

Here Be Dragons - Episode Eight

"Keera's Dance - Part Two"

by

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Black Lace and Laser Beams
Productions

CONTINUED...

1 SCENE SEVEN

INT. The Grotto - DAY

Harper, Atlas and Scarlett are right where we left them-- tied to stalagmites in the siren's den, struggling against the rising tide.

We hear Atlas struggling, pulling hard against her bonds.

ATLAS

It's no good. I don't know what this stuff is, but it's not coming loose.

SCARLETT

Mine either. Harper? ... Harper, you okay?

HARPER

(No.) Yeah. Just... you know. Fine.

SCARLETT

(gently) Just keep holding your head up.

HARPER

... Yeah... I know...

SCARLETT

You're going to be fine.

HARPER

I mean, I am shorter than you. Both of you, so-

SCARLETT

You are not going to drown.

HARPER

Might not exactly have a choice in that, commander.

SCARLETT

Have I ever let you drown before?

HARPER

Technically no.

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT

And I don't plan to start now. So take some deep breaths, and focus up, alright? I need everybody's brains focused on NOT dying.

ATLAS

There are so many bones on the beach.

SCARLETT

Yeah, JUST like that, Atlas. Thank you SO much. Real helpful.

ATLAS

They're everywhere. How did we not notice?

HARPER

Because we didn't want to. Because Keera didn't want us to. She wanted us to dance, and smile-

ATLAS

Skip cheerfully onto her dinner plate. Charming.

SCARLETT

Guys-

HARPER

That's what sirens do. They're charming. They are nothing if not charming.

beat.

ATLAS

(quietly) So many bones on the beach... There must be hundreds of them... maybe thousands...

SCARLETT

They've been at this a while. Since Greek-times at least.

ATLAS

You'd think they'd try to clean up a bit.

HARPER

Wait... Wait... Atlas? Are you touching bottom right now?

(CONTINUED)

ATLAS

What? No... Why?

SCARLETT

I am.

HARPER

Can you feel anything?

SCARLETT

Harper, what-

HARPER

Bones on the beach. They're all mixed in, buried in the sand. If they're bones in the sand over there, there could be some under us too. Washed out by the tide!

SCARLETT

Well there's a cheerful thought.

HARPER

Only if you like escape plans. See if you can find a broken one... something sharp.

SCARLETT

Okay... OW! Yep. (hisses in pain)
Yeah, I found one.

HARPER

Great! How good are you at picking things up with your feet?

SCARLETT

Just give me a second...

ATLAS

Great! She's got a bone in between her feet. But how exactly are we supposed to use it to-

SPLASH! Scarlett has ducked her head under the water. A moment later she resurfaces, a large jagged bone between her teeth.

SCARLETT

(slightly muffled) Ta-da!

ATLAS

HOW did you-

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT
Fourteen years of gymnastics.

HARPER
Oh I could kiss you right now.

ATLAS
Maybe let her brush her teeth
first.

HARPER
Doc, you're closer to the commander
than I am. Can you twist your hands
so she can get to them?

ATLAS
Do I have a choice?

SCARLETT
Hold very still.

We hear Scarlett sawing at Atlas' bonds.

ATLAS
Ouch! Be careful will you? I'd like
to have hands at the end of this.

SCARLETT
It's not like I can really aim this
thing. ... Almost... Got it! See? I
told you. Nobody's dying today. Not
on my watch.

CUT TO:

2 SCENE EIGHT

INT. The Grotto - Some Time Later

The crew, now free of their bonds, are moving quietly
through the winding tunnels between caves. They speak in
hushed voices.

HARPER
These tunnels just go on and on...
How much further?

SCARLETT
Not far now. We should be coming up
on that main cave in a minute... We
left the Rusalka just ahead of
that...

(CONTINUED)

ATLAS

I don't like this. It's too quiet. Keera must have two or three dozen sisters at least, but we haven't seen ANYONE. Where are they?

SCARLETT

Probably still back at the celebrations. You don't need guards to sit around and watch unconscious women drown. ... You okay Harper?

