

Ultimate Reality

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Draft 1

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INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Rush. Death closes in.

Nurses run with a stretcher. A man bloody, unconscious.  
Breathing mask. It's Vance Harrell, 41.

EMERGENCY ROOM

A doctor appears, checking Vance's pupillary with his  
flashlight pen. Blood from the ears.

DOCTOR  
Blood from ears. Probably skull  
fracture. Car accident?

NURSE  
Hit by a train.

The doctor rips Vance's shirt off a bit to stethoscope.

DOCTOR  
(To a nurse)  
Get a defibrillator now! Perform  
CPR immediately!

Infusion. Monitor. Slow peeps. Adrenaline.

The doctors rubs two paddles onto each other.

DOCTOR  
One, two, three!

Vance's body gasps when the paddles touch his chest.

Long sad peep.

DOCTOR  
Again! One, two, three!

No pulse.

As they continue to restart his heart, all sounds fade out.  
Tinnitus.

Vance's face... closer... closer... closer...

JACOB (V.O.)  
The greatest storm is coming.

EXT. SHIP - DECK - NIGHT

Vance wakes up, painful and soaked.

Up...down...up...down... The rhythm of waves. Seaspray. Cold.

Vance sits on a chair. Jacob sits on a chair. Two men confront, face to face. Jacob is older than Vance.

It takes Vance a few moments to adjust his eyes. Jacob is calm.

JACOB

Take your time. No rush.

Vance throws up, mostly water, onto Jacob's shoes. He's still calm, shaking off the vomits.

VANCE

What is this?

JACOB

You mean the place or the situation?

Vance looks around. Threatened.

VANCE

Both.

JACOB

Right! As you see, this is a ship, and you are the captain. Its destination is unknown. You've been trying to figure it out. Unfortunately, a storm is coming. The greatest one.

VANCE

Captain? I'm the captain?

JACOB

Yes, you are.

VANCE

Are you one of my crew?

JACOB

No, not yet.

VANCE

Who are you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB  
Your guide.

VANCE  
To where?

JACOB  
To the destination of this ship, a  
reality.

VANCE  
What are you talking about? You're  
making no sense. Isn't this  
reality?

JACOB  
It's a dream. Not exactly a dream,  
but we can say so.

Vance is speechless for a moment.

VANCE  
So this isn't real?

JACOB  
It's not real.

VANCE  
Can't we just have this unreal  
conversation somewhere inside?

JACOB  
Your dream, your decision. There's  
nothing I can do until we put our  
feet on a new reality.

VANCE  
What if I say we go inside?

INT. SHIP - CABIN - NIGHT

JACOB  
We have no problem with that.

Vance likes the fact that the deck is replaced in a blink of  
eyes.

VANCE  
Amazing!

Jacob gives a "not bad".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Vance stands up, walks around, enjoying the imaginary nature through the window.

VANCE  
It's not that scary.

JACOB  
What?

VANCE  
The storm, it's not that scary. In a strange way, it's quite beautiful.

Jacob smiles and shakes his head.

JACOB  
No, Vance! No! It's not even the beginning.

VANCE  
What about the new reality you referred to?

JACOB  
I think it's better to keep the surprise.

The voice of a woman. Echo.

NAT (O.S.)  
Vance, wake up! Wake up! Honey, wake up!

JACOB  
It's time. Later then.

INT. VANCE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Vance opens his eyes, seeing Nat sitting next to him.

NAT  
Come on! Get off the bed, lazy! You're late for work already.

VANCE  
What time is it?

NAT  
915.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VANCE

Oh God...

Nat stands up and goes collecting dirty clothes.

NAT

You need to see a doctor. Your sleep time is getting longer and longer.

Vance sits up. He still feels the waves.

VANCE

Is the room swinging?

NAT

What do you mean?

VANCE

I've never had a headache this terrible.

Nat sits down again with a big ball of clothes in her arms. She fondles his hair.

NAT

You can take a day off.

VANCE

No, I can't. We're planning to build another garage in the next five months, which requires tons of money. I'm one of the main mechanics. They need me. Ugh!!! My head!

NAT

I need you too. I need you more than anyone else. I am your wife. Don't risk your own health. It's important to me. Take a day off. I'll drive you to the hospital.

VANCE

But...

A gentle kiss.

NAT

Do it for me, okay?

INT. HOSPITAL - CLINIC - DAY

VANCE  
Ahhhhhhhhhhh...

Vance opens his mouth for the doctor to check it.

DOCTOR  
Alright! You can close your mouth  
now.

Doctor checks his eyes, then gets back to his desk. He seems uncertain.

VANCE  
Is everything okay?

