

FRANK M.

FADE IN:

EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE - DAY

A blizzard: Thick strokes of white streak across the terrain. BEARS HUDDLE in the whiteness. Closer, they are not bears at all--but, MEN--in heavy furs, some on foot, others on sleds, ENCIRCLING a FROZEN PIT.

EXT. FROZEN PIT - CONTINUOUS

The Men are transfixed on their quarry: FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER (Frank)(30s), an EIGHT-FOOT GIANT, SUSPENDED in ICE! VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN (28), gaunt, sickly, stands with the men.

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN

Delicate, hear me! I don't want him
butchered! Take him apart by the
joints and sockets!

Men with ropes and ice picks slowly descend into the pit.

EXT. ARCTIC SEA - LATER

A large ship, it's hull jammed by ice floes, creaks in a glacial vice-grip.

INT. SHIP'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

The CAPTAIN sits at a table writing. Next to him is a TATTOO ARTIST sketching on Frank's LARGE, FROZEN ARM.

Opposite SAILORS await orders. A Sailor has a saw in his hand. A moment later, several OTHER SAILORS including a PORTUGUESE SAILOR rush in. The captain doesn't look up.

CAPTAIN

Portuguese?

PORTUGUESE SAILOR

Aye, sir!

CAPTAIN

As you were.

The sailors at-ease. The Captain turns to Victor Frankenstein sitting in a corner.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
 English, Russian, Spanish, Swedish,
 French, now Portuguese! Enough?

Victor Frankenstein rises from the corner's shadow. He motions to the tattoo artist to cease etching. The artist stops. Victor Frankenstein lifts the arm and examines the letterings and designs.

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN
 More languages! More warnings!

The tattooist glances at the captain. Sailors share glances.

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN (CONT'D)
 Where's the Italian!

CAPTAIN
 Your creature killed the Italian!

The captain finishes writing. He shows the documents to Victor Frankenstein for approval. Victor Frankenstein lifts a few earthen-ware cannisters and unlatches their lids. The captain blots, rolls and stuffs other documents into the cannisters.

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN:
 These cannisters hold the keys to
 life and death! To reanimation! Not
 for the fools of these times!

CAPTAIN:
 I hope future men share your
 opinion, Frankenstein!
 (beat)
 Come spring, I'll do as you
 recommend and send this creature to
 the ends of the earth!

The Tattoo Artist sits the arm next to Frank's BALD, TATTOOED HEAD: a PICTOGRAPH of fantastical designs with DRAGONS, SERPENTS and mythical BEASTS!

EXT. DECK - DAY

The wind howls. Sailors brave forward, toting the remains of Frank--depositing them into a CASKET on deck.

Victor Frankenstein follows the sailors to the casket and places the cannisters inside.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

A CAPTAIN and FIRST MATE watch a MASSIVE STORM approach. The Captain surveys the horizon with his TELESCOPE.

CAPTAIN

Set a course for those islands!

FIRST MATE

Aye, aye, sir!

First Mate runs along the deck.

EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY

Above we see the belly of a ship tossed in a storm. Boxes, crates, etc., are thrown overboard among which is FRANK'S CASKET.

SUPER: PACIFIC ISLANDS, 19TH CENTURY.

EXT. ISLAND SHORE - DAY

A small, Pacific island with a village and a JUNGLE at it's BACK. At the jungle's center, a monolithic mountain, ELEPHANT ROCK, juts up like a whale's tooth.

JONOW (30s), a handsome man with a swimmer's sinewy form, files toward his DRUA (catamaran) which is moored near the shoreline.

Jonow carries fishing rods and other equipment. He props them next to the craft.

GEERA (late 30s), Jonow's wife, the pudgy-ness of age just appearing at her cheeks--runs behind with a sack bundle.

Geera drops the sack near the rods.

GEERA

I brought taro, poi, and chipped breadfruit. Sweet potato, bananas, and limu. I know you like to suck on breadfruit chips when you're out there. You can give the chicken, pig and dog to Mermit to trade.

Jonow kneels and checks the bag. When he's satisfied, He begins placing the rods in the drua.

GEERA (CONT'D)

What happened last night?

Jonow continues loading.

GEERA (CONT'D)
Was the ahi too spicy?

JONOW
I think it was the ahi.

She watches as he SQUATS over the TULUMA (fishing tackle box) and loosens the HEMP CORD from its lid. He pries the lid off. Inside is an array of CARVED HOOKS.

He lifts each hook and mutters a prayer. He solemnly places each hook back in the box, side by side, in order.

GEERA
Are you still grieving?

JONOW
No. No. I feel fine.
(beat)
I'll do better tonight, I promise.

GEERA
I'll make the ahi less spicy.