HARPER

I'm fine.

SCARLETT

We can stop if you need-

HARPER

I said I'm fine. ... I'm just... thinking about Pip.

ATLAS

Don't. You'll only make yourself miserable.

SCARLETT

The doc's right. I know it sounds harsh, but the last thing we need here is another distraction. Worry about those sirens. Pip's a smart girl, she can take care of herself.

ATLAS

Shh! Do you hear that?

The girls all freeze. From a distance, we hear echoes of a rhythmic sort of chanting.

SCARLETT

It's so... Harper? What are you doing?

Harper is at the side of the tunnel. We hear her scraping at something with her nails.

HARPER

That's got to be Keera and her sisters up ahead, and we have to pass them to get to the ship. Here. There's clay in these walls. Everybody take some, and stick it in your ears, it'll help muffle the sound of their voices.

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT

Good idea. Okay. Follow my lead. Everybody stay quiet, and keep close. Don't stop for anything... Don't let those things touch you, or talk to you, just get back to the ship in one piece, okay?

HARPER

Got it.

They all stuff their ears with clay.

ATLAS

Oh, this is disgusting!

SCARLETT

Can anybody hear me?

HARPER

What?

ATLAS

It's no good. You need to speak slower, I can't read your lips.

SCARLETT

Shh! Okay? Good. Let's go.

They start to move along the tunnel. The chanting gets "louder", but we hear it as the girls do, as a muffled background hum.

HARPER

(loud whisper) This is so WEIRD!

ATLAS

(to herself) Oh I don't like this. I don't like this at all.

SCARLETT

There's the ship! I-... You... can't hear me. Right... Okay... Um... Oh crap... (mouthing/loud whisper) There! There... Behind those rocks. Get down.

The girls duck down behind a cluster of stalagmites. Scarlett plays a game of silent charades.

SCARLETT (cont'd)

The Rusalka is just up that passage there. But Keera will see us if we

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT (cont'd)

all go together. We need to go one at a time. Okay? One. At. A. Time. I'll go first. Atlas? You. Second. Harper third. I'll signal. Then you come. Swim slowly. Keep quiet. Don't stop. Okay? Okay. (then, to herself) God, I hope they got all that.

HARPER

What?

SCARLETT

See you on the other side!

There's a very soft splash as she gets into the water.

beat.

ATLAS

That's the signal. You going to be alright here?

HARPER

I can't hear you.

ATLAS

Keep your head down.

Another splash.

beat.

Atlas comes up for air, coughing.

SCARLETT

You alright?

ATLAS

Swallowed a bit of seawater on that last dive. I'll be alright.

SCARLETT

Two down, one to go.

beat.

SCARLETT (cont'd)

What is she doing?

(CONTINUED)

ATLAS

I don't know.

SCARLETT

(loud whispering and snapping her fingers) Harper! HARPER!

ATLAS

She can't hear you, commander, the clay.

SCARLETT

What is she doing?! Harper, come on, MOVE! What is she looking at?

ATLAS

Oh... Oh my god... It's Pip. She's found Pip.

FADE TO:

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SCENE NINE

INT. Grotto - Meanwhile

Keera leads Pip from her nest down to the beach. Keera's sisters are scattered around the beach, drumming and chanting.

PIP

What are they doing?

KEERA

My sisters are welcoming you into the family... Do you like their song?

PIP

Where are you taking me?

KEERA

To the water. You want to be one of us, I have to teach you everything I know.

PIP

What about my friends? I don't want them to think I'm just running off-... They're alright, aren't they?

(CONTINUED)

KEERA

They're fine. ... What? Don't you believe me? I haven't touched a hair on their heads, I swear it.

PIP

I want to see them.

KEERA

Do you? Is that what you want?

beat.

KEERA (cont'd)

It's funny... You know I think you might be telling the truth. I can't tell. You're a funny one, Pip... I know people... but you... What DO you want, Pippa? You have to tell me, but it's yours, whatever you want.

