

EXT. VANCOUVER AIRPORT - ARRIVAL TERMINAL - AFTERNOON

A scorching summer afternoon. Heat shimmers over the pavement. Inside, the arrival terminal buzzes with noise and movement. Suitcases slide down the carousel. Passengers rush to grab them.

ROYA (35, Iranian-Canadian) stands still by the baggage carousel. Tall and fit, with wavy brown hair and deep brown eyes, she wears a white flowy top and skirt - clearly dressed for summer.

She hesitates to reach for her suitcase as others push forward. Something holds her back.

Jimmy lies on the floor. Motionless. His phone flickers unread notifications casting a faint glow on his limp fingers. A single, high-pitched tone rings faintly.

EXT. DOMESTIC FLIGHTS EXIT - MOMENTS LATER

Roya now drags her suitcase, a crossbody bag slung over one shoulder. She looks sleep-deprived and drained.

Approaching the exit, she pauses.

She glances at a sign pointing toward the Spirit of Haida Gwaii sculpture. She checks her Apple Watch, presses her lips together in thought - then turns and walks in the other direction.

EXT. INTERNATIONAL DEPARTURES - LEVEL 3 - PRE-SECURITY - LATER

Roya stands in front of the massive bronze sculpture. She circles it slowly, gazing at the canoe and the Haida figures - wolf, raven, bear - each creature pulling her deeper into the scene. She smiles, momentarily transported.

ROYA  
(Whispers)  
All in the same boat! ...

She smiles. Two LITTLE KIDS run past the glass barrier and try to climb the sculpture.

A WHITE WOMAN (mid-50s, short hair, white capris, soft blue T-shirt), carrying a rolling carry-on and backpack, marches toward them.

WOMAN

What are you doing? Don't you have any manners? This is our heritage!

The kids hesitate, startled but not scared. Their MOTHER, a South Asian Sikh woman in traditional dress, struggles to hold a baby while calling to her kids in a flustered voice.

The white woman turns to Roya, indignant.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

See? They just come here, have a bunch of kids, and use our resources – but don't even teach them to respect this country.

Roya watches the woman and the overwhelmed mother. Then she smiles gently.

ROYA

They're just kids.

WOMAN

Kids should learn manners from their parents. But...

(beat)

This isn't the same country anymore.

The woman walks off with a huff. Roya looks like she wants to respond, so then she just redirect kids with a smile toward their mother. Meanwhile, woman's HUSBAND arrives. The woman The kids run to him.

Roya checks her watch and hurries away.

EXT. TAXI STATION- LATER

Roya scans the area for a taxi. None are available. She pulls out her phone, but there's a glitch – the app won't connect. She frowns.

At the far end of the taxi line, she spots a YOUNG DRIVER with earbuds in, zoned out in his car.

Roya rushes toward him and knocks on his window.

ROYA

(muffled, urgent)

Can you take me to the port? I'm in a hurry!

EXT. TAXI STATION - CONTINUOUS

Roya approaches a YOUNG DRIVER (mid-20s, in a hoodie and shades) who lounges in his parked cab, lost in loud music through his Ear buds.

She knocks on the window. He slowly rolls it down.

DRIVER

Yeah?

ROYA

Can you take me to the port? I'm in a hurry.

DRIVER

I'm on break.

ROYA LOOKS AROUND. NO OTHER CARS. FRUSTRATED, SHE BLURTS.

ROYA

I'll pay double. Just please—be quick.

He shrugs, unlocks the doors.

DRIVER

Get In.

Roya opens the rear door and throws herself in, still clutching her suitcase.

ROYA

Would've been nice to open the trunk.

DRIVER

You didn't ask. There's space back there.

He starts the car. The engine revs. Music blares — harsh, distorted rock.

ROYA (MUTTERING)

Bastard.

He pulls out fast, weaving through traffic.

ROYA (CONT'D)

Hey! Are you trying to kill me? Turn that music down — I'm going deaf!

DRIVER

You said you were in a hurry. What do you want me to do – fly?

ROYA

I want to get there alive!

He sighs and lowers the volume – just slightly.

Roya pulls out her phone, desperate for distraction. She dials a contact: SUSY. No answer.

ROYA (SOFTLY) (CONT'D)

Ah, Susy... where the hell are you?

DRIVER

You talking to me?

ROYA

No. I don't.

He fumbles with the car screen to change tracks.

Roya, visibly stressed, searches her bag for her earbuds. She glances up – they're heading downhill fast, under an overpass. Her eyes widen.

SCREEEEEECH!

The driver slams the brakes. Roya lurches forward, her head smacking the back of the front seat. Her suitcase tips, knocking her sideways.

She gasps – the air knocked out of her. Struggling to breathe.

The car sits still.

The music still plays – raw, chaotic.

Roya looks around, dazed. She has no idea where she is.

FADE OUT.

EXT. ROADSIDE - CONTINUOUS

The taxi is pulled off to the side. Traffic is backing up. Horns blare. Other cars slow and stop.

The DRIVER jumps out, rushes to the back seat, and yanks the door open.

INT. TAXI - CONTINUOUS

Roya is crumpled under her suitcase, dazed.

DRIVER  
Ma'am! Are you okay?

ROYA  
(groggy, disoriented)  
I knew you'd kill me. Am I...  
alive?

DRIVER  
It wasn't my fault! Look—  
(points)  
That girl just jumped into the  
street.

Roya pushes the suitcase aside, then scrambles out.

ROYA  
What?

She looks where the driver pointed. In the middle of the street, traffic has slowed around the still body of a YOUNG WOMAN — bleeding, unmoving.

Some drivers are honking. Some are frozen. Roya breaks into a run.

DRIVER  
(yelling)  
Hey! Where are you going?! We're in  
a rush!

ROYA  
(shouting back)  
I can't leave her! I'm a doctor—I  
might be able to help!

DRIVER  
I can't wait for you! You'll get  
hit out there!

ROYA  
Wait. I'll pay you triple.

She darts into traffic. The driver mutters under his breath:

DRIVER  
Crazy woman. What if I just take  
all your stuff?

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE INJURED GIRL—MOMENTS LATER

Roya kneels beside the young woman – maybe 20, in jeans and a thin T-shirt. Her face is ghost-pale. Eyes fluttering. Blood pools beneath her head.

ROYA  
(whispers)  
You poor thing! What has happened  
to you.

The girl is pale and motion less. The eyes are fading, the lips are dried. Roya checks her vitals.

A MAN nearby speaks up.

MAN  
What are you doing, ma'am?

ROYA  
I'm a doctor. Let me help.

She checks the girl's pulse.

ROYA (CONT'D)  
Still alive... but barely.

MAN  
I called 911. They're on their way.

A COUPLE stands nearby, shaken.

ROYA  
Does anybody know what happened.?

MAN  
NO, I don't. She just jumped down  
the bridge.

RANDOM WOMAN  
This is suicide. Poor little girl,  
who knows what suffer she has been  
through.

Roya shakes her head, Roya presses her ear to the girl's chest, trying to stay calm in the blistering heat.

The man beside her begins searching the girl's pockets.

MAN  
Let's see if she has ID. A phone,  
something.

ROYA  
Careful... she might have spinal  
injuries.

Roya gently checks her for identification. Nothing.

ROYA (CONT'D)  
No phone. No ID.

Suddenly, a MASKED MAN steps out from the crowd. He has a  
muffled, congested voice.

MASKED MAN  
I'll take her to the hospital. I've  
got a car.

ROYA  
(firmly, without looking  
at him)  
No. Don't move her. Wait for the  
ambulance.

MASKED MAN  
You want her to die? I'm helping!

RANDOM MAN  
Hey we all got cars, she needs to  
be taken to hospital in  
professional care.

The man tries to strike but other people stop him.

ROYA  
(backing him off)  
Get away from her.

Another bystander speaks up.

BYSTANDER  
She's a doctor. Listen to her.

