

DARK ADVENTURE RADIO THEATRE®:

THE TEMPLE

Written by

Sean Branney and Andrew Leman

Based on "The Temple" by H.P. Lovecraft

Read-along Script
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SFX: static, radio tuning, snippet of '30s song, more tuning, static dissolves to:

Dark Adventure Radio THEME MUSIC.

ANNOUNCER

Tales of intrigue, adventure, and the mysterious occult that will stir your imagination and make your very blood run cold.

MUSIC CRESCENDO.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

This is Dark Adventure Radio Theatre, featuring your host, Lester Mayhew. Today's episode: H.P. Lovecraft's "The Temple".

MUSIC.

LESTER MAYHEW

As the Great War engulfs the world, mighty warships of the Central Powers battle Allied navies for control of the North Atlantic. Unseen ships prowl beneath the waves, preying on both military and commercial ships. A dreaded German U-boat fires a torpedo into a British vessel. Is it merely a ruthless and calculated act of war, or is it the first step in a strange and terrible journey to the ocean's darkest depths?

But first, a word from our sponsor.

(pause)

Mr. Bellamy?

ANNOUNCER

(yawning)

Oh, excuse me.

LESTER MAYHEW

That's not like you, Everett. You look beat.

ANNOUNCER

Terribly sorry, Mr. Mayhew. I went to bed last night, but I just couldn't get the restful sleep I need.

LESTER MAYHEW

Let me guess: Tossing? Turning? Scary thoughts galloping through your head?

ANNOUNCER

Exactly. I can't help it.

LESTER MAYHEW

Of course not. In this fast-paced, anxiety-inducing world of ours, lots of people find it impossible to get the good night's rest that doctors recommend. You know what I do?

ANNOUNCER

What?

LESTER MAYHEW

Just before bedtime, I take Veronal.

ANNOUNCER

Veronal?

LESTER MAYHEW

Yes, Veronal. Its scientific formulation uses barbiturates to quell those nagging little voices and ensure that I get sound, soothing, restful sleep each and every night.

ANNOUNCER

That sounds great. But where can I get Veronal?

LESTER MAYHEW

Why just ask your neighborhood druggist! Take Veronal tonight.

ANNOUNCER

Don't let the voices in your head rob you of another night of sweet, soothing slumber - take Veronal and sleep the way mother nature intended.

MUSIC TRANSITION

LESTER MAYHEW

And now, Dark Adventure Radio
Theatre presents: The Temple.
As the great war raged across
Europe and beyond, casualties
mounted. One soldier's body was
pulled ashore on an island in the
Atlantic ocean. But this soldier
clung to life.

2

FAJÃ FLORES

2

A SOFT BREEZE moves through the trees, carrying CALLS OF SEA
BIRDS. A CHURCH BELL RINGS.

MALINS

(starting awake)

What... where am I?

MORGADO

You are in Fajã Flores, on Flores
Island.

MALINS

(confused)

An island? And this place... is
it... a church?

MORGADO

(in Portuguese, to
Alvarenga)Ele é inglês. (*He's English.*)

ALVARENGA

(agitated)

Fogo o abrase, é espião alemão!
(*Fire burn him! He's a German spy!*)

MALINS

What's going on? What is this
place?

MORGADO

You are safe here. I am Padre
Morgado.

MALINS

And who's he?

MORGADO

Captain Alvarenga, commander of our local whaling fleet. His crew pulled you from the ocean not far from here. You are English, yes?

MALINS

29th Infantry Division, British Army.

ALVARENGA

(aggressive)

Maldito mentiroso! Porque é que ele estava no mar?
(*God damned liar! Why was he in the sea?*)

MORGADO

Acalme-se, capitão.
(*Calm down, Captain.*)

MALINS

(shaken)

What's he on about?

MORGADO

The captain, he thinks you are a German spy.

MALINS

What? The devil I am!

MORGADO

He found you floating on wreckage from a German vessel.

MALINS

(remembering)

Ah, yes...

MORGADO

Forgive the captain, he does not like the Germans. They attack everything. He has lost men. They have driven away or killed the whales.

MALINS

Believe me, I know.

MORGADO

Do you? If you are not German, who are you?

MALINS

I'm Lieutenant Geoffrey Malins. On assignment for the British Navy. They wanted me to shoot--

ALVARENGA

Não gosto disto. E não confio nele.
(*I don't like this. I don't trust him.*)

MORGADO

Paciência, capitão... Vamos ouvir a história dele. (*Patience, captain. Let us hear his story.*)
(in English)
They told you to shoot someone?
Tell me. Unburden your soul.

MALINS

(chuckling faintly)
No, no. They wanted me to shoot a motion picture. I was aboard HMS Victory, under the command of Captain James Waldron...

MARTIAL MUSIC leads us into a flashback.

3

VICTORY ATTACK

3

Great DIESEL ENGINES THROB. WAVES BREAK across the bow and COLD WIND lashes the deck. The motion picture camera WHIRS as the Captain hurries up to the action.

CAPTAIN WALDRON

I say, Malins, some of the chaps are up on the... oh, good God, I'm interrupting your shot.

MALINS

Not a problem, Captain Waldron. You're not in the frame, and the camera doesn't hear a word you say.

CAPTAIN WALDRON

(relieved)
Of course not. Good. Right then. Some of the officers are up on the bridge. I thought you might like to catch them in an action shot with the sun coming down off the stern.

MALINS

A capital idea, sir. You're a natural cinematographer.

CAPTAIN WALDRON

(delighted)

Cinematographer? Well, I don't know about that. But a flicker of our boys hunting down and sending a German U-boat to the bottom - that'll rally the nation! If you can do for the Navy what your picture did for the Army, we'll be tickety-boo!

MALINS

I'll try my best, sir.

The CAMERA STOPS.

CAPTAIN WALDRON

Don't just stand there, Boatswain, help the man.

BOATSWAIN

Aye-aye, sir.

(to Malins)

That's quite a camera there, sir.

MALINS

It's a Moy & Bastie. See this? Wooden case took a bit of shrapnel at the Somme.

BOATSWAIN

Better it than you, sir.

MALINS

Too right. I'm a lucky man.

CAPTAIN WALDRON

Enough of the jabbering, Boatswain. Bring the... What did you call your tripod?

MALINS

Sticks, sir.

CAPTAIN WALDRON

(delighted by the jargon)

Sticks! Follow me, Lieutenant.

We hear their FEET ON METAL STAIRS followed by a KLAXON ALARM. Sailors SHOUTING and RUNNING.

MALINS

What is it?

CAPTAIN WALDRON

A U-boat. Battle stations! Bearing three hundred degrees. Target the four inch guns.

BRITISH SAILOR

Range 2200 yards!

MALINS

I don't see any--

BOATSWAIN

Bastard u-boats are all but invisible. There, a black smudge just breaking the waterline -- see it?

CAPTAIN WALDRON

Hard starboard!

PA SPEAKER

Battle stations! Battle stations!

BRITISH SAILOR

Load depth charges!

OTHER SAILOR

Aye, sir!

CHAOS. The ship's massive guns TAKE AIM at the U-Boat. Malins FIRES UP his camera. BOOM!

BOATSWAIN

Torpedo - eleven o'clock. We're under fire! Coming in off the port bow!

CAPTAIN WALDRON

(off)

Reverse engines - full!

The engines ROAR in response. MORE CHAOS!

MALINS

Reverse?

BOATSWAIN

If he can stop our momentum, the torpedo may pass in front of us.

BRITISH SAILOR

Fire!

BOOM! The ship's GUNS FIRE.

BOATSWAIN

It may clear us! Sir, leave the camera - take cover!

BRITISH SAILOR

A second torpedo! Two hundred yards. We can't possibly--

MORE CHAOS. BOOM! The torpedo TEARS into the ship. SCREAMING, FIRE, ALARMS.

PA SPEAKER

Man lifeboats!

BOATSWAIN

We're hit. Follow me, sir. This way!

Men SHOUTING and RUNNING. ALARMS. GUSHING WATER. MUSIC.

4

FAJĀ FLORES 2

4

MALINS

The Victory was crippled, sinking. Captain Waldron and many others were killed, and the surviving crew took to the lifeboats. We--

ALVARENGA

(suspicious)

Adonde é que isso aconteceu?
(*Where did this happen?*)

MORGADO

He wonders where this attack occurred.

MALINS

I don't know exactly. Somewhere in the North Atlantic. We were bound for Liverpool
(pause)
It was cold.

ALVARENGA

(grunts)

MORGADO

All right. Go on.

MALINS

The U-boat surfaced in front of us.
Somehow I still had my camera.

5 THE U-29

5

Malins cranks up the camera and it WHIRS.

BOATSWAIN

What are you doing? Put that away.

MALINS

If I live through this, I'm going
to document it.

BOATSWAIN

Oh my god... Commander, here they
come!

COMMANDER PITKINS

Stiff upper lip, Boatswain. Don't
let these Jerries see fear.

BOATSWAIN

Aye-aye, sir.

The HATCH OPENS and the submariners climb out onto the deck
of the submarine. MUSIC. WAVES SPLASH against the lifeboats.
The U-boat's fastidious captain assumes command of the scene.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(gloating villainously)

Ihr Schiff wurde von Schiff U-
neunundzwanzig der Kaiserlichen
Deutschen Kriegsmarine versenkt.
Ich bin Kapitainleutnant Karl
Heinrich Graf von Altberg-
Ehrenstin, der Kommandant. Ihr seid
meine Gefangenen.

(in English)

I see some of you do not yet speak
German. Your vessel has had the
honor of being torpedoed by ship U-
29 of the Imperial German Navy. I
am Karl Heinrich, Graf von Altberg-
Ehrenstein, her commandant.

COMMANDER PITKINS

Commander Waldo Pitkins, ranking surviving officer of HMS Victory, an escort to a freighter convoy. We were only defending unarmed civilian vessels.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Were you indeed? And what about him? Your camera man? Your name, sailor?

MALINS

Arthur Geoffrey Herbert Malins. Lieutenant. 15H2685.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Malins? Malins? I know this name. It was you who made that motion picture, "The Battle of the Somme", no?

MALINS

(proud)

Yes.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Yes, I read all about it in the Berliner Tageblatt. Quite an achievement of propaganda.