DOCTOR  
Everything seems to be okay,  
preliminarily. Do you often have  
dreams?

VANCE  
Yeah, more than often.

DOCTOR  
Nightmares?

VANCE  
Hmmm... not quite.

DOCTOR  
What do you mean not quite?

VANCE  
I don't know. They're usually  
bizarre but real.

DOCTOR  
Tell me more.

VANCE  
Are you sure?

DOCTOR  
Of course.

VANCE  
Okay... Last night... or this early  
morning I'm not sure, I found  
myself on a ship in the middle of  
the ocean. There's another guy,  
trim and a little creepy.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VANCE (CONT'D)

He said a storm is coming and uh... something about reality.

DOCTOR

Reality?

VANCE

Yeah.

DOCTOR

Hmm... I think you might have hypersomnia.

VANCE

Hyper what?

DOCTOR

Hypersomnia, the opposite of insomnia. Stress is the common reason. You know, money, jobs, relationships, wives, kids... You have kids?

VANCE

No, I don't. We uh... We can't have kids.

DOCTOR

I see... Basically, the wheel of life sometimes sucks up our energy and leaves us exhausted. It makes our brains want to sleep more. Or it could be the dreams themselves. You might have found something better in your fantasy world that the reality doesn't have. Day by day, you start to spend more time sleeping than staying awake.

Vance is intrigued.

VANCE

Interesting!

DOCTOR

Indeed.

VANCE

Doctor, is there some kind of drug that keeps a person always awake?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

DOCTOR  
Actually it is. But too many  
troubles and its effectiveness  
depends on individuals.

INT. HOSPITAL - LOUNGE - DAY

Nat waits for Vance.

A man takes a seat next to her. Long jacket, hat. It looks  
like he will kill somebody.

Guess who it is.

JACOB  
Hi!

Nat is alerted, uncomfortable.

NAT  
Hi!

JACOB  
How are you?

NAT  
I'm fine...

A beat.

JACOB  
I have a daughter. She must be 24  
or 25 by now, beautiful and smart.  
When she turned to 8, she was very  
sick. She always felt painful in  
her belly. It had happened before  
but that time was the worst. My  
wife and I took her to this  
hospital. They told she's okay,  
just go home and take a rest. We  
trusted them, but everyday she got  
thinner and thinner. We came here  
again. They said same thing, just  
go home and take more rest. We  
still trusted them. Finally, my  
daughter rested in peace after her  
12<sup>th</sup> birthday. Stomach cancer.

Nat doesn't even know that she's sucked into the story.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NAT

I'm so sorry! I wish she would be happy in heaven.

JACOB

I appreciate your compassion. People seem to forget about it nowadays. They only remember when somebody dies. Is it my outfit that scares you?

NAT

No, not at all.

JACOB

Don't worry. I'll just take my hat off.

Jacob removes his hat.

JACOB

My name is Jacob. You must be Nat.

Nat is surprised.

NAT

I don't think I know you.

JACOB

Of course you don't. We've never met. I know your husband, though.

NAT

Are you his friend?

JACOB

No, not yet. We will be friends soon.

NAT

You might think I'm nosy but how did you meet my husband?

JACOB

I met him in his dreams.

A cryptic smile of Jacob.

NAT

You gotta be messing with me! It's impossible.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACOB

This conversation is impossible  
either.

A beat.

NAT

What are you doing here, Mr. Jacob?

JACOB

I just want to give him something.

Jacob fishes out a car key from his pocket.

NAT

A key?

JACOB

A car key. When he comes out,  
please tell him that there's an old  
Aston Martin parking out there.  
Don't worry. He'll recognize it  
right away.

Nat receives the key.

NAT

I'll do that.

JACOB

Thank you! That's all I guess. I  
gotta go now. Goodbye Ms. Harrell.  
Be safe.

NAT

You too.

Jacob stands up, a few steps and turns around.

JACOB

Oh, one more thing actually. I  
don't have any daughter.

Another smile and he's gone.

Nat is left dumbfounded. She examines the key. Nothing  
special but the brand logo.

Vance comes out.

NAT

Hey!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

VANCE

Hey!

They give each other a brief hug.

NAT

What did doctor say?

VANCE

Nothing serious. I just need to buy  
a louder clock. What do you got  
there?

Nat shows him the key.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Vance looks for the car. Too many cars here.

VANCE

Are you sure he said this parking  
lot?

NAT

No! He just said out there.

VANCE

What does he want me to do with the  
car?

NAT

I have no idea.

Car horns go nuts on the street.

VANCE

What's happening?

EXT. STREET - DAY

Traffic jam on one way.

Drivers gets crazy.

DRIVER 1

Come on! Move your fat ass!

