRITER

What?

(half beat)

Three days?

(half beat)

The open water?

RILEY

Sharks, thirst, eventually hunger.

WRITER

I don't know how you managed that.

RILEY

He slept and then I slept, in turns.

WRITER

How old were you?

RILEY

Ten. I was ten.

WRITER

Can I interview you?

RILEY

What for?

WRITER

The magazine.

RILEY

I really don't talk about it.

WRITER

I can understand that. Brings back bad memories?

RILEY

It wasn't fun, no. But my dad and I...

WRITER

Yea.

RILEY

Let's just say he gave me a break after that.

WRITER

Oh, yea. You guys were closer cause you went through that.

RILEY

Good thing.

WRITER

I see.

Long beat.

WRITER

This hotel was a smart move.

RILEY

Yes. I think so.

WRITER

Just you and your mom?

RILEY

Brother and sister, but they're in Manila.

WRITER

Older than you?

RILEY

I'm the baby.

WRITER

Can I take your photo?

RILEY

Of course.

WRITER

Move over there in front of the menu.

The writer snaps a photo of Riley and the menu, maybe for his magazine.

WRITER

So you're attractive. You seeing anyone?

RILEY

Here in this town?

Riley chuckles.

WRITER

What's wrong with this town? Too small?

RILEY

I'm not seeing anyone.

WRITER

So what is there to do around here?

RILEY

You can take me up to the Twist and Shout.

WRITER

That club at the other end of the beach?

RILEY

That's about the only place, if you want to go out at night.

WRITER

Sure. Let's.

RILEY

But I want to ask you a question. What if you find out that a lady is not a real lady? I mean what would your reaction be?

WRITER

A lady, what do you mean? Like naughty?

RILEY

No, I mean what if they turned out to be a man?

WRITER

What lady is a man, around here?

RILEY

Yes, a lady is a man...

WRITER

You aren't a man so what do I care?

RILEY

I mean mean "queens" they are male but dress like women.

WRITER

In my circle, professional surfer, I just don't run across many.

RILEY

Never?

WRITER

I saw a lot in Thailand, but... That's their problem.

RILEY

So...

WRITER

I don't get upset. I guess maybe if they tried to trick me... I would not like it.

(beat)

Why do you ask?

RILEY

Because I'm what you think...

WRITER

I'm not sure what you are saying.

RILEY

Because I'm not a real woman...

WRITER

What?

RILEY

I'm a ladyboy.

WRITER

Get out of here.

RILEY

I'm so sorry; I'm just being honest...

INT. SCARBOROUGH SHOAL - SOUTH CHINA SEA - DAY

The Chinese destroyer arrives and the Filipino crew all come out from their hiding places. They are blasted by a fire hose. Several are stuck directly with the stream of water and rolled over the deck. Many are injured with knees, elbows and head slamming into the deck.

The Chinese sailors laugh.

INT. HOTEL BAR AND GRILL - SAN FERNANDO, PHILIPPINES - DAY

WRITER

No!

RILEY

Yes. Really.

WRITER

It's an interesting phenomenon.

Riley picks up the magazine off the counter and flips through the pages.

RILEY

By the way, I'm impressed with your photography... you're smart.

WRITER

Now, let me ask you some questions about that...

RILEY

Yes. I don't want to hurt anyone.

WRITER

Frankly, I'm somewhat ignorant about such things.

RILEY

I don't want to play or trick you.

WRITER

But it's so hard to believe.

RILEY

Because honesty it makes me free...

(half beat)

I can't please everybody but it's nice if you can be true to yourself.

WRITER

Good. I agree. Thanks.

(beat)

In Thailand, the ladyboys...

RILEY

Just ladies.

WRITER

Okay.

(half beat)

You are naturally this way without any chemicals or surgery to pass for a woman?

RILEY

There's no surgery done with me... It's all natural... not like others do... No thank you to doctors. My mother would kill me...

WRITER

She hopes you will revert to being a man again?

RILEY

Maybe. She hopes.

WRITER

People, well... I didn't think you were a man.

RILEY

Well, I'm a woman trapped in man's body...

WRITER

No worries. I'm not judging. We probably will NOT be married you and I but of course we can be friends. That sounds reasonable I think.

RILEY

You have been all over the world. You understand maybe?

WRITER

I thought you were a real woman.

RILEY

Yes, a real woman by heart...that's why I'm trapped.

WRITER

Oh, well I understand.  
(half beat)  
How does this happen?

RILEY

I have no idea.

WRITER

Biologically? Generically? I mean  
mind over matter, but cause you don't  
look like a man.

RILEY

Thanks.

WRITER

Some gay men are clearly men and  
dress up.

RILEY

But they fail.

WRITER

You however...

RILEY

Well, thank you. I appreciate you  
saying that.

WRITER

It's in your mind you think?

RILEY

What?

WRITER

Your mind has the power to change  
your voice and your body? Or is it  
genetics?

Riley doesn't know the answer and just shrugs.

WRITER

I mean, if you had to could be become  
a man?

RILEY  
Never really tried.

WRITER  
What did people tell you happened to  
make you look sound and look like a  
woman.

RILEY  
An feel...

WRITER  
Help me out here.

RILEY  
I don't worry about it too much.

INT. SCARBOROUGH SHOAL - SOUTH CHINA SEA - DAY

The captain starts the boat and turns back toward the  
Philippines. All the while under the Chinese fire hose.

INT. HOTEL BAR AND GRILL - SAN FERNANDO, PHILIPPINES - DAY

RILEY  
I don't care what people say about  
me... this is me... I'm happy of  
being me.

WRITER  
Okay, that's good. Most people don't  
know you are a man?

RILEY  
They buy coffee or a hamburger and  
think I'm a woman.

WRITER  
Men flirt with you?

RILEY  
You did.

WRITER  
(chuckling)  
I did, didn't I.

RILEY

Some they know. But I don't really care if they know or not.

WRITER

You're free.

RILEY

What matters the most I didn't hurt anyone.

WRITER

Now about Thailand..

RILEY

Philippines is a completely different country from Thailand.

(half beat)

First, it is a Roman Catholic country and their religion does not accept us.

WRITER

So that gets in the way you think?

RILEY

Never been a hindrance for me.

(half beat)

And being unrecognized from our religion doesn't even stop us from believing in the religion.

(half beat)

For instance, I go to church every Sunday.

WRITER

Here?

RILEY

No, I go in the neighboring city.

(half beat)

There are three other ladies who meet there and we sit on the back row.

WRITER

This is incredible.

RILEY

That we go to church?

WRITER

You don't feel oppressed?

RILEY

It's not that we are prohibited or it's against the law; it's just that there's not so many of us.

WRITER

So tell me a story of some experience you had.

RILEY

You going to put me in your magazine?

WRITER

Probably not you, but the hotel and your café here.

RILEY

You will be shocked and you won't believe things that have happened.

EXT. NAVOTAS FISH PORT - MANILA, PHILIPPINES - DAY

The captain with the bullet riddled boat docks and almost runs into Nobleza's office. The fishermen exit the boat and they look a bit shell shocked.

INT. NAVOTAS FISH PORT - MANILA, PHILIPPINES - DAY

Nobleza sits at his desk and listens calmly to the story. The captain's gestures show he is still agitated.

INT. HOTEL DESK - SAN FERNANDO, PHILIPPINES - DAY

Riley walks past his mother.

MOTHER

Riley, where are you going?

RILEY

To put those towels out by the pool.

MOTHER

It can wait.

(long beat)

Your brother and sister can't bring themselves to tolerate your feelings.

RILEY

I know. But you can't force them.

MOTHER

Well, they were already in college when you were born. They don't know your kind heart.

RILEY

Thanks mom.

MOTHER

Your father knew what a strong person you are.

(half beat)

I want to tell you something.

RILEY

Okay.

MOTHER

I'm getting old.

RILEY

No, mom. You're still young.

MOTHER

Well, listen. I'm leaving the hotel to you.

RILEY

Mom.

MOTHER

Your brother and sister have money and property in Manila.

RILEY

They will be even more removed.

MOTHER

And you are so happy here.  
(half beat)  
The will is here.

Mother points to the open safe and she touches an envelope inside.

RILEY

Gee, mom. I don't know what to say.

MOTHER

Don't say anything, just be happy.

RILEY

This is a good building.

MOTHER

Enjoy it.

RILEY

You will outlive me, so go on.

MOTHER

It is a nice beach. Keep everything clean and you will never want for food or shelter.

RILEY

Thanks mom.

EXT. SEAFOOD MARKET - MANILA - DAY

The Riley's BROTHER owns a large fish market, he is in a suit and tie watching workers load and unload tubs of fish. A fish falls out of a tub and is mashed by the wheels of a cart. It is only worth a few pesos but Riley's brother notices.

BROTHER

I'm taking that out of your pay.

The worker turns to look at the pancaked fish. He looks at Riley's brother and knows the boss is serious.

BROTHER

Well, what are you looking at? I don't pay you to stand around. There are a hundred wanting your job.

The worker returns to work.

The Riley's brother's cell phone rings.

BROTHER

Hello, mom. Oh, it's you.

Long beat.

Riley's brother listens but then doesn't respond. He ends the phone call. He looks very stonefaced, without emotion.

He leaves the fish market for his black Mercedes Benz car. We see the luxury car zoom out of the parking lot.

INT. GRAND PALACE RESTAURANT - DAY

Riley's SISTER is married to a wealthy restaurateur/banker. There is a food CRITIC in the restaurant who wants to speak with Riley's sister.

SISTER

I know who you are. You're the food critic for the newspaper.

CRITIC

You don't mind if I ask you some questions?

SISTER

Of course not.

CRITIC

This is a historic building, how have you been here?

SISTER

1920. It's the restaurant of my husband's family.

CRITIC

And your husband can I speak with him?

SISTER

He doesn't work here. He is the president of the Metro Manila bank.

CRITIC

Okay, I see.

SISTER

Can I see your kitchen?

CRITIC

This way.

An employee brings Riley's sister a phone.

SISTER

Ma? Oh.

(long beat)

No.