MALINS

(bristling)

It was a documentary. I showed only the truth.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(with a chuckle)

Truth, as Aeschylus said, is the first casualty of war. But not the last.

COMMANDER PITKINS

Captain, I request that you radio an SOS signal so our lifeboats can be picked up by another British vessel.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Hmm... No...

(Germanically smug)

(MORE)

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN (CONT'D)

You could ask one of your freighters to collect you, but I fear that might not improve your position. Our work in these waters is not yet done.

COMMANDER PITKINS

What? But...

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Surely you know our Navy's policy of unrestricted submarine warfare. Commercial ships are fair game. They may support your war effort. Letting them rescue you seems... inefficient.

(decisively, in German)

Tötet alle Matrosen. Außer dem Kameramann. (*Kill all of the sailors. Except the cameraman*).

The submariners OPEN FIRE on the defenseless sailors. SCREAMS of terror and death. It's horrifying.

BOATSWAIN

(dying)

Malins - I'm hit. Help m--

BLAM! A German pistol finishes him off.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Holen Sie den Kameramann mit an Bord. Tempo. (*Bring the cameraman aboard. Quickly now*).

(in English)

Come aboard, Herr Malins. Bring the camera. Quickly now...

The MUSIC strikes a darker tone.

FAJĀ FLORES 3

MALINS

He forced me to film it all. Our ship sank almost picturesquely: bow first, the stern rising high out of the water. Then the hull shot down perpendicularly to the bottom of the sea. They sank the lifeboats with the deck gun and submerged.

MORGADO

(dubious)

Your enemy killed everyone, but spared you?

MALINS

Yes, but--

ALVARENGA

Porquê?

MORGADO

Yes, why?

MUSIC.

6

WELCOME ABOARD

6

We hear the HUM of the U-29's engines and the REVERBERATION of being inside a submarine. Lt. Klenze ushers Malins forward through the vessel.

KLENZE

Ja, you go.

(in German)

Schmidt, wo zum Teufel sollen wir diesen Kerl unterbringen? Wir haben keinen Platz für einen Gefangenen. (*Schmidt, where the hell are we supposed to put this guy? We don't have room for a prisoner.*)

SCHMIDT

Ich weiß es nicht. Der Kapitän hätte ihn erschießen sollen. (*Hell if I know. The captain should have shot him.*)

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Klenze! Schmidt!

KLENZE

Kommandant?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(in English)

It is poor manners to speak to our guest in German. Poor Lt. Malins here does not yet speak the mother tongue.

KLENZE
 (in English)
 Guest, sir? Is he not a prisoner?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
 Lt. Malins is a celebrated
 filmmaker. Very famous.

KLENZE
 I don't understand, sir.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
 Herr Malins is going to film the
 exploits of the U-29. He will make
 a glorious motion picture to
 celebrate our accomplishments. We
 will become the toast of the German
 navy. The whole nation will
 celebrate us as heroes. So he is
 joining our crew.

SCHMIDT
 Ja? Wirklich? (Yes? Really?)

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
 In English, seaman.

SCHMIDT
 (working at it)
 Uh, Yes. This is true?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
 Well, Lieutenant?

MALINS
 I... it doesn't seem as I have much
 choice.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
 No, you do not. Salinger, put him
 in Werner's bunk.

SALINGER
 Yes, sir. You, come this way.

FOOTSTEPS ECHO ON METAL.

SALINGER (CONT'D)
 Here. You will sleep on the bottom.
 You can store camera in the chest.

MALINS
 It's not much room, is it?

SALINGER

(laughing)

You have never been on a U-boat
before, have you?

MALINS

No. I haven't.

SALINGER

You will have a lot to learn. If
you need to change clothes, you can
put on Werner's. They are in chest.

MALINS

Sure. What happened to Werner?

SALINGER

It was... eine Welle... how do you
say, wall of water?

(he makes a whooshing
sound)

MALINS

A wave?

SALINGER

Off the deck into sea. He die.

MALINS

Oh.

SALINGER

The deck is danger place.

Pause.

SALINGER (CONT'D)

Werner owed me money.

MALINS

Oh. Is that so?

SALINGER

We play at cards. He lose.

MALINS

Ah.

SALINGER

You, you play cards?

A DISTANT BELL SOUNDS.

The Kommandant's voice sounds over the INTERCOM system.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
 Alle Stationen bereiten sich auf
 das Auftauchen vor. (*All stations,
 prepare to surface.*)

SALINGER
 Come. We go up again.

TRANSITION MUSIC.

7 FAJĀ FLORES 3

7

MALINS
 Altberg-Ehrenstein had me join some
 of the crew on deck. It was nearing
 sunset and he had read in some
 magazine that this was the "magic
 hour" for dramatic lighting. I set
 up the camera on the bridge and he
 sent some of the sailors towards
 the bow. Something had gotten
 caught in the railing there.

8 THE STOWAWAY

8

WIND AND WAVES breaking across the deck.

SCHMIDT
 (from far off)
 Herr Leutnant, es ist eine Leiche!
 (*Lieutenant, it's a body!*)

KLENZE
 (shouting over the wind)
 Was? (*What?*)

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
 In English, you swine!

ZIMMER
 (yelling)
 It's a body, sir. Some drowned
 sailor.

SCHMIDT
 Look. His hands clutch the rail.

ZIMMER
 Young. Hardly more than a boy.

FOOTSTEPS ON THE METAL DECK.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Hmm. Striking looks. One of yours, Malins?

MALINS

I don't recognize him.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Really? I think he must be one of your crewmates, wishing he could have joined us as well. Schmidt, search him.

WET CLOTH rummaging noises.

ZIMMER

What is he wearing? Doesn't look like an English naval rig....

SCHMIDT

Is slops. No identity disks. Was maybe...

(searching for the word)

...blinder Passagier?

KLENZE

The English word is "stowaway".

SCHMIDT

Aha!

KLENZE

You have found something? What is it?

SCHMIDT

In his pocket. I don't know what you'd call it in English. Eine kleine Figur.

ZIMMER

A figurine. Ivory. Carved. It's the head of a young man, with a wreath of leaves.

SCHMIDT

Leaves? Looks more like seaweed.

KLENZE

Give it here. Hmmm, that's a fine piece. Looks quite old. I wonder where a common sailor would have acquired such a--

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Klenze!

KLENZE

Yes, Captain?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Get rid of him! We are losing the light for our cinema view. Isn't that right, Malins?

MALINS

I suppose.

KLENZE

Müeller, help those men throw that overboard.

MÜELLER

Jawohl, lieutenant.

He HURRIES ALONG THE DECK to join Zimmer and Schmidt.

ZIMMER

Come on, Müeller, give us a hand.

SCHMIDT

Look at this, how his hands grip the railing and him dead. He won't let go. Crazy.

ZIMMER

Grab him.

SCHMIDT

I don't want to.

MÜELLER

Don't be weak. Come on, just pry.

We hear UNPLEASANT BONE BREAKING SOUNDS as Mueller pries the stowaway's fingers from the railing. A huge wave CRASHES over them.

SCHMIDT

Careful!

MÜELLER

You two, hold my line. I'll toss this fellow back where he belongs.

Müeller HEAVES the body into the sea with a SPLASH.

MÜELLER (CONT'D)

Aaaah!

KLENZE

Müeller, are you all right?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(annoyed)

What's the delay?

MÜELLER

It's... He was, the body... The eyes, they... they opened! He looked right at me!

ZIMMER

Heilige Scheiße! (*Holy shit.*)

MÜELLER

After I threw it over it started to sink... And then it moved. Its arms and legs, and began to swim. Fast.

SCHMIDT

Mein Gott.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(small and intense)

Seemann Müeller...

(SLAPPING him across both cheeks)

I will not have my time wasted by your peasant superstitions and ignorance. The eyes were jarred open by your rough handling. A sailor in the Imperial Navy should know light bends in the water. Refraction. It's science.

(LOUD)

Below decks, all of you. You are ruining the shot for my moving picture.

The men HURRY AWAY.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN (CONT'D)

Good. All clear now, Malins. And, action!

The camera WHIRS as we transition to MUSIC.

9 NARRATION

9

LESTER MAYHEW

Meanwhile, thousands of miles away in the jungles of British Guiana, an American scientist approached his field research station on an old rubber plantation. He found Mr. Withers, the plantation owner, awaiting his return....

10 MEANWHILE IN THE JUNGLE

10

We hear the JUNGLE SOUNDS of a South American rainforest. The SQUAWK of a bird in hand.

BEEBE

(with a New York accent)

What's going on, Withers? What brings you here? Everything all right?

WITHERS

(British)

Ah, Beebe, at last. Glad you're back. Listen, there--

BIRD SQUAWKS.

BEEBE

Take a look at this beauty. A hoatzin! The Canje pheasant! I finally bagged one!

WITHERS

Yes, it's magnificent. I--

BEEBE

It'll be the star of the Bronx Zoo's aviary! See the clawed wings? Remarkable! You have any idea how long I've been trying to collect one of these?

WITHERS

Beebe, I'm sure it's--

BEEBE

Years! You have to be sneaky, determined. You have--

WITHERS

You have some important visitors,
Beebe. They're waiting inside.

BEEBE

Oh yeah? Who might that be?

The DOOR OPENS. MUSIC HIT. FOOTSTEPS.

WITHERS

Your Excellency, may I present Mr.
William Beebe, the American
naturalist. Beebe, this is the
Right Honorable Sir Wilfred Collet,
the governor of British Guiana.

BEEBE

Oh.

BIRD SQUAWKS.

COLLET

How do you do, Mr. Beebe. Do
forgive my unannounced arrival.

BEEBE

Of course. Am I in some kind of
trouble? My permits are all--

COLLET

No, not at all. But I've brought
some other people with me. One I'm
sure you already know.

MORE FOOTSTEPS. MUSIC HIT.

COLLET (CONT'D)

President Theodore Roosevelt.

ROOSEVELT

(booming)

William, my lad!

The bird SQUAWKS AND FLIES OFF.

BEEBE

Mr. President!

ROOSEVELT

None of that now - Teddy, I insist!

BEEBE

Of course, Mr. President!

ROOSEVELT

Not any more. Sorry about your bird. Looked like a good one.

BEEBE

That's all right! How wonderful to see you again! How's Edith? And Kermit?

ROOSEVELT

Kermit joined the British Army to fight in Mesopotamia. Couldn't wait for President Wilson to get off the fence and commit our troops.