The crowd murmurs support. A distant siren wails.

Roya looks down at the injured girl, then looks at the hot  
sun above. Exhales out of disappointment.

EXT. ROADSIDE - LATER

Paramedics rush in. Roya steps back as they lift the girl  
onto a stretcher.

Police arrive, taking statements from witnesses.

A POLICEWOMAN approaches Roya.

POLICEWOMAN  
You examined her?

ROYA  
Yes. Pulse and heart rate—both very weak.

POLICEWOMAN  
Did you see anything suspicious?

ROYA  
No, I didn't. I got here like any other one for help.

POLICEWOMAN  
Any suspicious behaviour, fight?

ROYA  
No!

Policewoman heads off to other side.

ROYA (CONT'D)  
Wait! A man ,he was trying to take her with his own car, but people didn't let him and he just disappeared.

POLICEWOMAN  
Okay, we will check the traffic cameras.

The paramedics wheel the girl into the ambulance.

The two police officers are talking to each other, they are comparing something. Roya can

T understand, but it seems that the girl is missing.

People begin to scatter.

Roya walks slowly toward the shoulder, sweat on her brow, clothes clinging to her in the heat.

She scans the roadside — the taxi is gone.

Panic hits.

ROYA  
(to herself)  
What did I do? My bag... my phone... my ID...

She stands frozen on the shoulder of a half-closed highway.

Suddenly, the taxi pulls up. The driver leans out.

DRIVER

Relax! I didn't steal your stuff.  
(grins)

Hop in – but never trust people easily.

Roya exhales, her whole body sagging with relief. She opens the door and gets in.

EXT. DEPARTURE PORT- LATER

ROYA runs toward the ship, arriving just in time—barely a breath ahead of departure.

Her white suitcase rattles behind her, wheels clacking against the pavement in steady rhythm.

She looks worn out—physically and emotionally drained.

As she steps onto the ship, a SECURITY GUARD nods in greeting. Roya doesn't respond.

INT. SHIP - MAIN DECK NEAR ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

The cruise is alive with energy. Crew members guide passengers. Children shriek with laughter. Splashes echo from the pool. A little boy drops a cup of orange juice and his mother chases after him.

DELA (25, Asian), a cleaning crew member, arrives with mop and bucket, trying to manage the mess. Nearby, JANET (55, warm, sharp-eyed), the hotel manager, notices the hazard and goes off to fetch a "Slippery Surface" sign.

People continue stepping through the spill anyway.

INT. SHIP - ENTRANCE HALL - CONTINUOUS

ROYA reaches the front desk. ANDY (25, chipper, blond) scans her ID.

ANDY

Welcome aboard! Your suite is on the second floor. If you need anything at all—

His voice fades. Roya isn't listening. Her eyes scan the opulent ship interior. Pools glisten under sunlight. Music plays. Laughter bubbles from all sides. It's a world of carefree ease she clearly doesn't belong to.

The camera glides beside her suitcase as she walks—

Click, click, click—until—

One wheel catches the edge of the staircase.

THUD.

The suitcase flips. Roya stumbles. Lands hard.

A beat. Then, laughter.

A group of YOUNG PASSENGERS (teens, early 20s) watch, amused.

YOUNG WOMAN #1  
Nice move, princess!

YOUNG MAN #1  
Careful! Don't break a nail!

YOUNG WOMAN #2  
Oof. That was tragic...

They snicker, not even hiding it. The noise swells around her.

Roya sits frozen. Her hand grips the suitcase handle. A tattoo—delicate and bracelet-like—catches the light on her wrist.

Her face burns red. Her chest rises. A beat, then

ROYA  
(sharp, steady)  
Shut up.

EXT. CRUISE SHIP - MAIN DECK - CONTINUOUS

Laughter dies. Silence settles.

Passengers freeze. Some exchange glances. Whispers ripple across the deck.

Standing nearby: ROBERT (60, Chief Engineer), SANGIT (30, Captain's Assistant), and a few CREW MEMBERS - all unsure what to do.

JANET approaches, holding a yellow "SLIPPERY FLOOR" sign, her eyes widening at the tension.

From behind them, CAPTAIN DANIEL KIM (43, tall, Korean, full uniform) steps forward. His badge glints under the light. Calm, unreadable. His eyes land on ROYA.

ROYA is tense. Fiery. Their eyes meet—an almost electric moment. Pride and something else flicker silently between them.

CAPTAIN KIM  
(calm but firm)  
Is everything alright, ma'am?

Roya's jaw tightens. Her eyes scan the crowd, She exhales Sharply.

ROYA  
Everything was fine—until I stepped  
Into this circus. Who's in charge  
of this mess?

Murmurs swell.

CAPTAIN KIM  
Please calm down. If there's a  
problem, we'll assist you.  
(To Andy)  
Didn't you offer help?

ANDY  
Captain, she refused help. Didn't  
even wait for her key.

Laughter rises again.

PASSENGER #1 (O.C.)  
She's nuts.

PASSENGER #2 (O.S.)  
Maybe she's a ghost trying to walk  
through walls.

PASSENGER #3  
Maybe she is David Copperfield's  
sister.

JANET quickly steps in, coughing into her hand, professional and warm.

JANET

Sorry, sorry. The floor's been slippery—I've had a bit of a headache today.

(to Andy)

Please help the lady to carry her suitcase.

ROYA

No need. Just show me the way to my  
cabin.

JANET

(to Roya, kindly)  
Any time you need something,  
dear—just find me.

As ROYA storms past, her tilted suitcase snags on the slick floor and slams into CAPTAIN KIM's leg.

Daniel winces, steadying himself as Roya stumbles. Their eyes meet—no apology, just a flash of pride and defiance. Two storms, colliding.

Captain Kim holds her gaze a beat too long; Roya's expression hardens.

She tightens her grip on the suitcase and walks away.

Captain Kim watches her, silent.

JANET (CONT'D)

Are you alright, Captain?

Daniel presses his lips into a stiff smile, silent. Nearby, Sangit shifts awkwardly, reading everything unspoken.

Daniel turns and walks off.

Janet faces the crowd, masking her nerves with a calm smile.

EXT. UPPER DECK CORRIDOR - SAME TIME

From above, KIAN (45, Iranian, Roya's brother), tall with sharp eyes and black hair, leans on the railing, watching the scene below on the main deck. His face tightens as he sees the tension between ROYA and the crowd.

KIAN (O.C.)

(muttering)  
Stupid girl. You've already started  
to lose it.

A voice interrupts from behind.

ANTHONY (O.S.)

Bro! How's the world treating you?

KIAN turns, instantly recognizing ANTHONY – Captain Daniel Kim main assistant. Blonde, handsome, casual. The two men grin and hug tightly.

KIAN  
How I missed you, man.

ANTHONY  
Only once a year! Weren't you supposed to visit last spring?

KIAN  
Work got in the way. You know me.

ANTHONY  
Your usual excuse. So... enjoying the drama already? That woman nearly knocked over our new captain. She's a storm.

KIAN  
(chuckling, then dead serious)  
Watch your mouth. That "storm" is my sister.

ANTHONY  
(surprised)  
No way! Is that your sister? The physician one?

KIAN  
I just have one. I brought her here to force her to take a break. Clearly, that's not going well.

ANTHONY  
(chuckling)  
Oh, this just got better. Her vs. Captain Kim? That's gonna be fireworks. He's not exactly Mr. Chill, either.

KIAN  
(breathings deep)  
I still don't understand. What happens to the Ship first Captain! Just in eth departure day.? I am really worry for him

ANTHONY  
(shrugs, casually)  
It was just a heart attack or something like that.

(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I have not talked to his wife but I know that he has survived it. He'll be fine.

(beat)

Sorry you have to bear this fellow this time.

KIAN

I thought you would be stepping in as acting captain. Who is this guy?

