

Here Be Dragons - Halloween Special

"The Hound"

by

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Black Lace and Laser Beams  
Productions

## SCENE ONE

EXT. U.S.S. Lavinia - NIGHT

We hear the distant tolling of a buoy bell. Waves crash.

ENSIGN GENIVIEVE "GENNY" ALVAREZ stands at the bow of the ship, supposed to be on watch, but her gaze continually drifts skywards.

Behind her, ENSIGN WYATT HOWELL watches her, before sneaking up behind her and grabbing her shoulders.

WYATT

BOO!

Genny shrieks, and Wyatt laughs at her. She punches him in the arm.

GENNY

Wyatt!

WYATT

Ow! Hey, easy! I surrender!

GENNY

Are you TRYING to get me to fall overboard?

WYATT

I would've caught you.

GENNY

I'd rather take the swim, thanks. What time is it?

WYATT

2330.

GENNY

Damn. What are you doing out here? Shouldn't you be in bed? Your shift doesn't start 'til 0300.

WYATT

Can't sleep. I thought maybe you could use some company.

GENNY

Yeah, well... Not much to report. Fog's coming in heavy from the North. We'll lose all visibility in about an hour or so. Not that it

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GENNY (cont'd)  
matters... It's been quiet so these  
past few nights.

WYATT  
No wrecks?

GENNY  
Not one. Nothing to see, but a  
whole lot of open ocean... and  
fog... and if you squint real hard,  
you can just see the stars...

There's a pause, as the two of them observe the night sky.

WYATT  
What do you think did it?

GENNY  
Wyatt-

WYATT  
Come on! I know you've been  
thinking about it. I've been  
thinking about it. Everybody's  
talking about it.

GENNY  
Yeah, well I don't want to.

WYATT  
Six boats in the past month. We  
lost SIX boats, and you don't want  
to talk about it?

GENNY  
People died, asshole.

WYATT  
(spooky voice) We could be next!

GENNY  
Stop it.

WYATT  
They only found half of that  
civilian vessel. And I heard they  
only found bits of the crew from  
The Cleopatra. And they only  
identified it WAS the Cleopatra,  
because somebody recognized Captain  
Montgomery's-

(CONTINUED)

GENNY

I said stop it!

WYATT

Okay! Okay... Sorry... (beat) She had great legs.

GENNY

You're disgusting.

WYATT

Hey, I call 'em like I see 'em.  
(beat) ... Genny? You okay?

GENNY

... My twin sister was on The Cleopatra. She was their communications officer.

WYATT

I-... I thought you said she was on The Valiant?

GENNY

Transferred. Two weeks ago. She wanted to help with the search.

WYATT

I'm sorry. (beat) They haven't actually found The Cleopatra. Or identified all of the-... She's probably fine, you know.

GENNY

No. It's okay. I know she's-

There is a loud splash somewhere in the distance, and we hear a faint, distorted keening.

GENNY (cont'd)

What was that?

WYATT

I don't-

GENNY

Oh my god! Wyatt! Wyatt, there's someone in the water! (calling out)  
HELP! HELP! Man overboard!

An alarm bell starts tolling somewhere on the ship.  
LIEUTENANT DAVID HARRISON runs up onto the deck.

(CONTINUED)

LT. HARRISON  
What's going on?

WYATT  
Ensign Alvarez spotted something in  
the water, sir.

GENNY  
There, see? 10 o'clock. About 50  
yards out, can you see him? That  
white body in the waves.

LT. HARRISON  
I see him. (into walkie-talkie)  
Helmsman, bring us about.

The ship turns slowly. Waves crash against the hull, and the  
keening gets louder.

GENNY  
Damn. I've lost sight of him, sir.  
The fog's too thick.

LT. HARRISON  
Don't worry ensign, he's nearby. I  
can hear him.

WYATT  
Are you sure that's-

GENNY  
It sounds like he's crying... Hold  
on! We're coming!

WYATT  
Genny, SHUSH.

GENNY  
What?

WYATT  
You don't know what's out there!

LT. HARRISON  
Ensign Howell, help me with the  
life preserver.

WYATT  
Yes, sir.

LT. HARRISON  
Plant your feet. Get a good grip on  
the rope. Whatever you do, don't  
let go.

(CONTINUED)

GENNY

Hello! This is the U.S.S. Lavinia!  
If you can hear me, grab on to the  
raft! You'll be okay! We're coming  
to get you!

LT. HARRISON

Ready? One... Two... Three!

There is a loud splash as the life preserver hits the water.  
The keening suddenly stops. Waves crash in the silence.  
Genny peers anxiously over the side.

GENNY

(quietly) Oh god... Oh god...

Something pulls on the preserver.

LT. HARRISON

Got him! (straining at the rope)  
Pull, Howell, pull!

WYATT

Yes, sir!

GENNY

I-... I don't-

LT. HARRISON

Howell!

WYATT

I'm pulling! It must be stuck on  
something!

LT. HARRISON

Pull harder, damnit.

WYATT

I'm slipping!

LT. HARRISON

Do not let go!

WYATT

It's pulling back! Jesus Christ-  
Lieutenant, let go! It's pulling  
back! It's pulling-

We hear something in the water make an awful, high,  
chattering scream. Wyatt tries to take a step back and his  
foot slips on the deck. A second later, both men are dragged  
screaming into the water. We hear a loud splash.

(CONTINUED)

GENNY  
WYATT!!

We hear Harrison and Wyatt floundering in the water.

WYATT  
GENNY! Genny-

Again, we hear the high, chattering scream. The men's shouts and screams are suddenly cut short. Genny screams, but quickly covers her mouth.

There is a ringing silence, broken only by Genny's soft, muffled, hysterical sobs.

And then we hear the sound of claws clicking against metal, as the thing in the water begins to climb up the side of the ship. We hear it making that same soft, distorted keening sound.

GENNY  
Oh god... Oh no... No... Please...

As it appears over the guardrail, the creature lets out a low, predatory hiss. Genny reaches for her gun.

GENNY (cont'd)  
Stay back. (she clicks off the safety)

The creature cocks its head to one side studying her, and makes the keening sound again. Without warning, it leaps at her face.

CRACK! We hear the sound of a gunshot. Genny screams as the creature flies towards her, firing wildly as she tries to back away. CRACK!

GENNY (cont'd)  
GET AWAY FROM ME!

CRACK! CRACK!

The creature lets out a terrible, chattering scream. Genny screams.

FADE OUT.

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## EPILOGUE

INT. Harper's Bedroom - WAY TOO EARLY IN THE MORNING

HARPER BENNETT is in bed, curled up and fast asleep. The only sounds are her steady breathing, and those of the night around her.

Then the phone rings.

And rings.

And rings.

HARPER  
(waking up, and not exactly happy  
about it) Christ.

She shifts to look at the clock. It's four in the morning. Harper whines, and buries her face in the pillow. The phone continues to ring, but maybe it will go away if she just ignores it?

HARPER (cont'd)  
No... Shut up... Go away...

No such luck. She is forced to answer it.

HARPER (cont'd)  
Alright! Alright... (fumbling for a  
moment, then into the phone) Hello?

KILLIAN  
Harper Bennett?

HARPER  
Yes?

KILLIAN  
Are you alone?

HARPER  
What?

KILLIAN  
Are you alone?

FADE OUT.

END.