



Story, Script & English translation by Elisabetta Errani Emaldi

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The Witch Queen of the Orient Sun

***Story & Screenplay by:
Elisabetta Errani Emaldi***

International Award note:

*This story won the second
"Miguel de Cervantes"
international award*

*The odyssey of a cruise ship and her crew aboard the
now infamous vessel known as the "Orient Sun".
A voyage between Singapore and Jakarta
where psychic premonitions bely the
mysteries of the Eastern worlds;
threatened by fires, racism,
mutiny, and hurricanes,*

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Author's Note

"The Witch Queen of the Orient Sun" is a true story that took place in 1991, in Singapore, on board the ship "Orient Sun".

"The Witch Queen of the Orient Sun"

is the nickname that the officers gave me (Elisabetta Errani Emaldi) when they became the witnesses of my premonitory dreams.

The characters in my script are real, but for obvious reasons I have changed their names, except for the witnesses. However, I would like to list the names and qualifications of the officers and crew witnesses, who have allowed me to use their name in the script:

Captain Philip Rentell, English

Electrical Engineer Edward Gibbs, English

Chief Engineer Peedu Post, Swedish

Assistant Chief Engineer Kristian Hedelin, Swedish

Chief Radio Telegrapher Richard Fernandez, Malaysia

2nd. Radio Telegraph Operator Maung Aung Naing, Burma

Doctor on board Win Naing, Myanmar

Assistant Commissioner Shirley Kok from Singapore (deceased in 1999)

Cruise Director and Journalist Colin Mc. Ewan, Australian

Assistant Cruise Director Lisa Otes, Australian.

...and also a special thankyou to...

Dr. David Ryback, the American Scientist and Psychologist from Atlanta, to whom I sent all my dreams from Singapore.

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5 links to the videos with

Elisabetta Errani Emaldi's premonitory dreams witnesses

Video 1 / 5

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2X7GDJ6FwY>

Video 2 / 5

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLA0XdOtk9M>

Video 3 / 5

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y613IzmrMfY>

Video 4 / 5

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEQpcPkTV-A>

Video 5 / 5

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gLZT9Z7zzU>

Note:

"The Witch Queen of the Orient Sun," as already mentioned, is a true story that took place on a cruise ship over a period of about eight months. The important characters are supported by a multitude of people that crossed along the route of the "Orient Sun".

To maximise the impact of this story which is so full of so many characters, wherever practical. and where the original crew are still alive and willing, the author suggests liaison with the Ship's current owners with the idea of using the ship and as many of the original crew members as possible.

NB: On board the ship the use of uniforms is only necessary around passengers. When a crew member is not in service, as long as he/she is not in contact with passengers, they can wear civilian clothes.

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Character Breakdown:

1. Elisabetta, supervisor, then shop manager, in her forties, Italian.
2. Delopera, Elizabeth's boss, forty, Venice.
3. Marcia, Elisabetta's friend, thirty-five, Italian.
4. Lilian, shop manager, then assistant, fifties, German.
5. Alfio, chief house keeping, fifty years old, Italian.
6. Rosina, Elizabeth's mother, sixty-four, Italian.
7. Rossana, Elizabeth's sister, forty-two, Italian
8. Primo, Elizabeth's father, sixty-four, Italian. (Deceased)
9. Valdetaro, Elizabeth's ex boss, Italian in his sixties (Deceased).
10. Hostess at the counter, about forty years old, Italian.
11. Two elderly gentlemen on the aircraft, seventy, Italian.
12. Hostess on board the plane who accompany Elizabeth to Lilian.
13. American lady at the airport of Athens, fifty.
14. General Manager (GM), fifties, Sweden.
15. Henry, Chief steward, Bulgarian, thirty-five.
16. Michael, Captain of the ship Orient Sun, forty-five
17. Roldan, third officer, then promoted to second officer, twenty-eight, Philippine.
18. Kristian, assistant chief engineer, thirty-five.
19. Peedu Post, chief engineer, from Armenian, fifty.
20. Frank, Chief Commissioner, chief house keeping, English, thirty years old.
21. Philippine sailors: Rosalito, Denis, Carroll, Guan, Noel, Gabriel, Nikola, Robert.
22. Spiros, catering representative of Venice, from Greek, about forty years.
23. Richard, first radio officer telegraph operator, Malaysian, thirty-five.
24. Maung, the second radio officer, twenty-five, from Malaysia.
25. Waiter at the restaurant, King's hotel.
26. Freight Forwarder, Chinese, forty
27. Mr. Kor, Indonesian charterer in his sixties.
28. Madam Kor, wife of the charterer, Indonesian forty-five.
29. Rowena, secretary of the charterer, thirty-five, Indonesian.
30. Mr. Tone, Mr. Kor's ,accountant, Indonesian thirties.
31. Luis, Cruise Director, English, in his forties.
32. Shay, singer, Australian, thirties, wife of Luis.
33. Chinese singer with six dancers.
34. Group of Philippine musicians.
35. Indonesian group of taxi drivers.
36. Chinese couple in their thirties, passengers.
37. Young woman with two children, passengers, from Thailand
38. Win, doctor of board, thirty-three, Burmese.
39. Marilena, new assistant shop manager, Philippine, twenty-two.
40. Hong,, new general manager, Chinese, in his thirties.
41. Jan, new chief engineer, forty, Yugoslavian.
42. Ante, new assistant chief engineer, in his forties, Yugoslavian.
43. Shirley, Assistant Commissioner, twenty-five, from Singapore.
44. Desery, hostesses, promoted to Assistant Commissioner, twenty-two, Singapore.
45. Rayu, hostess, twenty-three, Indonesian.

46. Lydia, hostess, twenty, originally from Singapore.
47. Benjamin, Mr. Kor 's tourist guide, Indonesian, thirty years old.
48. Indonesian woman, Mr. Kor 's special co-worker at the Mystery Club
49. Indonesian singer, dressed in veils, at the Mystery Club
50. Waiter, at the Mystery Club
51. Marlo, Hong's assistant general manager, twenty-eight, Chinese.
52. Edward, engineer, chief officer of the electricians, English, fifty.
53. New chief house keeping, Indonesian, in his forties.
54. Ship's superintendent , forty, a native of Singapore
55. Nurse at Mt .Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, thirties, Chinese.
56. Charles, Chinese doctor at Mt Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, in his forty.
57. Yul, Henry's assistant Chief steward, thirty years old, Philippine.
58. Romeo, steward, Philippine, in his thirties.
59. Chinese Stripper
60. Group of Philippine dancers.
61. Passenger Malaysian forties.
62. Six Chinese dancers at the Mystery Club
63. Some passengers who ask Edward questions. .
64. Mr. Sogreen's secretary, thirty, Swedish.
65. Erona, GM .Hong's wife, Malaysia, twenty-eight.
66. Mr. Bert, passenger's manager service, Swedish, forty-five.
67. Jade, Chinese dancer, chief engineer Jan's lover. Twenty two
68. Loh Poh Lin, Chinese man, in his fifties, Madame Liw Kier's business partner..
69. Chinese man in the office of Madame Liw Kier, fifty
70. Doorman of the building where Madame Liw Kier has her office, Chinese in hi fifty.
71. Mino, Elizabeth's uncle, seventy Italian.
72. Philip, the new captain of the ship Orient sun, forty-five, English.
73. Lolita, a member of the ballet of board, Philippine, sixteen.
74. Novelita, member of the ballet of board, twenty-two Philippine
75. Carmencita, member of the ballet of board, twenty-year old Philippine.
76. Indian doctor in the emergency room, on his forties.
77. Mr. Sogreen, director of the Swedish shipping company.
78. Colin, the new cruise director, fifty, Australian.
79. Lisa, Colin's assistant cruise director, twenty-eight, Australian.
80. Mr. Willer Wuner, businessman, the third Indonesian buyer.
81. Chef/Cook of the ship Orient Sun in his forties , Chinese.
82. Three Indonesian men.
83. Group of Burmese.
84. Lady who comes aboard, Edward's wife , English. fifty.
85. Customs Officer, Chinese in his forties .
86. Indian taxi drivers , on his forty year old.
87. Chinese hostess at the airport check-in Singapore, in her thirties.
88. Two Germans men. On the plain.
89. Representative of the airline in Frankfort, thirty German .
90. Alitalia Courier, forties, Italian.
91. Mr Siad.

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Screenplay:
THE WITCH QUEEN OF THE ORIENT SUN

FADE IN ON BLACK SCREEN THE FOLLOWING QUOTE APPEARS...:

"...There is one elementary truth -
 whose ignorance kills countless
 ideas and splendid plans:

in the moment in which someone is working hard,
 then Providence moves and endless things happen to
 help him, that would otherwise never have occurred ...

Whatever you can do or dream of doing, start now.
 Boldness has in it genius, power, and magic.
 Start it now..

W. Goethe..."

FADE OUT TO SCENE 1.

1. EXT. FINLAND. KOTKASSA HOTEL & SURROUNDINGS. DAY.

Hotel Kotkassa in Katka (Finland). Peaceful surroundings and
 skies in the cold snowy winter landscape.

CUT TO:

2. INT. KOTKASSA HOTEL. EDWARD'S ROOM. KATKA (FINLAND). DAY.

A luxurious room with a desk, table lamp, with a painting on
 the wall, a double bed with red velvet bedspread, white lace
 curtains, wardrobe and bedside table.

EDWARD is standing, looking thoughtfully out of the window
 of his room: he sees the snowy landscape, and a cold grey
 sky. Then he sits at his desk, pulls out a sheet of paper
 from the holder on the desk and begins to write:

Edward's Voice (OS)
 " ..Katka Finland, April 3, 1992.
 Dear Elizabeth.."

TITLES run periodically over Edward's voice(OS) reading
 letter during FLASHBACK **Sc.399** (muted) as he writes at desk:

FLASHBACK: **Sc.400/401**(muted) SHIP(ORIENT SUN) ANCHORED. DAY.
 On deck of ship in Singapore, Elizabeth embraces Edward,
 Richard, Peedu, Kristian, etc. Launch leaves the ship.
 Philippine people on quayside scream and shout, euphoric, as
 Elizabeth and Desery greet friends with tears in their eyes.

TITLES CONTINUE over images of mute scenes until Edward's voice (OS) finishes reading the letter.

Edward's Voice (OS)

"..Finally the ship 'Orient Sun' no longer exists. A Finnish company has taken it over and it will be called 'Wasa Queen'. The ship will function as a ferry between Finland and Sweden.

I and fifty crew members are in a beautiful hotel, waiting to fly home. Outside there is a lot of snow and the temperature is +3 degrees centigrade. We all hope to be able to return home as soon as possible. How are you? Let me know if you have received news from the Dr. David Riback and if you showed the videotape with the witnesses to other people. When my family saw it, they were impressed.

During this trip out of Singapore, I missed you, not having anymore of your premonitory dreams to write or to witness. I have to admit that you're worse than a foreman, anyway for me it was a pleasant experience. You must know that Peedu remained on board the Orient Sun, Jan, the big man, came back, but then they transhipped him on board the ship Asian World.

Ante joined us in Singapore and has embarked on a ferry that transports cars from Japan to Europe. Richard is here with me and will soon return home for a holiday. The rest of the crew will return to the Philippines tomorrow. It will take me a month to have new feet, and ankles, as they continue to give me trouble, I might have to get steel feet!

And has the Witch Queen of the Orient Sun had time to start to write the book? Dear, I hope all your plans come true. Since you're as strong as a horse, you will be able to show people the truth.

Affectionately. Edward..."

DISSOLVE TO

SUPERIMPOSE MAIN TITLE:

THE WITCH QUEEN OF THE ORIENT SUN

START DREAM SEQUENCE...

3. INT. ELIZABETH DREAMING. (SHOP ON BOARD SHIP). DAY.

ELIZABETH is a slender woman, medium height, forty, dark eyes, with bobbed blue-black hair.

Dream (flou effect): Elizabeth is inside the store on board a ship. She is with a WOMAN who has blue eyes, short blond hair, in her fifties, who stares her with a tense expression. Both wear same uniformed blue dress jacket with white blouse. Not far away in a corner, Elizabeth's father (PRIMO) is looking at her worrying: he is sixty-five, tall, robust, black eyes and hair, round face.

Suddenly blood comes out of Elizabeth's mouth. Instinctively she covers her mouth with one hand and runs to the toilet, but a concrete wall which is growing visibly, blocks the passage. She manages to jump over it just in time.

END DREAM SEQUENCE..

DISSOLVE.

4. INT. MORNING. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE. BEDROOM. DAY.

Large white room, with big brass bed, ivory-coloured satin curtain draped on the wall at the back of the bed, gathered at the top with a fantasy burgundy and ivory batik cloth (cloth Indonesia). In the centre of the satin curtain there is a Greek icon Madonna and Child. The curtains at the window of the balcony, in the same burgundy ivory fabric. Furniture in white enamel with blue mirrors. A wicker chair and small round table in white and burgundy Indonesian enamel, above a large Bible.

Elizabeth wakes up, looks at the bedside clock, which shows that it is seven in the morning of **April 30, 1991**, she gets out of bed (wearing a silver gown), takes a silk kimono, the same colour of the gown, with orange stripes and Japanese designs, out of the wardrobe and puts it on. She enters a spacious bathroom, tiled in black and white and finished with cyclamen with a window overlooking the garden, the curtains, towels and mats are in pink cyclamen. After washing she goes down the stairs; on the walls are Egyptian papyrus paintings, Indonesian masks. She walks along the corridor that leads to the kitchen, where there is a mirror with Balinese paintings on a cabinet with a gilded Buddha statue and various objects.

On the walls, paintings and masks of all kinds. Elizabeth goes into the kitchen: ample room, white furniture-finished wood, upholstered with black tiles, a table covered with white crocheted table covers, vase in the centre filled with multicoloured roses, window to garden, crocheted curtain.

Elizabeth prepares a cup of coffee. She is pensive, almost worried. She drinks her coffee thoughtfully.

DISSOLVE.

5. INT. INSIDE ELIZABETH'S HOUSE. STUDY. DAY.

On the walls are shelves with books. Paintings hanging on the wall. Computer corner. Easel with white canvas, oil paints and a trolley Elizabeth begins to paint. The phone rings, she picks up the phone.

ELIZABETH
Hello!

MARCIA
Hello, Elizabeth. It's Marcia. Can I
come and visit you tomorrow?

ELIZABETH:
Yes of course! I had a very interesting
dream, Marcia. I think I will leave soon.

MARCIA:
Your dreams are all special, we will
speak about them on Sunday.

ELIZABETH:
OK! Thank you.

Elizabeth puts the receiver down and carries on painting.

DISSOLVE.

START DREAM SEQUENCE.

6. EXT. ORIENTAL COUNTRY LANDSCAPE. DAY.

Dream (flow effect): In an oriental country there is a sudden fall of tropical rain. Although Elizabeth is standing on hill in the rain she does not get wet. An elderly woman in front of her (her mother ROSINA) points to a ship in the distance, which is anchored in port.

MOTHER (ROSINA)

Elisabetta, I'm so sorry your father
couldn't be here, but he asked me to
tell you not to worry, because he will
heal you with the help of an Indian
prince.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

DISSOLVE.

7. INT. ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM. MORNING.

Elizabeth wakes up and sits on the bed thoughtfully. After a while the doorbell rings. She gets up, goes to the closet, puts on a kimono, goes down the stairs slowly, yawning, opens the door to her lady friend MARCIA (average height, slim, brown eyes, round face, and dark curly hair,)

MARCIA

Did I wake you up?

ELIZABETH
(smiling)

Don't worry!

They walk towards the kitchen.

ELIZABETH

Let's have breakfast in the garden?

MARCIA

I've already had breakfast, I'll just
take some coffee!

ELIZABETH

OK! As you wish!

CUT TO:

8. EXT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE. GARDEN. MORNING.

Elizabeth puts a tray with coffee and cookies on a table that is under a gazebo covered with ivy. The two women sit on two wicker chairs sipping coffee.

ELIZABETH

Since he died, in 1989, my dad helps me
by showing me the future through my
dreams. I accept everything I can, even
in the most adverse situations, as I
need them to evolve spiritually.

MARCIA
So will you embark soon?

ELIZABETH
(thoughtful)
After analyzing the two dreams that
I had within a week, I realize I will
soon embark on board a ship leaving for
the Orient. Apparently I will have big
health problems but my Dad told me not
to worry as he'll heal me spiritually
with the help of an Indian prince.

Marcia doubting, remains silent for a moment, drinking the
last sip of coffee. Then worried, she stares at Elizabeth.

MARCIA
Are you sure that these dreams are
premonitory? After the serious problems
that you had with your eyesight I'm
afraid that you won't get permission to
leave from the doctors who visit you at
the Naval Health Authority in Genoa.

Suddenly Elizabeth's face has a sad expression .

ELIZABETH
Please Marcia, don't remind me of that!
The messages of the two dreams assure me
I will leave, so everything will be
fine, you will see!

Marcia looks at Elizabeth doubtfully.

DISSOLVE.

9. EXT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE. GARDEN. 20 DAYS LATER. MORNING.

28 May 1991. Elizabeth is working in the garden. The phone
rings. She runs into the house to answer. On the clock on
the cabinet of the phone it is 11.00 am on 28 May 1991.

ELIZABETH
Hello!

CUT TO:

10. EXT. DELOPERA'S OFFICE, VENICE.

DELOPERA is a man of about forty, round face, dark eyes,
black hair, medium height. He is on phone to Elizabeth.

DELOPERA

Elizabeth, It's Delopera. We have an emergency. You must leave for Piraeus on June 1st. You will be Supervisor because we want you to teach Lilian, a German lady, the job of shop manager. However, we'll talk about it in Venice. Meanwhile, tomorrow, the 29 May, you must be in Genoa for the medical visit at the Naval Health Authority.

ELIZABETH

Okay, Thanks!

DELOPERA

I must go, I have a lot of things to do. See you at the office on June 1st.

ELIZABETH

All right! Good morning!

Elizabeth, excited, puts phone down and goes back into garden. She sits under creeper-covered gazebo. Suddenly jumping up she takes the small garden tools from the nearby flower-bed where she was working, goes over to the fountain (neoclassical) and washes them. She waters the plants in large goblet-shaped stone pots. Then leaning on the eighteenth century stone and wrought iron water well she glances at the wall painting, half hidden by trees. Going to the other side of the garden she stares at the other mural.

Elizabeth gazes around her from one of the two small statues near the gazebo. She smiles, then hurries into the house to prepare for her departure. Shot on door closing behind her.

DISSOLVE.

11. EXT. VENICE. June 1st, 1991. DAY.
Overview Piazza St. Mark and Church of Health.

CUT TO:

12. EXT. VENICE AIRPORT. (Establishing shot). DAY.
Airplane among the clouds, landing.

CUT TO:

13. INT. VENICE AIRPORT. INSIDE TERMINAL BUILDING. DAY.
Loudspeaker announcements, crowd. Elizabeth with her MOTHER (ROSINA) and her SISTER (ROSANNA).

MOTHER (ROSINA): average, normal height, brown hair, brown eyes, round face, sixty-two, Italian.

SISTER (ROSANNA): average height, build robust, brown hair, black eyes, round face, 44 year old, Italian.

The three women cross the hall and stop at customs control.

ELIZABETH

Delopera told me that my colleague Lilian will be waiting for me in Rome at the boarding gate counter, but I don't know her. And with my eyesight problems I'm not sure if I will recognise her.

ROSSANA

Ask a hostess to call her on the microphone.

ROSINA

Elisabetta, please look after yourself and protect your sight..please.

ELIZABETH

Don't worry Mom...

ROSSANA

I'm your sister and I am worried. You are going around the world and your eyesight is so bad. I know you wear contact lenses but how did you overcome your problems in Genoa at the Naval Health Authority?

ELIZABETH

I didn't lie. The doctor looked me in the eyes and seeing I wasn't wearing glasses, just whispered that my sight was ok.

ROSSANA

I believe Daddy is protecting you.

AUDIO: Loudspeaker announcement of flight to Rome.

Elizabeth embraces her mother and sister, and goes through departures gate.

CUT TO:

14. EXT.VENICE AIRPORT. BOARDING AREA. DAY.

GROUND HOSTESS accompanies group of passengers to the plane.

Elizabeth turns around and waves to her mother and sister from a distance. She climbs the ladder and enters the plane.

CUT TO:

15. INT. VENICE AIRPORT. INSIDE PLANE. DAY.

A STEWARD shows Elizabeth to her seat. She puts her bag in the luggage locker above her seat.

CUT TO:

16. EXT. VENICE AIRPORT.RUNWAY. SUNNY DAY.
AERIAL VIEW of airport as plane takes off. Shot of lagoon.

CUT BACK TO:

17. INT. PLANE. DAY.
Elizabeth seems to look thoughtfully out the porthole and watches the planes taking off.

CUT TO:

18. FLASHBACK...

ELIZABETH'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. FEW YEARS EARLIER. DAY.
Elizabeth and her mother Rosina, having a discussion with PRIMO, her father.

ELIZABETH

Dad, why are you so sceptical. Why don't you believe mom and I have precognitive dreams?

PRIMO

(angrily)

You're both crazy! How can you believe in all that rubbish! I think it's all nonsense. Don't ever bring this damn topic up again!

Primo is angry. He goes out of the room slamming the door. The two women look at each other, upset.

ROSINA

(hurt)

Elisabetta it's useless to insist. Your father is like his brother Mino. All of his family are sceptics!

The two women embrace, disappointed.

END FLASHBACK.

CUT BACK TO PLANE (REALITY).

19. INT. PLANE. DAY

Elizabeth wakes to speaker announcement.

 HOSTESS
 (on the microphone)
Passengers please fasten your seatbelts
as the plane is about to land.

CUT TO:

20. EXT. ROME (FIUMICINO) AIRPORT. PLANE LANDING. DAY.
PAN shot of the plane landing at Rome airport.

CUT TO:

21. INT. ROME (FIUMICINO) AIRPORT. ARRIVALS HALL. DAY.

LONG SHOT:

Elizabeth looks around, seeking someone. She approaches the counter and whispers something to the hostess. The voices are not understood. Elizabeth has a heated conversation with the hostess, who shakes her head several times. She leaves the hostess with an angry gesture.

CLOSE UP of the HOSTESS's face: deep black eyes, blond bobbed hair, in her forties. As Elizabeth storms off, HOSTESS stares at her annoyed.

DISSOLVE.

22. INT. ROME AIRPORT. LATER THAT DAY. EVENING SUNSET.

LOUDSPEAKER: Athens flight is announced.

CUT TO:

23. EXT. ROME AIRPORT. ATHENS PLANE BOARDING. SUNSET.

Elizabeth goes up the stairs into the plane.

CUT TO:

23B. INT. INSIDE PLANE. EVENING.

Elizabeth sits near the porthole. She seems anxious while looking out of the porthole at the sunset and the dark shapes of the planes in queue.

TWO SMILING OLD MEN sit next to Elizabeth.

LOUDSPEAKER: Hostess announcement. Departure, seat belts.

CUT TO:

24. EXT. SUNSET. ROME AIRPORT. PLANE DEPARTING.

Runway. Sunset with a vivid red sky. Plane takes off.

CUT TO:

25. INT. INSIDE PLANE. NIGHT.

Elizabeth, bursts into tears, and, so as not to be seen, she hides behind the curtain and stares out of the porthole into space. She wipes her tears with her hands, breathing slowly.

HOSTESS

(announces)

Attention please! Miss Elizabeth Errani
Emaldi is requested to present herself
to a flight attendant.

Elizabeth stands up trying to hide her embarrassment. She calls a hostess who takes her to a LADY with blue eyes, short blond hair, about fifty. The lady, smiling, shakes Elizabeth's hand. She speaks a mix of Spanish and English with a German accent.

THE LADY

(with German accent)

Hola, Elizabeth, I am Lilian.

ELIZABETH

Thank God you found me. In Rome I asked
a hostess to call you on the tannoy, but
she wouldn't do, and was very unkind.

LILIAN

(serious)

Kindness doesn't cost anything. We
should give it with joy.

ELIZABETH

Yes, but apparently many people haven't
learned that yet... (PAUSE)..Anyway,
congratulations! I see that you speak
Spanish and English.

LILIAN
 Yes, but you don't have problems either.
 In the office they told me that you
 speak four languages.

ELIZABETH
 (thoughtful)
 Haven't we already met before somewhere?

LILIAN
 (smiling)
 I don't think so.

ELIZABETH
 (thinking)
 Yes we have! I remember! I met you for
 the first time in a dream.

LILIAN
 You can't want me to believe that?

ELIZABETH
 (confident)
 Do as you wish; however, it's not the
 first time this has happened to me.

The two women look at each other seriously.

ELIZABETH
 (after a pause)
 Do you know Lilian, before, while I was
 thinking about joining the Orient Sun, I
 felt bad, and burst into tears.

LILIAN
 (curious)
 Strange !

ELIZABETH
 (expecting this)
 It's the first time such a thing has
 ever happened to me.

LILIAN
 (worried)
 My God, what do you mean?

Hostess approaches and interrupts...

HOSTESS
 Please Madam, return to your seat and
 fasten your seatbelt, we are going to
 land soon.

Elizabeth, smiling, greets Lilian with a wave of her hand, and returns to her seat.

CUT TO:

26. INT. PLANE. NIGHT.

Just before landing in Athens. One of two men talks to her.

THE MAN

Where are you going, dear ?

ELIZABETH

To Athens, to join a ship in Piraeus.

THE MAN

Really and where is the ship sailing to?

ELIZABETH

To the East.

THE MAN

I'm going to Athens. I work for this airline.

ELIZABETH

Well I think your hostesses are unkind. I had to get in touch with a colleague but the hostess refused to call her through the microphone.

THE MAN

I'm afraid I am the one who told them not to announce any unnecessary communications so as not to disturb the passengers. But in this case ...

The plane lands and the undercarriage suddenly touches the ground, jolting the passengers.

CUT TO:

27. EXT. PLANE LANDING. ATHENS AIRPORT. NIGHT.

DISSOLVE TO:

28. INT. ATHENS AIRPORT. INSIDE ARRIVAL LOBBY BAGGAGE AREA.

Elizabeth is waiting for Lilian near the baggage exit. Then in the distance she sees ALFIO (a man in his fifties, self-confident, medium height, robust, round face, bright eyes, with greying hair) who calls her from behind the Customs, between the bars. He is the Chief Housekeeping Officer, responsible for onboard Catering for her company in Venice.

ALFIO

Elizabeth, I'll wait for you outside,
near the taxi.

Lilian arrives and they both greet the Alfio. Meanwhile the luggage arrives on the conveyer belt, Elizabeth picks it up quickly. Lilian comes to her with the luggage.

LILIAN

Have you got a dollar for the trolley?

ELIZABETH

Yes I have, but it is a lucky charm, it belonged to my father. My mother gave it to me after his death, I have always kept it as an amulet.

An AMERICAN LADY of about fifty arrives, medium height, blue eyes, blond hair falling over her shoulders, wearing a jacket and trousers, with a dollar in her hand.

ELIZABETH

Excuse me. Do you speak Spanish?

AMERICAN LADY

I am sorry, I don't speak Spanish, but something within me tells me that you need one dollar, so I would like to give this one to you.

Elizabeth and Lilian surprised, thank the American lady.

Lilian takes the dollar and goes to fetch the trolley.

LILIAN

(shouting from a distance)

Yesterday I helped someone, today someone helps me.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

The law of cause and effect!

CUT TO:

29. EXT. ATHENS AIRPORT. NIGHT.

Lilian and Elizabeth reach the cab where Alfio is awaiting for them. Lilian runs to Alfio and embraces him. After Alfio shakes Elisabetta's hand. The driver invites the three of them to get into the taxi and then they set off.

CUT TO:

30. INT. TAXI. NIGHT.

LILIAN
 Alfio, where is the ship now?

ALFIO
 It is in a small harbour, near Piraeus.
 From here it will take about an hour.

DISSOLVE.

31. EXT. ATHENS CITY CENTRE. NIGHT.

Taxi with three passengers. Night. City Lights. Chaotic traffic. The taxi leaves the city and drives up through the hills of Piraeus.

CUT TO:

32. INT. TAXI. NIGHT. VIEW CITY PASSING. POV INSIDE TAXI.

The radio broadcasts Greek music over the background noise of the traffic.

From inside taxi they see the coast with white houses and small lights on sea. The radio airs the melody of Syrtaki.

Elizabeth is deep in thought.

ALFIO
 The Orient Sun is in poor condition at the moment. But during the sixteen days sail from Piraeus to Singapore, the crew will have time to fix everything. The ship will leave without passengers, so we will have plenty of time to solve our problems... including teaching Lilian how to use the computer. (HE SMILES)

Lilian looks out the window.

LILIAN
 Hey! Where are we going? To hell and back?

They all laugh.

CUT TO:

33. EXT. TAXI DRIVING THROUGH CITY AND DOCKS. NIGHT.

The taxi takes the entrance to the site and continues for several kilometres illuminating large cargo ships and strange machinery.

DISSOLVE TO:

34. EXT. TAXI ARRIVING NEAR DOCK AREA. NIGHT.

VIEW SILHOUETTES of SHIPS. Silently resting in docks.

ELIZABETH (V/O)

All these shapes seem like monsters
hiding in the dark.

Taxi stops in front of a huge ship. All get out and Alfio unloads the baggage.

CUT TO:

35. EXT. SHIP (ORIENT SUN). NIGHT.

The three go on board the ship.

CUT TO:

36. INT. SHIP (ORIENT SUN). NIGHT.

Interior ship. Overview of chaos, with huge metal wires and ropes, machinery, dark patches of oil everywhere and the smell of oil: the ship looks like a wreck.

In huge garage, Elizabeth and Lilian hand over the passports to ROSALITO, a Philippine sailor. Rosalito is a handsome boy of about thirty years old.

ELIZABETH

Alfio, this ship was a ferry, wasn't it?

ALFIO

Sure was. It has been transformed into a cruise ship.

LILIAN

(plugging her nose with her fingers)
Do you really mean that this will be a cruise ship?

ELIZABETH

(disappointed)

It seems like a wreck to me.

Alfio carries the suitcases of Elizabeth.

ALFIO

Lilian, wait for me here, I will accompany Elizabeth to her cabin and then I will come back for you.

Lilian (worried) approaches the sailor Rosalito.

CUT TO:

ANGLE. INT. SHIP. NIGHT.

Elizabeth follows Alfio. They cross amidships, through dark narrow corridors. Finally Alfio drops the two heavy suitcases next to cabin 112. Elizabeth is breathing heavily.

ELIZABETH

I can hardly breathe, I'm so tired.

Alfio gives her the key.

ALFIO

(seriously)

The air conditioning is not working properly. (PAUSES AND SMILES) I'll come to pick you up tomorrow morning at nine o'clock for breakfast. Good night!

Alfio moves away along the corridor.

ELIZABETH

(worried smile)

Let's think positive!

Elizabeth puts the key in the lock, opens the door. She pauses to look around the small cabin in front of her, sighs tiredly, then drags her suitcases in that little square. Door closes as she locks herself in.

CUT TO:

37. INT. SHIP. NIGHT. INSIDE ELIZABETH'S CABIN.

She looks around, frustrated, gazes at the cabinet on the left, the couch in front of her is covered with a bedspread in blue and there is a print on the walls, the air is thin, heavy, the cabin is dirty, with a nervous tug she pulls off the blanket, the sheets are white. She enters the tiny bathroom, lifts the lid of the toilet and closes it with a slam and an angry expression on her face. Dejected she angrily pushes hard on the lever and flushes the toilet several times. She opens one suitcase and takes out a salmon coloured cotton nightgown, undresses and puts it on. She lies on the bed, sleepy but unable to get to sleep, the heat, thirst and lack of air makes it a terrible experience and she has a restless night, full of nightmares.

CUT TO:

38. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. MORNING.

Elizabeth hears a knock at the door. With her head spinning, she jumps up and opens the door and finds Alfio in front of her.

ALFIO
You didn't rest well, did you?

ELIZABETH
I could not sleep, I spent a night of hell. I assure you, I can not bear another night like this, in this terrible cabin!

Elizabeth follows Alfio, stumbling along the maze of corridors.

ALFIO
I promise I'll talk to the general manager.

The two go up in the elevator and reach the officer's dining room on the eighth floor.

CUT TO:

39. INT. SHIP. OFFICER'S DINING ROOM. MORNING.

The room has square tables with white tablecloths. On the centre of each table there is a jar with coloured tissue flowers. Above the main table, fixed to the bulkhead there is a big picture. A buffet with jugs of milk, coffee and water, butter, jam and sweet bread. A door opens into the main pantry, overlooking on the other side the crew's room (sailors, stewards, cooks, etc. ..). In front of the tables there are large rectangular windows, where one can see cargo ships docked next to the ship Orient Sun. Lilian is eating breakfast. The fire escape door opens, Alfio and Elizabeth enter.

Elizabeth
(with a depressed voice)
Good morning Lilian!

Then Elizabeth suddenly takes a glass and starts drinking.

ALFIO
(laughing)
Oh! I understand, you lost yourself in the desert last night!

ELIZABETH

(between one sip and another)

That cabin is like an oven. There's no air, it smells of oil. I'm sure my bed is above the engine room, because it seemed to be on fire!

Alfio and Lilian burst out laughing. Elizabeth pours the last drops of water, into the glass and then turns to Alfio.

ELIZABETH

Alfio, we are lucky to have you on this ship, I imagine and hope that with your cheerfulness our morale will rise.

LILIAN

(smiling)

You're right, I think we need a jester to fight against the windmills!

Lilian and Elizabeth burst into laughter. Alfio looks at Lilian seriously. Lilian is nervous, after a pause she puts the cup on the table.

LILIAN

My cabin is really filthy, and the toilet does not work.

Meanwhile Alfio pours more coffee into Lilian's cup and with a worried expression he caresses her hair.

ALFIO

Honey, trust me, today I'll speak to the general manager and, if he won't change our cabins, we'll disembark!

At that moment they hear footsteps in the corridor. The fire escape door opens. THE CAPTAIN enters. He is a tall, blond, Nordic-featured man with light blue eyes, and in his tan uniform, under the artificial lights, his skin glistens.

Alfio leaps to his feet.

ALFIO

Good morning, Captain!

CAPTAIN

Welcome aboard ladies!

The Captain approaches them.

The two women respond in chorus, while he comes up and shakes their hands. The captain turns his back to them, prepares a cup of coffee and takes it away with him, and leaves the room in silence.

ALFIO

(thoughtfully)

Do you know, the captain embarked with his wife. She is seven months pregnant.

LILIAN

I don't know whether this is courage or unconsciousness; to face a trip in her condition is very risky. In fact, I heard from the Philippine sailors that we will leave without a doctor, and that there are problems in the radio station; that they will only be able to get the pieces they need to fix it in Singapore.

The three stand up.

ALFIO

We leave at three tomorrow.

DISSOLVE TO:

40. INT. SHIP. MORNING.

The two women wait for Alfio, who arrives shortly after with a sheaf of papers in his hand. They walk the long corridor, into the elevator to the fourth floor.

CUT TO:

41. INT. SHIP. 4TH FLOOR.

Elevator opens. Alfio, Elizabeth,, and Lilian get out and cross the hall to the front of a large rectangular shop, full of packages of goods and dirty large empty windows. In front of the shop there is another row of empty windows full of dust. On the opposite sides of the store there are two entrances sealed off with Greek custom's seals.

Alfio gives the sheets of paper to Elizabeth.

ALFIO

I'm giving you the loading bills. You can only start to work tomorrow after sailing, when you can break the seals.

ELIZABETH

(takes the paper wondering)

Where are the two computers and the keys of the store windows, which Delopera told me he had delivered to you?

ALFIO

(surprised)

The Company have only given me one computer, which must be used only for the catering.

Elizabeth fixes a worried stare at Alfio.

ELIZABETH

Oh, my God, we are in big trouble! Where can I find a phone?

ALFIO

Go down to the garage and ask Rosalito the sailor on guard to call a taxi for you. Go to our office in Piraeus. Spiros will let you call Venice.

CUT TO:

42. INT. SHIP. CORRIDORS. DAY.

Elizabeth takes the elevator without saying a word, goes down into the garage and goes to where Rosalito the sailor is on guard.

CUT TO:

43. INT. SHIP. DAY. INSIDE ENTRY BAY.

Inside the garage, Philippine sailor, ROSALITO (wearing sports clothes).

Elizabeth goes up to him.

ELIZABETH

Excuse me, can you call me a taxi please?

ROSALITO

The taxi drivers are on strike because yesterday a criminal killed one here at the port. He was a thief and killed for a small amount of money.

Elizabeth looks at him puzzled.

ROSALITO

It is an impossible situation. We are segregated here in the port. To go out we have to walk for miles to reach the first village, with the risk of being mugged or robbed.

ELIZABETH

I understand. (PAUSES) Colombo is only an eleven days' sail from here. With a little luck I can call my mother there.

ELIZABETH

(reflecting and after a pause)
I have to call my company here in Piraeus, can I use your phone?

SAILOR

Of course!!

Elizabeth goes to the phone and dials the number. SPIROS answers. He is the head of the Piraeus office.

SPIROS

Hello Elizabeth, what's wrong?

ELIZABETH

Please Spiros, call Delopera in Venice and ask where the computers and the keys of the windows of the store are.

SPIROS

(worried)

Ok! I'll let you know by tomorrow before the ship sails.

DISSOLVE.

44. INT. SHIP. GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE. MORNING.

Large cabin with long desk, two leather armchairs on either side, prints on walls.

GENERAL MANAGER is strong man, medium height, blond, blue eyes and a moustache, Swedish, in his fifties.

CABIN DOOR is OPEN.

Alfio, Lilian and Elizabeth enter.

ALFIO

Hello. I'm Chief Housekeeper responsible for the food on board ship, and this is Elizabeth the supervisor and Lilian the shop manager. We have problems with the cabins. Could you help us, please?

GENERAL MANAGER

The cabins? But those you have are the cabins that have been assigned to you!

ALFIO

Please, don't pretend not to understand.

GENERAL MANAGER

(annoyed)

Do you intend to create problems?

ALFIO

(determined)

As a matter of fact you will have one problem less.

GENERAL MANAGER

What do you mean?

ALFIO

Because we need only two cabins instead of three.

GENERAL MANAGER

Ah! Really? Then there is something that I do not know, is that it ?

ALFIO

Yes, because Lilian the shop manager and I sleep together, so we want a decent cabin.

Elizabeth looks surprised.

GENERAL MANAGER

Okay, the chief steward will accompany you now to your new cabins.

GENERAL MANAGER

(calling the chief steward)

Henry! Henry!

An obese man appears. It is HENRY the CHIEF STEWARD. An obese man, not very tall, with curly thick black hair, unshaven, cheerful, mid-thirties.

GENERAL MANAGER

Give these people a couple of cabins on the officers' floor

HENRY

Okay, come with me, please.

CUT TO:

45. INT. SHIP. DAY. CORRIDORS, ELEVATOR, AND CABINS.

Henry, the chief steward, Alfio, Elizabeth, and Lilian enter the elevator and go up to the ninth floor, where they cross a long corridor. Then Henry opens the door of a cabin for Alfio and Lilian, they go inside. Henry keeps walking and opens Elizabeth's cabin door: there is a large rectangular window with green curtains, the bedspreads, the chairs are in the same colour and fabric, a table and a wardrobe.

ELIZABETH

Henry, is there anyone on this ship who does the cleaning ?

HENRY

Oh! Of course, it's all done by those savage Philippinos. They still live in huts and don't know what it means to do proper cleaning.

ELIZABETH

Ah, you're a racist! (PAUSES) What nationality are you?

HENRY

(seriously)

I am Bulgarian if you really want to know, but I live in Austria.

ELIZABETH

The Philippines are very sweet people, I know them well because I often worked with them on German ships, they are very good and they are very big hearted.

HENRY

I can't believe my ears!

ELIZABETH

Remember, Henry, the racist is a lonely man, separated from love for humanity, at the mercy of the waves in a storm that will drag him into the hellish suffering of his ignorance.

Henry stares at Elizabeth angrily, then turns his back and walks away down the dark narrow corridor.

DISSOLVE.

46. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. DAY.

Lilian and Elizabeth are cleaning the cabin. Elizabeth pauses for a moment.

ELIZABETH
How long have you had your relation
with Alfio?

LILIAN
We met each other eight months ago in
Spain, on board a Spanish ship where I
worked as a hotel manager.

ELIZABETH
(smiling confesses)
I met him many years ago and believe me
he was a real 'Romeo' even then !

LILIAN
(surprise)
Alfio a 'romeo'?

ELIZABETH
I guess that now he has calmed down, but
then he was something!

LILIAN
Ah! Just listen to what I'm learning
today!

They both laugh as they carry on cleaning.

DISSOLVE.

FADE IN:

47. EXT. SMALL VILLAGE OUTSIDE HARBOUR. AFTERNOON. 4pm.

Alfio, Lilian and Elizabeth are about to reach the bar of a small village situated on a barren promontory. They are overtaken by a big car that causes a cloud of dust on the road. They cough and splutter in the dust. They enter bar...

CUT TO:

48. INT. INSIDE BAR. 4PM.

The bar is a small wooden bar, with large crumbling windows. The three enter, there are few customers who are smoking and drinking inside. Alfio orders three beers from the barman as they take their seats at small square corner table

LILIAN

So Elizabeth, if I remember well, you told me once that your father didn't believe in premonitory dreams, but since he died he comes into your dreams to prepare you for future events.

Alfio stares at the two women without saying a word. By the expression on his face you can see he is very sceptical.

ELIZABETH

Yes. My father used to be very sceptical but a few years before his death he helped a friend in need. Later, when the friend died, Dad dreamed of him and in the dream the man smiling gave my father five numbers to play on the lottery and saying he had come to settle his debt.

Alfio listens curiously.

LILIAN

(excited)

Don't tell me that he won the lottery?

ELIZABETH

Unfortunately he was so sceptical he did not play. But he was curious. Checking the numbers he discovered that if he had played he would have become rich. From that day he changed his attitude.

Alfio stares doubtfully at Elizabeth.

LILIAN

He got a good lesson.

ELIZABETH

Nothing happens by chance; everyone gets what they deserve.

LILIAN

Yes, otherwise how can we learn our lessons.

While Lilian and Alfio look at each other seriously, Elizabeth thoughtfully stares from inside the bar, through the wide open door, at some completely barren hills and the mooring dock in the distance.

DISSOLVE.

49. EXT. BAR. SUNSET.

Alfio, Elizabeth, and Lilian come out of the bar and walk towards the ship in the sunset. They board the ship. As sun goes down, the sea and sky merge in a violent explosion of colours from bright red to cobalt blue to violet.

DISSOLVE.

50. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. DAY.

At about midday the speaker can be heard.

GENERAL MANAGER (V.O)
Supervisor Elizabeth Errani Emaldi is
asked to go to the entrance of the ship.

Elizabeth is unpacking her suitcases in her cabin, she rushes out to the elevator and goes down into the garage. In the distance she sees SPIROS who has a slender body, long face, aquiline nose, large glasses, unattractive, in his forties, he is Greek but of Italian origin.

SPIROS
Elizabeth, Delopera told me that he will
send the computers to you in Colombia
and in Singapore you have to buy new
locks for the windows of the shop.

ELIZABETH
(smiling)
Thank you very much Spiros!

Spiros squeezes her hand.

SPIROS
It is a pleasure. Have a good trip,
then I'll see you in Singapore!

DISSOLVE.

51. EXT. PIRAEUS PORT. SHIP DEPARTS. 3 JUNE 1991. AFTERNOON.

The dark water is covered with reflections made by the sun as the Orient Sun backs out from the other ships in the port pulled by two tugboats. Lilian, Alfio and Elizabeth silently observe the manoeuvre.

The two tugs drop the two ropes of the ship and move away. The buildings of Piraeus become smaller and smaller. Carousels of seagulls circle above the bubbling water of the ship's wake. Lilian and Alfio, looking at the sea, embrace each other.

CUT TO:

52. INT. SHIP. LOBBY & SHOPS AREA. AFTERNOON.

The board clock shows 4 o'clock PM of the 3 June 1991. Elizabeth and Lilian get out of the elevator go through the hall, pass by the tourist information office and at the front of the store, they break the Customs seals on the two doors, then enter. Inside the store Lilian looks worried at the huge rows of packages arranged on three layers.

LILIAN

(shouts)

Oh! My God! But how are we going to check and fix all these goods?

ELIZABETH

I've seen worse than this!

LILIAN

Don't joke!

ELIZABETH

Believe me, I am not in the mood for joking!

LILIAN

Damn, there must be six hundred packages!

Elizabeth goes to desk and flips through the loading bills.

ELIZABETH

You nearly guessed, in fact, there are five hundred!

Alfio enters.

ALFIO

Ladies, I have come to help you, because at the moment without passengers I don't have much work to do.

THE TWO WOMEN

(happily scream in unison)

Great!

Lillian runs towards him and hugs him happily.

LILIAN

Darling, we are lucky that you are here
to give us a hand!

The three start to open the packages.

DISSOLVE.

53. EXT. AERIAL SHOT. SUEZ CANAL. July 6, 1991. AFTERNOON.

Expanse of desert on either side. Ship is at anchor in front of entrance to the Suez Canal which it is going to pass through to reach the Red Sea.

It's a big ship, all white, painted in blue as far as the keel up to half a meter above the water, with a long bow, which rises for four floors. The bridge ends the upper part of the ship. It has two large blue funnels with the sign of the company above. At the rear the floors of the ship go down to the stern. Above the keel you can see the first two floors with rows of portholes, while all others have rectangular windows to the ninth. It holds eight hundreds passengers and a crew of two hundred.

LONG SHOT of the dock and the Egyptian landscape, with the Orient Sun and other cruisers and cargo ships on hold.

Part of the crew is up on the deck to observe the strange landscape that widens visibly beyond the Grand Canal.

The hot desert sun shines its light on a sea of sand, as if it was golden dust. Elizabeth, Lillian and Alfio are at the bow below the bridge, observing these extraordinary effects of colours, exploding against the desert background.

FADE TO:

54. EXT. AFTERNOON. CONVOY OF SHIPS IN SUEZ CANAL.

AERIAL SHOT of two tugs and the ship in the Arabian Canal, which follows the long line and navigates in convoy.

As the ship enters the canal the villages and the camp of Arabian soldiers passes by and disappears in the distance. From the desert the row of ships pass through the channel. Groups of Bedouins greet and whistle to attract attention of the crew, who return the greeting, shout and wave white handkerchiefs. The convoy proceeds slowly, while on both sides of the canal, heavily armed soldiers roam all over the dunes of the desert, with their rifles glinting in the sun.

CUT TO:

55. EXT. SHIP. DECK/RAIL OF SHIP. DAY.

ELIZABETH

I wonder how those poor people live
under that hellish sun, which seems to
burn the sand of the desert too.

ALFIO

They are accustomed to this climate

ELIZABETH

We would die after a few days.. but they
know the desert's secrets and survive.

Lilian points a finger at the horizon in that sea of sand.

LILIAN

(shouting)

Look at that caravan of camels and
Bedouins. Maybe looking for an oasis.

Meanwhile sunset arrives giving the last touch of magic to
the landscape, which seems to burst into flames that colour
the desert and turn it all into a sea of fire.

DISSOLVE.

56. EXT. SHIP IN RED SEA. AERIAL SHOT. DAY.

Days of sailing in the Red Sea. Aerial shooting of the ship
on a sea as smooth as oil, where sky and sea merge on the
horizon. On the walks and bridges of the ship, the
Philippine sailors are working: whitening the walls of the
ship, varnishing the wooden doors etc. .. Inside, the
stewards are working at the maintenance of the cabins. The
officers do security checking escape facilities and take
care of navigation.

CUT TO:

57. INT. SHIP. OFFICERS DINING ROOM. BREAKFAST. DAY.

The air conditioning isn't working, Elizabeth Lilian and
Alfio all sweating are eating at breakfast in silence,
looking out through the rectangular windows to the sea and
the sky, which blurs the horizon, lit up by a radiant sun.
The fire escape door opens and the CHIEF ENGINEER PEEDU
enters: tall, thin, long face, light eyes, soft eyes, brown
hair, fifties, Armenian. A chorus of 'good morning' echoes
in the room. Then PEEDO sits at a table next to the three,
with a cup of coffee in his hand.

ALFIO

The coffee's a little salty this morning, isn't it??

PEEDU

(seriously)

Yeah! We are working hard to find the fault. We think it's a broken pipe, mixing drinking water with salt water.

Elizabeth wipes her forehead with a towel.

ELIZABETH

You engineers and mechanics have a lot of problems to solve. Even the air conditioning isn't working.

PEEDU

In fact, we're doing what we can, but unfortunately there are missing pieces that we can only get in Singapore.

ELIZABETH

(worried)

Just what we need, with all the work we have got to do.

LILIAN

(standing up)

Fortunately, despite all the problems, the shop is going well, thanks to Alfio who is helping us.

PEEDU

(putting down the cup)

Well, that means a lot!

The three leave the room and say goodbye to Peedu.

CUT TO:

58. INT. SHIP CORRIDOR. ELEVATOR. DAY.

ELIZABETH

Now that we have found the two computers inside the boxes, I feel much better!

LILIAN

Me too, but there is a monitor missing, so we won't be able to use one of the computers.

They reach the elevator, Alfio presses the button.

ELIZABETH

In any case, we have solved a lot of problems, because you will see the two computers that Delopera promised to send us, won't arrive in Colombo.

DISSOLVE.

59. EXT. DECK OF SHIP. NIGHT.

After Dinner. Bridge number eight. Under the stars.

Out in the open there are some white tables and chairs where, the General Manager, the Chief Engineer Peedu, and his assistant KRISTIAN, a handsome young Swedish man, medium height, slender, about thirty-five, round face, grey eyes, blond hair, are sitting.

Not far away there's FRANK, the English Chief Commissioner: medium height, slender, about thirty years, brown hair, round face, dark eyes with small gold- framed glasses.

Elizabeth opens the door to bridge number eight on the deck and finds her officer friends intent on drinking beer and having fun.

KRISTIAN

Elizabeth, come and have a beer with us!

Kristian hands her a beer. The General Manager and Elizabeth are leaning against the railing of the bridge, while the man, joking, points to the seagulls.

ELIZABETH

Thanks Kristian!

GENERAL MANAGER

Look, Elizabeth, those are the famous flying chickens..only ever seen here!

Elizabeth laughs.

GENERAL MANAGER

Kristian, tell her.

Kristian leaps to his feet and looks at her.

KRISTIAN

Is it possible that you don't know that chickens here can fly like birds?

The men burst into laughter.

ELIZABETH

(serious)

Actually I have always known that there are flying elephants. Probably the beer has gone to your brain!

More laughter, while Frank, under the effects of the beer, comes forward and tries to woo Elizabeth.

FRANK

You Swedish are only able to drink, but we English can do amazing things.

While Peedu listens in silence, the other whistles and yells at Frank's comments . Meanwhile the general manager and Elizabeth start an animated discussion, as he stares at her nervously biting his moustaches and cursing Philippino crew.

GENERAL MANAGER

Believe me, these Philippinos are good for nothing. If it depended on me, I would exterminate them all, like Hitler!

ELIZABETH

(shocked)

I don't think that you are as cruel as you want me to believe.

GENERAL MANAGER

They are useless.

ELIZABETH

(shocked)

One day you will understand that being racist is only a matter of ignorance. I know the Philippines so I assure you that they have big hearts and work well, if you treat them properly.

The General Manager stares Elizabeth angrily.

GENERAL MANAGER

You won't convince me.

ELIZABETH

(growls)

Too bad for you then, because your racism is caused by ignorance and will drag you into an ocean of pain.

He looks at her angrily. Elizabeth leaves him alone and sits with the group.

The night passes between one laugh and another, stacks of cans of beer under a starry black sky. Elizabeth turns and looks at the stern, in the sky there is a crisscross trail of grey smoke that comes from the two chimneys behind her, on the upper floors and with sad eyes staring spellbound at those long trails that disappear into the night. Pan-shot of the chimneys and white silhouettes of seagulls chatter around, hovering above the sea, and giving the sensation of white fluorescent colours, which flourish in the dark night.

DISSOLVE.

60. EXT. SHIP AT SEA. STERN OF SHIP. DAWN.

The sun is pale, covering the sea and the sky a silver purple, with shades of blue and pink.

Sailors DENIS, GUAN, ROSALITO, CARROLL, NOEL, GABRIEL, and NIKOLA are painting the railings of the stern at dawn. The seven sailors wearing jeans and blue T-shirts, all covered in paint, are thin, medium height, slender bodied, brown skinned, with soft round faces, dark eyes and dark hair.

The door opens, Elizabeth arrives. A chorus of 'good mornings' bursts out. She goes to sit on a bench facing the sea. Every now and then she observes the sailors who are already working hard at that time of the morning. On Elizabeth's face one can see a grimace of pain as she watches them and feels their hard work.

ELIZABETH

How many hours do you work per day?

SAILOR DENIS

(continuing to work without turning)
From sunrise to sunset, while there is still light! ...We are doing overtime.

ELIZABETH

(shocked)

But how much do you earn a month?