BEEBE

Good for him - wish I could sign up.

ROOSEVELT

Glad to hear you feel that way. The governor and I have come with some people who want to talk to you.

BEEBE

Me? What about? Better homing pigeons?

ROOSEVELT

(with a laugh)

Not quite. Let's go inside.

MUSIC.

11 THE MISSION

11

FOOTSTEPS and DOOR OPENING. The SQUEAK of moving chairs.

PRINGLE

Attention on deck!

ROOSEVELT

At ease, gentlemen, keep your seats. This is the man of the hour, William Beebe, of the New York Zoological Society - just in from the bush. Ornithologist, marine biologist, and conservationist after my own heart. Willy, let me introduce Captain Joel Pringle, US Navy Chief of Staff for Destroyer Flotillas, European Waters.

Pringle is a cigar-chomping, old school US Navy man.

PRINGLE

Beebe.

BEEBE

Captain.

ROOSEVELT

This is Commander Walter Talbot of the Royal Naval Intelligence Division.

Talbot, on the other hand, is a prime example of cunning British military intelligence.

TALBOT

Sorry to interrupt your work, Mr. Beebe.

BEEBE

Oh, that's fine.

ROOSEVELT

And this is Mr. Reginald Fessenden of the Submarine Signal Company in Boston. He's a wizard with radios and such.

Fessenden is a quick-witted inventor with a Canadian accent.

FESSENDEN

A pleasure, Mr. Beebe. I've been to your zoo.

BEEBE

Delighted to hear it. Pleasure to meet you.

PRINGLE

Thank you, Mr. President. Have a seat Mr. Beebe, and we'll get to it.

CHAIRS SCRAPE, PAPERS RUSTLE.

BEEBE

Yes, so this is quite a committee. What can I do for you?

PRINGLE

This briefing is fully confidential.

(MORE)

PRINGLE (CONT'D)

Now, I'm sure you know, German U-boats present a grave threat to both military and cargo ships crossing the Atlantic.

BEEBE

Certainly. I've read in the papers. the Lusitania, the Aboukir, the Hogue...

PRINGLE

The list goes on and on. They've sunk ten U.S. merchant ships in the last two months alone. But there's been a new development. Talbot?

TALBOT

Our lads in Room 40 have intercepted recent coded German messages about a new, top-secret vessel, designated U-29. It makes use of their newest innovations in undersea warfare.

BEEBE

(bewildered)
All right.

TALBOT

We don't know everything about it, but this ship poses a new kind of threat to our navy, and yours. Since its deployment, it alone has sunk five navy vessels, and eleven freighters.

ROOSEVELT

Intolerable! Something has to be done!

PRINGLE

The U-29 has been both effective and elusive. But one of our ships, the destroyer Laertes, reported a U-boat it believes was the U-29 sinking a British escort vessel, HMS Victory. They tried to effect a rescue of survivors, but found none. But they did record the exact position of the encounter. It's the best lead we've had on the ship.

TALBOT

The admiralty has decided to use this opportunity to hunt down the U-29.

PRINGLE

And the US Navy is joining the hunt. Unofficially - if you get my meaning.

Pause.

BEEBE

I'm sorry, you're going to try to find a single U-boat somewhere in the Atlantic? Come on, how would that be possible?

PRINGLE

That's where Mr. Fessenden comes in. If you would please, Reginald.

FESSENDEN

(excited)

Sure, sure. You see, I've created a device: a sonic oscillator. It's going to change everything about naval warfare.

BEEBE

How so?

FESSENDEN

It uses sound for navigation and ranging, you know, on ships. You ever hear of echo-location, Mr. Beebe?

BEEBE

Finally! You're getting to something that I understand. Sure. Bats use it; they emit a chirp and then listen for that chirp to bounce off of a tree or an insect or whatever. The sound bounces back to them and lets them find their way in the dark. Dolphins and some whales do a similar kind of thing. There's a few species that can do it: using sound to create a sort of vision.

FESSENDEN

Precisely. The Fessenden Oscillator does the same thing mechanically. We affix it to a ship, it emits a pulse of sound, and then records the position from which that sound wave is reflected back to the ship. It's mechanical echolocation.

BEEBE

(the implication dawning
on him)

That would... That would be incredibly useful, particularly at night, or...

PRINGLE

In tracking a submarine.

BEEBE

So you'll use his oscillator machine to find this U-29 even when it's underwater? You track it down and then sink it, right?

TALBOT

Sinking it would certainly be the Admiralty's preference.

PRINGLE

The US Navy would prefer to capture it and recover its technology. If we can get our hands on it, we can unlock its secrets and turn the German U-boat fleet against itself. Sink it and you've gotten rid of one pesky U-boat. But learn from it, and we could get rid of them all.

ROOSEVELT

Bold plan, eh, Willy?

BEEBE

Bold? Worthy of the Rough Riders, sir! But what does any of this have to do with me? I'm a biologist.

TALBOT

We have to presume she won't go down without a fight.

(MORE)

TALBOT (CONT'D)

But if we can get close enough to the U-29, the idea is to send divers to surreptitiously engage and disable her so we don't have to damage her. The Admiralty has reviewed a number of plans for deep-sea diving suits. Including yours.

BEEBE

My diving suit? I was just a kid when I thought that up. I applied for the patent on a lark. It's for studying fish, not for war. It's never even been made! Wait a minute.... Why are you looking at me like that?

PRINGLE

The design was ingenious. As was your design for your diving bell. We studied the plans you filed for their patents, and then took the liberty of manufacturing them, and now we want to put them to use.

TALBOT

There's no time to waste. We need to get underway.

BEEBE

(still confused)

And you need my permission or--

TALBOT

No, Mr. Beebe, we need you on board. Literally.

PRINGLE

We've manufactured prototypes of your design, but we need your personal expertise to deploy them ready in the field. As you pointed out, they're not meant for wartime conditions. You'll join the expeditionary force, and modify them on the way.

BEEBE

(overwhelmed)

But I... but...

COLLET

Don't worry, Mr. Beebe, I'll personally see to it that Kalacoon station will be waiting for you when you return.

ROOSEVELT

You're being conscripted, my boy. Welcome to the war.

WITHERS

I took the liberty of having the staff pack your things.

TALBOT

We leave at once for the USS Barry. The U-29 is on the prowl in the North Atlantic even now. We're on the hunt!

DRAMATIC MUSIC.

12

FAJÃ FLORES 4

12

ALVARENGA

(still aggressive)

E então, juntaste-te à tripulação alemã? (*So you joined the Germans now?*)

MALINS

Shouting doesn't make me understand him any better.

MORGADO

(calmer)

He says you joined the enemy crew.

MALINS

I was on their boat, but I wasn't one of them. I would live or die on this captain's whim. I had to humor him. They were hunting my country's ships. I tried to distract him and learn all I could.

MORGADO

And how did you do this?

MALINS

He was so full of himself - it wasn't that hard.

MUSIC TRANSITION BACK TO THE U-29.

13

TOP SECRET INFO

13

Lots of unfamiliar, MECHANICAL and NAUTICAL SOUNDS ECHO through the hold.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(in German)

Behalten Sie die
Oberflächengeschwindigkeit von fünf
Knoten bei Kurs zwei sieben fünf
bei. (*Maintain surface speed 5 knots
at heading 275.*)

(brightly, in English)

Herr Malins, welcome to the control
room. Salinger tells me you have
not been on a submarine before.

MALINS

No, sir.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

What a treat for you then. The U-29
is the Imperial Navy's greatest
design achievement in the U-boat.
We are deploying a number of new
technologies created by some of the
best minds in Germany. The U-29 is
the greatest weapon in naval
history.

MALINS

I see.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

At the moment, we are cruising on
the surface, using the diesel
engines for the greatest speed and
fuel efficiency. But if I choose,
for stealth, we can dive just below
the surface. A new snorkel design
and our improved periscope allow us
to continue to operate the diesel
engines even underwater.

MALINS

Impressive.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Ha! I have barely begun to describe
the ship's features.

(MORE)

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN (CONT'D)

Our electric propulsion system allows us to dive deeper in near total silence, invisible to ships above. The U-29 features special portholes of fused Austrian quartz - a feat thought impossible by the English and the French. A special lighting system allows us to penetrate even the darkest seas with our spotlights. And our superior hydrophone system allows us to hear everything happening in the sea around us. Older u-boats could only see what was around them from the surface. My advanced periscope functions both on the surface and at depth. And our special decompression chamber and airlock even allow one to exit the ship while we are underwater.

MALINS

How could that be possible?
Wouldn't the pressure--

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Her Malins, Germany manufactures the finest deep-sea diving suits in the world. This ship can do things no submariner would've dreamed possible. Lieutenant Klenze, how deep can this vessel dive?

KLENZE

Um, that's classified, isn't it sir?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

You can say. I insist.

KLENZE

Three hundred and sixty meters, captain.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Yes! We can venture four times deeper than any submarine in the fleet. Deeper than anyone has ever gone before! Oh, German engineering!

MALINS

Terribly impressive.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

But these are only the obvious capabilities. The ship has also been fitted with--

KLENZE

Sollten Sie ihm das alles erzählen, Sir? Schließlich ist er unser Feind. (*Sir, should you be telling him all this? He is our enemy after all.*)

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

In English, if you please, lieutenant. Herr Malins, you are one of us now. Are you not?

MALINS

I rather thought I was a prisoner, sir.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

A U-boat has no room for a prisoner. No supplies for a prisoner. I believe you saw how I deal with prisoners.

MALINS

I did.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Tell me, do you wish to be my prisoner?

MALINS

No, sir.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

War is cruel, Herr Malins. Fortunately, I am giving you an opportunity to join the winning side. Right, men?

Altberg-Ehrenstein and the rest of the crew share a HEARTY GERMAN LAUGH.

MUSIC.

MORGADO

It must have been difficult to keep that up.

MALINS

The sailors, of course, did not trust me at all.

MORGADO

How did you manage to get along with them?

MALINS

We shared a mutual dislike of their captain.

MUSIC TRANSITION.

15

BREAKFAST WITH THE COMMANDER

15

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

You are not eating much, Lieutenant. I understand you English are often seasick.

MALINS

No. I'm all right. I hope you won't mind my saying, captain, but some of the crew seem...

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Yes?