Pip is quiet for a moment. Then...

PIP

It's all going by so fast. This place... All the things I've gotten to see, and do... It's like magic, real magic... and I feel like it's sliding through my fingers. Mother and Father don't believe in this kind of thing. Back home, it was all theorems and practical applications, no stories. Nobody ever told me stories. Just math, and science... and the world out here is... so much bigger than that little white room, with my computers and my bed... But everything is sliding away from me so fast... I just want to hold on to it for a little while longer... to stay here... I want to be like you.

Keera wraps her arms around Pip's waist, and holds her.

KEERA

I'm going to teach you to Whisper. The power of persuasion is the heart of who we are. I'll show you the way. I'll teach you to Whisper. And then? Pippa... you can have

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KEERA (cont'd)
anything your heart desires. You
stay with me, and you can have
anything you want.

FADE TO:

4

SCENE TEN

INT. The War Room, U.S.S. Rusalka - DAY

The crew is gathered together around the table.

SCARLETT

It looks like they're keeping Pip
here, in this cave. Between the
Rusalka and her, we've got this
strip of beach, the main cavern,
and this series of tunnels.

ATLAS

To say nothing of Keera and her
sisters, who we can't touch or even
listen to, and who we won't be able
to hear coming.

SCARLETT

I think our best bet is to get in
and out fast. And stay out of the
water, if you can help it. We don't
stand a chance against them in
there, so that tunnel stretch is
going to be tricky. But if we can
keep them off our backs, we just
might make it. We'll need some sort
of distraction...

ATLAS

I say we hit Keera. She's obviously
the leader, and doesn't seem to
have a second in command. We don't
even have to kill her, but get her
out of the way and her sisters
should keep their distance.

HARPER

And if they don't?

ATLAS

That's why god made sneakers.

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT

Then I'll grab Pip. I think it's safe to say I'm the strongest, and we don't know what sort of state she'll be in. If she puts up a fight, I'll carry her.

HARPER

And then Atlas and I will cover you back to the ship.

SCARLETT

No.

HARPER

What?

SCARLETT

I said no.

HARPER

What do you mean, "No?"

SCARLETT

I mean no, Officer Bennett. Atlas and I will go find Pippa. You're staying on the ship.

HARPER

What?!

ATLAS

I agree with the commander on this one, Harper. It's too dangerous. The fewer crew members at risk, the better. You'll be much safer here.

HARPER

I don't care about being safe, I care about my friend! She's out there, alone, with Keera!

ATLAS

She didn't look like she was in any immediate danger. She doesn't seem to have been... mistreated...

HARPER

If you think I'm going to sit around here and twiddle my thumbs and just let her get ritually sacrificed by that two faced sea witch-

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT

No one is getting sacrificed! Look, I-... I don't know WHAT they're doing to her down on that beach, but I know we're going to put a stop to it. Nothing bad is going to happen to Pip. I promise.

HARPER

You don't know that.

SCARLETT

I promise.

HARPER

I'm coming with you!

SCARLETT

No you're not! You can't keep up with us Harper, you can't swim!

beat.

SCARLETT (cont'd)

Yeah. I noticed. You were struggling pretty hard in the channel back there. Kinda makes sense, you being terrified of drowning and all. ... You can't swim. Can you.

beat.

HARPER

No.

SCARLETT

No. So you're staying on the ship. I'm not losing the both of you.

HARPER

But I can help!

SCARLETT

And you will. Just not on the front lines. Atlas and I will go grab Pippa. I need you to guard the ship and cover our backs, and keep your foot on the gas, so the second we get back, we can get the hell out of this nightmare.

(CONTINUED)

HARPER

... Fine.

SCARLETT

Excuse me?

HARPER

I said fine!

Harper exits, slamming the door behind her. There is a brief, uncomfortable pause.

ATLAS

I should-... We ought to pick up some proper ear plugs from sick bay before we go.

SCARLETT

Good idea. And we need to shut Ophelia down. I don't want her taking control of the sub while we're trying to make a quick getaway.