Riley's sister is also stone faced and without emotion. She ignores the restaurant critic.

Riley's sister goes into an office, pulls a document out of her safe. She writes a few things on the paper, she puts it in an envelope. She takes the envelope and leaves the resurant. She gets into her luxury car.

INT. HOTEL BATHROOM - SAN FERNANDO, PHILIPPINES - DAY

Riley has been on the phone and ends the call. Riley's mom is dead and naked sitting in the bathtub. Eyes open.

It is a sudden and unexplained death. Riley is destroyed. Tears. Riley sits on the toilet but doesn't close his mothers eyes. Riley just stares at his mother.

INT. HOTEL DESK - SAN FERNANDO, PHILIPPINES - DAY

Riley is distraught and downstairs at the desk, when the coroner's office wheels his mother's body out of the building.

Riley's brother and sister enter unemotional and watch their mother carted away.

The sister approaches Riley. Clearly there is tension.

Riley's sister takes her jewelry off.

SISTER

Can you put these in the safe?

Riley turns and opens the safe. He gestures to his sister that the safe is open.

Riley puts two room keys on the counter and walks out to the pool. She sits and watches the sun set.

Riley's sister puts the jewelry in the safe and then glances to make sure Riley is not watching. Riley's brother positions himself where he will be able to see if Riley returns.

She goes through the various papers in the safe. She finds the will and removes it from the envelope. She reads it.

She nods to her brother, confirming their suspicion. She folds the original will up and replaces it with a will she has forged.

She nods to her brother and shuts the safe. Riley's brother and sister take the keys off the counter and go to their rooms.

Upstairs in her room, Riley's sister shreds the original will and flushes it down the toilet.

INT. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - DAY

The attorney charged with handling the estate, hands Riley's brother and sister copies of the will.

RILEY

Aren't you going to read it?

LAWYER

The reading of a will is a familiar scene in movies and mystery novels. Although it makes a handy and rather

dramatic plot device, lawyers don't normally read wills anymore.

SISTER

Here I will read it. This is my favourite part, "Riley you are a vile and depraved deviant of God's law and you are undeserving of my support. You will need to get a job and stop acting like a girl."

RILEY

Mother didn't write that.

SISTER

Didn't she?

The lawyer, the brother and sister all look at Riley like he's insane or delusional.

Long beat.

LAWYER

(to Riley)

Rather than do this, let me get you a copy of the will. That might expedite any contest of the will since you probably feel you were disinherited.

The lawyer leaves the room to use the copying machine.

Long beat.

SISTER

You need to be out by tomorrow. We are selling the hotel and you can't be there polluting the sale.

The lawyer returns.

LAWYER

(to Riley)

Okay, here is your copy.

(to brother and sister)

If anyone has any questions please let me know.

The brother and sister rise, shake hands and leave the room.

Riley sits in shock.

INT. VARIOUS WORK LOCATIONS - DAY

BEGIN FEMALE WORK MONTAGE

Riley, as a woman, works at a fish tackle shop and is then fired.

Riley works selling at a fish market and then is fired.

Riley works at a fast food eatery and again is fired.

Riley's physical condition, nutrition and health deteriorate at each stage. Riley's appearance of a well groomed female declines without the nice clothes and makeup. Riley loses some of the charm and femininity.

END FEMALE WORK MONTAGE

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

Riley takes her last few pesos and has her hair cut as a man.

INT. VARIOUS WORK LOCATIONS - DAY

BEGIN MALE WORK MONTAGE

Riley applies for a job at a convenience store, but the owner shakes his head there aren't any jobs.

Riley applies for work at a construction site and the foreman shakes his head there aren't any jobs.

Riley takes a job as a referee for a youth soccer league. But he is so run down and undernourished and faints on the field and has to be carted off. His boss gives him an energy bar and a drink, but we can tell from his expression there won't be anymore work.

END MALE WORK MONTAGE

EXT. STREETS OF MANILA - DAY

BEGIN THE BEGGING MONTAGE

Riley simply gives up and walks the streets.

Riley walks into his brother-in-law's bank. He is promptly escorted out of the building by security.

Riley approaches his brother at the fish market. All the workers are strong and physically developed from all the lifting. Riley appears to be asking for a job. The brother also looks at his small physique and even grabs his skinny "girl" arms. The brother shakes his head, 'no'.

Riley walks to his sister's restaurant and wants a meal. We can see from his gestures that he is hungry. He points to a meal left on a table not yet cleared. Riley sits down and finishes the meal. The sister leaves for her office. She picks up the phone.

END THE BEGGING MONTAGE

The police enter the restaurant, just as Riley is finishing the last fork full of food.

POLICE

Excuse me, they said you didn't pay.

RILEY

The people at this table before me paid. They have cameras.

Riley gestures to the security cameras.

The cops are befuddled.

RILEY

I'm just finishing what they left.

The cops are still befuddled.

RILEY

They ordered and ate. She left rather a lot. They paid. I'm just finishing what they left.

The police look around for a manager or the complainant.

POLICE

So...

RILEY

My sister is the owner. She invited me to sit down.

POLICE

Someone called us and said you couldn't pay.

RILEY

That's my sister. And she calls me a drama queen.

POLICE

Okay, we will go talk to her.

The policemen enter kitchen and then the office.

POLICE

He says he is your brother.

SISTER

I don't know that person. Last week he was a woman, so who are you going to believe? Look at him, is he a man or a woman?

The police think it is an odd story. But they return to Riley.

POLICE

You aren't under arrest, but you're going to have to leave, so come on.

RILEY

Okay, tell her thanks for the meal.

The police escort Riley out of the restaurant. Riley leaves proudly and walks out as a woman, however his appearance is that of a man.

People are staring and seem repulsed by having to witness the event.

RILEY

Enjoy your meal.

Riley sits on a bench and looks improved with a meal in his stomach.

INT. MCDONALD'S - DAY

Riley enters a McDonald's. On the television news, inside the restaurant, there is news of typhoon approaching the islands.

He sits at a table that hasn't been cleaned. He watches whoever is getting up. A woman with children have lots of food remaining on their trays. The woman gets up, but before she can get her kids organized, Riley offers to take the trays to the trash. The woman agrees and Riley takes the trays. Riley puts all the food on his tray and puts the paper waste in the trash.

He sits down and eats a few fries and two half finished kids meals. The woman, with the children, exits the restaurant unaware.

Riley is looking down at his harvest of fries. The manager of the restaurant approaches and looks down at Riley with a stern look of disapproval. Riley's con game for fries is over.

EXT. TRASH CONTAINER - NIGHT

Riley dives into a trash container for food. Other homeless seem to consider the container their territory. They beat Riley. The rain begins.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Riley gets up from the beating. The rain is heavy. The wind begins. Riley walks across the street and is hit by a bus. The bus doesn't stop. Riley limps away.

Riley finds a gate open to the port area. Riley finds a tool shed at the dock. He goes inside and sleeps on a piles of ropes and fishing net.

EXT. DOCK AREA - MANILA - NIGHT

The typhoon increases in intensity. Riley sleeps. But the wind reaches such a state that he wakes up. He looks outside and sees two men on the dock. One man is Nobleza and the other man is his EMPLOYEE.

The employee and Nobleza are in a heated discussion.

The ship behind them is about to break away from its moorings. Several ropes have broken. Other ropes are being frayed. The boat is in jeopardy of breaking away.

Finally, the employee signals he will not work and leaves the dock. The wind and rain is too dangerous for the employee.

Nobleza boards the ship and throws a rope down to the dock. It doesn't stick and falls to the side of the rocking ship. Nobleza exits the boat to the dock to try to tie the rope to a cleat. He fails. It is clearly a two-person job.

Riley exits the tool shed with heavy rope his own weight. We can't hear the conversation (the wind is roaring), but it appears that Riley is willing to help the man tie down the fishing boat.

Nobleza almost is blown off the gangplank, when he boards the boat again. However he manages to board the boat and throws a rope down. Riley catches it and ties off the boat. Riley knows exactly how to tie the rope.

Just then the frayed rope snaps. They have saved the ship.

Nobleza throws another rope over and Riley ties it off.

Riley fetches other ropes out to the deck. After a time, they have eight or more ropes holding the ship.

Riley returns to the tool shed and is so exhausted he sleeps on a stack of cardboard boxes.

Nobleza has trouble in the wind exiting the boat. He doesn't notice where Riley has gone.

EXT. PORT AREA - MANILA - MORNING

The Typhoon has passed over and the damage is apparent. The employees return the next morning and discover Riley in the tool shed.

Riley is hungry and standing with a group of macho men. Survival instinct tells Riley to hide his sexuality. Riley exits the shed walking as a man.

Several fishermen have seen Riley and are talking to him outside on the dock. Security is there, but it looks low-keyed.

Nobleza arrives and surveys the damage.

FISHERMEN

Sir, good morning.

NOBLEZA

(pointing to the boat)

We almost lost this one. I really didn't want to collect insurance on her.

Nobleza notices Riley is standing in the group.

NOBLEZA

(to the employees)

Oh, you found him.

(to Riley)

Sir, thank you.

RILEY

No problem.

NOBLEZA

What's your name?

RILEY

Riley Santiago.

NOBLEZA

(to Riley)

I appreciate your help.

(to the employees)

This is the man. We would have had a loose ship last night.

(to Riley)

Thank you. Come up to the office. I have something for you.

RILEY

Yes, sir.

NOBLEZA

Miguel left. Brought him down here to help tie her down and he just walked off.

FISHERMAN

No?

NOBLEZA

We'll never see him again.

FISHERMAN

That's too bad.

INT. RESTAURANT - MANILA - NOON

Nobleza and Riley sit at lunch.

RILEY

Thanks for the \$100.

NOBLEZA

Well you saved me more than that, friend.

RILEY

You are the owner?

(half beat)

Why were you out tying off your boat?

NOBLEZA

Good thing. If you want something done right, do it yourself.

RILEY

Your employee, he ran away.

NOBLEZA

It's not unusual. People don't want to die.

RILEY

But you were paying him.

