

RETRIEVAL

Written by Darren J Seeley

(c) Copyright 2014

FADE IN:

INT. CAVE - DAY

JACK (30s) frantic, springs out of the water. Short breaths. Crawls on his elbows on a stone surface. Holds back a scream as one sharp edged rock cuts into his right arm. But that's the worst of his problem.

That's his right leg. The trunks ripped. Flesh hangs off bone. Blood drains.

Something behind him grabs his left ankle. Yanks him backward. Clothes rip. The same rock that cut his arm now eats up half his face.

One painful echoing scream later, he pulls himself on the surface. Exhausted, he rolls. His ankle GONE at the knee.

JACK

Zed...

Three gunshots.

JACK

Did you get it?

ZED (O.S.)

Don't know.

Jack laughs in between spittles of blood.

JACK

You're a lousy shot.

GO-FAST BOAT

ZED, (30s) the man with the gun. Hawaiian shirt and hardcore attitude to go with it. His rage shows in his crazy eyes. Who knows what this psycho is capable of doing. Even he don't.

Holds his gun beside his brow. Thinks. Decides. Crazy eyes go wide in revelation. Aims straight.

JACK

What are you doing, man? Get the son of a =

One shot shuts him up.

EXT. REEF - DAY

LANA (mid 20s) suntans on the deck of a sailboat. Her feet dangle in the water. PETE (mid 20s), shirtless and trunks, takes snapshots and video of the landscape, water and Lana with his iPhone.

LANA

Don't you dare tweet that.

PETE

Come on. Just having some fun.

LANA

You come on. My turn. Give it up.

Pete steps over to her. She reaches for it. He plays around.

LANA

Stop goofing.

Pete hands her the phone.

PETE

You're not going to toss it over the side or anything like that.

LANA

What an interesting thought.

She turns off the phone.

Pete shrugs. Puts on a snorkel. Fins.

PETE

Man overboard.

He plunges. He comes up beside her, splashes her feet.

LANA

Knock it off.

PETE

Let's go. Water's great.

LANA

Kind of busy.

Pete kisses her right foot.

LANA

You're being dumb.

PETE

Yeah. I'm a dum-dum. Who said yes again? Help me out.

Lana sits up. Gets her feet out of the water. Turns his phone back on. Takes pictures and video of him.

LANA

Hey peeps. Here's Pete. Diving for some squid.

PETE

Of I find one I'll put it on deck. Make you kiss it.

LANA

Hear that, peeps? It's a bet. And if he loses, he can't use this dumb phone for the rest of the trip.

Pete goes under.

LANA

I'm not kissing a squid. Didn't marry a squid. Or maybe I did.

Off in the distance, Zed's go-fast boat approaches. Lana aims the phone in that direction.

LANA

Fellow sailor wants to chat.

The image on the phone reveals the go-fast boat picking up speed. Lana looks back. It's getting closer.

LANA

Don't you see us? Don't you -

Shock fills her eyes. She scrambles off the bow and digs out a bullhorn. The phone clinkers on the floor. Turns on the horn. Turns -

LANA

Slow down. You're going too -

Zed's boat swerves. Covers Lana in a massive wave. Lana rocks backward. Falls. Bullhorn and phone fly off.

LANA

Crazy bastard! You trying to kill us!?

Zed points the gun at her.

ZED

Bot yet.

Zed waves the gun at Lana.

ZED

Get your ass in the water. Come over here. I won't ask twice.

LANA

What do you -

Zed fires a warning shot.

ZED

Hurry up. Ain't got all day.

Pete comes up behind the go=fast. Wades close. Lana looks in his direction. It gives him away as he eases on to Zed's boat. Zed turns. Pete gets Zed off balance. Zed drops the gun. The two wrestle. Zed gets the upper hand.

ZED

Got ourselves a tough guy here!

Zed grabs him close and follows up with a right cross.

Breaks Pete's nose.

Pete wails back.

Spots the gun.

Lunges for it.

Zed stomps on Pete's right hand.

Zed snatches a hunting knife from the passenger seat.

Zed slashes Pete in the right shoulder.

ZED

Not so heroic now are we tough guy!

Kicks Pete, knocks him off the boat. Pete floats by. Knocked out. Zed scoops up his gun. Rage fills his face. Locks eyes and the gun on a frozen Lana.

ZED

Leave him.

EXT. GO-FAST BOAT - DAY

Zed and Lana cruise down a bank.

Exotic cliff faces fill the view.

Lana's wrists tied with rope.

ZED

Social time. I'm Zed. And you are?

LANA

Why do you want to know?

ZED

Getting to know each other. We're going to the best of friends.

LANA

Doubt it.

ZED

Then we pretend that we are. Right now I want you to be cool. Nod if you understand.

Lana nods.

ZED

Good girl. And.. I'm Zed... you are...?

LANA

Lana. My husband is back there.

ZED

What's his name?

LANA

Pete. We just got married.

ZED

Honeymoon?

(beat)

Well how about that. Happy honeymoon. Screw Pete. His ass stays behind.

LANA

We have friends. They'll look for us. Find us.

ZED

Good. Let them look. Maybe they'll find dear Pete. Maybe they won't.

LANA

What do you want? Where are we going?

EXT. REEF - DAY

Pete bumps his head against the edge of the sailboat. Gets out of the water. Disoriented.

INT. CABIN

His face full of agony, Pete scrambles around a cabinet. Finds a first aid kit.

Blood drips from his wound.

Tears off gauze dressing. Wraps it around his right arm and shoulder.

EXT. GO-FAST BOAT - DAY

Zed heads towards a out of the way tunnel.

ZED

Almost there.