SAILOR ROSALITO

(pauses for a moment)

It depends; from three hundred and fifty to five hundred dollars. But some of that money goes to the agent who found us the job.

ELIZABETH

But is it enough to sustain your family?

SAILOR CARROLL

Well, even if it is not sufficient, we
can't change the situation.

ELIZABETH

I have been in the Philippines and I
know the cost of living is cheap.
However there can't be much left after
you have paid the agent.

SAILOR GUAN

(serious)

What can we do? It's important for us to
have a job, so our families don't starve

ELIZABETH

(compassionately)

I know.

Elizabeth looks at them then looks to distant horizon.

CLOSE UP on pan-shot of dawn rising.

DISSOLVE.

61. EXT. PORT OF COLOMBO. 15 June 1991. MORNING

7 o'clock AM. Bridge walk, the right side.

On the ship's clock it is seven o'clock on 15 June 1991.
After eleven days at sea, the Orient Sun is on hold, among
hundreds of cargo ships, in front of the port of Colombo,
waiting for refuelling. You can see the port of Colombo in
the distance. The crew, waiting anxiously to disembark, roam
excitedly on the decks of the ship and on the catwalks.

Unfortunately, as the sun rises high and the hours pass
slowly, the fateful announcement of the arrival of the boat,
which should take the crew ashore does not arrive. The
passing of the hours can be seen on the ship's clock.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

Elizabeth and Lillian are on the promenade of the ship
admiring the view.

Alfio arrives.

ALFIO

(nervous)

Unfortunately, no one is being allowed to disembark, not even the captain. It seems to be too expensive for the company.

LILIAN

(furious)

Ridiculous, is it possible that after eleven days at sea, we can't get off the ship to call home?

ELIZABETH

In my many years of navigation, it is the first time that such an absurd thing has happened to me!

ALFIO

The crew is also complaining, but I'm afraid that they still won't let us disembark.

Alfio looks towards the port in disappointment.

ELIZABETH

(reflectively)

It would have been nice to see all those markets again where they sell all those spices, and tea... and so many types of gems and precious stones.

LILIAN

(looking at the port)

You have already been in Colombo! I am here, but can't even get off the ship!

DISSOLVE.

62. EXT. SHIP DEPARTING COLOMBO PORT. 9.30 PM. NIGHT.

The ship glides fast under the dark sky over the ocean. Elizabeth is at the stern and she is looking at the port of Colombo and at the shapes of the buildings while the ship moves slowly away. She sees the skyscrapers which are enveloped by darkness and then the moon sends out its silvery rays. The cool air ruffles her hair, while she suddenly feels chilly. She hears the notes of a GUITAR, accompanied by a CHORUS OF BEAUTIFUL VOICES SINGING. Elizabeth passes by, and sees SAILORS on the deck by the pool, which is empty and in poor condition. She enters ship to go to her cabin and go to bed.

CUT TO:

62. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. 17TH June 1991. NIGHT.

The air conditioning isn't working, Elizabeth has a feeling of suffocation. A sudden sweat prevents her from falling asleep, she shivers, after a few minutes the sheets are already soaked with sweat, she makes a gesture of irritation and she tosses and turns in bed several times.

DREAMS FLASH THROUGH HER TROUBLED SLEEP.

DREAM SEQUENCE BEGINS...

63. INT. SHOP. 18 June 1991. MORNING.

Dream (effect flow): Elizabeth enters the store and is surprised to find half of it occupied by some oriental people who are selling Chinese items. Surprised, she goes out of the shop and goes ashore, where white flowers grow around her. Not far away there is a cart pulled by a horse, Alfio and Lilian are on the cart and they are getting ready to start a long journey. Lilian and Alfio refuse to let her get on the cart and they depart towards the sea at a gallop to where the sky merges with the horizon. Then another cart standing still appears, without a horse, full of white daisies which light up intermittently. Her father PRIMO calls her suddenly, as she joins him on a green lawn, he is sad and has a swollen face.

PRIMO

(concerned)

I'd like to stay, but I don't believe it will be sunny tomorrow.

ELIZABETH

Who told you it won't be sunny tomorrow?

HER FATHER FADES/DISAPPEARS WITHOUT ANSWERING...

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

CUT BACK TO Sc62. ELIZABETH TOSSING DISTURBEDLY IN SLEEP.

DISSOLVE.

64. INT. MORNING. ELIZABETH'S CABIN.

On the bedside clock it's 6 am on 18 June 1991. Elizabeth wakes up, gets out of bed and pulls the curtain. She sees the beautiful colour of the sun rising from the sea, tinting the water pink. She dresses quickly and goes out.

CUT TO:

65. EXT. SHIP. ELIZABETH WALKING THE DECKS. MORNING.

Elizabeth takes long breaths in the morning air and meditates on the message of the dream while she admires the wonderful colours on the sea and in sky. RICHARD, Malaysian Radio Telegrapher Officer arrives: dark eyes, round face, dark skin, curly hair, about thirty years, robust body and wearing a white suit. He stops to talk to Elizabeth.

RICHARD
The weather is changing. Tomorrow we
will have rough seas.

ELIZABETH
(serious)
With all the problems we have all we
need is a stormy sea! I hope you're
wrong!

RICHARD
(staring)
I wish I were.

Richard goes, Elizabeth observes the sky with questioning eyes.

CUT TO:

66. INT. SHIP. OFFICERS DINING ROOM. BREAKFAST NEXT DAY.

From the rectangular windows of the officers's dining room one can see the sun shining high, but some threatening clouds in the distance are quickly approaching

The wind blows against the walls of the vessel. Elizabeth is alone, and while eating breakfast stares at the sky. She drinks salty coffee and makes a grimace of disgust. Meanwhile, the chief engineer Peedu and his assistant Kristian come in.

PEEDU
How's the coffee?

ELIZABETH
It's still salty. Makes my stomach ache
and I also have to go to the toilet
often.

PEEDU
We won't die for so little.

Elizabeth stands up to go to work.

The SHIP SUDDENLY TURNS. Elizabeth falls back onto the chair. Noises of cups crashing, confusion among the officers who try not to slip on the ground.

CUT TO:

67. MONTAGE OF STORM SHOTS

CUT TO POV VIEW OF CRASHING SEAS AND WAVES FROM the large square windows of the dining room.

CUT TO EXT. VIEW OF SHIP BEING LASHED BY WAVES CRASHING AGAINST LIFEBOATS.

CUT BACK SC. 66 TO CONFUSION IN OFFICERS DINING ROOM. DAY.

Elizabeth gets up unsteadily, goes to the door stepping over the broken crockery that slides across the floor. She exits.

CUT TO:

68. INT. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. DAY

Elizabeth lies on the bed retching, clinging to the bed, as she sees the waves crashing frighteningly against the rectangular window. Objects fall to the ground and slide all over the floor, creating a chorus of metallic sounds.

CUT TO:

69. EXT. SHIP AT SEA. DAY.
Stormy sea. Aerial Pan-shot.

SHIP in the middle of the stormy sea. Huge billowing waves crash and surge loudly against the windows; mad waves that grow and fall dragging the ship in fearful empty tremendous whirlpools. The bow crashes into the water with terrible blows, which seem to almost disintegrate the ship.

DISSOLVE TO

70. EXT. SHIP AT SEA. LATER THAT EVENING. DARK.

Towards evening the wind calms down. During the night the storm returns whistling louder and louder, and dragging the ship adrift, out to sea.

DISSOLVE TO:

71. EXT. SHIP. DECK. THREE DAYS LATER.

Elizabeth appears from below onto the deck. She walks to the bow for fresh air as another wave crashes against the ship the wind and spray strike her violently while she's going down one of the deck staircases.

She grabs the railing to keep from falling into the sea. Another gust of wind tears off her sunglasses, which end up in the sea below. Shivering from the soaking she goes back through the nearest door leading below decks to her cabin..

VIEW DOOR CRASHING SHUT BEHIND HER.

DISSOLVE TO

72. EXT. A FEW DAYS LATER. MORNING.
SHIP at rest in now-calm seas.

CUT TO:

73. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. MORNING.

Sun's rays filter through the window and wake Elizabeth. She jumps out of bed, pulls the curtain open, and sees a sea as smooth as oil and a clear sky. She dresses quickly...

CUT TO:

74. EXT. SHIP. DECK. MORNING.
Deck Door opens. Elizabeth appears on deck.

She goes for a walk on the ship and sees dozens of fishing boats gliding gently in the stillness. While walking along the deck promenade, she smiles and waves her hand to the crew who are again painting the railings.

she overhears Guan and Carroll talking to one another.

SAILOR CARROLL

Do you know that the typhoon has swept
away a lot of villages on the islands?

SAILOR GUAN

Yes, Richard heard it on the radio.

Elizabeth passes by, looks at the clear sky disappearing into the sea on the horizon.

75. COLLAGE OF SHIP SAILING THROUGH ISLANDS. DAY.

COLLAGE: AS SHIP SAILS ON. Some small islands filled with emerald green vegetation appear, glistening under the sun and a myriad of reflections dance on the water. Dozens of islands pass by and seem to disappear quickly in the distance, while one can see roofless huts. Debris from the hurricane is floating on the dark water. END COLLAGE.

DISSOLVE.

76. EXT. SHIP DOCKING AND SINGAPORE HARBOUR. DAY.

After the ship stops for a short time the tugs get prepared to dock. The ship drawn by the tugboats backs into the dock.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

On Singapore: grey skyscrapers sprouting over a flourishing vegetation among white clouds.

The ship is moored in front of a small island of fishermen.

In the light of the sun and the vegetation that sways in the wind, the little island and the colourful strangely shaped wooden boats glisten in the sun.

DISSOLVE.

77. EXT. SINGAPORE CITY CENTRE. MORNING.

The two women come out of a hardware store, Elizabeth has a plastic bag with something inside. They take a walk through the crowded streets of Singapore.

ELIZABETH

Now we have bought new locks for the windows of the store and called home, I'm happy.

LILIAN

Thank God we were finally able to reassure our families that we're ok.

The two women observe the multiracial crowd around them as they walk through the bustling streets and marketplaces.

ELIZABETH

All these different races working and living together... here in Singapore I always have the feeling that racism does not exist.

LILIAN

There is definitely a certain harmony.

ELIZABETH

(excited)

I always dream of a world of peace and love!

The two women look at each other and smile.

DISSOLVE.

78. INT. SHIP. INFORMATION DESK/OFFICE. DAY.

Alfio approaches Lilian and Elizabeth.

ALFIO

For the 26th, on the occasion of the cruise inauguration, Mr. Kor the Owner has invited prominent journalists and travel agents from Malaysia.

The general manager approaches. He is furious.

GENERAL MANAGER

(shouting at everyone in sight)

God ! The work still isn't finished yet. At this rate we will never be ready for the departure. Those bloody journalists always poke around until they find a problem or something to criticise... they always do! If we don't get our problems sorted before they arrive we will have to close some parts of the ship to them and make them even more suspicious. If we end up in the newspapers the Owners will be furious! (PAUSES) But it's not my fault; it's that idiot of the staff Captain's fault. I told him a thousand times to try and build some rapport and respect with those damn Philipinos, but it's as if I am talking to a brick wall. He never listens to me.

ELIZABETH

Confucius said: "Everyone exaggerates in a certain way. Look for what the excess consists of and you will then have knowledge of the virtues".

GENERAL MANAGER

(rolls his eyes and hands to heaven)

Now philosophy? Where am I? An insane asylum?

ELIZABETH

(laughing)

Hell is always another option...!

GENERAL MANAGER

(walks away angrily)

Damn!

FADE TO:

79. INT. SHIP. OUTSIDE DUTY FREE SHOPS. MORNING 9a.m.

Lilian and Elizabeth have fitted out the windows in front of the shop. Only Elizabeth is in the shop.

A GROUP of Orientals enters the duty free shop. The CHARTERER (medium height, strong, big wrinkled face, brown eyes, grey hair, stylish, over sixty, Indonesian) shows the others the part of the store that will be taken over.

CHARTERER

Then, we will take over this part of the store and here we will sell our Chinese products.

While some people nod, Elizabeth, worried, approaches the Charterer.

CHARTERER

Don't worry, Miss, I will speak with the manager of your company in Venice.

The Charterer leaves with his entourage.

Meanwhile, Lilian arrives.

ELIZABETH

(with a surprised look)

The dream I had is coming true.

LILIAN

(excited)

Extraordinary, if you dream of me and Alfio, tell me right away.

ELIZABETH

I already told you I dreamed of you and Alfio. You were both disembarking and leaving me here alone in this sea of troubles.

The two women look at each other seriously.

DISSOLVE.

80. INT. SHIP. HALL IN FRONT OF DUTY FREE SHOP. DAY.

Elizabeth is fitting out the windows, when the General Manager arrives.

GENERAL MANAGER

Do you know that the Charterer wants to take over half of the store?

ELIZABETH

Of course!

GENERAL MANAGER

He has asked me to tell you to leave him an empty window at the front of the shop!

ELIZABETH

All right!

The GM goes away. Alfio arrives shortly after, he is depressed and nervous.

ELIZABETH

Alfio, are there some problems?

ALFIO

The GM has taken away all my Philippino staff, with the excuse that he needs them for more urgent jobs.

ELIZABETH

You know what I think? The GM is organising something that will take away the catering from our company.

ALFIO

(tiredly)

I agree. Something is up. I have seen him running up and down the hall suspiciously all afternoon.

DISSOLVE.

81. EXT. SINGAPORE HARBOUR. MORNING. 26June.

The Orient Sun moves from the dock to the maritime terminal, near the World Trade Centre.

CUT TO:

82. INT. SHIP. INSIDE DUTTY FREE SHOP & HALL. MORNING.

Elizabeth is working in the shop. Lilian enters.

ELIZABETH

Lilian, did you see that they have moved the ship to the maritime station, near the World Trade Centre?

LILIAN

Yes, but because all the jobs on board haven't been completed yet, the Charterer has delayed departure until the 28th.

ELIZABETH

(stops working)

Great! So we also have time to replace the locks on the inside windows.

LILIAN

Spiros has also arrived from Piraeus and has already been summoned to an urgent meeting with the Charterer. Let's close the shop so we can go and wait in the lobby, with Alfio.

The two women go out, Elizabeth locks the store.

CUT TO:

83. INT. SHIP. HALL AND LOUNGE.

Lilian and Elizabeth go to sit in the lounge opposite the large rectangular dark wooden table, where the meeting is being held with the Charterer, his Secretary, and Spiros who is standing opposite him on the other side of the table.

From the large square windows, the golden rays of the sun shine in the hall.

CHARTERER

(talking to Spiros)

Don't worry. I will handle the catering with my staff, I'll buy all the goods that you have at Piraeus, and I'll also pay the cost of the trucks that carried the merchandise from Venice to Piraeus.

SPIROS

(nervous)

If you buy the catering goods, you must also buy those in the store, because we are not interested in managing only a part of the duty free shops.

The Charterer (Mr. Kor) reflects for a moment then turns to his Indonesian SECRETARY (ROWENA), a beautiful thin girl, well made, medium height, sweet-faced and jovial, dark eyes, long curly reddish brown hair, about twenty-five. She dials a number on her mobile phone and begins talking in Indonesian. She ends the call, turns off the phone and puts it on the table. Charterer answers Spiros in a serious tone.

CHARTERER

We'll think about it, but I don't think it matters to us.

Charterer stands. Meeting ends. All stand up and leave.

Spiros goes over to his employees in the lounge opposite the big table and sits down.

SPIROS

Elizabeth, you and Lilian go calculate the value of the items of the duty-free shop and bring it to me as soon as possible. Then go and prepare your luggage. The ship leaves tomorrow, June 28, so we will all disembark together.

Worried, Elizabeth and Lilian get up quietly and go into the store. The others stay in lounge to discuss the problems.

CUT TO:

84. INT. SHIP. HALL. MORNING.

Lilian and Elizabeth come out of the shop opposite and go to Spiros with the list in hand. Meanwhile, the GM arrives.

GENERAL MANAGER

(snaps)

I'm sorry, but it's not my fault!

The group stares at him dumbfounded.

SPIROS

Nothing happened.

The GM smiles happily and with a wave goes away.

ALFIO

(seriously)

What a false person he is! I know he has named his friend the Chief Commissioner FRANK, as Chief Housekeeping Officer so they can control their earnings better. Then he fired the new cellar storekeeper from Australia, with the excuse that he does not know how to do his job so that he can replace him with another friend who will look after both their interests

SPIROS

Everything is happening at once! I also know the Captain will disembark as well because according to the Singapore port authorities his license is not valid for the position of captain.

ELIZABETH

Spiros, do you insist then that I pack my suitcases?

SPIROS

Of course!

ELIZABETH

(insisting)

I know the Charterer will not buy the goods in the shop, and Lilian does not want to stay on board without Alfio. Therefore I will have to stay, so there is no sense in my packing my suitcases.

SPIROS

(annoyed)

Please Elizabeth, pack your suitcases. I will make the Charterer buy all the goods in the shop.

ELIZABETH

OK! I'll pack. But you'll see... I will only have to undo them later.

SPIROS

We'll see!(PAUSES). By the way, tomorrow you're all invited to dinner by our boss in Venice!

LILIAN

At last, some good news.

85. EXT. PAN SINGAPORE CITY CENTRE. NIGHT. (June 27).

CUT TO:

86. INT. LOBBY OF KING'S HOTEL (SINGAPORE). NIGHT.

Alfio, Lilian and Elizabeth are sitting in the hotel lobby and drinking aperitifs while waiting for Spiros. The elevator opposite the lounge opens. Spiros gets out and goes up to Elizabeth.

SPIROS

Elizabeth, the Charterer did not want to buy the goods of the shop, so you'll have to stay to run it.

ELIZABETH
(serious)
I knew that before it happened.

SPIROS
(curious)
How could you know it before it happened?

ELIZABETH
It's a long story... isn't it Lilian?

LILIAN
Yeah, we'll tell you later if we have time.

Spiros thoughtfully stares at the two women.

SPIROS
Follow me, we're going for dinner.

CUT TO:

87. INT. KINGS HOTEL SINGAPORE. DINING ROOM. NIGHT.

Dining room: furniture in Oriental-style, rectangular table with a beautiful Chinese vase, filled with typical oriental flowers, light green tablecloth dinner services and ceramic hand-painted spoons in soft colours. Elizabeth, Lilian, Spiros, and Alfio are sitting at the table. Elizabeth observes waiter who smiles sweetly, then gives her the menu.

SPIROS
Lilian I'm sorry, but you must remain for several weeks with Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH
Lilian doesn't have to remain because the Charterer will take half of the shop, I don't need an assistant!

SPIROS
Lilian must remain for a few weeks because contractually there must always be two people in the duty free shop. The Charterer has to pay us damages so we don't want to give him a reason for not paying. We mustn't make any mistakes.

Dishes are served.

LILIAN
(angrily)
I've said it before and I will repeat it
again. I will not stay without Alfio!

ELIZABETH
(annoyed)
Listen to me Lilian, when accepting this
job you also took on responsibilities
and Spiros is the boss. So you must do
what Spiros asks you to do..

Lilian drums nervously on the chair with her fingers and
screams, madly.

LILIAN
You must understand that I left my job
as a hotel manager to come on this
adventure. Now I find myself with
absolutely nothing, because probably
there will be no other opportunity to
work with Alfio. So I'll have to go home
to find another job.

After a moment of silence, Elizabeth exchanges a meaningful
look with Spiros. Lilian and Alfio argue with one other in a
low voice.

LILIAN
(surrendering)
OK! I will stay for two cruises! But do
not ask for more!

Spiros smiles with satisfaction.

DISSOLVE.

88. EXT. SHIP. PORT OF SINGAPORE. NIGHT.
On Deck of ship.

Kristian, the assistant chief engineer, all sweaty, wearing
white overalls full of black spots of grease, comes out on
the deck for a breath of fresh air. He sees Elizabeth, then
goes up to her and smiles.

ELIZABETH
I bet you've just finished working in
the engine room, right?

KRISTIAN
Yes, I came to get some fresh air before
going to take a shower.

ELIZABETH

Then were you able to repair the air conditioning?

KRISTIAN

(sighs)

So far it's working but I do not know for how long. To repair the Orient Sun, it should be taken into dock and have its whole system overhauled. Of course it's not possible.. it would cost too much time and money.

ELIZABETH

(fixing Kristian's gaze with hers)

I understand!

KRISTIAN

I must go, Good night.

She smiles, while Kristian goes away. Elizabeth goes over to the ship's rail. Her gaze alights on the dark sea, where the moon sends its silver rays that strike the water like fast crazy arrows.

Elizabeth suddenly begins to COUGH. She puts a hand to her mouth and when she takes it away she sees a few spots of BLOOD on her hand.

Elizabeth stares at the blood.

DISSOLVE.

89. INT. SHIP. LOBBY/INFORMATION OFFICE. FOLLOWING DAY.

On the clock in the hall it is 3.45 pm, 28 June 1991. Alfio arrives with two suitcases. He leaves them near information desk and walks away.

HOSTESS SHIRLEY

(at the microphone)

Attention please, we must inform all passengers and crew that the ship's departure is set for six o'clock today.

Alfio goes up to Lilian and Elizabeth who are sitting in the lobby near duty-free shops, waiting for him to arrive.

ALFIO

(to Lilian)

Honey, don't worry. When you come back we will meet in Spain for a holiday.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP LILIAN. Lilian is not amused. Her look says all.

CAPTAIN(V/O)

(from the speaker on the bridge)
This is the Captain speaking. Having to disembark for personal reasons, I take this opportunity to thank the crew for their kind cooperation and wish everyone all the best for the future.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

Elizabeth's attention falls on a strange looking MAN, who is talking with the GM not far away. The MAN is Swedish, mid-forties, tall, thin, long face, dark grey eyes, blond hair, clumsy gait; on each arm he has four large tattoos. Elizabeth stares horrified at content of the tattoos. As she looks up, her eyes meet the cold expression of the strange severe ugly MAN.

ELIZABETH

I'm sorry Alfio; do you know who that strange guy is talking with the GM?

ALFIO

Why, don't you know?

ELIZABETH

Of course not, if I knew, I would not have asked you.

ALFIO

(laughing)

It's your new captain!

Meanwhile, the captain goes away.

LILIAN

(laughing)

What a gorgeous man! (To Alfio) He would be the only one with whom I could betray you!

A chorus of laughter erupts around them.

ELIZABETH

I admit he has managed to attract my attention, but only with his bizarre originality.

Spiros arrives. Large envelope in hand and black briefcase.

SPIROS

Alfio, are you ready to disembark?

Alfio stands up and Spiros gives him the envelope.

SPIROS

Please, take this to our boss in Venice.

Meanwhile, once again one hears the bell of the bridge command speaker echoing in the hall.

NEW CAPTAIN

(coldly)

This is your new captain speaking. The passengers are about to embark so staff who are not in uniform must leave the passengers' lounge. Thanks and all the best in your work.

ELIZABETH

Come on Lilian, we'll go and put on our uniforms, before we upset your future lover.

Elizabeth and Lilian laughing stand up and leave.

90. EXT. SHIP. DAY.
Ship's ladder. Dockside.

The two women (Lilian and Elizabeth) are in uniform going down the ladder. Spiros and Alfio go down the ladder after them and reach the bus at the quay in front of the ship.

Alfio and Lilian embrace one other tenderly. After Alfio shakes hands with Spiros and Elizabeth, he then puts the suitcases in the baggage compartment and gets inside. As the bus moves off, all wave their hands... a tear runs down Lilian's face.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

Elizabeth, Lilian, and Spiros re-climb the boarding ladder, passing by the ROW of uniformed hostesses and stewards, smiling happily. The hostesses wear skirts with blue jackets, white blouses and coloured neckerchiefs with the gold design of the ship's company. The stewards wear jackets and burgundy slacks, white shirts and black bow ties, emblems of the shipping company on the jackets.

CUT TO:

ANGLE. ON DECK.

Lilian goes off to her cabin. Meanwhile Spiros and Elizabeth go through the hall and reach the office of the Former Chief Commissioner, who has now taken the place of Alfio. FRANK (new Commissioner) is sitting behind his desk, absorbed in his work. When he sees the Spiros and Elizabeth he jumps up and goes to meet them and shakes their hands.

ELIZABETH

I'm here to bring your wife on board as I promised. Lilian will disembark in two weeks, then your wife will replace her.

FRANK

(smiles happily)

Thanks. She will be at your service!

SPIROS

If the salary of your wife is okay, she can sign the contract on her arrival.

FRANK

Yes she's very happy just to be near me, so everything is fine!

Spiros and Elizabeth leave, making their way through the passengers and the noisy voices. In the hall they meet Lilian again. Spiros shakes hands with the two women.

SPIROS

We'll meet again in four days, on your return to Singapore. Have a good trip, and all the best for your job.

The two women hug Spiros and smile affectionately as he departs and disappears through the crowd towards the exit.

DISSOLVE.

91. INT. SHIP. OFFICERS' DINING ROOM. 6 pm. EVENING.

The room is crowded with officers, some in uniform and others without. There are two free places opposite a COUPLE having dinner. WOMAN (SHAY) is very pretty, medium height, round body, sweet face, dark eyes, long blond hair, in her thirties. MAN (LUIS) has a stocky build, medium height, large face, expressive eyes and brown hair down to his shoulders, very nice, in his forties. Lilian and Elizabeth enter the room and go to the buffet to get something to eat and then go and sit in two empty places opposite the couple.

ELIZABETH
Do you mind if we sit here ?

SHAY
(standing up)
Please do! This is Luis, your new cruise
director, I am Shay, his wife we also
sing and do the show together.

They shake hands.

ELIZABETH
(smiling)
I'm Elizabeth the shop manager. This is
my assistant Lilian.

Luis is tasting some strange food, from the expression of
his face one sees his disgust. His eyes roll in their
sockets he gets up and goes to spit in the dustbin. He
returns to the table with his mouth open, his eyes staring
into space, he takes a jug of water, fills the glass, and
quickly swallows the liquid/ He puts the glass on the table,
coughing he clutches his throat with his hands, as his face
turns red.

LUIS
(roars)
Oh! My God! That takes your breath away!
I seem to be on fire inside!

ELIZABETH
We have a Chinese cook who is trying to
prepare Indonesian and Malaysian
dishes... so dear Luis, you have to get
used to digesting the chilli, because
there are no dishes without it. Since I
have been on board, I have only been
eating sweet bread, vegetables and
fruit.

LUIS
(seriously)
I understand. Shay and I will finally
start the diet we never started.

Then Luis wipes the sweat from his forehead with a napkin.

LUIS
But for now I've had enough!

Luis and Shay walk out of the dining room arm in arm waving, while Lilian and Elizabeth laugh.

LILIAN

Luis is very pleasant.

ELIZABETH

(standing up)

Lilian, we have to go to our stations for passengers' emergency practice.

While Lilian gets up and follows Elizabeth in silence, you can hear Luis's voice coming from the microphone.

LUIS (V/O)

Attention please, visitors are asked to go ashore, the ship is about to leave.

92. EXT. SHIP. POOL DECK. SUNSET.

Passengers' emergency drill in case of shipwreck.

At the pool, white chairs are occupied by passengers. Children play rushing around loudly. The fiery red sun is blinding, its pink coloured rays colour the sea and the sky. Flocks of birds fly against the sun and seem to fly away, chirping, frightened by the noise of the ship's engines.

Lilian and Elizabeth arrive at the pool, lean over the railing and watch the manoeuvre. After the manoeuvre Shirley can be heard making an announcement.

HOSTESS SHIRLEY

All passengers are requested to go to their cabins to get their life-jackets, for the emergency drill practice..

Passengers get up, take their children, and leave.

SIREN ALARM SOUNDS.

Lilian and Elizabeth and all the crew run to their stations, to direct passengers to the lifeboats. After the alarm, the hostess continues to make announcements about the rule for the protection of passengers on board ship. When all the passengers have reached their lifeboats, the third officer ROLDAN (a young man of twenty-eight years old, medium height, thin, brown skin and hair, black eyes, Philippino, with the help of the sailors Rosalito, Denis, Carroll, Guan, Noel, Gabriel and Nikola get the lifeboats down in position for an eventual landing. ROLDAN controls his own group of passengers who have to put the jackets on in the right way for rescue.

Finally the Captain and Peedu the chief engineer, in uniform complete with hat, go to check that everything was done according to international law. When the Captain and Chief engineer Peedu have controlled everything, they go back to the bridge sound the siren again and announce that the rescue exercise is over.

DISSOLVE.

93. INT. SHIP. DUTY FREE SHOP. LATER IN EVENING.

Elizabeth and Lillian are inside the store, A GROUP of oriental journalists and travel agents go in to ask the prices of the Italian articles.

A LADY

Is it always so hot on this ship?

ELIZABETH

(laughing)

Right now the air conditioning isn't working very well, but I know that on return to Singapore they will bring in some technicians from Europe.

HUSBAND OF THE LADY

(annoyed)

For us will be too late.

LILIAN

Yeah! I am sorry!

The couple leave.

An elegant young THAI WOMAN enters with two lively CHILDREN. She picks up a bar of chocolate and goes to pay at cash desk with ten U.S. dollars in her hand.

THAI LADY

Unfortunately the food was inedible, so we are feeding ourselves with some chocolate!

ELIZABETH

(giving the change)

I am very sorry Madam; unfortunately it is the same thing for us. (PAUSES AS SHE OPENS CHOCOLATE AND GIVES SOME TO CHILDREN THEN ALL LEAVE)..Goodnight!

94. INT. SHIP. CASINO & ADJACENT BALLROOM. NIGHT.

The interior of the casino is filled with green tables; hundreds of white lights are reflected on the crowded gaming tables. Everywhere there are elegantly dressed passengers, who play Blackjack, Baccarat, Roulette, Tai-Sai, etc... Standing out in their beautiful uniforms the Australian croupiers, smile and invite everyone to play at the green tables as people pass by. Lilian and Elizabeth enter the huge casino and look around curiously, trying to take in that world full of magic and illusions.

ELIZABETH

I heard there is a games room reserved
for VIP passengers.

LILIAN

There is, upstairs. But since we can't
get in, let's go to the Olympia Lounge!

Lilian and Elizabeth pass in front of the crowded bar that divides the casino from the ballroom. The two women find themselves in front of a huge lounge with a big stage where a Philippino BAND is accompanying the beautiful voices of Luis and Shay, who are singing a love song. The dance floor is crowded with couples who sway gently while dancing. All around are light blue armchairs, the same as the colour of the curtains, the lights are dim, while other coloured lights are reflected in time of music all around. Multicoloured flowers on the tables, a large bar at the bottom of the hall facing the stage, with BARTENDERS who show off elegant uniforms. Lilian enchanted, looks around.

ELIZABETH

Lilian, did you see how all these
Chinese, Malays, Indonesians, Thais,
etc. were looking at us?

LILIAN

(staring at sweaty faces of passengers)
Perhaps they have taken us for aliens.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

With our eyes smarting from the salt
water and air conditioning that isn't
working, we must look like two lunatics.

LILIAN

(staring at Elizabeth's sweaty face)
You do really look like an alien.

Elizabeth looks at Lilian's face and bursts out laughing.

LILIAN

There's not much to laugh at, but it's best to take things that way!

ELIZABETH

I can guess what the journalists will write; and what the travel agents' complaints will be.

Shortly after, on the stage, Luis introduces a wonderful CHINESE SINGER, black hair, stylish, well built, with a beautifully coloured dress, accompanied by SIX DANCERS who are wearing beautiful costumes. The AUDIENCE APPLAUSE and shout joyfully. The CHINESE SINGER smiles cheerfully and bows to her audience as the BAND begins to play a sweet melody. Her clear voice fills the great hall while the six dancers perform a mysterious and delicate Chinese dance.

Elizabeth and Lilian exit to go for some fresh air and a walk on deck.

CUT TO:

95. EXT. SHIP. DECK. NIGHT.

Lilian and Elizabeth walking on deck and breathing in the fresh sea air before returning to their hot cabin. Shortly They arrive at stern of the ship and Lilian points to a group of passengers who are preparing a bed for themselves under the stars

LILIAN

Elizabeth, we could sleep outside too?

ELIZABETH

I will not deny I had thought of doing that also, but we can't...we are part of the crew. It would be against the rules.

Lilian, disappointed, looks at some passengers who are already lying on deck chairs, in the fresh air, and covering themselves with blankets.

LILIAN

(sighs)

Yeah, I'd forgotten. Oh well..!

Lilian and Elizabeth walk back along deck to their cabins.

DISSOLVE.

96. EXT. PORT OF JAKARTA. MORNING (10AM).
View Port and Streets of Jakarta.

The Ship is moored in port, the passengers disembark, behind them Elizabeth and Lilian, reach the large square crowded with poor people. A group of taxi drivers circle the two women trying to tear them away from their competitors. Finally one of them makes them get into an old dented taxi whose engine starts and stops and slowly gets through the traffic jams that prevented them from moving. Beggars dressed in rags, crawl around, looking for something to eat. The two women reach the phones in a building of slums.

DISSOLVE TO:

97. INT. TAXI. INDONESIAN MARKET BY RIVER. MORNING.

ELIZABETH

So did you get in touch with your mum?

LILIAN

Yes, I told her the date of my arrival in Spain. Did you speak to Delopera?

Meanwhile the taxi slows down and goes into a narrow and degraded alley.

ELIZABETH

He said I will have to stay until they find a solution.

LILIAN

(serious)

I wouldn't like to be in your position. What did the doctor say about the blood coming from your mouth?

ELIZABETH

(worried)

I'll go and see him this afternoon!

CUT TO:

98. EXT. INDONESIAN MARKET. DAY.

Elizabeth and Lilian get out of taxi in a small market located next to putrid river, bordered by slums. Among the stalls full of trinkets people smile and invite them to buy their wares. Dirty children dressed in rags do everything to attract their attention: they dance, play and shout.

DISSOLVE.

99. EXT. STREETS BY RIVER. LATER THAT MORNING
VIEW FROM POV INSIDE TAXI.

Lilian and Elizabeth inside taxi. Taxi goes along the river where there are large, almost dead trees which are reflected in the black putrid water under the hot sun.

ELIZABETH

(looking out worried)

If we continue polluting Mother Earth we
will end up poisoning ourselves and our
future.

LILIAN

You're right. Here it's so bad.

The two women continue to look out the window here and there and not far from the shore in the shade of yellow foliage, they see FRUIT VENDORS selling all kinds of tropical fruit. Across the river, the roofs of the huts of the villages of the poor people emerge.

ELIZABETH

The terrible heat of the island makes
the land so dry and barren and mixes
with the polluted smells of the water.

Meanwhile the taxi goes on slowly in the din of traffic.

DISSOLVE.

100. INT. SHIP. INFIRMARY. AFTERNOON.

The infirmary is a rectangular room with bed, glass shelves and closet, medicines, desks etc.

The doctor (DOCTOR WIN) is controlling the date of certain medicines. He is a man of medium height, very thin, dark brown skin, typical round Burmese face, sweet eyes, glasses with a gilded frame. The only tuft of hair he has covers his bald head. He is thirty-five.

KNOCK on the door.

DOCTOR WIN

Come in!

Door opens. Elizabeth enters and goes and sits at the desk.

ELIZABETH

Good afternoon, Doctor!

DOCTOR WIN

Good afternoon to you too! What problems have you got?

ELIZABETH

(serious)

I have got diarrhoea, bleeding from my mouth, and I'm always tired!

DOCTOR WIN

(concerned)

Unfortunately you have the same symptoms that almost the entire crew has, except for the blood from your mouth, that worries me because you are the only one who has got it.

Doctor stands up and goes over to Elizabeth. She gets up.

DOCTOR WIN

(worrying)

Please open your mouth.

The Doctor controls Elizabeth's mouth, then looks at her thoughtfully. He takes a big jar full of green pills from the cabinet, then pulls out a dozen, puts them into a bag. He then takes another jar with red pills and puts another dozen in the same bag and hands it to her.

DOCTOR WIN

Here, take one of each colour after your main meals, and let me know if you still bleed from your mouth.

Elizabeth is impressed by the sweetness of the doctor.

ELIZABETH

Excuse me doctor, I am curious! What nationality are you?

DOCTOR WIN

(smiling)

Ah! I am from Burma!

ELIZABETH

I'm Elizabeth, the shop manager.

The doctor squeezes Elizabeth's hand.

DOCTOR WIN

Nice. I'm Dr. Win.

ELIZABETH

The pleasure's all mine. Thanks, Doctor Win.

Elizabeth goes out of the infirmary and walks away along the dark corridor.

DISSOLVE.

101. EXT. SHIP. SINGAPORE HARBOUR. 4th July. 9 am. MORNING

The Orient Sun in Singapore harbour a few miles from Clifford Pier, Singapore. The clock on board shows nine o'clock, 4 July 1991.

CLOSE UP Shot of the anchor of the ship as it descends and sinks in the green waters.

The Orient Sun is stopped in front of Singapore in front of Clifford Pier.

Shay makes an announcement.

SHAY

(at the microphone)

The boats are ready. Passengers can disembark. Thanks for your attention and good morning.

Passengers go down ladder and get on boats. After disembarking. Hostess Desery makes an announcement

HOSTESS DESERY (V/O)

We inform the crew off duty, that the times of departure and arrival of the boats are on the board at the landing tailgate. Thanks for your attention.

CUT TO:

102. EXT. SHIP. LANDING AREA DOORS. LAUNCH READY. AFTERNOON.

Sailor DENIS is carrying Lilian's heavy suitcases to the door landing; as some crew members descend quickly onto the boat Lilian and Elizabeth in silence watch the sailor carrying the heavy suitcases, one at a time into the boat.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Don't worry, Denis will not drop the bag into the sea!

LILIAN
(excited)

I hope not!

LILIAN
(hugging Elizabeth)
Now I'm happy, Soon I will be in Europe
and will see Alfio. I worry about you
though because you will remain on board
this ship, where nothing seems to be
going right.

Elizabeth is upset, but she tries to be strong.

ELIZABETH
Do not worry, I'll make it.

The two women hug one another. Then Lilian goes down the
ladder and gets into the boat among the crew.

LILIAN
Good luck!

ELIZABETH
Have a good trip!

The launch moves off noisily. Elizabeth anxious and a little
depressed but with shining eyes, waves to Lilian as the boat
leaves for Singapore.

DISSOLVE.

103. INT. SHIP. LOUNGE/INFORMATION OFFICE AREA. AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth is in front of information office. GM arrives.

GENERAL MANAGER
(annoyed)
You made a mistake by taking on Frank's
wife. Yes he is a friend of mine, but
now the Charterer is not happy with him
and he will probably be asked to leave.

Elizabeth listens, puzzled.

ELIZABETH
Listen, we took on his wife Marilena
because of the contract. But as the
Charterer is now taking half of the
store I don't need an assistant. So if
Mr. Kor wishes that Frank leaves and his
wife follows him, I have nothing to say.

GENERAL MANAGER

Okay then. As soon as Marilena arrives let her help you clear the Charterer's part of the store and then please give the keys to me.

ELIZABETH

Of course. Don't worry, everything will be ready as soon as possible.

General Manager leaves.

FRANK arrives with his wife MARILENA.

FRANK

My wife has just arrived from Manila but is nervous because the Mount Pinatubo volcano is erupting and she is worried about her family. Yesterday's eruption has already done a lot of damage and killed many people.

Elizabeth is impressed by the beauty of MARILENA. The young woman is not very tall, has a lean well made body, angelic face, dark sweet eyes expressing shyness and a little fear, long dark hair, twenty-two, Philippino.

ELIZABETH

Frank, you're a lucky man! You have married an angel!

FRANK

(kidding)

How do you know, when you don't even know her? These Philippine women are wicked!

Marilena smiles shyly.

ELIZABETH

(staring straight into Frank's eyes)
I don't need to know a person to understand who she is. My sixth sense has never betrayed me.

Spiros arrives. They all go to the lounge near the store and sit down. Spiros puts the briefcase on the table, opens it, pulls out the contract and presents it to Marilena.

SPIROS

Can you sign here please?

Marilena looks at her husband.

MARILENA

OK!

She takes the pen that Spiros gives her and signs.

SPIROS

(worried)

Unfortunately the journalists who were on board during the inaugural cruise wrote very poor articles about the Orient Sun therefore many travel agents have refused to send their customers. I'm afraid you'll only have a few passengers.. business will be bad.

ELIZABETH

(laughing)

Poor GM, now the Charterer will get even more mad at him!

SPIROS

(sighs)

At the moment the Charterer is too busy trying to repair the damage and he has not time to think about the GM.

FRANK

(thinking)

There are too many problems on board this ship and the worst part, unfortunately, is that they are increasing rather than decreasing.

SPIROS

Did the technicians from Europe come to repair the air conditioning?

ELIZABETH

They are coming on the next cruise. Meanwhile we'll have fun taking one sauna after the other.

Spiros shakes his head, then stands up, shakes hands with the couple.

He then takes Elizabeth's hands and holds them in his for a moment.

SPIROS

Well, dear Elizabeth, my job here is done. Tomorrow I'm leaving for Greece. I believe you will be returning home as soon as the company has settled the matter with the Charterer, so I wish you good luck with all my heart- you will need it. (HE SMILES).

ELIZABETH

(serious)

Thanks Spiros! Enjoy your trip!

Spiros goes away among the passengers, then turns around and waves to the three people. Elizabeth follows him with her gaze and her eyes shining.

ELIZABETH

Now, as in my premonition, I am alone!

FRANK

(curious)

What are you talking about?

ELIZABETH

It's a long story!

FRANK

Ok! Then I'll leave you, so you can work.

Frank goes away.

SHAY (V/O)

(announced)

The ship is leaving, visitors are asked to disembark, thank you!

FADE OUT.

104. EXT. SHIP ENTERING PORT OF JAKARTA. MORNING.

CUT TO:

105. INT. SHIP. DUTY FREE SHOP. MORNING.

The clock on board shows 11.30 am, of 5 July 1991. Elizabeth and Marilena have finished moving the goods, and dusting the empty shelves. Some WORKERS come in and install a partition of glass and metal to separate the two parts of the store. When they finish the job, the workers leave. Elizabeth locks the door and hands the keys to her assistant.

ELIZABETH

Thank you Marilena, I'm very pleased with your work. When we are in Singapore I will invite you out to lunch. (PAUSES) Now please go and hand over the keys to GM and then you are free until the departure of the ship. See you later!

Marilena happy, smiles shyly and takes the keys.

MARILENA

Okay, thanks!

Marilena leaves.

DISSOLVE.

106. EXT.SHIP AND PORT OF SINGAPORE. MORNING.

CUT TO:

107. INT. SHIP. INFORMATION OFFICE. MORNING.

Elizabeth is in front of the information desk, waiting for Marilena to go out for lunch, when she meets Henry.

HENRY

Elizabeth, I am curious, are Lilian and Alfio married?

ELIZABETH

No, he has a wife in Italy!

Henry makes a grimace of disapproval.

HENRY

I imagined so!

ELIZABETH

Alfio has always been a Latin lover. Years ago he bet fifteen hundred dollars with a colleague that he could take me to bed. When he saw it wasn't possible, he confessed everything to me and then suggested that if I played the part and made his colleague believe I was his lover, he would pay me half the stake.

Henry bursts into laughter.

HENRY

(laughs)

And did you?

Elizabeth smiles coyly; not giving anything away.

ELIZABETH

I'm sorry for Lilian, who doesn't know what she has to deal with.

HENRY

(amused)

Sooner or later she'll find out! Ah, Ah!

ELIZABETH

Yep. That kind of man can't stay with the same woman for long, so then the truth will come out. (CHANGING SUBJECT)
But tell me Henry, have the technicians repaired the air conditioning? Because it is not warm today.

HENRY

They are trying! But I do not know for how long!

ELIZABETH

Will the passenger numbers increase?

HENRY

Our Charterer isn't interested in the quantity of passengers, but the quality and wealth of the players. For him twenty rich players are enough to earn the money to make the ship function.

ELIZABETH

(shocked)

That's ridiculous! How will the owners of the shops respect their contracts if there are no passengers?

Henry puts his hands on his hips, laughing.

HENRY

The Charterer doesn't care.

ELIZABETH

Wonderful! A very unselfish thought!

Marilena arrives.

HENRY

So..Where are you two going, dressed so elegantly?

MARILENA

Today, Elizabeth has invited me out to lunch!

HENRY

Nice. Well enjoy your lunch..and please, eat enough for me too!

The two women laugh as they move off towards the exit. Elizabeth turns to look at Henry

ELIZABETH

Well, I think it's the only way to get you on a diet!

HENRY

(shouting)

You will pay for that!

DISSOLVE.

108. EXT. SHIP. 5.00 pm. EVENING.

Outside the ship. Boarding ladder.

Elizabeth and Marilena are coming back on board. Frank is a short distance from the boarding ladder. He calls to them.

FRANK

(shouting)

I've been waiting for you for hours!
The GM informed me that he received the order to dismiss and disembark Marilena!

ELIZABETH

(irritated)

That's not possible! Marilena was employed by a private company, and no one can dismiss her.

Franks is angry that Marilena has to leave.

FRANK

You are right. But the GM assured me this is an order from above and you cannot do anything. That's why my wife must get off the ship.

The two women reach the door where Frank waits. Marilena clings to her husband and sobs desperately.

Elizabeth and Frank look at each other, hurt.

ELIZABETH

(furious)

I'm going to speak with the Captain.
Don't worry, Marilena. The employee of
another company cannot be dismissed
without valid reason.

CUT TO:

109. INT. SHIP. CORRIDOR NEAR CAPTAIN'S CABIN. EVENING.

Elizabeth, with a glimmer of hope, walks quickly along the
corridor. She KNOCKS on the door of the captain's cabin.

CAPTAIN

Come in!!

Elizabeth enters.

The cabin is huge, with a lounge, a vase of flowers on the
table, pictures on the walls, and a desk next to a
rectangular window, looking out onto the sea.

ELIZABETH

(in anguish)

I'm sorry captain, but I think I have
the right to know why your company wants
to dismiss my assistant.

CAPTAIN

(seriously)

Miss Elizabeth, you are right to be
concerned, but believe me, I do not know
either!

ELIZABETH

You must help me. After all, it is the
first time someone at the top, as it was
reported to me, intends to dismiss an
employee of another company without
valid reason or explanation.

CAPTAIN

Elizabeth, I would love to help, but I
too must obey orders or otherwise I will
lose my job. I can give you the phone
number of the person who ordered me to
dismiss your assistant. However please
do not mention my name.

ELIZABETH

(smiling gratefully)

That's fine Captain, thank you very
much.

The Captain looks at her up and down, concerned.

CAPTAIN
(pleased)
Ask the secretary at this number to pass
you on to Mr. Said.

The Captain writes a number on a piece of paper and hands it
to Elizabeth

ELIZABETH
Thanks Captain!

Elizabeth goes away quickly closing the door.

CUT TO:

110. EXT. SHIP. BOARDING AREA. AFTERNOON.

PASSENGERS are arriving. HOSTESSES and STEWARDS are lined up
to welcome them. Elizabeth nervously approaches CARROLL, the
sailor on guard.

ELIZABETH
Excuse me, may I make an emergency phone
call to Mr. Siad.

SAILOR CARROLL
(smiling)
Of course Elizabeth. You're welcome!

Elizabeth dials the number quickly and waits a moment.

CUT TO:

111. INT. MR SIAD'S OFFICE.

Mr. Siad is Swedish, blond with blue eyes, moustache. He is
sitting in his office at his desk. He grabs the phone and
answers.

SIAD
(cavernous voice)
Hello!

ELIZABETH
Excuse me, Mister Siad. I am the shop
manager of the Orient Sun and I would
like to know why my assistant has to
disembark, when she was employed by a
private company.

SIAD
(coldly)
Your Company employed her without making
a regular contract.

ELIZABETH
Excuse me, but you are wrong, I have the
contract in my hand.

SIAD
(shouts angrily)
You do not have to worry about her, your
company has already been informed.

ELIZABETH
(while the sailor is listening)
Mr. Siad, what you are doing is
shameful, and no one before has ever
told me two lies within a few seconds.
Good evening!

Mr. Siad surprised and annoyed.

Elizabeth slams down the phone receiver without saying
goodbye, while the sailor Carroll observes amazed.

FADE OUT.

112. INT. SHIP. CORRIDOR TO MARILENA'S CABIN. AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth walks quickly down corridor. Leaning against the
bulkhead in front of Frank's open cabin, are Kristian and
Roldam, the officers who are waiting for Marilena to finish
packing her suitcase and then to escort her to the exit.

Elizabeth passes in front of the officers in uniform.

ELIZABETH
Sorry, can I close the door for a
moment?

KRISTIAN
(answers)
Please do!

Elizabeth enters cabin and closes the door behind her.

The G.M is sitting on the back of the bed, pretending to be
hurt. Frank is pushing on the full suitcase, while trying to
close the zipper.

Marilena looks up at Elizabeth hopefully.

ELIZABETH

(TO GM)

You have so much power on this ship. Why can't you help your friends?

Marilena bursts into tears.

MARILENA

(in tears mumbling)

Nobody has ever treated me like this in all my life!

The GM stays silent.

ELIZABETH

(with tears in her eyes)

Frank, can't you do anything to help your wife? (PAUSES AS SHE LOOKS AT BOTH MEN)..Damn, how can you allow this injustice! You should leave that bunch of pirates immediately.

GM gives Elizabeth a withering look.

Frank is frustrated with the whole situation.

FRANK

(angrily)

I have already resigned, but I can not leave yet because by law I have to give the company time to find a replacement. In short, if I get off without giving them notice, the port authorities will take away my seaman's book.

Elizabeth turns to the GM who fixes her with anger.

GENERAL MANAGER

(grumbling)

You're lucky that I AM your friend, otherwise you would now be in big trouble.

Elizabeth glares at him.

ELIZABETH

Sir, if I was you would certainly do me a favour. But even you cannot dismiss me unless you buy all the merchandise in the store.

The GM jumps up angrily and leaves the cabin, slamming the door.

Elizabeth holds out the envelope with some money to Marilena, who opens it.

MARILENA
(wiping her tears)
You've made a mistake! You only owe me
four days, you've paid me double!

ELIZABETH
I'm not wrong. It's the only thing I can
do .. after all your suffering because
of these bullies.

Frank pulls the suitcase off the bed.

KNOCK on the door.

The sailor Rosalito enters, takes the suitcase and leaves.

Marilena embraces Elizabeth.

MARILENA
Thank you with all my heart, for
everything Elizabeth!

ELIZABETH
Thanks to you!.. For me it has been a
pleasure meeting you.

Marilena is escorted out the cabin and down the corridor by
the two Officers and Frank.

CLOSE UP. Elizabeth sad, with tears running down her face.

CUT TO:

ANGLE

Elizabeth watches group going away down the corridor.

HOSTESS DESERY
(speaker announcement)
The ship is leaving, visitors are asked
to go ashore, thankyou.

DISSOLVE to FADE OVER. FADE OUT.

113. INT. SHIP.DUTY FREE SHOP. DAY.

Elizabeth is in shop waiting for customers. Henry enters.

ELIZABETH

Ah! Henry, can you explain to me why your company sacked Marilena?

HENRY

Marilena was only a pretext to force Frank to leave on his own so as not to pay him for our breaking of his contract. On orders of the Swedish company, following Mr. Kor's orders.

ELIZABETH

Damn, how smart these bullies are!

Henry bursts into laughter, while he is playing with a bunch of keys

HENRY

(confidently)

Ah! Ah, You are naïve my dear, but these are pirates!

ELIZABETH

(serious)

All this is uncivilised and barbaric. I never imagined in this day and age there could still be such slimy characters

HENRY

(smiling)

You see I am not mistaken when I say you're naïve.

CUT TO:

114. INT. SHIP. INFORMATION OFFICE. AFTERNOON (5PM).

The board clock shows 5 pm, 13 June 1991. Peedu and Kristian are at the information office with their suitcases. They are talking to one another while waiting to disembark.

Elizabeth arrives and interrupts them.

ELIZABETH

Then, are you happy to disembark from this hell?

KRISTIAN

Well, we hope that when we return in December, the problems will be over.

ELIZABETH

(hugging)

Do you want me to die? It will be better if the problems end as soon as possible!

FRANK

(arrives with his suitcase)

For you to die there must be something worse.

ELIZABETH

You are right, I'm indestructible! Take care and say hello to Marilena for me. But Frank, what are you going to do now?

FRANK

I'm planning to spend several months in the Philippines with Marilena, then we will probably move to England, where I'll work on the Channel ferries.

ELIZABETH

(embracing Frank)

Well I will not forget all those evenings spent with you drinking beer together with your flying chickens.

The three officers burst into loud laughter, while grabbing their luggage.

KRISTIAN

And your flying elephants, that use their ears instead of wings.

More laughter explodes as they approach the landing door.

ELIZABETH

(waving)

Have a good trip!

DISSOLVE.

115. EXT. JAKARTA. A FEW WEEKS LATER. DAY.

CUT TO:

116. EXT. SHIP. SWIMMING POOL AREA. DAY.

Swimming pool on board the ship.

The GM sees Elizabeth reading book by pool. He moves closer.

GENERAL MANAGER

Did you know I'm going to leave?

ELIZABETH

Oh?... Why?