NOBLEZA

It doesn't mean they have to give up their life.

RILEY

But, he was wrong.

NOBLEZA

How's that?

RILEY

I didn't die. It wasn't fatal.

NOBLEZA

He made a bad choice. In hindsight that is true.

RILEY

Well, your ship is okay.

NOBLEZA

So, tell me about yourself. How do you know about boats?

RILEY

How do you know I know about boats?

NOBLEZA

You know how to tie a cleat hitch.

RILEY

My father was a fisherman.

NOBLEZA

Oh, really. Where?

RILEY

North. He died.

NOBLEZA

Oh, I'm sorry. You were close?

RILEY

Yes. He understood me.

NOBLEZA

What about your schooling?

RILEY

I was the best swimmer in my school.

NOBLEZA

Good to know.

RILEY

It might be the only good thing I  
have been excellent at.

NOBLEZA

I wish I could say that I was the  
best of something at my school.

RILEY

You own a ship.

NOBLEZA

But still.

Long beat.

NOBLEZA

Where did you work before?

RILEY

I was a cook at my mother's hotel.

NOBLEZA

Oh, she has a hotel. Good.

RILEY

She died and I lost my way.

NOBLEZA

Oh?

RILEY

I was sleeping in your tool shed.

NOBLEZA

Oh, that explains. The ropes. You  
knew were to find them.

(half beat)

Wait a minute. How long have you been  
homeless?

RILEY

For a while.

NOBLEZA

There isn't any reason for this? No drug addiction? No criminal past.

RILEY

No.

NOBLEZA

You aren't a criminal?

RILEY

No.

(beat)

I was disinherited.

NOBLEZA

A shame.

(beat)

Maybe you can work for me?

RILEY

I would like that.

NOBLEZA

There is about to be a problem in the South China.

(half beat)

I need some brave employees, not afraid to fish.

RILEY

You've been having trouble-recruiting employees?

NOBLEZA

You can cook?

RILEY

Sure.

NOBLEZA

I'm going to give you another \$100. One of the captains is retiring.

RILEY

A party?

(half beat)  
How many people?

NOBLEZA  
\$100 worth.

RILEY  
I will be happy.

NOBLEZA  
If it works out, you have a job  
cooking.

INT. FISHING FLEET OFFICES - DAY

BEGIN COOKING MONTAGE

There is a small kitchen in the offices with pots and pans and some utensils. It's nothing elaborate. Riley dives in and cleans everything.

INT. MEAT AND VEGETABLE MARKETS - DAY

Riley walk through the markets. He spends a great deal of time selecting the best ingredients and negotiating the best price.

INT. FISHING FLEET OFFICES - DAY

A fishing boat captain is retiring and there are many at the celebration. The room is decorated very nicely. Speeches are made. The food is clearly a big hit. Nobleza smiles and nods to Riley.

END COOKING MONTAGE

Riley puts on makeup and sports women's clothing. Riley meets a man at a restaurant.

The man has a nice car and pays for an extravagant meal.

They go to a tiny apartment.

After rough and unfeeling sex, the man tells Riley...

MAN  
You can stay here, if you want.

RILEY

Really?

MAN

The apartment. It's yours. I can even give you a little money.

RILEY

You don't have to leave, you know.

MAN

Sure I do; I have a wife and three kids.

RILEY

You do?

MAN

Actually, I have two wives and six kids. One in Valenzuela and one in Makati.

RILEY

So far apart.

MAN

Better to keep these things far apart.

RILEY

And here I am in the middle?

MAN

Don't worry about it.

Riley is put back on her heels. And she must ponder her situation.

MAN

You can be my little bitch? Every Sunday?

Riley does NOT want to be homeless again and simply shakes her head.

MAN

Don't worry; I won't treat you too badly.

(half beat)

I'll see you in a week?

The man leaves. Riley doesn't like it but it's not the end of the world. Relatively, it's not bad; she has a roof over his head.

Riley puts her mark on the apartment, decorating and provisioning it.

INT. FISHING FLEET OFFICE - DAY

Riley, as a man, is waiting to see his new boss.

Nobleza is outside talking to a clerk. He motions for Riley to enter his office and wait. Nobleza remains talking to the clerk.

Nobleza has a huge nautical book collection in his office. Riley notices an open-water survival handbook from the Philippine Navy. He flips through it while waiting for Nobleza.

After only a few seconds, Nobleza enters his office.

NOBLEZA

So are you ready to begin work?

RILEY

It's a difficult choice.

NOBLEZA

What's so difficult?

RILEY

You are right. It's a silly idea I have.

NOBLEZA

Listen, you might not be a perfect match with this crew but it is the best I can do for you right now.

RILEY

Thank you. I will take the job  
please.

Nobleza goes to the shelf and takes down the survival book.

NOBLEZA

I noticed you looking at this.

RILEY

It's new?

NOBLEZA

Official Philippine Navy manual.

Nobleza gives him the book as a gift when he takes the job.

RILEY

I'll return it.

NOBLEZA

No need. It's my gift to you.

RILEY

Thank you.

NOBLEZA

I hope you don't need it.

RILEY

I've been interested since I was a  
young person.

Riley would rather hide his sexuality rather than endure the bad relationship and he certainly doesn't want to become homeless again. Riley will be a man for his boss and a woman for the man who owns the apartment.

EXT. MANILA - NIGHT

Their last night on shore, we learn the cruelty of the other members of the crew. They befriend Riley and take him to the GoGo clubs.

The fishermen with Riley are walking along the sidewalk. They notice all the homosexuals in one area. Their eyes become enlarged. SANTOS (Fisherman #1) walks past a gay bar and

notices DE LA VEGA (Fisherman #8) inside. De la Vega is dressed as a woman and standing very near a male lover.

Santos stops. He points. Several other fishermen see.

The Santos begins to enter the bar and confront (or attack) De la Vega. But the others refuse.

SANTOS

Come on. Let's get him!

The others are traumatized and won't enter the bar.

RILEY

Let him be.

SANTOS

What?

(half beat)

Maybe you want to go in and persuade him to come out here?

RILEY

No. It's just a free country. It's not against the law is it?

SANTOS

You're one of them?

Long beat. Everyone is looking at Riley for a reaction.

RILEY

I wouldn't be caught dead in a place like that.

And it's true Riley has too much class for a dive bar.

Just then it comes a rainstorm.

The men run and leave Riley. Riley runs with them for a block or two but doesn't get into the jeepney. Riley chooses to return to the bar.

Soaked by the rain, Riley enters the bar and we see him warning De la Vega.

RILEY

Those guys from the boat. They were just outside. They saw you.

DE LA VEGA

I need this job.

The guys in the group return to the ship without Riley. Riley must run back all night through the heavy rain to avoid being left ashore.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - MANILA BAY - DAY

The fishing boat is still moored to the dock.

The Captain has assembled the crew and is calling roll. This is our introduction to the crew.

FISHERMEN ON THE BOAT

#1 Santos  
#2 Abucay  
#3 Obusan  
#4 García  
#5 Flores  
#6 Rasay  
#7 Ramos  
#8 De la Vega  
#9 Mercado

Riley and De la Vega arrive late. Santos gives De la Vega a murderous look and motions with his hand to cut his throat. Santos then looks at Riley curiously.

CAPTAIN

Has anyone been stranded at sea?

Riley almost raises his hand but doesn't. Nobleza is watching all this from his office.

FLASH BACK TO SOUTH CHINA SEA - 15 YEARS EARLIER

Riley and his FATHER are floating around in the sea. Riley is 10 years old. Riley is being towed by his FATHER. They both have lifejackets on. Riley appears to be sleeping.

END FLASHBACK

Riley is standing on the deck afraid to speak up, but this is the chilling nature of discrimination. Riley is afraid to speak up for fear of exposure as a homosexual.

The Captain notices him 'almost' raising his hand and he questions him.

CAPTAIN

Cook, Riley, you...

RILEY

I experienced an ordeal as a child.

CAPTAIN

You were at sea without a boat?

RILEY

Yes. My father and I.

CAPTAIN

How'd that happen.

RILEY

The boat sunk. Typhoon. Engine quit, sir.

CAPTAIN

How many days?

RILEY

Three days, sir.

CAPTAIN

Not much fun huh?

RILEY

We almost died, sir.

The Captain respects Riley; the rest of the crew begin to dislike Riley.

CAPTAIN

What can you tell us?

RILEY

Well sir, you need food, water and floatation.

CAPTAIN

Exactly, there are instructions posted in the galley. I expect everyone to make themselves familiar with them.

(half beat)

Cast off.

EXT. MANILA BAY - FISHING BOAT - NIGHT

Riley works in the galley cleaning and organizing. He finishes his work and walks on deck. Santos throws a sucker punch and no one else sees it but De la Vega has been knocked out. Ramos crowds around and appears to be Santos' accomplice. They throw De la Vega overboard.

SANTOS

Damn homosexual.

RAMOS

We told him not to be on board.

The villains go under the deck.

Riley has been watching the entire incident. Riley throws a rope over the side of the ship.

Riley lowers the nets and the boat slows and stops. The crew members run on deck but it takes 10 mins to haul the nets aboard again.

The man in the water, De la Vega, swims to the nets and then swims to the rope. He holds on. In the dark, the crew doesn't see him.

RILEY

Hold on and I will come pull you up when the deck is clear.

INT. SUPPLY CLOSET - FISHING BOAT - DAY

Riley hides De la Vega in a storage space and feeds him.

INT. GALLEY - FISHING BOAT - DAY

Riley puts a decoration on the galley table. The crew begins to suspect Riley is also gay.

SANTOS

What the hell?

RAMOS

A table decoration?

SANTOS

It's getting too comfortable around here.

MARCADO

But on the bright side. The food is really good.

Riley has established himself as a good cook.

INT. BUNK ROOM - FISHING BOAT - DAY

Riley, spends his spare time reading the navy manual on open-water survival. Riley understands what exactly to do if the ship sinks.

Riley actually asks the Captain where the necessary items (life preservers, flares, beacons, etc) are kept.

RILEY

Captain, can I ask you about the life preservers? Flares and emergency beacon?