MALINS

Out of sorts? I heard more than one cry out in his sleep.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(not pleased)

One sometimes sees a nervous strain accumulate on a long submarine voyage. Submariners are often prone to bad dreams. Did you know that?

MALINS

No, I didn't.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

It's true. And the sea was rough last night. I brought us down to periscope depth. It makes it much much easier for us to enjoy our coffee, eh?

Klenze enters.

KLENZE
 Kapitän, diese Strömung nach Süden
 ... (*Captain, this southward
 current...*)

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
 English before our guest,
 Lieutenant.

KLENZE
 The current I told you about
 Captain, it still pulls us to the
 south. It's not noted on the
 charts.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
 Curious.

KLENZE
 And you received this Radiogram
 from headquarters.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
 Did you confirm receipt?

KLENZE
 We are trying, sir. We are
 receiving radio signals, but the
 transmitter, it is... Fehlfunktion.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
 "Malfunctioning" is the word you're
 looking for, lieutenant.
 Dismissed.

KLENZE
 Jawohl... I mean yes, Captain.

Klenze goes.

MALINS
 That's bad news - about the radio.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
 The problem began around the time
 that we sank your ship. Zimmer will
 fix it. His skill with radios is
 most impressive. The man can fix
 anything.

Altberg-Ehrenstein TEARS OPEN the radiogram.

MALINS
 Those your orders?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Yes. The liner Dacia is coming from New York. Our orders are to sink it.

MUSIC.

16 FAJĀ FLORES 6

16

MALINS

That evening in the crew quarters some of the men were playing cards and talking. They let me join them for a cigarette.

17 GRUMBLING

17

The STRIKE OF A MATCH, PUFFING.

ZIMMER

Fleur de Lys, English?

MALINS

Thanks.

MÜELLER

I'm telling you, Zimmer, he was dead. They all were.

ZIMMER

You are imagining things, Mueller. It couldn't be.

MÜELLER

You are not listening. It was him!

MALINS

What's all this?

MÜELLER

It's nothing, Malins.

MALINS

You can tell me. Here, have my cigarette.

MÜELLER

(reluctant)

I was looking out the porthole and I saw bodies...

MALINS

What do you mean? Human bodies?

MÜELLER

Strange and bloated. It was some of the men... From ships we have sunk.

ZIMMER

This is crazy talk, Müeller. You need more than just a cigarette.

MÜELLER

I could see their faces! Their leader was that kid we pried off the railing. It was him - the same man, I'm sure of it. He was--

FOOTSTEPS as Altberg-Ehrenstein and Klenze enter.

KLENZE

Kommandant auf Brücke! Um, Captain on deck!

ALL RISE TO ATTENTION.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Good evening, men. What are you talking about?

ZIMMER

Nothing, sir. Just having a smoke.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Curious. I heard Müeller's voice from the passageway.

ZIMMER

Oh, well we don't listen to Müeller, sir.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

What did he say, Malins?

MALINS

Nothing that made sense to me, Captain.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Hmmm. Zimmer, I order you to tell me what he said.

ZIMMER

Bootmann Müller says he saw bodies
of dead sailors through the
porthole.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(soft)

Did you now?

MÜELLER

I did, sir. It was that...
stowaway, the one you took that
carving from, Lieutenant Klenze.
That little figure is cursed! I've
been telling you that all along.

ZIMMER

It's bad luck. The men think you
should throw it overboard.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

What carving, lieutenant?

KLENZE

A trifle the men found on the body
that was stuck in the railing, sir.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Do you have it? Let me see it.

KLENZE

Here, sir.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Hmm, a handsome young man. Curious
trinket. Do you know what I think,
Lieutenant? Bootmann Müller has
been indulging in gruesome and
abnormal thinking. Lieutenant, whip
him and then put him in irons until
his attitude improves.

GERMAN RHUBARB.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN (CONT'D)

I assume none of the rest of you
are harboring such peculiar
thoughts? Is anyone else afraid of
the little carved man?

Silence.

KLENZE

(quietly)
Sir, if it will help morale,
perhaps we should throw it
overboard.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

What, this? No. No, I rather like
it. What do you think, Malins? You
should shoot some footage of it -
might make for an interesting
"cutaway" in my motion picture.
Carry out my orders, Lieutenant.

GERMAN RHUBARB. MUSIC.

18 FAJĀ FLORES 7

18

MALINS

The next morning, tensions were
running even higher. Some of the
other men were shouting near the
ladder to the deck. I grabbed my
camera.

19 THE MADNESS AT SEA

19

Concerned sailors AD LIB.

ZIMMER

(shouting off)
Wir können nicht länger warten,
Brüder. Die Sterne stehen richtig,
es ist Zeit für uns, uns ihnen
anzuschließen. (*We can wait no
longer, brothers. The stars are
right it is time for us to join
them.*)

MÜELLER

(also insane)
Öffnet die Luke, wir müssen mit
unseren Leuten schwimmen. (*Open the
hatch, we must swim with our
people.*)

Lieutenant Klenze hurries by.

MALINS

What's happening?

KLENZE
Morale problem. Stay here.

MALINS
I'm shooting this.

KLENZE
Leave it.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
(off)
Matrose Müeller, gehen Sie von der
Luke weg. Das ist ein Befehl.
(*Seaman Müeller, get away from the
hatch. That's an order.*) In
English!

MÜELLER
I've seen them, sir. Swimming,
outside. The time has come for our
glorious reunion.

ZIMMER
They call us. Don't you hear them?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
You need some fresh air. Helmsman,
prepare to surface. Bow plane up
10°, stern plane up 5°. Reduce
speed to 2 knots.

SALINGER
Aye, captain.

MÜELLER
We don't need to surface. We can go
out now.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
You are unwell, Müeller.

ZIMMER
They're begging us to join them. I
know you hear them too, Captain.

SALINGER
Surface depth, Captain.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
Open the hatch, Schmidt!

THE HATCH OPENS, and WATER SPRAYS IN. Men SCURRY UP THE
LADDER out onto the deck.

KLENZE

Captain?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Let them go. Follow them. You know what to do.

Klenze climbs up the ladder, following the two sailors onto the deck.

SCHMIDT

Captain, no. They are just highly strung. Nerves. None of us has been sleeping well. So they imagine men swimming out in the water... You can't. You mustn't.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

I can. I must.

MALINS

What's going on, Captain?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Two of my men are... Unwell.

Two distant GUNSHOTS ECHO through the hatch.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN (CONT'D)

You may return to your duties,
Bootman Schmidt.

OMINOUS MUSIC.

20

FAJÃ FLORES 8

20

MORGADO

Hmmm, these bloated "dead bodies" they saw outside, what do you think they were? Did you ever see them?

MALINS

(lying)

No.

ALVARENGA

(suspicious)

Não? Ele diz que não? (*You're saying no?*)

MORGADO

Diz que não viu nada. (*He says he didn't see anything.*) So what did you do while you were at sea? You couldn't have been filming all the time.

MALINS

No. Of course not. I did my best to learn the ship. The engines, the batteries, the hydraulics, the weapons, and of course, the radio. And I tried to stay out of the Captain's way.

MORGADO

How long did this go on?

MALINS

I honestly couldn't tell you. Time passes very strangely on a submarine. There is no day or night. But at some point the Captain joined the men in the crew's mess.

MUSIC TRANSITION.

21

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

21

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Men, as your commander, it is always a pleasure to break bread with you. Let us salute our chef.

The men give HALF-HEARTED APPLAUSE to the cook.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN (CONT'D)

Because I am an attentive leader, I will field questions from the crew.

Awkward pause.

SCHMIDT

Stimmt es, dass wir jagen-- (*Is it true we are hunting--*)

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

English please.

SCHMIDT

Is true we look for liner Dacia? Do we know where it is?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Yes. Our orders were to find and sink the liner Dacia. She has changed course to try and evade us. Next?

Awkward pause.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN (CONT'D)

Come now, don't be shy. Not every captain allows common sailors to ask questions.

MALINS

(clears throat)

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Yes, Herr Malins?

MALINS

(with trepidation)

Captain, I don't see Müller or Zimmer here.

A ripple of CONCERNED WALLA moves through the crew.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

This is not a question, Herr Malins.

MALINS

Where are they?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Those sailors were unwell, mentally. We believe they took their own lives by jumping off the deck.

MALINS

Ah.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Zimmer's thinking had become very strange. And Müller, he was too silent, a prisoner of his own thoughts. Such an attitude is bad for morale.

(pause)

And anyone else? Lieutenant Klenze?

KLENZE

I must say, Captain, that something is off the kilter.

(MORE)

KLENZE (CONT'D)

This current that is pulling us to the south? And the strange dolphins! When we dive, we see them through the portholes. When we surface, everywhere we look is dolphins. What is happening?

ALTBURG-EHRENSTEIN

Lieutenant, we have found a new current. We have discovered a vast group of dolphins. We are men of science. We are Germans. We do not fear such things. We embrace the spirit of discovery.

(pause)

Men, I was going to make this announcement later, but perhaps now is the best time. As you know, I am responsible for the morale of all of you. It is a disappointment that we have not found the Dacia, but the fact remains that the U-29 is the most successful in the imperial fleet. You all deserve commendation for your work on this mission. We have received new orders and are returning to Wilhelmshaven for fuel, supplies and ammunition. And all crew members will receive shore leave.

The men REJOICE. MARTIAL MUSIC leads out of the scene.

22 NARRATION

22

LESTER MAYHEW

Meanwhile, the officially "unofficial" joint British-American anti-submarine force raced across the Atlantic aboard the destroyer USS Barry, in pursuit of the U-29. Beebe showed the naval officers the modifications he had made to his diving suit.

23 SUBTERFUGE

23

BEEBE

And as you can see here, I've braided the gas lines for the oxygen, nitrogen, and helium. The diver can control them all.

PRINGLE

And the wire? What's that do?

BEEBE

By the time you reach 100 fathoms, there's virtually no sunlight. Scientists call it the dysphotic, or twilight zone. I didn't want the diver to need to carry a torch so I added electrical lights to the suit. Built right in.

ROOSEVELT

I say, well done.

BEEBE

Fessenden here installed a two-way telephonic communication system.

ROOSEVELT

Amazing work. When I was running the Navy, I swear half the fleet was still made of wood!