GENERAL MANAGER

I'm leaving because I am tired of fighting with incompetent people.

ELIZABETH

You are lucky to be going home. I feel segregated on board this ship, which I feel has also caused me health problems.

GENERAL MANAGER

(with a nasty face)

Oh! Its not you. What I hate are the Orientals. If it was up to me, I would cremate them all and free the world of these useless beings.

The sailor Carroll is painting something not far away and hears everything.

ELIZABETH

(shocked stares at him)

You really are contemptible!

GM pretends not to hear and walks away.

The sailor Carroll with a brush and a can of paint, all sweaty, with blue-jeans and stained shirt painted, passes close to Elizabeth.

CARROLL

Elizabeth, I would love to be like you and have the courage to tell those people to their faces what I think of them. They believe they have the rights.

ELIZABETH

(laughs)

You would risk too much. They can't sack me because of the position I am in.

CARROLL

You're right, though I want you to know that the GM is actually leaving because Mr. Kor is not satisfied with his work.

ELIZABETH
I know. Mr. Hong is replacing him.

DISSOLVE.

117. INT. SHIP. OFFICERS ROOM. LUNCHTIME. 25 JULY. DAY.

The Officers Room fire doors suddenly burst open and one sees huge belly of JAN, new chief engineer, followed by his assistant ANTE. Jan has big, expressive face, silver hair, normal stature, obese, in his forties. Ante is medium height robust, black hair, round face, pleasant, in his forties.

Elizabeth is having lunch, Jan approaches her touching his grey moustache and staring at her with his blue eyes.

JAN
Honey, can we have the honour of sitting
next to you?

ELIZABETH
Please do! With great pleasure!

Jan nods and goes off to get food.

Meanwhile, Ante puts his hands on the table and stares at Elizabeth with the languid eyes of a playboy.

ANTE
Aren't you our neighbour?

While Elizabeth is facing Ante, he is looking into her eyes searching for an answer.

ELIZABETH
(curious to know)
What do you mean?

Ante moves away from her face.

ANTES
Someone told me you are Italian. We are
from Yugoslavia, so.. you are our
neighbour.

ELIZABETH
This is great news! For me it's a joy to
have my neighbours with me here on this
ship so far away from Europe!

At that moment Jan arrives, with his plate full, and places it on the table in front of Elizabeth.

JAN

(staring seriously)

Have you been invited to dinner at the
Mystery Club in Jakarta on July 31st?

ELIZABETH

I'm sorry, I haven't had that honour yet.

ANTE

(smiling)

You WILL be invited, because the
Charterer has invited all the officers,
to his night club for that night.

Meanwhile Shay and Luis enter.

LUIS

What do you recommend for us that we can
eat and don't catch fire?

In the room there is a burst of laughter.

ELIZABETH

Try the beef stew, as it is the only
dish without much pepper.

JAN

When you've finished dinner, you are all
invited to a glass of wine in my cabin.

LUIS

Fantastic, I love wine.

FADE OUT.

118. INT.SHIP. JAN'S CABIN. AFTER LUNCH.

Large cabin with rectangular window facing the bow, a lounge
in leather in the same shade of dark green of the curtains,
coffee table, television, etc..

Jan serves a glass of white wine to all of them, while Luis
drops himself into the chair.

LUIS

(staring at Jan's bottom)

Hey Fatso, get out of my sight.

Laughter echoes in the cabin, while Jan moves away quickly.

JAN

(loud, staring into Luis' eyes)

Look you no good Rambo, it would be better if you went and played with inflatable dolls, and leave me in peace.

LUIS

(seriously)

Inflatable dolls? I usually only make beautiful women crazy!

ELIZABETH

Jan, I am curious, would you mind telling me how many inflatable dolls you have burst under your weight?

Everyone laughs heartily. Jan puts his hands on his hips.

JAN

(muttering)

How can I make you understand that I only like women in the flesh !

Elizabeth looks at her wristwatch.

ELIZABETH

Well excuse me, boys..I've got to open the shop. See you later, alligators.

Another outburst of laughter. Elizabeth gets up and leaves the cabin.

CUT TO:

119. INT. SHIP.CORRIDOR OUTSIDE JAN'S CABIN. DAY

Outside in the corridor Elizabeth meets a group of sailors:

ROSALITO, DENIS, CARROLL

(in unison)

Hello, Mummy!

ELIZABETH

(smiling while running away)

Hello, children of the Orient Sun!

DISSOLVE.

120. EXT. JAKARTA. 27 JULY. MORNING (10.30 am),.

SHIP POV. The clock shows 10.30 am. of 27 July 1991. Port of Jakarta, after disembarking passengers, the captain makes an announcement from the bridge microphone.

CAPTAIN

Attention please, in a few minutes the siren will start the evacuation rescue drill. All 178 crew members are requested to go to their stations.

Meanwhile, shouts and whistles explode all around. Elizabeth approaches the two sailors Rosalito and Denis who are complaining.

SAILOR ROSALITO

(angrily)

Well, I do not understand why every four days we are forced to remain on board to do this evacuation drill, if by law it should be done once a week.

SAILOR DENIS

(angrily)

This captain doesn't trust us Philipinos. He's a racist.

SAILOR ROSALITO

On the other hand we can't complain either, otherwise if we don't do it we have to pay a fifty dollar fine and risk the withdrawal of the seaman's book and imprisonment.

SAILOR DENIS

And we can't risk that when our families have to eat.

SIREN SOUNDS.

Elizabeth runs into her cabin to pick up her rescue jacket.

CUT TO:

121. EXT. SHIP. PROMENADE DECK. LIFEBOAT LAUNCHES. HOT DAY.

SAILORS get ready to lower the THREE LAUNCHES (LIFEBOATS) at the side of sea stations numbers 1, 2, 3. The group of station 3 is made up of the sailors Rosalito, Denis, Carroll, Guan, Noel, Gabriel, Nikola, Shay, Elizabeth and Roldam. The group of people involved at station number 3, observe the two sailors, Carroll and Guan, while they are lowering the launch onto the promenade, which goes down swinging between the creaking of the ropes. The hot sun means everyone is dripping with sweat. Elizabeth reaches the group. Carroll looks at Elizabeth.

SAILOR CARROLL

The captain has ordered us to lower the launch into the sea, and you, Elizabeth, have to go down with us.

Elizabeth suddenly feels short of breath, she clutches at the railing because she feels faint, then her head turns. The sailors start lowering the launch. Elizabeth gets on the boat swinging under her, leaving a glimpse of the waters of the sea shining under the rays of the sun. Meanwhile, Shay also gets into the boat and sits in front of her (sweat drops from under her dark glasses). Four sailors get quickly on. Third officer Roldan arrives to control every thing.

ROLDAN
(orders)

Lower the launch!

Launch sets off fast, crashing into the water, splashing them all. A chorus of screams is heard. Meanwhile launches 1, 2 are also lowered, but much more slowly and settle on the water. The sailors put the oars in the locks and row nervously around the ship, until hearing the voice of the captain giving a command on the bridge microphone.

CAPTAIN (V/O)
(microphone)

The evacuation exercise is finished.
Return to base. Good day to you all!

SIREN SOUNDS AGAIN.

The siren announces the end of the exercise. The sailors get the three launches attached to the ropes and climb up to the promenade. From launch number 3, the sailors help the two women to jump on board.

Elizabeth goes away staggering.

ELIZABETH
(voice off screen)

I'm so tired...I'm not waiting for lunch,
I'm going for a sleep.

Elizabeth sneezes suddenly, as she puts a hand to her mouth she stops, and then she looks at her hand

CUT TO CLOSE UP: OF BLOOD ON HAND

She stares at the blood and walks away quickly.

CUT TO:

122. INT.SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. ELIZABETH DREAMING. NIGHT.

START DREAM SEQUENCE.

DREAM(flou effect):

Elizabeth has an INDIAN PRINCE in front of her. He deeply impresses her with his celestial beauty. He is wearing a beautiful light blue turban, with precious stones and an elegant costume in emerald green silk that covers his perfect body.

The Indian Prince stares in silence, then pushes a finger into her mouth and begins to massage her gums. Immediately she feels a form of energy going into her mouth, her body feels relaxed and motionless, while she realizes that she is waking up from a form of drowsiness. At that moment her body feels as heavy as a stone that prevents her from getting out of that state, because she knows that the Prince has not yet finished treating her. Meanwhile, her body is pervaded by a feeling of indescribable pleasure that she has never experienced before. Suddenly thousands of molecules materialize and quickly end up inside her mouth. Then suddenly the Indian Prince vanishes...

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

CUT TO:

123. INT. SHIP. ANGLE BACK ON ELIZABETH IN HER CABIN.

Elizabeth wakes up and with astonishment and strong emotion she bursts out crying. She wipes her tears with a corner of the sheet and goes to look at her mouth in the mirror.

ELIZABETH

(loudly exclaims)

Oh! My God, the tooth decay I had on my lower canine is gone, just a small white hole! And my gums have changed from dark purple to pink!

Elizabeth sits in her chair and reflects on event.

Elizabeth's tears start again. She kneels by bed and prays.

ELIZABETH (V/O)

My God, I sincerely thank you. Please reward the great Indian Prince, and my father also, as a few months ago in a dream, he announced this event would happen.

DISSOLVE.

124. EXT. PORT OF JAKARTA. 4 DAYS LATER. 31 JULY. DAY.

The Orient Sun is docked in the port of Jakarta. The clock on board shows 10.30, 31 July 1991. The alarm of the crew's evacuation exercise drill sounds, everyone runs with their jackets to their emergency rescue station, to respond to the call. Elizabeth is at her station with her group

ELIZABETH

Shay, the crew is not complaining today.

SHAY

(smiling)

Of course, because we will all be spending the night in Jakarta so everyone will have time to phone home. We won't leave till tomorrow at 6 pm.

ELIZABETH

Thank God the crew has finally a little time to relax, because this four days' journey from Singapore to Jakarta has been very boring!

Roldan, the third officer, calls the roll reading the names of those present on a list. (He is wearing a white uniform complete with hat).

ROLDAN

Shay?

SHAY

(raises her hand)

Present!

ROLDAN

Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH

Present!

The captain's voice through the speaker.

CAPTAIN (V/O)

This is the captain speaking, the evacuation exercise is over!

SIREN SOUNDS: Sound of the siren announces end of exercise.

The groups dissipate.

HOSTESS SHERLAY

(announces at the microphone)

This is to inform the crew that this evening at 9.30, the disc jockey will start the staff and crew dance party. Thankyou.

YELLS AND CHEERS as we hear shouts of joy and cheers among the crew as they depart. Meanwhile Elizabeth walks along the deck. GROUP of Philippinos approach, Rosalito is among them.

ROSALITO

Will you dance with us this evening?

ELIZABETH

(cheerfully)

How could I refuse a dance to the children of the Orient Sun!

The Philippinos all laughing cheer loudly in unison.

PHILIPPINOS

(happy screams)

Hooray! Mummy! Hooray! Mummy!

DISSOLVE.

125. INT. SHIP. NIGHT. ELIZABETH'S CABIN.

Elizabeth is in her cabin looking for something to wear. Finally she decides to wear a pair of pants coloured with tinted with black and a black blouse finished in gold. She stares at her image in the mirror, puts on lipstick, goes out of the cabin and closes the door.

CUT TO:

126. INT. SHIP. BALLROOM & OLYMPIA LOUNGE. NIGHT.

Elizabeth enters the ballroom, Shirley goes to meet her and invites her to the table. She is an attractive young woman, not too tall, round body, sweet look, long black hair and has small dark almond-shaped eyes, she is dressed elegantly, twenty-two years old, from Singapore. At the table Elizabeth also meets Rayu and Desery. Rayu is a young Indonesian woman, medium height, lean, well-made, oval face, deep dark almond-shaped eyes, with a long braid of black hair. Desery, normal height, round face, long hair and dark almond-shaped eyes, twenty-two years old, from Singapore. The three young women welcome Elizabeth joyfully and they offer her a drink, then all together they drink a toast to their friendship.

The music echoes through the ballroom and the crew dance wildly on the dance floor, among fluorescent lights that swirl in bright colours.

Sailors Rosalito, Carroll and Romeo, a steward (medium height with long legs, very nice black hair and dark eyes).

Romeo goes over to Elizabeth to invite her to dance. He bows politely, takes her hands and drags her onto the dance floor.

The three slim-figured Philipinos, dance in time to the music with grace and perfect movements. Elizabeth feels their joy, and gets involved in that mysterious world of their dance. During the break, they accompany Elizabeth to the table and greet her, kissing her hands.

Meanwhile Rayu calls Elizabeth and presents her to BENJAMIN, a handsome Indonesian: tall, well built, black hair, dark almond-shaped eyes.

RAYU

Elizabeth come here please, I want to introduce you to Benjamin.

BENJAMIN

Where are you from?

ELIZABETH

I'm an alien, can't you see ?

Benjamin excited sits by Elizabeth.

BENJAMIN

(laughing)

I thought I was in front of Cleopatra!

ELIZABETH

(joking)

Yes, in a little while I'll look like Princess Tai Tu.

Benjamin looks at her, then strokes her hair.

BENJAMIN

I really like your dark eyes, your pale face, your black hair.. like an oriental night. When I saw you walking with that sinuous body of yours, I felt my heart pounding in my breast.

The hostesses around Elizabeth listen in astonishment and Elizabeth tries to calm down the bewilderment in the air.

ELIZABETH

(happily)

Oh! Finally I've found my Mark Anthony!

There is a burst of collective laughter that for a moment covers the music, that is coming from the speakers.

SHIRLEY

Rather than Mark Anthony, you seem to me to be more of a Latin-lover!

Another explosion of laughter.

BENJAMIN

Elizabeth, would you like to come with us to the Mystery Club? I am a tour guide and work for Mr. Kor. At ten o'clock I have to accompany your captain and all officers to the Mystery Club, for dinner.

SHIRLEY

(between the notes of a metallic music)
Yes, yes, Elizabeth you come too, you'll see we will have a lot of fun.

Elizabeth smiles her acceptance.

DISSOLVE.

127. EXT. JAKARTA PORT. DOCKS BY SIDE OF SHIP. NIGHT.

Bus is waiting in square by the ship to take everyone to the Mystery Club.

Elizabeth and Hostesses get on the bus greeted by Benjamin.

BENJAMIN

Sorry, I have to go to inform the captain of the arrival of the coach.

RAYU

(sitting next to Elizabeth)
Benjamin has been thunderstruck by your Egyptian charm.

ELIZABETH

Probably it is the 'foreign woman' in me that attracts him.

Arrival of the captain and the officers, Benjamin closes the doors and orders the driver to leave. The engine starts..

CUT TO:

128. EXT. JAKARTA CITY BY NIGHT.

The bus is travelling to the city centre from the port. They are right in the chaos of the traffic, between the din of thousands of car horns echoing in the dark night. The headlights of the vehicles on the roads intersect here and there, running in all directions, and the illuminated shacks they pass through seem like shanty towns and hovels.

ELIZABETH

How sad to see all those slums that we
are passing now.

Elizabeth sees Captain standing; looking at her, interested.

CAPTAIN

(smiling)

Hello Elizabeth, I'm happy to have you
with us tonight!

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Thanks captain!

The captain sits.

The bus arrives at a strange building with a bright red sign "The Mystery Club". They get out bus and enter MYSTERY CLUB.

CUT TO:

129. INT. MYSTERY CLUB. NIGHT.

Inside Mystery Club. Restaurant with show. The GROUP enter.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

Benjamin accompanies the group to the entrance of a large room of thirty round tables covered in dark red tablecloths and set with Chinese dinner services. Many people are happy drinking and eating. Benjamin shows them the three tables reserved for them. After taking the Captain to the table near the stage with Jan. Benjamin sits down between Elizabeth and Shirley. Meanwhile someone calls Elizabeth who turns around and surprised, she sees the Captain who has stood up.

CAPTAIN
(smiling)

Elizabeth you are invited to my table!

Benjamin jumps up and sadly move the chair and invites Elizabeth to go. She can not hide her hesitation, then the captain also invites Shirley.

CAPTAIN
Please Shirley, you and Elizabeth are
both invited to my table.

The captain invites Elizabeth to sit between him and Jan. She sits down and finds herself opposite Roldan, meanwhile Shirley and Ante look at her silently and all are sensing her embarrassment.

CAPTAIN
Elizabeth, please call me Michael.

Meanwhile Jan stares at her with his sad blue eyes.

ELIZABETH
(shouts to Jan between Chinese music)
Look neighbor, stop being nostalgic and
worrying yourself!

His face suddenly lights up.

JAN
Sorry, we do not want to ruin the
evening with our problems. It's just
that Ante and I are concerned because
there is the risk that war will break
out soon in Yugoslavia. Unfortunately
the situation is already deteriorating.

ELIZABETH
(joking to lighten him)
Fortunately the war has not yet broken
out, so I hope you don't want to ruin
your liver as well by not drinking or
otherwise you will have other problems !

They all laugh and mood changes as the WAITERS arrive.

WAITERS fill the table with various foods and small bowls filled with colourful sauces, into which the captain dips something that he devours greedily.

Elizabeth stares at the Captain in amazement as he suddenly makes her taste slices of fish from his plate and continues to feed her under the astonished gaze of all present.

A waiter comes over to the Captain.

WAITER

Captain, Mr. Kor would like to speak to you.

The captain gets up from the table and follows the waiter. Everybody in the room turns and watches the captain while he speaks to the Charterer, who introduces him to a group of beautiful girls, then the Captain returns to the table.

CAPTAIN

Very kind of our Charterer. He was worried because he thought I was bored, so he presented me to a wonderful group of Indonesian girls and asked me to choose one for the evening.. (HE LOOKS INTO ELIZABETH'S EYES).. But I declined because I already have what I want.

While Elizabeth stares at him in disbelief, the Captain invites her to dance. She says nothing and follows him onto the floor. Elizabeth is serious while dancing but keeps observing the Captain's lean body moving in time to the music, with those grotesques tattoos. She shudders.

Meanwhile, the Captain tries to look into her eyes as she looks away, pretending not to understand. The music ends and she takes the opportunity to return to her place, but the Captain grabs her by the hand and leads Elizabeth back onto the floor as the lights dim and there is the sweet music of a slow dance. He tries to hug her to him but fails, then puts his hands on her hips and shakes her vigorously.

CAPTAIN

Would you mind relaxing and stop being so rigid..you are as cold as ice.

Elizabeth frees herself from his hands that are still holding her.

ELIZABETH

(growls)

I'm sorry captain, but I can not behave otherwise, so please do not insist. I cannot lie.

The captain's grey eyes become clouded, his face alters and he bursts into a sarcastic laugh.

CAPTAIN
(mutters)
Well congratulations. At least you're an honest girl. I admire you for that!

Elizabeth takes a breath, while the Captain examines her curiously.

CAPTAIN
(whispering)
I'd like to know you better!

As the music ends and the lights illuminate the runway, he takes her arm and walks back to the table with her.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

The DJ announces the beginning of the floorshow. A STAGE rises up from the floor. Shortly after a GROUP OF CHINESE DANCERS start a typical Chinese dance. Among the coloured lights Elizabeth sees the Charterer (MR KOR) approaching the Captain with a bottle of cognac in his hand. The waitress comes with the glasses. Mr. Kor passes the bottle to the waitress who begins to serve the brandy.

CHARTERER(Mr. Kor)
Good evening everyone and welcome to Mystery Club. I hope you are all enjoying yourselves.

The voices of the guests rise in a chorus of praise and thanksgivings. Meanwhile, near Mr. Kor appears a beautiful Indonesian GIRL IN BLUE who is wearing a nice blue evening gown that shimmers at every movement highlighting her sinuous body. Elizabeth also notices the sage green, pure silk, dress jacket that Mr. Kor is wearing elegantly.

From the stage, clouds of smoke spread through the room and a sweet Indonesian melody vibrates all around, Meanwhile an INDONESIAN SINGER, well made, with long blonde hair, half-naked, wrapped in colourful veils, appears dancing in the white smoke that has already invaded the room.

CHARTERER
(demand)
Captain Michael, do you like that singer?

CAPTAIN

She is beautiful.. and she also has a great voice!

CHARTERER

Well! Later I'll send her to your table so you can also dance with her, if you want. Later, you are all invited to sing in the karaoke room. But for now I have to leave, I still have many things to do.

Mr. Kor takes the arm of the GIRL IN BLUE and together they go to the bar. In the meantime the waitress forgot to serve the brandy to Elizabeth.

CAPTAIN

(growls surprised)

Excuse me Miss, you forgot to fill Elizabeth's glass!

WAITRESS

Sorry Captain I will come back with the bottle of the cognac.

CAPTAIN

(snapped)

These careless waiters!

Benjamin arrives with the beautiful INDONESIAN SINGER, whom he presents to the Captain and makes her sit between Michael and Shirley. Meanwhile the waitress comes back and serves cognac to all, but she forgets Elizabeth's glass again. The cognac makes everybody happy. Benjamin goes away to serve the other officers.

DISSOLVE.

130. INT. MYSTERY CLUB. KARAOKE ROOM. LATER SAME EVENING.

The group of officers and hostesses find themselves in front of a sky-blue sofa, which surrounds a white table with a vase of beautiful rare flowers in the centre. The walls are carved and inside beautiful white marble statues are shining. On the left, there are two green Roulette Tables, all finished in marble of the same light colour. The Captain sits next to the Charterer, and invites Elizabeth to sit close to him. Soon after they are all sitting around the projection screen. Mr. Kor picks up the phone receiver and calls for the song "Strangers in the Night." Finally, his beautiful co-worker dressed in blue, hands him the microphone.

CHARTERER

I'll be the first to break the ice and
then you will have the honour of
listening to Captain Michael.

Shouts of approval echoing in the room, while the music rises above the shouts of the people present. The intoned voice of Mr. Kor heated by his passion for his beautiful co-worker who, under the astonished gaze of everyone, goes and sits on the knees of her boss, and strokes his hair without fear. Two waitresses enter with another bottle of cognac and two silver plates, full of tropical fruit, cut into slices. They serve everyone with a glass with brandy. Once again they forget Elizabeth. The Captain offers her a drink from his glass.

CAPTAIN

I believe they've got something against
you!

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

They are probably jealous because I'm
sitting next to the Captain.

Excited, he strokes Elizabeth's hair.

CAPTAIN

(joking)

I'm sure that's why!

Elizabeth drinks from the Captain's glass and returns it to him thanking him. Then she looks at the new GM HONG. He is a handsome young man, tall and thin, typical Chinese face, clever eyes, with a great desire to live; thirty years old, originally from Singapore, he is holding Desery's hand and looking at her passionately.

At the insistence of everyone present, the Captain begins to sing his love song, trying every now and then to look at Elizabeth, who tries to ignore his unpopular attempts as she watches the karaoke phrases that scroll across the screen with spectacular images. The Captain's voice is jarring and unpleasant to the ears. Richard (the first radio officer) starts the third song, leaving everyone stunned. Finally, joking, HONG orders another song for his assistant MARLO. This is a young man of Chinese origin, average height, strong, short bristly hair, small eyes, round face, about twenty-eight years. He is not shy. Holding the microphone he sings a Chinese melody, while the applause explodes all around, his black eyes are smiling.

As song ends, Benjamin arrives.

BENJAMIN
(screaming involved)
Gentlemen the coach has arrived, it's
waiting for us at the exit.

The Charterer gets out of his corner, letting the beautiful Indonesian slip off his knees.

CHARTERER
I wish you all good night.

A euphoric chorus of thanks and screams of those present.

All leave towards exit.

CUT TO:

131. EXT. MYSTERY CLUB BUILDING. COACH WAITING. NIGHT.

As the guests get on the coach, Benjamin counts them as if they were sheep in the fold. The guests laugh and sing under the influence of alcohol.

ELIZABETH
(shouting)
Hey Benjamin, did all the sheep come in?

Benjamin laughs.

ROLDAN
(shouting standing up)
Well, the last rams are coming in now!

At that moment Richard and Marlo enter the coach.

RICHARD
If we are the rams, you are all goats!

There are shouts and whistles in a chaotic din, while the coach departs through dark deserted streets back through the Jakarta city night.

During the journey, the voices of the officers rise in a chorus of sweet oriental folk song, which give the passengers goose flesh. At about 3.30 am, the coach leaves everyone in the great square of the port.

CUT TO:

132. EXT. SHIP. ENTRANCE TO SHIP. NIGHT.

Elizabeth moves towards the entrance of the ship, as the Captain joins her.

CAPTAIN
Do you want to have a last drink with me?

ELIZABETH
(serious)
Thank you, but believe me, it's very late and I'm very tired.

Captain fixes Elizabeth with clouded eyes.

CAPTAIN
I would have liked something different for us tonight.

Elizabeth remains silent...

ELIZABETH
Good night, captain!

Door closes, while the Captain thoughtful looks at Elizabeth as she goes away.

DISSOLVE.

133. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. DAY

ELIZABETH
(voice off screen)
Damn diarrhoea! No appetite.. my head's spinning.

Elizabeth looks in the mirror and sees a pale face full of pimples with sunken eyes, she is also sweating. Suddenly she starts coughing, puts her hand over her mouth, still coughing, she sits on the armchair, looking seriously at the palm of her hand and is surprised that she does not see blood; her face lights up.

Elizabeth stumbling, goes out of the cabin.

CUT TO:

134. INT. SHIP CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ELIZABETH'S CABIN. DAY.

Elizabeth stumbling along corridor towards the infirmary.

CUT TO:

135. INT. SHIP INFIRMARY. DAY.

Elizabeth arrives at infirmary to find a long line of crew members in front of her. The Philippino sailors Rosalito, Denis, Carroll, Guan, Noel, Gabriel and Nikola are all in a line sweating and puffing.

ELIZABETH
Why are you all in a row?

SAILOR GUAN
Didn't they tell you that you have to get vaccinated?

ELIZABETH
Vaccinated ?

SAILOR CARROLL
(seriously)
With the polluted water we drink, the food we eat and the bad diarrhoea that is caused by these we must be vaccinated against cholera, typhoid, etc. ..

ELIZABETH
(protesting)
Yeah, I have to go and steal water from the fountain the Charterer installed in the self-service. The mineral water is only in the passenger cabins, the crew, have to drink salt water

SAILOR ROSALITO
(concerned)
How can the Captain not care about these problems?

ELIZABETH
The Captain does not care because he has mineral water brought to his cabin just like the passengers.

SAILOR GUNN
Now even the air conditioning isn't working anymore, look how sweaty we are!

Suddenly Noel and Gabriel rush through the Philipinos.

NOEL
Quickly, let me pass please, before I do it here.

GABRIEL
(hurrying)
I hope to arrive in time!

Elizabeth and the sailors look at one another worried.

DISSOLVE.

CUT TO DREAM SEQUENCE.

FLASHBACK of the dream:

136. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. 3 August 1991. MORNING.

Ship is docking in port of Singapore.

Elizabeth wakes up sweaty. She gets out of bed, pulls the curtain and sees the ship that is docked in the port. The bright sun almost blinds her. She sits in chair with hands over her eyes.

She remembers images of dream:

137. EXT. DREAM. DAY.

Elizabeth sees a fine BLACK STALLION; its back covered with a beautiful regal red and white coloured drape. But the animal looks sad and grieved. Elizabeth notices that it has a wound in its leg.

A CROWD stands around the stallion staring thoughtfully, amazed. As Elizabeth observes the horse, she has the feeling that this animal represents Captain Michael.

ELIZABETH
(voice OS)
My God, this stallion represents Captain
Michael! Something very sad is going to
happen to him..and in the near future.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

CUT BACK TO:

ANGLE. (AS SC. 136. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN.)

Elizabeth stands up and thoughtfully goes to the bathroom and shuts the door.

DISSOLVE.

138. INT. SHIP. OFFICER'S DINING ROOM. MORNING.

Elizabeth is seated eating breakfast. The room is empty.

The DOOR OPENS and a new officer EDWARD enters and goes and sits at another table opposite her.

As Elizabeth drinks her concoction of salt and coffee, she feels attracted by the serious, distinguished character that has all the requirements of the good man and resembles the typical English gentleman. He is tall, elegant, about fifty, with broad shoulders and brown hair. His protruding nose is well suited to that long face, where his dark eyes stand out. His pink skin glows in his tanned face.

Elizabeth sees him taking the cup to his mouth.

ELIZABETH

Be careful, you are about to drink a
concoction of coffee and salt!

EDWARD

(puts down the cup)
Are you joking?

ELIZABETH

No! I'm not kidding! We've been drinking
this concoction for two months. We're
lucky that we're not dead yet! We have
all caught diarrhoea.. and a lot more.

EDWARD

(taking the cup)
Let me taste it!

Edward takes sip, with a grimace of disapproval on his face.

Meanwhile inside room it is very hot and they are sweating.

EDWARD gets up, goes over to Elizabeth puffing from the heat, he dries a few beads of sweat falling from his forehead. He fans himself with a towel to freshen up a bit.

EDWARD

It's terribly hot in here! Yesterday my
taxi driver told me about the newspaper
articles discrediting the Orient Sun,
and all the negative publicity from the
travel agents. But believe me, I didn't
expect to be damaging my stomach with
all this salt.

The Officer shakes Elizabeth's hand.

EDWARD

It was a pleasure to meet you. I am
Edward, the chief electrical engineer .

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Elizabeth!.. And the pleasure is all mine.

Edward exits. Behind him the FIRE DOORS close loudly with a
metallic roar, which makes Elizabeth bounce on the chair.

DISSOLVE.

139. INT. SHIP. INSIDE DUTY FREE SHOP. NIGHT.

Elizabeth is in the shop, sitting at the counter, working on
the accounts at the computer. GM Hong comes in .

GENERAL MANAGER HONG

Good evening! The Captain sent me to
invite you to dinner for tomorrow night.

ELIZABETH

(embarrassed)

Please inform the Captain that I'm
sorry, but tomorrow night at dinner time
I have the shop open.

Hong amused, stares at her with a mischievous smile.

GENERAL MANAGER

(mutters)

You know that you can not refuse the
Captain's invitation?

ELIZABETH

(determined)

That's what you think, my dear Hong!

GENERAL MANAGER HONG

Ok! As you like!

Hong winks with his black almond-shaped eyes and then leaves
the shop.

DISSOLVE.

140. EXT. SHIP IN PORT OF JAKARTA. 5TH August. DAY.

POV. FROM BRIDGE.

SIREN SOUNDS for another evacuation rescue drill exercise.

The Crew, with the rescue jackets, run out of the doors and go to their station meeting points. When all reach their stations, the siren sounds; announcing end of the exercise.

SIREN SOUNDS AGAIN.

Through the microphone, from Bridge, the Captain's voice.

CAPTAIN (V/O)

All Crew members must line up in a row
on the bridge in front of the Captain,
with their badge of rank in their hand.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

The Captain and Jan are in uniform, with their hats on. The captain inspects the crew, who are lined up in front of him showing their badges. With the eyes of an inquisitor he pauses to inflict severe penalties on those who do not comply with the orders.

Then it's Elizabeth's turn. The Captain's eyes fix on her curiously. Finally, the captain nods to her to go. Elizabeth takes two steps, but as she does so Jan says something in the Captain's ear and she hears the cold voice of the Captain giving her an order.

CAPTAIN

Elizabeth, come back here!

ELIZABETH

(approaches him seriously)

Yes Captain!

CAPTAIN

You know, don't you, that during the
exercise drill you should only wear flat
shoes and not sandals?

ELIZABETH

Excuse me, but in the rush to get to my
station, I forgot to change them.

Captain's face lights up. He smiles. Jan winks at Elizabeth.

CAPTAIN

Don't let me find you wearing sandals
during the emergency drills again, or
you will force me to take strict action.

ELIZABETH
 (with a weak voice)
 Okay Captain!

With the eyes of all fixed on her leaving the bridge Elizabeth stops to admire the seagulls flying slowly against the hot sun. The terrible heat takes her breath away, she feels the sweat running down her body.

She hurries to get inside and leaves glare of sun behind.

CUT TO:

141. INT. SHIP. OFFICERS DINING ROOM. 10 AUGUST. DAY.

Arriving in the Officer's deserted dining room, Elizabeth sits in front of the large windows, where she can see the huge expanse of blue sea.

CUT TO VIEW OF SEA FROM ELIZABETH'S POV. The sun sinks into the dark waters its golden rays spreading around. Meanwhile, on horizon, a GREY FOG starts to invade the sky.

Suddenly loud shouts from the crew in the kitchen behind her attract Elizabeth's attention.

CUT BACK TO OFFICERS DINING ROOM.

She stands still. Raised voices and anguished screams burst all around her, followed by metal pings and noises.

Elizabeth jumps up and runs into the pantry, between the two rooms, where she sees a distressing scene:

CUT TO:

142. INT. PANTRY/KITCHEN AREA. DAY.

SCENE OF DESTRUCTION..

Sailor Rosalito has angrily thrown full trays of food on the floor and continues to scream out his reasons, while the crew, including Denis, Carroll, Guan, Noel, Gabriel, Nikola and the steward Romeo all gather round and listen in silence with a gesture of solidarity

SAILOR ROSALITO
 (protesting, points finger at Elizabeth)
 You eat well in the Officers' dining
 room, but we are all served the remains
 that have gone bad; food that even the
 pigs would not eat.

The Indonesian CHIEF HOUSEKEEPER/CATERING OFFICER arrives. He is responsible for all the food on board ship (a man in his forties, medium height, dark skin, normal height, broad face, dark hair and eyes). His presence for a moment paralyzes Rosalito who stands nervously with his eyes popping out of their orbits.

SAILOR ROSALITO

(snapping violently at Housekeeper)
It's YOUR fault if we all get dysentery!
Don't you understand? We are tired of
eating shit and drinking salt water on
this filthy racist ship!

A burst of applause explodes all around and the Philippino Rosalito's face lights up for a moment, while the Catering Officer listens downhearted.

ELIZABETH

We all have the same problem. I'm as bad
as all of you. I'm sure that the Chief
Housekeeper will present the problem to
Mr. Kor and hope things will change.

Another laugh bursts into applause, accompanied by voices shouting in unison

PHILIPPINOS

(in unison)

Hurrah Mummy! Hurrah mummy! We love you!

ELIZABETH

Chief Housekeeper please don't tell the
superiors what has happened, otherwise
Rosalito will lose his job.

CHIEF HOUSEKEEPER

All calm down, please. If Rosalito stops
now I will not report the incident to
his superiors,

A round of applause echoed for the third time, while the grieved dark eyes of Rosalito shine with joy. Then Rosalito, together with his compatriots, begin to clean the room up.

Elizabeth hears a noise behind her. She turns round and sees she is face to face with the GM Hong.

GENERAL MANAGER

(furious)

Who has made all this mess?

There is a moment of silence.

ELIZABETH
(passing by)
Someone accidentally knocked against the
trays and they fell to the ground

She walks past GM out of Kitchen into main Dining room. The
GM follows Elizabeth in silence.

Doors close behind them.

DISSOLVE.

143. EXT. VIEW SHIP AT SEA. DAY.

CUT TO:

144. INT. SHIP AT SEA. RADIO ROOM. DAY.

Elizabeth enters the radio station. Richard (Radio Officer)
is in uniform. Noises, rumours and foreign voices are heard
coming from the radio.

RICHARD
(smiling)
What brings you here?

Elizabeth holds out a sheet of paper to Richard.

ELIZABETH
Send this fax to Venice, please.. By the
way, you as you are so experienced at
sea can you explain to me why we have so
much fog out there in the distance?

ELIZABETH POINTS OUT TO SEA/ISLANDS/HORIZON.

PAN. VIEW FROM RADIO ROOM POV.
SEA/ISLANDS/HORIZON AND SMOKE IN DISTANCE.

RICHARD
(bursts out laughing)
Fog in the Orient? Never! (PAUSES)
Elizabeth, it's smoke! I heard on the
radio that serious fires have broken out
around the islands in Jakarta.

ELIZABETH
Damn. Don't tell me we have to add
another problem to those we already
have?

RICHARD
(alarmed)

If the Indonesians don't hurry to put out the fires, we'll find ourselves in a sea of smoke. Because of possible collisions that may prevent navigation.

ELIZABETH
(mutters)

Then let's hope the Indonesians succeed.

DISSOLVE.

145. EXT. SHIP AT SEA. 18 August 1991. AFTERNOON.

The clock shows 15.00 pm, of the 18 August 1991. Elizabeth wanders aft in a sea of smoke that obscures the light of day. The chattering of the seagulls attracts her attention, their white wings appearing among the smoke. The seagulls fly upwards nervously and are lost in search of light. Every five minutes one hears the loud sound of the siren of the ship which goes on to infinity, while from aft you can see the grey smoke of the smokestack that mixes with the lighter one of the fires. The residues of combustion get into Elizabeth's throat and make her cough.

DISSOLVE.

146. INT.SHIP AT SEA. AUGUST 22nd. DAY.

Elizabeth is sitting behind the counter of the store, she is sweating, with her face distorted and full of pimples, her uniform is wet. At intervals the sound of the siren on board becomes sharp and continuous, to announce its presence to other vessels hidden by the smoke.

CUT TO:

147. EXT. SHIP. DECKS. DAY.

The ship is in the midst of a grey smoke. The mysterious sound of the siren in the smoke creates an atmosphere of fear in everyone and makes all of them shiver. The sailors Rosalito, Denis and Carroll are washing the promenade walk spraying water with the hoses, their faces are all sweaty, sad, worried, they look at each other in silence, and shudder in fear. One of them has a fit of coughing.

CUT TO:

148. INT. SHIP. DUTY FREE SHOP. DAY.

Elizabeth is experiencing weird feelings. She looks up and sees huge figure of Jan, in blue overalls, in front of her.

JAN
(laying a hand on her shoulder)
I'm nervous, so I came to the shop to
take my morning walk, to relax.

Elizabeth gets up and Jan walks arm in arm with her, back and forth.

Jan is upset and sad, he looks down and stares at the floor.

JAN
Ante and I are worried. Our families
live in Dubrovnik and we are afraid that
war will soon break out in Bosnia. It's
not easy being away at this time. In
Yugoslavia, there is racial hatred that
has been latent for too long.. I fear
there's no escape.

The eyes of the two meet, alarmed.

ELIZABETH
(after a pause)
Please Jan, relax!

JAN
(stopping)
You're right. Thank goodness you're here
to help allay my fears. (HE SMILES AT
HER) I actually came to invite you to
the party that Ante and I are preparing
for this evening.

ELIZABETH
Fantastic! Better than getting caught up
in all those negative thoughts.

Jan takes Elizabeth's hand, kisses it, and winks at her, he goes away.

Meanwhile, the continuous sharp SOUNDS OF SIREN echo from the ship.

DISSOLVE.

149. INT. SHIP AT SEA. JAN'S CABIN. NIGHT.

Elizabeth, as she approaches Jan's cabin, the door is open. She is stunned by the shrill cries coming from the small crowd inside, and for a moment she feels sick. She arrives at the door, Ante sees her, he gets up from his chair, then puts it under her. The table is filled with all sorts of wonderful things, Jan hands her a glass of red wine.

ELIZABETH

Thank you Jan, but now I will have to eat something, otherwise the wine will make me croak like a drunken crow.

JAN

(joking)

My dear, you do not need to drink wine to become a croaking crow.

Laughter explodes inside the cabin.

ELIZABETH

Sarcasm doesn't become you, Jan. Haven't swallowed some needles have you?

More laughter.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

The Captain appears at the door with three young AUSTRALIAN CROUPIERS and someone gets up to give them their seats. Those who are present are sitting close to one another and taking up all the space, with smoke of cigarettes wafting around.

The party continues.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN TO PARTY A LITTLE LATER.

The Captain, surrounded by the three young Australian croupiers, are all laughing together. Now and then he observes Elizabeth who avoids his eyes, pretending not to understand.

Shortly after, the captain gets up and walks away in silence, irritated.

The General Manager Hong is close to Desery (it is clear that the two young people are in love).

Roldan seems to woo the small girl Lydia, who has short hair, dark in oriental style, and has a small face and dark eyes. Her short stature makes her seem a child, even if she is only twenty years old (she is from Singapore).

Jan winks at Elizabeth, while he offers the Australian girls various delicacies. Ante woos Elizabeth and serves her all kinds of food and checks her glass.

Elizabeth suddenly doesn't feel well. She stands up

ELIZABETH
(faint, trembling voice)
I'm sorry, I don't feel well.

ANTE
(concerned for her)
Are you ok Elizabeth? I hope you don't want to leave in the middle of the party?

ELIZABETH
Sorry, I will have to, Ante. I'm so sorry.. Good night all of you..

Elizabeth exits the cabin unsteadily, to the understanding protests of the people present.

CUT TO:

150. INT.SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

Elizabeth is in her cabin, she is struggling with herself because she lacks the strength to undress. Finally she manages to put on white silk nightgown. As she lies on bed she feels she suddenly drops into another dimension.

FADE INTO

151. INT. DREAM SEQUENCE. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

DREAM (flou effect): From above Elizabeth sees presence of a shadow bending over her back and pushing a needle into her spine. Elizabeth realizes that her spirit has left her body and sees scene from above. Astonished, she recognizes the spirit of her father, who seems to be a transparent light. He is healing her with acupuncture.

Elizabeth suddenly wakes up. She is lying on the bed. Amazed, she puts a hand on her stomach.

ELIZABETH
(feeling her solar plexus)
Wow, that feels really strange... the
energy is pinching me.

FADE TO

152. EXT. SHIP DOCKING IN SINGAPORE PORT. DAY.

The clock on board shows 10.30, 23 August 1991. Elizabeth leaves the ship with the passengers via the landing ladder.

PAN View of dockside and containers in background.

ELIZABETH
(worried)
My God, I don't know how to get to the
hospital..at least not without having to
walk through that jungle of containers
that stretches for miles.

Elizabeth sees passengers' bus. She would go on it, but sees that all exhibit a pass to the driver.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

Elizabeth, disappointed and under blazing sun, walks along dusty red dirt road leading to maze of containers in distance. Trucks are running rampant everywhere around her.

Elizabeth hears a car(Mercedes) slow and stop next to her.

MAN IN CAR
Miss, are you going to Singapore?

Elizabeth looks at the man who smiles at her. He is in his forties, has large face, dark skin, dark hair and dark eyes.

ELIZABETH
Yes, to Mount Elizabeth Hospital!

THE MAN
Look, I'm going back to town. If you
want, I can give you a lift.

Elizabeth looks at him uncertainly. The man understands, then opens the door of his Mercedes.

THE MAN

Don't worry. I'm the food supplier for the Orient Sun. I know what its like to walk through this jungle of metal under the hot sun.

Elizabeth gets in car and closes door.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

Car drives off.

CUT TO:

153. INT. INSIDE CAR DRIVING TO SINGAPORE. DAY.

THE MAN

Have you got health problems?

ELIZABETH

On board we have so many problems. The food is bad. The water contaminated. On top of that I'm not well myself. You may not believe me, but last night I dreamed my father's spirit visited me and gave me acupuncture. Maybe it was a sign or a premonition or something as I'm worried about my checkup at the hospital.

THE MAN

Oh! I'm sorry! Listen then, I'll take you direct to the hospital, if I may.

ELIZABETH

(relieved)

Thank you very much, you are a good man. I think that when a person helps another without any ulterior motive, it is the most beautiful of gifts.

The man smiles happily as the car drives on through the streets of Singapore city towards the Hospital.

CUT TO:

154. EXT . SINGAPORE CITY/MOUNT ELIZABETH HOSPITAL. DAY.

The Mercedes drives through the city streets and climbs the hill in front of the hospital.

CUT TO:

155. EXT. OUTSIDE ENTRANCE TO SINGAPORE HOSPITAL. DAY

Car stops outside the hospital the Man shakes Elizabeth's hand. She smiles a 'thank you' and waves goodbye to him as she gets out of the car. Elizabeth enters hospital doors.

CUT TO:

156. INT. HOSPITAL. SURGERY OF DR CHARLES T. LIM. DAY.

Elizabeth is inside surgery of doctor CHARLES T. LIM. A nurse has just finished taking a sample of Elizabeth's blood for analysis and is writing her name on the phials.

NURSE

All right madam, please come back on the 28 of August. By then we should have your results.

ELIZABETH

(standing up)

OK! Thanks! Good morning.

Elizabeth exits.

DISSOLVE.

157. EXT. SINGAPORE ART GALLERY BY RIVER. LATER SAME DAY.

Taxi leaves Elizabeth on main road. She crosses bridge over the Singapore River and walks for a short while in the park leading to 'Empress Place' Art Gallery.

CUT TO:

158. INT. EMPRESS PLACE BY RIVER. DAY.

Elizabeth enters gallery to visit the exhibition of works of art of oriental painters. Some of visitors around her are entranced at the works of art. Elizabeth is spellbound by the impressive mysterious oriental paintings.

Suddenly, she sees a picture with gazebo in a garden, and has a flashback.

FLASHBACK:

159. EXT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE AND GARDEN. DAY.

Elizabeth at home sitting under her gazebo in the garden with her friend Marcia. Elizabeth is sobbing desperately. She tries to focus on Marcia's face but it is deformed. She looks around her. Everything is suddenly deformed.

ELIZABETH

Marcia, I won't be able to paint, or do the things I love any more. I'm looking at you, but all I see is your face all deformed.. Do you understand? It's like seeing a monster. Not only you, but everything I look at is deformed.

MARCIA

(horrified)

What did the specialist say?

ELIZABETH

I was born with strong short-sightedness that has degenerated and created two holes at the centre of the retina. So until the blood under the retina is not re-absorbed I will always see a grey and deformed world.

MARCIA

(distressed)

How long will this horrible thing last?

ELIZABETH

Months..? Years..? The specialists don't know. It depends on how long it takes to heal; that is if it does manage to heal and doesn't continue to degenerate. The specialists told me that the lasers they have got can't be used for the centre of the retina.

Elizabeth begins to sob. Marcia, also shocked, gets up and goes to embrace and comfort her friend.

END FLASHBACK.

DISSOLVE.

160. EXT. SHIP AT SEA. NIGHT.(8pm.)

CUT TO:

161. INT. SHIP. LOBBY AREA/DUTY FREE SHOP. NIGHT (8.10PM)

Luis makes an announcement from the on-board microphone

LUIS

Dinner is served. Passengers are asked to go to their places. Thanks for the attention.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

SHOP LOBBY AREA:

In the hall there is a bustle of oriental people elegantly dressed who pass in front of the store and go to the restaurant. Elizabeth is sitting working at the computer. Henry arrives and goes to sit quietly in the chair, which creaks under his weight.

ELIZABETH

Be careful Henry. Treat that poor chair with respect, otherwise I'll not be able to use it for the guests.

He stares at Elizabeth and lets his body relax onto the chair, with his arms dangling and belly facing upwards.

HENRY

(amused chuckles)

I guess you don't know that at the Ship's Health Centre the masseuse, for a few dollars more, will give you a massage that leads to delirium.

ELIZABETH

(curious)

Please tell me, what that is.

HENRY

(joking)

Can't you imagine?

ELIZABETH

A raving delirium, I guess.

HENRY

You do say lots of daft things. It is simply a massage with an orgasm!

ELIZABETH

(surprised)

You're kidding!... Aren't you?

HENRY

I'm not joking! The Charterer has hired thirteen luxury prostitutes and from tonight onwards, the Orient Sun will have the best strippers in Asia.

Elizabeth listens incredulous. Henry smiles, his big face lighting up.

ELIZABETH

Tell me, do they intend to make the Orient Sun a brothel?

HENRY

I must remember that I have got to tell our doctor to be ready with a stretcher, because I believe the black pubic hair of these Chinese strippers will cause a heart attack to the faint of heart.

ELIZABETH

(bursts out laughing)

You on the other hand, should be careful not to lose your feathers.

Henry gets to his feet. He puts his index finger and small finger in a sign of horns to avoid bad luck. At that moment TWO PASSENGERS enter. Henry goes out of shop smiling.

DISSOLVE.

162. INT. SHIP. SELF SERVICE AREA. MORNING (10.00 am).

Elizabeth is inside the self service area. She is filling a bottle at the fountain of the passengers, when she hears footsteps and the Indonesian Chief Housekeeper appears.

CHIEF HOUSEKEEPER

Ah! Elizabeth, I caught you red-handed!

ELIZABETH

Rather than being caught red-handed I'm taking what is due to me! On board this ship the crew is made to feel guilty even for the air we breathe.

He approaches, concerned, putting a hand on her shoulder.

CHIEF HOUSEKEEPER

You are right! I spoke with Mister Kor, as I promised. But it seems he didn't appreciate all I said about the food so, unfortunately, I have lost my job. I'm giving 'deliveries' to Marlo and the GM, who, in future, will be the persons responsible for all catering on board.

Elizabeth with a sad expression puts bottle on the table.

ELIZABETH

I hope you didn't lose your job because of us?

He smiles, trying to hide a certain nervousness.

CHIEF HOUSEKEEPER

Well, when things go wrong, according to the Charterer the Chief Housekeeper is always the culprit. He expected me to work miracles, but not everything depends on me. You understand?

ELIZABETH

Of course! However, not every cloud has a silver lining. Perhaps it's time for you to look for a better job. Nothing happens by chance.

The Chief Housekeeper takes Elizabeth's hand and kisses it.

CHIEF HOUSEKEEPER

I really appreciate your efforts and wish you good luck. You definitely need it more than me on this ship !

ELIZABETH

(laughs)

That's right! I am sure you will have more luck away from this ship.

CUT TO:

163. INT. SHIP AT SEA. INFORMATION OFFICE. NIGHT.

Elizabeth passes by the information office and catches GM Hong kissing Desery passionately. Elizabeth is about to walk past but Desery sees her and calls her.

DESERY

Elizabeth, come and taste the jak fruit.

ELIZABETH

With pleasure, thank you!

Elizabeth retraces her steps.

Inside office, Desery gives Elizabeth a paper plate with jak fruit. Hong smiles then walks out. Elizabeth eats the fruit.

DESERY

Please Elizabeth come to the Olympia Lounge to see the strip-tease show.

ELIZABETH

Ok! I'm curious to see these Chinese ladies who are stripping and giving everyone possible heart attacks !

DESERY
(laughs)
But who told you this nonsense?

ELIZABETH
(laughs heartily)
Henry. He always likes to joke.

CUT TO

164. INT. SHIP AT SEA. BALLROOM & OLYMPIA LOUNGE. NIGHT.

Elizabeth and Desery go up the stairs and through the Ballroom entrance, where Luis is presenting a beautiful Chinese woman, slender, sweet-face, dark eyes and long black hair, who begins dancing and waves a deep red shawl of transparent tissue, up and down. Her sinuous body is moving rapidly under a black veil, which seems to swathe her body now possessed by hysterical movements. Meanwhile, excited officers and Australian staff scream and shout obscene words. Elizabeth is shocked, and does not believe her ears. The Chinese woman throws her clothes on the floor and remains with a transparent cloak that reveals her naked body. Finally, through the exciting music, one hears a GONG sound. The stage curtain suddenly opens, and the body of the stripper appears naked for a moment under the spotlight. One hears frenzied shouts vibrating all around, shaking the ballroom.

At that moment a hand is placed on Elizabeth's shoulder. She turns around and sees Edward..

EDWARD
(kidding)
Please, don't let my wife know that you surprised me watching the strip-tease.

ELIZABETH
(laughs)
It's to late, I've already sent her a fax.

EDWARD
Oh! My God! I'd better go and hide!

Edward laughs and moves away from the people. Desery invites Elizabeth to sit down beside her.

DESERY
I am worried. This evening Hong told me that his wife will soon leave for a cruise.

Meanwhile Captain Michael passes by, hand in hand with a GIRL who works in the casino.

DESERY

(stops talking and whispers)
The crew is furious with the Captain.
They all complain about him; accusing
him of being a dirty racist because he
is evil with the Orientals and doesn't
answer them when they greet him.

ELIZABETH

He is certainly a strange man. I often
noticed that he doesn't greet willingly,
however I thought this was just due to
him being unsociable and cold.

Just then the young PHILIPPINO DANCERS perform the folk
dance of "Capii Sa Munsala". Their beautiful coloured
costumes stand out under the white lights of the reflectors,
while they parade, showing the art of walking with the
"dance of the handkerchiefs".

DESERY

I guess that the smoke caused by the
forest fire has irritated our captain.

For a moment the notes of that mysterious dance attract
Elizabeth's attention

ELIZABETH

Anyone would be worried to be the
captain of a ship sailing in these
conditions.

DESERY

(thinking)

Yeah! Perhaps his nervousness is caused
by the fact that the smoke doesn't allow
him to show himself off in the sun; with
his red costume and zipper at the back.

ELIZABETH

(bursts out laughing)

Everyone talks about his afternoons in
the sun with the Australian girls. His
costume has become a legend.

DESERY

(laughs)

Anyway, he will have to calm down. His
sweet wife is due to arrive soon from
Australia.

Desery bites her lip, knowing that she has said too much, her face becomes serious.

DESERY

I'm ashamed also. I should calm down too, shouldn't I?

ELIZABETH

(harshly)

Everyone gets what they deserve. No one can escape the consequences of their actions.