CAPTAIN

All that is on the notice I put in the galley.

RILEY

It's a very good document, but...

CAPTAIN

It doesn't tell you what you need to know?

RILEY

No, sir.

CAPTAIN

What?

RILEY

Floatation.

The captain opens a closet and inside are ten or so life preservers.

RILEY

Flares?

The captain opens a drawer beside the wheel. Inside is a flare gun and flare cartages. Also we see a pistol. Also there is a handheld (waterproof) GPS.

RILEY

Emergency beacon?

The captain points to an emergency beacon.

CAPTAIN

The GPS is right there.

The captain points to a strange box wired into the instrument panel.

CAPTAIN

Mr. Nobleza knows were we are all the time.

Riley nods and begins to leave.

CAPTAIN

Riley, I'm going to make you the rescue officer.

RILEY

Really?

CAPTAIN

There isn't any such position but... now you know where everything is, you're in charge of all this stuff.

The Captain doesn't inform the crew.

And true there isn't any such position, but Riley takes the job seriously.

Riley retires to his bunk and reads the safety manual.

When he reads the survival manual, he has a flashback when his father's boat was sunk and he and his father had to survive in the open ocean. The wind is blowing and the waves are 20 feet. It is a typhoon.

After the storm, the sea is calm but the father is exhausted.

FATHER

I don't want to die.

(half beat)

Your mother.

(half beat)

She won't have anything. The boat is gone. I need to get to shore to work for her retirement. So she has something when we are old.

Riley only listens.

RILEY

I'm so sleepy. My leg really hurts.

FATHER

Let me see it? You will have to lay back.

(beat)

That's it.

Riley lays back and his father lifts his leg out of the water. There is a six-inch laceration. It isn't missing any pound of flesh but it is clearly a serious laceration.

Riley's father takes off his belt for a tourniquet. He take off his shirt and puts it around the wound.

RILEY

What is it?

FATHER

I imagine it hurts.

RILEY  
A little bit.  
(half beat)  
Mostly, I just feel sick.

Long beat.

FATHER  
A baby shark bite, maybe.  
(half beat)  
It's not bad but you will have to be  
strong. A man. You understand.  
(half beat)  
Can you?

RILEY  
I think. Yes.

FATHER  
Just lay back and let me pull you.  
(half beat)  
We are going east.  
(half beat)  
Later you can tow me.

RILEY  
Yes, yes. I can do that. I'm not  
afraid.

Later, a coast-guard boat rescues them and on deck his father hugs and kisses Riley.

They are clearly tied by that event and it made his father more tolerant of his son's sexuality.

Still later... they return to their home. Riley, his mother and father have a group hug. Everyone is elated the ordeal ended well.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - SOUTH CHINA SEA - DUSK

Riley and the crew are working the entire day. They are bringing up fish in nets. They look around and they see many Chinese fishing boats and they expect trouble.

RILEY  
Why don't they do something?

CAPTAIN

When was the last time a Filipino  
boat in these waters was NOT  
attacked.

RILEY

Maybe a year.

CAPTAIN

So why do they just watch.

RILEY

Maybe there is a political solution,  
we don't know about?

CAPTAIN

Maybe, but I doubt it.

EXT. CHINESE DESTROYER - SOUTH CHINA SEA - NIGHT

Captain ZHANG and first officer CHIN are on the bridge.

Zhang has posted ten LOOKOUTS at spots around the bow and  
bridge, and they are sweeping the horizon with binoculars. The  
officers are all on deck as well, looking.

ZHANG

The task force is surrounded by  
Chinese screening ships, but American  
air superiority has forced us to  
travel at night with our lights  
blacked out. Make it so.

CHEN

Lights out.

The running lights on the destroyer are cut off.

Long beat.

The captain looks at the radar and then out the rear of the  
bridge and we see a Chinese naval flotilla, including an  
aircraft carrier. They extinguish their running lights also.

CHEN

It's pitch black out there with no moon.

ZHANG

That is the general idea.

Chen wipes the sweat off his brow.

CHEN

Twenty-one knots, directly on course for Manila Bay.

(half beat)

I don't like this. The darkness holds the threat of hidden underwater reefs.

ZHANG

You are right; this is a weird and treacherous zone.

(half beat)

But more importantly, the enemy, with their fishing fleet is a tight scout networks in this area, must not detected our activities.

CHEN

This is a truly breakneck speed for such a hazardous waterway.

ZHANG

In peacetime no ship will move here at night in excess of 12 knots, even with all lights burning.

CHEN

We, of course, are running fully blacked out.

ZHANG

Fine but our foremost concern are the smaller Filipino fishing boats. Most are too small to register on the radar. They might radio our position.

Chen keeps wiping the sweat off his brow.

CHEN

It's hot; I'm sweating.

The night is sultry, and cold sweat can be seen on every sailor's brow.

.

ZHANG

Order the watch and thirteen officers to be extra alert.

CHEN

(into the ship's coms)

Be alert.

Zhang walks over to the radar and notices the destroyer has fallen behind. We can see there is a vast flotilla. The lead destroyer is flanked by two other destroyers.

ZHANG

Manoeuvre to regain the lead position. Maintain a distance of 20 km in advance of the carrier.

CHEN

Come to 30 knots.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - SOUTH CHINA SEA - NIGHT

We see nothing but a tiny light on the deck. It is a black moonless night cloaked by low cloud cover and rainsqualls in the distance. Patches of haze hang over the water.

Riley can't sleep; he wakes up. On the deck, there is a struggle. Santos (Fisherman #1) and Ramos (Fisherman #7) are trying to throw De la Vega into the ocean again! De la Vega is fighting and screaming but is losing. Riley interferes and prevents things. De la Vega and Riley are beaten severely.

Now Riley AND De la Vega are in jeopardy of being thrown off the boat. The captain stops the fighting with his baseball bat. He strikes both Santos and Ramos in the buttock. The hit will leave a deep-deep bruise and they stop struggling.

CAPTAIN

No one goes over!

Santos and Ramos go under the deck.

CAPTAIN  
(to Santos and Ramos)  
You two aren't worth the trouble.  
(half beat)  
You know that right?

The captain retires under the deck.

RILEY  
What kind of night as no moon and no  
stars?

FISHERMAN  
God, I didn't want to go over again.  
Thank you.

There is a gentle ocean breeze and we hear the sound of water  
lapping at the boat's sides.

EXT. CHINESE DESTROYER - SOUTH CHINA SEA - NIGHT

A lookout spots a target and calls out.

LOOKOUT  
Ship ahead!

CHEN  
Report again!

LOOKOUT  
Fishing boat to the forward slightly  
to the port!

Zhang goes outside to the bridges railing on the side of the  
bridge. We see him straining to see forward. There he also  
spots a small dark object floating in the water some 800 to  
1,000 meters distant, just slightly to the left by 10 degrees—  
almost dead ahead. It is clearly the Filipino fishing boat.

ZHANG  
It's too loud to shoot and too  
difficult to hit a target so small.  
Ramming it will be the best method of  
dealing with them.  
(half beat)  
Ten degrees port; full speed ahead!

(half beat)  
Jam any radio transmission.

CHEN  
Ram into them!

The ship turns into the fishing boat.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - SOUTH CHINA SEA - NIGHT

Suddenly, Riley, senses an immense shape less than 500 yards away, and closing rapidly.

RILEY  
Ship!

The captain sits up. He is frozen. But after a long beat, he moves quickly to the wheel. He tries to start the engines.

Riley gets a hand held spotlight and shines it at the approaching ship. He waves it back and forth. The engine of the fishing boat will not start.

De la Vega is screaming and it wakes up the crew.

The fishing boat's engine finally starts but there is little power. The fishing boat starts out of the path but the destroyer veers to intercept.

CAPTAIN  
Look at this.  
(half beat)  
It's not an accident.  
(half beat)  
We are being run down.

The captain tries to use the radio.

CAPTAIN  
May Day. May Day. This is the Princes  
Di. We are being run down by what  
looks to be a destroyer. Probably  
Chinese.

There isn't any response from the radio.

Riley drops the spotlight into an ice chest. He grabs the two ice chests and ties them together with rope. He ties the many jugs of water to the ice chests. He quickly has assembled a floating kitchen.

The fishermen can see the phosphorescent wake of the destroyers bow barreling toward them.

Most of the fishermen are awake now and grasping the miraculous medals hanging around their necks and they began to pray.

CREWMEMBERS

Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us..

Riley interrupts the fishermen giving him a life jacket. With one fisherman he must pry the praying man's hands apart to put the life jacket under his hands.

The captain tries turning the boat. It happens fast, very fast. The destroyer is approaching.

From the captain's perspective, the destroyer is making such a hard, sharp turn that its mast was at a 45-degree angle to the water.

CAPTAIN

He's turning into us.

RILEY

Going like hell!

Their fate is now inescapably upon them; several members of the crew are too stunned and helpless to move. Riley however continues handing them life jackets.

Riley takes the flare gun, first aid kit and handheld GPS and shows them to the captain. Riley points to the ice chests. The captain nods his approval. The captain hands Riley the pistol. Riley then puts the items into an ice chest.

Riley uses the remaining rope to tie the ice chests and jugs of juice, milk and water to the inflatable. He jumps in the water with the ice chest and inflatable. He vigorously swims away towing the ice chests.

The captain stops turning the boat; it is useless. He braces for impact. Riley is the only crewmember clear of the impact.

The destroyer is so close, the fishermen can hear the excited Chinese voices coming from its deck. They are laughing and cheering.

EXT. CHINESE DESTROYER - SOUTH CHINA SEA - NIGHT

As the destroyer turns into the fishing boat, it disappears from the view of the bridge. But we hear a dull thud, followed by a flash of light. Gasoline flames shot up the sides of the destroyer.

The fishing boat, cut in two, disappears in the dark.

Chen runs to the port and then the stern bridge railing. He returns to bridge.

ZHANG

We crashed right into it?

CHEN

I saw the fishing boat break in two.  
(half beat)  
I know that at least one half and probably both halves will sink.