PRINGLE

And will all this withstand the pressure? We believe U-29 can dive deeper than any other German U-boat.

BEEBE

It's designed to, but we won't be able to test it while we're still traveling at 22 knots.

PRINGLE

We'll be able to reduce speed tomorrow.

BEEBE

Of course for any of this to work, you still have to find the U-29.

TALBOT

We're on that Mr. Beebe. Room 40 has captured the codes that the Imperial Navy uses to send orders to their ships. It's an encrypted radiogram. We've dispatched a decoy order to the U-29 instructing it to return to Wilhelmshaven.

ROOSEVELT

Ingenious, eh Willy?

BEEBE

Did she take the bait?

TALBOT

It's too soon to know for sure but we think so. We haven't been able to intercept any radio signals coming from the U-29.

BEEBE

Even if you know where she's going, that doesn't tell you where she is.

FESSENDEN

Not to worry. My oscillators will hone in on her.

BEEBE

There's more than one?

FESSENDEN

Oh, yes. There are two on this ship, operating at different frequencies. The original device operates at one kilohertz, but I think a higher frequency will give us a more accurate image of a small target. I'm still working out which is most effective. Here's the control panel right here.

TALBOT

And there are three ships in the Royal Navy using Fessenden's oscillators as well. The Agamemnon, the Benbow and the St. Vincent are all scanning the waters ahead of the U-29's last known position, so we can triangulate. She doesn't know it, but the U-29 is headed into a trap.

BEEBE

What kind of noise do these oscillators of yours make, anyway?

FESSENDEN

Do you want to hear it?

BEEBE

Can I?

FESSENDEN

Well, yes and no. I'll have to reduce the signal output or it would make your ears bleed. Hold on.

Some MECHANICAL CLUNKING and then a distinctive FESSENDEN PING, like a modern sonar ping but different.

BEEBE

No mistaking that.

ROOSEVELT

Haunting.

FESSENDEN

Of course sound travels through water about four times faster than through air, so it doesn't sound like this underwater. This is just what I call the reference tone.

ROOSEVELT

Reminds me of the pinging of bullets going up San Juan Hill.

FESSENDEN

Hmm. "Ping". That's a good name for it, sir.

The PING mixes into TRANSITION MUSIC.

24

FAJĀ FLORES 9

24

MALINS

The captain told the men we were returning to Wilhelmshaven, but the strange current was hard to fight. And the scads of dolphins surrounding the ship didn't make it easier. It was amazing to see them swarming outside the special portholes.

ALVARENGA

Ele está a tentar dizer golfinhos?
(*Is he trying to say "dolphins"?*)

MORGADO

Sim. (*Yes.*)

ALVARENGA

(scoffs)

Aqueles não eram golfinhos. (*Those were no dolphins.*)

MORGADO

Are you sure it was dolphins you saw?

MALINS

Well... it was hard to make them out at depth. The ones I saw through the portholes didn't look like any dolphins I'd ever seen before, it's true. But once we surfaced again there seemed to be thousands of them all around. Those looked like regular dolphins.

MUSIC TRANSITIONS INTO DOLPHIN CRIES.

25

DER DANGED DOLPHINS

25

WAVES BREAK over the U-boat and the men SHOUT WITH DELIGHT. DOLPHIN CHATTER.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Quickly, Malins, the camera! I must document nature displaying herself in all her grandeur.

The CAMERA WHIRS and the SAILORS AD LIB in wonder. MUSIC!

SALINGER

Captain, look! A sperm whale breaching.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Extraordinary.

The AWESOME WHOOSH of a huge whale breaching and crashing down. The CLICKING of the whale adds to the CHIRPING of the dolphins. MUSIC! The whale THRASHES.

KLENZE

Wait. Something's wrong. It's in distress.

SALINGER

Look, something's got hold of it!

MALINS

He's right. My god, are those tent--

KLENZE
Der Kraken!

MALINS
What?

KLENZE
Giant squid. The mortal enemy of
the sperm whale.

MALINS
I thought they were mythical....

SALINGER
Look at them go at it! The kraken
is trying to drown him!

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
(laughing)
You see, Malins? Eternal warfare is
the natural state of every living
thing. Glorious, no?

The men roar, some rooting for the whale, others rooting for
the squid. Splashing and thrashing. DOLPHIN NOISE
INTENSIFIES.

SALINGER
But see, I think the dolphins are
helping the whale.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
No, simply trying to steal its
dinner!

Suddenly, the whale is yanked beneath the water and all goes
quiet. It's eerie.

KLENZE
(nervous)
Captain...

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
Ja. Curious.

MUSIC.

MALINS
Just like that, it was gone.

MORGADO

Gone? Diz que desapareceu. (*He says it disappeared.*)

ALVARENGA

Ah Merda. Ele viu mesmo isso? (*Oh shit. Did he actually see it?*)

MORGADO

The whale dived, friend. That's all.

MALINS

Not unless whales dive backwards. The dolphins all vanished at the same time. I'm telling you, something pulled that sperm whale under the water. Something huge.

MORGADO

Your camera, did you shoot this?

MALINS

I did. I shot it all.

MORGADO

So you have proof, yes?

MALINS

Do you see any film? I have nothing. Nothing.

MORGADO

Unfortunate.

MALINS

Even the captain seemed a little spooked by it. He ordered the U-29 to dive, and used the boat's underwater lighting and periscope to look for any sign of the whale or what had taken it.

TRANSITION MUSIC.

27

ENGINE TROUBLE

27

The ship's ELECTRIC PROPULSION SYSTEM moves it quietly through the water. Occasionally the HULL GROANS.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Depth, Helmsman?

SALINGER
150 meters, Captain.

KLENZE
Are you seeing anything, sir?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
Nothing. Helmsman, set course 140°
bow plane -10°, stern -5°. Take us
to 200 meters.

KLENZE
Sir, is it worth going so deep?
After all, these are just animals.

The arms of the periscope SNAP CLOSED.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
Where is it you come from, Klenze?

KLENZE
Frankenthal, sir.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
(scoffs)
A Rhinelander - I should've known.
You people have no heart for
adventure. I, on the other hand...

There is a HORRIBLE GRINDING NOISE, followed by the sound of
a TANK RUPTURING IN EXPLOSION. MUSIC. Men SCREAM. FIRE
EXTINGUISHERS. RUNNING AND CLANGING. WRENCHES. GUSHING WATER.
CURSING IN GERMAN. The chaos eventually dies down.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN (CONT'D)
Lieutenant, damage report?

KLENZE
The starboard fuel tank has
ruptured. Engineers Rabbe and
Schneider are casualties. Traube
suffered minor injuries.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
What else?

KLENZE
The explosion fractured the housing
of the rudder hydraulic, sir. The
rudder is unresponsive. The
engineers, sir, they are working on
it, but...

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
You are saying the U-29 is adrift?

KLENZE
We have electric propulsion, sir,
but no steering.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
What about the hydraulics for the
plane controls?

KLENZE
Tested normal, sir. We can still
surface. Or dive, if we had to.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
The air regenerators?

KLENZE
Functioning at full capacity, sir.
We are fine as long as the
batteries hold out.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
Hmph.

KLENZE
Sir, might I suggest we surface.
Then we can flag down a German
ship. With the radio not
broadcasting we need a rescue.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
Need a rescue? Did I ask your
opinion, lieutenant? Do you think I
need your help?

KLENZE
Sir...

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
Do you think a true German lives in
fear of being captured by the
enemy? We have weapons and are
prepared to fight. Wars are won by
fighting, Lieutenant Klenze. We
shall not cower in fear, waiting
for someone to rescue us.

KLENZE
Jawohl, mein Kapitän.

MUSIC.

28 NARRATION

28

LESTER MAYHEW

Meanwhile, having reached the region of the U-29's estimated position, the USS Barry paused long enough to allow Beebe to test his diving suit.

29 CLOSING IN

29

WAVES AND WIND. A WINDLASS REELS IN A DIVER. EVERYONE SHOUTING to be heard.

BEEBE

Not so fast, sailor! Slow the winch!

The WINDLASS SLOWS DOWN.

TALBOT

Is there a problem, Beebe?

BEEBE

I don't like the look of those bubbles. The suit's pressure might be compromised.

PRINGLE

Then shouldn't we get him out of there as quickly as possible?

BEEBE

No, if the pressure is off and we pull him up too fast he could get the bends.

RUNNING FOOTSTEPS ON DECK APPROACH.

PRINGLE

But if--

FESSENDEN

(breathless)

Captain! My oscillators have made contact!

PRINGLE

Where?

FESSENDEN

Just over two nautical miles, at a heading of 085. At a depth of 100 meters and rising.

PRINGLE

Hot damn.

TALBOT

That's confirmed?

FESSENDEN

The Benbow's getting the same signal.

PRINGLE

Very well. All hands make ready. Beebe, get him up as fast as you can, and as soon as that man is safely on deck we're getting under way.

DRAMATIC MUSIC.

30

THE BRITISH ARE COMING

30

WIND. WAVES breaking on the deck. SEAGULLS. Sailors ad lib quietly.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

How are the air purifiers lieutenant?

KLENZE

Functioning normally. We've purged the system, captain. Staying at the surface on diesel will let the alternators recharge the batteries.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Yes. And our course?

KLENZE

We are still in the grip of this current, sir. South by southwest at 3 knots. I fear at some point, sir, we will need to hail another German vessel for assistance.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(derisive snort)

MALINS

Certainly a lot of seabirds.

KLENZE

We must be closer to land than the charts would suggest.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(snapping open his
spyglass)

I don't see anything on the...
Scheiße!

KLENZE

What is it, Captain?

TRAUBE

Do you see something, sir?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

A warship. American. Approaching on bearing 140.

TRAUBE

(joyous)

That's perfect, sir. We can fly a flag of surrender.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

What did you say, seaman Traube?

TRAUBE

Well... The U-29 is disabled, sir.
We can't just keep drifting forever.

A couple of submariners concur in OPTIMISTIC AD LIB.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

And you would surrender our ship?
To our enemies?

TRAUBE

But the Americans are--

A-E WHIPS OUT his pistol and COCKS IT.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Not our allies! This is treason
against the Fatherland.

KLENZE

Sir, please, no--

BLAM. THUD.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

All hands prepare to dive. Now!
Helmsman, take us to 50 meters.

Sailors RUN into the hatch and a KLAXON begins to sound.
GERMAN MILITARY MUSIC.