DESERY

(staring, worried)

I even got to think that I could tear Hong away from his wife. After all, they don't have any children! (SHE PAUSES) In any case, you're right. But I can't live without him.

ELIZABETH

(serious)

If you don't control your passions, it is you will suffer.

Elizabeth stands up.

DESERY

Let's go to the casino...we can spy on the reactions of the losers?

ELIZABETH

All right!

CUT TO:

165. INT. SHIP AT SEA. CASINO. NIGHT

Elizabeth and Desery enter the Casino Great Hall, where the players are crammed around green tables trying their luck.

ELIZABETH

Gambling is an illusion... it just serves as medicine to the losers, to heal their greedy souls.

Desery listens amazed. She indicates a group of players.

DESERY

Elizabeth, looks at that nice Chinese lady who gets nervous every time the ball doesn't stop on the chosen number.

ELIZABETH

Who is she?

DESERY

Last week she lost all her savings, so she decided to remain to try to get her money back.

ELIZABETH

Gambling is such an endless nightmare. We are fortunate that so far nobody has thrown themselves into the sea because they lost all their money.

DESERY

Thanks God the management have banned the crew from playing, otherwise they would be losing all their wages.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Not only that, probably also losing their pants!

The two women laugh as they leave the casino.

CUT TO:

166. INT. SHIP. STAIRS TO LOBBY. NIGHT.

Elizabeth and Desery are walking down the stairs when they hear the loud sound of the siren sounding in the night.

SIREN SOUNDS.

DESERY

My God, we still have that damn siren disturbing our sleep during the night.

ELIZABETH

(serious)

The burning of those forests is causing so much pollution. That toxic smoke dries my throat and I end up with a lousy cough and a terrible thirst.

DESERY

(worried)

Yeah, at night from my cabin I hear all the officers coughing. Don't you hear them?

ELIZABETH

(after a pause)

Sure! Since I don't sleep much, I hear every thing! Some Indonesian workers at the slot machines and video games on board told me that sometimes the fires in the forests last all summer and only finish at the beginning of the rainy season, with the first storms.

The two ladies look at each other worried.

DISSOLVE.

167. EXT. SINGAPORE. 28 AUGUST. DAY.

PAN CITY.

CUT TO:

168. EXT. ENTRANCE OF MOUNT ELIZABETH HOSPITAL. DAY.

CUT TO:

169. INT.MOUNT ELIZABETH HOSPITAL. DR LIM'S SURGERY. DAY.

Doctor Charles Lim is sitting at his desk looking through the results of Elizabeth's blood tests.

Elizabeth enters and the nurse leaves, closing the door behind her.

DOCTOR LIM

(seriously)

You know you are as strong as a horse?

Elizabeth bursts into laughter as she shakes doctor's hands.

ELIZABETH

I knew I was strong, but I never imagined I was as strong as a horse!

They burst out laughing together and then he starts to browse again through the results of Elizabeth's blood tests.

DOCTOR LIM

(staring intently at her)

Elizabeth..I'm afraid there's not much to laugh at. You have been infected with the virus Hepatitis 'A'.

VIEW SHOCKED LOOK ON ELIZABETH'S FACE.

DOCTOR LIM
(continues)

However, you seem to have developed antibodies to the virus, and apparently are no longer contagious. (ELIZABETH SIGHS AUDIBLY) Do you understand now why I said that you are strong as a horse?

ELIZABETH
(shocked)

Incredible! So I am cured without having had any treatment?

DOCTOR LIM

Yes my dear. You are a very lucky lady!

Elizabeth remains silent for a moment to reflect.

DOCTOR LIM

So, pick up the envelope (POINTS TO ENVELOPE ON DESK). At Reception ask the nurse for the pills I have prescribed. Take one before every meal. They will help you retain fluid and will also relieve the dryness in your throat. Take the vitamins three times a day whenever you want.

Elizabeth stands up, shakes the doctor's hand. She takes the envelope that the doctor has left on the desk.

ELIZABETH

Thank you, Dr Lim!

Doctor Lim opens the door and Elizabeth says goodbye to him with a smile.

DISSOLVE.

170. INT. SHIP. LAUNDRY. DAY.

Shirley goes to laundry to pick up her uniform.

The ship's pipes going in all directions, all around there is dirty laundry and the stewards who go away with bundles of clean sheets, others who bring bags of dirty sheets. Some Chinese are ironing some clothes others are serving.

Shirley is picking up her uniform, when Romeo arrives.

ROMEO

Shirley, did you know that last night some sailors were drunk, there was a brawl and one was stabbed in the back.

SHIRLEY

Yes, fortunately, he was only wounded. When we get to Singapore the Captain will handover the attacker to the police.

ROMEO

Now alcohol has been banned to the all crew, except for the officers. This situation makes us furious, because it is an injustice that affects everyone, just because of those idiots fighting.

SHIRLEY

You are right.

ROMEO

It seems that on this ship it is easier to create injustice, rather than seeking solutions.

CUT TO:

171. EXT. SHIP,.PROMENADE DECK. DAY. (SEPTEMBER 8).

Elizabeth is at the bow on the right side of the ship, sitting on a bench and watching the grey wall of smoke that obstructs the view. The sultry heat prevents her from breathing properly and makes her cough. The annoying sound of the SIREN is heard, followed by the sound of footsteps coming down the ladder nearby.

Roldan appears in uniform.

ROLDAN

Sorry Elizabeth, I'm checking the life-jackets and I have to open the bench where you are sitting.

Elizabeth jumps up. Roldan opens bench and pulls out two life jackets.

ELIZABETH

I wonder what the passengers can do all day when all that smoke is blocking out the sun.

ROLDAN

(laughing)

Well now the Charterer has hired the thirteen luxury prostitutes at three hundred dollars an hour, I don't believe they will get too bored!

ELIZABETH

(bursts out laughing)

Yeah, that's alright for the guys !
(LAUGHS) Henry said, if they want to save money, they can choose the massage that drives you to delirium!

Roldan is bent over the bench putting the jackets in order.
He stands up.

ROLDAN

What is the massage that drives you to delirium?

ELIZABETH

(goes away laughing)

Just ask Henry, he will explain it to you.

CUT TO:

172. INT. SHIP AT SEA. LOBBY AREA. DAY.

Elizabeth is in the lobby near the elevator. Elevator opens and Henry comes out dressed in a blue tracksuit with a white towel around his neck. His hair is wet with sweat, and it seems stuck to his face; his eyes are radiant.

ELIZABETH

Ah! I caught you with you pants down!
You have been making use of our luxury prostitutes, haven't you?

HENRY

(laughing)

What are you trying to say?

ELIZABETH

Just what I said!

HENRY

For the moment I have only used the special delirium massage; we'll see what else they can offer later.

The two burst into laughter.

ELIZABETH

(kidding)

It's a shame there aren't any luxury stallions as well, so the women can take advantage of THEM. It's not fair!

HENRY

(with his eyes bulging)

Well always remember I am here if you ever want me to help you see the stars ...and more.

ELIZABETH

(laughing)

I'm sorry, Henry..you might crush me.

Henry turns his face into a mask of mock anger.

HENRY

(in a joking tone)

Don't think you're funny! If you keep on provoking me, I'll not invite you to the party we are organizing.

Then, without saying goodbye, he goes away skipping, while his belly goes up and down with his body rising and falling.

ELIZABETH

(shouts)

Henry, you look like a balloon taking off.

Henry's back and belly emerge from behind a column.

HENRY

Tomorrow in Jakarta, during the drill, I'll throw you into the sea without a life-saving jacket, and then we'll see how you face the situation.

ELIZABETH

(as she gets in the elevator)

Ha! I swim like a fish.

The elevator door closes.

DISSOLVE.

173. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. LATE AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth is in her cabin and goes to take a shower. She opens the tap and rusty coloured water comes out. As she soaps her body the water turns brown and then black; but it's too late, her body is covered with a foul-smelling liquid. She screams with rage and then begins to rub her body with a white towel, which soon becomes grey and black.

ELIZABETH
(losing patience, screams)
Damn! Ugh ! Disgusting!

She starts rubbing her body with another clean cloth.

Someone KNOCKS on the door.

Elizabeth puts her head out of the door and she finds herself in front of a group of sailors including Rosalito, Carroll and the assistant Chief Steward YUL (a nice young man, tall, strong, dark skin, eyes and hair, Philippino in his thirties).

CREW
(curious)
Mummy what's happening? We heard you screaming!

ELIZABETH
You would have screamed too if you had taken a shower with foul smelling water like oil that sticks to your skin.

Sailors burst out laughing.

YUL
(assuringly)
The passengers have the same problem.
The chief engineer and his men are trying to find out the cause.

Sailors are still laughing.

ELIZABETH
(blurts out)
You naughty children! Stop laughing!

CREW
(laughing)
Mummy don't get angry. If you want we can bath you ..with mineral water!

Another laugh echoes around.

ELIZABETH

Go away!

Elizabeth slams the door with a bang, then hears the sailors who go away shouting in chorus.

Elizabeth smiles.

SAILORS

(excited in chorus)

We love you Mummy!

DISSOLVE TO:

174. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

Someone KNOCKS on Elizabeth's cabin door .

ELIZABETH

The door isn't locked, come in!

The door opens and Desery enters. Her eyes are sad and swollen from crying.

Desery sits on chair next to rectangular window where the smoke hides everything. She bursts into tears and gives full vent to her grief.

DESERY

(confessing)

Last night, Hong didn't come to me. I think he's betraying me with a female passenger. I really want to tell her he's mine and that she must stop her relationship with him. Should I do it?

Elizabeth looks at Desery in silence for a moment.

ELIZABETH

(serious)

Listen. First of all he's not yours, he's not an object. Secondly, you know he will come back to you when the passenger leaves. But that still won't solve your problem.

DESERY

(sobbing)

Why?

ELIZABETH

Soon, Hong's wife will come on board.
Even then, the GM will sway Hong to meet
other lady passengers who will also try
to seduce him, and you will continue to
suffer. Don't you realise such wrong
choices bring only pain and despair?

DESERY

Damn, why are you talking like that?

ELIZABETH

(annoyed)

Look, if you want you can still get out
of this painful situation but you have
to banish Hong from your thoughts.

Desery glances furtively at Elizabeth.

DESERY

(angrily)

I would like to have the strength to do
it, but now I want him more than ever.

ELIZABETH

Desery, you are not getting my message.
You must do whatever you want to do. But
you have to endure the pain of this to
mature your inner self, in future, learn
to defend yourself from Latin-lovers.

Desery stands up. She leaves, sobbing.

DESERY

You're right, but I can't think of
leaving without him.

Desery exits.

Elizabeth sighs as the door closes behind her.

DISSOLVE.

175. INT. SHIP. CREW DINING ROOM. (DINNER). EVENING.

From windows of Crew's dining room crew see only grey smoke
and hear a warning SIREN SOUND in distant smoke/fog.

A group of sailors: Rosalito, Denis, Carroll, Guan, Noel,
Gabriel and Nikola, are having dinner. Their faces are tired
and sweaty. Now and then you hear someone coughing. Guan,
Denis and Carroll are eating tough chicken legs.

DENIS

All the crew are going crazy. Since the GM and Marlo have been dealing with the food, the situation is even worse.

CARROLL

(chewing)

Yeah! At first we ate a little better, but now the situation has deteriorated even more.

GUAN

(angry)

Damn, It's like eating wood! This chicken leg is so tough.

DENIS

You're right, it is a disgrace!

The sailor gives up and he leaves chicken leg on the plate.

CARROLL

(pushes away the dish angrily.)

Ever since that stupid person stabbed the sailor, the Captain has forbidden the shop manager and the galley steward to sell alcohol to the crew.

GUAN

Yes, it's making us angry. We can still buy alcohol in Singapore, but on the other hand we also have our rights

DENIS

(standing up)

Yeah, you can't punish everyone for the mistake of one madman. Unfortunately, on this ship it seems to be so difficult to act fairly.

Denis goes away, as Rosalito ENTERS.

Rosalito is tired and sweaty. He goes to the buffet, takes a chicken leg and vegetables, and sits with the three sailors.

On the table there are plates with half-eaten chicken legs. Rosalito observes the scene without saying a word.

CARROLL

(staring at Rosalito seriously)

If you want to break your teeth, eat the chicken leg.

GUAN

A man forewarned is a man forearmed.

Rosalito stands up and angrily slams the plate with the food on the floor.

ROSALITO

Damn, we can't go on like this.

Rosalito leaves angrily, slamming the door.

A chorus of shrieks, shouts and curses break out, against the shattering sound of dishes hitting the floor.

DISSOLVE.

176. INT. SHIP. DUTY FREE SHOP. NIGHT.

Elizabeth is serving a customer when Henry enters and sits on the chair of the guests and waits until the passenger goes out of the shop.

HENRY

The Captain has just inspected all the crew's cabins and has seized all bottles of alcohol that he found. Now the crew is furious.

ELIZABETH

The crew are right to be furious. He treats them all as if they were children.

HENRY

(thoughtfully)

Yeah, you're right!

HENRY

(after a pause)

By the way, I got permission for the party. 8pm. September 12th. On the car deck. So we can celebrate Yul's birthday.

Meanwhile, a passenger enters. Henry gets to his feet.

HENRY

Mummy, don't you dare miss the party. You'd make my boys very unhappy!

Elizabeth smiles, Henry leaves the shop.

DISSOLVE.

177. INT. SHIP. SELF SERVICE AREA. NIGHT (September 10).

Outside is continuous sound of the distant siren. Elizabeth enters the self service and approaches the water drinks fountain, puts the bottle under the tap, presses the button, but only a few drops of water come out. Elizabeth goes away disappointed.

CUT TO:

178. INT. SHIP. OFFICERS DINING ROOM. NIGHT.

Elizabeth enters the officer's dining room to look for some drinking water. She finds only the usual jars filled with salt and chlorine that stinks. She is thirsty, fills a glass of water, drinks a little, then she runs to spit into the trash bin.

ELIZABETH
(whispering to herself)
Ugh! That's disgusting! When will they
solve this damn problem?

Elizabeth goes away desperate.

DISSOLVE.

179. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. (3am. IN MORNING).

Outside distant siren sound continues. Elizabeth is sleeping, but wakes up several times, all sweaty, coughing with a dry throat and a terrible thirst.

ELIZABETH
(putting her hands to her throat)
My God, I must find some water!

She puts on her robe and goes out into the corridor in the hope of meeting someone who will offer her a glass of water.

CUT TO:

180. INT. SHIP. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

It's 3a.m. Elizabeth walks up and down the corridor looking for water. She hears the rumbling coughs and the sound of the siren in the night, then the sound of footsteps coming up the stairs.

YUL appears.

ELIZABETH

(softly)

Please Yul, my throat is burning and I
am terribly thirsty. Do you have a glass
of water?

Yul makes a sign to wait, goes into his cabin nearby, and
reappears with two bottles of water.

YUL

(smiling, talking softly)

Quench the thirsty, said Christ!

Elizabeth gratefully holds the two bottles tightly to her
chest as if they were pure gold.

YUL

Please, when you need water, tell me!
You do not know, but I have access to
the passengers' water stocks. After all
it is Mr. Kor's fault that because of
the problems we have on board, they do
not sell water at the bar.

ELIZABETH

You're right Yul! Good night and thank
you very much.

Elizabeth enters her cabin, closes the door.

CUT TO:

181. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

She opens a bottle of water and drinks from it eagerly.

Sighs with satisfaction as she wipes her mouth with her arm.

DISSOLVE.

182. INT. SHIP AT SEA. INSIDE DUTY FREE SHOP. NIGHT.

Henry enters the duty free shop, makes his way through the
passengers, and holds out a list to Elizabeth.

HENRY

(orders)

When you have time, please prepare these
items. I'll be back later to pick them
up.

ELIZABETH
(smiling)

All right!

HENRY
Mummy, your children need you tonight!
Don't forget!

As Henry leaves shop, a GROUP of passengers burst into laughter.

A MALAYSIAN WOMAN amused, having seen Henry's obese figure, intervenes.

MALAYSIAN
(laughing)
I hope the children are not all his size.

ELIZABETH
No! Fortunately they are all much thinner.

FADE TO:

183. INT. SHIP. DUTY FREE SHOP. 1 HR LATER. SAME NIGHT.

Elizabeth is closing the shop, when Henry arrives.

ELIZABETH
(opens the door of the shop muttering)
Henry, as you know, I was forbidden to sell alcoholic drinks to the crew; and yesterday the Captain also prohibited it to the officers because he discovered they were supplying the crew. And after all that you have the courage to come here to me with your list?

HENRY
(winking at her)
Come on, dear! Stop making a fuss. We are all adults. We know what we are doing. The GM knows, I'll take the responsibility!

ELIZABETH
OK! Baby! As you like!!

Elizabeth prepares the bottles then prints a receipt with the computer.

ELIZABETH
(serious)

Here's the bill then!

HENRY

(reaches out, takes it)
I'll pay you tomorrow, when I withdraw
the money the stewards owe me. I
promise.

ELIZABETH

Okay, but remember not to forget.

HENRY

Oh stop cawing like a crow, I've always
paid you, haven't I? (HE SMILES) I will
wait for you at the party.

DISSOLVE.

184. INT. SHIP. CAR DECK. NIGHT. (September 12th party).

Elizabeth, Shirley and Desery slide the fire doors open and enter the garage, attracting attention with the bang of the metal door that closes suddenly. Elizabeth is in uniform, the two friends are very elegant. A chorus of happy cries and shouts of welcome explodes inside the huge gloomy garage

Philippinos Rosalito, Denis, Carroll, Guan, Noel, Gabriel, Nikola and Romeo, are all excited and go to welcome the young girls. The crew gathers around them joyfully, offering bottles of beer without giving them glasses (a clear invitation to drink from the bottle), and then they are accompanied to a table. In that dark place, where everything smells of oil and grease, the crew has placed a dozen tables with chairs, and improvised a kind of bar where a Philippino serves drinks, and distributes Coca-cola and beer. Here and there coloured festoons are hanging to liven up the darkness. Not far from the bar there is a makeshift DJ stand with a stereo and microphone.

Henry and Yul, acting as DJs, are entertaining everybody. Meanwhile, loud music vibrates up and down the car deck like the sound of a threatening echo that almost bursts the eardrums.

Elizabeth is sitting with Desery and Shirley. Elizabeth looks at Desery who, every time she hears fire protection door opening, looks nervously at the people who enter, hoping to see Hong appear.

ELIZABETH

Don't worry, Hong will come!

Desery smiles happily.

SHIRLEY

I'm afraid that if we are not careful,
we'll dirty our clothes with grease.

ELIZABETH

Not only that, with this smell our
clothes will stink of diesel.

Romeo, Carroll and Rosalie arrive, and bow down in front of the three women and kissing their hands, invite them to dance. They all get up to dance, but they dance slowly because their feet stick to the iron floor which is coated with grease. Desery is euphoric and finally smiles. The others hostesses and the girls of the casino arrive shortly after, and for the umpteenth time the crew yells and shouts joyfully, to welcome the young women. Then all the girls are dragged onto the dance floor. The girls are moving on an iron floor coated with paint and grease.

Elizabeth, while dancing, suddenly starts laughing.

SHIRLEY

What are you laughing at?

ELIZABETH

Look around and you'll see.

Shirley looks around and bursts out laughing too.

SHIRLEY

You're right, we're all dancing slowly,
as if our feet are stuck to the floor.

ELIZABETH

Yeah, we all look like puppets moving in
time to the music.

Then the metallic sound of the door attracts the attention of all. Everyone turns to see the Captain enter with a glass in his hand, followed by Jan, Ante, Luis and the GM. A smile appears on Desery's face, and she grasps Elizabeth's arm.

Elizabeth looks.

DESERY

Look! Hong has arrived!

Elizabeth doesn't say anything She is absorbed in watching the Captain who stares at her angrily while she is dancing.

Captain looks over at the Australian girls with same angry look and throws down last drop of alcohol in one fell swoop.

Henry and Yul go to welcome the Captain.

HENRY

(excited)

Captain, my stewards and I thank you so much for letting us have the party and also for the fact that you have granted us your presence.

CAPTAIN

(cool and detached)

Have a good time!

The captain approaches the bar, gets a drink and continues talking with the officers. Shortly after, Elizabeth and Desery thank their escorts and go to sit at the table. Meanwhile Desery controls the movements of the GM from afar, but he does not even deign her with a look. A veil of sadness appears on her face as a tear runs down her cheek.

Finally Desery wipes her face with the sleeve of her dress.

DESERY

Please, Elizabeth, let's go to your cabin to question the "I Ching"! I want to know if Hong will return to me.

Desery's black eyes are full of pain and Elizabeth feels sorry for her. The two women stand up.

ELIZABETH

(shouts loudly to the crew)

Sorry, we have to go But have a great night.. and thank you for everything.

Door closes on shouts and cries of protest from the friends and crew through the music vibrating all around.

Elizabeth takes Desery's arm and they exit the car deck.

CUT TO:

185. INT. SHIP. INSIDE ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

Cabin door opens. Elizabeth and Desery enter, closing door behind them. The bedside clock shows 12.45, of the 13th September 1991. Desery enters and goes to sit on the chair, Elisabeth takes the ancient Chinese oracle out of the drawer.

ELIZABETH

Now prepare yourself to receive the oracle's message because somehow I know you will be disappointed.

DESERY

But why will I be disappointed?

Desery takes the three Chinese coins that are used for consulting the oracle.

ELIZABETH

The Book of the "I Ching" is an oracle of ancient Chinese wisdom. It does not accept compromises. If you make mistakes, it tells you.

Desery looks at Elizabeth, frightened.

ELIZABETH

Come on, calm down now and listen, if you want to learn. Now..throw the coins.

Desery throws the coins six times and forms the hexagram number 29, Kan the abyss. Desery looks worried at Elizabeth.

DESERY

Please explain!

ELIZABETH

So.. abyss over abyss indicates the situation you are in now. The six in the first place tells you that your problem is your desire to continue on the wrong road. Finally, nine in the second place assures you that danger is lurking in the abyss. You can only get what you want in small things. (PAUSES) In other words, even if you manage to get a small amount of satisfaction, you will still remain in the abyss.

Desery looks sadly at Elizabeth.

CUT TO:

186. INT. SHIP. CAR DECK PARTY. SAME NIGHT (1am).

Luis, Shay, Hong Jan, Ante, Noel, Gabriel and Nikola are dancing with the hostesses, the girls of the casino, and crew. Screams and shouts of joy.

The Captain remains on his own. He looks at his wristwatch then approaches Henry, who is talking to the Philippine steward Romeo, next to the stereo.

CAPTAIN

Henry, it's one o'clock. Turn off the music now and tell the crew the party's over.

HENRY

All right, Captain!

The music is still playing. Henry takes the microphone in his hand to announce the end of the party.

The steward Romeo runs after the Captain who is leaving.

STEWARD ROMEO

Captain, please, let us continue the party a little more!

CAPTAIN

(decided)

No. It's time to sleep!

Henry turns off the music.

HENRY

(at the microphone)

Ladies and Gentlemen, the party is over.
Good night!

A chorus of screams and whistles of protest booming in the car-deck is heard.

STEWARD ROMEO

Captain, please.. parties on this ship are so rare. Let us celebrate a little more!

The captain in anger, suddenly flips. He punches Romeo in the face, and then punches him a second time on the lower lip splitting it.

Romeo falls to the ground bleeding.

The women present look at the scene, shocked.

A group of stewards and sailors, including Rosalito, Denis Carroll and Guan screaming and shouting, run enraged against the Captain.

Luis, Ante, Jan, Hong, Noel, Gabriel and Nikola assist Romeo..they are shocked at the scene.

ROSALITO and others
(shouting in unison)
Filthy racist!

DENIS
(shouts)
Now you'll pay dear for this, you dirty
bastard.

While the captain stares paralyzed at the group, the girls of the casino help the steward Romeo to get up from the ground with his lip bleeding.

The Captain, terrified, backs away scared, while group of stewards and sailors throw themselves against him furiously.

Henry with a jump gets between the Captain and the stewards, so the angry group vent their aggression on Henry, filling him with punches. Meanwhile the officers, Romeo, the hostess and the girls of the casino, watch the scene shocked.

ROMEO
(shouts indignantly)
Henry you're a dirty racist too, because
you make us give you a percentage of our
hard-earned tips.

Guan breaks away from Henry and reaches the Captain and punches him in the face.

GUAN
Damn racist! I'm giving you back the
punch you just gave my countryman.

As the Captain puts his hand on his hit cheek, Carroll arrives and spits in his face.

CARROLL
You Racists all have twisted minds!

The Captain angrily wipes the spittle from his face with one hand, then jumps on Carroll.

Jan, Ante, Luis and Hong intervene.

JAN
(shouting)
That's enough, stop it all of you. NOW!

Ante and Hong pull Carroll away from the Captain, while Jan and Luis try to hold back the Philipinos.

Henry falls weakly to the ground, bleeding.

CUT TO:

187. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

DESERY

So what do you mean? Sorry, but I don't understand.

ELIZABETH

There's none so deaf as those who do not want to hear! The "I Ching", the book of change, suggests that you change your objectives. But since you don't want to do that, the book assures you that Hong will return to you, but what you will get will be only the crumbs. In other words you will not be able to tear his wife away from him. Is that clear?

While Desery bursts into sobs, Elizabeth caresses her long black hair.

ELIZABETH

Look honey, the oriental sage Inayat Khan says: "We are made happy or unhappy; not from the circumstances of life, but from our attitude towards them."

Desery wipes her tears.

ELIZABETH

If you want, you can change your attitude and understand we are in this crazy world to learn the lessons that we need in order to grow inside.

Desery stands up and hugs Elizabeth.

DESERY

Excuse me, please, I know you're trying to help me and I am grateful, but you will have to be patient with me.

Desery reaches the door and opens it.

ELIZABETH

Don't worry, you can't learn the lesson
if you haven't experienced certain
things in life.

DESERY

(smiling)

Thank you. Goodnight, Elizabeth.

CUT TO:

188. INT. SHIP. CAR DECK (GARAGE). PARTY SITE. NIGHT.

Henry is still lying on the ground in pain, with wounds on his forehead and on his face, while Shay cleans away the blood with a handkerchief. Jan, Luis, and the Hostesses surround him, worried. Ante and Hong, Gabriel, Noel and Nikola are speechless and stare severely at the Captain.

The Crew look at the Captain angrily, in disgust.

CAPTAIN

(angrily gives an order)

Somebody go and call Dr. Win!

Rayu runs to call the doctor.

The Captain observes the stewards and the sailors who, in turn, stare resentfully at him. He turns to look at the steward Romeo, who is seated on a chair, surrounded by the girls of the casino who are trying to stop the blood coming from his lower lip with a handkerchief already soaked in blood. The Captain sighs heavily as he also looks over at Henry and the people around him. Finally, with his eyes clouded in anger, the Captain turns away and walks towards the fire doors. As he reaches the fire doors he pauses, with his back to everyone. Then, with the eyes of the stewards and sailors fixed upon him, he opens it and goes out leaving behind him a loud metallic noise that echoes through the car-deck as if it was a threat.

DISSOLVE.

189. INT. SHIP. OFFICERS DINING ROOM. MORNING.

Elizabeth enters officer's dining room which is deserted.

She approaches the windows.

CUT TO:

190. EXT.VIEW FROM WINDOW FROM ELIZABETH'S POV. PAN HARBOUR.

Elizabeth sees the ship is moored in the Singapore station harbour near the World Trade Centre. AMBULANCE SIREN SOUNDS. An ambulance is stopped in front of the stairs of the ship. it drives off down harbour-side with siren blaring.

CUT TO:

191. INT. SHIP. BACK IN OFFICERS DINING ROOM. DAY.

Roldan enters Officers Dining Room.

ELIZABETH
(serious)

I've just seen an ambulance leaving. I take it that is the reason you docked at the main station harbour instead of the container port. But what happened?

Roldan while he is pouring a cup of coffee.

ROLDAN
Dr. Win sent Henry to the hospital. Last night he got hurt during the mutiny at the party.

ELIZABETH
Yes, the hostess told me everything, but I didn't know that Henry needed to be hospitalized.

Elizabeth stares at Roldan astonished, as he takes his cup and opens the door.

ROLDAN
Excuse me, but I've got to go to the bridge. See you later!

Roldan goes out. FOOTSTEPS and VOICES can be heard in the hallway saying "Good morning".

The Hostesses (Desery Shirley, Lydia and Rayu) enter.

THE HOSTESSES
(shouting in unison)
Good morning, Elizabeth!

ELIZABETH
Good morning to you too, beautiful hostesses!

The four hostesses, Shirley, Desery, Lydia and Rayu, go and sit around Elizabeth who notes concern and sadness on their faces.

ELIZABETH

I just saw the ambulance leaving; do you know how Henry is?

RAYU

Last night Dr. Win tried to fix Henry's wounds, but unfortunately he also had some bruises to his head.

Lydia stares at Elizabeth worried and then unbuttons the jacket of her uniform.

SHIRLEY

The Crew claim that the Captain was drunk and think his reaction was caused by jealousy.

ELIZABETH

(stunned)

Jealousy? Who could the Captain be jealous of?

DESERY

Didn't you notice how he was shaking with jealousy when we and the Australian girls were dancing with the Philipinos?

ELIZABETH

Yes, I noticed there was something that the Captain was furious about, but I didn't understand why.

Rayu flickers her long eyelashes in a flirtatious manner, while Lydia braids her hair.

RAYU

However, what we noticed, the Philipinos also noticed.

ELIZABETH

(horrified)

All this is incredible, it is as if I was dreaming with my eyes wide open.

DESERY

Our Captain is like a big kid. He claims all women on board fall at his feet, so that he can boast to being the only real man on board.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Tell me, have they already got rid of the rebel Phillipinos?

RAYU

(after a pause)

Not yet. There's a meeting in progress because the crew have all threatened to go ashore if even one single Philippine is fired. The stewards have decided to strike to make the Captain leave.

ELIZABETH

(worried)

Oh No! The stewards will all be fired!

SHIRLEY

Why is that? Union means strength!

ELIZABETH

You are right! However, the person responsible will never let the crew enforce its rights.

SHIRLEY

(nervous)

Ah! How pessimistic you are! After all, it's not easy to fire a whole crew!

ELIZABETH

I wish you were right!

LYDIA

(with a lump in her throat)

What will happen now?

Elizabeth stands up. Desery also stands and moves her chair to go out.

ELIZABETH

Let's hope that justice triumphs. In the interim let us enlighten the people responsible so that they see the right thing to do..Good morning, beautiful angels!

While Elizabeth and Desery leave the room, the greetings of the hostesses get lost in the noise of the chairs being moved.

CUT TO:

192. INT. SHIP. CABIN CORRIDOR. DAY

Elizabeth and Desery walking along the corridor.

DESERY
(confesses)

This morning Hong and I had breakfast together. He assured me that tonight he will come to my cabin to give me an explanation about the passenger.

ELIZABETH
(smiling)

I already know what he'll say!

Desery stares at her curiously as they walk down the narrow dimly lit corridor.

DESERY

Tell me.

ELIZABETH

Now the passenger has disembarked he will assure you he has never betrayed you because you're the woman he desires.

Desery stops abruptly, holding her by the arm.

DESERY
(nervous)

How can you know everything that he will do or say?

ELIZABETH

Dear, you are naïve. I have far more experience than you, so I know how men like Hong act. I'm sure you'll learn many things from this adventure.

Desery stares at Elizabeth with her sad black eyes.

DESERY

I guess so.

Elizabeth caresses her long black hair.

ELIZABETH

Honey, forgive me if I am so frank with you. But I think like the great master Lao Tse, who says: "True words are not pleasant, pleasant words are not true."

DESERY

(serious grumbles)

I continue to delude myself. I know you are my friend and that you are only trying to help me. To give light to eyes that don't want to see.

Desery wipes away a tear.

ELIZABETH

Please little wren, smile. Playing with fire maybe you will get burnt; but then maybe you will also learn lessons on how to lead your life the right way.

The two women look at each other seriously.

CUT TO:

193. INT. SHIP. RADIO STATION OFFICE.

There is a delay in the departure of Orient Sun. Elizabeth enters. Richard the first radio officer, and MAUNG, the young second officer, are having a discussion. Maung is a handsome young man of twenty-five, from Malay, dark skin, medium height, with a childish face, black hair and eyes. One hears voices in the background, hisses and strange noises are coming from the radio.

ELIZABETH

Am I disturbing you?

RICHARD

Elizabeth Please! Do you realize we haven't weighed anchor yet?

ELIZABETH

(serious)

We are over an hour late. I guess it happens sometimes.

Maung stares at Elizabeth without speaking. He has a frightened look on his face.

RICHARD

(distressed)

The Crew has crippled the ship by going on strike. Without the Crew we can't leave.

Elizabeth is still standing and leaning against the door of the radio station.

ELIZABETH

(worried)

Oh! My God, then they're on strike in order to get the captain fired, right?

RICHARD

(shouts)

Yes, and they are not wrong. He is obviously a racist. The crew will probably all lose their jobs, but he will have a lesson that will stay with him for the rest of his life.

Elizabeth stares into Richard's eyes

ELIZABETH

I believe that life is a school that gives us what we need to grow up, dear Richard.

Nervously Maung, opens his black eyes which are bleary because of his anxiety.

MAUNG

Yes, I'm sure that's true!

Elizabeth and Richard both look at Maung.

RICHARD

(angry)

Some officers are also encouraging the crew to leave. He is unworthy of being a captain. But no-one dares say anything. There are spies everywhere !

Elizabeth observes Richard closely and understands her words have escaped him.

She goes up to him and lays a hand on his shoulder.

ELIZABETH

Well don't worry about ME. I'm not a spy. As far as I'm concerned I didn't hear your remark..besides, I've always hated spies.

A smile appears on Richard's lips.

RICHARD

I know I can always trust you!

ELIZABETH

Right! Because I could never betray the trust of a friend. I respect you too much.

Richard takes Elizabeth's hand. Squeezes it affectionately.

RICHARD

Elizabeth, it's so sad to see that these outrageous stories of racism and rivalry are still happening on the threshold of the new millennium.

Meanwhile Maung, moved, his eyes glistening, scrutinizes them in silence, expressing his heartfelt grief.

ELIZABETH

Well...I had better go for now. I know that in these cases you have to be prepared for any eventuality. Good luck!

Richard and Maung smile as Elizabeth exits.

DISSOLVE.

194. EXT. SHIP IN SINGAPORE HARBOUR. DECK AT NIGHT. (8 pm).

Carefree children play and scream chasing each other on the bridge, while their cries mingle with the sounds of the harbour.

Elizabeth is sitting on a deck chair on the deck and is waiting for the ship's departure.

Dr. Win and Edward arrive. The breeze that cools the evening ruffles the only clump of hair the doctor has, and he hastens to hold it down on his forehead to cover his bald head.

ELIZABETH

(in a daring manner)

Dear Doctor, do you know that since I have met you, you do nothing but harass that poor tuft of hair that really does not want to be part of you?

One hears an echo of laughter lost in the wind. Dr. Win pretends to be angry.

DR. WIN

My dear lady, do not tell me that you prefer me without it.

ELIZABETH

You can whip me after all I have dared to say, but I assure you that you would be much more attractive without it.

DR.WIN

(staring at Elizabeth with affection)
I will probably follow your advice, dear Elizabeth.

DR.WIN

(turning to Edward)
Edward, go and get the whip please, the one that I usually use for insolent people.

Their laughter attracts the attention of passengers. One of them, not knowing the grade of officers, turns to Edward.

PASSENGER

Captain, why aren't we leaving?

EDWARD

Don't worry. The delay won't prevent us arriving in Jakarta as scheduled.

Suddenly EXCITED SHOUTS of the crew are heard, bursting into shouts of joy.

Elizabeth, two officers and the passengers lean out to look down onto the wharf. They see the Philipinos on the lower decks continuing to shout excitedly in unison.

PHILIPPINOS

(in chorus)

Hooray! Hooray! Hooray!

Elizabeth sees the Captain with a bowed head going ashore escorted by THREE MEN from the Shipping company. It is obvious from the look on his face that he feels ashamed because of the fact that he has been defeated. His nervous footsteps express the anger that he is trying to control.

The shouts of the crew join the frenzied cries of joy of the passengers as they see the boarding ladder being removed.

The three men responsible for the shipping company and the captain get quickly into their car, that is parked in front of the ship and the car speeds noisily away through the dockside towards the streets of the city of Singapore in the distance.

CUT TO:

195. EXT. SHIP DEPARTING SINGAPORE HARBOUR. NIGHT.(8.30PM).

The sky is shrouded by a dark mantle, chasing the last rays of light, while the moon sheds her silvery rays. The cables are dropped from the moorings, the ship moves slowly away from the dock, bringing with it the euphoric shouts of the crew.

CUT TO:

196. INT.SHIP. DUTY FREE SHOP AND LOBBY AREA. NIGHT.

On the departure of the ship Elizabeth runs down the stairs to open the shop.

As she turns the corner on the fourth floor she bumps into Romeo the steward who is coming from the opposite direction.

He catches her in his arms so that she doesn't fall to the ground but in the impact, she bangs her head against his forehead. Romeo then lets her go and touches the bump.

ROMEO

I'm sorry, but if I have to undergo this type of impact to have you in my arms, then I will have to think about it.

The two burst out laughing. Elizabeth looks at the lip that the captain had punched.

ELIZABETH

How's the lip?

ROMEO

(smiling)

You and the captain have massacred me!

ELIZABETH

(suggests jokingly feeling his bump)
I suggest you hide the horn that is growing, by covering it with ice cubes.

Romeo makes a face. His eyes have humorous expression.

ROMEO

After you have almost killed me, you have the cheek to mock me instead of congratulating me, for my help in getting rid of that dirty racist.

ELIZABETH
 (shaking his hand)
 Oh yes, congratulations, dear!

Meanwhile, the smile disappears off the face of Romeo and he becomes sad as they reach the store.

ROMEO
 Probably, on our return to Singapore, we stewards and some sailors will be fired also. But we have the consolation of having given a lesson to the captain. Even Henry will still have to pay for what he did. You'll see, that fat lump will lose his job.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth opens the shop door and enters.

ELIZABETH
 I wonder how you are going to make Henry leave, since in the eyes of the shipping company he has now become a hero, having protected the Captain.

ROMEO
 It will be the company who fires Henry.

ELIZABETH
 Why, what did he do that is so serious?

Romeo stares Elizabeth while changing position.

ROMEO
 In case you don't know the whole truth, our great chief steward is one of those 'pillars of society' you have in Sicily.

ELIZABETH
 (smiling)
 Do you mean he's a member of the Mafia?

ROMEO
 (nervous)
 Yes. Henry forced us, the stewards, to give him a part of our hard earned tips. Today, at the meeting, when we told the whole truth to our superiors, they assured us that when Henry is discharged from hospital he will be put on the first plane to Austria. I know that they will also take away his seaman's book.

ELIZABETH

I can believe that. That is what they call extortion! (PAUSES) Oh, my God! How will I get back the ninety-nine dollars that Henry owes me?

ROMEO

(laughing)

Very simple. Just call the management accountant in Singapore and they will deduct it from Henry's final pay.

ELIZABETH

Good idea!

ROMEO

(exits with a wave of his hand)

Good luck!

DISSOLVE.

ELIZABETH DREAM SEQUENCE.

197. INT. DUTY FREE SHOP. SEPTEMBER 15th. 7 am. MORNING.

Dream (effect flu): Elizabeth's boss Delopera gives her a briefcase containing the computer list of all merchandise in the store.

ELIZABETH

Damn, the ship is leaving, and I don't have time to totalise this long list.

Meanwhile a slender young Oriental woman with curly reddish brown hair, who Elizabeth recognizes as ROWENA, the secretary of the Charterer, takes her list.

ROWENA

Since the ship is leaving, I'll calculate the total!

Elizabeth makes to snatch back the list but as she grabs for it she wakes up from dream.

CUT TO:

198. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. MORNING.

Elizabeth wakes up.

ELIZABETH

Oh! My God, I am going to be ordered to take care of the sale of all the goods in the duty-free shop.

Elizabeth sees clock showing 7am on 15th September 1991.

CUT TO:

199. EXT. SHIP. AT STERN OF SHIP. DAY.

Elizabeth walks thoughtfully aft, through the smoke and the sharp sounds of the siren, when she hears a door shut. In the smoke she sees the shadow of a man coming towards her.

THE MAN (ANTE)

Good morning, Elizabeth!

She relaxes as she sees she is standing in front of Ante in his white overalls, stained with grease and oil, all sweaty.

ELIZABETH

Ante! I don't know how you work with those engines..they are so noisy and as hot as hell. Then when you do come up on deck all you find is that you can only breath in smoke up here to.

Ante coughs a few times.

ANTE

Ours is a thankless job. We become deaf as we get older. (COUGHS) And this toxic smoke doesn't help. It hurts my throat.

Elizabeth stares at him in sorrowful compassion.

ELIZABETH

I would like my company to break off the store contract with the Charterer, but unfortunately I know they are aiming at getting other contracts on new ships operated by the same company as the Orient Sun

Ante looks at Elizabeth and with tired steps, goes to lean on railing and watch the trail of water behind the ship.

ANTE

Yes, you too have your problems!

ELIZABETH

(sigh)

These are terrible days.. without air conditioning, that smoke prevents us breathing properly, the clothes stick to your skin. But you get it far worse ! When I think of you in the engine room I get the shivers.

ANTE

Well, luckily we have a night on arrival in Singapore without smoke.

ELIZABETH

Fortunately, otherwise we would all suffocate.

The two look worriedly at each other

DISSOLVE.

200. INT. SHIP. BOW END. September 16. NIGHT. (10pm.)

A WOMAN seen in the distance with long hair blowing in the wind. She is looking out at the water that passes under her as if she intends to throw herself in. She puts her foot on the railing several times, but then she gets down and gives up when she hears the slam of the door closing.

Elizabeth appears. She breathes in some of the pure air that has suddenly replaced the acrid smoke. She gazes up at the beautiful black sky studded with stars that shine like a myriad of sparkling diamonds. She is walking among the white deck chairs wet by the moisture of the night when she notices the figure of the Woman standing motionless in the shadow of a launch and staring at the moon.

The Woman bends her head and looks down at the sea water flowing away in front of her, and her long hair seems to dance in the air.

Elizabeth goes towards her and recognizes the woman, and in light of the moon she sees some tears running down her face.

ELIZABETH

(Shouts over the wind)

Desery!

DESERY

(pained whispers)

Elizabeth! Oh don't worry! Its just that sometimes I feel the desire to reflect, and so I come here.. its so peaceful.

ELIZABETH

(sighs)

I see you're crying. Tell me what's worrying you.

DESERY

(says after a pause)

Last night I was very happy with Hong, I was so happy that I felt I was dreaming. But I guess happiness never lasts for long, unfortunately. A while ago he told me that his wife will arrive tomorrow, so I'll have to make it look as if there is nothing between us when she comes to the office to look for her husband. The thing that's bothering me most is to have to stay without him for four days! It's all too much for me. Sometimes I think it would be easier to slip between those waters below us.

ELIZABETH

(alarmed)

Do you realize what you have just said? After all, you knew that sooner or later she was going to arrive.

DESERY

(sobs)

Yes I knew. But I was hoping it wouldn't happen.

ELIZABETH

Okay! Now calm down.. and start to understand that you are a victim of your own negative thoughts. If you accept the reality, you will no longer be a martyr to your ignorance.

Desery remains in silence staring at the dark waters that sparkle in the silver moonlight.

DESERY

(laughing whispers)

You're right. I must control my thoughts, otherwise I will fall into the vortex of this passion, which is already burning inside me like a volcano.

Elizabeth and Desery look at each other and burst out laughing together. Elizabeth takes her arm and accompanies Desery to her cabin

DISSOLVE.

201. EXT. SHIP. STERN (DECK). MORNING. 17TH September.

Ship two hours from arrival in Singapore.

A group of seagulls plunge into the water and fly back into the sky clutching something in their beaks.

Elizabeth is on deck, and from afar she sees the seagulls and hears nervous flapping of wings exploding here and there. She walks aft and finds the sailors Rosalito, Carroll and Guan who are having fun throwing pieces of dry bread into the water. The seagulls dive and swoop onto the bread, flapping their wings against the water and then flying away with the bread into the blue sky.

The three sailors see Elizabeth.

THREE SAILORS

(in unison)

Good morning mummy!

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Good morning to you, children of the
Orient Sun!

One of three sailors continues to throw the pieces of bread into the sea.

ROSALITO

I'm afraid that on arrival we will no
longer be children of the Orient Sun!

The sailor Carroll is rolling his trousers up to his knees.

CARROLL

Our superiors are smart, they won't tell
us we are fired until we arrive.

ELIZABETH

(serious)

They do it to avoid the risk of giving
the crew time to defend themselves,
right?

THREE SAILORS

(in unison)

Right, you got it!

ELIZABETH

It's not a matter of getting it, but knowing how certain pirate companies act so as not to recognize the rights of others.

An explosion of excited shouts spreads all around.

GUAN

You're right; we are in the hands of pirates. I wonder if they are the same pirates that attack the ships on the route between Jakarta and Singapore!

Their laughter breaks out among the thunderous flapping of the seagulls' wings .

ELIZABETH

Now, don't overdo it!

THREE SAILORS

(in unison)

Bye mummy, we have got to go to our places for the docking manoeuvre.

Sailors move away towards the bow.

CUT TO:

202. EXT. PORT OF SINGAPORE. SHIP DOCKING. LATE MORNING.

Elizabeth leans against the railing at the stern and looks at the long trail of white foam that the ship leaves behind it while sailing over the green sea. Elizabeth crosses the promenade deck and reaches the bow of the ship. She leans against the railing and watches the shining skyscrapers of Singapore in the distance with thousands of still white clouds in the blue sky, throwing shadows that cover the island. The image of a FLASHBACK comes into her mind.

FLASHBACK:

203. INT. JAKARTA SHOPPING CENTRE. DAY.

(Flashback): Elizabeth sees herself in a crowded place, where she is looking for her purse inside her handbag; then she realizes that it has been stolen.

ELIZABETH

(screams loudly)

Oh! My God! My purse has gone ! Help!

END FLASHBACK.

CUT BACK TO:

ANGLE.

Elizabeth on ship again. Worried, she looks up and on she sees the tugs that are towing the ship into port. Meanwhile, the hot sun makes her take shelter in the shade of a huge ship funnel.

While the ship is towed into the dock to her amazement Elizabeth sees a group of about FIFTY MEN with suitcases waiting under the ship, a few steps from the gangway the sailors are descending.

Richard's voice comes from behind Elizabeth.

RICHARD

Do you see that group of Malays and
Burmese who are waiting on the dock?

ELIZABETH

(turns)

Yes. I guess they are a part of the new
crew, right?

RICHARD

(muttering)

Yeah, because they are only firing the
stewards and the sailors who took part
in the mutiny.

HOSTESS SHIRLEY (V/O)

(announcement on microphone)

May we inform all passengers that
disembarking has begun. We wish you a
safe journey home and thank you for your
kind attention.

Elizabeth and Richard lean on the railing and watch the passengers going down the gangway, and climbing onto the bus at the roadside.

Shortly after landing of passengers, new crew members take their bags and ascend boarding gangway.

CUT TO:

204. INT. SHIP. INFORMATION OFFICE. MORNING.

At the microphone the hostess Shirley announces the names of the stewards and sailors who must report to the office.

HOSTESS SHIRLEY

The following crew members must report
to the information office: Sailors
Rosalito, Guan, Denis Carroll, stewards
Romeo, Carlos, Felipe

Shortly after, around the information office area, the
Philippinos gather with their suitcases, plastic bags and
packages. One can hear their excited voices talking and
shouting loudly as they wave to their friends.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth goes through the hall, reaches the
information office and finds herself surrounded by stewards
and sailors who are waiting for the landing agent. When they
see her, they focus their attention on her.

PHILIPPINOS

(in unison)

Good bye mummy! Good bye! We love you!

Elizabeth, with a lump in her throat, tries to smile.

Romeo takes her hand and kisses it gently.

ELIZABETH

(shouting)

Good bye children of the Orient Sun! God
will look after you!

PHILIPPINOS

(shouting in chorus)

We love you Mummy! We love you!

ELIZABETH

(with tears rolling down her cheeks)

Goodbye Children of the Orient Sun!

The AGENT arrives. He distributes the passports. Finally,
greeting everyone present, the Philippino Crew take their
parcels and suitcases and go down to the dock.

Elizabeth, Desery, Shirley, Lydia and Rayu run to the
railing by the exit gangway.

Shouting, cheering, whistles and greetings explode on the
dock with all eyes of the departing Crew focused on the five
women who smile and wave their hand.

Romeo finally sends kisses to all.

ROMEO

Farewell, beautiful angels!

Shortly after, the Philipinos get onto the waiting buses; the noise of their engines mixing with the excited shouts of the sailors who have disembarked. Then the row of small vans vanishes among the containers.

The girls sadly moved, watch them leaving.

DISSOLVE.

205. EXT. SINGAPORE CITY. PAN VIEW. DAY.

CUT TO:

206. EXT. SKYSCRAPER OFFICES OF SHIPPING COMPANY. DAY.
Elizabeth, holding her bag close, looks around suspiciously as she goes through a beautiful garden full of beautiful tropical plants in bloom; then she enters palatial building.

CUT TO:

207. INT. LOBBY OF SHIPPING COMPANY BUILDING. DAY.

A luxurious palace hall. Elizabeth enters and takes elevator, full of Orientals, to the thirteenth floor.

CUT TO:

208. INT. OFFICES OF SHIPPING COMPANY. 13th FLOOR. DAY.

She exits elevator and enters open office door facing her.

CUT TO:

209. INT. INFORMATION/ACCOUNTS OFFICE. DAY.

Elizabeth enters and stands in front of an information office. She asks to speak to the secretary and is escorted into luxurious office with glass walls and spectacular view.

CUT TO:

210. INT. MR.SOGREEN'S OFFICE. DAY.

Elizabeth in office, waiting. Mr. Sogreen's beautiful secretary walks in. She is tall, long-limbed, blond short hair and blue eyes, about thirty.

SECRETARY
(smiling)

Hello I'm Mr Sogreen's secretary. What may I do for you?

ELIZABETH

Hi. I'm Elizabeth, the shop manager of the Orient Sun. I wanted to inform you that Henry, the chief steward, owes the duty-free shop ninety-nine U.S. dollars. Can you please deduct it from his wages before you pay him.

SECRETARY

(serious)

Henry left the hospital last night and has already flown back to Austria. It will be difficult for you to collect that money now. He should have advised the company of his debt. However, I suggest you to talk to Mr Bert, who you will meet on board the ship before departure.

ELIZABETH

(upset)

Thanks very much.

SECRETARY

You're welcome, good morning!

Elizabeth exits. Door closes behind her.

DISSOLVE.

211. EXT. SINGAPORE PORT. SHIP READY TO LEAVE. DAY. (5 pm).

The hostesses and stewards in uniform are standing in rows in front of the ship's entrance and the boarding ladder.

Passengers are getting out the buses on the dockside and climb the ladder past the smiling crew. The Crew greet the passengers as hostess Desery makes announcement from the microphone on board.

HOSTESS DESERY

(announces)

The captain and the crew welcome all passengers aboard the Orient Sun.

Elizabeth is waiting for Mr. Bert near the boarding door when she sees the GM coming in, among the passengers, holding the hand of a beautiful woman. The Woman (ERONE) is tall, long black hair down to her hips, sweet face, with dark eyes, twenty-eight, Malays.

Hong and the Woman pass close to Elizabeth.

HONG
(proud)
Hello Elizabeth, this is my wife Erona!

The woman smiles and shakes hands with Elizabeth.

HONG
(smiling happily)
Elizabeth is the person responsible for
the duty free shop; I guess you'll visit
her later.

ERONE
Of course, I will definitely come and
buy something!

ELIZABETH
I'll be waiting for you then!

Elizabeth scrutinizes the beautiful Asiatic face of Erona
who goes away moving her body with grace and femininity.

Elizabeth goes inside towards the Shop Lobby area.

CUT TO:

212. INT. SHIP.SHOP AND LOBBY AREA. AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth sees Mr. BERT waiting in the lobby. He is a
handsome man, about forty-five, thin, light blue eyes, blond
hair, distinct, Swedish.

ELIZABETH
(smiling)
Are you Mr. Bert, the manager assigned
to passenger service?

BERT
(smiling and shaking her hand)
You are Elizabeth, the shop manager?

ELIZABETH
Correct.

BERT
Mr. Sogreen's secretary told me about
the money you are owed. Please give me a
photocopy of Henry's account. I'll speak
with him on the phone and if he confirms
it, I will pay the bill.

ELIZABETH

Thank you very much!

BERT

A pleasure, Elizabeth. Good evening!

Elizabeth turns and sees the Captain, Michael, walking past with a sad depressed face and his hair has turned white.

The Captain turns to Elizabeth, looks at her, but doesn't seem to see her. He passes in front of her silently and walks away slowly, with tired steps.

Shirley arrives, walking past the Captain.

SHIRLEY

Have you seen how the captain is down in the dumps? His hair has turned white!

ELIZABETH

(serious)

Yes. In my dream he was represented by a black stallion, hurt and sad. But I would never have believed the lesson he got would have made him suffer so much.