JONOW
Thank you.

GEERA
Did you say bye to Nobi? I think he waited for you, so you'd take him ray hunting.

JONOW
I don't think he cares to go fishing with me. I don't think he's the fishing type.

GEERA
I think he's changed.

JONOW
Could be. Let me think about it. I took him out a few times when he was young and he threw such a fit, I thought he'd capsize us.

GEERA
Did you yell at him? You know how sensitive he is.

JONOW

I can't remember if I yelled at him or not. I may have.

(beat)

Truthfully, I don't think he likes me much.

GEERA

You have to give him a little time. He wanted to see you off.

JONOW

Is that why he ran off to who knows where?

GEERA

You can't always interpret what he does as a tantrum--or that it's against you.

(beat)

He's changed since Jaam died...

JONOW

I know.

GEERA

You've got to learn how to read his signs.

JONOW

He thinks I'm an idiot, and he thinks I think he's an idiot!

Jonow lifts a bundle of fishing rods. Hands them to Geera.

JONOW (CONT'D)

I'm not complaining--but try to pull these apart!

She struggles with them but can't pull them apart.

JONOW (CONT'D)

Nobi glued them together--who knows with what--but I can't get them apart either.

GEERA

I'll have him undo them!

JONOW

Don't bother. I'll make do. I'm already late and Mermit will give me a hard time.

GEERA

Tell him not to talk so much! Don't forget there's a tribal meeting tonight.

JONOW

Can't Osus do it?

GEERA

You're chief, Osus just wants to be chief.

(beat)

Besides, I want some attention later!

Jonow groans.

EXT. TIMRAM'S VILLAGE - DAY

Market day in Timram's village. TWO EUROPEAN MEN sit at a booth peddling wares. NOBI (19), tall and ungainly, BROWSES the booths with another EUROPEAN TEEN. Several BOTTLED MODEL SHIPS catch Nobi's eye. He points to the largest model. The two men share a glance.

NOBI

T--That one!

EUROPEAN MAN #1

What have you got to trade?

Nobi pulls out a NECKLACE of PRECIOUS STONES. European Man #1 examines the necklace then nods.

EUROPEAN MAN #1 (CONT'D)

You steal this?

EUROPEAN TEEN

Its his! He's a chief's son!

EUROPEAN MAN #1

Shut up! He can speak for himself!

NOBI

No! I--Its my F--Father's!

European Man #1 hands the necklace to European Man #2 who admires it. Nobi picks up the large model.

EUROPEAN MAN #2

This is only worth the small model, you bring us more like this and we can talk about the big one.

Nobi frowns. He snatches the small model and leaves. The men laugh.

EXT. WALOO'S HUT - LATER

WALOO (70), his years only revealed in the weave of his brow and hands, stands at the door waiting as Nobi sits at the table fiddling with the model ship. Another ship model, a LARGE CATAMARAN, also sits on the table.

WALOO
Can we do this later?

Nobi ignores him, he finds a MALLET and SMASHES the GLASS BOTTLE.

WALOO (CONT'D)
Now, look what you've done!

Nobi BRUSHES AWAY the SHARDS. He compares the catamaran to the extracted model, before dismantling the replica.

WALOO (CONT'D)
You gave up Jaam's necklace so you could do this?

Waloo drags a stool to a high shelf. He pulls down a SPYGLASS and a STACK OF MAPS, CHARTS, DRAWINGS, etc. He climbs down.

WALOO (CONT'D)
See these? These maps are by the greatest navigator in the world!

Nobi sets the model down.

WALOO (CONT'D)
I thought this would get your attention!

Waloo runs out of the hut. Nobi jumps up, grabs an empty bowl, a pestle, and races out behind him.

EXT. ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

Nobi sits in the shade of a palm. Beyond, a crescent of white sand flushes into an ocean of teal and sapphire. Waloo stands near the cliff and raises his spyglass.

Jonow's catamaran is a speck near the horizon.

WALOO
You are missing it!

Nobi is SCRAPING BARK into a bowl of PITCH and TAR. He STIRS the GOO with a STICK. Waloo lowers the spyglass.

WALOO (CONT'D)
You missed it! Your father's over
the horizon!

NOBI
H--He's not! M--my F-Father!

Nobi HUFFS UP. He grabs the spyglass from Waloo and looks through it for a second. He thrusts it back to Waloo and goes back to his bowl. Waloo stares after him then retracts the spyglass.

WALOO
The god Lono smiles on kindness.
You should be more kind to Jonow--

NOBI
No!

WALOO
I brought you up here because I
know this place calms you.

Nobi ROCKS BACK and FORTH as he stirs. He pokes his finger into the bowl and tastes the pitch. Waloo watches the experiment.

