

Here Be Dragons - Episode Six

"Fifteen"

by

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Black Lace and Laser Beams
Productions

SCENE ONE

INT. Engineering, U.S.S. Rusalka - EVENING

We hear heavy metal door boom shut. Amongst the ambient background hum, we hear a pipe rattling.

HARPER

How's it look on that side?

Pip is on the other side of the door, and its thickness muffles her voice.

PIP

Not good. The hinges and most of the frame are rusted... You?

HARPER

The same. Looks like the metal's warped a bit too. (a nasty thought suddenly occurs to her) Are you... Are you gonna be able to get this door open again?

PIP

Yes!

beat.

PIP (cont'd)

(totally hasn't been trying to yank the door open) Y'know. When I feel like getting you out of there.

HARPER

Pip...

PIP

(may or may not be yanking on the door as hard as she can) It's TOTALLY fine!

HARPER

Pip!

PIP

It's okay! I just need to grab my toolbox.

HARPER

You mean the red one, with all the stickers on it?

(CONTINUED)

PIP

Yes.

HARPER

The one you left sitting on top of the shelf in here? (pause) ... Pippa?

PIP

I'm just gonna have to use my screwdriver. It's gonna take a bit longer...

HARPER

I don't suppose you keep any magazines down here? You'd think they might've given us a ship that was actually in working order, instead of one they scraped up off the bottom of the ocean...

The rattling of the pipe is getting louder now. Harper frowns, looking for the source of the sound.

HARPER (cont'd)

Can you hear that?

PIP

No... must be on your end. Don't touch anything, okay?

Harper goes over to the far wall, crouching slightly, staring at the pipe as it continues to shake violently.

HARPER

(under her breath) What the hell-

BANG!

The pipe bursts without warning, a thin sheet of metal flying across the room, catching Harper's thigh as it goes. She gasps in pain and falls hard.

PIP

Harper?! Harper, what's wrong?!

Water is flooding into the engine room at an alarming rate, splashing against the floor. Harper tries to stand, and finds she can't, the pain in her leg is too great. Pip is pulling frantically at the door, but cannot get it open.

(CONTINUED)

HARPER

Pip!

PIP

Hold on! I'm going to get help!

As she runs off down the hall, we hear alarms beginning to blare across the ship.

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SCENE TWO

INT. Ops. U.S.S. Rusalka - Moments Later

The alarms are still quietly sounding in the background.

SCARLETT

Status report?

ATLAS

Intake pipe on the lower engineering deck burst. Door's still jammed. We're taking on water-

SCARLETT

And Harper?

ATLAS

She's cut up pretty bad from the sound of things. Schrapnel caught her leg when the pipe burst. She can't stand. I've talked her through binding the wound, but there's not much more I can do for her from here.

SCARLETT

And she's still in danger of drowning.

ATLAS

Or freezing. It might be the south, but it's still the Atlantic.

SCARLETT

How much longer?

ATLAS

Maybe... eleven minutes until the water's over her head? Fifteen maximum... IF she can manage to tread water.

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT
And if she can't?

Atlas doesn't respond.

SCARLETT (cont'd)
Where's Pip?

ATLAS
With her. Still trying to unjam the door... Commander?

SCARLETT
What?

ATLAS
That intake pipe... if we keep on taking on water at this rate... we might not be able to resurface.

beat.

SCARLETT
(forced calm) How long?

ATLAS
Best case scenario? We lose Officer Bennett in fifteen minutes... and the ship starts to sink in twenty.

CUT TO:

3 SCENE THREE

INT. Engineering, U.S.S. Rusalka - MEANWHILE

Harper is sitting on a box, watching the water flooding in through the broken pipe. She can hear the alarms going in the hall outside, but it's muffled through the door.

HARPER
(attempting to be cheerful) Wish somebody would shut that thing off! I'm up already! I'm up!

beat.

HARPER
(slightly anxious) Pip?

Pip, on the other side of the door, pauses in her work. Her hands are shaking.

(CONTINUED)

PIP

I'm here.

Harper's a little more relieved than she would care to admit.

HARPER

I know... How's it coming?

PIP

Good! Really good. I'm almost through this section of rust... the metal's... a little thicker than I thought it would be... But I'm gonna have you out of there any minute now.

HARPER

Is Dr. Atlas-

PIP

She's gone to get the commander. She'll be back soon.

HARPER

Right... 'Course...

beat.

PIP

How deep is it?

HARPER

(trying to make light of it) Not very. Maybe two feet? Two and a half? And I've got this handy dandy crate to sit on. So... y'know. We've got time.

PIP

Not long now.

HARPER

I know, Pip.

PIP

I just have to get through this section.

HARPER

No rush.

(CONTINUED)

PIP
It's just gonna take-

HARPER
Pip!

beat.

PIP
I'm sorry, Harper.

HARPER
Don't be! It's not your fault. And I'm... fine. I am okay. ... And... even if I'm not... you'll make it okay. You ARE coming to get me, right? You're not just sitting over there painting your nails, are you?