RADIO

Permission to fire, sir?

CHEN

It's the rear gunners.

Zhang looks at Chen for his recommendation.

CHEN

I think probably no one aboard survived. Certainly not the radio.

ZHANG

No. Negative.

CHEN

No. Negative.

INT. BRIDGE - CHINESE AIRCRAFT CARRIER - NIGHT

RADIO OPERATOR

Message from the lead destroyer.  
Enemy fishing boats encountered! One  
rammed and sunk!

The Chinese OFFICERS and CREW erupt in cheers and laughter.  
The Chinese CARRIER CAPTAIN can't join in the merrymaking.

CARRIER CAPTAIN

It's our good fortune.

EXT. OPEN WATER - SOUTH CHINA SEA - NIGHT

As the Chinese destroyer speeds away from the crash. We see eight Filipino fishermen widely scattered across the surface of the ocean. Three are on board one of the floating halves of the hull.

Several of them are clearly wounded. Others are struggling in pools of burning gasoline and choking from the fumes amid the wreckage of their boat. The boat is in two halves, both remain afloat.

The fishermen in the water see nothing but flames all around, punctuated by pockets of darkness. Their fishing boat has all but vanished.

ABUCAY

God, the gasoline fumes are in my  
lungs.

Santos is burned badly and is in the water gagging and retching. Abucay spirals into unconsciousness.

Most are thrashing around in the water, they gobble volumes of salt water that makes them choke harder.

They paddle and tread water, but there was no visible destination to head for.

ABUCAY

I can hear you? Where are you?

SANTOS

I can't see anything. The gasoline  
has blinded me.

ABUCAY

I can't see anything either.

SANTOS

I have a life jacket, but my shoes  
are waterlogged. I'm kicking them  
off.

(beat)

I can't.

ABUCAY

Why?

SANTOS

One leg, I can't move it.

EXT. THE HULL OF THE BOAT - SOUTH CHINA SEA - NIGHT

The pools of burning gasoline have burned down and are slight.  
Fishermen #3 and #4 and the captain are sitting on the upside  
down aft hull.

FISHERMAN #4

I can hear them out there but I can't  
see them.

CAPTAIN

Come this way.

(half beat)

The hull is still floating.

OBUSAN

Swim this way.

Santos and Abucay turn and see the hull of the boat. There is  
just a hint of flame on the water.

CAPTAIN

We need to get them out of the water.

OBUSAN

Sharks.

(beat)

What if the Chinese chose to circle  
back?

CAPTAIN

They'll flip on the searchlights and  
shot us.

Just at this minute, large Chinese cruisers pass on each side.  
We hear the sound and can barely make out the silhouettes.

The men in the water who have been moaning and crying out are  
now silent. The Chinese cruisers' wakes rocks the ocean.

A Chinese aircraft carrier steams past very closely.

Very long beat. Nothing is said until the Chinese ships have  
passed.

CAPTAIN

You there on the stern hull. Who's  
aboard?

Flores (Flores) and Rasay (#6) are on a half of the  
stern hull.

FLORES

Flores and Rasay.

CAPTAIN

Those flames might detonate the  
remaining gas in the boat's tank.

The men appear frozen.

CAPTAIN

You men come over there. Abandon  
ship.

FISHERMEN #5

Sharks and barracuda.

CAPTAIN

Over the side!

The two men reluctantly slide into the water and swim away  
from the wreckage.

Just as Flores and Rasay arrive the stern hull explodes.  
Santos and Abucay arrive.

CAPTAIN  
You okay?

ABUCAY  
I think I'm burned.

CAPTAIN  
What about you?

SANTOS  
My leg. My left leg.

CAPTAIN  
What?

SANTOS  
I can't move it.

CAPTAIN  
How did you get over here?

SANTOS  
My good leg works.

Long beat. Santos (burned), Abucay (broken leg), García and Flores cling to the side of the floating hull.

OBUSAN  
What'll happen?

CAPTAIN  
We have no food, no water, no radio,  
no life raft, no medical supplies.

OBUSAN  
So this is what it feel like to die.

CAPTAIN  
We aren't dead yet.

Riley has arrived at the overturned hull. He has a two-man inflatable dingy with the ice chests and water.

RILEY

Here put him on this.

Riley reaches down and pulls Santos up into the dingy. Santos screams out in pain.

RILEY

Your leg is broken?

SANTOS

Yes.

Riley finishes dragging him onboard the dingy.

RILEY

Okay, this is the best I can do for now.

Riley throws the rope to the Captain on the floating hull.

The flames around the other hull have died down.

The Captain is calling out, trying to reach the other crewmen.

The Captain pulls the rope and an ice chest near enough to open it. He brings out the handheld spotlight. He begins flashing it around the wreck.

Riley then takes off his shirt and shoes and dives into the water to hunt for the others.

Ramos and De la Vega from a few hundred yards away.

DE LA VEGA

Captain! Captain! Ramos is badly hurt!

(beat)

Ramos is burned!

The captain aims the spotlight at them.

Riley turns and swim out to meet them.

RILEY

Who is it?

DE LA VEGA

It's me.

RILEY

How are you, Ramos?

RAMOS

I'm all right, I'm kind of burnt.

In fact, Ramos is badly burned. He is holding his hands in an odd way out of the water. They are burned badly.

RILEY

You can't move your his arms or hands?

Ramos tries and can't.

RILEY

Well, you aren't in any shape to swim.

(to de la Vega)

How are you?

DE LA VEGA

I hurt my leg.

RILEY

You can make it over to the others?

DE LA VEGA

Maybe.

RILEY

Okay, go. I've got Ramos.

Riley tows Ramos by the strap of his life jacket.

De la Vega (fisherman #8) tires and Riley with his tow actually pass him.

RILEY

Come on. You can't give up out here.

DE LA VEGA

It's hard.

RAMOS

For a ladyboy, you're certainly putting up a great drama out here!

DE LA VEGA

(to Ramos)

Go to hell. We can leave you out here, you know.

RILEY

Well, what's the matter?

DE LA VEGA

I'm a good swimmer, but I hit my knee on something when I went over the side, and I think it's broken.

RILEY

It's not broken.

(half beat)

Get over to the others.

DE LA VEGA

I can't.

(beat)

The current is working against us?

RILEY

Grab hold if you can't go anymore.

De la Vega grabs onto Ramos' life preserver and Riley tows them both.

The search light becomes weaker and weaker. Finally it goes out and someone begins to call out to them.

CAPTAIN

My god, man?

(beat)

You towed them both?

RAMOS

Ladyboy got tired.

CAPTAIN

None of that.

RILEY

It seems like it took forever.

CAPTAIN

Pretty much an hour.

RILEY

Put Ramos in the dingy with Santos.  
He's burned badly.

CAPTAIN

I think we have everyone now but  
Mercado.

(beat)

Marcado!

Long beat.

CAPTAIN

If you can hear me swim here!

Long beat.

OBUSAN

He's dead.

MARCADO

Tomas, Tomas, it's me!

Marcado has been floating 50 yards out unconscious. He is now  
awake and we can hear him slapping around.

MARCADO

I'm drowning! Bring the boat!

Riley has rested and pops up. He cocks his head trying to get  
a bearing on the fisherman in the pitch dark.

Riley swims out into the dark.

He finds Mercado because every ten seconds Mercado says,  
"Help."

RILEY

Marcado, relax you aren't drowning.

MARCADO

Why didn't you bring the boat?

RILEY

There isn't any boat. You hit your head.

(beat)

The boat's sunk. That's why you are in the water.

Riley begins to tow Marcado.

MARCADO

Please, God, don't let me pass out!  
Just bring the boat!

RILEY

There's no boat!

MARCADO

I want to give up. I'm burned and the pain. I can't bear it.

Riley stops, turns and shakes Marcado.

RILEY

I will not allow you to give up!

MARCADO

Okay, let's go. Let's keep paddling.

Finally, all eleven survivors are clinging to the hull, which is slowly sinking.

Nearly, everyone is injured in some way. But they are happy to be alive. Everyone looks at the captain for an answer.

CAPTAIN

I'm sure the Chinese will come get us in the morning.

RILEY

Really nothing to do?

CAPTAIN

Might as well sleep.

EXT. CHINESE MEDIA - BEIJING - DAY

The Chinese government sees a rare, propaganda opportunity in the incident.

We see the Chinese newspapers with large headlines at a newsstand celebrating the event.

- Enemy Spy Boat Run Through.
- Enemy Spy Boat Rammed Through in the Dark of the Night!
- Superhuman display of Navy courage.
- Enemy Torpedo Boat Sliced in Two: Our Destroyer Saves Companion Ships by Crashing Bodily into Enemy Craft.

We see Chinese commuters listening to the news on their car radios.

#### RADIO

Going full force at high speed, it rode straight through one of them sending it instantly to its watery grave. This is the very first instance where one of our destroyers has sailed into an enemy ship since the beginning of the South China Sea conflict and it well illustrates the dauntless spirit of the Chinese destroyer fighting units.

We see Chinese families watching the television news. The ship's television camera replays the event for cheering Chinese at home.

#### TELEVISION

This heretofore unheard of feat which transcends all common naval fighting practices is an event for rejoicing that has no precedence in the history of naval affairs. Because of this unusual action, enemy morale has been dealt a heavy blow while the encouragement it gives to our allies is immeasurable."

EXT. PRIVATE PLANE - SOUTH CHINA SEA - DAY

A HOBBYIST PILOT in a tiny single engine propeller two-seat plane is enjoying a fun early morning flight. The pilot is an older gentleman and is perfectly happy going 80 mph.

Twenty Chinese jets scream past him and the jet wash almost crashes the small plane. It gyrates up and down, left and right. The pilot goes into a spin toward the ocean. Finally, the pilot regains control and levels out. He sees dozens of jets in the sky traveling toward the Philippines.

EXT. COMMERCIAL AIRLINER - MANILA - DAY

An airliner just arriving at MNL. A COMMERCIAL PILOT notices the navy formation in the ocean below him. He isn't alarmed; he even smiles in confidence. He takes the plane's microphone in hand.