WALOO (CONT'D)
Jaam wouldn't have liked you
behaving this way.

Nobi glares at him. Waloo walks over to the stack of maps. He lifts the rock he's used to keep them from blowing away.

WALOO (CONT'D)
Look, Nobi.
(waits)
One chart is a copy of the other. I
bet you can't tell which is which--
one is Tupaia's and the other is
Cook's.

He holds up the two maps. Nobi takes a deep breath and points to the map in Waloo's left hand.

WALOO (CONT'D)
Wrong!

Nobi frowns. He puts down the bowl and goes to examine the map.

NOBI

L--Let me see! Y--you're lying!

Nobi tries to snatch the map from Waloo's hand.

WALOO

Don't get it sticky! Okay, you're right! Captain Cook copied from Tupaia's. How could you see that from there?

Nobi gives him a stare, then goes back to his bowl. He stops stirring for a moment and wipes his hands. He picks up his sketches and then turns toward the ocean.

WALOO (CONT'D)

What is it?

Nobi picks up the spyglass and scans the shoreline.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Two druas shoulder each other on a vast strip of blue.

MERMIT (late 30s) lean, more at home behind a bazaar booth than on the open sea. Jonow tosses Mermit a line. Mermit tugs Jonow's line and ties the boats together.

MERMIT

What kept you?

JONOW

Nothing.

MERMIT

The rays are shifting off the shelf to deeper water.

JONOW

Geera doesn't want you to talk too much. She said if you get started you'll end up keeping me from my chiefly and husbandly duties.

Mermit puts a finger to his lips. He readies a weighted crossbow and a quiver of weighted arrows. He places the arrows into the quiver and ties the quiver to the stock.

Jonow LIFTS the glued rod-bundle and shakes it vigorously. Mermit watches Jonow for a moment then props the crossbow.

MERMIT

What the hell is that thing?

JONOW
An experiment!

MERMIT
Urup?

JONOW
No. Nobi!

MERMIT
I think he does it out of spite!
Because you never bring him ray
hunting like other fathers do! You
won't even have to share profits!

JONOW
What do you know about children?
You've never had any!

Mermit points to his head.

MERMIT
I may not have children, but I can
sure think like one!
(beat)
Why don't you just bring him out
one time? He'll hate it out here
and never want to come back.

JONOW
He doesn't like the water.

MERMIT
I think its because you don't want
him to know why you really come out
here.

JONOW
I've brought him out to sea before.

MERMIT
But not here--

JONOW
You're talking too much! Know-it-
all can you pass me the crossbow?

Mermit hands Jonow the crossbow. Jonow unties the hook tackle
box and removes several hooks. He weighs a couple of large
hooks in his hand before sinking them in his pouch. He ties
the pouch strap around his waist.

MERMIT
Look!

A small SHARK'S FIN KNIFES through the WATER at a distance.

MERMIT (CONT'D)

Are you still going to hunt rays?

JONOW

Of course! No rays, no trade!

Jonow PLUNGES IN.

EXT. OCEAN SHELF - DAY

Jonow strokes to the ocean-shelf--a long lip of the seabed JUTTING before DEEPER WATER. From there, he strides to a water plant dancing in the shadows.

He LOADS, AIMS, and FIRES. The arrow DARTS into the PLANT.

He swims to the plant, and thrusts his hand into the shadow. A moment later, a SKEWERED RAY appears, lanced.

He forces the ray to the seabed and pins the ray under his foot. He takes a large hook from his pouch and stabs it through the ray's wing. He preps his BOW and FIRES into another plant.

EXT. DRUA - EVENING

Bubbles pop along the sea-surface. Then a pancake-stack of skewered rays surfaces, followed by Jonow's head.

MERMIT

I swear you're half fish half
Bajaus! Like I always say: You're
better in sea than on land!

Jonow waves off the compliment.

JONOW

What's the count?

MERMIT

Twenty two plus that stack--twenty
five! You sure work fast!

JONOW

Twenty five's plenty! Let's go
before it gets too dark for me to
dive.

MERMIT

Go to the shrine? I think its
already too late!

JONOW

By the time you give all your
reasons, we could be there and
back!

Jonow climbs in the boat and throws Mermit the crossbow.

EXT. SHORE - EVENING

Nobi stands on the shore staring at the surf. Waloo SURFACES
from the SHALLOWS.

WALOO

You're right! There is a sunken
ship down there.

Nobi CLAPS.

NOBI

I--I told you!

WALOO

Don't get excited. We'll never be
able to bring it up alone! Here.

Waloo hands Nobi a SILVER COIN from the wreck.

WALOO (CONT'D)

I'll get Osus. We'll probably need
half the village to even get a
portion of this stuff to the
surface.

Nobi rubs the coin between his fingers.