ATLAS

Probably something to do with the sonar system malfunctions. I have a feeling that's why she fritz-ed before. They can get into her head just as easily as they can get into ours.

SCARLETT

Right. Well. What's the plan. Any suggestions, doc? Cause right now, I'm thinking finding Keera. And hitting her. Repeatedly. With a really... REALLY big stick.

ATLAS

Well, there's always the armory.

beat.

SCARLETT

We have an armory?

CUT TO:

5 SCENE ELEVEN

INT. Armory, U.S.S. Rusalka - DAY

Atlas enters the passcode and pulls open the armory door.

ATLAS

Welcome to the candy store,
commander. What's your poison?

SCARLETT

Holy shit.

ATLAS

As you can see, we're well stocked.

SCARLETT

Well stocked?!

ATLAS

Anything and everything we might
need... Come Hell or high water,
we'll be ready for it.

SCARLETT

You... you can't be serious. You
can't load this much live ammo onto
one ship! It's... it's...

ATLAS

Dangerous... And reckless...
Totally irresponsible!

SCARLETT

Yes! Absolutely!

ATLAS

And just a tiny bit sexy.

SCARLETT

... shut up. (beat) You could take
down an army with this stuff...

ATLAS

Or something much bigger... That is
sort of the point. I like to feel
prepared. It's one of the few
things Killian won't fight me
about.

SCARLETT

Gee, I wonder why. Right.
Well. (racks gun and grins) Let's
get to work, shall we?

FADE TO:

6

SCENE TWELVE

INT. The Tunnels - DAY

Atlas and Scarlett move through the waist high water in the tunnels. It's quiet, except for the occasional sounds of dripping water.

SCARLETT

Do you think she's going to be okay?

ATLAS

What?

SCARLETT

Harper. She's not... She's okay, right?

ATLAS

She'll live, if that's what you mean. She's angry-- understandably-- but she'll live.

brief silence.

SCARLETT

Do you think I did the right thing?

ATLAS

What?

SCARLETT

Leaving her behind.

ATLAS

(incredulous) She can't swim!

SCARLETT

Right... I know that... (beat) She wouldn't... She's not going to do anything stupid, will she? (almost to herself) She's not going to go and get herself killed because of me...

ATLAS

Harper? I really can't say, captain. You did what you had to do.

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT

Yeah... right...

ATLAS

I'm sure she'll be fine. What could she possible do?

FADE TO:

7

SCENE THIRTEEN

INT. Armory, U.S.S. Rusalka - DAY

Harper is outside the door to the armory.

HARPER

Come on... Come on...

The key pad lets out an error noise.

HARPER (cont'd)

Damnit!

OPHELIA

Hello, Officer Bennett.

HARPER

(startled) Ah! Oh... um... Hey, Ophelia... I was just-

OPHELIA

You seem to be having trouble with the armory door. Do you require assistance? You have requested access and entered the incorrect passcode seven times.

HARPER

Oh... No that's-... I just... forgot my security code.

OPHELIA

Would you like to reset it?

HARPER

... what?

OPHELIA

Would you like to reset the armory passcode?

(CONTINUED)

HARPER

Uhh... yes?

OPHELIA

Please enter the four digit code
you would like to set as your
passcode.

HARPER

(typing) One.. Two... Three...
Four?

OPHELIA

Resetting Priority One security
passcode... One moment please...

HARPER

Oh, Scarlett's going to kill me...

OPHELIA

Reset successful.

Harper unlocks the door and pulls it open.

HARPER

Okay Pip... Just hold on. I'm
coming.

FADE TO:

8

SCENE FOURTEEN

INT. The Grotto - Meanwhile

KEERA

Good. You're starting to get the
hang of it. Again.

PIP

I want-

KEERA

Softer, love. It's a suggestion,
not a command. You have to make me
want it just as much as you do.

PIP

(deep breath, concentrating) I want
you... I want you to tell me
something. Tell me what you're
thinking.