31 NARRATION 31

LESTER MAYHEW

From the bridge of the USS Barry,
the men watched the distant U-boat
disappear under the waves.

32 HUNTERS 32

The oscillators PING.

TALBOT

Damn, now she's spotted us things
will be more complicated.

PRINGLE

She'll think twice before engaging
a US destroyer.

TALBOT

Depth charges, Pringle. Let's--

PRINGLE

No, not yet. Fessenden, can your
oscillator tell which way they're
going?

FESSENDEN

South by southwest, sir.

ROOSEVELT

That doesn't seem to make much
sense.

TALBOT

It's the same direction as the
current! Maybe the ship is disabled
somehow. If they had full control,
they'd swing around and take a shot
at us.

BEEBE

Clearly, they're still able to
dive.

PRINGLE

True. That's a bold move to dive if
they can't steer the ship. Let's
track them with Fessenden's gear -
and see what they do.

Transition MUSIC.

33

MUTINY

33

The U-29's ELECTRIC PROPULSION purrs quietly, and the HULL
GROANS occasionally under the pressure.

MALINS

(conspiratorially)

I can't believe your captain just
shot Traube like that.

BOHM

He's lost his mind. He's going to
kill us all.

SCHMIDT

Quiet!

SALINGER

We have to stop him, Schmidt. We
have to take the ship.

SCHMIDT

Mutiny?

BOHM

We have no choice. He's insane. We
are going to die on this boat.

SCHMIDT

We could be court-martialed. Or
shot.

SALINGER

If we stay, we'll be drowned, or
crushed!

MALINS

Or shot.

SALINGER

Traube had the answer - we should have surrendered to the Americans.

SCHMIDT

But look what happened to him.

SALINGER

The captain's mad. Müller was right, it's that little figurine from the drowned sailor. It's cursed and the captain has it!

SCHMIDT

Don't be stupid, that's just a superstition.

SALINGER

Is it? Everything went to hell after they took that thing from the stowaway.

BOHM

It doesn't matter.

SALINGER

Of course it does! We're cursed.

BOHM

No. If all of us joined together, he'd have to agree to our demands. There's hardly any crew left. What do you think, English?

MALINS

I agree, but I think Klenze would have to go along.

Klenze approaches.

KLENZE

What's this? You think I'll go along?

Very awkward pause.

SCHMIDT

Lieutenant... we've been talking.

KLENZE

Yes, I heard you.

Pause.

SCHMIDT
Lieutenant, we--

SALINGER
We have no choice! Look around you.
Look what's happening here.

KLENZE
I should report you at once.

BOHM
Lieutenant, if we don't do
something, we are all going to die.
You know it. We know it. Hell, even
he knows it, right, Englishman?

MALINS
I... Yes.

SCHMIDT
He might listen to you, sir. If we
all spoke as one, he'd have to
listen to reason.

BOHM
We're drifting in the current 200
meters under the sea.

SALINGER
Nearly 300 now, almost crush depth.
Please, Lieutenant.

KLENZE
(heaving a mighty sigh)
Yes. Something must be done.

BOHM
Do we... do we take him by force?

SCHMIDT
We could tie him up. Keep him
restrained.

SALINGER
It would be safer if we just--

KLENZE
No! Not that. I will... I will talk
to him. He's proud, but he'll still
listen to reason.

SALINGER
And if he doesn't?

KLENZE

Then we truly won't have a choice.

TRANSITION MUSIC.

34 FAJĀ FLORES 11

34

MORGADO

Mutiny?

MALINS

I was desperate. We all were.

MORGADO

What happened?

MALINS

The Captain met with all of us in
the control room.

35 THE NEGOTIATION

35

BOOTS echo on the metal floor.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Well? What is it Klenze? Why aren't
you three at your posts?

KLENZE

Sir, I come before you on behalf of
the remaining crew. We... Uh...

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Out with it man! You're an officer
of the Imperial Navy. Don't talk
like some feeble schoolgirl.

KLENZE

(bucking up)

Sir, on behalf of the crew, I
hereby demand you relinquish
command of the U-29. Hand me your
firearm and we assure you, you will
be treated with the respect
warranted by your rank.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(laughing at the
absurdity)

Mutiny, eh? I'm surprised it took
you so long.

(MORE)

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN (CONT'D)

Perhaps not, you don't really have the heart for this kind of thing, Klenze. This is really what you want, Schmidt? Bohm? Salinger?
(silence)

I see. Even you, Herr Malins?

KLENZE

We are all in agreement, sir.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

And yet they chose you, Klenze, to be the face of the mutiny. You, a soft, womanish Rhinelander, you stand before me. Perhaps you should curtsy and beg me to surrender, to take this--

(he draws his pistol from his holster and COCKS IT)
my pistol and give it to you along with command of the ship. Do you really think I'm unfit for command, Klenze?

KLENZE

Things have gone terribly wrong. We're adrift. The American warship is just waiting for us to surface.

SALINGER

The ship is cursed, sir. Because of that damn figurine.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

This, Salinger? You fear this little carved man? You think this led us to where we are?

SALINGER

I... Don't... Maybe.

KLENZE

It doesn't matter now, sir. We must have your answer.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Maybe you're right, it doesn't matter.

(sighs)

Very well.

BLAM, BLAM, BLAM. The shots are very loud inside the submarine. THREE BODIES CRUMPLE to the floor.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN (CONT'D)

Lieutenant, get rid of these. Have Malins help you eject them through the torpedo tubes.

(pause)

Lieutenant, I gave you an order.

KLENZE

Jawohl, sir. Come, Malins.

MALINS

(with trepidation)

Captain, why did you spare me?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

My motion picture is not yet complete. It will be glorious. We shall be heroes in Berlin.

MUSIC.

36 NARRATION

36

LESTER MAYHEW

In the meantime, the crew of the Barry continued to track the U-29 from the surface.

37 VIEW FROM ABOVE

37

We hear the destroyer's ENGINES punctuated by FESSENDEN PINGS.

FESSENDEN

The U-29's movements seem to be following the current exactly. I think you're right: its steering must be disabled.

PRINGLE

Fessenden, how deep is she?

FESSENDEN

Approximately 310 meters, sir.

ROOSEVELT

Good God. Is it possible?

TALBOT
 (rushing in)
 Gentlemen, the watch commander
 outside spotted something on the
 surface. They've just recovered it.

PRINGLE
 What was it?

TALBOT
 Bodies. Two German sailors.

BEEBE
 Really?

TALBOT
 Crew members of the U-29. The
 bodies are in poor condition.

ROOSEVELT
 What, did sharks get to them?

TALBOT
 No, sir. It was the pressure. They
 were basically crushed.

ROOSEVELT
 Good heavens.

TALBOT
 But that's not what killed them.

ROOSEVELT
 No?

TALBOT
 They'd both been shot.

PRINGLE
 My God, what's going on down there?

MUSIC.

38

ROCK BOTTOM

38

More CREAKS AND GROANS sound from the hull of the U-29 as she
 drifts ever deeper. We hear the CLINK of empty beer bottles
 as Klenze pops the top of another one.

KLENZE
 (singing, drunk)
 Ein Prosit, ein Prosit
 Der Gemütlichkeit
 (MORE)

KLENZE (CONT'D)

Ein Prosit, ein Prosit
Der Gemütlichkeit
Eins, zwei, drei, Gsuffa!

He DRINKS.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Klenze, you're pathetic with your
drinking. Where has Malins got to?

KLENZE

(smashed)

He went to the porthole to try and
film the dolphins. Dolphins, ha!
like no dolphins I ever saw...

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

He should not run the exterior
lights. We need to conserve--

Malins enters.

MALINS

Captain, you--

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Have you turned on the outside
light?

MALINS

Only for your motion picture,
Captain. I tried to get footage of
the--

KLENZE

Dolphins? Ha! They're too deep.
They don't go up to breathe. Some
have legs and feet and arms.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

You're a drunk, Klenze. Give me one
of those bottles.

He TAKES THE CAP OFF a bottle of beer.

MALINS

Whatever they are, I got footage of
them.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

You must not waste our precious
resources.

MALINS

Of course. But film footage of a new species, that could win you a prize, the Kaiser Wilhelm Society for the Advancement of Science.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Ha! Prosit.

A-E CLINKS his bottle against Klenze's.

KLENZE

Science. We're killers. That's what. I see out the portal the faces of the men I've killed. Men we've killed. Boys, some of them.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

We are winning a war for the fatherland, Klenze. You are a terrible soldier.

KLENZE

What was it Goethe said? "I have not a warlike nature, and have not warlike tastes; How could I write songs of hate without hating?"

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

You dishonor Goethe with your drunken babble. Let me concentrate on the map.

MALINS

How can you calculate our position underwater?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

The current should be taking us towards the Azores.

MALINS

They're Portuguese. Shouldn't we surface and see?

KLENZE

(waxing poetical)

"No rays from the holy Heaven come down
On the long night-time of that town;
But light from out the lurid sea
Streams up the turrets silently—"

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
Stop with your butchery of Goethe.

KLENZE
Ha! That's the American, Mr. Poe,
the City in the Sea. He understood
what--

THE STEEL OF THE U-29'S HULL SCREECHES AND GROANS as the ship
finally hits the seafloor. Bottles go ROLLING and men TUMBLE.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
We've hit the seafloor. It must be.

MALINS
Come on, let's go.

KLENZE
(drunk and confused)
Wait, where's everyone going?

MALINS
To the portal, to see what's out
there.

We hear them hurry through the sub.

MALINS (CONT'D)
Requesting permission to use the
exterior lighting, captain

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
Yes, yes, of course.

THE CLUNK OF A BIG ELECTRICAL SWITCH. The men GASP.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN (CONT'D)
The bottom of the sea. More than
350 meters deep. And we, Germans,
are the first to ever see it.

MALINS
Look at that shape over there. What
is it?

KLENZE
A ship. Sunken ships from ancient
times.

MALINS
And look at that there. It looks
like a monolith or obelisk or
something.

KLENZE

There's writing on it. Can't you see it?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

I don't see any--

KLENZE

(beginning to laugh)

I see it. I can read it. It's in the writing of his people!

Klenze RUNS OUT of the room.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

The lieutenant's weak mind would seem to have finally snapped. He grows less a companion and more a menace. Still, I should check the air purifiers.