EXT. MAAJ'S SHRINE - DAY

Jonow tightens the pouch strap around his waist.

A small SHARK DIPS among the distant WAVES. The fin circling
ever closer.

MERMIT

See him? I think he's following us!
Do you think that's the one
destroying Maaj's shrine?

JONOW
Hand me your knife.

Mermit hands Jonow the KNIFE. Jonow takes the hooks out of the pouch and replaces the hooks with the knife. Mermit SNATCHES-UP a JAVELIN and nervously raises it above his head.

JONOW (CONT'D)
Make sure you aim for the shark and not me!

MERMIT
Wait! The wreath?

Mermit hands Jonow a wreath of flowers and shoulders the crossbow. Jonow wets the wreath then sinks beneath the waves.

EXT. MAAJ'S SHRINE (UNDERWATER) - CONTINUOUS

Maaj's Shrine is a stacked rock and coral affair. Some rocks have been picked away allowing small fish to dart in and out of the crevices.

Jonow hops from one side of the shrine to the other replacing rocks and shooin' fish.

Through a hole flows WAVY HAIR attached to a Maaj's delicate SKULL. A HAIR CLUMP appears to be pulled and twisted through some of the shrine rocks.

Jonow gently picks out the hair from the rock. He stuffs the holes with nearby rock and coral. He plants the reef on the shrine.

He pushes off toward the surface.

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

Jonow swims a few yards beneath the boats.

Above him, Mermit's form ripples--his arms undulating wildly--he's mouthing SHARK.

Jonow bobs up and gulps air. Mermit's arms are still FLAPPING--but his scream has yet to reach Jonow's ears.

Jonow JERKS his head to where Mermit is POINTING.

He's pointing to a JUVENILE, FIVE-FOOT SHARK!

JONOW
Throw me the rope!

Mermit drops the spear and picks up a hemp rope. He nooses it and PLUNGES it into the WATER.

Jonow GRIPS the noose and DIVES. As the shark BEARS DOWN, Jonow LASSOS the noose around its head and TIGHTENS.

Jonow DODGES to one SIDE, and in one movement, PLANTS the knife beneath the JAW and RIPS the BLADE from jaw to STOMACH.

Jonow KICKS CLEAR as BLOOD SWELLS OUT.

Mermit jabs the spear into the UPTURNED SHARK.

EXT. SHORE - DAY

OSUS, (30), a handsome, Polynesian brute, Nobi, Waloo, Geera and others stand on the shore watching VILLAGE MEN SPLASH into the SURF. OTHER MEN are emerging from the water with DROWNED SAILORS.

SUNDRY ITEMS from the WRECK LITTER the shoreline. VILLAGE WOMEN undress CORPSES and stack the clothing, articles, valuables, etc., in a heap on the sand.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Jonow hangs the shark carcass over the edge of the hull and SPLASHES the carcass with water. Blood and gore slosh over the side.

He grabs the shark by the tail and dumps the body next to the stack of rays.

He accidentally KNOCKS a ray OVERBOARD. It revives and swims off.

It was the biggest he'd caught! He follows the ray with his eyes. It swims passed a shiny object. He leans over the side for a better look.

Jonow restacks the rays and readies to dive.

He hesitates. He looks across the sea to see how far Mermit's drua has sailed. Mermit's sails are small and distant near the horizon.

Jonow waves in Mermit's direction.

JONOW

Mermit!

Mermit's drua shrinks over the horizon.

Jonow sits on the boat's edge. And after a moment, plunges in.

UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

Jonow swims to the GLITTERING OBJECT. It's a GILT-LINED COFFIN. He BRUSHES AWAY growth and debris, but he can't budge it.

EXT. SURFACE - CONTINUOUS

Jonow breaks the surface. He BLOWS and SHAKES the water off. The sun is a sliver on the sea and the wane stars are becoming visible in the sky.

He climbs into the craft, gathers the GLUED ROD-BUNDLE and rope and sinks back into the sea.

UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

Jonow PRIES at the buried COFFIN LID with the rods. It doesn't budge. He gathers a large rock, puts it under the rods and jimmys the casket from its rest.

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

Jonow's drua slowly moves homeward in the moonlight. Triumph and exhaustion glow on Jonow's face.

Stirring behind him are the wide WAKES of the tethered CASKET.

EXT. HIDDEN COVE - NIGHT

Jonow SCOPES the shoreline as he approaches. The coast is clear, so he SHOVES the drua ASHORE. He DRIVES the coffin as close to the shoreline using its momentum. It HALTS in the WET SAND.

Jonow searches for a rock. He FINDS a COCONUT and SMASHES it against the coffin LOCK to no avail.