ANTHONY

(pauses, then shrugs,  
avoiding eye contact)

Someone I know from college, an usual teacher pet.

ANTHONY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Borrowed him straight from the Navy. Clean cut. Straight-laced.

KIAN

Do you want get something? Still have time!

ANTHONY

Okay! On me.

KIAN

You're being generous.

ANTHONY

You're being ungrateful. As usual.

They walk off together.

EXT. THE CORRIDOR TO THE SECOND FLOOR CABINS- SAME TIME

Andy leads Roya down the busy corridor. Passengers struggle with luggage. Kids run past, making the commute harder.

A MAN steps out of his cabin, coughing hard. Roya notices his flushed, red face. She stops.

ROYA

Hey! Are you okay!

MAN

Yes, yes I'm fine. Just a little cough

ROYA

But you can't breath! Can I help.

MAN

No I'm fine. I think it's allergies.  
I have some over the counter meds.

Andy shifts impatiently, glancing at his watch.

ANDY

Sorry! Can we hurry up please. I  
need to get back.

Roya hesitates, then prepares to leave.

ROYA

Please visit the clinic. You might  
need more care.

The man nods, grateful.

EXT. MAIN DECK - SAME TIME

Captain Daniel Kim, freshly appointed ship captain, walks  
alongside his assistant SANGIT, surveying the activity as  
boarding continues. ROBERT and JANET catch up to them.

ROBERT

I bet this atmosphere's a far cry  
from what you're used to, huh  
Daniel?

CAPTAIN KIM

Very different. Talking to people  
here takes a magic language I don't  
have.

SANGIT

That's why we're lucky to have  
Janet.

They laugh. But the mood shifts as SAMANTHA (late 40s, sharp-  
tongued, dressed to impress) approaches. Her red-dyed hair  
catches the light as she narrows her eyes, giving Daniel a  
dismissive once-over before turning to Janet.

SAMANTHA

Are you the manager here?

JANET

(calm and firm)  
I'm the hotel manager. This  
gentleman is the ship's captain.

Samantha deliberately ignores Captain Kim.

SAMANTHA

I am from the VIPs floor. I will be selecting the staff that works there myself.

JANET

That's not how it works. We've assigned our teams—every section is covered.

SAMANTHA

This is not a request. It is an order. There are valuables up there. I won't have strangers around them.

CAPTAIN KIM

(stepping in)

Please be respectful to the crew. I understand your concern, but every staff member is trained and vetted. There's no need for alarm.

SAMANTHA

Then you'll take full responsibility if something happens?

CAPTAIN KIM

That's what I'm here for.

SAMANTHA huffs and storms off, throwing one last sharp look at their way.

ROBERT

(shaking his head)

What a day.

CAPTAIN KIM

Janet, how do you stand this every trip?

JANET

(grinning, coughing)

Barely.

JANET (CONT'D)

Don't know what's wrong with me today.

ROBERT

Still unwell?

JANET

I think so.

They walk together toward the deck's social lounge. Behind the BAR COUNTER, ANTHONY spots them and waves cheerfully. KIAN stands beside him, arms crossed. Daniel nods faintly. Kian doesn't respond.

JANET (CONT'D)

Anthony's found his summer friend again. We had quite the situation with him today.

ROBERT

Always comes in threes. That's our third issue so far.

SANGIT

Let's hope it's the last.

CAPTAIN KIM

(glancing over)

Who's that with him?

JANET

We call him the mystery man. Shows up every summer. They're close—hang out the whole trip. He's into online business, apparently.

SANGIT

Trader type. He brought in stacks of monitors and laptops—security flagged it, but it checked out.

CAPTAIN KIM

Anthony stepped in?

ROBERT

I can ask the gate crew. I've always had a feeling that guy's not what he seems.

Captain Kim gaze lingers on the pair at the bar. They're looking right back at him. The air tenses.

EXT. INFRONT OF ROYA'S ROOM- MOMENTS LATER

Andy rolls the suitcase to the suite door, unlocks it, and pushes the bag inside. He turns to leave, but Roya, embarrassed and nervous, calls after him. Andy stops, raising an impatient eyebrow. Roya takes a 100 dollar bill from her purse.

ROYA  
I'm sorry for whatever happened. I  
just had a bad day. Please take it.

ANDY  
(softening)  
It's alright. That happens for  
everyone.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
No need for that?

ROYA  
Please! I insist.

ANDY  
(doubtful with hesitate)  
You sure, That's too much.

Roya nods as yes. Andy takes the money and leaves. Just as ROYA steps into her room.

She hears a faint sob.

She freezes.

She turns and looks down the corridor. A shadow slips away. ROYA follows it for a few steps, but sees nothing.

ROYA  
(Whispers)  
Pretty sure, I heard a girl  
crying.

She checks the corridor and goes down a bit, but she doesn't see any thing.

She shrugs and ignores whatever happened.

INT. ROYA'S CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

The door clicks shut behind her. Sunlight fills the room, the sea glistening beyond the window. ROYA steps in, shuts the blinds, and dims the golden light.

She sinks onto the bed, curling into herself - breathing, silent, distant.

A woman alone, lost in her grief on a floating paradise.

EXT. CRUISE BAR - SAME TIME

Anthony and Kian chat casually. Nearby, JOHN (55, overweight, balding) argues heatedly on his phone.

JOHN

I told you, I won't stay quiet this time! You keep ignoring what I did! You will regret it.

His voice is low but sharp, dangerous under the surface.

His free hand balls into a tight fist.

Anthony and Kian exchange a look - both clearly know him and interested in the conversation, though pretending otherwise.

KIAN

What a day. He's ruining our moment.

ANTHONY

Do you know him? You seem a little too interested.

KIAN

No... just reminding myself not to mix work and life. But maybe I already have.

A young, pretty woman approaches John. He hangs up quickly, slipping his arm around her.

They leave together, hand in hand.

ANTHONY

(laughing, patting Kian)  
See? Bro got lucky. Now I want to be him.

They laugh and watch the pair disappear into the crowd.

INT. ROYA'S CABIN - AFTERNOON

ROYA's phone buzzes. She glances at the screen, her face lighting up with a brief flicker of hope before she answers.

ROYA

Susy! Gosh, where have you been?

SUSY (O.S.)

Come on, Roya! We talked this morning.

(MORE)

SUSY (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
I really hoped you'd find some  
peace, but it seems your mind's  
still lingering here.

ROYA  
How is she? Has she noticed I'm not  
there?

SUSY (O.S.)  
She's good. She likes her new home.  
She's happy here. Give yourself a  
rest, Roya!

Roya breathes deeply.

SUSY (CONT'D)  
You're not the only child in the  
world with a mother who has  
dementia. And stop calling every  
minute. If something happens,  
you'll be the first to know.

ROYA  
Can I see her?

SUSY  
No, she's sleeping now. I'll call  
you when my shift is done. Right  
now, I need to check on some of the  
others.

ROYA  
Okay. I'll wait. By the way... I've  
already goofed up on this trip.  
(beat)  
You don't know what a shitty day I  
had!

SUSY (O.S.)  
(laughing warmly)  
No surprise. That sounds like you.

ROYA

ROYA (CONT'D)  
(smiling faintly)  
I saw a girl throw herself onto the  
highway. And I think... I got her  
revenge by mistake.

SUSY (O.S.)  
Come on! Why trouble don't leave  
alone!

ROYA  
I don't know... but I think I owe  
someone an apology.

SUSY (O.S.)  
Hmm, sounds like it's getting  
interesting. We should talk later  
(a voice calls Susy in the  
background)

SUSY (CONT'D)  
They're calling me. I've got to go!

She hangs up before ROYA can say more. ROYA stares at the phone, the silence thick. She throws it onto the bed, bored and with a lump forming in her throat.

INT. ROYA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

ROYA starts to get up, the phone buzzes again. She picks it up and glances at the screen.

ROYA  
(muttering)  
Oh... I guess the subject.