SHIRLEY

He needed a lesson to make him reflect.

ELIZABETH

Certainly. And his guilt is being purified by pain and repentance. But I still feel some compassion for him..and am even sorry for him in a way.

SHIRLEY

(smiling)

That worm got what he deserved.

ELIZABETH

(after a pause)

Anyway, let's hope the sacrifice of those Philippinos will prey on his conscience. Their price was very high, but all martyrs for their families.

Meanwhile the speaker on board blares out.

LUIS

(announces)

Visitors are asked to please go ashore, the ship is about to leave. Thanks for your attention.

With a wave of her hand Shirley leaves Elizabeth.

Elizabeth looks around. While some visitors are moving to disembark, the lobby is still full of passengers. Elizabeth sighs and goes into Shop to ready it for new voyage.

DISSOLVE.

213. INT. SHIP AT SEA. OFFICERS DINING ROOM. BREAKFAST. DAY.

Elizabeth is alone in the officer's dining room, she is drinking coffee and smiles surprised because it is no longer salty. Even the air conditioning is working well, but the grey smoke from the large windows still blocks out the view.

Continuous sound of distant siren fades away in distance.

Elizabeth hears footsteps in the corridor, Richard enters.

RICHARD

The coffee is delicious today, isn't it?

ELIZABETH

(happily)

Yes, and we have the air conditioning also working. Is this a miracle?

Richard is preparing his breakfast at the buffet.

RICHARD

Anything else but a miracle! If I tell you what happened you'll definitely get angry!

ELIZABETH

Why should I get angry?

RICHARD

(serious)

Unfortunately, we all drank the salty concoction for all these months because of an incompetent engineer officer, who accidentally opened the wrong valve, mixing the salt water with the drinking water.

ELIZABETH

(exclaims angrily)

That can't be true!

Richard sits down next to Elizabeth.

RICHARD

Every time the tank of drinking water was filled it became salty only a few hours later; at the same time the same officer began his shift.

ELIZABETH

Damn, what a lot of discomfort and problems for us all just because of a stupid mistake! (PAUSES) Well at least that is sorted now, and today the air conditioning is also working. So good news all round.

RICHARD

Let's hope it lasts.

Elizabeth stands up, goes to large windows of dining room and looks at grey smoke blocking the view from the sea.

ELIZABETH

Now the nightmare of the salt water is over and the air conditioning working again, all we need is a downpour to sweep away this toxic smoke.

RICHARD

I'm afraid we'll have to wait.

Elizabeth goes to the door, while Richard sips his coffee.

ELIZABETH

So, how about organizing a rain dance to fight those fires?

Richard puts his cup on the table.

RICHARD

(smiling)

It seems a good idea. I'll see what I can do. If the American Indians could do it, why shouldn't we?

A laugh echoes in the dining room. Elizabeth opens the fire door, as she goes out the door escapes from her hand and closes abruptly. Elizabeth then re-opens the door and puts her head back inside.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Good morning, Richard!

Finally closes the door and leaves.

CUT TO:

214. INT. SHIP. DUTY FREE SHOPS/LOBBY. DAY.(September 20).

Clock shows 16.30pm in afternoon of September 20. Elizabeth is dressing a shelf, when Erona, the GM's beautiful wife, enters. She is wearing an elegant flowery dress.

ERONA
(smiling)
Hello! How are you?

Elizabeth smiles. Erona looks/touches some of the objects.

ELIZABETH
I am well, thank you, Erona. And you?

ERONA
(sits in one of customer chairs)
When I am with my husband, I'm always good. Unfortunately I get very lonely at home because he is never there and my family lives in Malaysia. I met Hong five years ago, during a trip to Singapore.

Elizabeth goes to sit next to Erona.

ELIZABETH
Sooner or later Hong will stop working on ships.

ERONA
(sad)
It would be so different if my husband had chosen a land-based job. I wouldn't suffer so much from the loneliness.

Erona, after a pause says

ERONA
In any case, the loneliness is over for me now... (ELIZABETH LOOKS).. because I'm pregnant!

ELIZABETH
(surprise)
Pregnant?

ERONA

(euphoric)

Yes! It's so wonderful for us. We have been hoping to have a child for such a long time, we were beginning to think it would never happen.

ELIZABETH

That's wonderful! The important things always happen at the right time; never before or after.

Erona stands up and admires the windows with the Italian perfumes and articles.

ERONA

Today I'm very happy because my husband has promised me that, having completed his contract he will never go away again. He will work in the Company offices, so we'll always stay together.

Hong enters. He goes up to Erona and takes her arm.

HONG

(to Erona)

Come, darling, or we will be late..

They turn to leave.

HONG and ERONA

(in unison)

Bye, Elizabeth!

CUT TO:

215. INT. SHIP. LOBBY/DUTY FREE SHOP AREA. NIGHT (9pm.)

Edward, in uniform, goes across hall and enters the duty free shop. Elizabeth is alone and working at the computer.

EDWARD

Good evening Elizabeth! How are you?

Edward stands by the chair of the guests.

ELIZABETH

(smiling happily)

Very well, Edward. Thank you, and you?

EDWARD

(sits down with a sigh)

I'm fine, thanks, just a little tired.

ELIZABETH

Relax then, and in the meantime I will tell you the dream I had about you.

EDWARD

About me? Pray tell me about it!

ELIZABETH

In the dream I saw a lot of electric wires; a black liquid was spreading between the wires. Then I saw you running back and forth, nervous and worried, in your white overalls. (SHE PAUSES) My dream WILL come true!

Edward remains silent for a moment.

EDWARD

(thoughtfully)

Oh! My God! It looks as if there will be a flood in a room where there are all those electrical wires. I only hope this dream doesn't come true, otherwise it will mean a lot of work, and I already have too much.

They both smile. Desery enters, trying to smile.

DESERY

Elizabeth, after closing the shop would you consult the Ching for me?

Desery, with sad bright-eyes, waits for an answer .

ELIZABETH

(sighs)

All right!

Desery walks away smiling.

EDWARD

(whispering)

Poor girl! When you are young and inexperienced life is so difficult.

ELIZABETH

(thinking)

Yes! You can't play with fire without getting burnt!

EDWARD

So right!

ELIZABETH

Edward, you're always a true friend to me. I can tell you my dreams and you listen to them and discuss them with me. It's so important to me to have someone like you to share them with; someone who believe me.

EDWARD

(smiling)

It is a pleasure for me too, Elizabeth, and it helps me to pass the time.

DISSOLVE.

216. INT. SHIP. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

Desery comes out from her cabin located on the opposite side, about ten feet from Elizabeth's cabin. Elizabeth is turning the corner into the corridor. Desery has swollen eyes, and you can see that she has been crying. Elizabeth opens the door of her cabin, then the two women enter.

CUT TO:

217. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

DESERY

(sits down, sobbing)

Erona told me that she is pregnant!

ELIZABETH

(serious)

I know!

DESERY

(stops crying)

I'm afraid it's time to dedicate myself to something more important. Hong told me there's a possibility that I will be promoted to assistant commissar. I would like to know from the oracle if this will come true.

ELIZABETH

(handing her the Chinese coins)

A wonderful surprise! I believe you will have the promotion!

A furtive smile appears in Desery's eyes.

DESERY

Then we don't need to consult the oracle, because you always know everything!

Elizabeth remains silent.

Desery stares at her with slight resentment.

ELIZABETH

It's not that difficult to understand since promotions are approved by the GM's references, so I have no doubt you will get what you want.

Desery changes expression, and as a smile blossoms on her face, she throws the three coins on the table

DESERY

I'm glad you see it in that way, because I'm rather confused.

ELIZABETH

That's normal. At the moment you are frustrated, tired, and full of doubt. You can't be objective.

DESERY

(whispers)

This possible promotion is the only thing giving me the strength to keep going at the moment,

ELIZABETH

(smiling, as she writes the hexagram)
I know. Everything comes at the right time! In fact, the hexagram also confirms what I said.

DESERY

Now the oracle has promised me promotion, I'm happy.

Desery stands up and kisses Elizabeth on the cheek.

DESERY

Thank you. Good night, mummy!

DISSOLVE.

218. EXT. SHIP.POOL DECK. JAKARTA. MORNING. 27th SEPTEMBER.

Through the smoke, the rays of the pale sun illuminate Jakarta.

Edward is working on an electrical panel near pool.

Elizabeth is lying fully dressed on a deck chair by the pool and reading a book. She looks away from the book and sees Edward. She gets up and joins him.

EDWARD

Did Mr. Bert give you the money that Henry owed you?

ELIZABETH

No, I didn't even seen him leave in Singapore.

EDWARD

(recommends)

Be careful. Henry also owed ninety-two dollars to the galley and I know that debt was paid. I wonder why you have not been paid too.

ELIZABETH

(annoyed)

I'll have to talk with Bert again.

Edward continues his work, and bends his head over a panel full of coloured wires.

ELIZABETH

Do you want to analyze a dream that seems very interesting?

EDWARD

Well, I'm listening.

ELIZABETH

In the dream, a group of people and I hold out our empty glasses to someone who is pouring champagne. He forgets to fill my glass, and a moment after this scene, I see Henry's big hand appearing from behind a curtain with a bottle and he pours champagne into my glass.

Edward stands up, smiling.

EDWARD

The message very clear. For some reason, someone has not paid your account because of a delay by the accounting office. At the moment, Henry has paid all his debts. The only one that remains to be settled is yours, which seems as if it will be paid for, but last of all, as in the dream.

ELIZABETH

(happy)

I also interpreted the dream in this way. But I wanted to hear your opinion too. Thank you Edward. Have a good day!

Edward leans over the panel of wires

EDWARD

Happy reading!

He closes panel, while Elizabeth returns to her reading.

DISSOLVE.

219. EXT. SINGAPORE. 2 WEEKS LATER. SHIPPING OFFICES. DAY.

CUT TO:

220. INT. SHIPPING OFFICES. INFORMATION/ACCOUNTS OFFICE. DAY.

The board clock shows 10.30 October 12, 1991. Elizabeth sees Mr. Bert. He has a briefcase in hand.

BERT

Ah! Madam Elizabeth, I was just looking for you. I want to apologize because our accounting office confused your account with that of the galley steward because it was more or less the same amount.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

I thought there was a problem.

Mr. Bert puts briefcase on the counter of the information office, opens it, and pulls out an envelope.

BERT

Here's your money! Finally, we have clarified the misunderstandings and I hope you will excuse us.

ELIZABETH
Don't worry, everything is solved! Thank
you so much for your help!

Bert shakes Elizabeth's hand.

BERT
It's been a pleasure!

Elizabeth smiles as while Bert goes away smiling.

CUT TO:

221. EXT. SINGAPORE HARBOUR. CUSTOMS BARRIER. AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth is returning from Singapore, when she sees the huge figure of JAN at the entrance of the harbour by the customs passage. He is holding the hand of a small Chinese child.

ELIZABETH(OS)
Look at Jan, holding a child by the
hand!

Elizabeth joins them and sees that she is not a child, but a young woman in her twenties. Slim, small, with a little round face, dark eyes, and short black hair.

ELIZABETH(OS)
(chuckling to herself)
They look like Laurel and Hardy.

Elizabeth sees them move away, with Jan hugging the woman.

Elizabeth disappears inbetween the containers.

DISSOLVE.

222. EXT. SHIP AT SEA. DAY.

CUT TO:

223. INT. SHIP. DUTY FREE SHOP/LOBBY AREA. MORNING.

Elizabeth is doing her accounts. Jan appears and jumps on the chair, making a pen fall from the counter. Jan stares at Elizabeth with his intelligent eyes.

JAN
Do you like my woman? (ELIZABETH LOOKS
AT HIM) I saw you near the Customs.

ELIZABETH

(laughing)

Oh. Yes she's cute! Short, but cute.
(THEY BOTH LAUGH) Where did you meet
this little bird?

Jan takes Elizabeth's arm and walks up and down the store
with her .

JAN

She might be a little bird, but she is
smart and a good dancer!

ELIZABETH Oh I see. Sorry. But isn't she
a bit too short to be a dancer?

Jan stops abruptly. He stares at Elizabeth with a sardonic
gaze.

JAN

She might be short but I assure you that
in bed she dances very well!

ELIZABETH

(bursts out laughing)

Oh! I don't doubt that!

JAN

You can't imagine how hot that little
bird is. The night her show ended, I was
at the bar for a drink. Suddenly she was
in front of me and, without hesitation,
expressed her attraction for me.

ELIZABETH

Really?

JAN

(while continuing to walk)

She told me I was the man she'd always
dreamed of, and looked at me with her
black eyes full of passion. Next there I
was, spending a night of fire and
passion between her arms.

ELIZABETH

(laughing)

I suppose you reduced her to a meatball,
poor little thing!

They burst out laughing. Jan looks at Elizabeth.

JAN

Don't make fun of me, Elizabeth. Jade is my woman. On our arrival in Singapore I spent all day with her in our apartment.

ELIZABETH

(serious)

I'm sorry I didn't know it was so serious.

JAN

(laughs)

I know what you need if you ever want to let off steam as well! There is always something for you too!

ELIZABETH

Ah! No, thank you! I don't want you to crush me too!

Jan pretends to be angry, turns away to leave the shop.

JAN

(shouting back as he leaves)

I'll make you pay for this!

Elizabeth sees Jan appearing outside of the window with his big smiling cheerful face, waving with one hand.

DISSOLVE.

224. EXT. SHIP AT SEA. PROM DECK. OCTOBER 19th. MORNING.

Sound of DISTANT SIREN in the distance as Richard walks along promenade deck of the ship, sweating, in the grey smoke. Now and then flashes of light appear and then fade in the distance. He sees shape of a man through the smoke and recognises the figure of Ante in overalls, full of black greasy stains. Ante's face has a tired expression; his eyes express despair and pain.

RICHARD

Ante, you seem so fed up. What's wrong?

Ante pants with the heat. The sweat drops from his forehead.

ANTE

I'm desperate! After Slovenia, war broke out in Croatia too. Yesterday, on the phone, my wife told me war will break out in Bosnia within a few days in. My family is over there and I'm here, with no way of being able to help them.

Ante takes a breath.

RICHARD

I wonder when this damn war will end!

ANTE

I don't know what to do. I want to go back, but Jan keeps discouraging me. He says I can't abandon him in this old wreck of a ship. He says we'll be forced to stop the ship soon because the Charterer won't pay for the necessary parts to keep the ship going.

Ante puts his hand on Richard's shoulder, while some beads of sweat stream down his face. Richard looks into Ante's grey eyes that blend with the grey smoke wafting around.

RICHARD

(serious)

If I were you I would take care of my family; the most important thing for us all are our loved ones.

Ante, with a crack in his voice.

ANTE

Thanks! Sometimes I get carried away and in the confusion it seems so hard to make a decision.

RICHARD

When you are burdened with so many responsibilities, its easy to get confused.

Ante goes away. Richard starts walking along the promenade, thoughtful. He hears the flapping of a seagull that suddenly appears in the smoke, like a ghost. The bird follows him for a while, staring with its bleary tired eyes. Then with a slow flapping of wings, the gull disappears among the clouds of grey smoke.

DISSOLVE.

225. EXT. SINGAPORE RIVER. NEXT DAY (OCTOBER 20th).

Elizabeth is walking along the Singapore River, in between a chain of restaurants on the riverside, under the scorching rays of the sun. The Philipinos, Noel, Michael and Gabriel are sitting in a small restaurant; they see Elizabeth and call her.

THREE SAILORS

(in unison)

Mummy, the Children of the Orient Sun
need you!

Elizabeth turns and sees the three Philippine sailors, who
continue to call her in chorus, from one of the restaurants
on the riverside

SAILOR NOEL

Mom, come and eat with us!

Elizabeth smiles and takes a seat among them in the narrow
open-air restaurant on the river. Her attention is captured
by a strange boat that is gliding over the green waters.

SAILOR MIKAEL

Elizabeth, have you heard the news?

ELIZABETH

(curious)

What news? There's always something new!

SAILOR GABRIEL

It seems the Charterer is holding the
ship here in Singapore tonight because
the manager of the casino has not
honoured his contract. For the last few
months he hasn't paid Mr. Kor the money
he owes him.

The sailor pauses and takes a sip of his beer

SAILOR NOEL

That is why Mr. Kor hasn't paid for the
spare parts needed for the ship.

ELIZABETH

(happy)

It would be wonderful to spend a night
in Singapore!

SAILOR MIKAEL

The crew hope so also!

Noel pours a glass of beer for Elizabeth.

SAILOR GABRIEL

(muttering)

You can bet they will solve the problem.
It costs too much to keep the ship here.

ELIZABETH
(serious)

You're right.

CUT TO:

226. EXT. SINGAPORE HARBOUR. SHIP DEPARTS. DAY (6am.)

The clock shows 6 am. of October 20, 1991.

The BELL of the speaker sounds.

SHAY
(announcement)

Visitors are asked to please go ashore,
the ship is about to leave. Thank you
for your kind attention.

Visitors leave. Ship readies for departure.

CUT TO:

227. EXT. SHIP DEPARTING SINGAPORE HARBOUR. AFTERNOON.(4pm).

The ship is full of passengers who are chatting with each other. Elizabeth, in uniform, is on the promenade deck and sees two tugs passing by to tow the ship out of the harbour. The sun at that hour is still high in the sky.

2 hours later, to everyone's surprise, the ship is abandoned by the pilots near the port. From the bridges between the ship's crew and passengers one can hear a chorus of shouts. The clock shows 18.30 pm.

SPEAKER bursts into life again.

LUIS
(announcement)

We inform passengers that because of a
small technical problem the ship will
remain at anchor until the problem is
resolved. Thanks for your attention.

More shouts and screams of disappointment explode around.

Rayu, in her beautiful blue uniform, goes over to Elizabeth.

RAYU
It is the just to reassure passengers.

ELIZABETH

Yes, I know! I imagine the cause is due to the problem of money that the casino owes the charterer.

Rayu smiles while she plays with her long braid.

RAYU

A discussion is already going on in the Captain's cabin between Madam Kor and the casino manager about the money. She has threatened to hold the ship until a payment agreement is reached.

ELIZABETH

On this ship there's never any time to be bored. Something is always happening. There is never a dull moment

RAYU

You are right.

Rayu leaves, smiling.

CUT TO:

228. EXT. SHIP ANCHORED. DECKS. PAN SINGAPORE AT SUNSET.

The hours pass slowly. The passengers and the crew are out enjoying the beautiful sunset with the sun going slowly down between the skyscrapers, sending bright red, orange, yellow and pink flashes that colour the Singapore sky. Finally the darkness envelops all and the lights on the island design myriads of coloured lamps shining like stars in the night.

At eight o'clock the speaker's BELL.

HOSTESS DESERY

Passengers are informed that dinner is served, thank you.

Passengers leave the decks and go to eat at the restaurant.

FADE TO:

229. EXT. SHIP ANCHORED. DECKS AFTER DINNER. NIGHT.

At about half past ten that night the passengers and crew, awaiting the departure on the bridges, finally see the tugboats come close to the ship then they burst into shouts and cries of joy.

Meanwhile, a smaller boat arrives at the ship's tailgate, Madame Kor jumps down into the boat, which then moves away quickly.

Finally the ship is being towed by pilots out into the open sea, where it glides quickly towards the island of Java.

The board's clock shows 22.30pm. Elizabeth is left alone leaning against the railing, staring at the lights of Singapore fading away. While the wind ruffles her hair, she remembers a dream that has haunted her for a week.

Edward arrives by her side at the rail.

EDWARD

What's troubling you Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH

A dream has been haunting me for a week.

EDWARD

Would you like to tell me, I'm curious!

ELIZABETH

(serious)

A week ago I dreamed I was home, walking in the front row of a funeral. My cousin, in a long white wedding dress, joined me. I realized it was the funeral of Carmen's father, my Uncle Mino.

Edward remains in silence, thinking.

EDWARD

Hopefully this was just a dream!

ELIZABETH

(worried)

Yes. I think so. When it suits us it is always better if it is just a dream, but unfortunately that's not how it works!

EDWARD

(trying to reassure her)

You are haunted by this dream because you are afraid its a premonition of things to come..and you are worried about your uncle. But not all dreams come true.

The two look at each other.

DISSOLVE.

230. EXT. PORT OF JAKARTA. DAY.

Emergency Exercise Drill is underway. Crew members running around with their life-jackets.

SIREN SOUNDS, announcing the end of the exercise drill.

CAPTAIN

This is the captain speaking, the exercise is over.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON SHIP/DOCKS. DAY.

Elizabeth, Desery, Shirley, Lydia and Rayu get off the ship angry.

RAYU

The captain is unbelievable with all those emergency drills.

GIRLS

(in chorus)

You're right!

CUT TO:

ANGLE:

The girls get on a bus to go to the Jakarta department stores to do some shopping. As usual, the traffic is slow. As the bus goes forward among cyclists and pedestrians that crowd the streets around the shopping centre, Elizabeth looks out the window:

Vendors do everything to attract the attention of passers-by, flies swarm around the stalls full of strange coloured foods that send particulars odours, that are nauseating.

FADE TO:

231. EXT. STREETS OF JAKARTA. SHOPPING CENTRE. DAY.

The driver stops the bus by the curb and lets the five women get out into a terrible odour that takes their breath away, under a hot sun obscured by the smoke.

Elizabeth stops for a moment to observe that human tide of poor tired people moving in every direction. Then she realizes she has lost her friends and, while is looking around worried, she hears Rayu's voice.

RAYU
(screams)
Elizabeth, we are here!

Elizabeth hurries to reach her friends making way through the crowds of people. They enter a large building.

CUT TO:

232. INT. SHOPPING CENTRE/MALL. DAY.

Inside the ground floor and upper floors are full of shops. On the ground floor, in the large central area, there are sellers of silk fabrics in bright colours, with shiny and imaginative designs that are fascinating.

The girls stop to shop. As they walk in single file through the crowd, Shirley notices that Elizabeth's bag is open.

SHIRLEY
(shouts)
Elizabeth, your bag is open!

While the hostesses stand round her, Elizabeth puts her hand in her bag and suddenly realizes her purse has disappeared.

ELIZABETH
(worried)
I'm sure I put my purse in my bag and closed the zip.

RAYU
(puzzled)
I'm sorry, I should have told you. This area is really bad for thefts from foreigners. Probably someone in the crowds opened the zip and stole your purse.

DESERY
Did you have a lot of money?

ELIZABETH
(nervous)
No! Not much, maybe fifty dollars. But I'll have to call the bank to cancel my credit cards. There was also a sentimental dollar coin in my purse that my dad left me before he died.

The girls remain silent.

RAYU

Ok, well let's take you to the phone so
you can cancel your credit cards.

The girls hurry away.

DISSOLVE.

233. INT. SHIP AT SEA. DUTY FREE SHOP. NIGHT.

DISTANT SIREN sounding continually in the smoky night. A few
clouds of smoke are floating in the lobby area.

Edward sees the scene and rushes into the shop, concerned,
and looks around worriedly. The shop is full of steam and
the windows are all steamed up. He relaxes when he sees
Elizabeth doing the accounting, covered in sweat. Elizabeth
looks up and sees Edward in uniform, all sweaty and worried.

EDWARD

The smoke situation seems to have
deteriorated more and more. It's the
first time I've seen clouds of smoke
floating inside in the hall.

Edward goes to sit on the guest chair, adjusting the stripes
on his shoulders. Elizabeth wipes the sweat from her
forehead with a handkerchief.

ELIZABETH

Tell me about it! It's hell in here. My
uniform is sticking to my body.

EDWARD

Let's change the subject. I just heard
about the unpleasant experience you had
today in Jakarta.

ELIZABETH

Something new keeps happening all the
time. Now I have to apply for a loan to
the company. However, if I had not been
with the other girls, it would have been
worse as I was left without any money.

EDWARD

(after a pause)

Didn't you dream something about a
theft?

ELIZABETH

Yes, now that I think about it, I did. After the dream I remember being careful for a few days so as not to have my bag stolen, but then I forgot all about it. There, you see, if I had remembered the dream, I probably wouldn't have been robbed. Sometimes the dreams I have are warnings..meant to help prevent certain things, if we take notice of them.

EDWARD

(thoughtfully)

Yep. You told me your friend the American scientist David Ryback is of the same opinion as you. If that's the case, and bearing in mind the last dream you had, what can I do to help prevent flooding where the electrical wires are?

Elizabeth sighs panting with the heat.

ELIZABETH

You should inspect all premises where there are electrical wires.

EDWARD

(growls)

Yes, it would be a good idea..if I had time. But unfortunately I don't even have time to breathe.

ELIZABETH

Then MAKE time! ..Or wait until it happens.

Both smile. Edward stands up, the sweat drops from his face.

EDWARD

I will pray to God that it doesn't happen.. And I think at this point the best thing to do is go and enjoy the strip-tease.

ELIZABETH

Is that the only way for you to forget your problems quickly.

EDWARD

No. But it helps take my mind off them!

They both laugh.

Edward goes out laughing and a CHINESE WOMAN enters shop.

The Chinese woman is about fifty, short, round body, black short curly hair, dark eyes, broad wrinkled face.

She introduces herself and holds out a newspaper article to Elizabeth, as the woman wipes the sweat from her forehead with a handkerchief.

CHINESE WOMAN (MADAM LIW KIER)

I am Madame Liw Kier, a business woman.
Please look at this article. (POINTS TO
ARTICLE) That's me there, concluding an
important deal in Singapore.

ELIZABETH

(looking at the article)

I see!

Elizabeth returns the article. The Chinese woman takes it tightening her smiling black eyes

LIW KIER

I would be interested in buying the
franchise for this duty-free shop, if
your company would like to sell.

ELIZABETH

(surprise)

At the moment my company is undecided.
But please, leave me your phone number,
and if they decide to sell, I'll contact
you.

Liw Kier smiles happily. She dries the sweat from her forehead again, takes a business card from the bag and gives it to Elizabeth.

LIW KIER

Good. Then you'll see. We will meet
often, so please keep me informed on
the situation. Good night.

Elizabeth shakes hands with Liw Kier.

ELIZABETH

With pleasure, Madame Liw Kier! Good
night to you too!

DISSOLVE.

234. INT. SHIP AT SEA. DUTY FREE SHOP/LOBBY AREA. NIGHT.

The board clock shows 22.00 on the 24 October 1991. Elizabeth is closing the store, when Jan, pale and nervous arrives.

JAN
(depressed voice)
Hi Elizabeth. Where are you going?

Elizabeth realizes that Jan needs to talk.

ELIZABETH
(serious)
I've just finished work. Do you want to come for a walk on the deck with me, and you can tell me what's worrying you.

Jan smiles. She knows him. They go up elevator in silence.

CUT TO:

235. EXT. SHIP AT SEA. DECK. NIGHT.

Jan and Elizabeth appear on deck from door. Clouds of smoke travel over the sea, but inbetween reveal clear areas of sky with stars.

ELIZABETH
How was your day in Singapore with your little Jade?

Jan sighs several times with a desperate expression on his face. Elizabeth takes his arm and they walk up and down.

JAN
Today I received terrible news!

He stops suddenly. He angrily rubs his shoulder and then continues to walk on, worriedly.

JAN
(a trembling voice)
My wife told me on the phone that yesterday Dubrovnik was bombed.

ELIZABETH
(worried)
Oh my God! Are your family ok?

Jan angrily rubs his moustache.

JAN

(upset)

Yes, thankfully. But now I don't know what to do. Among other things, there is Ante, who is also worried. He wants to leave me alone on this ship and go back to Dubrovnik to help his family to flee.

(JAN PAUSES)

I too have family, but I signed a contract!

ELIZABETH

Okay Jan, but your family must always come before anything else!

JAN

(mutters)

You're right! (PAUSES) Did you know that Ante and I thought of going to Italy to rent a boat with weapons to attack Dubrovnik from the sea and

ELIZABETH

(screaming)

For goodness sake, Jan! You're not Rambo on the rampage! And anyway, with that belly of yours you wouldn't exactly have the agility of a grasshopper.

Jan stares at her with an icy look, then they burst out laughing together, imagining the scene.

JAN

(serious)

I suppose so... but also, unfortunately, it's nothing to laugh about!

ELIZABETH

You're right, sorry. But I was just imagining the scene and I couldn't help laughing. I'm trying to help you relax.

JAN

I know. (SMILES). It's because I know you so well I do understand; otherwise I wouldn't be here as your friend.

Jan lets go of Elizabeth's arm and walks towards entrance.

JAN

Now that I feel a bit better, I'm going to the show at the Olympia Lounge. A bit of strip-tease will get rid of my sadness.

ELIZABETH

(laughing)

If nothing else. Edward has also gone there. It seems this strip-tease really helps men with their problems.

Jan turns and winks at her, then disappears.

CUT TO:

236. INT. SHIP AT SEA. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. MORNING.

The bedside clock shows 8.45am. on the 25 October 1991.

Elizabeth is in the cabin. After brushing her hair, and the jacket of her uniform she is wearing, she goes out into the corridor to go to work.

CUT TO:

237. INT. SHIP. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ELIZABETH'S CABIN. MORNING.

Elizabeth exits her cabin and as she walks she hears Edward's voice calling her persistently. She looks up and sees him at the end of the long corridor in his white overalls, coming towards her. When he reaches her, she sees his overall is completely covered with black stains.

EDWARD

(shouting excitedly)

Elizabeth, you won't believe what just happened this morning!

ELIZABETH

(worried)

For heaven's sake, what's new this time?

EDWARD

This morning, at six, I was sleeping in the cabin when my assistant woke me up suddenly. He was screaming that one of the electricity rooms full of wires had been flooded with black liquid, water and ...

Elizabeth interrupts him. She is euphoric.

ELIZABETH

My God! The dream I told you about has come true!

Edward stares at her with a smile on his face.

EDWARD

We've been working since six o'clock this morning and still need several more hours to fix it; but yes, your dreams are really amazing..and they do come true!

ELIZABETH

(joking)

I told you to wait till my dream came true, so you wouldn't waste time.

EDWARD

(mutters with a smile)

I'm not waiting any more!

EDWARD

(he turns his back mumbling)

Incredible!

ELIZABETH

(while Edward turns)

Not so incredible. "dreams, like sibyls, speak of the future .. " - a quote from your great English poet, Byron!

EDWARD

(walking hurriedly down the corridor)

Yes.. And he was right.

DISSOLVE.

238. INT.SHIP. DUTY FREE SHOP. MORNING (October 25).

SIREN sound from time to time. Shop is full of steam: the windows are steamed up, clouds of smoke floating in lobby.

Elizabeth is working on the computer all sweaty, while looking at the monitor, the images of a dream come into her mind.

DREAM SEQUENCE STARTS:

239. EXT. STREETS OF SINGAPORE. DAY.

The Chinese lady, Liw Kier, who is sitting next to Elizabeth, is driving a car through the streets of Singapore, followed by two other cars, one driven by Dr. Win and the other by a strong CHINESE MAN, with a round face, wearing a pair of glasses, in his fifties (the Chinese man turns out to be the partner of Madame Liw Kier).

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

BACK TO SC. 238. (CONTINUES)

Elizabeth reflects on the probable message of the dream.

Dr. WIN enters.

ELIZABETH

Well, Doctor, have your superiors given you permission to hire your wife to replace me in case I leave?

The doctor pants because of the heat.

Dr.WIN

Not yet. I will let you know when.

ELIZABETH

Well if my company gets the contracts of the two new ships that will have to be loaded here in Singapore, I will have to go over to them to organize the work in the new duty-free shops.

Dr.WIN

But will you have the time to teach the job to my wife?

ELIZABETH

Don't worry, there will be plenty of time. However I am afraid that my company will not get what they want.

Dr.WIN

(serious)

Why not?

ELIZABETH

(sighs)

Before you came into the store today I remembered a dream I had last night. You were following the car of Madame Liw Kier, with me on board. A third car followed you, carrying a big Chinese man with glasses. Perhaps this dream means my company will transfer the management of the shop to Madame Liw Kier and your wife will work for the new operators.

Dr.WIN

(as he is leaving)

We'll see if the dream comes true.

ELIZABETH

The dream indicates that things are going in that direction, but it is not the last word because permission must come from the leaders of the Swedish company and from the charterer.

Dr.WIN

Elizabeth, I'm curious. You didn't by dream about when this smoke will end?

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

A little bird told me it will end with the start of the rainy season!

The two burst out laughing, as Dr. Win leaves.

DISSOLVE.

240. EXT. JAKARTA. SUNNY DAY(October 30). MORNING.

Emergency drill is going on. Elizabeth is under launch number three, with the group belonging to that station, including, Shay, Noel, Nikola, Gabriel and Robert; all wearing life-jackets with their badges in sight.

Jan then passes to inspect them and looks at the group severely.

JAN

(pretending to be angry screams)

When I pass you must snap to attention and show your badge. Do you understand?

All obey, chuckling. Jan goes close to Elizabeth's ear. His uniform is glinting in the sun.

JAN

(whispers)

I will be speaking to the captain later because tonight we want you at the Mystery Club!

Elizabeth doesn't reply. She is looking at the gold buttons of Jan's uniform which are dazzling in the light of the sun, and she has a momentary flashback of a dream she had at the age of eleven years old.

CUT TO:

DREAM SEQUENCE STARTS:

241. INT. PARENTS' HOME. DAY.

(Flashback). Elizabeth sees herself at the age of about eleven years old. She wears glasses with thick lenses and long braids of black hair. Her father and mother are playing cards at the kitchen table whilst she is under the table collecting golden buttons with anchors, the same as those of Jan's jacket.

DREAM SEQUENCE ENDS WITH JAN'S VOICE.

CUT TO:

ANGLE. BACK TO SC. 240. (CONTINUES)

JAN

Hey, doll, did you understand what I said? ..You look like if you're head was in the clouds.

ELIZABETH

Sorry Jan, but your gold buttons have brought to light a premonition that I had a long time ago when I was a child.

JAN

Well stop daydreaming and answer.

The dazzle of gold buttons disturbs Elizabeth's eyes.

ELIZABETH

No, thanks, I don't want to come to the Mystery Club! And would you please turn your shoulders to the sun before I go blind with those damn gold trinkets you are wearing?

The group burst into laughter as Jan goes away.

JAN

(touching his hat)

You are insulting a public official! It will cost you dearly..You do realise you may end up in the ship prison with only the rats for company?

Jan turns his back to Elizabeth and leaves. He is smiling under his moustache as he disappears among the sailors.

CUT TO:

242. INT. SHIP. JAKARTA PORT. AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth goes down the stairs to lobby when she sees Desery coming up to her.

Elizabeth stops on the last step of the ladder, leaning against the railing.

DESERY

Elizabeth, Hong wants to talks to you,
can you wait, please?

ELIZABETH

Of course!

GM Hong comes up to her, and looks at her worriedly.

HONG

(embarrassed)

I hope you won't be angry with me for
what I am about to tell you, but to
avoid problems it is better if you know.

Elizabeth looks at Hong with curiosity.

ELIZABETH

What's so serious?

HONG

(sighs)

Today I had lunch at the Captain's table
when Jan asked the Captain if you could
go with them to the Mystery Club. The
Captain responded sharply that it was
none of Jan's business.

ELIZABETH

(whispers)

I understand!

HONG

(suggests)

Perhaps it would be better for you to
stay on board; so you will avoid having
trouble with the captain.

Elizabeth and Desery look at Hong in silence.

HONG

I hope you won't take it out on me..I am
only the messenger!

ELIZABETH
(getting down from the step)
Thanks a million Hong! However I had
already decided not to go.

DESERY
Oh! I'm so sorry Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH
(smiling)
Don't worry. I'm fine. Now go..And
please, have fun!

DISSOLVE.

243. INT. SHIP. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE OFFICER DINING ROOM. NIGHT.

The Captain and Shay pass by the officers' dining room and through the window overlooking the corridor they see Elizabeth inside having dinner on her own.

The Captain looks seriously at Elizabeth, who meets his eyes.

CAPTAIN
(annoyed)
I hope they invited Elizabeth to the
Mystery Club, otherwise the person who
should have will face the consequences.

SHAY
I believe they did invite her!

The two continue walking in the corridors

CUT TO:

244. INT. SHIP. OFFICERS DINING ROOM. DINNER. EVENING.

Elizabeth is drinking a cup of coffee when Shay comes in and goes to the buffet.

SHAY
(approaching the buffet)
Elizabeth, have you been invited to the
Mystery Club?

ELIZABETH
The GM suggested I don't go, to avoid
problems with the Captain. But I also
accidentally heard what you were both
saying when you passed by here a while
ago.

Shay goes to sit in front of Elizabeth with tropical fruit on a plate and begins to cut a slice. He looks at Elizabeth in surprise.

SHAY

Strange, I can't understand what could have happened.

ELIZABETH

Definitely a misunderstanding. Anyway I prefer not to be hated because I believe hate destroys those who feel it, and also has a negative telepathic influence on the psyche of the hated person.

Shay smiles, while cutting piece of fruit into small pieces.

SHAY

(with her eyes fixed on the plate)
That's true! Did you know that we were offered a job on board the ship Royal Pacific? We've already informed the company and are waiting for replacements

ELIZABETH

You do not know how sorry I am! However, I guess it's the best thing for you!

SHAY

Yes, we are sorry to leave, but also we have had to put up with a lot, so we are happy to move on. On the Royal Pacific we'll have a larger cabin, hopefully be dealt with a bit more respectfully. Plus, above all, we'll eat better.

ELIZABETH

The Royal Pacific will be sailing the same route as this ship so we should all be able to meet up fairly often.

SHAY

(eating papaya, explains)
Mr. Kor may be investing a lot of money as well because his competitors also chartered the Shangrila World as well as the Royal Pacific.

ELIZABETH

(stunned)

How can he? Until now we haven't carried many passengers, and I didn't bring in a lot of cash in the duty-free shop?

SHAY

The real business is done in the casino.
The amount of passengers doesn't affect
the charterer; only the quality of the
players.

ELIZABETH

I know. However, I have the strange
feeling that the other Charterers have
no idea of our true business, and they
will fail.

While Shay looks at Elizabeth in silence, she stands up.

SHAY

Let's hope not, otherwise my husband and
I will also fail.

As Elizabeth reaches the door

ELIZABETH

I guess time will tell who is right.
Good evening, Shay!

SHAY

Same to you!

DISSOLVE.

245. EXT. SHIP AT SEA. AT STERN. MORNING. (8.00am).

On the clock on board it's 8.00 am. of November 1, 1991.
Elizabeth is leaning against the railing at stern staring
through the smoke, when she hears Edward's voice.

EDWARD

(joking)

You don't want to jump, do you?

ELIZABETH

(turns, smiling)

It's the furthest thought from my mind!

The two burst into laughter.

EDWARD

What were you thinking?

ELIZABETH

About a dream I had back on the 29th of
September. You were in it too.

EDWARD

Oh, my God! Another dream about me? Tell me about it!

ELIZABETH

(snapping to attention)

Right, boss!

Edward burst into laughter.

ELIZABETH

In the dream two Oriental girls come on board to take over delivery of the goods of the shop. You arrive. I introduce the two ladies to you. They smile at you because you are wearing a transparent plastic overall with an insect spray in your hand, as if you were disinfecting the ship and killing those insects called "cacaracci" - cockroaches, I think. In the dream I was also told you were given that job because the ship was stopped at anchor somewhere for long-time. Finally I get ready to leave the ship with the two women, who ask me: - "Aren't you bringing your luggage?" - I answer: - "First of all I want to know where the boat for Singapore is, then I'll get the suitcases." Strange dream, hm?

Edward reflects in silence.

ELIZABETH

I also told this dream to Richard, Shirley, and Maung.

EDWARD

Well, if it comes true you'll certainly have a few witnesses. As for the dream itself, it probably indicates that the ship will stop in port.

ELIZABETH

Yes, it seems so. This dream, and that of the funeral of my uncle, often come into my mind.

EDWARD

We'll see if they come true.

ELIZABETH
 (thoughtful)
 I'll call my Mom tomorrow in Singapore,
 because I need to know if my uncle
 really is ill. Maybe he will die?

EDWARD
 Elizabeth, you must call your mother. At
 least then she can reassure you.

ELIZABETH
 (serious)

I hope so!

CUT TO:

246. INT. ELIZABETH'S MOTHER'S HOME. November 2. MORNING.

Rosina, Elizabeth's mother, is in kitchen washing dishes.
 Phone rings. She wipes her hands and goes to answer it.

ROSINA
 Hello, who's speaking?

CUT TO:

247. INT. CENTRAL POST OFFICE. SINGAPORE. DAY.

From inside the phone box in the post office.

ELIZABETH
 (sighs)
 Hello Mama! It's Elizabeth!

MOTHER
 Elisabetta, my baby, how are you?

ELIZABETH
 I'm fine, Mom. I just want to know how
 uncle Mino is?

At the other end there is a pause.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON MOTHER.

MOTHER
 (annoyed)
 I already answered that question last
 time you called me. You know he's fine!

CUT:

ANGLE ON ELIZABETH:

ELIZABETH
(angrily)
Mama, will you stop telling me lies! I
dreamed of me attending his funeral!

MOTHER
(after a short silence)
Elisabetta you know it's just a dream!

ELIZABETH
(shouts)
Mama you always say that when I have my
dreams! Now tell me the truth, otherwise
I'll phone my aunt!

We hear a few sighs and a certain indecision.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON MOTHER.

MOTHER
I didn't want to tell you, but your
uncle IS ill. His lungs are full of
fluid. He's in hospital. We don't know
how much longer he will live.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON ELIZABETH.

A knot tightens Elizabeth's throat.

MOTHER
(anguished)
There. Now I've told you.. If I hadn't
you wouldn't have to suffer as well as
me.

Elizabeth tries to hide her feelings.

ELIZABETH
Don't worry about me. I already knew. I
just needed to know the truth from you.
You know I believe in life after death
and if he dies that any pain here on
earth will pass. But I don't think he
will die. Please, hug uncle Mino for me
and tell him I love him. When he returns
home from hospital, I will phone him.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON MOTHER.

MOTHER

Okay. He will be very happy when I tell him. Please take care.

CUT BACK TO:

ANGLE ON ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH

You too Mama, I'll phone again soon!

Elizabeth moved, hangs up phone. Tears in her eyes.

DISSOLVE.

248. EXT. SINGAPORE CITY/RIVER/EMPRESS PLACE GALLERY. DAY.

Elizabeth, sad after leaving telephone office, sits on a bench under a large tree that drops its weeping leaves over the waters of the Singapore River, next to the art gallery The Empress Place. Elizabeth thoughtful, head down, under the shade of the magnificent tree thinks of her uncle.

ELIZABETH(V/O)

Poor uncle, you have been like a second father to me. However I know that one day man will realize our body is only a temple which simply serves to keep it prisoner on this earth. When we die, the soul leaves the material world and emancipated through our experiences on earth, returns to the original heavenly dimension.

Tears run down her cheeks. She looks beyond the river and sees the imposing skyscrapers glow in the golden light of the sun. She stands up and walks along the river, where the dark waters flow under the spectacular New Bridge.

ELIZABETH(V/O)

After all, death is only a passage from one dimension to another; like the water of this river that runs to the sea.

CUT TO:

DREAM SEQUENCE AS ELIZABETH GAZES AT WATERS BELOW:

START DREAM SEQUENCE:

249. EXT. DARK DOCKSIDE. NIGHT.

DREAM effect: The Orient Sun is in berth for dismantling. The dockside is dark. Grey smoke is coming out in large amounts from the two central doors on either side of the ship, near the cabins of the second floor. The smoke rises high into the dark sky.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

CUT TO:

250. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

Elizabeth wakes suddenly. She sits up on the bed, looks at the bedside clock that shows it's 4 am. of November 8, 1991. Elizabeth is shocked by the images of a possible fatal fire.

ELIZABETH(V/O)

Oh my God! There is going to be a fire
on board!

Thirsty, Elizabeth stands up and goes to the table to pour a glass of water and drinks eagerly. She lies down on the bed to reflect on the message of the dream, tossing and turning several times nervously, unable to sleep.

DISSOLVE.

251. EXT. SHIP. DECK AT DAWN. SUNRISE.

Elizabeth appears on deck and blinks in the sunrise. The bursts of blue purple and pink mother of pearl colours merging in the sky and on the sea, causing a silver-gold sheen that stretches out to the horizon. Wandering clouds of grey smoke move away towards the island of Java in the distance.

Elizabeth hears footsteps behind her. She turns around and sees the captain coming towards her with a hint of a smile on his lips.

CAPTAIN

A magnificent sunrise isn't it?

ELIZABETH

Oh, Captain, Good morning!

The captain's face is serious but relaxed and his silvery white hair reflects the colours of dawn, while he stares at her for a moment in silence.

CAPTAIN

I see that you get up early in the morning.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Not always. But these oriental sunrises are so beautiful that I thought I should take advantage of them.

CAPTAIN

(staring)

Elizabeth, I hope to find you when I come back after my change of shift.

ELIZABETH

(smiles)

Captain you are lucky. I have no idea when I will be back in Europe, so I just may be here when you come back.

CAPTAIN

(going away seriously)

I have to go. The new captain will be here soon.

Elizabeth, serious, looks at the captain going away.

DISSOLVE.

252. EXT. SINGAPORE HARBOUR. PROMENADE DECK. AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth is on the promenade deck and watching the hostesses at the quayside welcoming the passengers as they arrive and climb the boarding ladder.

She looks up and sees Jan walking wearily, coming out from behind the containers in the port.

Jan goes up the ladder it vibrates under the weight of his body. On top of the ladder Jan waves to her. She waves back.

Elizabeth hears footsteps behind her. She turns and sees Dr. Win coming towards her smiling, and with his tuft of hair dancing in the wind.

Dr.WIN

I finally made it! My bosses have allowed me to hire my wife!

ELIZABETH

(happy)

Oh! Finally some good news!

The doctor runs his fingers through his tuft of hair.

Dr.WIN

They did make me suffer a little, as usually two members of the same family can't work on the same ship. But, as an exception, in the end they agreed...

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

With a man of your principles they could not do anything else!

Dr.WIN

(timidly)

You're flattering me!

They both smile as they walk off along the deck talking.

DISSOLVE.

253. EXT. SHIP SAILING EN ROUTE TO JAKARTA. DAY.

CUT TO:

254. INT. SHIP. DUTY FREE SHOP. DAY.

Elizabeth is in shop.

Captain Michael enters the shop with a distinguished gentleman. The GENTLEMAN (PHILIP, the New Captain) is tall, thin, round face, dark hair, clear eyes full of goodness, about forty-five years old.

CAPTAIN MICHAEL

Elizabeth, this is Captain Philip..
your new captain!

Captain Philip shakes hands with Elizabeth.

CAPTAIN PHILIP

(smiling)

I'm doing a tour to get to know the crew!

ELIZABETH

(staring into his eyes)

A very nice thought, Captain!

CAPTAIN PHILIP

(smiling)

I always like to meet my crew immediately!

Captain Michael looks at Elizabeth.

CAPTAIN PHILIP
Well have a good day, Elizabeth!

Captain Michael continues to look at Elizabeth in silence then follows Captain Philip as he goes out.

A moment later Shirley enters.

ELIZABETH
Shirley, did you notice what a gentleman the new captain is?

SHIRLEY
If it comes from a sea wolf like you, I believe it!

ELIZABETH
(smiling)
In all my years of working on board ships it's the first time I have seen a captain who goes and presents himself to the crew. It's usually the opposite.

SHIRLEY
Well, maybe we have found the right captain at last.

ELIZABETH
I am sure they have. I realized it as soon as I looked into his eyes.

SHIRLEY
Well they do say the eyes are the mirror of the soul.

Some CUSTOMERS come in so Shirley goes out.

FADE OUT.

255. INT. SHIP AT SEA. DUTY FREE SHOP AREA. DAY.

Elizabeth serving. Jan comes in the shop, while some different CUSTOMERS are going out with packages.

JAN
(worried)
Elizabeth, I'm desperate! Ante and I can't seem to get any news from our families. The phone lines are down. We don't know what to do.

ELIZABETH
(worried for him)

Damn! ..Well keep calm. It's normal for phone wires to be the first to suffer when troubles start. But I'm sure your families are safe. I am certain you will hear from them very soon.

Jan looks down thoughtfully.

JAN
(growls)

Ante is beside himself with worry. I don't know how to get him to calm down. He wants to get back home as quickly as he can..if he can.

ELIZABETH
Well if he wants to leave, you must let him go.

Jan calms down for a moment to think.

JAN
Yeah, you're right!

Jan kisses Elizabeth's cheek.

JAN
I love you my dear! You are my guardian angel!

Elizabeth smiles, putting her hand on his shoulder.

ELIZABETH
I love you too.

JAN
(he leaves)
I know, dear. See you!

Meanwhile Edward arrives. He looks in from outside the door.

EDWARD
Elizabeth, I have just come to confirm this evening is ok. After you close the shop we will finish writing the letter to your scientist friend David Ryback about your dreams. You can send it from Singapore.

ELIZABETH
Thank you Edward, you're very kind. I wouldn't know what to do without you!

EDWARD
(smirks)

I thought a lot about the dream of the fire you told me about. It worries me a lot because it is so clear... like your dream of the flooding.

ELIZABETH
(thoughtful)

You're right, however let's not worry about it until something happens.

EDWARD
(smiling)

Yes, that's true! But lets hope we're not too late when..if..it does.

DISSOLVE.

256. EXT. SHIP IN SINGAPORE PORT. DAY. (November 10).

Elizabeth is walking on the promenade deck waiting for Jan. Meanwhile, she watches the happy passengers getting on the boarding ladder in the sunshine. The stewards and hostesses wave greetings and Elizabeth happily returns the greetings from above.

Whilst the passengers are boarding, a team of sailors (Noel, Gabriel, Nikola and Robert) get the passengers' luggage from the coach and bring it on board via another ladder.

A CHINESE PASSENGER (Madame Liw Kier) sees Elizabeth leaning against the railing in the upper walk. The woman waves excitedly to Elizabeth above her. Madam Liw Kier continues to gesticulate and talk, but her words are lost in the wind.

Elizabeth recognizes the loud footsteps of Jan, echoing on the promenade.

Jan approaches her, in his white working overalls, walking slowly, with his sad eyes looking thoughtfully up to sky.

Finally, he leans on the railing staring into space.

JAN

I'm desperate. I've learned that our families had to flee from Dubrovnik on a ship, which appears to have been seized in Split and ...

ELIZABETH
(interrupts Jan)

Oh! My God, this is terrible! What will happen now?

JAN
 (after a few sighs)
 I guess it's time to pray, even if I
 have never done it before.

Jan continues to stare into space.

JAN
 Ante already packed up and left. I do
 understand. But he has left me here
 alone to fight against the windmills.

ELIZABETH
 (pained)
 Trust in God and pray..and HOPE. Think
 only good thoughts and positive energy
 will follow. When man prays for the good
 of humanity, he becomes a small creator
 of love who gives life to thought-forms
 of light. These thought forms become more
 and more powerful and will eventually
 illuminate the world.

JAN
 (sighs)
 At the moment 'hope' is the only thing I
 have left. Funny how we only seem to
 turn to God in moments of tragedy.

ELIZABETH
 (serious)
 Yes. We remember God only when we need
 him.

JAN
 Man is made this way. What can you do!

At that moment some young beautiful PHILIPPINO DANCERS come
 up the ladder. They are smiling and explode into a chorus of
 greetings. In the group there is LOLITA, the youngest of
 all. She is sixteen years old, tall, lean, long black hair,
 dark eyes, and a small childish face. When Lolita reaches
 the top of the ladder she stops and blows kisses to them,
 smiling happily.

Jan blows a kiss back then starts staring at the horizon
 again.

INTERCOM SOUNDS.

HOSTESS DESERY
 (from the speaker)
 All Visitors are kindly asked to leave
 as the ship is departing. Thank you!

Shortly afterwards, the sailors Noel and Gabriel begin to
 dismantle the boarding ladder.

JAN
 (turning his back to Elizabeth)
 Well, time for me to go. I have an
 engine to start. Bye for now, Elizabeth.
 See you later.

Jan walks off dejectedly. Elizabeth stares sadly after him.

DISSOLVE.

257. INT. SHIP. DUTY FREE SHOP. NIGHT. (10th November)

The board clock shows 8.30 pm. of November 10, 1991. Distant
 SIREN SOUNDS from time to time.

Elizabeth is working on computer when Shirley comes in with
 a paper plate with a slice of cake and gives it to her.

SHIRLEY
 Want to taste the cake I bought in
 Singapore?

Elizabeth takes the paper plate with large slice of sugar-
 coated, light green cake, decorated with white flowers.

ELIZABETH
 Thanks! You are very sweet.

While Elizabeth tastes the cake, Shirley sits beside her.

SHIRLEY
 I'm so happy Desery finally got her
 promotion.

ELIZABETH
 Really? So now she is an assistant
 commissioner like you are?

SHIRLEY
 Yes, she is beside herself with joy!

ELIZABETH
 (happy)
 It is great for her!

Meanwhile, Shirley begins to play with a pen.

SHIRLEY

So now she will be able to put up with
Hong's lies better.

ELIZABETH

(thoughtfully)

Yes. Desery can't help being fascinated
by that rattlesnake.