PIP
No... I mean... Yes! Yes, I'm coming to get you.

HARPER
Good! So then there's no problem.

We switch to Pippa's perspective.

PIP
Right... No problem...

Atlas and Scarlett come racing around the corner.

ATLAS
Any progress?

Wordlessly, Pippa shakes her head, 'no.' Despite her valiant efforts, she's barely made a dent in the door.

ATLAS (cont'd)
(quietly, so her voice won't carry)
Keep trying. We'll think of something.

Scarlett steps past them, towards the door to Engineering.

SCARLETT
How you doing in there, Harper?

HARPER
I could do with a towel... maybe two...

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT

Is there anything around you you
can use to plug the leak?

HARPER

Nothing that would stay.

SCARLETT

Can you pull yourself into a
standing position?

HARPER

I... I don't know... There's the
shelf, but I don't know if it'll
hold me...

SCARLETT

Try.

We hear Harper struggling over to the shelf and pulling
herself up. Something crashes to the ground.

PIP

Harper?!

HARPER

I'm okay! Just knocked some stuff
over.

SCARLETT

Can you hold yourself there?

HARPER

Do I have a choice?

SCARLETT

Depends. How long can you hold your
breath?

HARPER

I'll stand.

Scarlett turns her attention to the rest of the crew. They
speak urgently, but quietly.

SCARLETT

What've you got for me, doc?

ATLAS

I can think of a couple of ways to
get the door off quickly, but none
of them are exactly safe.

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT

I just need options, we can talk general safety when no one's at risk of drowning.

ATLAS

We could blow the door off its hinges. But there's no way of telling which way it would fall, and we can't risk further damage to the pipe.

PIP

Or Harper.

ATLAS

Not to mention the rest of us. It's the fastest way, but we'd kill ourselves in the process.

SCARLETT

So we have a last resort. Anything a little less drastic?

ATLAS

We could surface. Give Pippa the time she needs to chisel her way through the rust, and hope the door opens with enough encouragement.

SCARLETT

And pray we don't sink in the meantime.

PIP

What about acid?

SCARLETT

Acid?

ATLAS

I keep a small supply of chemicals for recreational use. But with the right mix, we could eat right through the metal. The door won't so much fall off, as we can just push it to the side when the metal warps. But I warn you, commander, it could take some time. Six or seven minutes at least for it to burn all the way through.

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT

Then get started. Campbell, head to Ops and get us up to the surface.

PIP

But-

SCARLETT

I'm not asking, Campbell.

ATLAS

You work the controls better than any of us, Pippa. Harper will be fine with Commander Scarlett.

PIP

... Okay.

SCARLETT

Good. Stay in touch. Let me know if anything changes.

Pip leaves, but Atlas lingers for a moment.

ATLAS

Commander... That water's got to be up to her waist by now at the very least. She might not have the seven minutes to wait.

SCARLETT

(icily) Then you'd better bring me something that will have her out in five. Am I understood?

ATLAS

Yes, commander.

She leaves. Scarlett's shoulders sag, and she lets out a soft sigh. Then she puts on a smile, and heads back towards the door.

SCARLETT

Harper?

No response.

SCARLETT (cont'd)

We're getting you out of there. Soon. I promise. You're gonna be okay.

Still nothing.

SCARLETT (cont'd)
Harper? Harper?! Can you hear me?

There's a brief pause and then...

HARPER
Yeah... Yeah... I can hear you...
Sorry I just...

SCARLETT
I know.

HARPER
It's cold.

SCARLETT
I know... How deep is it?

HARPER
Deep enough.

SCARLETT
How's your leg?

HARPER
I... I'm okay. I'm okay. It's
just... cold.

SCARLETT
You're gonna be fine.

We switch to Harper's perspective.

HARPER
Am I?

SCARLETT
Of course.

HARPER
Cause it's okay if... if I'm not...
You can tell me. I'm not gonna
freak out or anything... You can
tell me if it's not okay...

SCARLETT
You're going to be fine. I promise.
(pause) I'm not going to let
anything bad happen to you.

HARPER
You might be a little late on that,
Cap'.

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT
Don't call me that.

HARPER
Sorry...

SCARLETT
(trying to change the subject)
Besides, you're not ALLOWED to die.
Okay? I forbid it.

HARPER
Aye aye, commander. (pause)
Commander? It's getting a
little-... I don't know if I-

SCARLETT
(gently) Just... talk to me. Keep
talking to me.

HARPER
About what?

SCARLETT
Anything at all. Just let me know
you can still hear me. Tell me
something. Just... talk to me...

FADE TO:

4 SCENE FOUR

INT. Corridor, U.S.S. Rusalka - Moments Later

Atlas has just returned, a large beaker of acid held carefully in her hands. Harper can be heard rambling softly on the other side of the door.

ATLAS
How long has she been like this?

SCARLETT
She was fine until a few minutes ago.

ATLAS
She's going into shock. Where's-

Pip comes racing down the hallway.

(CONTINUED)

PIP

We're about forty feet from the surface. That's the best I could do. We're too waterlogged.