ROYA (CONT'D)  
Hi!

KIAN (O.S.)  
(his voice dripping with  
irony)  
Hi, Dr. Arman, Welcome aboard the  
Mermaid Cruise! Anything you need?  
A captain to be slaughtered? A few  
co-travelers to punish? Just say  
the word.

ROYA  
Please, Kian. Stop it.

Her expression shifts to surprise.

ROYA (CONT'D)  
Wait! Hold on! You've been watching  
me, haven't you?

KIAN (O.S.)  
(Teasing )  
Just a little bit. But you were  
perfect. Honestly, I can't stand  
that lunatic guy either.

ROYA

I still don't understand why you even asked me to join you here.

KIAN (O.S.)

Think of it as your birthday gift.

(beat)

By the way, how's Saskatchewan treating you?

ROYA

Friendly and peaceful. And for your information, my birthday was two weeks ago.

KIAN (O.S.)

Harsh weather for a harsh woman. Don't be too tough on me, little sis. You know how busy I am. Come up to the upper deck. Let's grab something to eat.

ROYA

No. I need to shower and get some rest. I haven't slept a wink in 24 hours. Besides, I can't stand the sun. Let's meet at nine o'clock

KIAN (O.S.)

(grinning)

Ah, I forgot—you're nocturnal.

ROYA takes a deep breath, annoyed but amused.

ROYA

Stop teasing me. See you at nine.

She hangs up, leans back against the headboard, and closes her eyes, exhausted.

INT. SHIP BRIDGE - EVENING

DANIEL stands at the control panel, reviewing his schedule while scanning the navigation monitors. The atmosphere is tense but efficient. Nearby, SANGIT and ANTHONY monitor the systems.

ANTHONY

(leaning casually against the console)

It's been three hours on the water, and everything's under control.

(smirks)

(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)  
 Even the dolphins must be bored.  
 (Points toward Sangit)  
 By the way, Daniel, I see you and  
 Sangit have already met.

CAPTAIN KIM  
 Yes, I've heard good things about  
 him.

SANGIT, is looking pleased but slightly shy, nods.

ANTHONY  
 Yeah, bro's ambitious—just like  
 someone else I used to know.

Captain KIM, realizes Anthony is talking about him.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)  
 (A bit serious now)  
 I'm sorry about your mother, man. I  
 know what her loss meant to you.

SANGIT, just catching on, reacts with genuine sympathy.

SANGIT  
 Oh... God bless her. Sorry to hear  
 that.

CAPTAIN KIM  
 (flatly)  
 It's been two years now.

ANTHONY  
 (Disbelieving)  
 Two years... Damn. I should've  
 reached out sooner.

DANIEL  
 No worries. Life goes on. Thanks  
 for mentioning it.  
 (beat)  
 By the way, any updates on Captain  
 James? I've lost contact with his  
 wife.

ANTHONY  
 (getting up, pacing with  
 his coffee cup)  
 Yeah... he's in the hospital. I  
 think it was a heart attack.  
 (Shrug)  
 Or maybe a stroke? No one really  
 knows.

CAPTAIN KIM

Those are two very different things.

ANTHONY

Nobody's talked to his wife. We just know he fainted. Still unconscious. So, we're all guessing right now.

SANGIT

Captain James used to drink a lot. I'm sure it's related to his diet.

Captain KIM shoots SANGIT a sharp look, clearly warning him to stop.

ANTHONY

Alright, from now on, gossips are not allowed here.

(points to Sangit)

Understood?

INT. SHIP BRIDGE - HOUR LATER

Captain Kim is dep in his tasks, focused on his monitors. Sangit fidgets, glancing at him nervously. Trying to shift the conversation, he clears his throat.

SANGIT

Captain, I just spoke to hotel services. The ship is... underpopulated.

ANTHONY

(smirking)

What's that supposed to mean?

SANGIT

It's... strange. The top two floors are fully booked, but the number of guests doesn't match the number of rooms. Some things don't add up.

ANTHONY

(scoffing) The VIPs floor isn't like the rest. They don't pack people together like sardines - not like your old dorm days.

CAPTAIN KIM  
 (tense but calm)  
 He's right. He just didn't  
 put it very nicely.

Captain Kim hands Sangit a list of tasks, instructing him to review them.

Anthony tenses slightly, clearly not thrilled at being second-guessed.

ANTHONY  
 (forced cheer)  
 All at your service, Boss!

A silence hangs heavy in the room. Sangit reaches for the remote and flips on the TV, trying to break the tension.

TV ANCHOR (V.O.)  
 The Summit of 7+1 will take place  
 in two days, in Geneva addressing  
 global issues including the Middle  
 Eastern refugee crisis, climate  
 change, and human trafficking.

TV ANCHOR  
 The new virus has spread across the  
 world, already claiming thousands  
 of lives...

Anthony stares at the screen, his expression unreadable. Sangit quickly switches the channel.

ANTHONY  
 Hey! What was that for? I was  
 listening!

SANGIT  
 ( Tossing the remote to him)  
 You're impossible. What do you  
 expect to learn from that?

ANTHONY  
 ( catch the remote in the air)  
 What's the matter with you, bro?

CAPTAIN KIM (V.O.)  
 Well, well... welcome to elementary  
 school.

SANGIT lowers his gaze, embarrassed. ANTHONY mutters under his breath.

ANTHONY

(muttering in a sing-song  
tone)

So, from now on, we've got a school  
principal on board.

Daniel hears him but ignores the jab. He walks toward a shelf  
at the back of the room, out of view.

Just then, Andy enters, cheerful and completely unaware of  
the tension.

ANDY

Soon enough, I'll be working here  
with you guys.

ANTHONY

(Grinning)

No glory here, man. But hey, at  
least you get to escort the ladies  
to their rooms.

SANGIT

Good luck with that. Andy's already  
got plenty of "helping women"  
stories.

They all chuckle. Captain Kim listens from the back, flipping  
through some papers quietly.

ANTHONY

Andy! What did you do with that  
angry passenger today?

ANDY

Ah, that woman? How'd you even hear  
about her?

SANGIT

Didn't tell him a thing.  
(pointing up ward)  
He was watching from the upper  
floor.

ANDY

She was nice. Apologized. Said  
she'd just had a bad day.  
(grinning)  
But you know what was funny? She  
almost swallowed Captain Kim  
whole—shoved him with her suitcase.  
I think he got a bruise.

A beat of silence... then laughter erupts. Captain Kim hears them clearly. He pauses, visibly restraining his temper, then lets out a quiet chuckle, nodding at their foolishness.

SANGIT

Stop making stories. It was just an accident.

ANTHONY

(Mocking)

Oh! yea? An accident?

Captain Kim scans the passenger list on an I pad. Then approaches the group quietly, standing near the corner of the bridge.

ANDY

(Startled)

Captain! Didn't see you there.

CAPTAIN KIM

(dryly)

Clearly not.

(Beat)

If you're done with the comedy hour, maybe head back to your post?

ANDY

Okay, I'm on my way. Just came to visit. This place is kind of my dream.

Anthony chuckles, stands up, and pats him on the shoulder.

ANTHONY

You'll get there, dear boy. You will.

He picks up his phone and exits.

ANDY turns to leave as well but pauses, then leans closer to SANGIT.

ANDY

By the way—we've got some new faces in the hotel department. Couple of them are totally new. Even Janet said she wasn't aware of them. Apparently, Anthony brought them in as "volunteers."

(lowering his voice)

They suck. Eat more than they work. I caught them hanging around the buffet the whole time.

SANGIT

What? That's weird.

DANIEL arches an eyebrow, intrigued.

DANIEL

Well, don't go poking too hard at Anthony. He usually knows what he's doing.

(Pause)

By the way, what's the name of that guy—Anthony's friend? You said he's kind of... odd?

SANGIT

Oh, yeah. Janet calls him the "Mysterious Man."