With his knife, Jonow WEDGES the BLADE into the COFFIN LID, lifts the lid as far as he can and TURNS the blade SIDEWAYS.

With the lid slightly open. He runs his fingers inside the lid edge until he FEELS SOMETHING. He PINCHES-OUT a TORN PIECE OF CLOTH.

A moment later, the lid slams down on his blade.

He examines the flimsy SCRAP of PARCHMENT. A SCRAWL of letters in GERMAN!

Jonow frees his knife from the coffin. He walks into the jungle and cuts large palm fronds. He takes the fronds and COVERS the CASKET.

INT. JONOW'S HUT - NIGHT

Jonow enters the hut. Geera STANDS before him NAKED.

GEERA

You missed the meeting but I still
have a surprise for you!

She GYRATES into a seductive DANCE. Jonow makes a DEEP YAWN. She stops.

JONOW

Don't stop. I'm not tired.

He gathers his mat for the show and watches with heavy eyes. His eyes close.

Geera stops dancing. She COVERS him with a BLANKET.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Jonow pulls his drua alongside Mermit's. Mermit ties the boats together.

MERMIT

Storm's coming in.

JONOW

Yeah, I see it.

(beat)

Didn't you see me wave, yesterday?

MERMIT

I waved.

JONOW

I needed you to come back!

MERMIT

For what?

JONOW

I found something.

MERMIT

Like?

JONOW

A large crate!

(beat)

It'd be perfect for Maaj's shrine!

MERMIT

It definitely would keep the sharks out.

(beat)

Well, let's pull it up!

JONOW

I did already!

MERMIT

Where is it?

JONOW

On the island. I hid it.

MERMIT

Yeah? What's in it? Treasure?

JONOW

I don't know? I can't open it. Tore this out, though.

Jonow takes out the strip.

MERMIT

Let me see!

Jonow hands it to him. Mermit takes the strip and turns it over. Runs his finger along the words.

MERMIT:

This is Urup for sure!

JONOW

What does it say?

MERMIT

I don't know. I don't speak Urup.

JONOW

But you trade with them all the time!

MERMIT

Mostly Urup English. But, not all Urups speak Urup English!

JONOW

I know. There must be someone you
can find to read it?

Mermit thinks.

MERMIT

True. But we don't know what's in
the box, do we? What if I show this
to a Urup and they wanna know where
I got it from? What then? A lot of
risk on my part!

JONOW

If you don't want to help--

MERMIT

I didn't say I didn't want to help!
(laughs)
But, I do want a share for my risk!

JONOW

Your risk!

Jonow snatches the strip and stuffs it into his pouch.

MERMIT

Okay. Okay. But, I do deserve
something.
(beat)
Let me study that again...

Mermit puts out his hand. Jonow acquiesces.

MERMIT (CONT'D)

The crate must've been pretty heavy
if you wanted my help?

Jonow fiddles in his tackle box.

JONOW

Heavy enough.
(beat)
What the hell!

MERMIT

What?

JONOW

Some of my hooks are missing!

A sheet of lightning flashes.

MERMIT

See that? Guess it won't matter
whether we have hooks or not. What
do you think?

Jonow stands and listens. He examines the cloud pattern and
the low, distant RUMBLING. He turns his attention to the
waves.

JONOW

If we move lee, it'll pass to the
right. We'll be okay.

Mermit seems assured with Jonow's assessment.

MERMIT

What did the crate look like? Big?

Jonow gestures the size.

MERMIT (CONT'D)

That big?

JONOW

And lined with gold!

MERMIT

Gold! Probably from that Urup ship
that sank?

JONOW

Maybe.

Mermit leans in.

MERMIT

What if we find the ship first and
take the Urups to it! Be worth a
lot to them!

JONOW

I don't know. Lead them to it?
Urups are crafty! We'd be lucky to
come away with our heads--and get
nothing for our troubles!

MERMIT

You're right! But, if we take what
we want first, then lead them to
it, what then? We could say that
the rest was lost at sea!

JONOW

We could.
 (beat)
 Do you think you could find an
 interpreter?

MERMIT

I think I can.
 (beat)
 Partners right!

Mermit STRETCHES the crossbow out to Jonow.

MERMIT (CONT'D)

When were you gonna open the chest?

JONOW

Tomorrow, maybe.
 (rejects the crossbow)
 We'll hunt after the storm passes.
 Let's row clear.

Jonow and Mermit row their druas toward calmer waters.

EXT. HIDDEN COVE - DAY

Nobi leads Waloo to the frond-covered coffin.

WALOO

Is this what you wanted to show me?
 Where did this come from?

Nobi RAKES the LEAVES off. Waloo stares at the gilded coffin.

WALOO (CONT'D)

Does anyone else know its here?