SHIRLEY

You're right. See you later.

Shirley leaves the shop.

CUT TO:

258. INT. SHIP. DUTY FREE SHOPS. LATER SAME NIGHT.

Elizabeth working at the computer when Shirley returns.

SHIRLEY

Elizabeth, I'm sorry, but I have to tell
you about a dream that's worrying me.
It's about a fire on board.

ELIZABETH

Please, tell me!

Shirley throws her long hair nervously behind her shoulders
as she readies herself to speak.

SHIRLEY

Last night I dreamed that the fire alarm
on board woke me up during the night. I
heard noises in the corridor. I left my
cabin to go see if it was a real fire
alarm. Outside my cabin in the corridor
the officers were running back and forth
not knowing what to do. One of them
asked me if we should put on our life-
jackets so after we had put them on we
rushed panicking upto the sun deck. When
we got there we saw that the fire was
not near us, because the smoke was
coming from the doors below, at the
centre of the ship so we went...

MR. TONO

(interrupting)

Good evening!

The two women turn suddenly to see Mr. TONO, an employee of the charterer, with a sheet of paper in his hand. He is a handsome young man, serious, distinct, tall, thin, round face, sweet eyes, dark hair, thirty years old, Indonesian.

MR. TONO
Am I disturbing you?

ELIZABETH
Mr Tono! Shirley was just telling me about a dream she had last night; one that unfortunately I had too. Do you believe in premonitions, Mr Tono?

MR. TONO
(surprised)
Yes, I ...

SHIRLEY
(interrupts Mr. Tono shouting)
Elizabeth, don't tell me you also dreamed of the fire on board?

Mr. Tono asks a question before Elizabeth answers Shirley.

MR. TONO
Can you tell me what you dreamed about?

ELIZABETH AND SHIRLEY
(shout together)
We dreamed the ship had caught fire!

Mr. Tono fixes them amazed.

MR. TONO
I don't believe it!

ELIZABETH
Why?

MR. TONO
You won't believe me; but I also dreamed everybody was running to the meeting point and wearing their life-jackets because the fire alarm was ringing.

The two women stare at him stunned and speechless, while Mr.Tono approaches.

MR. TONO
I had another dream that left me amazed.
If you want, I'll tell you!

ELIZABETH AND SHIRLEY
(curious shout together)
Yes, yes, tell us please!

MR. TONO
(worried)
I dreamed that there were wheels on both
sides of the Orient Sun, which brought
it to stop in the sand.

ELIZABETH
(with wide open eyes for the surprise)

Your dream is typical too; telling us
that, for some reason, the ship will
stop. This is incredible.. amazing! We
all experienced similar dreams.

SHIRLEY
(puzzled)
Is it possible that they are all
premonitions?

Mr. Tono listens puzzled.

ELIZABETH
I think so, because I too dreamed the
ship will stop. I believe the ship will
catch fire after it stops, since I saw
this particular scene in the dream of
the fire.

MR. TONO
(seriously)
It isn't possible for this to come true.
The charterer has signed a contract for
eighteen months and the ship cannot stop
before then.

SHIRLEY
Contracts can always be cancelled!

Mr. Tono leans against a window, shaking the paper in his
hand nervously. He is thoughtful.

MR. TONO
That's true. But whoever breaks the
contract must pay a severe penalty and
in this case the cost would be very
high.

The eyes of the three meet and are full of questions.

Shirley stands up.

ELIZABETH

Excuse me Mr. Tono if I am being intrusive, but I would like to know if your dreams ever came true?

The almond-shaped eyes of Mr. Tono tighten.

MR. TONO

Yes. Once I also dreamed of my wife before I knew her. When I met her for the first time I recognized she was the young woman I had dreamed of marrying.

SHIRLEY

(impressed)

Incredible!

Elizabeth reflects in silence. Mr. Tono continues to speak.

MR. TONO

Thinking about these premonitions and dreams worries me. I came into the shop because I need to speak to Shirley. Now unfortunately I discover we all seem to have very uncertain futures.

SHIRLEY and MR. TONO

(leaving together)

Good night, Elizabeth!

Shirley and Mr. Tono leave. Elizabeth is silent, thinking.

DISSOLVE.

259. INT. SHIP AT SEA. DUTY FREE SHOP. DAY.

Elizabeth is serving some customers when she sees Madame Liw Kier entering.

Madame Liw Kier goes and sits in the guests chair, smiling. Customers pay and leave.

Elizabeth and Madam Kier are alone.

LIW KIER

(interested)

So has your company decided to sell?

ELIZABETH

(laughing)

I don't know. But I do know that it's become more of an enigma! My company had a meeting with the agents in charge of choosing the companies' contractors for the two new ships and it seems that they have only given the management of the duty-free shops to my company. I guess, at this point, my boss will ask me to sell the stock.

LIW KIER

(satisfied smile)

Very well! Will you put me in contact with your company, because I want to buy the stock and manage the store.

ELIZABETH

(euphoric)

Fantastic! I will call my boss on arrival in Singapore.

LIW KIER

Perfect! When the ship docks in the port, I and my partner will wait for you, next to the disembarkation stairway. Okay?

ELIZABETH

Okay!

Madame Liw Kier stands up and starts to leave.

LIW KIER

Do you know any good girl who would like to work in the duty-free shop on board?

ELIZABETH

Yes, the wife of Dr. Win, the ship's doctor. She is also a doctor.

LIW KIER

(looks astonished at Elizabeth)
A doctor?

ELIZABETH

Yes.

LIW KIER

(walking towards the exit)

Great, if all goes well, I'll hire her!

DISSOLVE.

260. INT. SHIP AT SEA. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. MORNING.

The bedside clock shows 8.00am, November 13, 1991. Elizabeth is sleeping and tosses and turns several times in her sleep. She wakes with a start, sits on bed to reflect worriedly.

ELIZABETH

Oh my God! Not more bad news!

She dresses in a hurry.

CUT TO:

261. EXT. SHIP. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE RECORDS/FILES OFFICE. DAY.

Elizabeth running down corridor.

She stops and knocks on the door of the room where the files of the ship's projects are kept.

ELIZABETH

It's Elizabeth. May I come in?

CUT TO:

262. INT. SHIP. INSIDE RECORDS AND FILES OFFICE. DAY.

EDWARD

Come in Elizabeth! Come in!

Elizabeth enters. Stunned, she looks around: on floor there are large bundles of drawings.

Edward's head can be seen sticking out above the desk, which is covered with piles of paper full of projects of ship.

ELIZABETH

What are you doing? This room is total chaos..there are papers everywhere.

EDWARD

(worried sigh)

Tell me about it! (HE CARRIES ON SEARCHING) I'm looking for the location of some of the electrical switches I need to get to. But it's like searching for a needle in a haystack. If I knew who made this chaos, I would give him what he deserves.

ELIZABETH

So would I. (SMILES). I wanted to talk to you about a dream about you, but I don't think this is the right moment, you're already worried enough.

EDWARD

Oh! My God, what did you dream?

ELIZABETH

(whispers seriously)

In the dream I was coming to visit you in your cabin and I brought you some fruit. You were in bed with your feet on a pillow and you had ankle problems.

Edward stands up, and looks at Elizabeth in silence.

EDWARD

(grumbles)

Ankle Problems?

Elizabeth sits on a large bundle of projects.

ELIZABETH

Yes, so it seemed! However I don't know what happened to your ankles!

EDWARD

If you don't know, I certainly don't know.

ELIZABETH

Last night I had another strange dream.

Edward sits back and then starts to continue looking through the large rectangular sheets on which the project are designed.

EDWARD

Tell me, I'm listening.

ELIZABETH

I dreamed that my father was fixing my Uncle Mino's house . In the dream my father was running in all directions trying to repair as much as possible, but the pipes and other things kept breaking even as he repaired them...

EDWARD

(interrupts)

What does this dream mean for you?

ELIZABETH

(sighs)

The house represents the human body, so I believe my father wanted to tell me that he is helping his brother Mino by trying to repair his sick body, which is now in pieces. Dad will alleviate his sufferings and my Uncle will live.

EDWARD

(thoughtfully)

Interesting explanation. It could probably be so.

ELIZABETH

Since I also dreamed that I will attend my uncle's funeral, I believe I will leave the ship and go home to him. Hopefully I will get to him before he leaves this earth. (SHE GETS UPSET) My uncle is like a second father to me. My dad and uncle married two sisters and for many years we all lived together on a farm.

EDWARD

(stops going through the papers)

That's why you're so fond of him?

ELIZABETH

(thoughtfully)

As a child I used to help my father in the hospital, so I know how unpleasant one feels when a person is ill with cancer. So it hurts me so much to know that my uncle will also suffer a lot.

Edward takes another huge sheaf of papers and begins to look through them.

EDWARD

I understand!

Elizabeth sees he is concerned, but also busy. She gets up.

ELIZABETH

Well, I had better be going. See you later, Edward.

She greets him with a wave of the hand and exits the door.

Edward continues searching through the papers.

DISSOLVE.

263. EXT. SINGAPORE HARBOUR/PORT. DAY. 10AM.(November 14)

At ten o'clock in morning the Orient Sun docks in the port.

Sailors Noel and Gabriel put out the gangway ladder and install the railings.

MICROPHONE comes to life...

HOSTESS SHIRLEY

(speaker)

Would passengers please note that the
buses are waiting on the dock. We wish a
safe journey back home and a nice day.
Thanks for your attention.

The passengers descend the stairs and go to get the buses.

Elizabeth follows them and stops next to the staircase landing to wait for Madame Liw Kier and her partner.

The Chinese lady appears and approaches her.

LIW KIER

I'm sorry but my partner couldn't leave
the office. However come with me, we'll
go by bus.

Elizabeth, smiling, follows the woman and gets on the passengers' bus. Madame Liw Kier gives two tickets to the driver and asks Elizabeth to sit next to her in the front seats.

In the meantime, Madam Liw Kier's mobile phone RINGS inside her bag. She takes it out, presses a button and starts a long conversation in Chinese.

The bus starts and heads off along streets of red earth, which under the wheels of the vehicle rises into the air creating clouds of pink dust. Elizabeth quickly closes the window, while the bus gets lost in the maze of coloured containers, glistening under the hot sun.

The bus leaves the port and heads towards the streets of Singapore among beautiful imposing skyscrapers that rise into the clear blue sky.

Finally the bus arrives at the last stop under a huge hotel where the journey ends. They get out the bus.

Madame Liw Kier stops a taxi. They get in. Taxi drives off.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

Taxi takes the two women further into city and stops in front of a big building (Madame Liw Kier's palatial office building) where they get out the taxi and walk into the building entrance.

CUT TO:

264. INT. LOBBY/HALL OF MADAME KIER'S OFFICE BUILDING. DAY.

Madame Liw Kier and Elizabeth enter the great hall of the palatial building. The doorman comes to meet them.

PORTER

Good morning, Madame Liw Kier, I have
some mail for you!

The porter gives mail to Madam Liw Kier and accompanies the two women to the elevator. As they get in, porter bows.

LIW KIER

Thank you!

The elevator door closes.

CUT TO:

265. INT. MADAM LIW KIER'S OFFICE. DAY.

The elevator door opens; the two women get out, then Madame Liw Kier rings at the door of her office just opposite the lift. Elizabeth remains astonished when she sees the man who opens the door.

ELIZABETH

(voice OS)

My God! He is the Chinese man that I
already met in my dream back in October.

CHINESE MAN (LOH POH LIN)

Good morning! follow me!

CUT TO:

266. INT. LOH POH LIN'S OFFICE. DAY.

LOH POH LIN
(after crossing the office)
Sit down please.

Elizabeth sits in front of the man's desk. Madame Liw Kiers follows.

The Chinese man stares curiously at Elizabeth through the round lenses of his glasses.

LOH POH LIN
So what items do you sell in the duty-free shop?

Meanwhile Madame Liw Kier arrives

LIW KIER
(interrupting)
Elizabeth, this man is my partner, Loh Poh Lin!

Elizabeth smiles, stands up and shakes his hand.

ELIZABETH
It is a pleasure to meet you!

LIW KIER
(to her partner)
So Loh, shall we call Elizabeth's company, in Venice?

Elizabeth takes her company's business card from her purse inside her bag and hands it to Mr. Loh Poh Lin.

He takes it, dials number, and passes receiver to Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH
Hello! Mr. Delopera, this is Elizabeth from Singapore, I am here with Madame Liw Kier and her partner. What can I tell them about the sale?

Elizabeth listens in silence, under the gaze of the two.

ELIZABETH
(concluding)
Ok! Good luck!

ELIZABETH

(puts down the receiver)

I'm sorry, my boss told me that we will only be able to answer in ten days time. At the moment we don't know if we will get the contracts of the two new ships so we aren't yet able to make a decision

The two partners look thoughtfully at Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

Can you wait ten days for an answer?

The two partners stand up.

TWO PARTNERS

(in unison, smiling)

Okay then!

They stand. Elizabeth shakes hands with them and leaves.

DISSOLVE.

267. INT. SHIP AT SEA. DUTY FREE SHOP. NIGHT.

Elizabeth is serving CUSTOMER. Jan enters, smiling happily, and sits down in silence. When customer leaves, Jan takes Elizabeth by the arm and makes her sit down beside him.

ELIZABETH

So..tell me the good news!

JAN

(stares at her curiously)

How do you know I have good news?

ELIZABETH

Well, when you have bad news you pace back and forth inside the store. Now you are smiling and you even sit down!

JAN

(smiling and scratching his belly)

Yes you are right! Again!

JAN

Everything is ok! I heard all passengers who were on board the ship detained in Split were released. Ante's family and mine are free and safe in a village in the former Yugoslavia, where there is no war.

ELIZABETH
 (screams, jumping up with joy)
 Wonderful! Really great!

Jan embraces Elizabeth and hugs her.

ELIZABETH
 (breaks away muttering)
 Agh! Stop it. Don't believe for a minute
 that I'll be your lover just because
 Ante's family and yours are safe now.

They burst out laughing.

JAN
 (moving moustache interested)
 I would love it, though. And you?

ELIZABETH
 (laughing)
 Am I speaking in double Dutch?

JAN
 (muttering)
 OK. OK. I know your feelings very well!

Jan stands up and goes towards the exit.

JAN
 Well if I can't have you then I'm going
 to take a stroll to the casino. Maybe
 there I'll find another woman who will
 take pity on me, and make me an
 'indecent' proposal.

Jan winks at her.

ELIZABETH
 (laughing)
 Good luck!

DISSOLVE.

268. INT. SHIP.OFFICERS DINING ROOM. NIGHT. (22.30 pm).

Elizabeth is in officers' dining room with Edward who is
 writing down her dreams ready to send them to the American
 scientist David Ryback in Atlanta.

Shirley and Desery enter.

SHIRLEY and DESERY
Good evening everybody!

ELIZABETH
Hi to you too, beautiful Ladies! Sit
down. Edward is writing down my dreams.

SHIRLEY
(sitting)
Edward, isn't it incredibly strange that
Elizabeth, Mr. Tone and I all had the
same dream..of the fire?

EDWARD
Collective dreams of this kind certainly
are amazing. But at the same time we must
all keep open minds.

They look at one another worriedly.

EDWARD
Come on girls, in the dreams we are
neither dead nor wounded. So if it is
premonition and there is a fire, we will
all be around to be able to put it out.

SHIRLEY
I hope it isn't a premonition!

ELIZABETH
(sighs)
I'd like to be able to show a dream or
premonition that comes true in reality.
But scientists never take such dreams
seriously. (PAUSES) For Man to be able
to receive such messages or premonitions
through his dreams, he has to be pure of
mind and spirit and heart and soul. He
has to be 'at one' with Spirit; at one
within his higher consciousness and
inner self. Then, with the assistance of
his deceased relatives and his Spirit
Guides, he will experience the real
'Truth'.

DESERY
So you Elizabeth, Shirley, and Mr. Tone
are in touch with your superior selves
.. your higher consciousness? And your
loved ones who have died?

ELIZABETH

According to Kryon in a 'channelling' meeting, the Spirits of our departed loved ones remain near us until our death and assist us by sending messages through dreams and by telepathy. He is right. The same happens with my father and I.

EDWARD

Excuse me Elizabeth, but who is Kryon?

ELIZABETH

Kryon is the Spirit channelled by Medium Lee Carroll. If you want to listen to his sacred teachings, you'll find them on You-Tube. His videos and teachings have been translated into all languages.

EDWARD

Elizabeth, you surprise me!

ELIZABETH

I haven't finished! I also wanted to say all religions of the world, from the Old Testament onwards, abound in premonitory dreams. We should never doubt religious documents of such great magnitude as they are testament to the reality and existence of such dreams.

Edward is spellbound listening to Elizabeth.

EDWARD

It is time to study all this much more seriously and in depth. But it won't be easy to make others understand as they don't have the experience and the knowledge that you have.

ELIZABETH

(insists)

I'll always continue to tell my dreams to all. There will always be those who may judge me wrongly, but at least there will be witnesses.

EDWARD

I agree. There will always be sceptics who, despite everything, will still not believe. However, I believe a "master" like you will always succeed in making yourself understood.

A laugh echoed in the officers' dining room.

ELIZABETH

Of course, it won't be easy. But I also don't give up easily. I think everyone should always have the courage to tell the truth..at any cost.

Shouts and applause echoed in the room, while Edward starts to write.

DISSOLVE.

269. EXT. JAKARTA. AFTERNOON. (November 19).

In Jakarta the sky is clear and bright; the smoke has gone because of a storm that put out some of the fires in some Indonesian islands. Seagulls flapping less aggressive as they chase one another over the waters of the sea.

Elizabeth goes down the ship's gangway/stairs and reaches the great square of the port. A fresh wind strokes her hair. She passes in front of the only bar in the great square, where she sees group of sailors: Carroll, Noel, Gabriel and Robert who are sitting, drinking and talking, under the branches of the one and only tree.

THE SAILERS

Mummy, come and have a drink with us, please!

Elizabeth, smiling, willingly accepts the invitation and sits in the midst of the merry sailors who immediately fill a glass of beer for her. Gabriel returns to the table with some cakes. All eat and drink merrily.

SAILOR CARROLL

Elizabeth, have you noticed what a beautiful day it is today? Richard heard over the radio that there was a thunderstorm that put out the fire on some islands. However unless the rainy season begins soon, unfortunately there will still be more smoke.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

I think the worst is over. Sooner or later a storm will sweep everything away.

The sailors pay great attention to Elizabeth. Finally, the sailors begin to sing the song "Paloma Blanca". The sweet voices of the Philippine sailors inebriate Elizabeth, who listens enchanted, while the sailors continue to sing one song after another. Later, stunned by the beautiful voices and the effect of the beer, Elizabeth gets up, and bows reverently to the group of sailors.

ELIZABETH

See you later, Children of the Orient
Sun! It was a pleasure to have a drink
with you!

The sailors stand on their feet screaming, shouting, whistling, accompanying Elizabeth with their euphoria, as she goes away.

DISSOLVE.

270. INT. SHIP. RICHARD'S CABIN. AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth is back on board and is walking down the corridor of the officers' quarters to reach her cabin, when she hears the cries of a woman. She hurries to the place where the cries are coming from. Elizabeth looks through the open door of Richard's cabin and sees Richard holding down a young Philippine woman on his bed. The woman (LOLITA) is trying with all her might to escape, crying, screaming and pulling out her hair, trying to bang her head wherever she can. Elizabeth remains motionless for a moment observing the scene as if she was paralyzed.

ELIZABETH

(screams upset)

Richard, what are you doing?

RICHARD

(nervous screams)

Elizabeth! Please, help me! Otherwise
Lolita will split her head!

Elizabeth, shocked, hurries to help Richard who is trying to immobilize Lolita, but the woman has an incredible force, and even in two they can not hold her. Lolita continues to struggle and cry desperately, begging the two of them to let her go.

ELIZABETH

(terrified)

Richard why are we holding her down?

Richard holds Lolita's ankles firmly to the bed.

RICHARD
We can't leave her, she will hurt
herself!

Richard looks at Elizabeth with his wide open eyes, while a few beads of sweat fall down from his forehead.

RICHARD
Poor child!

ELIZABETH
(worried)
Will you please explain what's wrong
with her?

RICHARD
It's a cluster headache which causes
excruciating pain making her bang her
head anywhere and pull out her hair,
just to eliminate her suffering.

ELIZABETH
It's scary!

Elizabeth sees Lolita's beautiful face distorted by pain.

ELIZABETH
Why didn't you call Dr. Win?

Elizabeth's tired arms start to yield and sweat runs down her face. Meanwhile Lolita keeps banging her head against the pillow, her hair hitting Elizabeth in the face.

RICHARD
(exhausted)
I have already alerted them but
unfortunately Dr. Win is off duty. As
soon he comes back, the officer will
send him here. I found Lolita banging
her head against a bulkhead, so I
brought her to my cabin to help her.

Richard lets out a long sigh. Lolita escapes and starts kicking left and right, screaming. Elizabeth and Richard succeed in holding her legs firm.

LOLITA
(screaming, sobbing)
I want to die! I want to die! I can't
live with these thorns piercing my
brain!

Elizabeth bursts into tears.

ELIZABETH
(whispers)

Poor girl!

At that moment Doctor Win arrives, accompanied by Roldan. While Richard and Elizabeth immobilize Lolita, Dr. Win gives her an injection. Shortly after, the sailors Robert and Noel arrive and put her on a stretcher, inside a special sleeve to prevent the young woman from getting hurt.

CUT TO:

271. INT. SHIP. CORRIDORS AND LIFT. DAY.

Dr Win, Roldan, Richard and Elizabeth follow Lolita who is taken to the elevator.

The stretcher doesn't fit in the elevator so the sailors carry her slowly down the stairs while the others follow them silently. Luis and Shay also join the group.

CUT TO:

272. EXT. SHIP IN PORT. DOCKSIDE. DAY.

Ambulance waiting on dockside. The stretcher is deposited in front of the ambulance. Lolita is less agitated; Luis, Shay and Elizabeth go up to her.

ELIZABETH
(whispers)
Hello little flower, you'll see that
everything will turn out fine!

LUIS AND SHAY
(together)
Honey, we love you. Don't worry.

Lolita smiles as the stretcher is pushed into the ambulance. Dr. Win gets in and sits on one side, the NURSE closes the doors and the ambulance with the siren wailing goes away.

At that moment, Elizabeth realizes she is surrounded by the crew, who silently watch the ambulance going away.

DISSOLVE.

273. INT. SHIP. RADIO STATION. NIGHT

Elizabeth goes into the radio station.

Foreign voices, buzzing and distant sounds are heard coming from the radio.

Richard meets Elizabeth, smiling.

RICHARD
Sit down, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH
(sitting down next to Richard)
Richard, was Lolita kept in hospital in Jakarta?

RICHARD
(sighs)
The doctors in the Hospital in Jakarta didn't understand anything about Lolita. They refused to help her because they believed they were in front of an hysterical addict.

ELIZABETH
(stunned)
That's incredible! Absurd!

RICHARD
(thoughtfully)
It's crazy!

ELIZABETH
(worried)
I heard that Lolita might have a brain tumour, but is it possible in a person of sixteen?

RICHARD
I hope not! However, cancer has no age; in fact, our Staff captain has a two year old son with a brain tumour!

ELIZABETH
Oh my God! Poor man!

Elizabeth and Richard look at each other sadly through the sounds and foreign voices that come from the radio.

ELIZABETH
(serious)
Where is Lolita now?

Richard turns on some switches on radio deck.

RICHARD

She is in the infirmary, sleeping. In Singapore she will be admitted to the hospital there. Ah! Elizabeth, I forgot to mention that we can't leave Lolita alone because she might hurt herself, so if you want to help take turns with us in the infirmary, go and talk to Shay.

ELIZABETH

(stands up)

OK! I'll go now. See you later!

DISSOLVE.

274. INT. SHIP AT SEA. INFIRMARY. DAY.

Elizabeth enters the infirmary with a box of chocolates in her hand. She is to relieve beautiful CARMENCITA; tall, slim, well-made, long brown hair, round face and dark eyes.

CARMENCITA

(standing up)

Lolita has just fallen asleep after suffering terribly with the pain.

Elizabeth sighs and puts box of chocolates on bedside table.

CARMENCITA

(as she leaves)

Novelita will relieve you. See you!

Elizabeth sits down and watches. Lolita sleeping peacefully.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN. Two hours later.

Lolita begins to stir in her sleep. She wakes up and starts punching her head. Elizabeth jumps quickly up to stop her.

ELIZABETH

No! Lolita, try to relax, please!

Lolita continues unabated to fight against herself, kicking and banging her head on the bed. Slowly her fit subsides.

LOLITA

(pleading)

Please forgive me, I don't want to hurt you, but when I have this pain in my head I do not know what I'm doing.

ELIZABETH

(moved)

Don't worry, little angel. I know!

NOVELITA arrives to relieve Elizabeth. Elizabeth kisses Lolita on the forehead.

ELIZABETH

See you later little angel. Tomorrow Luis, Shay, your and I will come to the hospital to keep you company.

LOLITA

Wonderful! I love you!

Elizabeth stops at the door.

ELIZABETH

We love you too.

Finally Lolita sees the chocolates on the bedside table.

LOLITA

Elizabeth.. thanks for the chocolates!

Elizabeth exits smiling.

Door closes.

DISSOLVE.

275. EXT. SHIP. SINGAPORE HARBOUR. MORNING. (November 21st)

Ship is moored in the harbour. Different announcements in different languages are heard on board as passengers disembark. After the passengers have disembarked an ambulance and two taxis arrive. The sailors Gabriel and Carroll carry Lolita in a stretcher down the stairs to the ambulance, while the crew follow her and waits until the ambulance leaves. Meanwhile, Luis, Shay, Elizabeth and the girls from the group of dancers get into the two taxis and follow ambulance through streets of Singapore to hospital.

CUT TO:

276. EXT. SINGAPORE HOSPITAL. MORNING.

Ambulance arrives and Lolita is taken into hospital.

CUT TO:

277. INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM. MORNING.

The group is in waiting room. An INDIAN DOCTOR tall, thin, with a long grey beard, black kindly eyes, wearing a big white turban comes out. The man nods to the group to follow.

CUT TO:

278. INT.HOSPITAL. EMERGENCY ROOM. LOLITA'S BED. MORNING.

Lolita in bed. Group enter (SHAY, ELIZABETH, CARMENCITA, LUIS) and position themselves around Lolita's bed.

LUIS
Lolita, did you see what a great doctor you have? He has a beard and a turban.

LOLITA
Is that my doctor? I thought he was a fortune teller!

An explosion of laughter suddenly breaks out in the emergency room, then the Indian doctor enters.

LUIS
(laughing)
Doctor, you aren't a fortune teller, are you?

Another loud burst of laughter

DOCTOR
(surprised)
Certainly not! I'm assisting the physician in the emergency room.

Luis caresses Lolita's long black hair.

LUIS
Excuse me doctor, but Lolita here has taken you for a fortune teller, who goes from bed to bed to read the future in the palm of the hands of patients.

Everyone laughs heartily, while Lolita hides her face under the pillow. A moment later she takes it away.

LOLITA
(blushing, says timidly)
In the Philippines, I saw a fortune teller with a turban and a long beard.

CARMENCITA

(smiling)

He was an Indian fortune teller. But some doctors also have beards and wear turbans, as you can see.

SHAY

Come on dear, we're kidding you because finally you're feeling better and we're happy. But now we must leave to allow the doctors to take care of you.

Lolita's face darkens.

ELIZABETH

(trying to encourage her)

Lolita don't worry. We'll come back to visit you this afternoon.

Lolita happy, waves a hand to her friends while they are leaving the room.

CUT TO:

279. EXT. SINGAPORE POST OFFICE. PHONES AREA. AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth is inside a phone box. She dials Madame Liw Kier's phone number.

CUT TO:

280. INT. MADAM LIW LIER'S BUILDING. INSIDE ELEVATOR. DAY.

The phone in Liw Kier's bag rings while Liw Kier and her colleague Loh Poh Lin are going down in the elevator of the building where they have their office. Liw Kier takes out the phone and responds.

LIW KIER

Hello!

ELIZABETH

Madame Liw Kier, It's Elizabeth!

LIW KIER

Don't tell me you've already received the okay from your boss!

CUT TO:

ANGLE on Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

I've just phoned my boss Delopera, and he told me that we can go ahead and sell the goods in the duty-free shops. He said you should get in touch with Mr. Kor and tell him of our intentions as without his permission, we can not conclude the deal.

CUT TO:

ANGLE in elevator.

Bell rings as elevator stops. Door opens. Liw Kier winks at Loh Poh Lin, her colleague. He smiles as they exit into lobby.

LIW KIER

OK! Thanks Elizabeth, I will contact Mr. Kor. give me a call when you return to Singapore from Jakarta.

Liw Kier and Loh Poh Lin walk through lobby of the building.

CUT TO:

ANGLE on Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

Okay, I'll do that. Good afternoon!

Elizabeth puts down the receiver. She remains silent for a moment to think, then picks up the receiver again and dials her mother's phone number.

CUT TO:

281. INT. ROSINA (MOTHER'S) HOUSE.

Rosina (Mother) is ironing. She hears phone ringing and runs to answer it.

MOTHER

Hello!

CUT TO:

ANGLE on Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

Hello Mom, I want to know how uncle is doing, because I dreamed that dad was taking care of him.

CUT TO:

ANGLE on Mother.

MOTHER
(happy)

Elisabetta! It's amazing. Your uncle is
doing much better. He is expected to be
back home in a few days

CUT TO:

ANGLE on Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH
(excited)

Wonderful, tell him I'll ring him soon!

MOTHER

Okay, will do. How are you?

ELIZABETH

I'm fine mom, don't worry. A big hug to
you.

CUT TO:

ANGLE on Mother.

Rosina puts receiver down and thoughtfully goes back to her
ironing.

DISSOLVE.

282. INT.SINGAPORE HOSPITAL. CORRIDOR. LOLITAS ROOM. DAY.

Elizabeth is walking along the corridors of the hospital,
that are shining like mirrors. She reaches Lolita's room.

CUT TO:

283. INT. SINGAPORE HOSPITAL. LOLITA'S ROOM. DAY.

Elizabeth enters. There are also some Chinese patients. When
Lolita sees Elizabeth, she starts to jump on bed with joy.

LOLITA

Hello Mummy! I like you, because you are
nice!

ELIZABETH
(smiling)

You are like a sweet little daughter to
me!

Elizabeth embraces Lolita.

LOLITA
(sobbing)

I don't want to be here alone. I'm
afraid. I want to get back to work.

Elizabeth remains silent thinking, worriedly.

LOLITA
Elizabeth, will you buy a comb for me?

ELIZABETH
Of course my dear!

As Elizabeth leaves, two of Lolita's colleagues arrive
and they all greet happily.

CUT TO:

284. INT. SINGAPORE HOSPITAL. CORRIDORS. AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth walks down the hall, when she meets Carmencita.

ELIZABETH
Hi Carmencita, I'm just going to talk to
Lolita's doctor

CARMENCITA
I've just talked to him about her. He
says Lolita is suffering from one of the
most painful types of headaches.

ELIZABETH
Will she get better?

CARMENCITA
(sighs)
Only if she looks after herself properly
otherwise she will suffer them for the
rest of her life!

ELIZABETH
(pained)
Poor Lolita! She is fine at the moment,
but I am worried for her because she is
so naïve. She still believes she can
return to work on the ship with you. She
doesn't understand that after this the
company will force her to leave. It
would a good thing if you could prepare
her for this.

CARMENCITA

And to think that her real father died when she was just three years old. Her mother remarried a drunkard, who has always mistreated Lolita and has never believed in her terrible headaches. He has often thrown her out accusing her of being capricious and having tantrums.

ELIZABETH

That's terrible, poor angel! What chances will Lolita have to take care of herself in the future?

CARMENCITA

(lowers her head and walks away)
Very few, unfortunately!

Elizabeth stares after Carmencita, then continues down hall.

DISSOLVE.

DREAM SEQUENCE STARTS.

285. INT. DREAM. INSIDE BUS. NOVEMBER 25th. MORNING.

Dream (flou effect): Elizabeth is in a bus travelling at high speed, sitting beside her are two distinguished men who are laughing and enjoying themselves. One is Mr. Kor and the other is Mr. WILLER WUNER. Mr Wuner is Oriental, distinct, dark skin, about forty-five, medium height, dark hair. He stares at her with his dark eyes. She notes a cross-shaped scar on his right cheek.

Both men act as Mafia gangsters. They stare at Elizabeth.

MR KOR

(happily)

We have the power...

WILLER WUNER

(laughing)

..to keep her on board as long as we want!

The two men kiss each other on the mouth typical of the mafiosi. Then, as they continue to laugh and joke, Mr. Kor takes out two apples, a large red one, then a smaller green one, and starts playing with Elizabeth by offering them to her, making her think that she can choose one of them. But in the end he gives her the small green apple, which she accepts. Meanwhile, the other gangster, Mr. Willer Wuner, lies on the ground, relaxing quietly, in no hurry.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

CUT TO:

286. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. DAY.

Elizabeth wakes with a start, sits on the bed and reflects on the strange dream, then looks at the bedside clock, which marks 8.00 am. of November 25, 1991.

Elizabeth goes to the bathroom and after getting washed, gets dressed quickly and goes out the cabin.

CUT TO:

287. EXT. SHIP. UPPER DECKS, UNDER FUNNEL. MORNING.

Elizabeth on upper decks of the ship in search of Edward.

She finds him close to the smokestack working behind a door that leads into a store room

EDWARD

Hi! What are you doing up here?

ELIZABETH

I've been looking for you.. and finally
I've found you!

EDWARD

(laughs)

I understand.. you have had a dream!

ELIZABETH

(sarcastically)

Oh! How did you guess ?

EDWARD

So tell me. Well? What are you waiting
for?

ELIZABETH

(pensive)

The dream showed me remaining a captive
on board this ship.. for months and
months.

EDWARD

(strange)

What makes you think that?

ELIZABETH

In the dream I am on a bus, which represents the ship. Two gangsters are on the bus. I see they are Mr. Kor and another man. They keep me on board so they can put off the sale of the store until it is convenient for them. The two men give each other the typical mafia kiss on the mouth and don't care about me. Finally Mr. Kor comes to me and offers me two apples; a big red one and a smaller green one. He makes me believe he will let me choose the bigger apple, but then he gives me the smallest one. Meanwhile the other mafioso just lies on the ground taking things easy.

EDWARD

(surprised)

I bet the Charterer won't let Madame Liw Kier buy the merchandise of the store because he wants to buy it himself.

ELIZABETH

(worried)

Yes, but he won't be in a hurry and will make me lose a lot of time. Probably, after him, other Mafia men will come and will make me wait even more than Mr. Kor does. I could lose "years".

They both burst out laughing together.

EDWARD

(whispers)

It is better not to have anything to do with the Mafia.. they are dangerous!

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Well then I had better not give them any reason to kill me.

They both burst into laughter.

Elizabeth leaves and Edward starts to work.

DISSOLVE.

288. EXT. SHIP DOCKING IN SINGAPORE. DAY.

CUT TO:

289. INT. SHIP. RADIO ROOM. MORNING.

Desery makes an announcement over the speaker

 HOSTESS DESERY (V/O)
 Good morning! The ship is moored in
 port. Passengers can now disembark.

Door opens. Elizabeth looks inside.

 ELIZABETH
 Richard, have you heard anything about
 Lolita?

 RICHARD
 Only that the company have terminated
 her. I know she was discharged from the
 hospital and is on board now, but only
 to pick up her suitcases.

 ELIZABETH
 (mumbles)
 Poor little girl! Now she has to go home
 to that beast of her stepfather.

 RICHARD
 (thoughtfully)
 Yeah, I know!

 ELIZABETH
 See you later Richard. I want to go over
 to the boarding area to ask the sailor
 on guard if he has seen Lolita.

 RICHARD
 OK. Catch you later!

Door closes.

CUT TO:

290. EXT. SHIP. BOARDING AREA. DAY.

Elisabeth makes her way among the passengers who are
 disembarking. She reaches the gangway and goes up to Noel
 the sailor on guard.

 ELIZABETH
 Morning, Noel! Did you see Lolita come
 on board?

SAILOR NOEL

Good morning, Mummy! She went down to her cabin to pack her suitcase.

ELIZABETH

OK thanks! See you!

CUT TO:

291. INT. SHIP. CORRIDORS. DAY.

Elizabeth walks down the corridor to get to the centre of the ship. She meets Novelita.

NOVELITA

Hi Elizabeth. Are you looking for Lolita?

ELIZABETH

Yes!

NOVELITA

Come on, I'll take you to her!

Continue together they arrive at Lolita's cabin. The door is open and Lolita is packing her suitcase.

LOLITA

(seeing them starts her crying)
I can't stay with you. The company have finished me.

Lolita bursts into tears.

ELIZABETH

Yes, we know! But don't worry. When you're home, go and talk to your agent and he will get you in another dance group. You'll see.

Lolita wipes her tears with her hands.

LOLITA

(sigh)
The dance groups have already been completed!

ELIZABETH

Now don't lose heart, somewhere there is something for you..and please don't neglect your migraine. If you take care you may get better.

Lolita gives a big sigh.

LOLITA
I know, the doctors told me before
leaving the hospital.

Meanwhile Novelita is listening in silence with her hand on the top of the bunk bed.

LOLITA
Goodbye mummy, and thank you for
everything!

They hug, and then Elizabeth approaches the door of the cabin. She turns back to Lolita.

ELIZABETH
Good luck, and look after yourself sweet
daughter.

LOLITA
(crying again)
Bye mummy!

Door closes.

CUT TO:

292. INT. SHIP. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE LOLITA'S CABIN.

Elizabeth walks away, clearing tears from her own eyes.

DISSOLVE.

293. EXT. SHIP. DOCKSIDE AREA. PHONE BOOTH. MORNING.

Elizabeth walks down gangway of the ship and goes to the phone opposite the ship, near a large shed.

She inserts her phone card and dials the number.

CUT TO:

294. INT. MADAME LIW KIER'S OFFICE. DAY.

The phone rings in Liw Kier's office while she is working on the computer, she picks up the receiver.

ELIZABETH
Can I talk with Madame Liw Kier?

LIW KIER

Elizabeth, Mr. Sogreen is not taking me seriously and won't allow me to get in touch with the Charterer if your company in Venice doesn't send him a fax.

CUT TO:

ANGLE On Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

I don't believe it! My company has not yet sent a fax to Mr. Sogreen? Don't worry..I'll inform Venice today. Have patience. (MUMBLES TO HERSELF) I somehow think we are both going to need it.

CUT TO:

ANGLE on Madam Liw Kier.

Liw Kier sighs.

LIW KIER

I won't be able to contact Mr. Kor if Mr.Sogreen doesn't allow me to.

ELIZABETH

(worried, suggests)

Madame Liw Kier, please don't worry, I will solve the problem. Good morning! See you soon.

LIW KIER

(relieved)

Good luck, and thanks!

Liw Kier puts the phone down and reflects for a moment, worried.

DISSOLVE.

295. INT. SHIP. SHOP & LOBBY AREA. DAY.

Elizabeth reaches the lobby to greet Luis and Shay who are preparing to disembark. She sees their luggage in a row, near the exit; they are sitting in front of the information office surrounded by hostesses and enormous figure of Jan who is keeping group entertained by telling dirty jokes.

ELIZABETH

Hey! Stop telling dirty jokes, bad boy!

Everybody in the hall laughs, echoing loud.

Jan looks at Elizabeth severely.

JAN

Listen, brat, if you are not careful
this bad boy has got the power to make
you touch the sky with just one finger!

ELIZABETH

Then change the joke, it's so old. And
as for the other I'll take a 'raincheck'
as I wouldn't want you to have a heart
attack with your incestuous proposals.

JAN

Why incestuous?

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Don't forget that you are almost like a
dear brother to me!

While everyone laughs the courier arrives with the passports

JAN

OK..Oh, here's the passports.

The agent gives the passports to Shay and Luis. The sailors
Gabriel and Nicholas carry the luggage out while an
explosion of greetings, hugs and shouts echoes loudly all
around the room. Elizabeth embraces Luis and Shay, then all
present follow them to the gangway.

DISSOLVE.

296. EXT. SINGAPORE CITY. OUTSIDE POST OFFICE/PHONES. DAY.

Pan building and entrance.

CUT TO:

297. INT. SINGAPORE POST OFFICE/PHONE BUREAU. DAY.

Elizabeth is inside a cabin, she picks up the phone and
dials a number.

CUT TO:

298. INT. LIW KIER'S OFFICE. DAY.

When phone rings Liw Kier is sitting at her desk writing
something on a calendar; she puts down her pen, stands up
and picks up the phone.

ELIZABETH (V/O)
Hello, Madame LIW Kier? It's Elizabeth.

Liw Kier sighs.

LIW KIER
(frustrated)
Elizabeth, I'm losing patience. Nobody
has ever treated me with such
indifference in all my life!

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH
(trying to calm her down)
I wanted to inform you that I have just
phoned Mr. Sogreen's secretary, who said
she had received the telex from Venice,
but unfortunately Mr. Sogreen had to
leave urgently for Jakarta. However, she
assured me that when he returns, he will
immediately inform Mr. Kor of our
intentions.

LIW KIER (V/O)
Ah! Finally. This news gives me a little
relief at last! All right then, in a few
days I will get in touch with Mr.
Sogreen's secretary for an appointment.

ELIZABETH
All right, hope you have a good day.

Elizabeth puts down the phone and pauses for a moment to
reflect. Then she dials another number.

CUT TO:

299. INT. ITALY. UNCLE MINO'S HOME. DAY.

Uncle Mino is sitting in the living room on a chair with a
blanket over his knees, in front of the fireplace. The phone
rings, Mino removes the blanket from his knees, gets up and
slowly reaches up to the phone and lifts the receiver.

UNCLE MINO
Hello!

ELIZABETH
 Uncle Mino! It's Elizabeth from
 Singapore. How are you?

Uncle breathes heavily, then mutters in a trembling voice.

UNCLE MINO
 Ah my favourite bambino! I'm fine,
 Elisabetta. Wonderful to hear you. When
 are you coming home?

ELIZABETH (V/O)
 (laughs, then mutters)
 I don't know uncle. Soon I hope, but it
 also depends on others.

Uncle Mino coughs now and again.

UNCLE MINO
 You don't know when your contract ends?

ELIZABETH (V/O)
 It happens. Sometimes we get unexpected
 events arising.

UNCLE MINO
 (starts to cough, then mutters)
 I hope you arrive in time!

CUT TO:

ANGLE On Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH
 (upset, but trying to appear calm)
 Sure uncle! A big hug! Greetings to
 everybody!

CUT TO:

ANGLE on Uncle Mino.

UNCLE MINO
 Take care, please, little one!

Uncle Mino puts receiver down. Moved, he stares into space.

CUT TO:

ANGLE on Elizabeth.
 Elizabeth puts down receiver. Tears in her eyes.

DISSOLVE.

300. INT. SHIP. INFORMATION OFFICE. AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth enters the information office to make photocopies
 and meets Shirley.

SHIRLEY

Elizabeth, do you know what happened to the ship Royal Pacific, where Luis and Shay are?

ELIZABETH

(beginning to make photocopies)
Yes, the whole crew is talking about it! Apparently the ship was held in Jakarta by Customs because they found the casino was open while they were in port and people were gambling.

SHIRLEY

It seems it was Mr. Kor who set the trap for the Royal Pacific on its maiden voyage; accusing them of violating the international Gaming laws.

ELIZABETH

(thoughtfully)
Oh! So now I understand why Mr. Sogreen left so urgently for Jakarta!

SHIRLEY

He probably went to try and fix things. I heard that if they don't change their routing, the ship will be held in Jakarta.

ELIZABETH

Mr Kor and Mr Sogreen are both smart businessmen. Mr Sogreen will definitely agree to change the routing because it would cost too much to keep the ship held in port by Customs.

SHIRLEY

(sighs)
But it seems the people responsible for the Royal Pacific don't want to give in to this kind of blackmail!

Elizabeth collects her photocopies.

ELIZABETH

Of course they are both trying to win the battle, but eventually they will have to do what Mr. Kor wants because on this route there's no place for two passenger vessels. In fact, personally, I think both will fail.

SHIRLEY

Yes. I agree.

Elizabeth and Shirley both exit together.

CUT TO:

301. INT. SHIP. OFFICERS DINING ROOM. AFTERNOON. (4pm.)

PAN SKY THROUGH WINDOW. From the large windows of the room the dark sky is full of clouds.

PULL BACK TO PAN ROOM.

Edward is sitting at a table and is touching his ankles.

Elizabeth enters room and sees Edward.

ELIZABETH

Edward, what's wrong with your ankles?

Edward remains silent for a moment.

EDWARD

Walking up and down the ship all day my ankles get sore and tired.

ELIZABETH

(prepares cup of coffee)

Why don't you go to Dr. Win, he has some creams that might solve your problem, or at least help prevent it from happening.

EDWARD

I'll think about it. However, I can manage for the moment.

Elizabeth gets up and takes cup into the pantry.

ELIZABETH

Maybe we'll have the rainstorm we need. See you later!

EDWARD

Yes, See you later! Tomorrow will be bright and clear.. hopefully.

Edward looks out windows thoughtfully, as Elizabeth exits.

CUT TO:

302. INT. SHIP. CORRIDOR NEAR OFFICERS QUARTERS. AFTERNOON.

The new cruise director COLIN and his assistant LISA are walking along the corridor of the officers' quarters.

COLIN is a man of about fifty, strong, medium height, round face, blue eyes, greying hair, Australian

LISA is a witty and very affectionate young Australian woman, short stature and lean, with a childish face, framed by brown curly hair that falls to her shoulders.

Elizabeth comes out from a cabin a few yards in front of them, they stop talking.

COLIN AND LISA

(in unison)

Hello Elizabeth, how are you?

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Fine, thank you! I see you are both as wonderful as ever, always smiling.

LISA

(laughing)

We are two happy people!

ELIZABETH

Colin, last night I heard you reading the news on the microphone to the passengers. Congratulations! You're better than any announcer or reporter!

LISA

(smiling)

Elizabeth, you don't know, but when Colin is ashore, he works as a reporter for a television station.

ELIZABETH

(surprised)

Oh! So that's why you're so good!

Laughter breaks out all around.

COLIN

What do you think Lisa does when she is ashore!

ELIZABETH

I don't know.

COLIN
(smiling)
She's an actress in a theatre!

ELIZABETH
Now I understand why you are both such
good cruise directors!

There is another burst of laughter. Colin and Lisa continue walking off along corridor. Elizabeth goes the other way.

CUT TO:

303. EXT. SHIP. BEFORE SAILING. EVENING 6.00 pm.

Before sailing, the sky is black, a thunderstorm starts up and lightning illuminates the darkness. Through the claps of thunder the hostesses can be heard making announcements in various languages. The passengers are on the upper decks, under the canopies of the deck walks, huddled against each other to avoid getting wet, watching the scene as the ship departs Singapore harbour.

As the ship gains momentum the illuminated silhouettes of the skyscrapers disappear quickly. They can scarcely be seen through the heavy rain that falls noisily.

Elizabeth and the passengers are fascinated as they look out to sea and watch the flashes of lightning spreading across the sky and illuminating the rain that shines like millions of crystals dancing in space.

Finally the ship veers south and the change in direction causes the water carried by the heavy winds of the storm to spray over the passengers, causing them to flee hurriedly inside screaming and shouting.

Elizabeth remains for a moment in the damp and cold of the storm that makes her shudder, then she hurries away inside.

DISSOLVE.

DREAM SEQUENCE starts:

304. EXT. DESERTED ROAD. DAY.

Dream (flow effect): Elizabeth is walking on a deserted road, tired and depressed. she is about to faint, when suddenly someone behind her grabs her shoulders from behind, lifting her up. She turns and is open-mouthed. The man is an ORIENTAL MAN, (Mr. WILLER WUNER, the second Mafioso type from her earlier dream on the bus.)

CLOSE UP OF MAN GRINNING AT HER.

SFX: A CLAP OF THUNDER.

Elizabeth screams.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

FLASH CUT TO:

305. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

The loud clap of thunder shakes Elizabeth up with a start. She sits on the bed, sweating with fright. She looks at the bedside clock. It's 2am November 30, 1991. Elizabeth reflects for a moment, then SIGHS with relief that it was all only a dream, and drops back on the bed to sleep.

CUT TO:

ANGLE on Elizabeth sleeping; but she's tossing and turning.

ANOTHER DREAM SEQUENCE STARTS:

306. INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE. DAY.

Dream (flou effect): Elizabeth is at home in Italy. It's almost a week since she returned from Singapore, when, from the balcony, she sees a man with a van arriving. It is a baggage handlers van from the airline. He takes her luggage bags out of van and carries them to the door of the house.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

CUT TO:

307. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. SAME NIGHT.

Elizabeth wakes up and sits on the bed.

ELIZABETH

Oh no! The airline is going to lose my
luggage on my way home from Singapore!

SFX: Thunder and lightning rage on.

DISSOLVE.

308. INT. SHIP. OFFICERS DINING ROOM. LATER THAT NIGHT.

Edward sitting at a table, with a pen and paper, waiting to write down Elizabeth's dreams to send them to scientist David Ryback.

Elizabeth enters, sleepily.

ELIZABETH

Sorry to drag you out of bed. I couldn't sleep.

EDWARD

I was just reflecting on the two dreams you told me about.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

From the other dimension..they are driving me crazy trying to understand the meaning of the dreams.

Edward bursts out laughing.

ELIZABETH

It's so difficult to understand the message of certain dreams sometimes. Sometimes they are so frustrating because not all the detail is there to understand them fully. Often I only understand the meaning of a dream only after it has come true.

EDWARD

Yes, it's not always easy to get the message. The dream of your luggage arriving home after you is very clear, but I find it harder to understand the dream of the man who picked you up, when you were falling to the ground.

ELIZABETH

(staring at Edward)

To me, it's very clear. The man who picked me up when I was falling will restore my strength and my hope when I am losing it. Perhaps it will be the second mobster who will intervene at the right time, so I won't despair.

The two friends look at each other thoughtfully.

EDWARD
(kidding)
Elizabeth, I've told you. You continue to deal with those mobsters and do not want to listen to me when I tell you that they are dangerous.

ELIZABETH
(laughing)
As long as I only meet the mobsters in a my dream, I'm all right then?

They burst out laughing.

EDWARD
As your dreams always come true you know that soon you will have to either deal with them or fight them.

ELIZABETH
(thoughtfully)
What can I do if this is my destiny. I will have to deal with them, not fight, if I don't want to risk my life.

Edward takes the pen and Elizabeth begins to dictate ...

DISSOLVE.

309. EXT. SINGAPORE. SIDEWALK. DAY. (December 4th)

Liw Kier is walking on the sidewalk in front of a row of buildings and shops. Passers-by come and go with the sound of traffic on the road. She hears PHONE RINGING in her bag, she opens it, takes it out and answers.

LIW KIER
Hello!

CUT TO:

310. EXT. SINGAPORE HARBOUR. DOCKSIDE/WAREHOUSES. DAY.

Elizabeth is at the phones in the great warehouse in front of the ship.

ELIZABETH
Madame Liw Kier, It's Elizabeth. Did you manage to get in touch with Mr. Kor?

CUT TO:

ANGLE On Madame Liw Kier.

LIW KIER

(angrily)

Elizabeth, I'm very angry! After everything that has been said, the Charterer told me that he is going to buy the goods of the duty-free shop and run the store himself.

ELIZABETH

(worried)

I'm very sorry. If it doesn't work out with Mr. Kor I will contact you and your partner again.

LIW KIER

Good luck Elizabeth. Bye!

Liw Kier switches off phone angrily and throws it back in her bag.

LIW KIER

Damn!

CUT TO:

311. INT. SHIP. INFORMATION OFFICE (Mr.Tono's office). DAY.

Ship still docked in Singapore Harbour.

Desery is writing on the computer inside the information office, just outside Mr Tono's office.

Elizabeth enters.

ELIZABETH

Hi, Desery! Do you know where I can find Mr.Tono?

DESERY

(stops typing)

He's in his office, but he's is busy with someone. He'll be out in a moment.

Elizabeth sits next to Desery, who is wearing her stripes.

ELIZABETH

Did you hear anything else about the Royal Pacific, because some sailors have told me

DESERY

(interrupting)

Yes, it seems the Indonesian Customs have been released the ship after the owners chose another routing.

ELIZABETH

I knew that would happen! You can never win against the mafia

DESERY

What do you mean?

While Desery stares curiously at her, a man comes out of Mr. Tono's office, then Elizabeth stands up.

ELIZABETH

It is a long story. Tell you later.

Elizabeth knocks on the door.

MR.TONO (V/O)

Come in!

DESERY

OK. See you!

Elizabeth goes in to Mr Tono's office.

CUT TO:

312. INT. MR TONO'S OFFICE. DAY.

MR. TONO

(smiling)

Elizabeth, please come in. Sit down. What can I do for you?

ELIZABETH

Mr. Kor told Madame Liw Kier that he will be buying the goods of the shop himself. So I have come to ask you if you can kindly arrange a meeting for me with Mr. Kor, in Jakarta, to deal on the price of the goods.