He stands and begins searching the system for the Kian's identity. Meanwhile, Andy is happily wasting time, playing with the maps and navigation panels. Sangit finds the profile and shows it to Captain Kim, then sits back down.

As Captain Kim, reviews the ID, a name on the screen catches his eye—ROYA, with the same last name as Anthony's friend. He stiffens slightly, his breath catching. He mutters to himself:

CAPTAIN KIM

If they're together, why are they booked on different floors? That can't be a coincidence!

He tries to stay composed.

CAPTAIN KIM (CONT'D)

Andy, the angry woman you helped earlier—was she alone? I mean... was anyone with her?

ANDY

I don't know. I didn't see anyone. She seemed... solo.

SANGIT

Why is that even a question?

CAPTAIN KIM

Because it's strange. She has the same last name as Anthony's friend.

ANDY

Maybe they're a couple?

Just then, Anthony walks back in. Captain Kim immediately stops, trying to shift the topic—but ANTHONY has already heard.

ANTHONY

(dry, amused)

Well, Detective Kim... she's his sister.

(shrugs)

Just regular people, enjoying a vacation.

(a hint of challenge in his voice)

Is that going to be a problem?

CAPTAIN KIM

(clears throat, forcing a smile)

Just curious, that's all... didn't realize we were being so closely monitored.

EXT. CRUISE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Roya steps out of her room, wearing a long, soft blue high-neck halter dress. Around her neck is an old-style elegant necklace—an oval turquoise stone encased in heavy yellow gold. She hesitates as she walks through the corridor, uncertainty in her steps. At one point, she even stops, considering turning back to her room.

Then, she catches sight of a mirror in the hallway.

She pauses, staring at her reflection. Slowly, she reaches up and touches her necklace.

INT. ROYA'S Teen BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A younger Roya stands in front of a mirror, applying lipstick. She wears a white chemise, the same necklace adorning her neck.

Behind her, a young blonde girl, SARAH, (23, blond) playfully wraps her arms around Roya's shoulders.

ROYA

Don't! My lipstick will get smudged.

SARAH

Can I wear your necklace tonight?  
I'm sure Mamani won't mind.

ROYA  
(Reluctantly)  
Okay. Take it.

She reaches up, unclasping the necklace.

SARAH  
I was just testing your generosity.  
Don't worry, soon enough, I'll have  
some of her best antique jewels too  
as KIAN'S wife, Family's first  
daughter in law... What do they say "  
Aroos"

She laughs mischievously and walks away from the mirror. Roya  
watches her leave, then closes her eyes.

BACK TO PRESENT

The sounds of music and chatter grow louder as Roya turns a  
corner. She steps onto the bustling main deck.

A crowd of passengers moves toward the restaurant, laughter  
and energy swirling. On the dance floor, musicians play and a  
singer's voice floats above the melody. Couples spin beneath  
the warm glow of string lights.

ROYA slows, taking it all in—a swirl of joy and movement. Her  
face is touched by quiet sorrow, a contrast to the  
celebration around her.

She walks past the dance floor and notices a young couple—no  
older than twenty—dancing and kissing with abandon. She  
stops, transfixed, her mind drifting elsewhere.

Then—something catches her eye.

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

ROYA walks slowly through another corridor. Music and  
laughter echo behind her. She passes more couples dancing  
under lights.

She spots the COUGHING MAN from earlier, standing near the  
ship's drugstore.

ROYA  
Sir, are you feeling better? Did  
you see a doctor?

MAN  
Yeah... I hope the meds kick in.  
Chest still feels heavy.

Roya nods, starting to speak again – but a clumsy young man with a surgical mask stumbles past, spilling a bag full of condoms, STI meds, and creams across the deck.

Roya kneels to help, stunned by the sight.

ROYA  
(shocked)  
What... are all these? These aren't  
over-the-counter. Were they  
prescribed?

The young man stares at her, dumbfounded, then he, mumbles something.

YOUNG MAN  
(voice muffled, nasal)  
They're for... some patients.

ROYA frowns. The voice is nasal, tight – the kind of tone she might associate with a soft palate issue. She watches him but doesn't react beyond a puzzled stare. It's familiar... but she doesn't place it.

A SALE ASSISTANT hurries over.

SALE ASSISTANT  
No, no – they're expired. Just  
moving them out.

They scramble to gather the items. The young man rushes away.

Roya watches, unsettled, muttering to herself.

ROYA  
(muttering)  
They didn't look expired... What is  
going on?

She follows him through the crowd. She spots him again – now speaking quietly with JOHN (55, overweight, bald). They exchange a few words.

Then, the masked man disappears into the crowd.

ROYA (CONT'D)  
(quietly)  
That voice... I'm sure I have heard  
it before.

ROYA steps through the growing crowd, scanning for the COUGHING MAN—but he's gone.

She keeps walking... and sees something unexpected.

A YOUNG WOMAN—LILY (25, pretty, black hair)—is kissing the same older man she saw earlier. Passionately. Standing just behind them, a younger man, KAL (30, tall, thin), watches in silence. His expression unreadable.

ROYA's eyes shift.

ROYA (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
Something off about them..

Around them, passengers film everything. Phones raised. Livestreams rolling.

A bride and groom—NOAH (28, Canadian) and KAYLA (25, mixed Latina-Canadian)—still in wedding attire, pose for a video, basking in the spotlight.

The moment feels loud. Artificial. Roya looks uncomfortable, disoriented.

She bumps into a middle-aged woman—RUBY (55, elegant, loud)—laughing into her phone.

Without skipping a beat, RUBY grabs a nearby man, pulling him into frame.

RUBY  
(laughing)  
Say hi to my friends back home!  
Come on, wave!

The man waves awkwardly. ROYA watches it all, alienated.

She finds a quiet corner and pauses—then spots him.

A smile lights Roya's face. She walks up behind Kian and playfully covers his eyes.

KIAN  
(mock surprise)  
Who could this be? Oh my God, I'm  
shocked! No idea

Roya laughs softly, removes her hands, and stands in front of him. She takes a deep breath.

ROYA  
Okay, you win. In memory of old days.

Kian stands and pulls her into a quick hug.

KIAN  
Don't you think it's time to grow up?

Roya moves to a chair and sits down.

ROYA  
(softly, with a sigh)  
Not really. If I could, I'd go back to childhood... back to having you all around.

Kian hides his reaction with a sip of beer.

KIAN  
How's your mother?

Roya's face darkens.

ROYA  
My mother? There was a time you loved her like your own.

Kian exhales, guilt flashing across his face.

KIAN  
I didn't mean it like that. I'm sorry. How is she?

ROYA  
(somber)  
Worse. She hasn't said my name in six months.

KIAN  
(gently)  
I'll visit her at the end of summer. You've done everything you can. Don't blame yourself, little sis.

They both glance around at the happy crowd.

KIAN (CONT'D)  
Well... how's work?  
(beat)  
Small clinic life treating you better?

ROYA  
Very good. Quiet and peaceful.

ROYA (CONT'D)  
Thanks for the trip. Though I think  
it was Susy's idea.

KIAN  
You should be happy she cares about  
you.

ROYA  
Then who is she to you? I'd  
honestly be happy if you two got  
together.  
(beat)  
Maybe then you'd leave me alone.

KIAN  
(grinning)  
That's the Roya I know. Brutal and  
stubborn.

The waitress brings food. Kian takes a bite of bread –  
grimaces.

KIAN (CONT'D)  
This is stale. Could we get fresh  
bread, please?

ROYA  
(smirking)  
You haven't forgotten fresh bread.

KIAN  
I wish I still had that bakery. How  
happy Mum was there.

ROYA  
I still bake at home. When Mum  
smells bread in the oven, she  
smiles.  
For a moment, it's like she's back.

KIAN  
We're all stuck in the old days.  
(Roya touches her  
necklace.)

ROYA  
I've kept Mamani's things for you.  
You could come get them.