PILOT

The passengers on the left side of the aircraft can count themselves as lucky to be witnessing naval war games.

The passengers look out and see a large naval armada.

PILOT

It's mighty fine of the United States Navy, timing it so nicely with our arrival.

As they approach the airport, the passengers look out to see planes diving and many the puffs of black and white smoke over Naval Base Cavite.

The pilot and the passengers are in awe and don't fully understand the attack.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - MORNING

There is a local basketball game at an outdoor basketball court. It appears that it is a local rivalry; there are painted signs and a lot of intensity. For a local game there are rather a lot fans watching and cheering. It is perhaps a meaningless basketball game. The fan's phones begin receiving text messages.

Text message, "Chinese bombing Cavite."

There is no official announcement whatsoever; there doesn't even seem to be a PA system. The players continue playing.

Text message, "China wins opening battle."

People in the bleachers begin showing their neighbors their messages. They forward the message. And slowly over time. The bleachers empty.

Alternatively the Chinese can attack the American and Australian fleet.

EXT. BEACH - SAN JUAN - DAY

On a beach in San Juan (La Union), a group of SURF WORSHIPERS are out early surfing when one of them heard something over the radio.

RADIO

Oh, my! Let me tell you what I'm witnessing. I'm standing on the roof of the Mall of Asia. I'm looking Southwest in the direction of Cavite City. I have my phone and a pair of field glasses. This battle has been going on for nearly 30 mins. It's no joke, it's a real shooting war. I see smoke and I see explosions. There are dozens of planes above the navy base and I can only assume they are Chinese.

The surfer is waving for the others to come ashore.

SURFER

Come in. Come in. The Chinese are attacking.

The surfers in the water are uninterested in anything other than the morning waves.

INT. FAMILY HOME - RURAL PHILIPPINES - DAY

A Filipino FAMILY sits in front of a television. A newsreader is very somber.

NEWSREADER

Attention. This is no exercise. The Chinese are attacking the following -  
- Naval Base Heracleo Alano (Naval Base Cavite) - Headquarters, Philippine Fleet. Naval Base Camilo Osias (Naval Operating Base San Vicente), San Vicente, Santa Ana, Cagayan. Naval Base Rafael Ramos (Naval Operating Base Mactan), Mactan, Cebu.

(half beat)

All Army, Navy, and Marine personnel are to report to duty.

EXT. STREETS - MANILA - DAY

Everyone has his or her cell phones out. Nearly everyone's cell phones go dead as the lines eventually became jammed. Sunday morning and there is automobile traffic!!!

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - SOUTH CHINA SEA - MORNING

The sun rises and we see the eleven survivors clinging to their crippled boat. Now there is about a foot of the hull above water. Soon the boat will be totally submerged. The fishermen are asleep.

In the far distance (miles away), they are flanked by Chinese warships. Occasionally, a jet flies over. A harpoon missile flies directly over them and awakes half of the men. The missile strikes a Chinese ship in the distance. It explodes and burns.

Three miles away is a massive aircraft carrier. About a mile away is the burning Chinese ship.

RILEY

If Chinese spotters are paying attention they will see us.

CAPTAIN

What do you want to do if the Chinese  
come get us?

(half beat)

Fight or surrender?

RASAY

Fight with what?

CAPTAIN

I have a .22 automatic pistol.

The captain shows it to the crew.

CAPTAIN

Well, what do you want to do?

RILEY

Anything you say, sir. You're the  
boss.

A dog fight is in the works above them. Air-to-air missiles  
fly. Jets scream by with afterburners alight. They twist and  
turn. Two planes are hit and tumble into the sea.

RASAY

Seems to me we're not a military  
organization. Let's just talk this  
over.

CAPTAIN

A lot of you men have families and  
some of you have children. We should  
probably give up.

RILEY

What do you want to do? I have  
nothing to lose.

FLORES

If they do come get us, we will see  
them before they get here.

RILEY

If it seems that we have a decent  
chance, let's fight. But if they send  
out enough men to overwhelm us, let's

surrender. We're no good to anybody  
dead.

MARCADO

If I ever get out of this, I'll never  
fish again!

Curses erupted against the Chinese, the entire South China  
Sea.

FLORES

Where is Nobleza?

CAPTAIN

He has a GPS signal on each of his  
boats.

MARCADO

He won't come for us.

FLORES

His ship is sunk.

RILEY

I don't believe that. He will be  
here.

The captain points to the ice chest.

CAPTAIN

Hand me the GPS please.

Riley hands it to him. The captain studies it.

CAPTAIN

There is a shoal not two miles to the  
east. Best go there before we drift  
off too far.

The men watch hopefully at the eastern sky looking for a low-  
flying search-and-rescue plane, but none come.

As the hours pass, the boat goes totally underwater. There is  
nothing for the fishermen to grasp on to.

MARCADO

No one is looking for us.

The tantalizing sight of the Chinese navy is barely visible.

CAPTAIN

We should swim in that direction, to the shoal.

MARCADO

What about the Chinese?

CAPTAIN

We have better chance of making it to the shoal than some of those ships.

Riley takes the rope and forms something of a harness so each man can help pull the inflatable. Riley runs the rope through their life jackets. They are tied together as horses drawing a carriage.

The men don't hesitate; they begin to swim.

RILEY

We can make it if we stick together.  
(half beat)  
Think we will be able to stand up?

CAPTAIN

At least part of the time, yes.

RILEY

How do you feel, Santos?

Santos is lying on his back with his face to the sky.

SANTOS

I'm okay, Riley, how about you?

RILEY

Ramos?

RAMOS

I'm still here.  
(half beat)  
How far do we have to go now?

RILEY

We're doing great. Progress.

RAMOS

How can you be so cool and confident?

RILEY

I guess because I've been here before.

RAMOS

And obviously you survived?

RILEY

Yes.

RAMOS

Barely?

RILEY

Barely.

The nine fishermen continue to pull the wounded men in the inflatable. The men have placed their shoes on top of the chests and inside the inflatable. They are swimming, pulling everything along.

Soon, jellyfish appear, stinging many of the men, while sharks come in closer.

DE LA VEGA

Was that a shark?

RILEY

Maybe, or a dolphin.

DE LA VEGA

(intuitively)

If it was a dolphin, you'd not be looking like you do.

RILEY

So you obviously think it was a shark.

DE LA VEGA

That's all we need right now.

RILEY

It's normal.

DE LA VEGA

We were all killing sharks not long ago.

RILEY

Please, don't bring up the karma thing.

DE LA VEGA

You know, now I'm starting to really get cold.

RILEY

It's ok.

DE LA VEGA

Oh, Jesus Christ!

A small shark swims very near.

RILEY

It's gone.

(half beat)

It was probably just curious.

DE LA VEGA

A couple of Filipino fishermen floating around in the middle of nowhere.

RILEY

We are not something he sees everyday.

DE LA VEGA

Where the hell is everyone. Why don't they come pick us up?

RILEY

There's a war.

DE LA VEGA

Oh, you gotta be kidding me.

RILEY

If we can get to the shoal that will help. You can rest at low tide.

DE LA VEGA

But what do we do if it comes back?

RILEY

I don't know what you'll do.

DE LA VEGA

Do we splash? Do we stay still?

RILEY

Don't slash.

DE LA VEGA

First of all, we shouldn't be here.  
(half beat)  
No, we should be on the boat.

RILEY

What boat?  
(half beat)  
Sharks are attracted to wounded fish.

DE LA VEGA

Ok.

RILEY

So I guess you just not splash around too much.

DE LA VEGA

Just sort of... Stay still?

RILEY

Try to stay still.

DE LA VEGA

And swim at the same time?

De la Vega begins to complain and making a big deal about a jellyfish sting.

DE LA VEGA

Ahaha!

RILEY

What?

DE LA VEGA

Something is biting me.

MARCADO

Something just bit me too...

RILEY

What? Where?

DE LA VEGA

I don't know. It's right down by my ankle.

DE LA VEGA

Oh, God. It's killing me.

RILEY

It's probably just a jellyfish.

DE LA VEGA

It! It burns!

RILEY

I don't see anything.

DE LA VEGA

Did it get you?

RASAY

Yes!

DE LA VEGA

What is it?

RASAY

I don't know.

FLORES

Whatever bite me too. It hurts.

RILEY

Let's get the hell out of here.

DE LA VEGA

Okay.

CAPTAIN

Everyone swims hard.

RILEY

I think we are away from them.

CAPTAIN

Is that far enough?

DE LA VEGA

Anything? You got anything for this?

RILEY

Of course not.

FLORES

Those things sting.

RILEY

I know.

(half beat)

Where did it get you?

FLORES

On my ankle, on my leg.

RILEY

It's jellyfish.

(half beat)

Put your shirts on.

The men have discarded their shirts long ago.

DE LA VEGA

Ah!!! Again. Get it off me.

Riley takes his shirt off and uses it to remove the venomous tentacles.

RILEY

Shut up!

(half beat)

I've been stung before and yes it hurts but please. We don't want to hear it.

FLORES

It's just a jellyfish.

DE LA VEGA

I guess this means I have to stop complaining.

RILEY

So are you ok?

DE LA VEGA

No. I'm not ok.

RILEY

Are you ok?

DE LA VEGA

We need to get on one of those big navy boats, then I'll be ok.

He gestures to the Chinese navy.

RILEY

Seriously, you are going to have to calm down. Later, you might need all the energy you are wasting now.

DE LA VEGA

I know, I know, I know. I'm sorry.

(half beat)

It really sucks.

RILEY

But we're going to get through this, ok?

DE LA VEGA

Ok. But I can't die like this.

Burials at sea really suck.

RILEY

You need to put that girly thing away for a while. Okay?

DE LA VEGA

I know. I know.

(half beat)

God, okay.

RILEY

You are going to make it. But you  
have to be strong.

DE LA VEGA

I've just never heard of anything so  
messed up in my entire life.

(half beat)

Who's ever heard of fishermen being  
attacked and left in the middle of  
the ocean before?

RILEY

Actually.

DE LA VEGA

You have?

RILEY

Yeah.