DRIVER 2

Don't you see I'm stuck in here  
with you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Vance walks to the beginning of the car line. Nat follows.

At the intersection, the Aston Martin is immobile.

Vance does recognize the car, even though he has no idea why. It's like a long lost memory suddenly flashes back.

He rushes to the car.

NAT

Vance!

The door is unlocked. Vance gets in easily.

INT. ASTON MARTIN - DAY

It feels familiar. The leather, the wheel, the smell... like he has driven it thousand times.

VANCE

I remember this car...

The key. He doesn't know why he feels nervous. He inserts and twists.

Engine gasps for air and stops. It seems too old.

Another twists. It still fails to start.

One more time with no luck...

It feels like vibration, gentle at first, then stronger through time.

Everybody feels it.

Earthquake much...

The windshield cracks up, the metal twists,...

...less space for Vance. The car is crushed by itself...

The door is jammed...

People get panic outside. They either leave their cars or drive nuts.

The Aston Martin slides away after gets hit from behind by a truck.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Shaking... shaking hard...

Nat hangs on a phone booth.

NAT  
VANCE!!!

She tries to run to her husband.

INT. ASTON MARTIN - DAY

Vance struggles. He'll be crushed in no time.

He lays back, tries his best to kick the windshield. It's harder than he thinks.

He doesn't give up. The windshield comes off eventually.

He crawls out. The car is a metal ball.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Chaos.

Unsteady... very unsteady...

It's earthquake.

NAT  
Oh my God! Are you okay?

VANCE  
I'm okay. I'm okay.

NAT  
What is happening?

DAVE  
I don't know.

Things start to fall. Skyscrapers swings. Glass windows broken. Ground caves in and...

...water. High water far away...

...tsunami.

DAVE  
Holy cow!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He looks at the car which is nothing more than a metal junk.

DAVE  
A storm is coming.

NAT  
What?

People start to run. The tsunami attacks.

DAVE  
Run! RUN! RUN! RUN!

A race for their "lives".

Car swept away like toys. People get smashed, drowned.

Nat trips. Vance comes back for her...

She can't help but crying...

NAT  
I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!

Vance embraces her, like his body can protect his wife.

Water is too fast, too aggressive that creates wind. Water strikes, wrapping them up.

THEY'RE STILL THERE, DIFFERENT SCENE.

EXT. SHIP - DECK - NIGHT

High up... deep down... high up... deep down... Monster waves. Lots of seaspray. Freezing.

They lose balance. Nat is falls off the ship. Vance catches her.

The ocean is ready to swallow everything.

NAT  
Don't let me fall, Vance! Don't let me fall!

VANCE  
I got you! I got you!

Too wet, too slippery.

NAT  
No no no no! Vance! Vance!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He tries to think about somewhere inside.

VANCE  
Go inside! Go inside! Go inside!

The ship is thrown in the air and falls vertically. At the same time, they "teleport".

INT. SHIP - ENGINE ROOM - NIGHT

Vertical.

Vance makes it on a path fence, but slips Nat away.

The ship is swallowed. Metal gives up. Water bursts in like bullets.

VANCE  
NAAAAAAAAAAAAAAT!!!

A debris strikes Nat's head. She spins in the air and disappears in the dark water.

VANCE  
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!! OH MY GOD!  
NOOOOOOOOO!!!

The ocean wins.

BLACK.

OVER THE BLACK.

The sound of gentle waves and wind. We can even hear the leaves.

EXT. SHORE - DAY

Sun. Clear sky. Peace.

We stay low.

Vance, onto his chest, lies on the warm sand, knocked out.

We go higher... higher... higher...

Men and women drifted to here, knocked out of course.

A van, big one, just arrives.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

It stops...

Two or three troopers hop out, check the drifters and "load" them on the van.

It moves... closer to Van... and stops...

More people loaded.

It moves... stops for the last time...

A trooper flips Vance over. Their shadows over him.

TROOPER 1 (O.S.)  
It's him, isn't it?

TROOPER 2 (O.S.)  
I can't tell.

TROOPER 2 talks to his walkie talkie. We only see shadows.

TROOPER 2 (O.S.)  
Scavenger checks in.

Radio noise.

TROOPER 2 (O.S.)  
Scavenger checks in.

COMMANDER (O.S.)  
Go ahead, Scavenger.

TROOPER 2 (O.S.)  
The goods arrived. We encountered a man who possibly is the one we've been waiting for.

COMMANDER (O.S.)  
What's his condition?

TROOPER 2 (O.S.)  
Knocked out by the storm of course.

A beat.

COMMANDER (O.S.)  
To the base.

TROOPER 2 (O.S.)  
Roger that.

Conversation is over. They load Vance on the van.