

Here Be Dragons - Episode Ten

"Kit and Kin"

by

Jordan Cobb

Black Lace and Laser Beams
Productions

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SCENE ONE

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

We hear Pip banging around, making some final adjustments to the intake pipes. She closes a hatch.

PIP

Okay! That should do it. Ophelia,
can you run a diagnostic on Intake
Pipe 4?

OPHELIA

One moment please...

We hear the computer processing, followed by a musical chime.

OPHELIA

Diagnostic complete. Intake Pipe 4
operating within standard
operational parameters.

PIP

Booyah! Score one for Team
Engineering.

OPHELIA

You now have 57 invoices left on
your To-Do List.

PIP

Yeah, yeah. Anything else that
requires being beached?

OPHELIA

No.

PIP

Anything that might kill us if I
don't do it right now?

OPHELIA

No.

PIP

Awesome! I'm going outside! Bye
Ophelia, don't wait up!

Pip runs out.

FADE TO:

EXT. Beach - DAY

(CONTINUED)

We hear the usual beach sounds... seagulls, waves... Pip pushes open the hatch of the Rusalka and takes a deep breath of fresh air.

Off in the distance (fading in as Pip approaches) we hear the sounds of Scarlett giving a swim lesson.

SCARLETT

Head up, Harper, that's it. Just keep kicking! You're doing great.

HARPER

(spitting out water) This is torture.

SCARLETT

Well, if you want to stay a part of my crew, you'll endure it. Come on, don't be so dramatic! You can do this.

PIP

Hey guys! How's the swim lesson coming?

HARPER

Hellishly.

SCARLETT

Quit being a baby. She's doing MUCH better than this morning. She'll be a regular dolphin in no time, if she'd stop whining.

PIP

Any chance of a break soon?

SCARLETT

Sure!

HARPER

Really?!

SCARLETT

As soon as I can tell the difference between your front stroke and you signaling for help.

Harper groans.

SCARLETT (cont'd)

Maybe later, Pip.

PIP

Oh... okay...

She wanders over to where Atlas is sunbathing not too far away.

PIP (cont'd)

Hey, doc.

ATLAS

Pippa! I was wondering where you'd gone off to... How are the repairs coming?

PIP

All the fun stuff's done. Just have some tweaking left...

ATLAS

My god, you're filthy. Why don't you go for a swim? Get some of that grease off.

PIP

I was thinking I might go exploring! Wanna come?

ATLAS

Darling, I love you, you're my favorite, but I haven't seen proper sunlight in weeks. Besides (holds up her book) I have a date with Cthulu, so I'm not leaving this chair until I have a hearty case of sun poisoning. You understand, don't you, dear?

PIP

Yeah...

ATLAS

Excellent. You have fun now!
(calling after her) And try not to track too much sand back inside!

FADE TO:

2 SCENE TWO

Pip is alone on the beach.

PIP
 First real day out we've had
 together and everyone's busy...
 what's the point of a beautiful
 island vacation if nobody's going
 to actually enjoy the beautiful
 island? Might as well have stayed
 submerged...

A small sound. Pip stops.

PIP (cont'd)
 Hello?

Another sound. Pip starts pushing her way through the brush,
 towards the noise.

PIP (cont'd)
 Hello? Um... We come in peace?
 Sorry to bother you... My crew and
 I just picked up your island on our
 radar, and we had some repairs to
 make so we stopped... It's a very
 nice island! Or... I think it is...
 Haven't been on many islands... But
 it's nice to meet you! My name's
 Pip... Hello?

We hear her push aside some brush, and then the sound of
 dozens of seals. They're all stretched out along the coast,
 barking and playing.

PIP (cont'd)
 Whoah...

CUT TO:

Some moments later, Pip drags Harper down the beach.

HARPER
 Pip, SLOW DOWN! I can barely feel
 my legs as it is!

PIP
 (ecstatic and not listening) There
 must've been fifty of them at
 least! Harper it was so cool. I've
 never seen so many seals in my
 life!

(CONTINUED)

HARPER
(amused) Have you ever seen a seal
in your life?

PIP
I've seen pictures...

Pip pulls back the brush, to reveal... nothing.

PIP (cont'd)
... What?

HARPER
Wow. Well Pip I've gotta hand it to
you... that is a... really empty
beach.

PIP
Where did they go?!

HARPER
Back to the water, probably. Or
you're completely crazy. Too much
sun can do that, y'know.