(CONTINUED)

KEERA

... I've never seen hands so hard on a woman before. You have so many scars. (beat) ...I'm sorry.

PIP

I just work with my hands a lot.

KEERA

Battle scars?

PIP

Just tech stuff.

KEERA

You must be very strong.

PIP

Yeah... I guess I am...

Keera takes Pip's hands in hers, studying them.

KEERA

Even the strongest of my sisters don't have hands that look that way. It's important. To be strong, I mean. It's the only real way to be free. Embrace it. (she stands) I think that's enough for now. Come. It's time. We'll get you prepared and then present you to the coven.

PIP

And then I'll be one of you?

KEERA

Only if you want to be. You have to choose to stay, Pippa. I can't make you like me, you have to choose it. ... What's wrong?

PIP

(silent for a moment... then...) I should have said goodbye.

KEERA

I'm sure your friends would have understood.

PIP

But it isn't right. I should have at least explained to Harper-

(CONTINUED)

KEERA

Don't you think if your friends had cared, they might have come to find you? Pip they're gone. If they'd wanted to say goodbye, they would have.

It's as though Keera's slapped her in the face, and for a moment, the magic is broken.

PIP

...Harper wouldn't leave me behind. None of them would.

KEERA

Maybe it would be easier if they had. (beat) I'm sorry. That was... biased. But true. I want you to stay. Now you have to be sure you want it too. ... Come. It's time.

CUT TO:

ATLAS

Keera's leading her back to the cave. Commander, if we're going to pull this off, this is the best chance we're going to get.

SCARLETT

Okay. Get into position. As soon as they come back out-

ATLAS

Commander, if this doesn't work-

SCARLETT

Then we're dead. So make it work, doctor.

They look at each other, a silent acknowledgement.

ATLAS

... yes, commander.

SCARLETT

Earplugs in. (pause) See you on the other side.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

KEERA

Oh... look at you... You're beautiful.

PIP

And you're sure this will work?

KEERA

It's old magic, but very sure... You're going to be fine.

PIP

Will it hurt?

KEERA

From personal experience... yes.

PIP

Which was worse, the wings or the claws?

beat. She's caught Keera by surprise.

PIP (cont'd)

You thought I didn't notice?

KEERA

Most don't.

PIP

Until it's too late. (beat) You're not a mermaid. ... My friends are dead. Aren't they.

KEERA

I want you to myself. You could choose me. I want you to stay.

PIP

Do I have a choice?

KEERA

Yes. I told you, Pippa, I can't make you do anything. Not even if I tried. And I'm trying, believe me.

PIP

I want to be alone. Please. You owe me that much at least.

KEERA

Of course... Let me know if you need help with the robes.

(CONTINUED)

She starts to leave, then pauses.

KEERA (cont'd)
For the record, it was the wings.
Price of freedom.

She leaves. Pip sinks to the ground. A moment, then Scarlett enters, unseen.

SCARLETT
(whispering) Pip... Pippa!

PIP
(looking up) Commander Scarlett?!

SCARLETT
(grabbing her arm) Pip, we have to go. NOW! I don't have time to explain-

Scarlett is cut off as Pip leaps into her arms and hugs her.

SCARLETT (cont'd)
(yelps, taken aback) I... they, it's okay, you're okay, Pip... I missed you too. (pulls away) Come on. We've got to go.

PIP
But what about Keera?

SCARLETT
Don't think about it. She's taken care of.

PIP
What do you-

A distant gunshot ring out. From outside of the cave, Keera screams in rage and pain. Pip stares at Scarlett, angry and horrified.

SCARLETT
That's the signal.

PIP
What did you do to her?!

SCARLETT
She got what she deserved.

PIP

Keera!

Pip starts for the mouth of the cave, but Scarlett grabs her, picks her up and throws her over her shoulder.

PIP (cont'd)

(screams) Put me down!

SCARLETT

You'll thank me for this later.

PIP

Keera!

KEERA

Pippa!

SCARLETT

Atlas, I've got her! Go! GO!