DE LA VEGA

Where?

(half beat)

Look, over there.

A small patrol boat passes by in the far distance.

DE LA VEGA

Oh, my God. Oh, Riley.

(half beat)

Oh, God. Please, please, please, just  
come get us.

(half beat)

Oh, God. I don't even care if it is  
the Chinese.

(half beat)

Just please see us and pick us up.

FLORES

I don't think they can see us.

RILEY

That might be a good thing.

DE LA VEGA

Wish we had more sun.

FLORES

They can't see us.

RILEY

I know.

CAPTAIN

I don't want them to come shot us.

DE LA VEGA

They are leaving.

RILEY

Yeah.

CAPTAIN

Let's get over to the shoal.

We cut to and from the Captain's GPS; the men are moving nearer the shoal.

Eventually, it's low tide and a tiny little shoal appears in the far distance.

Several of the fishermen are poor swimmers. They basically rest on the inflatable. Riley is on the left and the captain is on the right. Riley is clearly pulling more than his fair share. He seems obsessed.

CAPTAIN

Riley, pull more in this direction.

(half beat)

You are pulling us off course.

RILEY

Sorry. I just don't want to be out here forever.

CAPTAIN

No, it's nice someone is willing to work.

(to the fishermen)

Come on men, we have to do our part on this side.

(half beat)

Come on men. Riley is doing all the work.

Riley looks back and over the Captain's shoulder he sees a large shark fin.

Riley gives the Captain a fearful look and points with his face. He doesn't alert the men, but the Captain turns and sees the fin.

Riley and the Captain, alternatively exhort and encourage the others.

RILEY

Faster.

CAPTAIN

We have to reach that land.

Still, a few of the men have clearly lost hope during the journey. Most of the others are only going through the motions. Riley is swimming hard against the rope; he is pulling them and doing 10 times the work of the others.

They reach the shoal; only a foot or so is out of the water. They tie the inflatable to the rocks. There are nine men out of the water but on a 20 square foot area.

There is something of a celebration. Several throw high fives. There are prayers of thanks and shouts of joy. Riley throws up from ingesting the salt water. He is exhausted having done so much work.

Now, everyone notices the sharks and it becomes perfectly quiet.

GARCÍA

How long have the sharks been there?

Riley has his eyes closed and he appears to be sleeping.

RILEY  
About the last mile.

GARCÍA  
How far did we come?

CAPTAIN.  
About three and a half miles.

GARCÍA  
Geez.

OBUSAN  
How long did that take?

CAPTAIN  
All day. It's 6 pm. It will be dark soon.

They all look at the sharks and then up to the sky. They are looking for the moon, and it's not there.

CAPTAIN  
And the moon will bring the tide up.

DE LA VEGA  
The sharks.

RILEY  
You need to knock that off.

CAPTAIN  
There is a storm coming.

On the horizon, there is lightening and ominous clouds.

DE LA VEGA  
The sharks.

RILEY  
They are too small to worry about.

DE LA VEGA  
But they're sharks.

RILEY

Later, when the tide rises, just punch them in the face if they get near.

Everyone thinks that will be easy. They have some level of confidence.

RILEY

And never ever turn your back.

DE LA VEGA

Everyone thinks it's not going to be so easy.

They lay there on the rocks, recovering from the swim, breathing hard. They alternate looks between the sharks and the storm on the horizon. Far in the opposite direction, there are several Chinese war ships.

DE LA VEGA

You know, I really don't feel like this.

RAMOS

Hey lovers.

RILEY

What?

RAMOS

You need to shut him up.

RILEY

Okay.

(beat)

Feel hungry?

DE LA VEGA

Of course. I'm starving.

Riley has everyone's attention. Riley opens one of the ice chests and brings out some food. He serves everyone a share. The men are exhausted but happy have food.

EXT. SHOAL - NIGHT

The moon arrives and the tide rises; the men are all clinging to the inflatable. The sharks are much nearer and clearly more numerous.

DE LA VEGA

I don't want to look down.

RILEY

It's dark.

DE LA VEGA

They might be circling below us too.

RILEY

Sure enough.

They can see in the moonlight a massive dorsal fin. This is NOT a small shark.

RILEY

Punch him in the face.

CAPTAIN

Does everyone understand?

RASAY

Everyone is tied together.

RILEY

You don't run. You can't out-swim him. You fight with your fists.

DE LA VEGA

How do you know so much about it?

RILEY

My father and I were in the water before.

DE LA VEGA

I know.

RASAY

In the open water like this?

RILEY

There was a pair of bull sharks.  
Without provocation they kept  
circling and poking at us.

DE LA VEGA

What happened?

RILEY

My father fought them.

DE LA VEGA

What happened?

RILEY

We lived.

DE LA VEGA

If we stay here like this, we'll all  
be lost.

(half beat)

As far as I'm concerned, I'm not  
going to stay here.

(half beat)

You stay here if you want to.

In the far distance there is a Chinese ship burning. In the  
foreground, there is a smaller screening ship.

DE LA VEGA

There is a ship over there.

CAPTAIN

I'm giving orders here. We all stick  
together.

DE LA VEGA

I didn't sleep on those rocks. I'm  
exhausted.

RASAY

We have probably drifted from the  
original site?

CAPTAIN

Riley hauled you all, don't you  
realize.

RASAY

If rescue boats come to the location  
of the ship.

CAPTAIN

It's not that far. They'll find us.

RASAY

If it gets bad, I mean life and  
death... we can swim for the aircraft  
carrier?

RILEY

It's Chinese.

RASAY

They have planes taking off and  
landing there.

DE LA VEGA

I'm hungry. Everything is gone?

Riley opens an ice chest. The food is gone.

RILEY

You want some orange juice?

DE LA VEGA

Sure.

De la Vega drinks some orange juice and passes it to the  
others.

DE LA VEGA

God, what did I do to get into this  
mess?

Everyone would figure Santos is near death, but he's not.

SANTOS

You are being punished because you  
are a queer.

DE LA VEGA

What are you being punished for then?  
Hater.

RILEY  
It's only a test.  
(half beat)  
To see if you will forsake him.

DE LA VEGA  
You think?

RILEY  
I think.

A small shark brushes the captain's leg.

CAPTAIN  
Whoa!

RILEY  
What?

CAPTAIN  
One just rubbed against my leg.

RILEY  
One?

CAPTAIN  
A shark. Something.

Three or four of the men reach into their waist bands and pull out knives.

RILEY  
Okay. No. Put the knives in here.

Riley swims around the group with the open ice chest. The men refuse to put their knives over.

RILEY  
Captain!

CAPTAIN  
Do as he says. We don't need more  
blood in the water.

RILEY  
Don't panic and don't to try to run.

(half beat)  
Stand and fight. Like it's a boxing  
match.

DE LA VEGA  
No, I need to get away. They can  
smell your bad vibes. You are drawing  
them to me.

RILEY  
Where out here will you escape to?  
The shark will always catch you from  
behind. They will not attack if you  
look them in the eye.

The Chinese aircraft carrier is being bombed and fires can be  
seen.

DE LA VEGA  
What about from below? What if the  
sharks attack from below?

RIELY  
They are basically two-dimensional  
creatures they only think about left  
and right.

(half beat)  
There is only one exception to the  
rule.

(half beat)  
Only one shark will come at you from  
beneath.

(long beat)  
A great white.

DE LA VEGA  
What do we do then?

RILEY  
Nothing.

DE LA VEGA  
Nothing?

RILEY  
Nothing.

DE LA VEGA

Oh, god! We are going to be eaten  
alive.

RILEY

Stop it. It's not that bad, but you  
will have to be strong. A man. You  
understand. Can you?

DE LA VEGA

How do you expect...

De la Vega freezes... throwing something of a drama queen fit.

The Captain confirms that Riley is correct.

CAPTAIN

We are going to form a circle and  
fight the sharks with our fists.

De la Vega pouts.

But there is always someone who bucks the rules. This time it  
is De la Vega. He only pretends to put the knife in the ice  
chest. It is dark and Riley glances over to some distant  
explosions on the aircraft carrier.

De la Vega eyes the carrier. He doesn't put the knife into the  
chest. He cuts the rope. He puts the knife in his belt.

RILEY

(to de la Vega)  
You have to be strong.

Riley finishes picking up the knives.

De la Vega breaks from the group and swims toward the Chinese  
ships.

RILEY

De la Vega!  
(half beat)  
Captain!

CAPTAIN

De la Vega!  
(half beat)

De la Vega!  
(half beat)  
Stop and return to the group.

De la Vega draws the sharks away.

CAPTAIN  
He didn't give over his knife?

RILEY  
I don't know.

CAPTAIN  
He will only draw more sharks.

In the moonlight, De la Vega is attacked. He fights back with the knife. The sharks take a few hits with the knife but in the end de la Vega is killed and eaten by the sharks.

EXT. SHOAL - HIGH TIDE - DAY

The Captain leads them through the night but in the morning he receives a small shark bite on the leg, but does not immediately realize it.

CAPTAIN  
AHAHHA!

RILEY  
Another jellyfish?

CAPTAIN  
That hurts. I thought girly boy was exaggerating?

Long beat...

CAPTAIN  
I'm really, really not feeling well.

RILEY  
Oh, man. Hang on I'm on the way.

CAPTAIN  
I don't feel very well.

RILEY

Why don't you lay back for a little bit?

CAPTAIN

Yeah? - Yeah.

RILEY

Just lay back.

CAPTAIN

I'm sorry. I just feel weak.

RILEY

It's ok. I got you.

(half beat)

Just relax. Ok.

(half beat)

There you go.

CAPTAIN

Ok. Just for a few minutes.

RILEY

Just relax.

(half beat)

Close your eyes.

(half beat)

I'm gonna have a look at your leg.

Riley lifts the leg out of the water and discovers a large exposed bite wound.

Riley does not tell the Captain.

Riley takes his belt off and uses it as a tourniquet.

The captain has been tethered to the raft, like everyone. Riley unties him from the rope and moves him over to the raft.

RILEY

Can you get in the inflatable?