PIP
They were right here! Fifty of
them! And they were HUGE! And
rubbery! And loud, and- HEY! Where
are you going?

HARPER
Back to the Rusalka. Taking a leaf
out of the doctor's book-- I'm
taking a nap.

PIP
(calling after her) You're boring!
You're gonna miss out on all the
adventure! ... Fine. Nerd.

She kicks sand. We start to hear a baby crying.

PIP (cont'd)
Oh! Oh god, what is that?! What-

We hear her push aside some more brush. There's a baby
laying there, now covered in sand.

PIP (cont'd)
Oh! ... ooooooh... crap...

CUT TO:

3 SCENE THREE

EXT. The Beach - Moments Later

Pip races past the rest of the crew towards the Rusalka.

HARPER

Hey, Pip! Where've you been? Do you want to-

PIP

(calling over her shoulder) Uh, no thanks! I'm tired! I stepped on seashell! I'm not feeling too good! Don't wait up!

She practically leaps back down the hatch and slams the door behind her.

beat.

SCARLETT

What the hell was all that about?

ATLAS

Well, when you've got to go...

FADE TO:

4 SCENE FOUR

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

It's about an hour later. Scarlett, Harper and Atlas are all settling back into their stations. We hear Scarlett fiddling with the controls (a sound something like hydraulics).

SCARLETT

Look at that! That's the smoothest descent we've had this whole trip. Way to go engineering!

ATLAS

Looks like she adjusted some of the external sensors too. Still no sonar, but the cameras are getting a much clearer picture.

SCARLETT

Once we have sonar and communications back up, we might even be able to call this a real

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT (cont'd)

submarine. (She claps her hands. Play Time is over kids.) Okay! Now that we're all rested and refreshed, next order of business is finding our next port of call. Uninhabited beaches are fun, I certainly prefer this island to the last one, but we have to make a fuel stop eventually. Atlas, as our acting Master of Sail, that's your highest priority. So if we sink-

ATLAS

I won't let you down.

SCARLETT

Harper, how's our monster cataloguing coming?

HARPER

Well, we have a record of every encounter we've had so far. But I haven't found anything on the Hounds. I've referenced over half the books in the library. Still nothing.

ATLAS

Maybe they're a new species.

HARPER

Or maybe there was only ever one. We don't know if there have been any more attacks on ships since we left, and it's not like we can call Killian to ask.

SCARLETT

Well keep looking. We have to operate as if there are more of them out there.

HARPER

And what happens if we actually find them?

SCARLETT

Then... we observe. And hopefully we'll have a working ship to shore relay so we can report back to Canaveral. ... Speaking of working, where's Pip?

(CONTINUED)

HARPER

Probably lying down somewhere. I'll go find her.

SCARLETT

Alright. Oh, and be sure to tell her- HOLY CRAP!

HARPER

What?! What is it? What happened?!

SCARLETT

Nothing! Nothing, I just-... Jesus, that was the biggest seal I've ever seen in my life.

ATLAS

What? where?

SCARLETT

Just went by the starboard cameras. Scared the bejesus out of me.

ATLAS

And I thought Pip was jumpy.

SCARLETT

Oh shut up. Harper, just-... let her know she did good today.

ATLAS

And if she's still feeling under the weather-

HARPER

I'll send her straight to you.

ATLAS

Good girl.

SCARLETT

Go on. Scoot!

FADE TO:

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SCENE FIVE

INT. Pip's Room, U.S.S. Rusalka - Meanwhile

We hear the baby making small, happy baby noises, as Pip plays with her.

(CONTINUED)

PIP

There now! Who's a happy baby?
You're all cleaned up, no more sand
in your face... I'm really sorry
about that. I don't normally kick
sand at babies... I don't normally
pick them up off the beach either.
But it's not like I had much of a
choice...

She picks the baby up and it makes more baby noises.

PIP (cont'd)

I've never adopted a child before!
But I read a lot of parenting books
during my developmental stage, so I
probably know the basics.

The baby squeals.

PIP (cont'd)

That's another thing. You gotta be
quiet. And I mean like SUPER quiet,
'cause your auntie Scarlett- don't
worry, you'll meet her later -
she's kind of my boss and I am NOT
allowed to have a baby or any kind
of pets... So she can't know you're
here. But only until you're
eighteen! Then you'll be old enough
to join the crew, so she should be
more okay with the whole stowaway
thing. So just keep quiet until
then and it'll be perfect! Nobody
will ever even know you're here.