CUT TO:

ALIANA

Murderers!

LYSSA

Keera! What's happened? What have they done to her?

VARVARA

Stay back! ALL OF YOU. BACK.
Sister! Sister please, you must be still.

ALIANA

(wailing) She's dead! She's dead!
Murderers! They've killed our sister!

KEERA

SHUT UP! Shut up, get off of me you useless, brainless- (tries to move and shrieks in pain and fury)
Pippa! Where is she? They've taken her! Where-

LYSSA

I saw them carrying the girl towards the tunnels! They're headed for their ship!

(CONTINUED)

KEERA

STOP THEM! Head them off in the tunnels. Bring the one with fire in her hair back alive. She's mine. Tear the others to pieces! MOVE! NOW! GO! I want them DEAD!

FADE TO:

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SCENE FIFTEEN

EXT. The Tunnels - DAY

Scarlett and Atlas are making their way back to the Rusalka. Pip is still over Scarlett's shoulder, fighting her at every step.

PIP

Let go of me! Get off, get off! Put me down!

SCARLETT

Okay! We're far enough. Plugs out. (pause) Any sign of them?

ATLAS

Nothing yet, but they're coming.

PIP

You killed her! You didn't have to kill her! You-... You- (she breaks down, sobbing)

SCARLETT

Anything you can do for her?

ATLAS

She'll be alright.

The sirens (Aliana and Varvara) start to approach. We hear them Whisper, the sounds echo through the caverns.

ALIANA

Wrong way...

Atlas stops.

SCARLETT

Atlas? ... Natalya, what is it?

(CONTINUED)

ATLAS

I... I thought-... Commander, this is wrong.

SCARLETT

What?

VARVARA

Wrong way...

ATLAS

We've gone the wrong way.

SCARLETT

Are you sure?

ATLAS

Positive. I... We've been here before...

SCARLETT

We must have taken a wrong turn.

ALIANA

This way!

VARVARA

That way!

SCARLETT

(overlapping) We have to go this way!

ATLAS

(overlapping) It's that way, I'm sure of it.

BOTH

What?!

SCARLETT

That's back the way we came! Are you trying to get us killed?

ATLAS

We're going in circles. We just need to backtrack and figure out where we went wrong!

ALIANA

Split up... Split up...

(CONTINUED)

PIP

Commander-

SCARLETT

Quiet, Pip. ... Okay... Okay...
What if we split up?

PIP

Commander-

SCARLETT

Five minutes. There should be a
fork just up ahead. If there isn't,
I'm wrong and I'll turn around and
follow you. You stay here and cover
me.

ATLAS

Deal.

PIP

Commander!

SCARLETT

Here, you take Pip. Stay safe, I'll
be right back.

She goes on ahead.

PIP

No!

ATLAS

Pip, it's alright. Scarlett knows
how to take care of herself.

We hear Varvara Whispering, speaking in unison with Atlas
over the rest of the line.

*Just relax. Try not to think.
You're confused. But it's going to
be okay.*

PIP

We can't stay here, they'll kill
you.

VARVARA

Go back...

ATLAS

(checks her watch) ... Five
minutes... that should be enough
time... Pip, I need you to do

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ATLAS (cont'd)
something for me. I need you to be
very brave-

PIP
No!

ATLAS
It's alright! I just need you to
stay here, while I go check-

PIP
No! Atlas, please, don't go-

ATLAS
Pip, let go! I won't go far, I
promise.

VARVARA
(laughing) *That's it... Come to
me...*

ATLAS
Just five minutes. I promise.

Atlas shakes Pip off and disappears into the tunnels.

PIP
Atlas! ... Commander Scarlett?! ...
Don't hurt them! Keera, do you hear
me? I... I'll do what you want,
whatever you want, just don't hurt
them! Do you hear me?!

KEERA
I hear you, sugar.

Pip screams.

FADE TO:

10 SCENE SIXTEEN

EXT. The Tunnels - Meanwhile

SCARLETT
It's got to be here... Come on...
Just-... Oh my god... Oh thank god,
YES! Yes. Here's the fork... we're
gonna make it.