KIAN

They're yours now. I don't want anything from the past.

(Beat.)

KIAN (CONT'D)

Can we change the subject?

(Pause)

Thanks for putting the new captain in his place.

ROYA

(exhales sharply)

I feel awful about that. I wish I'd apologized.

(beat)

Can you help me find him!

KIAN

Don't be hard on yourself.

(beat)

He is in his office up there, not far.

ROYA

I shouldn't have let my feelings spill out like that.

(beat)

I really want to tell him I am sorry.

KIAN

I know someone on the bridge. Tomorrow, I'll ask if you can meet the captain -

(Pause)

But you're on your own. I can't stand him.

ROYA

(smiling faintly)

Deal.

KIAN

Now eat something. Bet you haven't eaten since you boarded.

Roya starts eating. Kian teases.

KIAN (CONT'D)

Still eating rabbit food?

ROYA  
It's called eating clean. You  
should try it.

KIAN  
(chuckling)  
Never. I'm not a rabbit.

They laugh softly. Two people surrounded by celebration – but quietly lost in their own tides.

INT. CAFÉ – NIGHT

Captain Kim, sits alone at a café-bar. Janet approaches and pulls out a chair.

JANET  
Sorry, I had some tasks to finish.

CAPTAIN KIM  
No worries. The first day is always  
the toughest. Glad you're here;  
you're great at your job. Robert  
too. No offense

Janet raises an eyebrow, chuckling.

JANET  
Don't worry. I'm not speaking to  
him today. He's a nut.

CAPTAIN KIM  
(Laughing)  
Again? What happened?

JANET  
Never mind. As usual, I can't work  
with him, but I do it every time.  
(Pause)  
Anyway, how about you? How did you  
end up here?

Daniel swallows, setting his glass down.

CAPTAIN KIM  
I don't know. It just happened. I  
needed a change. So, when they  
offered, I accepted. Maybe I  
shouldn't have.

Janet asks thoughtfully.

JANET

Anthony?

CAPTAIN KIM

Not just him. The whole atmosphere feels off. And knowing he hates me... it eats at me.

JANET

(Coughing heavily)

Ignore him. You've always been better than him. You can count on me and Robert.

Robert enters, wearing a glittery mask.

ROBERT

Hey, can I have my wife back?

Daniel and Robert shake hands, greeting each other.

JANET

(Protesting to Robert)

For God's sake, what's on your face?

ROBERT

Found it on the floor. Must've been a masquerade party.

Robert places the mask on Janet's face. She gets mad, removing it.

JANET

What the...?

Captain Kim, watches at their friendly warm pranks, nodding and smiling.

INT.RESTAURANT - SAME TIME

Roya and Kian have finished their meal. The atmosphere is dimly lit, buzzing with energy around them, but there's tension at their table.

KIAN

(while trying to get up)

Sorry! I must go. I need to visit someone.

ROYA

I thought tonight was for me.

KIAN

It is. But it's business too.

(beat)

Don't stay too long—things get messy when people drink.

ROYA

Okay, but...

KIAN

What?

ROYA

I think you're hiding something.

KIAN (HALF-LAUGHS)

You're crazy. Why would I hide anything? We're on a family trip.

ROYA

Say something new. My gut tells me you're not the same. Are you trying to go back to your old job?

Kian stands abruptly.

KIAN

If I could... but you know, sometimes life doesn't go the way we expect.

ROYA

Sometimes?

KIAN (QUIETLY)

You're right. Never.

(beat)

Why are you so cranky today?

ROYA

On my way here, there was a car crash. My taxi slammed the brakes—because a girl jumped into the street out of nowhere. She was running from something.

KIAN

(concerned)

Really! How did that happened? You okay?

ROYA

Fine! I think she was trying to kill herself, I tried to help but I don't think she survives.

(exhales)

From that moment, I got paranoid, hear her everywhere. I wish you were there! You could have found who is behind it.

KIAN

(chuckles, a bitter smile)

Wow. First time you've ever admired my job.

ROYA

I didn't say that.

KIAN

(grinning faintly)

Don't worry. I couldn't do any better now.

(gestures around the room)

Look at this place. We're surrounded by crime—and criminals. Well-dressed, charming. Who knows who's who?

ROYA

That's a dark attitude...

KIAN

It's not dark. It's honest.

(beat)

Anyway—I really have to go.

He walks away. Roya stares at his empty chair, feeling abandoned. She mutters to herself.

ROYA

What am I even doing here... in the middle of the ocean?

EXT. MAIN DECK - CONTINUOUS

A soft ocean breeze brushes her face as she steps outside. Music swells. Teens run past, laughing. Couples sway under glowing string lights.

Roya stands still. The joy around her feels unreachable.

She spots the newlywed couple, still glowing in post-wedding bliss. Then, across the deck, she sees the elegant woman from earlier—this time with the younger woman.

The younger woman is now kissing a different man, her older husband nowhere in sight.

Roya blinks. Her jaw tightens.

Disgusted, she turns away—head spinning. She walks toward a quieter part of the deck.

Suddenly—she trips.

She looks down.

A Hello Kitty mask lies on the floor. She picks it up, inspecting it.

A soft chuckle escapes her lips. The innocence of it—a child's toy in a world of secrets—gives her pause.

She holds it for a moment, her expression unreadable.

EXT. DECK - NIGHT

Roya sits alone on a deck chair, the sea stretching endlessly before her. Behind her, passengers dance under colorful lights, many wearing masks.

She stares at the ocean. A long breath.

Then she closes her eyes.

For the first time in a long while, she relaxes—guilt-free.

FADE OUT.

INT. SHIP - STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER

Captain Kim, walks down the corridor, rubbing his sore shoulder, then briefly touching his forehead. As he reaches the staircase to the main deck, he spots KIAN ahead.

Captain Kim, pauses, watches closely.

KIAN moves slowly, looking up at each CCTV camera he passes—pausing, studying them. He clearly knows where they are.

KIAN  
(inaudible, glancing  
around)  
Yeah... one here, too. Right by the  
stairwell.

Daniel frowns. This isn't casual.

He stays hidden, letting Kian walk further down the hall.

EXT. DECK - NIGHT

Roya sits alone, staring at the endless sea. Behind her,  
masked passengers dance under colorful lights.

She exhales, closes her eyes.

For once, she lets herself relax.

INT. SHIP - STAIRWELL -SAME TIME

Kian suddenly stops, sensing something. He turns  
around—nothing but silence. The hallway's empty.

He lets out a small grin and heads toward the conference  
room.

EXT. SIDE CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Captain Kim, steps out from behind a corner just after Kian  
disappears. His brows are furrowed, lips tight.

CAPTAIN KIM  
(muttering)  
What the hell are you up to?

ROYA sits alone on a bench, mask in hand, eyes closed.

Footsteps nearby make her open her eyes.

A man stands a few meters away, casually dressed, lost in  
thought.

At first, she barely notices him. But as a group of laughing  
children rushes past, he turns—his face catching the light.

ROYA squints. Her expression tightens.

ROYA  
(muttering to herself)  
God! He's the ship's captain.  
(MORE)

ROYA (CONT'D)  
 What the hell is he doing here,  
 right next to me?  
 (beat)  
 Maybe the best time for apology!

She tenses. That same strange, unreadable feeling creeps in again.

Nervous, she rubs her hands together.

She starts to stand but hesitates then sits back down.

Glancing at the Hello Kitty mask in her hand, she takes a breath and looks at the man again.

Just as she rises, the ship lurches.

She stumbles—and falls hard back onto the bench.

ROYA (CONT'D)  
 Ouch!

Captain notices and approaches. ROYA put the mask on her face.

CAPTAIN KIM  
 Are you hurt? Sea can be harsh  
 sometimes.

ROYA  
 I'm fine .. I have trouble keeping  
 my balance at sea.