HARPER

Nobody will ever know who's here?

Pip screams and the baby starts crying.

PIP

Harper! Oh, look what you did!

HARPER

What **I** did?! What did **you** do? What
is that?

PIP

Nothing!

(CONTINUED)

HARPER
Is that a baby?!

PIP
Celia, come on, remember what we
talked about!

HARPER
You named her? Pip!!

PIP
What was I supposed to do?! Harper,
she was all alone! Somebody
abandoned her on that beach, with
nothing but an old grey blanket.
They just left her there, where
anybody could have kicked sand on
her!

HARPER
(confused) What?

PIP
Or she could have died! I couldn't
leave her!

HARPER
(sinking onto the bed) Scarlett's
gonna kill you.

PIP
I know. You've got to help me.

HARPER
Why me?!

PIP
'Cause if you'd stayed and looked
for seals with me, I never would
have found Celia in the first
place. So TECHNICALLY, this is your
fault. Which means, she's your baby
too.

HARPER
Pip, I don't know the first thing
about babies and neither do you!
... For example, why is the baby
wrapped in- is that my sweatshirt?

PIP
She was cold! And you weren't using
it.

(CONTINUED)

HARPER

I thought you said she had a blanket?

PIP

It was gross. I put it in the laundry.

HARPER

(sighing) Well, there's probably some baby clothes up in the gift shop. Maybe some diapers too. Come on... take... Celia with you.

PIP

Hey, Harper? ... Thanks.

FADE TO:

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SCENE SIX

INT. Ops, U.S.S. Rusalka - Meanwhile

We hear the door open. Atlas enters.

ATLAS

Well, there's no word from Harper, or Pip. Which means they're probably off playing somewhere. Honestly, sometimes it's so easy to forget they're both supposed to be adults, the way they-... Commander? Scarlett, are you alright?

Scarlett is studying one of the monitors.

ATLAS (cont'd)

Have you been standing there since I left?

SCARLETT

It's following us.

ATLAS

What?

SCARLETT

(grimly) The seal. He's following us. See? There. Starboard side.

(CONTINUED)

ATLAS

I see a seal...

SCARLETT

It's the same seal. For twenty minutes. He's following us.

ATLAS

Well THAT'S rather paranoid, don't you think?

SCARLETT

I think I've earned the right to be a little paranoid, don't you agree, doctor?

beat.

ATLAS

Well. We can increase our speed. Shake him off. He's probably just interested in the cameras, because they're shiny.

SCARLETT

Yeah... maybe...

ATLAS

I'll speed us up. He can't keep up with us forever.

CUT TO:

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SCENE SEVEN

INT. Gift Shop, U.S.S. Rusalka - Meanwhile

Harper and Pip are sitting on the floor picking out baby clothes.

PIP

Good call coming to the gift shop. Man, Killian must've thought of everything.

HARPER

Pretty sure he just forgot this was here. But we have diapers, so that's the most important thing. And I have to admit, you are weirdly good with kids.

(CONTINUED)

PIP

Yeah, we got lucky. What about this shirt?

HARPER

"Captain Cutie"

PIP

It's either that or "Mermaid in Training" but I think we've had enough fake mermaids for one lifetime.

HARPER

Agreed.

PIP

Still... Too cheesy?

HARPER

You're gonna make Scarlett and Atlas jealous.

PIP

It's not my fault they're not as cute as a baby! There's just no competition.

HARPER

(laughing) Don't let Atlas hear you say that. (pause, then gently) Hey, Pip? You know you can't-

PIP

I was thinking maybe we could head down to the mess later and make some baby food... mush some fruit... put a steak in a blender, that sort of thing.

HARPER

Babies don't eat steak.

PIP

Well OBVIOUSLY not without help.

HARPER

Does she even have teeth?

PIP

I mean... probably...

(CONTINUED)

HARPER

Babies can't do any kind of solid foods until they have teeth.

PIP

Celia, come here... let mommy get a look at your- WHOAH!

HARPER

Oh... Wow... Those are fangs.

PIP

They're not fangs, they're just... extra supremely pointy.

HARPER

What the hell kind of mutant baby has that many teeth?

PIP

Maybe she's part shark.

HARPER

What?

PIP

Or her dad was a vampire!

HARPER

(chasing a train of thought) Say that again.