MR. TONO

(seriously)

If I manage to do this, Mr. Kor will meet you on the ship in Jakarta. I'll try to get in touch with him and let you know for sure if he will meet you on board.

ELIZABETH

Thank you Mr. Tono! See you later then.

Elizabeth walks out the office.

DISSOLVE.

313. EXT. SHIP SAILING TO JAKARTA. AFTERNOON (3pm).

The sun is shining over a green sea as smooth as silk; the seagulls are flying in a cloudless sky.

Elizabeth is on bow of ship. She is in uniform with hair blowing in wind, and sitting under the bridge to reflect.

ELIZABETH(V/O)

The Human Being is totally unaware of constantly being the victim of his own misguided thoughts.. A valid reason for not being carried away by anxiety and despair in front of all MY difficulties.

Elizabeth looks at the green sea and smiles.

DISSOLVE.

314. EXT. PORT OF JAKARTA. DAY. (December 6th).
Ship is berthed.

CUT TO:

315. INT. SHIP. MR TONO'S OFFICE. DAY.

MR. Tono is working on computer. There is a KNOCK on door.

MR. TONO

Come in!

Elizabeth enters.

MR: TONO

I'm sorry, but I couldn't get in touch with Mr. Kor. However if I were you, I would stay on board, because he might just turn up.

ELIZABETH

I don't believe Mr. Kor will come. But I won't go out just in case you do manage to get in contact with him and arrange a meeting for me.

MR. TONO

OK.

ELIZABETH

Thank you!

Elizabeth goes out of the office.

DISSOLVE.

316. INT. SHIP AT SEA. DUTY FREE SHOP. DAY.

The clock on board shows 11.30 of December 7, 1991. Passengers enter and leave the shop with bags of merchandise. Elizabeth is closing a drawer in the store when she looks up and finds a distinguished man standing in front of her, about forty-five years old, medium height, thin, dark-skinned, black hair, round face, who stares at her with his dark eyes. Mesmerized, she realises that she has already seen that face in her dream. ..Mr WILLER WUNER?

Elizabeth moves to see if he has a scar on his right cheek in the form of a cross like the man in the dream. As he turns to touch some Italian items, Elizabeth, amazed sees a scar the same as that in the dream.

The man shakes hands with Elizabeth.

THE MAN (WILLER WUNER)

It is a pleasure to meet you, I'm Mr.
Willer Wuner!

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

The pleasure is all mine!

The man continues to look at the goods with interest.

WILLER WUNER

You have some beautiful goods here. I live in both Singapore and Jakarta and I also run a chain of duty-free shops in Singapore. Perhaps you could put me in touch with your company in Venice as I would like to buy some Italian products and perfumes.

Mr. Willer Wuner hands a business card to Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

OK! Sure! If my company is interested in the business, they will contact you!

WILLER WUNER

My compliments madam. See you soon, I hope.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Goodbye and thank you for the compliments.

Shortly after Mr. Tono enters, smiling.

MR. TONO

Elizabeth, I'm happy to inform you that Madame Kor and her secretary will come on board in Singapore to see the goods.

ELIZABETH

(happy)

Ah! At last! Thank you Mr. Tono!

Mr. Tono smiles and goes away, nodding.

DISSOLVE.

317. INT. SHIP. DUTY FREE SHOP. DAY. (December 8th).

LISA (V/O)

(over loudspeaker)

The ship is now berthed in Singapore.
Passengers may disembark.

The board clock shows 10.15 of December 1991. Passengers are landing; Madame Kor and her secretary Rowena are in the lobby discussing with Hong and his assistant Marlo.

MADAME KOR

(staring angrily at the two)

Well, did you find the error?

HONG

(worried)

Not yet, we're working on it.

ROWENA

If the money has not been stolen, the accounts must balance.

While the two women turn their backs on Hong and Marlo, the two look worriedly at each other.

The two women go to meet Elizabeth.

Elizabeth is in front of the store waiting for them. When she sees the two women approaching her she smiles.

Elizabeth is taken aback by the unattractive figure of Madame Kor: tall, slim, wearing a pair of glasses on a long face and thin, with a mole on her left cheek from which a few hairs sprout, she has black shoulder length hair, the only pleasant thing about her.

ROWENA

May we see the goods?

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Yes of course! Come in!

Elizabeth opens the shop. The two women enter in silence. While Rowena looks over the perfumes, Elizabeth observes Madame Kor.

ELIZABETH(V/O)

What a strange woman Madame Kor is. She doesn't even deign me with a glance.

Meanwhile Madame Kor is looking with interest at the alcohol, and then goes to the cigarettes.

MADAME KOR

(with hostility)

We will not buy these cigarettes!

Elizabeth looks up surprised.

ELIZABETH

I'm sorry madam Kor, but I have orders to sell all the goods together or not at all. I'm sure you will find a buyer here in Singapore.

Madam Kor stares at Elizabeth.

MADAME KOR

Tell me the price of all goods.

ELIZABETH

My Company is asking for sixty percent on the sale price, which includes two computers with their program and all the furniture. (PAUSES). It's a bargain. If you had to buy two computers, programs, and the furnishing of the shop, it would cost you a much larger amount of money.

Madame Kor remains silent, thinking.

MADAME KOR

Look, we'll return before the departure
of the ship and we'll talk about it
then. Is that ok for you?

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Ok! I will wait for you from five pm
onwards, near the information office.

The secretary nods, smiling, while Madame Kor leaves the
shop in silence, without saying goodbye.

DISSOLVE.

318. INT. SHIP. DUTY FREE SHOP. AFTERNOON.

The board clock shows 5.45 pm. of December 8, 1991. While
Elizabeth is waiting for the two women, she sees captain
Philip coming towards her.

CAPTAIN

(smiling)

So Elizabeth, will you conclude the deal
this time?

ELIZABETH

I hope with all my heart, but I have a
strange feeling that it will be
difficult.

CAPTAIN

(staring into her eyes)

Please let us not be pessimistic!

ELIZABETH

(serious)

Rumours say that Mr. Kor has no more
money. I also have other personal
information. Therefore I think it'll be
difficult to conclude the deal.

CAPTAIN

(says seriously, and moves away)

We'll see what happens.

Shirley arrives.

SHIRLEY

Elizabeth, are you still waiting for
Madame Kor and her secretary?

ELIZABETH

(sigh)

If they do not hurry up, the ship will
leave. I doubt that Mr. Kor has the
money to pay me. I heard the departure
of the ship was delayed twice because
the employees responsible for the
refuelling refused to supply the fuel if
Mr. Kor didn't pay the arrears before
departure.

SHIRLEY

But then we left, so he must have paid.

ELIZABETH

(worried)

I still don't trust the. If Madame Kor
does not pay, I won't hand over the keys
of the store.

SHIRLEY

(while going away)

That's just what you should do! And it
looks like you may get chance right
now..

Elizabeth looks up and sees the two women coming towards
her. Shirley leaves, smiling and crossing her fingers for
luck to Elizabeth.

MADAME KOR

(orders)

Tell your company we will not pay more
than forty percent of the sale price.

ELIZABETH

(serious)

No madam Kor. I cannot accept that price
because I already have a limit. I cannot
go below fifty percent. This is our last
offer, so think about it and let me know
as soon as possible.

While Rowena smiles, Madame Kor remains as cold as ice.

MADAME KOR

What is the total price of the goods?

ELIZABETH

One hundred thousand dollars. So at fifty per cent it would cost you only fifty thousand,. However, on our return to Singapore I will let you know the exact figure.

The two women look at each.

They discuss with each other in Chinese.

ROWENA

(back to English)

Can you give us the final total here and now?

ELIZABETH

(surprised)

I would be glad to do so if there was enough time, but the ship departs in quarter of an hour and I won't be able to total up thousands of articles to give you the price before we leave.

ROWENA

(after a pause)

Please give me a list of the goods and I will do it.

At that moment the loudspeaker blares into life.

COLIN (V/O)

(announces)

Attention! The ship is about to depart. All visitors are kindly asked to please go ashore. Thank you.

Elizabeth gives a dated copy of the goods to Rowena, but when she turns round to say goodbye to Madame Kor, she has already gone.

ELIZABETH

(surprised)

Good evening, Rowena!

Rowena smiles and hurries out.

ELIZABETH

(under her breath)

Another of my dreams coming true!

DISSOLVE.

319. EXT. SHIP AT SEA. AFTERNOON.(3.00pm).

The sun is shining over a sea as smooth as oil, the seagulls are flying in a cloudless sky. At the bow of the ship Elizabeth (in uniform with hair blowing in the wind) is sitting under the bridge admiring the ship's bow gliding quickly over the green sea.

Elizabeth looks at the horizon and sees it is blurred. Her face darkens.

ELIZABETH

How much patience do I need? How many problems? I can't bear them anymore; its like an invisible weight is making my heart heavy....crushing me.

Elizabeth has a flashback:

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK:

320. INT. ELIZABETH'S PARENTS' HOME. GARDEN. DAY.

Elizabeth is fourteen years old; she has long pigtails and is wearing a pair of glasses with thick lenses. She is passing by the kitchen door which is ajar, and hears her mother talking to her father:

ROSINA

(upset)

This morning the oculist told me that Elisabetta is suffering from severe myopia. In time her condition will get worse and degenerate more and more, so she shouldn't strain her eyes studying over books.

Primo looks at his wife concerned without saying a word,

Elizabeth runs away sobbing. She hides under tree in garden.

END FLASHBACK.

CUT BACK TO:

ANGLE back on Elizabeth on bow of ship (Sc 319).

Elizabeth looks over the sea. Her vision clears again and she sees the seagulls flying free in the smokeless sky. She smiles.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Lun-Yu says: "The wise man is he who does not let himself be influenced by anything; he is without sadness and without fear ..."

PULL BACK AS SHIP SAILS ON with Elizabeth smiling happily.

DISSOLVE.

321. EXT. SINGAPORE. LOBBY AND DUTY FREE SHOP AREA. MORNING.

The clock on board shows 11. 30 am. of December 12, 1991. Richard comes through Hall towards Elizabeth waving a telex.

RICHARD

It's for you, my dear!

Elizabeth grabs it from Richard's hand.

ELIZABETH

(trembling)

Is it good news?

RICHARD

(softly)

Well I've never studied Italian and I don't read my clients' telexes.

ELIZABETH

Good! Very professional!

Richard looks at Elizabeth severely, she reads the telex in silence, then looks up at Richard who is still in front of her waiting for good news.

ELIZABETH

(worried)

I am still at sea and I don't know if I will ever conclude the sale of the business. In the meantime, my company has booked me a flight on Tuesday evening December 20. (PAUSES). I have to close the contract within a week.

Richard looks at Elizabeth with his black eyes wide open.

RICHARD

You might still succeed! However, make sure that Mr. Kor gives you the cheque in time, and that you clear the cheque before disembarking, because there are rumours that he has no more money left.

ELIZABETH

I know! All the crew are talking about it, but I hope they are just rumours.

RICHARD

Remember that whatever the crew are rumouring about, there is always an element of truth in it.

ELIZABETH

(trying to smile)

If Mr. Kor has no more money it means his businesses are in trouble. If so, my dream and Mr Tono's will come true.

RICHARD

(stares at her, then mutters)

You're smiling, but I'm afraid we might still be abandoned on the ship in some remote place, just like in your dream.

ELIZABETH

(stops smiling)

I have a strange feeling that I won't make that flight on Tuesday. It would be too good to be true to be home for Christmas.

Meanwhile Elizabeth sees Mr. Tono at the Information Office.

ELIZABETH

Sorry Richard, I have to talk to Mr.Tono.

Elizabeth goes up to Mr. Tono.

ELIZABETH

Excuse me Mr. Tono, I've been waiting for Madame Kor and her secretary for some time now, do you know if they have come on board?

MR. TONO

(smiling)

We are expecting them at 4 pm.

ELIZABETH

All right, I'll be back at then, thanks.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

322. INT. SHIP. LOBBY/DUTY FREE SHOP AREA. AFTERNOON.(4pm).

The clock on board shows 16.00 of December 12, 1991.

Elizabeth is in Shop. Madame Kor and Rowena walk towards her.

MADAME KOR

Listen, we'll buy everything at fifty percent, but we don't want the Italian cigarettes. You can sell them to whoever you want, but please get rid of them.

ELIZABETH

It will be very difficult for me to place the cigarettes.

Madame Kor stares at Elizabeth severely and leaves, and Rowena follows her.

ELIZABETH

Damn!

DISSOLVE.

323. EXT. SHIP IN JAKARTA PORT. DECK. AFTERNOON.

Desery sees Elizabeth lying on a deckchair and reading in shade of the funnel. She goes and sits next to Elizabeth.

DESERY

So, when are you finally going home?

Elizabeth lays the book on the deck chair.

ELIZABETH

Don't ask! Madame Kor is driving me crazy for fifty cartons of Italian cigarettes. She didn't want to buy them. So I had to phone some of my contacts, including one on the ship, but still didn't manage to sell them. I was worried that if I didn't get a buyer soon I wouldn't get home for Christmas.

DESERY

That viper Kor is unbelievable!

Elizabeth sits on the deck chair.

ELIZABETH

Later my boss Delopera told me to call Madame Kor and try to sell them to her for a lesser price. After negotiations she has finally just accepted the price.

DESERY

Good! So you have solved the problem!

ELIZABETH

Desery, some time ago I proposed sending all the goods to my Company in Italy in a container. But my boss insisted I didn't; saying that the costs would have been unsustainable. If he had listened to me, I would never have been in this situation in the first place.

DESERY

(reflecting)

There's still time. You can conclude the deal with Madame Kor on the 16th and then, on December 20th, you can leave for Italy.

ELIZABETH

It would be nice, but I'm afraid that I will remain in this "prison" for a few months more.

DESERY

(curious)

Who told you?

ELIZABETH

(serious)

My dreams.

The two women look at each other seriously.

DISSOLVE.

324. INT. SHIP. SINGAPORE HARBOUR. LOBBY & SHOPS. MORNING.

Elizabeth walks back and forth between the hall and the store, then looks at the clock on board, it shows 11.30, of December 16, 1991. Elizabeth puffing nervously goes to the landing door to where Noel the sailor on guard duty.

ELIZABETH

Hello Noel, I've been waiting almost two hours for Madame Kor and her Secretary. Have you seen them coming in?

NOEL

Mr Tono was also expecting them to come on board, but I haven't seen them yet.

Elizabeth goes quickly down the ladder and reaches the telephones in the hangar. She Inserts the card, and dials a number.

325. INT. MADAM KOR'S OFFICE. SINGAPORE. DAY.

Rowena is working on the computer in the office when the phone rings, she picks up the receiver.

ROWENA

Hello?

CUT TO:

ANGLE On Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

It's Elizabeth, the shop manager of the Orient Sun. Could you, please, pass me to Madame Kor?

ROWENA

I'm sorry, but Madame Kor is not available.

ELIZABETH

Excuse me please, would you mind telling me where I can find her.

ROWENA

I don't know. Try on your return from Jakarta.

ELIZABETH

(sighs)

In case you don't know, on return from the next trip I will be taking a plane home to Italy.

ROWENA

Ah! Well if you have to go, go!

ELIZABETH

But first I need to conclude the sale deal with Madame Kor.

ROWENA

Yes, I know, I'm sorry!

ELIZABETH

Yes, and I'm upset because now I'll have to postpone my departure to whenever.. I don't know when.

Elizabeth angrily slams down the receiver

DISSOLVE.

326. INT.SHIP. JAKARTA. EDWARD'S CABIN. AFTERNOON.

Edward is lying on the bed with a pillow under his feet, and gazing thoughtfully into space. KNOCK on door of the cabin.

EDWARD

Come in, the door is open.

Elizabeth enters and sees Edward lying on the bed with a pillow under his feet, like in her dream.

EDWARD

Oh, the dreams lady!

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Your assistant told me what happened. How are you?

EDWARD

(sigh, then grumbles)

When you told me about the dream where you saw me lying with my feet on a pillow, I thought what can ever happen to my ankles! Now I am just realising that, even without a broom, you really are a little witch.

ELIZABETH

(laughing)

Please don't condemn me to the stake as they did in the Inquisition.

The two burst out laughing joking, then Elizabeth sits on a chair beside Edward's bed.

ELIZABETH

But what was Dr. Win's diagnosis?

EDWARD

In Singapore, I went to a specialist who prescribed some creams and ordered me to stay in bed for another week. Having to stay here without being able to move is very boring.

ELIZABETH

I know, I'm sorry!

EDWARD

(smiling)

I know you postponed your flight. So far everything is according to your dreams. I imagine you will leave only after you have dealt with the second mafioso.

ELIZABETH

I've already met the second mafioso, I recognized him from the scar he has on his right cheek. Willer Wuner.

EDWARD

Elizabeth, you frighten me.

She smiles and changes the subject.

ELIZABETH

If nothing else, I'm happy for the crew, because Captain Philip is impressed by them. I heard today a group of Philipinos greeted him by saying..

EDWARD

(interrupting)

We love you Captain!

ELIZABETH

(laughing)

So you also noticed the crew greets him with great affection.

EDWARD

(happy)

Yes, the captain is a good person and the Philipinos show that they are very fond of him.

ELIZABETH

I find the Orientals are like sweet
"children" who have big hearts. They
know how to love unconditionally.

EDWARD

Yes Mummy, you're right!

Elizabeth laughs.

ELIZABETH

Actually, coming from you that doesn't
sound right.

Edward bursts into laughter.

EDWARD

You're right. I'm not a child of the
Orient!

DISSOLVE.

327. INT.SHIP BACK IN SINGAPORE. MORNING.

Disembarkation of passengers is over. Sailors Gabriel and Nikola are installing phone to the boarding door. Elizabeth arrives while the two are placing phone on a table. Nikola up receiver and listens to hear if it's working.

ELIZABETH

Excuse me, I have to make a telephone
call to Madame Kor, may I use the phone?

SAILOR GABRIEL

(smiling)

You're welcome!

Elizabeth dials the number, while some people come on board and go down the ladder.

CUT TO:

328. INT. MADAME KOR'S OFFICE. DAY.

The phone rings in the office. Rowena who is standing by the phone picks up the receiver and answers, while Madame Kor works on a computer.

ELIZABETH

It's Elizabeth, the shop manager of the
Orient Sun. May I speak to Madame Kor
please?

ROWENA

One moment, please.

Rowena passes the phone to Madame Kor.

MADAME KOR

Hello!

ELIZABETH

Madame Kor, is your proposal is still valid, or should I look for other buyers?

MADAME KOR

I am interested in taking over your business, but it's my husband who has doubts. Do me a favour, contact him and convince him.

Elizabeth goes white with surprise.

ELIZABETH

Okay, I'll try. Have a nice day!

Exasperated, Elizabeth angrily throws down the receiver.

ELIZABETH

Damn!

NIKOLA SAILOR

Mummy! That's not like you. What's the matter? You look so pale.

ELIZABETH

If you had to deal with the mafia, you would be pale too!

SAILOR GABRIEL

(staring incredulously)

Are you really dealing with the mafia?

ELIZABETH

(sighing heavily)

I wish I could say no..but yes. I am.

The sailors shocked are speechless.

ELIZABETH

(serious)

Listen to me, if you two ever need a killer, let me know, I will arrange everything for you.

The two sailors, shocked, take a step back and bump against the bulkhead, not knowing what to do or say. Elizabeth bursts out laughing.

SAILOR GABRIEL

You are naughty mummy. You are pulling our leg..aren't you?

Then the sailors burst out laughing too and they face her pretending to hit her.

ELIZABETH

There is nothing to laugh about, the situation is serious.

The two sailors look at each other doubtfully. Elizabeth walks off with her back to them; smiling.

DISSOLVE.

329. INT. SHIP. INFORMATION OFFICE. MORNING.

Mr. Tono at the Information Office is talking to one of his COLLABORATORS from Singapore who has a cell phone in hand.

Elizabeth sees them and joins them.

ELIZABETH

Excuse me Mr. Tono, could you please let me speak with Mr. Kor, it's urgent?

COLLABORATOR looks for moment at Mr. Tono and nods his permission.

Mr Tono dials number. He passes phone to Elizabeth.

CUT TO:

330. INT. MR KOR'S OFFICE. JAKARTA. DAY.

Phone rings in Mr. Kor's office. Secretary picks up the receiver.

SECRETARY

Hello!

ELIZABETH

It's Elizabeth. I'm the shop manager of the Orient Sun, may I speak to Mr. Kor, please?

SECRETARY

One moment, please! (PAUSE)

Mr. Kor is reading a newspaper with a photo of the Orient Sun and with big titles written in the Indonesian language.

The secretary hands him the phone. He puts down the newspaper and answers.

MR KOR

Hello!

ELIZABETH

(nervous)

Hello Mr Kor. It's Elizabeth from the Orient Sun shop. I'm sorry to disturb you, but I need to know urgently if you still want to take over our business or not because I have to inform our office in Venice.

Mr. Kor reflects for a moment, then sighs.

MR KOR

Yes I do. But not now. In January!

ELIZABETH

I'm sorry to insist, Mr Kor, but my company wants to close the deal now as I have to return home to Italy because of personal problems. I hope you can understand.

MR KOR

(gently)

Yes, but you can go back home whenever you want!

ELIZABETH

I'm sorry, Mr Kor. I can't just drop everything and leave my company with the problem. So can you please do me the courtesy of letting me know if you change your mind?

MR KOR

(sigh)

All right!

ELIZABETH

Thankyou. Goodbye.

She puts phone down.

MR TONO
(shouts)

In January?

ELIZABETH
(concerned)

Yes, so it seems! By the way, what do I owe you for the phone call?

The faces of two men light up and they answer sweetly.

THE TWO MEN
(smiling)

Nothing. It was a pleasure!

While Elizabeth looks at them with gratitude, they go away waving and smiling to her.

ELIZABETH
(shouts after them)

Thank you!

DISSOLVE.

331. INT. SHIP. INFORMATION OFFICE. DAY.

Jan is at the information office and is walking back and forth impatiently. His heavy steps are like an elephant and shake the floor. Elizabeth comes out of elevator and goes towards Jan, smiling.

JAN
Peedu and Kristian have delayed the departure for five days so now I can finally leave.

ELIZABETH
Yes, I came to say goodbye to my brotherly neighbour. However you're lucky. I don't even have a date yet for leaving?

Jan sighs and then takes Elizabeth's arm

JAN
(puffing)
Listen doll, we'll take a last walk up and down the hall, before the shipper arrives with my passport.

ELIZABETH
 (seeing Jan agitated)
 Why you are so nervous now that you're
 going home.

JAN
 (rubbing his moustache)
 How can I be happy to go home knowing I
 will find my country destroyed by bombs,
 because that's all a war leaves behind..
 death, destruction and ruin.

ELIZABETH
 (sighs)
 Yes, it's terrible. But Jan, think of
 your family. Leave the war to others.
 War is a pain machine that drives men
 with no values, but hopefully in time
 some of them will grow to have a better
 understanding and love for mankind.

Jan abruptly stops walking.

JAN
 My dear, your words are beautiful, but
 reality is very different!

ELIZABETH
 Everyone acts according to his inner
 self. I am sure that when you get home
 everything will be better than you think
 and will help raise your spirits.

JAN
 You're right but ...

Meanwhile agent appears and goes to Jan waving his passport.

SHIPPER
 Chief engineer, are you ready?

Jan and Elizabeth hug one another.

JAN
 (whispering)
 Farewell, dear sister!

ELIZABETH
 Good luck, brother! Say hello to Ante!

JAN
 (shouts excitedly as he leaves)
 OK! I will not forget!

Elizabeth looks at her friend going away in the company of the shipper. Jan looks back briefly and salutes and winks at her. She returns the salute with one hand and smiles.

DISSOLVE.

332. INT.SHIP.OFFICERS DINING ROOM. EVENING.

Elizabeth is having dinner with Colin and Lisa, when her old friends Peedu and Kristian come in.

KRISTIAN AND PEEDU
(shout in unison)
Elizabeth, how are you?

She stands up and hugs them happily.

ELIZABETH
It's always such a pleasure to see you!

KRISTIAN
(laughing)
Then, did you finally see the flying chickens?

Laughter echoes in the room.

ELIZABETH
I've seen so many that now I don't even notice them anymore!

Another laugh becomes contagious to everyone present.

Kristian and Peedu go to the buffet to get something to eat.

KRISTIAN
I thought you were back home. Why are you still here?

ELIZABETH
(serious)
Unfortunately I'm mixed up with the Mafia, and now I can't get out of the situation otherwise they will do me in. Do you understand the kind of trouble I've got myself into? Can you help me?

Laughter explodes again; but Kristian is concerned and looks a little dubiously at Elizabeth.

DISSOLVE.

333. EXT. SHIP. BOARDING AREA. SINGAPORE. DAY.

Elizabeth is dialling a phone number. Gabriel the sailor watches her in silence.

CUT TO:

334. INT. MADAME KOR'S OFFICE. DAY.

Phone rings in the office. Rowena picks up receiver.

ROWENA

Hello!

ELIZABETH

Hello Rowena, it's Elizabeth. May I speak with Madame Kor please?

ROWENA

Excuse me, but Madame Kor and her husband told me to inform you that they are no longer interested in taking over your business, so you can proceed to sell it to whoever you want.

ELIZABETH

Right. Thank you!

ELIZABETH

(annoyed)

Damn, when you have got to deal with the mafia the troubles never end.

The sailor Gabriel stares at Elizabeth with a questioning look on his face as Elizabeth goes back inside the ship.

DISSOLVE.

335. INT. SHIP. INFORMATION OFFICE. SINGAPORE HARBOUR. DAY.

Elizabeth looks at the clock at the information office on board, which shows 10.30 on December 24, 1991. Distressed, she feels the world is falling down around her.

She goes back towards the Boarding Area door.

CUT TO:

336. EXT. SHIP. BOARDING AREA. SINGAPORE HARBOUR. DAY.

Door to Boarding Area opens and Elizabeth runs out.

Under the gaze of Gabriel, who watches her concerned, Elizabeth runs down the landing stairs.

A moment later she is walking along the dockyard area on a path of red earth: with every step she takes, pale pink clouds of dust rise up and vanish in the air.

She enters a maze of containers among huge cranes, which glisten in the blinding sun. Then an ominous grey cloud rises in the blue sky and quickly obscures the sun. The wind swirls clouds of dust and litter in front of her.

Finally, Elizabeth reaches the customs passage where she shows her badge. It starts raining. She runs to the taxi stand and jumps in a taxi, with her hair and her clothe wet.

The taxi drives towards the city with howling wind and battering rain beating against windows. When taxi finally gets to its destination, lightning illuminates the grey sky.

CUT TO:

337. EXT. VIEW MADAM LIW KIER'S OFFICE BUILDING. DAY.

Elizabeth jumps out of arriving taxi and rushes inside.

CUT TO:

338. INT. MADAME LIW KIER'S BUILDING. ELEVATOR.

Elizabeth is in elevator going up to the ninth floor to Madame Kier's Office.

CUT TO:

ANGLE. Arrival of elevator near Madame Liw Kier's office.

Elizabeth gets out of the elevator and rings the door bell of Madame Liw Kier's office, opposite the elevator. A man she doesn't know opens the door.

THE MAN
(gently)

Come in, madam!

ELIZABETH
(following)

Excuse me, I'm Elizabeth the manager of the shop on the Orient Sun. Could I speak with Madame Liw Kier, please?

CUT TO:

339. INT. MADAME LIW KIER'S OFFICE. DAY.

The Man invites Elizabeth to sit at his desk.

THE MAN

Sorry, she's not in the office, but I'll try to trace her for you.

ELIZABETH

Thank you very much!

THE MAN

(on the phone)

The shop manager of the Orient Sun is her and she would like to talk to you.

The man hands her the phone.

CUT TO:

340. INT. LOH POH LIN'S CAR. DAY.

Loh Poh Lin is driving the car in the streets of Singapore, Madame Liw Kier is sitting beside him.

ELIZABETH

(on phone)

Excuse me Madame Liw Kier, it's Elizabeth. I just wanted to know if you are still interested in taking over our business on board the Orient Sun.

CUT TO:

341. EXT. CAR IN CITY STREETS. DAY.

The car stops at a red light lined up in the lane to turn right, with its indicator flashing in the rain. Loh Poh Lin who is driving turns and grabs a Chinese newspaper with a picture of the Orient Sun and gives it to Liw Kier, who looks at the article, holding the phone to her ear.

The two give a knowing look to each other.

CUT BACK TO:

342. INT. LOH POH LIN'S CAR. DAY.

LIW KIER
(on phone)

Elizabeth, I'm sorry, but things have changed a lot. It seems that Mr. Kor is trying to give the ship to another Charterer. If he does the ship could change routes, so I'm no longer interested. You do understand don't you?

ELIZABETH

I understand Madame Liw Kier! Good day!

Poh Lin Lin's car departs and turns right.

LIW KIER

The same to you, Elizabeth! Good luck!

CUT TO:

343. INT. MADAME LIW KIER'S OFFICE. DAY.

Back top Elizabeth. She stands up and shakes the man's hand.

ELIZABETH

Thank you very much!

The man accompanies her to the door.

THE MAN

You're welcome, it was a pleasure.

CUT TO:

344. EXT. MADAME LIW KIER'S OFFICE BUILDING. DAY.

Elizabeth leaves the building.

ELIZABETH (V/O)

God! I don't know who or where to turn to. I feel so lonely..so tired.

Elizabeth has a FLASHBACK:

She sees the face of Mr. Willer Wuner, with its cross-shaped scar on his right cheek (details of the scar). At that moment she feels a sudden boost to her morale.

END FLASHBACK.

ELIZABETH

That's it! Mr Wuner! This was my dream!
I must call Mr. Willer Wuner.

CUT TO:

345. INT. MR WUNER'S OFFICE. SINGAPORE. DAY.

The phone rings in Mr. Wuner's office. The secretary, who is working at a desk, picks up the receiver.

SECRETARY

Hello?

ELIZABETH

Hello It's Elizabeth, the shop manager of the Orient Sun. I would like to speak urgently with Mr. Willer Wuner, please.

SECRETARY

I'm sorry madam, he has left for Jakarta. May I help you?

ELIZABETH

Do you know by any chance if Mr. Wuner is interested in buying the merchandise and managing the store of the Orient Sun?

SECRETARY

(excited)

He is definitely interested. Do me a favour, send a fax to his office in Jakarta with all the necessary data. In the meantime I will contact him to inform him.

ELIZABETH

(beaming with happiness)

Okay, then, I will send the fax as soon as possible. Thanks and Merry Christmas!

SECRETARY

The same to you, madam!

ELIZABETH

(happy)

It's just like the dream when Mr. Wuner picks me up from the ground.

CUT TO:

346. EXT. SHIP.SINGAPORE HARBOUR. DOCKS. DAY.

Elizabeth gets out from a taxi opposite the Customs.

She takes the long walk through the containers. Shortly after she walks over the strange red mud, made compact by the heavy rain, leaving here and there the footprints of her sandals.

Meanwhile, a flash of lightening designs a thin red crack on the horizon, illuminating a large black cloud in the sky over Singapore.

Elizabeth realises she will not escape the shower of rain. A moment later the first drops fall on her, cold and as heavy as stones. Then it starts pouring. As she runs in the fury of the wind and her wet clothes are heavy with the rain. Finally she reaches the ship and scrambles up the boarding ladder to the top of the gangway. She stops to shake the water off her.

Elizabeth sees Gabriel the sailor looking at her amazed without saying a word.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

I will never forget Christmas Eve 1991!

She passes Gabriel the sailor on guard.

SAILOR GABRIEL

I'm sure you won't! I thought the Mafia had done you in, but I see that they only threw you into the sea.

ELIZABETH

(serious)

Not yet. I just finished dealing with the mafia in Singapore, now I'll deal with the Indonesian one.

Gabriel bursts into laughter. Noel the sailor arrives.

SAILOR NOEL

Oh, what a beautiful wet chick !

Elizabeth laughs.

ELIZABETH

No, I'm only a half-drowned hen!

The three burst into laughter, then Elizabeth walks away laughing leaving a pool of water on the floor.

DISSOLVE.

347. INT. SHIP. EDWARD'S CABIN. EVENING.

Edward's cabin door is open, he is lying on the bed with his feet on a pillow and he's reading a newspaper. Elizabeth looks through the door.

ELIZABETH

May I come in?

Edward, seeing Elizabeth closes the paper, puts it on the table and smiles happily.

EDWARD

Come in dream lady!

ELIZABETH

(enters with a smile)

How are you?

EDWARD

I've been stuck in these conditions for two weeks! You didn't happen to dream when I'll get better did you?

ELIZABETH

(serious)

No, sorry! Will you come tomorrow night to celebrate Christmas with us?

EDWARD

I think so.

ELIZABETH

(sits)

I'm glad.(PAUSES) I had some nightmares.

EDWARD

(surprised)

Nightmares? Not dreams? Please tell me.

ELIZABETH

I dreamed of being in my hotel in Singapore and as I entered my room I was attacked. To defend myself, I grabbed a knife and stabbed my attacker but it was like fighting a ghost, just stabbing into space. Then the devil started laughing as he chased me. Next I was running away and climbing up the windows and balconies of the hotel. I woke up just as he was about to catch me.

EDWARD
(worried)

Maybe in the future the company will send you to the hotel in Singapore to find new buyers and you will have many problems to overcome. Or is it just that you are stressed at the moment because of the problems you have had.

ELIZABETH
(thoughtfully)

I too thought that it was due to stress, and in this present situation I really do feel as if I am fighting a ghost. A few days ago I also dreamed that I was drowning, but I was able to save myself which means that

EDWARD
(interrupts)

This means that you will probably have to overcome some difficult situations, after all the efforts you have made to stay afloat.

ELIZABETH
You have just taken the words right out of my mouth.

The two look at each other seriously.

DISSOLVE.

348. INT. SHIP. SINGAPORE HARBOUR. SHOP & LOBBY AREA. DAY.

Madam Kor is bringing two miserable synthetic Christmas trees and some decorations on to the ship, which she hands to the hostess.

Madame Kor sees Elizabeth arriving; she turns her back and walks away pretending not to see Elizabeth. Elizabeth stares at her speechless.

ELIZABETH
I wouldn't dare wish Madame Kor Merry Christmas, Her bad mood is so negative.

Meanwhile Desery goes to meet Elizabeth, thoughtfully.

ELIZABETH
What's wrong, Desery?

DESERY

It seems that Marlo is in trouble. There seems to be a shortage of money in the accounts. Even Hong is worried.

ELIZABETH

Don't worry, there's probably a mistake. You will see. If no one has stolen the money, everything will be okay.

DESERY

(whispers seriously)

Let's hope so!

Shirley is decorating a Christmas tree with decorations when Hong comes in.

HONG

Elizabeth, you have good taste! Can you help the hostess to decorate the hall?

DESERY AND SHIRLEY

(shouts happily)

Yes, yes, you're so good! We can see it from how you display the merchandise in the windows.

ELIZABETH

(enthusiastic)

Okay, you finish the Christmas trees, I'll take care of the hall.

Hong brings to Elizabeth a box full of decorations which have already been used.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN. 2 hours later.

349. INT. LOBBY/HALL/SHOP AREA. DAY.

Hall is bright with Christmas colours that give joy and cheerfulness to all who pass through.

SHIRLEY

(looking at the salon)

Great!

DESERY

You did a wonderful job!.

ELIZABETH
And you have transformed those two
insignificant plastic trees into
something really special.

DISSOLVE.

350. EXT SHIP AT SEA. CHRISTMAS EVE. EVENING.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS EVERYWHERE.

CUT TO:

351. INT. SHIP. CREW LOUNGE. EVENING.

The room is filled with couples dancing to the sound of Christmas songs. Lights are dimmed, coloured decorations and streamers flutter sending out rays of light. There is a full Christmas buffet with crackers and party hats and tweeters.

Elizabeth enters the crew lounge where all the crew are present. She is elegantly dressed in her Christmas ballgown. When the crew see her so elegantly dressed, the light is suddenly switched on and Noel who is at the microphone, announces Elizabeth with euphoric welcoming shouts and clapping of hands.

THE DJ. SAILER NOEL AND THE CREW
We love you, mummy! We love you, mummy!
Happy Christmas!

Elizabeth smiles happily surprised, while the crew applauds.

ELIZABETH
(squeals - moved)
Happy Christmas to you, children of
Orient sun! Your mummy loves you too!

A roar of screams, applauses and shouts of joy envelops all present. Gabriel and Nikola drag Elizabeth onto the floor.

SAILOR DJ. NOEL
(at microphone)
Mom, you have to take part in the game
and if you lose, you have to undress!

ELIZABETH
(laughing)
I'm sorry but this is a trap for young
girls, not suitable for the mother of
the children of the Orient Sun.

A roar of screams, applauses, shouts and whistles explodes, filling the hearts with joy. Meanwhile Captain Philip arrives and is greeted with even more enthusiasm, so again screams, applauses, shouts burst out all around.

THE CREW
(shouts in chorus)
Captain, we love you! We love you! We
love you! Happy Christmas!

The captain moved and surprised, picks up the microphone.

CAPTAIN
With all my heart, I wish a Merry
Christmas to all my crew, and I would
like you to know that I am very proud of
you and thanks so much for your precious
cooperation. Happy Christmas to you all
and have fun.

Another roar of enthusiastic screams, applauses and shouts.

THE CREW
(in chorus repeats)
Captain, we love you! We love you!

Then the lights are dimmed and the music starts again. Elizabeth meets Edward, who is talking to Desery.

ELIZABETH
Edward, how are your ankles?

EDWARD
(happy)
Not bad. I seem to be managing to stay
on my feet!

ELIZABETH
I think it is also time that they
started working again.

Desery looks at Elizabeth sadly.

ELIZABETH
What's wrong with you Desery?

DESERY
(approaches, whispering)
Hong wants to leave because he is tired
of the crew gossiping about him, but I'm
afraid he might leave me on my own.

ELIZABETH

Don't worry my dear, you will see. Hong
will terminate his contract.

DESERY

(whispers)

I hope you're right this time, too.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Time will tell! But now smile please,
it's Christmas Eve!

Gabriel, Nikola and Robert arrive. They invite the two girls
to dance, while Elizabeth and Desery follow the sailors.

Edward smiles.

DISSOLVE.

352. INT. SHIP AT SEA. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

Elizabeth comes out from the bathroom in her nightgown and
lies down on the bed, thoughtful. She is confused by a
thousand thoughts. She looks at the bedside clock that shows
11. 45 pm of December 27, 1991.

ELIZABETH(V/O)

Why should I always be haunted by all
these worries?

Elizabeth after having turned over several times in bed
finally manages to relax: then she feels the invisible
presence of a Being of light filled with pure love who hugs
her and holds her so tightly they fall asleep together.

FADE OUT

FADE IN.

353. INT. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. MORNING.

In the morning, the light comes in through the curtain. When
Elizabeth wakes up, she feels the spiritual presence of the
Being of 'light' releasing her from the embrace and leaving
her. She sits on the bed amazed, and meditates for a while.

ELIZABETH(V/O)

Extraordinary! This Being of light slept
and hugged me all night and filled my
heart with love. Now I feel so happy and
relaxed.

Elizabeth smiles happily.

DISSOLVE.

354. INT. SHIP. CINEMA. DAY.

Elizabeth enters the cinema hall, dimly lit and empty.

ELIZABETH
Edward, where are you?

Some noises can be heard.

EDWARD
I'm here!

Elizabeth looks around, then sees Edward bent over a lighted cabinet, close to the stage.

ELIZABETH
(approaching)
Am I disturbing you?

EDWARD
No! I'm listening!

Elizabeth bursts out laughing.

EDWARD
Why are you laughing?

ELIZABETH
I'm laughing because when you see me you already know that I have a dream to tell you about. But if you knew what happened to me, you wouldn't believe it.

Edward turns round and looks at her curiously.

ELIZABETH
Last night I was worried because I have not yet received a reply to the telex that I sent to Mr. Willer Wuner. So, while I was thinking about the recent events, I felt a spiritual presence of light full of love and that hugged me and consoled me ...

Edward stands up thoughtfully.

EDWARD
What?

ELIZABETH

Let me finish. This 'Being' of light was filled with pure love and cuddled me like a father; but the most incredible thing that struck me happened when I woke up. I felt the some entity leaving me from its embrace in which I fell asleep last night.

Edward stares perplexed and speechless.

ELIZABETH

I hope you don't think I've gone mad?

EDWARD

No, because you haven't. But I must admit that your story leaves me puzzled.

ELIZABETH

I know anyone would take me for crazy, but I have to tell the truth.

Edward's eyes widen.

EDWARD

You know I always believe you.

ELIZABETH

I know you believe me Edward. Truth contains an energy that leads the truly evolved man to recognize it; but there is confusion and blindness in the minds of those less fortunate who still have a certain path to follow to recognize it.

EDWARD

You're right, Elizabeth. Lies have a much different vibration to Truth.

DISSOLVE.

355. INT. SHIP. KITCHEN (5PM). SINGAPORE. LATE AFTERNOON.

Some cooks with white hats on their heads are peeling potatoes and other vegetables, while on the stove in the kitchen there are large pots boiling and pouring out steam.

Elizabeth enters kitchen with receipt in her hand. She looks around and sees the HEAD COOK wearing a tall white hat and a white apron coming to meet her. He is a Chinese man of medium height, thin, round face, with black eyes and hair.

HEAD COOK

Is it my receipt?

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Yes, your assistant came to tell me to bring the bill.

HEAD COOK

Come into my office, and I'll pay you.

Elizabeth gives the receipt to the chief cook and follows him in a square closet with a desk full of papers. The man looks at the receipt and takes out the money from a drawer and hands it to Elizabeth.

HEAD COOK

Did you know Marlo has been taken away because of that story of the twenty-five thousand dollars which disappeared. It seems Mr. Kor has charged him so now he has to stand trial.

Elizabeth puts the money in her pocket.

ELIZABETH

If the story is true I don't understand how Hong and his assistant Marlo have managed to get away with things until now, when it was already well known that they were speculating on the provisions of the crew and passengers.

HEAD COOK

When a person is too greedy, he usually ends up getting caught.

ELIZABETH

I think it's terrible that the Chief Housekeeper can end up taking food from the mouths of the crew. Unfortunately it's a horrible thing that I've seen too many times on board ships.

HEAD COOK

Of course. It's unthinkable!

DISSOLVE.

DREAM SEQUENCE STARTS.

356. EXT. SHIP IN PORT. DAY.

Dream (flou effect): Elizabeth is in front of the Orient Sun which is stopped in port. Beside her are her father and her ex boss Valdetaro (who also died of cancer in 1990).

FATHER

Elizabeth, now the Orient Sun has stopped, you are on shore leave.

CUT TO:

357. INT. SMALL BAR ON DOCKS. DAY.

Elizabeth is in a small bar opposite the ship and is offering a drink to Richard and Edward, with whom she makes a toast.

ELIZABETH

Let's make a toast to the dreams that came true and to the others that will come true.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

CUT TO:

358. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

Elizabeth wakes up. Clock shows 3.00 am. January 2, 1992.

She sighs tiredly and falls back in bed to sleep.

DISSOLVE.

359. INT. SHIP AT SEA. OFFICER DINING ROOM. MORNING (8am).

Elizabeth enters the Officers' dining room and finds Edward, Richard and Peedu Post.

ELIZABETH

Good morning all of you!

A chorus of good morning echoes in the room. Elizabeth goes to the buffet to get coffee.

ELIZABETH

Do you know the ship will stop soon?

Friends stare at her curiously.

RICHARD
How would you know before we do?

ELIZABETH
(smiles then reveals)
I have been informed by a source from
another dimension.

Laughter from everyone.

ELIZABETH
It's true! Last night I dreamed my
father and my ex-boss Valdetaro, who is
also dead, told me that the ship will
stop when I am away on leave.

PEEDU
Elizabeth, it's just a dream!

ELIZABETH
You'll see, it will happen. I don't
believe my father would come from
another dimension just to tell me a
something that isn't true. There are
other dreams which will also come true.

Richard puts his cup on the table.

RICHARD
Didn't you already dream once before
that the ship would stop?

ELIZABETH
Yes, a few months ago I had two dreams
about the same thing. This one makes
three. This is why I believe that the
ship WILL stop.

The chief engineer Peedu listens quietly with scepticism.

RICHARD
It will be difficult in any case that
the charterer can break a contract,
unless he runs away like a thief!

ELIZABETH
It wouldn't be the first time that it
has happened!

EDWARD
(sighs)

It would be nice if we COULD stop for a while, because this ship always travels up and down incessantly, like a train.

They all look at Edward, worried.

DISSOLVE.

360. INT. SHIP AT SEA. DUTY FREE SHOP AREA. DAY.

Elizabeth is giving change to a CUSTOMER.

Customer leaves.

Richard arrives with a telex in his hand.

ELIZABETH
Ah! At last! ..Is it good news?

Richard hands the telex to Elizabeth.

RICHARD
Who do you take me for, I told you before I don't read my clients' telexes!

ELIZABETH
(laughing)
And please, don't ever dare do it!

RICHARD
I'm leaving. You're unbearable!

ELIZABETH
Please wait till I read the telex.

RICHARD
Okay, I'll forgive you, this time.

Elizabeth reads the telex in silence, then she explains.

ELIZABETH
Mr. Willer Wuner thanks me for the telex. He contacted Mr. Sogreen, but the secretary apparently he is on vacation and will only return on January 4th. He also received a message from my boss Delopera. I have to tell him that Mr. Willer only will be able to have a meeting with his staff on January 6.

RICHARD

I'm sorry Elizabeth, but if your dreams come true and the ship stops, not even Mr. Willer Wuner will be interested in managing the store any more.

ELIZABETH

(worried)

Yes, that's what I'm thinking. I could really be in the middle of a sea of troubles.

RICHARD

(laughs)

But at the moment the ship is still sailing!

Richard looks at Elizabeth and smiles, then exits shop

CUT TO:

361. INT. SHIP AT SEA. CAPTAIN'S CABIN. AFTERNOON.

Captain is in his cabin concentrating on the construction of a beautiful sailing boat.

KNOCK on door.

CAPTAIN

Come in!

Elizabeth enters. Captain continues to work on sailboat.

ELIZABETH

Captain, I'm sorry to bother you, but I'm a bit worried. I would like to know if the Charterer can break the contract and stop the ship.

The Captain stops working on the beautiful sailing boat and takes a blue folder from a cabinet from under the large windows.

The captain opens the folder.

CAPTAIN

(looking through the pages)

Where did you get the idea that the Charterer would try to stop the ship?

ELIZABETH

It's a long story! I was told by my dead father and my ex boss Mr. Valdetaro in a dream; and then a few months ago I had another two dreams that gave me the same information.

CAPTAIN

(showing her the folder))

You see, it isn't possible for your dreams to come true, because there's a contract for eighteen months and only eight have passed. I think it would be very difficult for Mr. Kor to break the contract.

ELIZABETH

I hope so. On the other hand I can't believe that my father and my ex-boss would have bothered to come to me from the spirit world to tell me fibs.

CAPTAIN

I really don't think there will be a breach of contract, because whoever breaks it will have to pay a big fine.

Elizabeth looks into the captain's eyes.

ELIZABETH

Thank you, Captain. Good afternoon!

The captain puts the folder in its place and accompanies Elizabeth to the door staring at her in a sceptical manner.

He smiles as door closes behind her.

DISSOLVE.

DREAM SEQUENCE STARTS:

362. EXT. WHITE HOUSE. WASHINGTON, USA. DAY.

Dream (effect flou): Elizabeth is standing outside the White House, America, and is surrounded by a group of people, who are urging her to go in; she is surprised and she refuses.

ELIZABETH

Me in the White House? But what will I say to the people that are in there?

CUT TO:

DREAM CONTINUES:

363. EXT. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT. (8pm).

Elizabeth feels the presence of two spirits who are sitting on the bed; one on either side of her body. Suddenly, in front of her eyes a beautiful golden crucifix appears; it is attached to a cassette which could also be a book, it has a cover in gold set with gems that send bright shining rays like little stars in the heavens.

ONE THE TWO SPIRITS
(convincing voice)
Tell them your story and you will
conquer them all!

END OF DREAM SEQUENCE.

CUT TO:

364. INT. SHIP. BACK TO ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

Elizabeth wakes up and sits on bed, beaming with happiness. She looks at the bedside clock which shows eight in the morning of January 5, 1992.

ELIZABETH (V/O)
My God, perhaps the cross represents the
sacrifice that I will have to make to
write this story! But why should I make
such a sacrifice to write it?

Elizabeth reflects for a moment, worried.

ELIZABETH (V/O)
It's unbelievable, that voice was so
convincing. I feel so moved. The White
House represents the American people so
I wonder if it means that I will also
conquer the Americans with my story?

DISSOLVE.

365. INT. SHIP AT SEA. CORRIDORS NEAR ENGINE ROOM. MORNING.

Elizabeth looking for Edward. bumps into Roldan.

ELIZABETH
Excuse me Roldan, have you seen Edward?

ROLDAN

I believe he went to the engine room to check something.

ELIZABETH

(while running away)

Thank you!

Elizabeth, while running down the iron stairs, plugs her nose with her fingers because of the smell of oil.

She opens a door and is almost deafened by noise of the engines. When she stops to look at the big pistons of the ship going up and down in that enormous room full of engines, she is impressed; to her they look like giant metal monsters. She doesn't know where to go.

Elizabeth finally sees Edward coming out of a small door.

EDWARD

(surprised)

Elizabeth! What are you doing here?

They walk away from that infernal noise.

ELIZABETH

I wonder how the officers and mechanics work in this deafening hell.

EDWARD

(as she follows him)

It's just a case of getting used to it!

ELIZABETH

Excuse me Edward, have you got five minutes to spare? I had a kind of amazing dream or vision!

DISSOLVE.

366. INT. SHIP. DRESSING ROOM OF ENGINEERS. DAY

Edward and Elizabeth are talking to each other, sitting in the engineers' dressing room full of cupboards, rows of shoes covered in grease, working overalls hanging on hooks, a small table and some chairs.

The room smells of oil, but it is almost isolated from the noise. Elizabeth moves a couple of smelly shoes, plugging her nose with two fingers.

EDWARD

This dream is exceptional, but I am puzzled! The two spirits assure you that you will write the story of your experiences on board the Orient Sun, right?

ELIZABETH
(happily)

Yes, and it will be a real and valuable story to others, but it will cost me enormous sacrifice.

EDWARD
(curious)

Yes, the crucifix! I also find it very significant that on the cover of the book or of the cassette there were gems; meaning you will write a precious story.

The two look at each other enthusiastically.

DISSOLVE.

367. EXT. SINGAPORE DOCKS. DAY. (January 7).

The Orient Sun is docking in front of the World Trade Centre seaport. Shortly after, the sailors Gabriel and Nikola put down the ladder and install the gangway railing. The hostess Desery can be heard making an announcement.

HOSTESS DESERY

Attention please, the ship is now moored in the port of Singapore. We wish all passengers leaving us here a safe journey home.

The passengers start to go ashore.

CUT TO:

368. EXT. SHIP. LOBBY & RECEPTION AREA. MORNING.

The board clock shows 11.00 am. January 7, 1992. Elizabeth crosses the reception area and goes to look for Mr. Tono in his office; she looks inside and sees three Indonesians, whom she does not know, hastily closing the last box filled with everything that belongs to the Charterer. She is surprised and goes away thinking.

ELIZABETH (V/O)

My God, what's going on? It seems they are running away like thieves.

At that moment Captain Philip arrives. He sees the three Indonesians carrying some boxes out of the office and taking them to the stairway landing.

A meaningful look passes between Elizabeth and the Captain.

They both rush to staircase landing where they see a truck. Indonesians are running up and down with boxes, computers and other articles. Finally they get into the truck and drive off at full speed with tyres screeching.

ELIZABETH
Captain, those people are escaping!

CAPTAIN
(going away quickly)
I think so too!

CUT TO:

369. EXT. SHIP IN DOCKS. MARITIME HALL NEAR SHIP. DAY.

Elizabeth is walking into the great hall of the station, when she hears the sound of the microphone on board the ship. She stops to listen to the announcement. The hostess Shirley can be heard making an announcement that echoes outside in the maritime station.

HOSTESS SHIRLEY
We inform the crew that tonight there
will be no boarding of passengers as the
ship will spend the night undergoing
some minor repairs here in Singapore.

Elizabeth starts walking again and enters the great Maritime hall of the station which is almost deserted; she bumps into Desery.

DESERY
Your dream has come true!

Desery laughs.

DESERY
It seems that the Charterer has run off
with his collaborators, without telling
anyone.

ELIZABETH
(puzzled)
I also thought that they were running
away.. as if they were thieves!

DESERY

This is one way of not paying; so long as Mr. Kor, doesn't let himself be caught otherwise it will cost him a lot more than a fine.

ELIZABETH

Yeah, I suppose so, though I wouldn't like to be in his shoes if they catch him, as he will end up in jail.

DESERY

(thoughtfully)

If we don't find a new Charterer immediately, we will all lose our jobs.

ELIZABETH

(serious)

In the two dreams I had it was very clear that the ship would stop for a long time, so I think it is going to be difficult to find a new Charterer. On the other hand Mr. Kor also tried to find a new Charterer for the Orient Sun, and just look at the situation we are in now.