CAPTAIN KIM  
 Then maybe the sea isn't for you.  
 Or maybe it's the mask blinding  
 you.

Something in Roya —unspoken, uncertain—pushes her forward.

She doesn't know why, but she wants to keep the moment going

ROYA  
 (Smirks)  
 I don't know, maybe. But you are  
 very good with sea, I guess.

CAPTAIN KIM  
 (firm, dryly)  
 I've lived my life on the water.

ROYA  
 A lifetime? So... you must've seen  
 mermaids?

Daniel smiles and pulls out a cigarette and lighter while he is looking far away.

CAPTAIN KIM  
Mermaids? Never looked for them.

He flicks the lighter. It slips from his hand. ROYA notices the lighter's spot but before picking it out...

Suddenly

The ship's power cuts out.

Everything is plunged into darkness.

A beat of silence—then, screams echo in the distance.

CAPTAIN KIM (CONT'D)  
(firm, authoritative)  
Nobody move! Stay where you are  
until it's resolved. It won't take  
long.

He quickly activates his phone flashlight, casting a narrow beam of light in the dark.

One by one, passengers follow suit, their phone lights flicking on across the ship like scattered fireflies.

The cruise ship, adrift at sea, now floats under the night sky—a dark silhouette dotted with tiny, glowing lights.

Glowing lights.

INT. ROYA'S SUITE - AFTER MIDNIGHT

Roya tosses and turns in bed, eyes wide open. The gentle hum of the cruise ship offers no comfort. She grabs her phone. No new messages.

Suddenly—footsteps. Rapid. Uneven. Followed by a faint sob. Then fast breathing.

Roya gets up.

She throws on her night robe and slips into the hallway.

INT. CRUISE SHIP HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Moonlight filters through the corridor windows. The music from the main deck throbs in the distance, muffled.

Ahead, a shadow rushes past.

Roya follows, barefoot, quiet.

The figure turns a corner. Roya hurries to keep up. Another corner—then she sees her.

A GIRL, maybe early 20s. Standing at the far end. Shaking. In a thin nightdress. Mascara streaks her cheeks.

Roya approaches, voice low but steady.

ROYA

Hey... it's okay. I'm here. Are you hurt?

The girl stares blankly. No words. Just trembling.

ROYA (CONT'D)

You're not safe out here. Come with me—we'll find help. I heard you crying earlier too.

The girl doesn't move. Her pupils look glazed. She sways slightly.

Roya reaches out, takes her hand gently—

—A CRACK!

A blow from behind. Roya gasps. Stumbles. Her hand slips from the girl's.

Everything spins. Her knees buckle. She leans against the wall.

Her vision fades.

FADE OUT.

INT. ROYA'S SUITE - DAY

ROYA SITS ON HER BED, EYES CLOSED.

CUT TO:

EXT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Darkness. A blunt hit to the side of Roya's head. She slumps, dazed.

She tries to rise—gripping the walls, dragging herself.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYA'S SUITE - CONTINUOUS

Back in bed, Roya now touches a bruise on her forehead. She winces.

She whispers to herself:

ROYA  
I won't let Kian know.

Her eyes drift to the nightstand: Daniel's lighter, scattered cosmetics, a broken perfume bottle.

Sunlight filters in. Her phone buzzes loudly.

Roya jumps, squinting into the light—then gasps.

A flash—a vision of blonde hair and a bloodied face beside her.

She grabs her chest, breathing hard.

ROYA (CONT'D)  
Damn sun...

She hurries to shut the blinds. Darkness returns.

The phone buzzes again. She grabs it, knocking over the lighter and perfume.

ROYA (CONT'D)  
(sighs)  
Damn... what a mess.  
(into phone)

Hello?

KIAN (V.O.)  
Good morning, sleepyhead.

ROYA  
(still pretending to be  
groggy)  
It's too early.

KIAN (V.O.)  
It's 9 AM. I've had breakfast and  
two online meetings.

ROYA  
Congratulations. I still want to  
stay in bed.

KIAN (V.O.)  
The sun shines all day here. Get  
used to it.

ROYA  
If this is a vacation, I want to be  
nocturnal. Nights are beautiful.  
Especially when there's power.

KIAN (V.O.)  
Wait—did something happen last  
night?

Roya pauses, her face stiffens. Then an idea flickers.

ROYA  
Yeah... I fell. Lost my balance.

KIAN (V.O.)  
God, how clumsy. Are you hurt?

ROYA  
Not seriously.

KIAN (V.O.)  
Anyway, I arranged a meeting with  
the captain. 11 AM sharp.

Roya looks uncomfortable.

KIAN (V.O.)  
Roya? You still with me?

ROYA  
Yeah. Do I have to go?

KIAN (V.O.)  
You asked for it. I can cancel if  
you want?

ROYA  
(murmurs)  
Maybe I should tell him what's  
really going on here...

KIAN (V.O.)  
What did you say!

ROYA  
Nothing. See you then.

She hangs up. Gets up.

She picks up the damp lighter and broken perfume bottle. The scent is strong.

She wipes the lighter with a tissue, flicks it—a flame flickers to life.

INT. CORRIDOR - HALF AN HOUR LATER

Roya exits her room, wearing a flowy soft blue top and matching long skirt. The same necklace adorns her neck. Light makeup enhances her tired but striking features. She brings her hair down to cover the bruise she got from last night.

She pauses at a mirror on the wall.

In the reflection—SARAH , appears, smiling gently.

SARAH (IN MIRROR)  
You look gorgeous, little sis.

ROYA  
What do you think? Am I pretty?

SARAH (IN MIRROR)  
What do you have in your hands?

Roya blinks. The reflection is normal again—just her.

She looks down, presses the lighter tightly in her hand.

She exhales, steadies herself, and heads toward the restaurant.

INT. RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

Roya sits at a small table in the shadow area. She glances down—spotting a tiara left on a nearby seat. She remembers the couple in the wedding attire.

ROYA  
(to herself)  
They must have left it after the power outage.

ROYA (CONT'D)  
(to herself)  
They must've left it after the  
power outage.

She picks it up and signals a waitress.

ROYA (CONTINUED (CONT'D))  
Could you set this aside? I know  
the owner, they might look for it.

WAITRESS  
Oh, I remember. No, she didn't  
forget it. They had a bad fight.  
The bride threw it away.

ROYA  
Really? That's... strange. Still,  
hold onto it. It looks expensive.

The waitress nods and leaves.

Roya scrolls through her phone. She senses someone staring –  
a man nearby. Silent. Watching.

Her hands tremble. She quickly gathers her things and changes  
tables.

Just then, RUBY (55, elegant, phone in hand) slips into the  
seat beside her. Roya doesn't notice at first.

Her hands tremble. Her breathing grows shallow.

RUBY

Hi. I remember you from last night.

ROYA  
Oh, hi. I'm sorry about bumping  
into you.

RUBY  
I don't remember anything. I think  
you're alone here.

ROYA  
Not quite alone. I'm with my  
brother, but he's busy with other  
tasks.

RUBY  
With your brother? I haven't seen  
mine in ages.

ROYA smiles. RUBY leans in, lowering her voice.

ROYA  
(flinching slightly)  
What?

RUBY  
This cruise has weird energy. Like  
an old pirate ship haunted by  
ghosts.

ROYA  
(relieved)  
Ah. The power glitch. Yeah.

Ruby keeps talking. Roya zones out, distracted. She sips her coffee, but she's on edge.

Ruby reaches over and touches her hand gently.

RUBY  
Hey--what's your name?

ROYA  
Sorry.. I got distracted.

RUBY  
Nice to meet you. I'm Ruby.  
(close enough to be  
friends, right?)  
Oh! Can I borrow your lighter?

Roya hesitates, then passes it over.

Ruby lights her cigarette, inhales.

RUBY (CONT'D)  
Mmm. Interesting. Smells like you.

Roya stiffens, uneasy. The perfume on the lighter clings in the air.