Waloo tries to lift the coffin lid. After several attempts he stops. Nobi pushes Waloo aside.

Nobi removes several hooks from a satchel. He kneels at the coffin and PICKS the LOCK!

Nobi PRIES OPEN the LID.

Waloo creeps closer. He and Nobi peer inside.

They see the dismembered BODY OF FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER.

Nobi reaches into the coffin and STRUGGLES to EXTRACT an ENORMOUS YELLOW ARM!

The arm is too heavy--so Nobi lets the LIMB SINK BACK into the casket.

EXT. HIDDEN COVE - LATER

Several men sit around the casket: Waloo, Nobi, BALU (60) Timram's doctor and religious counsellor, THORN (40) an islander and an Englishman and Osus.

LITTERED around the men are fifteen or so EARTHEN-WARE CANNISTERS, some open, others closed or smashed, all contents of the casket. On the ground, loose parchments are PINNED by rocks and branch limbs.

Thorn is holding a parchment. He examines the drawings and traces his finger across the lettering. He puts the sheet down and picks up another.

OSUS
(to Thorn)
I thought you could read Urup?

THORN
I read English. This is not English.
(beat)
May be German, or Dutch or several of any other languages.

Osus marches to the casket and JERKS UP the YELLOW ARM.

OSUS
We should throw it back into the sea!

The others awake from their rapt silence.

WALOO
What then? Let someone else find it? Use it against us? Someone like Timram?

OSUS
Then our warriors fight!

WALOO
We aren't strong enough to fight him! And once he finds out about this and the shipwrecked vessel, he and his warriors will be down on our shores!

BALU
Waloo is right. We can't hide it
from him forever.

All nod agreement and sink back into silence.

WALOO
(to Nobi)
What do you have there?

Nobi has several sets of parchments which he has been copying
from.

Waloo and the others gather around him.

WALOO (CONT'D)
Can I see?

Nobi hands him the set of drawings. Drawings of Polynesian
tattoos: symbols of rays, waves, birds, etc. Waloo shows
another page with symbols of dragons, skulls, and crossbones
copied from the yellow limb. Waloo passes the pages around.
Osus shrugs.

OSUS
So?

WALOO
Its our symbols versus their
symbols.

THORN
A warning! Perhaps, Osus is right.
Maybe we should throw all this back
into the ocean!

Nobi holds a parchment up to the sun, then holds another
underneath the first. Does this several times with different
parchments. The others watch intently.

OSUS
What's he doing?

Waloo sits next to Nobi. He watches closely how ONE PARCHMENT
IMAGE SUPERIMPOSES OVER ANOTHER.

Nobi draws STICK FIGURES at the bottom corners. After several
pages, He thumbs rapidly, creating a FLIP BOOK of a STICK
FIGURE RISING from the COFFIN.

The others share looks, not fully comprehending what Nobi
means. Nobi repeats the flip book action.

OSUS (CONT'D)

This is nonsense! This is what happens when you let him consort with Urups!

In frustration, Nobi goes to the casket. Points inside.

NOBI

I--instructions! M--make alive!

THORN

These are instructions for animating this creature?

OSUS

How do we know if that's what it says?

THORN

We can have it translated.

OSUS

There's no one in our village that can do that!

THORN

Timram's village trades with Europeans--

OSUS

Timram--!

BALU

If Nobi draws us copies. Leaving out certain information...We could have it translated without Timram being the wiser.

THORN

Like a puzzle only we can solve!

OSUS

I don't like it! What if we do bring this thing to life? What then? Look at the size of it! What if it kills us all?

WALOO

Evidently someone wanted it preserved.

(beat)

Its like the fires we build.

(MORE)

WALOO (CONT'D)

We build them to cook our food, to warm our huts, to light our way--we don't build fire to burn down our houses--

OSUS

And yet that's exactly what happens!

WALOO

Not if we take the necessary precautions.

OSUS

The necessary precautions would be not to build it in the first place!

WALOO

You always complain that we are a small tribe, that Timram takes advantage of us every chance he gets, that the Urups only trade with Timram!

OSUS

Yes I do! So?

WALOO

So what if we could even the odds?

OSUS

If I were chief, the odds would be even!

WALOO

But, you're not!

Osus looks at the others. He can't muster a come back, so he sulks to the shoreline.

INT. JONOW'S HUT - NIGHT

Jonow UNBURDENS his gear just outside the hut door, and wipes the sand off his feet. He stands at the door of the hut watching Geera SWEEP.

JONOW

What's wrong?

GEERA

Nothing.

He waits for a moment.

JONOW

Where's Nobi? He took several of my hooks without my knowledge!

GEERA

They're his hooks, too, left him by Jaam.