(CONTINUED)

ALIANA

Are you?

SCARLETT

... Hello? ... is-... is someone...
Atlas, is that you?

ALIANA

No one's there. You don't hear
anyone.

Aliana comes up behind Scarlett and places her hands on the commander's shoulders. Scarlett gasps, then relaxes, sinking into the siren-induced trance.

Let's take a look inside, shall we?
No need to fret... It's just me and
you... Just... you. Stupid, useless
you. Screwed it up again, haven't
you Adrienne. Typical.

SCARLETT

I... I...

ALIANA

Diana would have gotten it right.
Gorgeous, perfect, intelligent...
now why couldn't you be more like
her? They're going to die, you
know. Just like last time. Because
you screwed up. Betcha Diana would
have saved them, and she's not even
trained. But then, if Diana were
here, they wouldn't need you...
Maybe if you die, they'll call
her... Maybe you should lay down
here in the water. Save everybody
the trouble.

SCARLETT

I... I should... lay down...

ALIANA

That's a good girl. Relax. Deep
breaths. Let the water in. That's
it. Drown. Save everyone the
trouble. DROWN you stupid-

A gunshot rings out. There is a loud splash as Aliana crashes into the water. The spell breaks. Scarlett gasps as though waking from a nightmare, and starts coughing up water.

(CONTINUED)

HARPER

Commander!

SCARLETT

I-... What-... Where-... H-Harper?!
What are you-

HARPER

I said I'd cover you. I'm covering
you. Where are the others?

SCARLETT

(horrified, dawning realization)
I... I left them... Back there, in
the tunnels-

We hear the echo of Pip's scream.

SCARLETT (cont'd)

Pippa!

HARPER

Come on!

CUT TO:

11 SCENE SEVENTEEN

EXT. The Tunnels. - Meanwhile

Keera is dragging Pip back towards The Grotto.

KEERA

Don't you EVER do something that
stupid again.

PIP

Let go of my hair! Keera please,
you're hurting me!

Keera half throws her, and Pip stumbles and falls with a
yelp and a splash.

KEERA

I'm sorry... I'm sorry. But I can't
let them take you. I won't. I
can't. You-... You can see me,
can't you Pippa. You're the first
one in centuries. The others-...
And I know what my sisters think of
me... that they're terrified. But
you-... you can see me.

(CONTINUED)

PIP
Keera...

KEERA
You don't have a choice anymore.

Harper and Scarlett race in.

HARPER
Pippa!

PIP
Harper?!

SCARLETT
Get away from her!

KEERA
I don't think so.

PIP
Harper! Commander, run! You have to run, don't let her-

KEERA
Say one more word, and I'll kill them both. (to the others) She's mine. She made her choice. Leave.

SCARLETT
It's gonna be okay, Pip. I promise. We're not leaving you.

KEERA
Then you're going to die.

PIP
No!

Pip runs to put herself between Keera and her crew mates.
beat.

KEERA
Get out of the way, Pippa.

PIP
If you hurt them, I'll never forgive you.

KEERA
Pippa-

(CONTINUED)

PIP

Try it. You think I'm joking? I'll leave you. And I'll whisper to you as I go, and you will NEVER forget my face. And every time you think of me, you'll remember that I'm the only one you'll ever want... and that I never want to see you again.

beat.

KEERA

... Pip...

We hear the distant echo of gunshots. Atlas comes bursting from the other end of the tunnel, guns blazing.

SCARLETT

Atlas!

ATLAS

Keep your hands off me you damn dirty pigeons!!

SCARLETT

You okay, doc?

ATLAS

(still firing) Oh sure! Just PEACHY!

SCARLETT

Good.

Scarlett pulls her handgun from its holster and fires twice at Keera. Pip screams. Keera hisses angrily and there is a splash as she dives into the water.

SCARLETT (cont'd)

RUN!

Harper grabs Pip's hand.

HARPER

Pip, come on!