PIP

(confused) ... her dad was a vam-

HARPER

No! Not that. The other thing. That maybe she's-

PIP

Part shark? Harper, what's wrong?

HARPER

I need to see that blanket. The one you found with Celia.

PIP

It's down in the laundry.

HARPER

Show me.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

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

Pip and Harper enter the laundry room.

PIP

It should be done by now. Here,
hold Celia for me, will you?

HARPER

Sure.

PIP

Careful with her head!

HARPER

I will be!

We hear Pip open the washing machine.

HARPER (cont'd)

Pip?

PIP

It's... It's empty.

HARPER

What?

PIP

It's gone! Celia's blanket...
Someone must have taken it...

HARPER

What did it look like?

PIP

It was grey... Dark grey, with
these little light grey and brown
spots.

HARPER

Did it feel kind of weird?

PIP

What do you mean?

HARPER

Sort of thick? Almost rubbery?

PIP

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

HARPER
Like a seal pelt?

PIP
Oh.

HARPER
Pip, I don't think that's a baby. I
think you found a Selkie.

The girls look at Celia, who laughs and gurgles.

FADE TO:

8 SCENE EIGHT

INT. Ops, U.S.S. Rusalka - Meanwhile

Scarlett is still standing by the monitor. Atlas is seated
beside her.

SCARLETT
Do you have to fold your damn
laundry here?

ATLAS
No, but I don't want to miss this.
The Great Standoff of Scarlett and
The Seals! That's one for the
history books! ... How many are
there now?

SCARLETT
Twenty-six at my last count, but I
might've missed a few.

ATLAS
And that big fellow is still in
front?

SCARLETT
Yup. For three hours.

ATLAS
That's the fifth time we've
increased our speed. They're
keeping up remarkably well.

SCARLETT
I haven't seen any of them try to
surface for air. Not once.

(CONTINUED)

ATLAS
... this is creepy.

SCARLETT
It's like they want something.

Atlas lets out a little shriek.

SCARLETT (cont'd)
What?! What is it?

ATLAS
Nothing! Sorry, there was something
in the basket and it felt like a
snake. Sorry.

SCARLETT
(to herself) I need another
vacation.

ATLAS
Ugh it's so-... It's not slimy
but-... What IS this?

SCARLETT
Looks like an old towel.

ATLAS
It's got a zipper... Look! Sort of
hidden along the seam here. It's
black, so it almost blends in, do
you see it?

Thud.

ATLAS (cont'd)
What on earth-

SCARLETT
That seal just hit us!

ATLAS
We hit a seal?

SCARLETT
No. The seal hit us! Look!

And sure enough, the seals begin ramming The Rusalka. Thud.
Thud thud. Thud.

ATLAS
I don't think they're doing any
real damage. But I've never seen a
seal so agitated.

(CONTINUED)

SCARLETT

They're gonna get themselves wrapped up in the propeller. I'm sounding the ship to ship relay, maybe it'll scare them off.

ATLAS

Commander, I think they want something.

SCARLETT

They're seals. What could we have that they want? I don't have any fish in my pockets, do you doc?

The door slams open and Harper comes running in.

HARPER

Has anybody seen the laundry?!

SCARLETT

Whoah, slow down kid, where's the fire?

HARPER

I just-... I lost something in the laundry, and I really need it back. It's a blanket. It's small and grey-

ATLAS

With little grey and brown flecks?

HARPER

Yes!

ATLAS

And a zipper? (She holds up the pend) And a distinctly seal-shaped outline?

beat.

ATLAS (cont'd)

Funny. It's a good thing you called it a blanket. I might have thought it was a Selkie pelt. I would hate to have made that mistake.

SCARLETT

A what?

(CONTINUED)

HARPER
I can explain.

ATLAS
You're disgusting.

HARPER
It's not mine!

SCARLETT
What is going on?

ATLAS
Harper's stolen a pelt from a
Selkie!

HARPER
Nobody stole anything! Well...
that's not strictly true... We
might all be accomplices in a
slight kidnapping-

SCARLETT
WHAT?!

HARPER
But really it's probably fine!

SCARLETT
Okay, whoah! Stop. Back up. What
the hell is a Selkie?

HARPER
It's a species of merperson... A
shapeshifter that looks like a
seal. The stories goes, when a
Selkie sheds its pelt, it becomes a
beautiful woman.