MUSIC.

39 NARRATION

39

LESTER MAYHEW

From above, the USS Barry carefully monitored the submarine's position.

40 CLOSING IN

40

PINGS.

FESSENDEN

Captain! The U-29, I think they've hit bottom.

PRINGLE

What? Why?

FESSENDEN

There's no more motion from the ship. And their depth, it's the same as the surrounding ocean floor.

ROOSEVELT

Could they have stopped on purpose? Maybe they think they're hiding from us. Laying an ambush.

TALBOT

That would be a strange tactical maneuver, but we don't know what she's capable of.

PRINGLE

It's also possible that the ship's mechanical systems have given out. They've essentially sunk.

BEEBE

But they didn't sink. They landed. Right, Fessenden?

FESSENDEN

Well... it does seem so.

BEEBE

So someone aboard could still be alive?

PRINGLE

Possibly. Fessenden, what's their depth?

FESSENDEN

(gulping)
354 meters.

PRINGLE

Great Scott.

TALBOT

No submarine has ever survived a dive to that depth.

BEEBE

But if the ship is intact, some of the crew might still be alive.

PRINGLE

(under his breath)
For now.

BEEBE

Then she's not lost. She can still be recovered.

TALBOT

Mr. Beebe--

ROOSEVELT

Willy--

BEEBE

That was the mission, right? To recover the U-29? To unlock her secrets? Well there she is.

TALBOT

Ensign Dalager barely survived the test dive. She's too deep. Better now to simply destroy her and make sure of it. Captain?

PRINGLE

Beebe, I hate to say it, but--

BEEBE

You're right, we can't ask Dalager to go down again. So I'll do it. It's my suit. My risk. I'm the only one who can.

Silence.

TALBOT

You Yanks know what I think, but he's your man, Captain Pringle. It's your ship, your call.

PRINGLE

Yeah, "unofficially". Mr. Beebe, you're a civilian, the U.S. Navy can't--

BEEBE

I understand. I'm volunteering. I wanted to fight this war, and this is my way to do it. Look, gentlemen, we know where we're going, and we know how to get there. So let's step on the gas already. Right, Mr. President? I mean, what was it you always used to say?

HEROIC MUSIC STARTS.

ROOSEVELT

Seize the moment. Man was never intended to become an oyster.

KLENZE
The ivory figure, do you have it?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
Ja, it is there--

KLENZE
Good. I'm taking it.
(grabbing it up)
He is calling! He is calling! I
hear him! We must go!

MORE RUNNING.

MALINS
Who's calling? Hey, wait! Klenze,
come back!

CHASING.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
(exhausted)
Unglaublich! (unbelievable!)

BOOTS GOING UP THE LADDER.

MALINS
What are you doing? You can't go
out the hatch. The pressure would
kill us all!

KLENZE
Come now - do not wait until later;
it is better to repent and be
forgiven than to defy and be
condemned.

A PISTOL COCKS.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
Lieutenant, you've gone mad. Climb
down from there or I will shoot
you. Right now.

BOOTS COMING BACK DOWN.

KLENZE
If I am mad, it is mercy! May the
gods pity the man who in his
callousness can remain sane to the
hideous end! Come and be mad whilst
he still calls with mercy!

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Ja, ja, ja... Enough of this poetry. If you want to leave the ship, you must use the airlock chamber.

KLENZE

The airlock! Ha ha, perfect! At last I can swim with our people.

MORE RUNNING. MUSIC!

42 NARRATION

42

LESTER MAYHEW

Meanwhile, the navy men prepared Beebe for his daring dive.

43 BEEBE'S DIVE

43

HUSTLE ON DECK. WINCHES. PINGS. WIND AND SEA.

AMERICAN SAILOR

The diving bell and suit are secured to the winch, sir.

PRINGLE

Did you test the gas lines?

AMERICAN SAILOR

Aye sir, gauges show pressure's on the money.

PRINGLE

Mr. President, would you give the intercom the final test?

ROOSEVELT

Of course.

(burst of radio squelch)

How's the suit feeling, Willy?

BEEBE

(through intercom)

Yeah, can't say I'm not having a second thought.

ROOSEVELT

Believe you can and you're halfway there. I believe you can. We all do. How about one more test of the lighting?

CLICK.

BEEBE
Lighting activated.

ROOSEVELT
Shining bright. Ready men?

PRINGLE
One last thing, Beebe. Our boys in
the Bureau of Ordnance made this
up. It's a thermite charge.

BEEBE
A what?

PRINGLE
Thermite.

TALBOT
Invented by a German, in a bit of
poetic justice.

PRINGLE
You set this off, it burns so hot
it'll burn right through the hull
of the U-29.

BEEBE
Even underwater?

PRINGLE
Oh yeah. You burn through that hull
and the ocean will take care of the
rest.

TALBOT
See here, Beebe. If you get to the
U-29, but there's no hope of
raising it, then you must destroy
it. Do you understand?

BEEBE
Yeah, sure.

TALBOT
We can't run any risk of the
Jerries recovering it. Once you
activate it, you'll have only
minutes to get clear. Do you
understand?

BEEBE
I understand.

PRINGLE
Mr. Fessenden, the U-29 is still
holding position?

FESSENDEN
(sounding stressed)
Yes, sir, but...

PRINGLE
What is it?

FESSENDEN
There's something... Something's
going on down there.

EXCITING MUSIC.

44 AUF WIEDERSEHEN, KLENZE

44

KLENZE
(mad muttering)

MALINS
You're not going to let him do
this, are you?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
His brain has gone to mush. He is
now just a waste of our precious
oxygen.

MALINS
That's cold.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
It makes more interesting science.
Our engineers have made deep-sea
diving suits but they have never
been tested at this depth. A
perfect opportunity, no? The suit's
tank will supply air for around
five minutes. Otherwise, we would
have to tether him to the ship with
the air hose. Perhaps the swim will
clear his mind.

The RUSTLE OF CLOTH, CLANKING, etc.

MALINS
Klenze, do you want to leave a lock
of hair or some keepsake for your
family back in Germany?

KLENZE

Why?

MALINS

If you don't make it back and we are rescued, we could give it to them, to remember you by.

KLENZE

Make it back?
(laughing)
Help me with the helmet.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Here. First, give me the figurine, Klenze.

KLENZE

(mad laughing)
He does not want to be with you, he wants to go with me and return to his own people.

MALINS

Klenze.... Good luck.

KLENZE

Auf Wiedersehen alle.

The helmet CLANKS in place. The ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION SYSTEM activates.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

I will operate the airlock from here, Malins. You go to the periscope and turn on the external lighting. I will trust you to tell me what happens.

The DOOR CLANGS SHUT and A-E begins to SEAL THE AIRLOCK.

MALINS

Is there any way he could survive?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Those dolphin-things do. Go.

BOOTS UP LADDER. PERISCOPE SNAPS.

MALINS

Periscope open.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(off)

Engaging airlock.

LEVERS CLANK. SWITCH CLICKS.

MALINS

Exterior lighting on.

HATCH OPENS. RUSHING AIR, RUSHING WATER, BUBBLES, the ship GROANING with pressure. AUDIBLE DANGER. MUSIC.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Do you see him?

MALINS

The lights are dim... there he is. He's just about to exit the ship. He seems to be OK. There's lots of air bubbles and wait, are those... I think they're the dolphins. There's... there's a lot of them. They're moving toward him. He's stopped.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

What is he doing now?

MALINS

He's stopped moving. Wait, there's something else out there, a huge shadow... I can't tell... it's something--

A horrifying GROAN OF METAL. SCRAPING. MACHINERY BREAKING, ELECTRICAL ZAPPING, STEAM HISSING.

MALINS (CONT'D)

Something's pulling us!

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Malins, full ahead! The levers on the wall to the left - full throttle!

MALINS

But what about--

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Full ahead, damn you!

ELECTRIC MOTORS STRAINING, SPARKS, GROANING METAL. MUSIC.

45 INTO THE WATER
PINGS.

45

FESSENDEN

The boat has moved! I think I'm getting multiple contacts...

PRINGLE

You think?

FESSENDEN

It's hard to be sure. There's a lot of action.

TALBOT

Are we under attack?

FESSENDEN

I don't know!

BEEBE

(through speaker)

Someone's still alive down there. I'm going now! Lower me!

SPLASH! MUSIC!

46 FAJÃ FLORES 12

46

ALVARENGA

(with a dismissive snort)

Ele estava a alucinar com azoto no sangue... Acontece com mergulhadores que vão muito ao fundo.

MALINS

What's he saying?

MORGADO

He says these were hallucinations. All this only happened in your mind, poisoned by nitrogen. He says it happens to divers who go too deep.

MALINS

It all seemed very, very real. We plunged forward in the darkness. The electric motors had given out, and we glided silently in the deep.

MUSIC.

47 ON THE MOVE

47

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN
Scheiße! Out of the way. I'll guide
the boat. Tell me what you see
through the periscope.

WONDROUS ATLANTIAN MUSIC BEGINS.

MALINS
My God. What is that?

48 FAJĀ FLORES 13

48

MORGADO
What did you see?

MALINS
What I saw was an extensive array
of ruined buildings, all of
magnificent architecture. Most
appeared to be of marble, gleaming
whitely in the fading rays of our
lights. It was... it was a city at
the bottom of a narrow valley, with
numerous isolated temples and
villas on the steep slopes above. A
vast city, shrouded in an air of
immemorially ancient splendor which
nothing could efface.

ALVARENGA
Atlântida...

MALINS
That's it, Captain Alvarenga.
Atlantis.

MORGADO
Go on.

MALINS
In the center there yawned a great
open door, at the top of an
impressive flight of steps. It was
surrounded by carvings of the most
phenomenal perfection. They were
unthinkably ancient, like some
remote ancestor of Greek art.

(MORE)

MALINS (CONT'D)

The scale of it all, it was terrifying. He wanted me to film it.

MORGADO

The captain? Did you?

MALINS

I... pretended to. Just as I had been doing for days, weeks, maybe. I had run out of film - there was nothing to shoot on. But Altberg-Ehrenstein wanted me to document his glory at every turn. I continued the charade.

MUSIC.

49

CITY IN THE SEA

49

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Roll camera!

MALINS

And, action.