DESERY

(worried)

I hope that for once your dreams don't come true!

Desery goes away sadly. Elizabeth worried, watches Desery walking away.

DISSOLVE.

370. EXT. AERIAL VIEW OF SHIP. MORNING. (Noon). January 8.

Ariel overview of Singapore and of the ship being towed by the tug, while we hear announcements from outside. The ship is among hundreds of ships at anchor.

Outside the sound of Desery's voice through the speaker.

HOSTESS DESERY

(announces)

We inform the crew that in five minutes the ship will be anchored off Singapore harbour, thanks for your attention.

Two tugboats tow the ship Orient Sun inbetween hundreds of ships, which sway slowly on their anchors and waiting to land their cargo in Singapore.

Shirley's voice on microphone resounds again outside ship.

HOSTESS SHIRLEY

(announces)

We inform the crew that the ship will remain at anchor for as long as it takes to find a new Charterer. There will be launches to Singapore only at 6.00 pm, and at midnight to come back on board. Thanks for your attention.

At the end of the announcement, outside the ship, bursts of excited screams and whistles are heard coming from the crew on board the ship.

DISSOLVE.

371. EXT. SHIP. AT THE BOW. AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth and Desery are sitting at bow on the big cables of rope coils and watching the huge cargo ships which are turning slowly on their anchors.

DESERY

(grumbles)

I feel abandoned aboard this "trap".
Hong told me that he will sleep at home tonight with his wife. I feel so lonely.

Elizabeth looks at a storm of seagulls flying around.

ELIZABETH

Yes, you feel like a prisoner between these plates of metal. If you want to go ashore during the day it isn't possible because it costs too much. Can't afford it.

DESERY

If you want to go, there's a way to go ashore and you will spend much less!

ELIZABETH

Tell me, please, otherwise my boss will continue to insist that I sleep in a hotel in Singapore.

Desery breathes in some fresh air.

DESERY

It's very simple. Go to the landing door and when you see a passing boat, one that takes the sailors from the other ships ashore, call them and you won't spend more than five U.S. dollars.

ELIZABETH

(happily)

Okay, and then I can come back with the boat that brings the crew back at 6.00!

DESERY

Yes, but remember that every time you go to Singapore, you must inform the captain.

ELIZABETH

(standing up)

Okay, I will, thank you!

Elizabeth walks through the ropes.

DESERY

Did you call Mr. Willer Wuner's secretary?

ELIZABETH

Yes I did, yesterday morning!

DESERY

And what did she say?

ELIZABETH

She said she knew what had happened, and asked me to phone her at the end of the week for an appointment because her superiors seem interested in the goods, and they want to come and see them.

DESERY

(smiling)

Well, maybe your nightmare is over!

ELIZABETH

(laughs)

Let's hope so! ..Or maybe it's only just beginning!

DISSOLVE.

372. INT. SHIP. CAPTAIN'S CABIN. MORNING.

The Captain's cabin door is partially open. He is at desk concentrating on building his miniature sailing ship.

KNOCK ON DOOR. Door opens and Elizabeth's head appears.

ELIZABETH
May I come in, Captain?

CAPTAIN
Elizabeth! Please do.

Elizabeth enters and admires his model.

ELIZABETH
(exclaims excitedly)
Superb! You're an artist!

CAPTAIN
(smiling)
Doing this the time passes more quickly!

Elizabeth continues to admire the model of the ship.

ELIZABETH
I suppose you will have time to finish
it now we are delayed.

CAPTAIN
Unfortunately, I'm afraid that is true!

She stares straight into his eyes.

ELIZABETH
Well Captain, you didn't believe me, but
my dreams have come true?

The Captain looks at Elizabeth thoughtfully.

CAPTAIN
Yes, I realise that!

The captain refocuses back working on the sailing ship.

ELIZABETH
Captain, in case things don't work out
with Mr. Willer Wuner I've come to tell
you that I will go out every day I can
to try and find other buyers.

CAPTAIN

(looking up at Elizabeth)
Okay! Good luck!

ELIZABETH
Thank you, and good luck with the
sailing ship.

The captain smiles. Elizabeth smiles back and leaves the
cabin.

CUT TO:

373. INT. SHIP. ON THE BRIDGE. MORNING.

Elizabeth appears on the bridge, where she finds Roldan.

ELIZABETH
I'm proud of you, Roldan. I heard you
have been promoted to second officer!

ROLDAN
Thank you, you're very kind! And I bet
you want me to stop the first boat that
passes by here, am I right?

ELIZABETH
Yes please, otherwise I'll lose hours
trying to stop them as they often don't
see me or hear me.

Roldan picks up the binoculars and looks through them.

ROLDAN
That's normal. Those little boats have
got very noisy engines and if the pilot
doesn't see you when you signal, he
certainly can't hear you.

Roldan continues looking through the binoculars at the ships
swaying on their anchors. He speaks as he watches..

ROLDAN
In any case wouldn't it be better for
you to stay in a hotel?

ELIZABETH
My boss insisted on sending me to a
hotel, but some weeks ago I had a
strange dream in which I was being
attacked entering my hotel room. So I
prefer to prevent this if I can and I
begged him to let me stay on board.

ROLDAN

(putting down the binoculars)
You did the right thing. I would have
done the same thing myself if I'd had a
similar dream..and you are also saving
the company a lot of money.(SMILES).

Roldan picks up binoculars, looks out to sea, then puts them
down again.

ROLDAN
(indicating a boat leaving a cargo ship)
Here, go down the hatch. I'll signal
that boat to stop when it gets closer.
It's full of boisterous sailors but I'm
sure you can handle them. (HE SMILES)

ELIZABETH
Thanks Roldan. I'll go down now. Bye!

CUT TO:

374. EXT. SHIP. DISEMBARKATION HATCH AREA. DAY.

Elizabeth appears at the disembarkation hatch. She looks out
and sees the small boat that is approaching.

Roldan, looking down from the bridge, signals to Elizabeth
that he will lower the iron ladder within a few minutes.

LANDING LADDER LOWERS.

Elizabeth goes down the steps slowly as waves caused by the
approaching boat crash against the last steps of the ladder;
she stops halfway. Everything below her is swaying.

As she gets to the lasts steps of the ladder, the boat
suddenly tilts against the ship making the ladder sway even
more.

ELIZABETH FALLS, but ends up in the arms of a sailor, who
pulls her gently onto the boat midst a chorus of excited
shouts and cheers.

She is a little upset but smiles and sits down with the
sailors as they continue to shout excitedly.

Roldan, having witnessed the scene from the bridge is
himself a little upset, but relaxes as the boat finally
sails off towards Clifford Pier.

DISSOLVE.

375. EXT. SHIP. ON DECK. NIGHT.

The board clock shows 9.30 pm. of January 12, 1992. Around the Orient Sun dark shapes of poorly lit large cargo ships can be seen in the surrounding waters. In the distance the bright lights of the skyscrapers light up the Singapore night. The moon in the sky sends its silvery rays over the gloomy outlines of those vessels that continue to sway on their anchors.

Elizabeth is on the sun deck sitting at a table with Richard and Edward. A slight breeze ruffles Elizabeth's hair.

EDWARD

So, when will Mr. Willer Wuner come to see the goods?

Elizabeth looks at a plane that is rising in the air at that moment from the island of Singapore.

ELIZABETH

The secretary said he will come early on the fifteenth. But I discovered there are customs laws that don't allow duty-free items to be landed in Singapore. So I'm worried about how Mr. Willer Wuner will be able to do this if he wants to buy the goods.

The two friends look at her worried.

EDWARD

If he is a Mafioso, he will have his fingers in everything; he will find a way of doing it.

ELIZABETH

I'm afraid that with Singapore Customs not even the Mafia can do anything.

RICHARD

Why didn't you ship the goods to Italy by container.

ELIZABETH

(sighs)

Some months ago, when I spoke to my boss, he told me that it wasn't possible because it would cost a fortune.

Richard looks at Elizabeth with his dark eyes, in disbelief.

RICHARD

That's not true! I know, because I had to send a container to Europe and it was no more than three thousand US dollars.

ELIZABETH

Impossible! But if that's really the case then tomorrow I'll enquire about the prices and notify my company.

EDWARD

Maybe you have solved your problems!

RICHARD

(smiling)

By the way, a little bird told me that this morning you fell into the arms of a sea wolf .

EDWARD

(curious)

What! A sea wolf?

ELIZABETH

Sure did! It was love at first sight!

Richard and Elizabeth burst out laughing. Edward looks curiously at both of them wondering.

DISSOLVE.

376. EXT. SHIP. DECK. NIGHT.

A chorus of greetings are heard as Lisa and Colin arrive. Smiling, they sit with Elizabeth, Edward, and Richard.

ELIZABETH

Is it true that soon all the Burmese will have to disembark?

RICHARD

(seriously)

Yes, because it isn't easy to find a new Charterer and they can't stay longer.

LISA

(worried)

Now they are all angry.

ELIZABETH

(curious)

Why?

EDWARD

Because they must disembark before the Philipinos!

ELIZABETH
(concerned)
Why should they disembark first?

A gust of warm wind ruffles the hair of those present.

RICHARD
It's a question of their ticket costs.
Usually they are sent home before those
who live closer because if the owner
finds a new Charterer, then bringing
them back will cost him less.

A chorus of 'good evening's interrupt the conversation.

Shirley, Lydia, Rayu and Desery arrive and go and sit on
deck chairs.

Then Kristian arrives and goes to sit next to Elizabeth.

KRISTIAN
So, Elizabeth, when will you get rid of
your burden?

ELIZABETH
(joking)
Only when your flying chickens decide to
fly me to Italy!

Laughter bursts out all around.

KRISTIAN
(looking at Elizabeth)
I hope we can get rid of this little
witch soon.

ELIZABETH
You are not funny, Kristian. If I could
have left before now, I would already
have gone!

EDWARD
(seriously)
I'm sure that when you leave, we will
all miss you!

ELIZABETH
(joking)
Yeah, yeah, yeah! As Edward always says:
Where will you find another master
builder like me?

A chorus of shouts, screams, whistles and laughter rises in the night. Then Colin tells a joke, attracting the attention of all present.

COLIN

A young man is in a sawmill. He has a stammer, but if he sings the stuttering disappears. Left alone during the holidays, a fire breaks out and he calls the fire brigade singing: " The sawmill is burning." At the other end of the line the fireman replies, "Para ponzi, ponzi po'

A burst of laughter echoes in the night.

KRISTIAN

Your joke reminds me of a mechanic who had a stammer and during a fire he ran away and left me alone to fight the fire.

ELIZABETH

For everyone's safety then it is better Kristian that you meet Mr. Tono soon. Shirley and I had the same collective dream; a premonition in which a fire broke out on board ship in the middle of the night. I dreamed the ship stopped and smoke was pouring from the two main central doors of the Orient Sun. So.. because this dream and that we both had it, you and the other officers had better pay close attention, as it could be a premonition of things to come.

They all look at each other in silence.

KRISTIAN

Come on Elizabeth, I don't believe in premonitory dreams!

ELIZABETH

Of course, you don't. But premonitory dreams have been with mankind since the beginning of Time... But of course, you have no doubts about your stupid flying chickens!

Everybody laughs.

DISSOLVE.

377. INT. SHIP AT SEA. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.(2.30am).

Elizabeth is asleep in her cabin.

FIRE ALARM SOUNDS.

The loudspeaker from the command bridge wakes her up. She jumps up and sits on the bed, stunned. She listens to the voice of Captain Philip.

CAPTAIN PHILIP

Attention everyone! The alarm means there is a fire on board. Firemen and emergency staff are required to report immediately to the second floor.

ELIZABETH (V/O)

Oh my God! What do I do? Do I go out in my dressing gown or get dressed?

CAPTAIN PHILIP

(shouts through microphone)

Second Officer Roldan, must return to his guard post immediately. All crew not involved in putting out the fire must go urgently to launch number eight and await new orders for disembarking..

CUT TO:

378. INT. SHIP. FIRE STATION. NIGHT.

In the fire station on board, a dozen men arrive running. Among them are Kristian, Peedu, Richard, Edward and Maung, who hastily put on their fire overalls and masks and grab fire extinguishers and all they need to put out the fire.

They run out and disappear into the smoke.

CUT TO:

379. INT. SHIP.ELIZABETH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

The bedside clock shows 2.30 January 13, 1992.

Elizabeth takes her life-jacket and runs out in her dressing gown, into the corridor.

CUT TO:

380. INT. SHIP. CORRIDORS OUTSIDE ELIZABTH'S CABIN. NIGHT.

Elizabeth rushes along corridors and finds the officers (including hostesses and classified officers in chaos.

SHIRLEY

Go back to your cabins immediately and
get your life-jackets!

The officers, through the yelling and shouting, go back to their cabins and return quickly to the corridor and, together with Elizabeth, run out onto the sun deck.

CUT TO:

381. EXT. SHIP. SUN DECK. NIGHT.

Crowds of officers and crew running with Elizabeth on to the sun deck. They all lean over the right railing of the walk and see the grey smoke coming out of the door below and rising up into the black sky.

Worried and nervous, between shouts and cries, the officers run to launch number eight on the left side of the ship. The two sailors assigned, Noel and Gabriel, have already lowered the launch onto the promenade deck.

Crew not involved in putting out the fire lean on the left railing staring in disbelief at the dense grey smoke coming out of the left door at the centre of the ship, on the fourth floor.

Meanwhile, the cold air of the night makes everybody shiver as in the rush no-one had time to dress properly. Most of crew is in pyjamas, nightgowns and dressing gowns, and someone had even brought along a suitcase.

Some of the Philippino girls began to cry. The sailor Nikola opens the door to the bar opposite the launch, and invites the crew to enter and wait there.

NIKOLA SAILOR

(shouts)

As we can't board the launch without the
order of the Captain, take shelter here
in the hall opposite the launch.

The crew, between screams, cries, and sobs enters the bar.

ELIZABETH

Shirley, what time is it please?

SHIRLEY
(trembling)

Two forty!

Meanwhile, some Philippine girls began to sob desperately.

ELIZABETH AND SHIRLEY
(shouting in unison)
Stop crying!

The young women stop for a while, and then continue to cry even more than before.

ELIZABETH
Please stop crying! After all, we will be the first to get off the ship if the firemen aren't able to extinguish the fire. Think of the fire-fighters who are risking their lives attempting to put out the fire in all that black smoke!

Silence for a moment, then the young women talk among themselves worried and nervous.

Shortly after Desery joins Elizabeth, Shirley, Rayu and Lydia who look at each other anxiously, in silence.

CUT TO:

382. INT. SHIP. SECOND FLOOR CORRIDOR. NIGHT.

Firemen and officers advance through the thick smoke looking for the fire in each cabin. Peedu, Edward, Kristian, Maung, and Richard are leading the group of fire-fighters, throwing each cabin door wide open in the hope of finding the fire. Some firemen are coughing.

Peedu opens door of one of the cabins and lifts up the fire extinguisher. Nothing.

PEEDU
(screams worried)
My God, where is this damn fire?

KRISTIAN
(coughing)
The smoke's too thick! We can't see a thing in front of us!

Richard kicks in the door of a cabin.

RICHARD
We'll find it! If we don't choke to
death first!

They all start coughing.

CUT TO:

383. INT. SHIP. ON BRIDGE. NIGHT.

Captain Philip is walking nervously back and forth on the command bridge.

Roldan arrives and stares at the Captain without speaking.

CAPTAIN PHILIP
(severe)
Roldam, I would never have expected a
thing like this from you. You know an
officer on duty on the bridge cannot
wander around the ship.

ROLDAN
(upset)
I know, Captain. I have no excuses!

CAPTAIN PHILIP
Roldam, I'm terribly sorry, but when
this fire is over I will be forced to
terminate you. I won't take away your
seaman's book in the hope that this
lesson is enough for you.

ROLDAN
Yes sir. I understand. Thankyou Captain.
Thankyou with all my heart as I assure
you this lesson will be enough and I
will never make the same mistake again.

The two men look sadly at each other.

CUT TO:

384. INT. SHIP. BAR IN FRONT OF LAUNCH No.8. NIGHT.

In the bar in front of launch number eight the time passes slowly. In the air there is fear and terror in the eyes of the crew. Some tremble from the cold, others from fear.

Elizabeth approaches Desery, who is standing between Rayu and Lydia.

ELIZABETH
(nervous)
Desery, what time is it, please?

DESERY
Ten past three.

ELIZABETH
(nervous)
Good heavens, how much time do they need
to put out this damn fire?

CUT TO:

385. INT. SHIP. SECOND FLOOR. NIGHT.

Group of fire-fighters and officers continue coughing and opening doors in an ever more dense and suffocating smoke trying to find out where the fire is. Peedu is leading the group of fire-fighters.

PEEDU
(nervous screams)
The heat is increasing, get ready with
the fire extinguishers.

Suddenly, while coughing, through the smoke they see the bulkheads of the corridor. They are walking down the corridor with their feet in water from the sprinkler system. There is a group of cabin doors ahead. Suddenly a fuse blows and the corridor is plunged into darkness. Someone lights a torch...

CLOSE UP: ON TWO FEET PARTIALLY HIDDEN UNDER THE WATER AS LEADER OF THE CREW WADES THROUGH THE WATER WITH FLASHES OF THE TORCH BOUNCING ON THE WATER AND IN THE DARKNESS.

EYELINE OF CAMERA LIFTS TO REVEAL A CABIN DOOR IN THE DIM TORCHLIT BLACKNESS. A STRANGE QUIETNESS EXISTS. A HAND APPEARS AND TURNS DOOR HANDLE. AS DOOR OPENS A BURST OF FIRE AND FLAMES EXPLODES IN FRONT OF THEM WITH A BANG AND A ROAR.

IMMEDIATELY EXTINGUISHERS BURST INTO LIFE AND SPRAY BACK AMID THE YELLS AND SHOUTS OF THE FIRE TEAM AND CREW.

DISSOLVE.

386. INT. SHIP. BAR AND HALL IN FRONT OF LAUNCH 8. NIGHT.

One hour later. Inside Bar and Hall in front of the number eight launch the sound of the LOUDSPEAKER on the bridge.

CAPTAIN PHILIP

I want to inform you that fortunately the fire has been put out by our brave men, so crew can return to their cabins and get back to sleep. Good night.

Among the euphoric screams and cheers of joy, the crew go out on the promenade, where the sailors Noel and Gabriel are pulling the launch up.

SAILOR NIKOLA

(shouts in between the cheers)
Gentlemen, I think we should dedicate a round of applause and a cheer to our heroes who risked their lives to put out the fire.

A big round of applause and cheer echoes in the night.

Then the SIREN of the Coast Guard patrol boat is heard as the fire brigade arrive from Singapore.

The crew look on curiously as they lean against the railings of the ship.

Meanwhile the Captain, from command bridge, with a signal, makes the people understand that everything is resolved.

The two fire rescue boats head back to Singapore in the moonlit darkness.

DISSOLVE.

387. INT. SHIP. OFFICER DINING ROOM. MORNING. (Jan 11th).

It is coffee break. Elizabeth enters the officers' dining room and finds her friends Kristian, Peedu and Richard who are drinking coffee.

When Kristian he sees her, he gets up.

KRISTIAN

(shouts)
Our Witch Queen of the Orient Sun is here!

Edward also enters. A roar of laughter echoes around.

EDWARD

A perfect expression of how to describe our dream lady!

More laughter, as Kristian sits down.

Elizabeth sits next to Kristian and pours a cup of coffee.

ELIZABETH

Kristian, you are great! You have just suggested for me the title of my story. I will write of the incredible adventure that I have lived aboard the Orient Sun!

KRISTIAN

(excited)

I'm flattered!

Meanwhile, Richard comes out of the pantry.

RICHARD

I thought that you would call the story "The Children of the Orient Sun"?

ELIZABETH

I will use that title for the chapter where I describe the mutiny.

RICHARD

Good idea!

ELIZABETH

So, you who are my witnesses, will you allow me to use your real names?

ALL

(laughing)

Yeah, yeah, yeah!

ELIZABETH

You will have the honour of witnessing to the world the reality of all my premonitory dreams!

EDWARD

Cool!

RICHARD

Kristian has just bought a camera. Why don't we record the testimonies of the officers about your dreams?

ELIZABETH

(excited)

Fantastic! Would you all mind being interviewed to witness what happened, while someone films with the camera?

ALL

Yeah, yeah! Okay!

ELIZABETH

Okay, I'll be here in the room tonight, and with all your help I will send a copy of the tape, with your testimonies, to the American scientist David Riback.

Elizabeth amidst a chorus of yes, pours another coffee.

ELIZABETH

Now, firstly, can anyone tell me how the fire broke out?

KRISTIAN

It's only a supposition: in one of the cabins that caught fire we found an empty bottle of cognac. So we are guessing that someone in the crew had drunk too much and may have accidentally dropped a cigarette on a mattress, ..or they may have set the fire on purpose.

ELIZABETH

It's only a hypothesis then! However, the rumours I heard say it was an act of sabotage by the Burmese being forced to disembark before the Philipinos.

KRISTIAN

Yes, I guess it could be But we need evidence which we don't have.

PEEDU

(seriously)

Even if that is the case, it would be difficult to find evidence because by now all the evidence has probably been burned in the fire.

ELIZABETH

(standing up)

I know Roldan isn't here to help me any longer, but I need to stop the first boat that passes by so I can send something to the city.

RICHARD

Roldan should have been on guard when the alarm went off but unfortunately he'd left the bridge; a very serious breach of rules and punishable by law.

RICHARD (CONTINUES)

The Captain was awakened by the alarm and when he ran to the bridge there was no sign of Roldan anywhere.

EDWARD

Roldan was lucky. If the Captain had been Captain Michael, his officer's career would be ruined and he would also have had his seaman's book withdrawn.

ELIZABETH

I'm sorry for Roldan, but I hopefully the lesson will do him good. (PAUSES). But I must leave you all for now. I have things to do. See you later, alligators.

Elizabeth hurries out, letting the fire door slam noisily over the goodbye greetings of her friends.

DISSOLVE.

388. EXT. SHIP MOORED IN SINGAPORE HARBOUR. SUNSET.

The colours of the sunset tinge the sea pink as the launch returning from Singapore is manoeuvring to lean against the boarding ladder.

Elizabeth (the only passenger coming back on board) goes up the boarding ladder and at the hatch meets Shirley with a group of sailors waiting to board the launch to go ashore.

ELIZABETH

Shirley, now that our collective dream has come true, you must write it down, so that I can send it to the scientist David Ryback.

Shirley lines up to get into the boat and moves towards the exit.

SHIRLEY

Yes, yes, I will write it down tomorrow.

ELIZABETH

(happy)

Good evening!

CUT TO:

389. EXT. SHIP. ON DECK. SUNSET.

Elizabeth goes on deck and pauses a moment to observe the spectacular sunset that is going down among hundreds of ships, making them look like ghostly sailing ships.

She sees Desery sitting on deck chair staring at the sunset.

Elizabeth goes to sit down next to Desery, who looks at her with swollen eyes.

DESERY

On Wednesday, after the disembarkation
of the Burmese, Hong will also leave and
I will never see him again.

ELIZABETH

Why won't you?

Desery looks at the sun sinking in the blood red waters.

DESERY

Hong has begged me not to look for him
ever again. Do you understand? He said
that in a few months he will become a
father. (PAUSES.) Damn, he just doesn't
want the shadow of the past to destroy
the harmony of his family.

Elizabeth sighs as watches the last rays of sunset disappear
in the water, coloured by the reflection in the sky.

ELIZABETH

Well I guess you can't blame him for
that. After all it's not the end of the
world. You would feel much better if you
looked around you and observed all the
divine wonders that God created around
you. In time you will understand; and
you will be able to overcome this small
tragedy. Hopefully you'll learn from
this lesson. Next time be sure to choose
a man who has no family ties and who
really loves you.

DESERY

(with a lump in her throat)

I hope so.

Desery looks up at the first shadows of evening spreading
across the sky. She stands up to go..

DESERY

(holding back her tears)

I'm sorry, I have to go.

Desery runs away and bursts into tears as she runs.

DISSOLVE.

390. INT. SHIP. INFORMATION OFFICE. MORNING.

The clock on board shows 10.00 am. January 15, 1992.

Elizabeth is in the lobby waiting for Mr. Willer Wuner's representative and finds all the Burmese crew waiting to disembark.

Wherever she goes she bumps into luggage, bags and sacks, and when she looks up, she meets their sad eyes.

BURMESE BOY
(confesses to Elizabeth,
while the others gather around)
Mummy, we've lost our jobs. We don't
know what to do.

ELIZABETH
Please don't worry. Be confident and
face your destiny with courage because
nothing happens by chance. Somewhere
there is a job waiting for each and
every one of you.

SOME BURMESE
(shout excitedly)
Hurrah mummy! Hurrah mummy!

It is time for the launch.

The Burmese take all their luggage and leave.

BURMESE GROUP
Good Bye mummy! Good bye mummy!

ELIZABETH
(smiling)
Good luck!

Meanwhile Hong arrives.

HONG
(with a smile)

Elizabeth, before disembarking I wanted to tell you that I was really impressed by your premonitory dreams.

ELIZABETH
(smiles, shaking his hand)
Thankyou. You are not the only one, either!

HONG
Goodbye and good luck!

Hong goes to the exit carrying a suitcase. Elizabeth sees Desery watching in the distance without Hong seeing her. She is upset and has swollen eyes from crying. Desery's eyes follow her ex lover Hong as he disembarks.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN. 2 hours later.

391. INT. SHIP. INFORMATION OFFICE. 2 HOURS LATER.

Elizabeth reaches Shirley at the information desk.

ELIZABETH
Shirley, unfortunately I have waited all morning, but the employees of Mr. Willer Wuner haven't come.

SHIRLEY
(serious)
I'm sorry!

ELIZABETH
(smiling)
I don't really care much, because I've already found a company that will send all the goods to Italy by container and then I can hopefully go home as well.

SHIRLEY
Ah at last! I'm so happy for you.

ELIZABETH
Thankyou. By the way, are you ready to tell your premonitory dream in front of the camera? Richard and I will be coming to film you around one o'clock today.

SHIRLEY

OK! I'll be here waiting, and I will also give you the letter you asked me for.

ELIZABETH

Thank you!

SHIRLEY

(curious)

Will you also film the burned out cabins?

ELIZABETH

I will have Richard film anything that is a testimony.

DESERY

(smiling)

Ah! Then you really are a master builder as Edward says!

Elizabeth looks at Shirley severely.

ELIZABETH

Worse! Definitely worse!

The two friends burst into laughter.

DISSOLVE.

392. EXT. SHIP. ON DECK. NIGHT. (January 18th).

Elizabeth is sitting next to Edward on the deck and they are watching a plane rising in flight from Singapore. She checks the time on her wristwatch.

ELIZABETH

Edward, it's 10.00 pm. Surely that is the 9.50 pm. plane to Frankfurt?

EDWARD

(looking up to the sky)

Is it the plane that you have to take to go back to Europe?

ELIZABETH

Yes. But I still don't know when I will actually be able to leave.

Edward stares at her seriously.

EDWARD

Didn't you tell me that you had solved all your shop problems?

ELIZABETH

Yes, but I discovered that the owner of the company who had to send the goods to Italy didn't tell me that he hasn't got the license to do this. So he wanted to do it with the collaboration of another, to get a percentage. And that would have greatly increased the cost to my company.

Edward looks at her thoughtfully.

EDWARD

This is really a never ending story!

ELIZABETH

My boss said that he will let me know which shipping company I should contact.

A warm wind ruffles their hair.

EDWARD

You will see. This time you'll make it.

ELIZABETH

Hopefully! By the way, I have the cassette you asked me for with all the testimonials!

EDWARD

Have you already sent a copy to the American scientist?

ELIZABETH

Yes, and already given a copy to Peedu.

EDWARD

(smiling happily)

Good, now everybody is happy

They stand and stroll off together down the deck, watching the night skies and gently rolling waters.

PULL BACK AS THEY WALK OFF INTO DISTANCE.

DISSOLVE.

393. INT. SHIP. LOBBY & HALL & DUTY FREE SHOP AREA. DAY.

The clock shows 16.00pm January 24, 1992. Edward and Richard cross the hall and walk towards the store, the windows are covered with large sheets of brown paper, they enter, Elizabeth is packing the last of the goods. The two men look at the mountain of items.

EDWARD

So you've finally finished!

Elizabeth sits on the parcel that she is about to close.

ELIZABETH

Yes, thank goodness! I can't stand it any more !

The two friends sit on the parcels.

EDWARD

How many parcels are there?

Elizabeth takes a breath, then looks at the paper where she has noted down everything.

ELIZABETH

With the last three that I'm finishing there will be 171. Tomorrow I have to hand over a list in English with all the articles to the two Oriental ladies who are representatives of Fratta Shipping and they have to do a boring job for the customs authorities.

EDWARD

Do you know when you can go home?

ELIZABETH

Not yet, because it depends on the time it will take the Fratta Shipping to prepare the documents for the customs. Since this is all happening on the first day of February it's slap bang in the middle of the Chinese New Year. The festivities begin on the 1st February this year and last about ten days.

RICHARD

So you will leave after February 10th?

ELIZABETH

(sighs)

As you said before, this is really a never ending story, so it could be so!

RICHARD

Then you will see Captain Michael again because in a few days Captain Philip will disembark but has to handover the ship to Captain Michael first.

ELIZABETH

Everybody is disembarking before ME!

EDWARD

Elizabeth, the first dream you had of the ship stopping, when you presented me to the two oriental girls you delivered the load to, is all coming true!

ELIZABETH

Yes! In fact tomorrow I will hand over the lists of all the goods to the same two Oriental ladies. However I'm still worried about the Singapore customs.

RICHARD

Try to be as precise and accurate as you can and everything will be fine.

ELIZABETH

Dear Richard, you don't know the Customs here. You can be as precise as you want, but they always find something wrong.

The three friends look at each other concerned, but smiling.

DISSOLVE.

394. EXT. SHIP. LANDING DOOR. EVENING. (6.30 pm).

The clock on board shows 18.00 pm. January 28, 1992. The launch with Elizabeth on board arrives from Singapore.

Elizabeth goes up ladder to door, where she meets Shirley.

SHIRLEY

Elizabeth, I want to say goodbye because I'm disembarking in a few minutes!

ELIZABETH

Then we we'll not see each other again before you leave?

SHIRLEY

No! But will you manage to leave before the Chinese New Year celebrations?

ELIZABETH

I don't think so, because the goods will only be unloaded after Chinese New Year.

Shirley with tears in her eyes.

SHIRLEY

Excuse me if I cry, but I am so sorry to leave you all!

While Elizabeth and Shirley cry and hug each other, the sailor Nikola carries Shirley's suitcase down the stairs. Shirley reaches the ladder and goes down into the launch with some crew members.

Elizabeth, moved, watches from the door and waves to Shirley who is crying and waving her hand as the boat leaves.

DISSOLVE.

395. INT. SHIP. ELIZABETH'S CABIN. AFTERNOON.

Bedside clock shows 16.00 pm. on January 29, 1992. On the bed there are two big suitcases open; one nearly full. Elizabeth is taking out clothes from the closet when she hears the loud speaker from the bridge.

CAPTAIN PHILIP (V/O)

This is Captain Philip speaking. As I am about to disembark I want to thank the crew sincerely for all your good work and kind cooperation and I wish good luck to all of you.

ELIZABETH

I so regret not having had time to go and say goodbye to the captain for everything.

She puts some more clothes in suitcase and closes it.

DISSOLVE.

396. EXT. SHIP. DECK. NIGHT.

Elizabeth reaches her friends on deck: Edward, Richard, Kristian, Post, Colin, Lisa, Desery, Rayu and Lydia.

In distance a plane rises into sky after taking off from Singapore airport.

ELIZABETH

(pointing her finger towards plane)
Look that is the plane I will leave on
on Friday evening.. January 31st!

A roar of cheers, screams, whistles explodes in night.

EDWARD

Why so suddenly?

Elizabeth goes to sit with her friends.

ELIZABETH

My boss Delopera ordered me to deliver
the keys of the store containing all the
171 packages to Fratta Shipping, under
their responsibility. After the Chinese
New Year celebrations they will take the
load to the Customs warehouse and after
inspection, the goods will be shipped to
Venice.

KRISTIAN

And finally our Witch Queen of the
Orient Sun will leave us!

A chorus of euphoric cheers, laughter and screams.

ELIZABETH

But now I'm sad, because despite
everything, I will still miss you!

KRISTIAN

(says pretending to cry)
Mummy, mummy, please don't leave us!

Screams, shouts and whistles are spreading in the starry
night.

Elizabeth chases Kristian, who runs away.

KRISTIAN

Mummy, please don't hit me!

Others all burst out laughing.

DISSOLVE.

397. INT. SHIP. CAPTAIN'S CABIN. MORNING.

Elizabeth knocks on the Captain's door; she has an envelope in her hand. The door opens and Captain Michael appears. The wall clock in the captain's cabin shows 11.00 am. It's the 31 January 1992.

ELIZABETH
Good morning, Captain Michael!

CAPTAIN
Elizabeth, come in, please!

Elizabeth hands the letter to Captain Michael.

ELIZABETH
Captain, I came to give you this letter which states that you can hand over the 171 parcels to the Fratta Shipping Company, but only after the Chinese New Year celebrations. I wish to thank you on behalf of my company.

The captain puts the envelope on the desk.

CAPTAIN
Okay, assure your company I will do so.
ELIZABETH
Thank you again Captain, I'll say goodbye because this evening I'm leaving for Europe.

The Captain smiling shakes Elizabeth hand.

CAPTAIN
Believe me, it was a pleasure to have had you on board with us!

ELIZABETH
(smiles)
Good luck, Captain!

CAPTAIN
(staring seriously)
To you too, Elizabeth.

The captain opens the door, the two smile again at each other, then Elizabeth leaves and the door closes behind her.

DISSOLVE.

398. INT. SHIP. INFORMATION OFFICE. SUNNY AFTERNOON.

The board clock shows 3.30 pm. January 31st, 1992. The sailors Noel and Gabriel carry Elizabeth's suitcases to the landing hatch, she follows.

CUT TO:

399. EXT. SHIP. LANDING HATCH AREA. SUNNY AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth appears with her cases carried by Noel and Gabriel. She starts talking to a dozen or so of Philipinos, including Nikola, waiting with their suitcases.

ELIZABETH

Are you disembarking too?

SAILOR NIKOLA

Yes, unfortunately, the owner has not found a new Charterer yet. It seems he is selling the Orient Sun to a Finnish colleague. Then tomorrow, the ship will be moved to a remote port, away from the centre of Singapore, while it waits to go back to Finland.

While Elizabeth sighs, Rayu and Lydia arrive.

RAYU AND LYDIA

(in unison)

Mummy, we came to hug you! Then tomorrow we also will disembark.

While they embrace tenderly the launch arrives from Singapore with some people aboard.

ELIZABETH

Thank you and good luck!

Meanwhile, Desery approaches with her suitcase.

Then Kristian appears with his camera.

KRISTIAN

I came to immortalize our Witch Queen of the Orient Sun, who has finally managed to free herself from her never-ending story!

A collective laughter infects everyone, meanwhile, Edward, Richard and Peedu, arrive laughing loudly.

At that moment a tall lady with blond hair, blue eyes, about fifty comes on board, and goes up to Edward and embraces him tenderly.

EDWARD

Elizabeth, let me introduce you to my wife!

Elizabeth excited shakes her hand.

THE WIFE

Did you know that my husband often wrote about you and your dreams in his letters?

ELIZABETH
(surprised)

Really?

THE WIFE

Yes! I am very happy to meet you Elizabeth!

ELIZABETH
(happy)

The pleasure is all mine, enjoy your time on board!

Elizabeth embraces Noel and Gabriel, who are both moved as they embrace her. Then the two sailors carry Elizabeth's heavy bags onto the launch.

Elizabeth embraces Edward, Richard, Kristian and Peedu, then hurries down into the launch with the Philipinos and Desery, who are waiting for her.

CUT TO:

400. EXT. LAUNCH LEAVING SHIP. DAY.

A chorus of excited screams and shouts and goodbyes resound around while the launch slowly moves away, then everyone looks down from the door, shouting in chorus:

ALL

Bye everybody, bye Mummy, we love you
Bye, bye Mummy, we love you!

CUT TO:

ANGLE On launch as it moves away.

The launch moves slowly away, while the shouts and excited screams, and greetings from the tailgate can still just be heard. Meanwhile Kristian has gone up to the promenade deck with his camera filming the launch and shouts something that gets lost in the wind.

Elizabeth and Desery have tears running down their cheeks.

ELIZABETH
Farewell, Orient Sun!

Elizabeth and Desery watch the ship through their tears.

DESERY
From a distance the ship shines in the
sun like a jewel.

ELIZABETH
Despite everything, we are so lucky to
have lived this incredible Odyssey?

Desery smiles and embraces Elizabeth.

DESERY
Yes, whatever the cost! (LOOKS AT
ELIZABETH KINDLY) I love you, Elizabeth!

CUT TO:

401. EXT. LAUNCH REACHES DOCKSIDE. DAY.

ANGLE as the launch docks in front of the customs.

ELIZABETH
Always be happy. Your future depends on
yourself!

The Philippinos carry Elizabeth's suitcases onto the dock.

DESERY
Have a good journey, and good luck!

Elizabeth jumps on to the dock.

ELIZABETH
(turning to the Philippinos)
Aren't you getting off here too?

NIKOLA
You are the only one landing here, we
are getting off at the next stop!

NIKOLA
 Have a nice journey, mummy! Good bye,
 mummy! Mummy, we love you!

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

As launch leaves the dock a few tears run down Elizabeth's cheeks again.

ELIZABETH
 (sadly)
 Good bye children of the Orient Sun..I
 love you too!

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

The screams and shouts of the Philipinos and Desery continue, while Elizabeth, with her two big suitcases, waves goodbye with tears in her eyes.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

Launch leaves and becomes smaller and smaller in distance.

DISSOLVE.

402. EXT. SINGAPORE DOCKS. CUSTOMS OFFICES. DAY.

Elizabeth drags her heavy bags inside the customs and places one on the counter.

The CHINESE CUSTOMS OFFICER stares at her, then checks her bags and smiling signals her to go, pointing to the exit.

Elizabeth goes through exit, turns the corner, and finds a flight of about thirty stairs in front of her.

Elizabeth leaves her bags and goes back to the customs officer.

ELIZABETH
 Excuse me please, is there an elevator?

The Chinese shakes his head to say no, then smiles. She goes up and down the stairs with one suitcase at a time.

CUT TO:

403. EXT. SINGAPORE AIRPORT. TAXI RANK. AFTERNOON.

The taxi arrives and stops outside the airport international terminal building.

Elizabeth pays the DRIVER. The DRIVER gets out, opens the door of the car for her. DRIVER then gets a trolley from bay near the taxi. He fills trolley with Elizabeth's suitcases.

ELIZABETH

Thank you so much!

The DRIVER smiles, gets back in taxi, and drives off.

Elizabeth walks into terminal building towards the check-in desk with her suitcases.

CUT TO:

404. INT. SINGAPORE AIRPORT. INTERNATIONAL DEPARTURES. DAY.

Elizabeth walks in and through the building to ALITALIA check-in desk for Rome flight.

HOSTESS checks her in and labels her baggage.

HOSTESS

Remember to go to get your 45 kilos of luggage at Frankfurt.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

Okay, thank you!

Elizabeth takes her ticket and walks off to Departures Gate. She checks through and disappears beyond security doors.

DISSOLVE.

405. INT. PLANE IN FLIGHT. MORNING.

The clock on board shows 8.00 pm. February 1, 1992.

Elizabeth wakes from doze as HOSTESS is serving breakfast.

CAPTAIN

(announces)

We regret to inform passengers that due to dense fog over Frankfurt airport, we are being forced to land at Rome's Fiumicino airport.

A GROUP OF ITALIAN
(euphoric cries)
Hurray! Hooray!

HOSTESS
(announces)
Would passengers please fasten their
seatbelts for landing. After landing
please stay in the waiting room for the
for onward transit to Frankfurt which
will be in about three hours.

Shouts of protest rise up among passengers inside the plane.

DISSOLVE.

406. EXT. ROME FIUMICINO AIRPORT. DAY.
Three hours later. 11.00 am. Plane lands. Passengers get off
and walk to Waiting Area inside airport terminal building.

407. INT. ROME AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING. WAITING AREA. DAY.
View Passengers sitting around moaning and complaining.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN. 3 hours later.

408. EXT. PLANE. BOARDING AREA. ROME FIUMICINO AIRPORT. DAY.

Shot of the plane on cold sunny winter day. The airport
clock shows 11.00 am. Elizabeth goes up the stairs of the
plane with the passengers.

CUT TO:

409. INT. PLANE. DAY.

Passengers return to their seats.

This time Elizabeth is sitting next to two German people..a
MAN and his WIFE.

GERMAN MAN
If you were flying to Rome via
Frankfurt, why didn't you Italians
disembark here in Rome anyway?

ELIZABETH
(sighs)
We Italians have done everything to get
off here, but there was nothing doing!

GERMAN WOMAN

(curious)
 But why do you have to come back to
 Frankfurt to return again to Italy?

ELIZABETH
 Unfortunately, there are some ridiculous
 laws. Passengers of any plane that lands
 in an unscheduled airport not in the
 flight programme, whether for weather
 problems or technical reasons, cannot
 disembark in that country.

GERMAN
 (serious)
 Unbelievable!

DISSOLVE.

410. INT. FRANKFURT AIRPORT. AIRLINE OFFICE. AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth is sitting at the desk of a representative of the
 airline, in a luxurious office.

ELIZABETH
 (protesting)
 Excuse me, but because of the problems I
 have missed my plane to Bologna!

THE WOMAN
 The company apologizes and offer you a
 room at the Sheraton Hotel with a
 voucher for an evening meal. You can fly
 to Bologna tomorrow morning. Is that OK?

ELIZABETH
 (smiling)
 That's great for me, I'm dead tired, so
 I can have a sleep. My heartfelt thanks
 to the company.

DISSOLVE.

411. INT. FRANKFURT SHERATON HOTEL. ELIZABETH'S ROOM. NIGHT.

In the room there are pink curtains, the same colour as the
 bedspread and a large white lampshade on the dresser with a
 large mirror finished in gold. Elizabeth is wearing a long
 white lace dressing gown; she is sitting in front of the
 dresser putting night cream on her tired face.

She yawns, then gets up feeling weak and goes to bed and lets her body fall on the bed as if it was concrete.

Elizabeth closes her eyes, her breath becomes slower and slower until it is no more perceptible.

SFX: Elizabeth's subtle body of light fluctuates slightly above her. The noise around her expands. Her subtle energy of light makes her realize that she is out of her body, then suddenly the energy of light goes back into her body from the centre of her brain.

Her body remains motionless for a while, then slowly, Elizabeth sits on the bed.

ELIZABETH (V/O)

Good God! I've just had an out of body experience, but I was afraid and went quickly back inside. It's incredible! As my spirit re-entered my body I felt it slimy, cold and until the spirit did not enter correctly it was as if my body was paralyzed and not responding to the commands of my brain. My God I got such a fright!

Elizabeth stares thoughtfully into space.

DISSOLVE.

412. EXT. BOLOGNA AIRPORT ARRIVALS. 1 DAY LATER.
The aircraft lands and runs along runway under grey sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

413. INT. BOLOGNA AIRPORT. BAGGAGE ARRIVALS TERMINAL. DAY.

Elizabeth is in front of the conveyor belt and checks the luggage coming out, while a few passengers collect their suitcases. She sees that her luggage is not there, then bursts into laughter; at that moment she sees her sister Rossana coming towards her.

ROSSANA

What's making you laugh so much!

Elizabeth excited goes towards her sister and hugs her.

ELIZABETH

They've lost my luggage!

Rossana stares at her worried.

ROSSANA
That's no reason to laugh!

ELIZABETH
(remembering dream)
If I wasn't sure that within a week they
will be bringing it to my doorstep, I
wouldn't laugh so much.

ROSSANA
(curious asks)
How can you be so sure that you will
have your luggage at home within a week?

ELIZABETH
A few months ago I dreamed I was back
home for about a week when a gentleman
brought my luggage to the doorstep.
Believe me, in Frankfurt I did all I
could to try and prevent it, but it
didn't help.

ROSSANA
Really?

Elizabeth takes her sister's arm.

ELIZABETH
Come on, let's go to inform the airport
police. Then we'll meet Mom and go and
see Uncle Mino.

DISSOLVE.

414. INT. BOLOGNA HOSPITAL. DAY. (February 3).

Elizabeth and her mother walk along hospital corridor and
enter room where there are some sick people, including Uncle
Mino. He is thin and pale, but smiles happily at Elizabeth.

UNCLE
(crying as he is so moved)
Oh! Elisabetta! My Little One..You've
arrived! Did you have a good trip?

ELIZABETH
(embracing him)
I won't begin to tell you the odyssey
that I've had.(SMILING) I want to know
how you are.

Her mother watches the scene and is visibly moved. She gives a chair to Elizabeth, who sits down.

UNCLE MINO

You don't know how happy I am to see you, Elisabetta. I was afraid I'd die without seeing you again.

Her Uncle smiles. Elizabeth wipes his tears with her hands

ELIZABETH

I always knew I would arrive in time.

Elizabeth kisses her Uncle on cheek and squeezes his hand.

DISSOLVE.

415. EXT. BOLOGNA HOSPITAL. AFTERNOON.

Elizabeth and her Mother leave the hospital and walk down the avenue toward the exit.

ELIZABETH

Uncle Mino was so happy today; although he has gone down hill a lot.

ROSINA

(sighs)

I'm afraid he will never come out of hospital!

ELIZABETH

Yes...I guess we both know he will soon join Dad!

ROSINA

Do you know that before Uncle Mino got sick, I dreamed that your father hugged me sadly. He told me that his brother would soon join him, but that there were also two other places ready as well.

ELIZABETH

(worried)

Two relatives will die after uncle Mino?

ROSINA

(thoughtfully)

So it seems!

Elizabeth and her mother look at each other worried.

DISSOLVE.

DREAM SEQUENCE STARTS:

416. INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE. STUDY. DAY.

Dreams (effect flou): on the computer keyboard: the fingers of a woman are writing. The same fingers continue to write, then more slowly. A drop of blood falls on the keyboard. The fingers continue to type as if the person is too tired and distracted and then realizes what is happening. The fingers type slower and slower, while other drops of blood fall on the keyboard. The fingers stop writing.

Elizabeth sits paralyzed in front of the computer with her forehead sweating the blood that continues to fall in drops on the keyboard.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

CUT TO:

417. INT. BACK TO ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Elizabeth wakes up and sits on the bed to reflect.

DISSOLVE.

418. INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE. AFTERNOON. (February 8th).

Inside the studio.

Elizabeth is in her studio drawing a woman's face on a canvas with a pencil.

SFX: NOISE OF A VAN PULLING UP OUTSIDE.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

From the balcony window she sees a white Alitalia carrier van, which stops in front of the house.

CUT TO:

419. EXT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE. EVENING.

Elizabeth comes out the door. It's a cold day and the fog is falling, obscuring the winter evening. She walks down toward her gate.

In the road, the man has opened the back door of the van and take outs two suitcases. Elizabeth opens the gate, the man passes in front of her with her luggage and leaves it by the door of the house.

THE MAN

You are Mrs. Elizabeth Errani Emaldi,
right?

ELIZABETH
(smiling)

Yes.

The man smiling and hands her a form.

THE MAN

Sign here please.

Elizabeth signs.

THE MAN

Thanks.

ELIZABETH

Thank YOU.

The man takes the form and leaves. Elizabeth smiles as she remembers the dream. Then she turns and walks back towards house.

DISSOLVE.

420. EXT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE. 1 YEAR LATER. DAY.

SUPER: "ONE YEAR LATER".

CUT TO:

421. INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE. STUDY. AFTERNOON.

The clock in the study shows 3.00 pm **January 23rd, 1993.**

In the study there is an easel with a canvas and painting of the face of a woman who looks like Elizabeth with blue-black hair and a few drops of bloody sweat on her forehead. The painting is almost finished, but not quite.

Elizabeth is writing a few sentences at the keyboard of her computer, then stops, takes the magnifying lens and checks on the monitor what she has written.

The door opens and her mother Rosina enters. She is worried.

ROSINA
(shouts)

Elisabetta, since you came back from Singapore a year ago, all you do is ruin your eyesight on that damn computer.

Elizabeth slams magnifying lens on desk.

ELIZABETH
(angry)

Mum, excuse me, but I can't bear it anymore. I just wish everyone would stop pestering me!

ROSINA
Think! You're still young, you need your eyesight. Get out of the house and have some fun instead of spending all your precious time attached to that damn computer.

ELIZABETH
I have to finish writing my novel. After that I will also write the script. No one will stop me from completing my project. At the cost of becoming blind as a bat, I will tell this story to the world. Everyone will read of "The Witch Queen of the Orient Sun"!

ROSINA
(with a lump in her throat)
I beg you, Elisabetta! You are already as blind as a bat. They've even taken away your driving licence! Do you realize what I am saying, or not?

Elizabeth stands up and hugs her mother with tears in her eyes, Then the two women burst into tears.

ELIZABETH
(wiping her tears)
Come on Mom, let's stop worrying and go and have a cup of tea.

CUT TO:

ANGLE.

The two women exit to go downstairs.

CUT TO:

422.INT.ELIZABETH'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY.

Rosina is sitting at the kitchen table. On the table there are two cups with a tea bag, spoons and sugar in each one.

Elizabeth puts the pot with water on the stove, turns on the gas to heat up the water and takes a seat at the table.

ELIZABETH

Mom, did you realize that Uncle Mino died the same day and month and time as Papa and Aunt Inez? September 14th in the morning. I know its sad, but at the same time don't you think that's incredible?

ROSINA

(reflecting, sadly)

Yes, it is...(PAUSES).. really amazing..

ELIZABETH

(thoughtful)

Mom, this morning, at Uncle Virgiglio's funeral, I just realized that your own dream.. the one where papa told you that after Uncle Mino there were two other places? That dream has come true too!

ROSINA

Yes. Today, January 23rd is only eighteen days after the funeral of your cousin George. He was only forty-five.

The water is boiling on the stove.

Elizabeth turns off the gas lifts the pot and pours boiling water into the cups, puts the pot on the stove and sits at the table.

ELIZABETH

Don't you find it extraordinary that a few days after George's funeral, Papa appeared again in a dream to his sister Edda and told her he was present at the funeral because he had come to earth to welcome her son?

ROSINA

(sighs)

Of course. Your father has made us all suffer with his scepticism, but then finally he has made himself forgiven.

ELIZABETH

(smiling)

The great Pythagoras was right when he said that Sleep, Dreams and Ecstasy are the three open doors after Life; from where the science of the soul and the art of divination come.

They look at each other, smiling. They drink the tea.

DISSOLVE.

423. INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE. STUDY. DAY.

On easel there is canvas with painting of Elizabeth's face, sad and almost finished; her hair is blue-black at headband. On her forehead there is sweat like drops of blood.

The trolley with the coloured paints and brushes is in front of the window overlooking the balcony.

Study Door opens.

Elizabeth enters and, as if in a trance, takes a brush in her hand as if to start painting. But suddenly she stops and takes a few steps backwards. She looks at her work. She cannot see it properly as her eyesight has blurred. She goes close up to the painting as if to complete it.

Elizabeth has flashback of last visit to optician/oculist:

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK:

424. INT. OCULIST OFFICE/SURGERY. DAY.

Elizabeth is sitting in examination chair. The OCULIST is looking closely at the retina of Elizabeth's eyes through a special machine.

Oculist moves away, concerned. Elizabeth is worried.

OCULIST
(worried)

Unfortunately, there are macula growing
in both eyes that may lead to blindness.

ELIZABETH
(concerned)

What can be done?

OCULIST

For the moment there is nothing we can
do. But in a year's time a new laser is
supposed to come from America that will
stop the growth of the macula.

ELIZABETH
(worried)

Good Lord, do I have to wait a year !!

END FLASHBACK.

CUT TO:

BACK TO Sc. 423. BACK ON ELIZABETH IN STUDY.

As if in a trance Elizabeth paints a drop of blood. She
takes a few steps back and stares at the painting. It is
still blurry but she is impressed.

CUT TO:

FLASH IMAGE INSERT:

Flashback of the crucifix and the book-cassette of gold
studded with diamonds comes into her mind.

END FLASH INSERT.

ELIZABETH (V/O)
Of course, writing a book in my
condition is a big sacrifice. It could
cost me my sight...but...

CUT TO:

ANGLE. BACK ON ELIZABETH IN STUDY.

Upset, and still as if in a trance, Elizabeth takes the
canvas and slams it several times against the stand, then
she tears it with all the strength she has in her hands and
furiously throws everything into the rubbish bin, shouting:

ELIZABETH

(shouting)

I will NOT stay here and commiserate
myself looking at this damn work.. I
WILL go ahead with my project, whatever
it costs, and nothing or nobody will
ever influence me or convince me
otherwise.. NEVER!

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