JONOW

I know. He has every right to them, but he needs to tell me when he's going to take them, so I'm not expecting them out on the ocean when I'm hunting rays.

(pause)

Are you mad that I fell asleep the other night?

(pause)

I've been meaning to tell you I found something--

She continues to sweep and doesn't look up.

GEERA

I know.

JONOW

You know?

GEERA

A huge chest at the hidden cove.

(beat)

Waloo, Nobi, Osus, Timram's doctor, and the English half-breed were out there all day!

JONOW

I was going to wait to tell you once I got it open!

GEERA

Too late--it's opened already.

JONOW

Opened! What did they find?

GEERA

They found the body-parts of a giant.

JONOW

A giant!

Jonow starts to leave.

GEERA

Waloo was here looking for you. He tried to describe the creature to me--but, I wanted to see it for myself--with some village women-- Mira, Shira, Faaj--they want to see it too!

JONOW

Why don't we just invite the whole village down there? We can have the stone lifting and tree climbing contests in front of the casket!

GEERA

Don't be morbid! It'll just be a few of us women--if you want to invite the village men you can!
(beat)
Now that you're home we can go see it!

Geera puts down the broom and walks out. Jonow follows.

EXT. HIDDEN COVE - EVENING

Torches encircle the coffin. FRANK'S BODY LIES next to the coffin where there has been an attempt at ASSEMBLY.

Jonow, Geera, and SEVERAL VILLAGE WOMEN, walk and view the body quietly, as though walking in a museum.

Geera examines the body.

GEERA

Something is missing!

She walks over to the casket and looks in.

GEERA (CONT'D)

Men are as jealous as women!

She REACHES into the casket and PULLS OUT a LARGE, YELLOW PENIS.

GEERA (CONT'D)

No man is complete without this!

The other women come over to Geera, watching her handle the penis.

GEERA (CONT'D)

I think his creator intended for him to have this, despite what the men of this village think!

(to Jonow)

When were you planning to inform the village of this?

JONOW

Well, I hadn't really thought of a time. I thought I'd wait until I heard back from Mermit.

GEERA

Mermit could take weeks--months--to get you an answer and Osus is already agitated for us to do something with this creature!

(beat)

You know when you're indecisive-- Osus jumps right in and starts barking orders!

Jonow looks at the faces of the other women.

JONOW

Okay. We can have the meeting tomorrow night.

GEERA

I think its supposed to storm tomorrow.

JONOW

Well the night after.

Geera gestures toward the body and coffin.

GEERA

What do you plan to do with this?

JONOW

Just leave it here until after the meeting.

GEERA

And have Timram come and get it?

JONOW

Timram? He doesn't know its here!

GEERA

You trust that Englishman Thorn and that witch doctor Balu won't fill Timram's ear?

JONOW

Okay, we'll move it. I'll get some of the men--

GEERA

Its already been arranged. I'm having Waloo and some others move it to Elephant Mountain for safe keeping.

Jonow looks at her.

JONOW

Anything else?

GEERA

No. Except...

JONOW

Except?

GEERA

They want your permission to dig up some of the sailors buried in the jungle and take them up to Elephant Mountain--

JONOW

Jesus! What for?

GEERA

Ask Waloo. He says Nobi needs them for the creature. Also, they will need a few more items from the shipwreck. Here's a list.

She hands him a rolled parchment.

GEERA (CONT'D)

Waloo was only able to retrieve some of the items on the list. But, if you have the men take turns diving in the wreckage, they should be able to get everything.

Jonow shakes his head.

JONOW

They'll never go for that!

GEERA

They'll do whatever their chief
asks them to do! Be firm!

Jonow looks at the faces of the women who nod in agreement.

GEERA (CONT'D)

You may want to hurry, its getting
late, and the storms will be
passing over.

Geera and the women leave. A FAINT, LOW PITCH RUMBLES in the
distance. Jonow listens for a minute before he leaves.

INT. WALOO'S HUT - NIGHT

Jonow stands at the window watching the rain fall. Waloo sits
at the table amusing himself with Nobi's flip book sketches.

WALOO

We may have to wait a few days
before we can start dredging up
that stuff from the wreck.

JONOW

I'm not so sure about all this. The
storms--

Waloo goes to the window.

WALOO

If you read the clouds like I've
shown you--you'll see the storm
gap. We can pull from the wreck
during the gap.

(pause)

Here, I want to show you something.

Waloo gets a stool and pulls down a stack of sketches which
he SPREADS on the TABLE. Jonow comes from the window.

WALOO (CONT'D)

Jaam's sketches. Canoes.
Catamarans. Druas. All. Every
drawing--every construction--I kept--
--even the ones that didn't float!
But look at this! This is a beauty
he never finished.