INT. BRIDGE - SAME TIME

Captain Kim stands, addressing his crew with a stern expression.

ROBERT  
Captain, the issue has been  
resolved. A minor glitch in the  
power distribution system. We've  
isolated the fault, and all systems  
are stable.

CAPTAIN KIM

I understand, but the passengers were alarmed. Why wasn't this identified during our pre-departure checks?

SANGIT

Captain, all systems passed inspection. However, the sudden failure suggests possible external interference – perhaps even sabotage.

ANTHONY

(Grinning)

Come on! We're not that important. Maybe someone was just playing a prank on the new captain.

Anthony chuckles, enjoying Captain's discomfort. Daniel remains composed.

CAPTAIN KIM

Anthony, what's your assessment?

ANTHONY

Systems can be finicky in tropical climates. Power fluctuations aren't uncommon.

(Pause)

Let's not be too hard on the crew; this isn't the navy. As for the passengers, by tonight, they won't remember a thing.

The crew smirks. Captain forces a smile.

CAPTAIN KIM

I don't want to see such glitches again. This is my first experience on this ship, and I want it to be memorable.

ANTHONY

Memorable? So, you're not planning to stay? Pity, we'll miss you.

The rest chuckle, and Captain Kim smiles tightly.

INT. CORRIDOR TO THE BRIDGE - SAME TIME

Roya and Kian are walking together, roya keeps having her head down. Kian gets suspicious on her.

KIAN  
Hey! Why are you

He brings Roya's Chin UP. Roya protests and pushes him away.

ROYA  
What are you doing? People look.

KIAN  
Roya you are hurt? My god!  
How that..

Roya doesn't let him go on!

ROYA  
I am fine. Don't make a fuss.  
(beat)  
I don't know should I go there or..

KIAN  
We still can return! But I really  
expect you to know how to manage  
your emotions.

Roya pauses. She feels the lighter in her pocket, her fingers tighten around it.

ROYA  
Sorry! Let's do it.

They keep walking.

EXT. CORNER OF THE CORRIDOR- CONTINUOUS

As they turn a corner, KIAN spots KAL,  
nods, and they exchange a brief greeting.

Roya glares at Kian, then watches Kal walk away.

ROYA  
Do you know that man?

KIAN  
Yes! I know him from the gym. Why  
do you ask?

ROYA

I saw him last night, in a very bad situation. Flirting with someone else's girl friend or wife.

KIAN

Not our business.

Roya stands for a moment. She reviews last night, she remembers John talking to the masked man and then remembers the masked man in road.

ROYA

(whispers)

How did I missed that. He is the same one in the road.

Kian is standing and looks at Roya.

KIAN

Roya ! You are scaring me! Why are you standing there talking to yourself.

Roya nods and walks toward him. They approach the door to the bridge, tension rising again.

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE BRIDGE - LATER

KIAN

(firm and serious)

Now that we're here, should I text Anthony or what? Make your mind!

Roya nods. Kian sends a quick message.

INT. SHIP'S BRIDGE - SAME TIME

Captain Kim sits in his chair, reviewing meeting notes.

Anthony approaches and gently pats him on the shoulder, causing Daniel to startle.

ANTHONY

Sorry, didn't mean to scare you.

Captain Kim looks up, surprised.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)  
Remember the siblings you were  
curious about? They'd like a moment  
with you.

CAPTAIN KIM  
To see me? May I ask why?

ANTHONY  
It seems the sister wants to  
apologize for last yesterday's  
incident. He texted me, and I  
arranged for now.  
(beat)  
If you can spare a minute, they're  
waiting.

Captain Kim appears uneasy, recalling his previous  
interaction with Roya. He takes a deep breath and nods in  
agreement.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

A moment later, Anthony steps out from the bridge, spotting  
them.

ANTHONY  
Hey! Bro.

KIAN  
Hey, Anthony! How's it going?  
Thanks for arranging the visit.

ANTHONY  
No worries. He doesn't have much to  
do anyway.

Anthony glances at Roya with a mischievous smile.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)  
Dr. Arman! How's your trip been so  
far?

ROYA  
(pretend a fake smile)  
Thanks. It was very good. Sorry for  
the trouble.

ANTHONY

No worries, he will be here in a minute.

(beat)

I will take my leave then.

(wave at Kain)

Catch you later.

The same moment ,Captain emerges from the bridge and stops short when he sees ROYA. A flicker of surprise—and mild irritation—crosses his face.

CAPTAIN KIM

Hello, everyone. Anthony said I was expecting visitors. So... here I am.

Kain step in and shake hands with Captain.

KIAN

Captain Kim! I am Kian Arman and this is my sister, Dr. Roya Arman.

Captain Kim, and Roya look at each other and nod as hello.

KIAN (CONT'D)

I believe you've already met... under friendly circumstances.

Captain swallows, caught slightly off guard.

CAPTAIN KIM

Well... yes

Roya steps forward, glancing briefly at Kian, then meeting Captain's eyes.

ROYA

Captain Kim, I just wanted to apologize.

Captain shifts uncomfortably, clearly unsure where this is going. Kian smirks.

KIAN

She's very emotional.

ROYA  
 (swallows)  
 I had a rough day. Lost control of  
 my temper.

Roya exhales, Captain is uneasy too. Kian studies them.  
 Smirks.

ROYA (CONT'D)  
 I slipped on the floor. It pissed  
 me off—and everything just  
 snowballed from there.

KIAN  
 Unluckily!

The camera shifts between their faces—Kian amused, Roya  
 embarrassed, Captain Kim unreadable—then settles on Captain.

CAPTAIN KIM  
 (Gently)  
 Don't worry. It's alright. I  
 understand.

KIAN  
 By the way, my sister has a  
 reputation for mishaps. Maybe just  
 be careful with things like power  
 glitches.

He points to her bruise. Roya stiffens and moves her head  
 away. Daniel looks down, ashamed.

Kian's phone buzzes. He checks it.

KIAN (CONT'D)  
 Sorry—got to take this. Be quick  
 Roya!

Kian walks off, phone to his ear. Roya stays behind. A moment  
 of quiet.

CAPTAIN KIM  
 I'm sorry about what happened. It  
 might've been our fault.

ROYA  
 It's okay. Kian can be...  
 outspoken.

CAPTAIN KIM  
 He was right, though.  
 (MORE)

CAPTAIN KIM (CONT'D)  
The glitch could've caused a lot.  
Are you alright?

Roya decides to reveal what happens to her

ROYA  
Yes. But...

She hesitates. Her lip's part—she almost speaks—but stops.

CAPTAIN KIM  
Do you want to say something?

She opens her hand. The lighter rests in her palm.

CAPTAIN KIM (CONT'D)  
What's this?

ROYA  
I found it after you left last  
night. I wish listened to you and  
stayed there a bit longer.

A heavy pause.

Captain Kim, takes the lighter. Smiles faintly.

CAPTAIN KIM  
So that was you.

Roya smiles—hesitant, holding back. There's doubt in her eyes. She forces a small smile.

ROYA  
Yes! But I didn't have enough time  
to introduce myself.

CAPTAIN KIM  
Fair enough!

ROYA  
I take my leave then!

Captain nods, unsure what to make of her restraint.

She turns to leave. Captain doesn't stop her—just watches. Roya touches her wrist nervously as she walks away.

Captain lifts the lighter to his nose. A faint trace of her perfume lingers. He inhales, slower this time. A quiet, private smile curls his lips.

He watches the end of the corridor where she disappeared... then smells the lighter again.

A moment of stillness--until--

ANDY (O.S.)  
Captain! Captain Kim!

DANIEL  
What is it, Andy? Why are you shouting?

ANDY  
Janet sent me. You weren't answering your phone.

DANIEL  
What's wrong?

ANDY  
Someone was found dead in their room. Janet and the doctor are there now.

Captain exhales sharply, grounding himself.

END OF EPISODE 1