ATLAS
Men would hunt Selkies and steal
their pelts. Then they'd force the
Selkie in her human form to marry
them, and then hide their pelts so
she'd never be able to return to
the sea.

SCARLETT
That's horrible.

HARPER
But that's only if the Selkie is
separated from her pelt. If she

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HARPER (cont'd)
finds it again, she'll abandon her
land family, and be able to escape
back to the sea. And you'll never
see them again.

SCARLETT
And you took one of their pelts?
Wait a second! Is this why we're
being attacked by seals?!

HARPER
We're being attacked by seals?

Thud. Another selkie bounces off The Rusalka.

SCARLETT
It's not a particularly pressing
issue.

HARPER
They must be looking for Celia.

SCARLETT
Who's-... oh please don't tell me
you named her after seals.

HARPER
That island must've been their
home. She wasn't abandoned, she
must've wandered off, or been put
down for a second...

ATLAS
Where is she?

HARPER
With Pip.

Another thud.

ATLAS
We'd better go get her. Before they
really start losing their temper.

FADE TO:

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SCENE NINE

INT. Pip's Room, U.S.S. Rusalka - Moments Later

We hear a knock from the outside.

HARPER
 (slightly muffled) Pip? ... Pip?
 You in here?

PIP
 Go away.

HARPER
 I found Celia's pelt... Well...
 Atlas and Scarlett found it... They
 want to see her...

PIP
 No!

ATLAS
 Pippa-

PIP
 You brought them?!

HARPER
 Kind of, yeah...

PIP
 Harper!

SCARLETT
 Pip? It's Scarlett. Will you open
 the door? ... Please? We're not
 gonna take Celia away from you. We
 just want to talk.

beat.

We hear the door open.

SCARLETT (cont'd)
 (seeing Celia) Oh... Pip she's-

PIP
 She was all by herself! They just
 left her there, all on her own!

SCARLETT
 (gently) We know. Harper told us.

(CONTINUED)

ATLAS

It's not your fault. You couldn't have known what she was, and... she is... really... terribly cute.

SCARLETT

May I hold her?

Pip hands her Celia. Scarlett rocks her gently. Celia makes a happy noise.

PIP

Be careful with her-

SCARLETT

Yeah, I know... This isn't my first rodeo... (pause) You did the right thing.

PIP

Really?

SCARLETT

Yeah. I would've done the same thing.

PIP

(hopeful) So, I can keep her?

There is a somewhat awkward silence. We hear a few faint thuds against the hull.

beat.

HARPER

Pip... Her family's outside.

ATLAS

They've been following the ship, since we left the island. They've been looking for her.

PIP

No...

HARPER

Pip, I'm sorry...

PIP

They abandoned her! They left her behind!

(CONTINUED)

HARPER

They didn't. You know they didn't.
But even if they had, that doesn't
mean they don't love her!
Sometimes-... Sometimes you have to
leave the ones you love behind...
But that doesn't mean you don't
love them anymore. It just... means
you're loving them from far away.
And they do love her, Pip...
Listen...

They're quiet for a moment, and we can hear another few
thuds against the hull. Celia makes more baby sounds.

PIP

... I'm never going to get to see
her again.

HARPER

You don't know that. She might find
her way back.

PIP

Might. (beat) Can I have a minute?

ATLAS

We'll leave the pelt here for you.

HARPER

Do you want me to stay with you?

PIP

No. I-... I kind of want to be by
myself, if that's okay.

HARPER

Yeah... Sure thing.

SCARLETT

We'll wait upstairs.

PIP

Yeah. Okay.

They leave. We hear the door close behind them. Celia
gurgles, and Pip lets out a sigh.

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SCENE TEN

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

Scarlett, Atlas and Harper are all gathered together below the entry hatch. The Rusalka has surfaced. We hear some faint thuds against the hull.

HARPER

Do you think she's going to be okay?

SCARLETT

I don't know. It's... hard. Being attached like that, and having to-... It's gonna take some time.

ATLAS

Do you think she's coming?

HARPER

Yeah. She'll be here. She probably just needs to-

We hear the door open. Pip steps into the hall, holding Celia and the pelt.

PIP

Okay. I'm ready.

SCARLETT

Hang on a second... Just... Stand right there. ... smile?

We hear the click/flash of a polaroid camera. Scarlett hands Pip the photograph.

SCARLETT (cont'd)

To remember her by.

PIP

Thanks.

ATLAS

Do you want help with the pelt?