A burst of static on a radio. Followed by:

PETE

Mayday! Mayday! Someone kidnapped my wife! They are in a go-fast boat. My coordinates are -

Zed switches off the radio.

LANA

He'll come for me.

ZED

If and when he finds you. And I'll be long gone by then.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Sunlight pierces through the mouth.

On a jagged surface a man's corpse lies face down. Left leg shredded in half. Dried blood leads into the water below.

ZED (O.S.)

Take a good look at him. Take a real hard look. Been there for a few hours. Just where I left him.

GO-FAST BOAT

Lana cranks her neck, scared. A quick glance. Zed puts the gun beside him. Shows off a hunting knife.

ZED

I'm a problem solver. But this isn't my problem. It's yours. Don't try anything. Don't get smart.

Zed cuts the ropes.

LANA

I don't understand.

ZED

What I want is here, twenty-two feet down. Might take you a minute, but it's there. You can't miss it.

Lana glimpses back to the dead man.

ZED

Shit happens. You're not in the wrong place at the wrong time. No. No. No. Right place, Right time.

LANA

You did that?

ZED

Did I do that to my friend? No, I did not. Fact is we had to dump our load, came back. My partner got in and didn't see our new guest.

Lana looks at him puzzled.

ZED

A pissed off tiger shark. Sixteen footer at least. It's down there, somewhere, with the stash. Least it was when I left.

Points the knife at Lana.

ZED

Don't go anywhere.

Lana looks around. Nowhere to go except the water. Zed stands. Tucks the knife in his belt.

EXT. REEF - DAY

Pete plots a course on a map. Thinks.

Starts up the engine. It takes a few moments to kick in.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Shows Lana a chain and a rusted clamp.

ZED

You are going to take this. Go in the water, Find my stash. Hook it. Then I'm done with you.

LANA

What if -

ZED

If the fish tears you in half like my friend over there? If I'm lucky, I'll kill it this time. If not, it's Pete's turn.

LANA

When it's done, you'll kill me anyway. Or leave me to here to -

ZED

You want me to push you in? Or are you just going to do it?

Nervous, Lana gets to her feet. Goes to the edge. Zed waves her on. Lana exits. The splash echoes.

Zed hands her the clamp. Unravels the chain.

ZED

Swim off and you'll get shot. Do something stupid and you'll get shot. Make it snappy.

Hooks his end of the chain to a hitch on the back of the boat. Looks back at her.

ZED  
You still here?

Lana takes a breath. Goes under.

ZED  
Like your tan.

Metal clinks, echoes. The chain disappears inch by inch into the depths. Zed retrieves his gun. Holds it close. Waits.

Lana comes up for air. Zed gives the chain a tug. Pulls her a little towards him.

LANA  
Can't find it!

ZED  
That's not the right answer. Think positive. Better attitude. Chop-chop. Get going.

Lana submerges again.

Zed looks over to his left. A dorsal fin approaches. Glides under and vanishes.

UNDERWATER

Murky and dark. Lana barely sees ten feet in front of her. The descent takes her to a plastic covered chained coffin. She finds a latch. Secures the hook.

Grabs the chain to help her way up.

The shark Zed mentioned swims past. It scrapes Lana in the left shoulder.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Lana gasps. Zed makes sure the chain is secure.

LANA  
It's still here!

ZED  
Better get to that rock over there.  
You might have better luck than Jack.

Lana swims over towards the corpse twenty yards away. Zed fastens a hand crank, and wheels in the package. One eye on his progress. The other on Lana's.

The shark gives chase on Lana.

Closes in. Faster.

Zed pulls the coffin onto the boat.

Lana makes it to the surface. Gets her legs out of the water just as the shark swooshes by. Mouth open, the fish almost gets her.

Lana catches her breath. Her arm drizzles blood.

Zed shoots off a lock on the coffin.

The sight of being next to "Jack" up close repulses Lana.

Zed laughs. Slices off plastic.

Opens the lid. Pleased what he witnesses inside.

ZED

Well, guess what, little lady. I am good and good to go.

Takes out a wrapped stash of money. Smells it like a bottle of fresh wine.

Zed starts up the boat. Drifts towards Lana.

LANA

What now?

ZED

What do you mean, what now?

Zed steps out of the boat. Drops off a stack of money between her and Jack.

ZED

For your troubles.

Throws the blade in front of Lana's right hand. Sticks in the mud. Lana fixates on it.

ZED

For any more.

Zed gets back in his boat. Revs up the engine.

Lana gathers herself. Grabs the knife.

ZED

I'd stay there, if I was you. Count your blessings.

(MORE)

ZED (CONT'D)

Maybe good Pete can find you. Get  
back in the water...he might not.

Lana stands. Defiant.

Lana looks around. Unsure what to do. She kicks Jack's  
remains twice. On the third kick the body rolls into the  
water. Lana backs away. The shark grabs the body.

Lana dives in. Swims towards Zed's boat. Zed notices this.  
Encourages her. The go-fast boat exits the cave.

The shark rips Jack's arm off. Discards the rest. Goes after  
Lana.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Zed slows the boat. Waits for Lana to catch up.

Beelines to the end. Fires his gun.

SHORT DISTANCE AWAY

The shots echo. Pete steers the sailboat in that direction.

He turns a corner. Approaches the cave. Zed's go-fast boat  
zooms off.

LANA

Over here!

Pete directs the boat in her direction. Her hair and some of  
her face splattered with blood. Shark a few feet away.  
Appears to be dead.

Pete anchors the boat. Tosses Lana a life jacket. She catches  
it. Floats towards the sailboat.

The shark twitches.

FADE TO BLACK.