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.
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-
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)

HARPER
What?

SCARLETT
See you on the other side!

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

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?
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:

3 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)
KEERA (cont’d)
anything your heart desires. You stay with me, and you can have anything you want.

FADE TO:

4 SCENE TEN


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 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:
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)
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.
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-
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?
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!
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:

9 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?
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)
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)
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)
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.

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.
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)
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.