ATLAS

Fine. Here, take this and spread it over the hinges and on the left side of the frame.

Pip sets to work, and we hear the metal start to sizzle and pop as the acid starts to eat away at it.

PIP

Okay... Seven minutes. Starting now...

SCARLETT

Keep applying that stuff, Pippa. (to Atlas) Is there anything else we can do?

ATLAS

We don't have the tools.

SCARLETT

Then prep sick bay.

ATLAS

I have.

SCARLETT

The minute she's out of there-

ATLAS

I know.

beat.

SCARLETT

There's really nothing we can do, is there.

ATLAS

We can hope for the best. And wait.

FADE TO:

5 SCENE FIVE

INT. Corridor, U.S.S. Rusalka - A Few Minutes Later

Scarlett is pacing the hall, watching the door to engineering anxiously. Pip sits on the floor, her gaze flicking back and forth from the partially melted hinges, to her watch. Atlas stands by, grim and silent, her eyes on the commander.

ATLAS
Commander-

SCARLETT
I know.

ATLAS
Three minutes until she goes under...

SCARLETT
I know. Campbell!

PIP
Four more minutes, commander.

SCARLETT
You'll have to do better than that!

Atlas straightens up suddenly.

ATLAS
I can't hear her.

Scarlett goes over to the door.

SCARLETT
Harper? Harper, can you hear me?
Harper I need you to keep talking.

ATLAS
Two more minutes, commander.

SCARLETT
Harper? Come on, Harper, talk to me...

HARPER
I'm cold...

SCARLETT
Just keep talking to me, Harper,
keep talking to me... You're going to be-

(CONTINUED)

There's a heavy splash, like something large falling into the water. Harper's collapsed, and pulled the shelving unit down with her.

PIP

Harper!

SCARLETT

The door! Come on! Push! PUSH!

Pip leaps up and with Scarlett, starts pushing on the door, both women straining as hard as they can.

ATLAS

Commander- The metal's still too strong, you can't-

SCARLETT

HELP ME!

She does. All three women push against the door, trying to roll it off to one side. And slowly, very slowly, the metal starts to creak and the door begins to move.

Water starts spurting out of the cracks between the door and its frame. First one stream... then another... and another...

SCARLETT (cont'd)

Come on... COME ON!

It comes apart all in an instant: The door comes away from its hinges, crashing with a heavy metallic bang to the floor of the hallway. The crew is hit with a wall of water. It floods the corridor, knocking the women to the ground, and momentarily obliterating everything in a tidal rush, before it subsides...

The women stand, soaked and coughing. There's a good foot of water up and down the hallway.

SCARLETT (cont'd)

Is everyone okay?

PIP

Ow...

ATLAS

I think so...

SCARLETT

Atlas-

ATLAS
I've got her.

The doctor heads into the engineering room, and comes out a moment later with the unconscious Harper in her arms.

SCARLETT
Is she-

ATLAS
I'll get her upstairs.

She leaves.

SCARLETT
Pip... That leak...

PIP
(still shaken) Right... On it.

SCARLETT
Need a hand?

PIP
Thank you.

SCARLETT
Come on.

FADE TO:

6 SCENE SIX

INT. Sick Bay, U.S.S. Rusalka - DAY

It's a few days later, and Harper is sitting up in bed, wrapped in a cocoon of blankets. She sneezes.

HARPER
Ugh... Gross. Why couldn't you have just let me drown?

ATLAS
Oh grow up, it's just a little hypothermia. Serves you right, for getting yourself stuck in there in the first place.

HARPER
Pip's the one who locked me in!

(CONTINUED)

PIP

I did not!

HARPER

You're the one who closed the door!

PIP

I didn't know it was going to
stick!

There's a knock at the door, and Scarlett enters.

SCARLETT

Morning, doc. How's Thing One doing
today?

ATLAS

Whiney.

Harper sneezes again.

ATLAS (cont'd)

And sneezing. (smiles) But all
around better. Her leg's healing
nicely. She should be back on
active rotation in a few days.

SCARLETT

Good! Engineering looks like a
low-budget swamp, and I've got a
pair of buckets that have your
names on them!

HARPER

But I almost died!

SCARLETT

But you didn't! Which means you're
still an active member of the crew.
Everybody's gotta pitch in.

Harper sneezes yet again.

SCARLETT (cont'd)

Eventually. When we're all a little
less plague-ridden.

HARPER

(sarcastically) Gee, thanks.

SCARLETT

No problem. Just get better soon,
okay kiddo? Campbell, you're with

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT (cont'd)
me. The lower deck's not going to
bail itself.

Pip whines and slides off the foot of Harper's bed.

PIP
I'll see you later, okay?

HARPER
I'll be here.

Pip heads out into the hallway. Scarlett continues to stand by the foot of the bed for a moment, watching Harper.

SCARLETT
... I mean it, Bennett. Get better.
I'm just starting to getting used
to having you around.

HARPER
(smiles) Aye aye, Commander.

Scarlett nods, and leaves the room, closing the door behind her.

FADE OUT.

END.