The empty CAMERA WHIRS.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(giddy)

I have discovered Atlantis for Germany. The highest achievement of civilization, united with the modern world's greatest empire. Before me stands the richly ornate and perfectly preserved facade of a great building, evidently a temple, hollowed from the solid rock. There are exquisite carvings like... That face, carved on the wall of the temple... it is... the same as the ivory figure. Malins, where is it...

MALINS

Klenze--

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Ah yes, poor Klenze. Turn on the lights, I wish to look at the temple again.

MALINS

The longer you run the lights, the sooner the air purifiers will give out. The batteries are dying.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

As a German I'm prepared to die in glory for my country.

A-E starts to leave.

MALINS

Where are you going?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(beginning to laugh)

To Atlantis, of course. To the temple. Can't you hear the music?

MALINS

(to himself)

No.

MUSIC.

50

NARRATION

50

LESTER MAYHEW

From the surface, the men on the USS Barry tracked Beebe's descent.

51

GOING DOWN

51

Beebe's intercom sounds a little like broadcasts from the moon.

FESSENDEN

He's coming up on 200 meters.

ROOSEVELT

Willy, that's about 200 meters now. How are you feeling?

BEEBE

So far so good. Even with the lights on, there's nothing to see. Awfully dark.

PRINGLE

Can you breathe all right?

BEEBE

Air pressure good. No signs of life.

PRINGLE

Roger that.

TALBOT

Not surprising at that depth.

ROOSEVELT

You let us know if anything starts to change all right?

BEEBE

Will do.

Eerie MUSIC lead him down into the depths.

52

FAJĀ FLORES 14

52

MALINS

The captain took the U-29's remaining dive suit and left the ship, in an attempt to enter the city. He had a radio link to me inside the boat.

53

THE WALK

53

DRAMATIC MUSIC.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(breathing heavily)

The water is thick. Slow going. My hand light seems to be failing.

MALINS

It looks dim from here.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Nearly to the top. The doorway - it's huge.

MALINS

You're not going to go in, are you?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Why wouldn't I? This is a triumphant moment for my people. I shall see what no man has seen since... No...

MALINS

Captain? Are you all right?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

This place - it's not meant for us.
Humans. Still I... Nein. It gives
one such a feeling.

MALINS

Aren't you going in?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

I must return to the ship and
document my observations.

WHALE SONG. THE BLOOP. The GROAN OF METAL.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN (CONT'D)

(breathing hard)

Malins, open the air lock, I'm
coming in. Malins? Do you hear me?

MALINS

I hear you, Captain.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Then open the airlock. That's an
order.

MALINS

I don't take orders from you.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(in a final burst of fury)

Malins, open the door. I command
you to open this goddamn door! Fahr
zur Hölle!

(spent)

I'm exhausted. Just open it.
Please. For the love of God.

(mutters)

Vile Schweinhund.

MALINS

Vile? Which of us is vile?

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

What do you mean?

MALINS

I have watched you wantonly and
remorselessly murder men who have
surrendered to you.

(MORE)

MALINS (CONT'D)

I have watched you attack and sink civilian vessels and murder unarmed sailors. I have watched you celebrate your country's arrogant warmongering. I have watched you carelessly and ruthlessly kill your own men. You are despicable.

ALTBURG-EHRENSTEIN

You are not German. You lack the stomach for war.

MALINS

You are not human. I look forward to your death.

ALTBURG-EHRENSTEIN

You think you will accomplish something in killing me? You too are going to die here.

MALINS

Perhaps. Or perhaps I will repair the ballast valve that I sabotaged. Your radio that I sabotaged. The rudder was easy to disable.

ALTBURG-EHRENSTEIN

You-

(his rage dies away to an exhausted fatalism)

Well played, Herr Malins. Well then, if I cannot enter my ship, there is only one place for me. I have nothing left to fear. I go.

54 NARRATION

54

LESTER MAYHEW

The crew of the Barry continued to follow Beebe's journey into the abyss.

55 RENDEZVOUS

55

PRINGLE

You should be approaching the seafloor soon. Do you see anything?

There's a CRACKLE OF STATIC through the intercom.

BEEBE

Negative. All dark below.
Continuing descent.

ROOSEVELT

Shouldn't he be seeing something by
now?

TALBOT

God help him. Even the lights on
his suit will only illuminate a few
yards in front of him.

ROOSEVELT

Maybe we--

STATIC.

BEEBE

I see--
(static interference)
-- southwest.

PRINGLE

Beebe, did not copy. Repeat.

BEEBE

I see light below me, continuing to
descend. Move to compass heading
170.

PRINGLE

170. Roger continuing descent.

BEEBE

Slow descent 50%. Believe I'm
getting a visual at seafloor.

PRINGLE

Do you still see light?

BEEBE

That's affirmative.

PRINGLE

Could it be...?

BEEBE

I found her. It's the U-29.
External lighting, but fading fast.

56 FAJĀ FLORES 15

56

MALINS

As the lights of the boat finally
died, in the new darkness I saw
another light. Coming from above
me.

57 A RAY OF HOPE

57

Inside the U-29.

MALINS

A diver? The Americans! Thank god!
Here! I'm in here! Help me!

Malins BANGS ON THE HULL in a desperate attempt to signal.

58 RENDEZVOUS 2

58

Malins' BANGING is all but completely inaudible in the chaos
of UNDERSEA NOISE.

PRINGLE

Are you--

BEEBE

It's sitting on the seafloor. It's
strangely flat. Like... stonework
and there are--

(static)

What the hell?

ROOSEVELT

Willy? It's Teddy. What are you
seeing?

BEEBE

It's damn curious, sir. The rocks
down here almost look like...
buildings.

ROOSEVELT

How's that?

BEEBE

Nothing, sir. I'm just above the
ship now. Making contact.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(breathless)

I've made it, Malins. I'll show you what pure German will can do. I'm going in. I shall be the first to tread these aeon-forgotten ways! An undersea temple, fashioned from the virgin hillside rock of our planet!

MALINS

(through A-E's helmet)

Help me! I'm here!

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

(mesmerized)

I... mein Gott. I see... The temple door... and windows, Malins... there is a light within!

MUSIC.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN (CONT'D)

Oh my! God in heaven, can you hear it, Malins? Can you hear the music?

THE WILD, WONDROUS MUSIC OF ATLANTIS soars out of the temple. Malins keeps BANGING.

MALINS

Hear me! Help!

BEEBE

Wait a minute. There's... I'm seeing another light.

PRINGLE

Say again, Beebe?

BEEBE

It's like... no bioluminescence I've ever seen.... It's... square.

ROOSEVELT

Gentlemen, what is this?

TALBOT

He's hallucinating. Poor devil. Abort the mission, Captain.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

The temple, Malins, is aglow with a mighty altar-flame far within!

BEEBE

What the-- I hear music! Can you hear the music?

STATIC.

PRINGLE

Dammit, so close.

TALBOT

He's lost it. We need to bring him up now.

PRINGLE

Reverse the winches. Beebe, we're bringing you up.

TALBOT

Beebe! The thermite! Deploy it now!

ROOSEVELT

Carefully men!

60

DESCENT INTO THE MAELSTROM

60

Now we get a CRAZY SONIC MELANGE, mixing what A-E hears in the temple with what Beebe hears in the ocean, with what Malins hears on the radio, with what the sailors hear on the Barry. MUSIC. DOLPHINS. DEEP ONES. WHALE SONG. PINGS.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

It's the most beautiful thing I've ever heard.

BEEBE

It's fantastic! Listen!

TALBOT

Beebe! Activate the charge!

ROOSEVELT

Steady on, man.

FESSENDEN

There's something moving down there... Good god, it's enormous.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Oh Malins, do you hear it? The light! It's beautiful!

MALINS

God damn it! He doesn't hear me.
How can I... The ballast valve! I
must--

PRINGLE

Get him out of there!

TALBOT

Have you deployed it? Beebe!

BEEBE

No, what are you doing? Don't pull
me up!

MALINS

Don't leave me behind!

PRINGLE

Steady speed, not too fast.

TALBOT

Not too slow! There may be live
munitions on board.

MALINS

(turning the valve with a
wrench, creaking)
Come on now, open up, you bas--

BEEBE

There's something out there in the
dark - it's huge! It's alive.

FESSENDEN

It's moving fast.

ALTBERG-EHRENSTEIN

Klenze? Is that you?

The music hits its OTHERWORLDLY CLIMAX as the MONSTER ROARS,
the CHARGE EXPLODES, and AIR BLASTS into the ballast tank.

PRINGLE

Now we've got him!

BEEBE, MALINS & A-E

No!!!

MALINS

...So beautiful, the music. There was a rush of air and... next thing I knew, I was here.

MORGADO

You are very lucky.

MALINS

Yes. Thank you for saving me, Captain Alvarenga.

ALVARENGA

(scoffs)

Não fui eu. (*It wasn't me.*)

MORGADO

It wasn't the captain who saved you. He only found you, floating in German wreckage.

MALINS

But how--

ALVARENGA

(finally speaking English)

Os Profundos. The Ones from the Deep.

MORGADO

You have been blessed by the gods of the sea.

MALINS

(realization dawning)

The gods... that statue behind you. It's... like a giant version of the ivory figurine. This church... this isn't a Catholic church.

MORGADO

No one said it was.

MALINS

And... that stowaway?

ALVARENGA

Profundo.

MALINS

(reeling)

My god...

MORGADO

No, mine.

Final swell of ORCHESTRAL MUSIC WITH DELICIOUS ATLANTEAN OVERTONES.

62

CONCLUSION

62

LESTER MAYHEW

You've been listening to H.P. Lovecraft's "The Temple", brought to you by our sponsor, Veronal.

LULLABY SINGERS

Don't waste your time by counting sheep - take Veronal and get some sleep.

LESTER MAYHEW

Veronal. The sandman's little helper. Thank you for joining me, Lester Mayhew. Until next week, this is Dark Adventure Radio Theatre reminding you to never go anywhere alone; if it looks bad, don't look; and save the last bullet for yourself.

MUSIC.

ANNOUNCER

"The Temple" was adapted for radio and produced by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman. Based on "The Temple" by H.P. Lovecraft. Original music by Troy Sterling Nies. The Dark Adventure Ensemble featured countless Fine Actors. Tune in next week for "The Song of the Anaconda" a manly tale of jungle bravado!

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Radio STATIC and fade out.