CAPTAIN

Of course. It's just a silly jellyfish sting.

The captain can't pull himself up. Riley tries to give him a boost but the men fail.

RILEY

Okay just layback again, until we get organized to lift you up.

The captain is sleeping or has passed out.

Riley turns to talk quietly with the crew.

RILEY

The captain has a bite, shark or barracuda.

The crew is speechless. Shock.

RILEY

We have to lift him up into the inflatable.

The crew look at the two men already in the raft. It looks crowded already.

RILEY

The blood in the water.

Slowly, the Captain will lose the ability to lead. Blood loss and later the infection almost kills the Captain.

The captain awakes startled. He has only been asleep 15 seconds but is losing his situational awareness.

Untied, he has drifted maybe 20 yards away from the group.

CAPTAIN

Oh, God!  
(half beat)  
Riley!

RILEY

Captain!  
(half beat)  
I'm over here.  
(half beat)  
Riley! Oh, thank God.

RILEY

It's ok. I got you.

CAPTAIN

Oh, my God. What happened?

RILEY

I don't know. You went to sleep.

CAPTAIN

I woke up and you were gone.

The captain is clearly on the path to death.

CAPTAIN

Are you all right?

RILEY

I'm fine.

CAPTAIN

What happened? Where did you go?

(half beat)

I must have fallen asleep. How did I get untied?

RILEY

We are going to lift you up into the raft.

CAPTAIN

Jesus. I'm sorry. You scared the hell out of me.

RILEY

The captain is sick and we need to get him up there.

The men on the raft are in such bad condition, they can't respond.

The captain appears to go into shock. They do manage to put him in the inflatable.

EXT. SHOAL - HIGH TIDE - DUSK

At dusk there are several scenes were the largest shark, looks right into the fisherman's eyes. He looks directly into the men's eyes.

The shark has lifeless eyes, black eyes. The shark backs away when punched. But then comes again and again until he bites Mercado and his black eyes roll over white. And then, we hear hear this terrible high pitch screamin' and the ocean turns red. In spite of all the punching and the screaming the shark comes in and rips him to pieces. The other smaller sharks dart in and out.

Cruise missiles buzz left and right. Aircraft fly over them in the battle zone and some are shot down. There is violence above, below and on the horizon.

EXT. SHOAL - HIGH TIDE - NIGHT

Sharks return and attack the men again during a thunderstorm. The lightening periodically reveals the sharks to the men.

And the idea is to remain still but punch the shark if it comes near. But we hear the thunderclaps and the hollering and pounding and screamin' and sometimes the shark goes away. Sometimes he doesn't go away.

Later the storm is over, it is pitch black and no moon or stars. There are however burning ships on horizon. The men can't see the sharks but feel them brush by them or nudge them. The only glimpse of the sharks is when the tell-tale fin is silhouetted by the burning ship.

It appears everyone survives.

Later... in the morning. Everyone wakes up. The tide is low again and the shoal is visible. The sky is clear, the storm is gone.

Abucay is the last one to awake. No one moves to wake him. Everyone just begins swimming for the shoal.

The fishermen think Abucay is asleep. His life jackets is keeping up; he is bobbing up and down in the water, just like a kind of buoy. As they begin moving the raft they pull Abucay

over. He turns upside down, up ended. He's been bitten in half below the waist.

They stop and untie Mercado and he floats away in his life jacket.

Later...

The men are on the shoal now out of the water. Riley feed the men the last of the food and water from ice chests.

The shooting war slows and rescue planes are out searching.

Rescue helicopters fly near to them on the way to rescue sailors and downed pilots.

RASAY

They just fly right over us.

OBUSAN

Rescue isn't coming?

RILEY

It's a large war.

(half beat)

Every ship available is busy or sunking perhaps.

OBUSAN

We should just surrender.

RILEY

How?

(half beat)

You want to swim out there?

RILEY

They will just shot you in the water.

RASAY

Why?

RILEY

It's a war. They won't have time to deal with us.

RASAY

So what do we do?

RILEY

We wait.

EXT. CHINESE PATROL BOAT - DAY

Suddenly a spotter on a Chinese patrol boat has discovered the men. The Chinese captain then eyes the men through his binoculars

The sailors on board scramble to their arsenal and they arm themselves with rifles.

RADIO OPERATOR

Execution. No prisoners.

The captain doesn't agree but continues to look out the binoculars.

The soldiers line up on the deck and it appears there will be an execution.

Suddenly a Philippine Air Force A-10, appears low on the horizon. The plane lines up to fire on the Chinese patrol boat. The plane does open up with the machine guns. The Chinese sailors are cut to ribbons. The engine of the patrol boat sputters and smokes and stops.

On board, only one young sailor remains uninjured. Most are dead, including the captain. Many are injured.

The remaining sailor in a panic runs to the rail and fires the weapon at the fishermen in the water. Fortunately, they are out of range and the bullets fall harmlessly into the water.

The patrol boat is smoking and on fire but it is relatively minor.

Riley takes the small pistol out of the ice chest and sticks it into his pants. He swims out to the patrol boat.

The Chinese sailor contemplates shooting him.

The fishermen watch to see if Riley will be killed.

But, after a long beat, the sailor throws him a ladder to board. The Chinese sailor is shouting at him and makes Riley raise his hands. The sailor does a halfhearted search, especially half hearted when Riley giggles like a girl.

It is a ruse, Riley reverts to his ladyboy voice and manner. This is done to throw off and confuse the sailor and to keep him from searching closely. The pistol isn't discovered.

Riley waves at the fishermen to come. But they are already half-way there. The current is taking the patrol boat away and the fishermen might not make it.

Riley has to shout to them.

RILEY

Come on swimm.

...and then he throws a rope to them. At the last minute, the rope ties them to the floating patrol boat. They move swiftly in the current and away from the shoal.

Later...

They all board the Chinese patrol boat. Even the injured men are brought up from the inflatable.

Riley insists on towing the inflatable and even the ice chests. It isn't too difficult as everything is tethered.

The Chinese sailor searches each fisherman thoroughly. Riley's crotch is the only place not searched. Even the injured men are totally searched, causing them a great deal of pain.

The A-10 attack has decimated the Chinese boat. There is a lot of damage and there are bullet holes where water is slowly streaming in.

The Chinese sailor refuses to let the fishermen go under the deck to stop the leaks. There is a bit of smoke coming from below. He points the AK-47 at them and shouts in Chinese.

He shouts and lectures them on the superiority of the Chinese language, system and culture.

SAILOR

(in Chinese)

Inferior Filipinos and trespassers.  
Why do you think you are to come and  
fish in our waters? And see what has  
happened to you.

The Chinese sailor has wounded comrade all around but would rather lecture the fishermen... until... Riley puts the pistol to his temple. The sailor's demeanor totally changes. He is now humble and hands his rifle over.

Several fishermen rush under the deck. Two fishermen patch the many small holes in the hull. Two fishermen rush to the engine and begin working on it. Two fishermen rush to the galley and drink water; they bring water to the wounded men and then the men working. Finally they bring water to the wounded Chinese. Riley is left to bring down the Chinese flag. He hangs a white bed sheet in it's place.

Riley sees a Chinese destroyer steaming to them flank speed.

The mechanic/fisherman comes up on deck.

Riley points at the destroyed that is closing the distance quickly.

FLORES

I'm going to start the engine. You  
can surrender if you want.

Riley goes to the wheelhouse and stands at the wheel.

The boat's engine starts, but there is immediately an electrical fire and the fuel that has leaked out onto the engine floor ignites.

The engine, now on fire, brings them about 1000 yards before it dies.

The fishermen fight the fire with fire extinguishers but it is impossible. The fire potentially will sink the patrol boat.

The fishermen are on the deck, safe, as the fire extinguishers are exhausted.

They turn to emotionally deal with the destroyer and their fate in the hands of the Chinese.

But the destroyer rams itself into the shoal and will eventually sink.

They raid the galley of food and water. They haul the ice chests up from the sea onto the deck and fill them with food and water. Everything is piled into the Chinese's 8-man inflatable. The captain, Ramos and Santos and rather a lot of supplies.

The fishermen begin looking for their life preservers. They take the life jackets off the dead and tether them to the rope hauling the large inflatable.

The fishermen act like Riley did when the fishing boat was rammed. A few days in the water and the fishermen have changed from helpless boobs into boy scouts.

As the fire on the patrol boat takes it's toll, they load the wounded fishermen onto the patrol boat's large inflatable. They put the wounded Chinese sailors in their old small inflatable.

They cast the Chinese off and we see them paddling back toward the wrecked destroyer.

The fishermen remain on the burning sinking patrol boat until it sinks and rolls over. It is half submerged and upside down.

EXT. CHINESE PATROL BOAT - DAY

Riley and the fishermen are sitting and standing on the upside down hull of the patrol boat. The large inflatable is floating nearby.

Nobleza arrives in a large fishing boat. He is alone - without a crew. Everyone is loaded into the fishing boat. They turn toward the east and motor away.

Later...

EXT. DOCK AREA - MANILA - DAY

Nobleza brings the fishing boat back to the dock at Manila and everyone is hailed as heroes. Riley has returned to her female sexuality. She puts on an outfit and puts on makeup.

We can assume that there is a lot of news coverage because when Nobleza's fishing boat returns to Manila there is a crowd to greet the surviving fishermen. There are ambulances for the seriously injured men. We see a great many of the news media - radio television and photographer.

Every other person in the cheering crowd has a small Philippines flag. There is a politician there, possibly it is the PRESIDENT of the Philippines. He walks to the rostrum to make a very short speech.

PRESIDENT

We have been brutally attacked and have prevailed. Even our fishermen have been victorious.

The crowd goes wild. The war is short. The president pins medals to the injured men as they are carted to the ambulances. He pins medals on the other fisherman, including Riley.

EXT. DOCK AREA - MANILA - DAY

Months later, Riley works for Nobleza. She has returned to her female sexuality. Nobleza has hired her to lecture the various fishing crews on safety, organize the equipment, inspect the boats, and organize the food for fishing expeditions.

FADE OUT





WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

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