PIP

No... I can do it.

Pip lays the pelt out on the floor, and lays Celia on top of it.

(CONTINUED)

PIP (cont'd)
Bye Celia.

Celia gurgles. It's almost a goodbye.

We hear Pip zipping up the pelt. We hear a warping sound, or a faint "pop". Celia lets out a tiny seal bark. Pip picks her back up again.

PIP (cont'd)
I'll take her outside.

HARPER
Be careful!

Pip starts to climb the ladder up.

SCARLETT
Hey, Pip?

Pip looks back at her. For a moment, Scarlett doesn't know what to say.

SCARLETT (cont'd)
I-... You did good today. Really.

PIP
(smiles faintly) Thanks commander.

SCARLETT
Good luck.

We hear Pip open the hatch. Seagulls call. Waves lap at the side of the ship. We hear the barking of the Selkies.

Pip lowers Celia into the water. There's a faint splash. Celia barks. Pip gives her a watery smile.

PIP
Yeah. I'm gonna miss you too.

We hear splashes and the barking of the other Selkies as they swim away.

PIP (cont'd)
(calling after them) You take care
of her, okay?!

Silence. The seagulls cry. Waves beat against The Rusalka. Pippa sighs.

FADE OUT.

11 EPILOGUE

INT. A Restaurant, New York City - NIGHT

We hear soft music and the clinking of glasses, the general sounds of a high end restaurant. Footsteps approach the table and a chair is pulled back. THE PROFESSOR looks up from her meal.

THE PROFESSOR
... Ah. So you've found me.

KILLIAN
It's good to see you again,
Professor.

THE PROFESSOR
Mr. Rhys.

KILLIAN
So cold! Is that any way to treat
an old friend?

THE PROFESSOR
Who on earth told you we were
friends? Emilie was a friend... You
were a student.

KILLIAN
A protégée... You've been ignoring
my calls.

THE PROFESSOR
Now, Killian, you know I hate
talking to you.

KILLIAN
How's work?

THE PROFESSOR
Fired. Less than a week before I
received tenure. Some old papers of
mine inexplicably resurfaced... And
the university board felt it would
be "inappropriate" to have such a
renowned crackpot shaping the minds
of our future world leaders. A
little heavy handed, don't you
think?

KILLIAN
I'm sure I don't know what you
mean.

(CONTINUED)

THE PROFESSOR

There's no such thing as coincidence, Killian. I know you were always a bit thick, but if I've taught you anything, I've taught you that. But you weaseled your way in here out of the gutter for some reason, so you must think it's important. So cut the crap. You're interrupting a very expensive dinner. What do you want?

When Killian doesn't answer, she lets out a soft, derisive laugh.

THE PROFESSOR (cont'd)

Oh. This is about the project, isn't it. Let me guess, you've run out of government funding, and now you've come to steal something else from me? I'm afraid you're out of luck. If you're looking for a handout, I'd say try the Salvation Army, they're good at that sort of thing.

KILLIAN

Project Rusalka is already well underway. The crew shipped out months ago, and the reports they've been sending back are... wild.

THE PROFESSOR

Then why are you here? (beat) ...
Oh... No.

KILLIAN

It's hardly any fun without you. I can organize it, Atlas can do the heavy lifting, but nobody can analyze the data as well as you.

THE PROFESSOR

Tough. You'll have to find someone else.

KILLIAN

Oh, I have.

Killian pulls a file from his bag and slides it across the table to The Professor, who opens it.

(CONTINUED)

KILLIAN (cont'd)

Took me a while to track her down. But she's just a little peach! So helpful. But, of course, Atlas is keeping a close eye on things. You know how treacherous the ocean can be.

beat.

THE PROFESSOR

Are you threatening me?

KILLIAN

You know me better than that. I never make threats. Only promises and suggestions.

THE PROFESSOR

So 'Atlas' is working as your hired gun monkey now, is that it?

KILLIAN

Atlas is working very hard to turn your dream into a reality, Professor. And you're the only one who doesn't seem to be on board with that. But you will be. This project needs you. And I intend for you to re-join it.

He pushes his chair back and stands.

KILLIAN (cont'd)

My plane leaves for Canaveral first thing in the morning. I'll send someone to retrieve you. And you'll be back in the lab before you know it! (off her look) Cheer up, Professor! The gang's getting back together again! It's gonna be a blast.

FADE OUT.

END.