PIP

But-

HARPER

MOVE!

(CONTINUED)

We hear the rest of the sirens, a huge Whispering, singing, screaming horde advancing through the tunnels. Atlas continues to fire off occasional shots.

ATLAS
GO! Go, I'll cover you, go!

The crew races back for the ship. The sounds of the sirens grow louder, a chaotic tumult. And over it all, we hear one last, furious scream.

KEERA
PIPPA!!

FADE TO:

12 SCENE EIGHTEEN

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

Much later. Pip is sitting on the examination table as Atlas gives her yet another shot.

PIP
Ouch!

ATLAS
Oh stop whining, that didn't hurt.

PIP
Yes it did!

ATLAS
Well then stop fidgeting, and maybe it will hurt less.

The door to the lab opens. Atlas doesn't even bother to look up.

Harper, go away. I've told you five times now-

HARPER
But Atlas-

ATLAS
OUT.

SCARLETT
(laughing) It's okay doc, she comes with express permission.

(CONTINUED)

ATLAS

She does not! She's been banned.
This was supposed to be a routine
checkup, but if you two don't stop
interrupting me-

SCARLETT

Alright! Alright! Point taken.
We're going. ...We're going, right
Harper?

HARPER

I guess so...

ATLAS

Pippa is-... Pip, would you PLEASE
tell Officer Bennett that you are
fine? That I am just making sure
there are no lingering adverse
effects from your time with Keera,
and that you can go out and play as
soon as I am finished?

PIP

Doctor Atlas says-

HARPER

Yeah, I heard her. (beat) You okay?

PIP

Yeah. Sure. I'm okay.

HARPER

Okay.

SCARLETT

Come on, Bennett, before the good
doctor changes her mind about
ripping our heads off. (heading to
the door) Good to have you back,
Pip. Do me a favor? Don't scare us
like that again.

Harper and Scarlett leave. The door closes behind them.

beat.

ATLAS

I have to agree with the commander.
That was a rather nasty trick you
played on us back there.

(CONTINUED)

PIP

I didn't-

ATLAS

What, leave? But you would have.
(beat) Took me a minute to realize it, but I got there in the end. You and Keera... but she never had a hold of you, did she? You were the only one she couldn't affect. I suppose that's why she was so desperate to keep you. I don't suppose that happens often for a siren. Once in a lifetime chance, really. You were the only one with a choice. The only person she could ever be sure was near her because they wanted to be. And you did. You ran off, and you were going to stay with her. Because you wanted to. Maybe not once you thought she had murdered us - I appreciate that by the way - but still...

beat. Pip looks away.

You don't have to explain. I... understand. You've been kept in the dark for a very long time. And there's a big wide world out there. You had a chance to run, so you took it. I would have done the same thing. But Pippa... you can't do it again. Your parents would never forgive us.

PIP

(scoffs, uncharacteristically venomous) Why? Because I'm a "highly valuable asset"?

ATLAS

(gently) Because you are irreplaceable. You're precious, Pippa... and we need you. ... I know it's hard, but I think you understand. We can't do this without you. I know you want to run and fly, and explore all this brand new space. And you will. I give you my word. But for now, we need you here. You have no idea how much. Besides, you stick around long enough, and I promise, the world

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ATLAS (cont'd)
will come to you. I guarantee it.
We're just getting started.

She straightens up, eyeing Pippa.
Do you understand me?

PIP
Yes.

ATLAS
Good. You're all checked out. No...
lingering notions.

PIP
Doctor Atlas?

ATLAS
Yes, Pippa?

PIP
(Siren-Whispering) *Don't tell
anyone.*

ATLAS
... It's alright. I... I won't tell
anyone about... all of this. It'll
be our little secret. Just you and
me.

PIP
Thank you.

ATLAS
Go on. I'm sure Harper's dying to
see you.

PIP
Right. Thanks.

Pip leaves the lab and closes the door. As we fade out, we
hear a distant, eerie echo of Keera's laugh.

FADE OUT.

END.