JONOW

Yeah, I know. Seen it a thousand
times--everyone knows Jaam was a
genius.

WALOO

I didn't get these down to make you jealous.

He holds up a sketch of Jaam's CATAMARAN YACHT.

WALOO (CONT'D)

A sheer masterpiece! Who'd ever thought of using two trap doors and pulleys on a drua!

JONOW

Trap doors?

WALOO

Yes, trap doors! Hunt rays and convey them to the surface with this pulley. One man doing the work of two! Jaam had vision!

(beat)

Bet you can't guess why he wanted to make it?

JONOW

Why?

WALOO

He always envisioned you and he out on the sea together hunting.

(beat)

I was thinking of you and Nobi completing it together.

Jonow lifts up a few sheets and examines them.

EXT. TIMRAM'S VILLAGE - DAY

Nobi approaches the booth of the TWO EUROPEANS. Several TIMRAM VILLAGERS idle about.

EUROPEAN MAN #1

What now boy?

Nobi points to the LARGE BOTTLED MODEL.

EUROPEAN MAN #1 (CONT'D)

Got more shiny beads?

Nobi takes out the SILVER COIN given him by Waloo.

EUROPEAN MAN #1 (CONT'D)

Where'd the hell you get that?

NOBI

D--do you want it or not?

European Man #1 hesitates. Nobi is about to leave.

EUROPEAN MAN #1

Hold on!

He gets the model and hands it to Nobi. Nobi points to several LONG METAL POLES. The European frowns but gets them too. Nobi gives him the coin. Timram's Villagers whisper amongst themselves and quickly leave.

SUPER: A FEW DAYS LATER

EXT. SHORE - EVENING

A line of torches illuminate the shoreline. Jonow and VILLAGE MEN stand at one end of a ROPE hauling up a chest from the water. VILLAGE DIVERS stand in the shallows, guiding the chest ashore.

Behind the tuggers on a cart lie The BODIES of A DOZEN EXHUMED SAILOR CORPSES.

Farther along the beach, a chain of VILLAGE TEENS stack HANDSAWS, SQUARES, AUGURS, BITS, PLANES, BELLOWS, BLADDERS, CLAMPS, VIALS, etc. And heap the instruments in piles along the soft sand.

A BORED TEEN GRABS several TORCHES and SPINS them in a FIRE DANCE.

Other teens stop working and start STOMPING with each SPIN of the torch.

The Village Men watch the Teens dance. The men look at Jonow. Jonow puts down his rope section and walks to the Bored Teen. He takes the torches from the Bored Teen and douses them in the sea.

EXT. ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

Lightning flashes and a moment later a distant rumble. Jonow, Village Men, Village Teens and PACK ANIMALS, emerge from the jungle to the foot of Elephant Mountain.

They PLOD up the mountain PATH.

EXT. ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

At the mountain top, the wind swirls. Waloo is waiting, impatiently. Jonow, the men and pack animals slowly come in sight.

Waloo directs the men to unload the pack animals near a large, partially thatched hut.

JONOW

Hut doesn't look finished!

WALOO

Its the way Nobi wants it done!

JONOW

Where are the dead sailors? I gave orders for them to come earlier.

WALOO

They've already come. Nobi got what he needed from the bodies.

JONOW

Okay. We'll unload here.

(beat)

I don't think we'll make it back to our huts before the storm.

WALOO

You can huddle in my hut during the night.

JONOW

Got enough torches?

Waloo nods.

WALOO

We have everything, now go!

(beat)

Just leave the fiercest tree-climbers! The climbers may come in handy for protection too--if we are successful with the creature!

Jonow nods. He TAPS a few men and gestures for them to stay with Waloo.

INT. WALOO'S HUT - LATER

The storm has increased in ferocity. Jonow, men, and teens huddle together silently, feeling the hut shake under the rage. VILLAGE MAN #1 AND VILLAGE MAN #2 rise and go to the window. They watch the COCONUT TREES LEAN in the wind.

VILLAGE MAN #1
Did you see the size of that creature?

VILLAGE MAN #2
Biggest man I've ever seen!

JONOW
Shh.

The village men share looks, but utter nothing further.

EXT. ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

Waloo and several men BRACE hut SIDE POSTS against the wind. They secure Nobi's CLOTH-COVERED METAL RODS to the posts. THATCHING FLIES everywhere!

LIGHTNING CRACKLES ABOVE the hut FLOOR where the BODY OF FRANK lies.

Nobi continues STITCHING on Frank's body. He SLATHERS a PASTY SUBSTANCE in and around Frank's JOINTS. He CRIMPS METAL BANDS around the stitching and substance. He applies ANOTHER COAT of SUBSTANCE and DOUSES this coat with WATER and WATCHES AS IT HARDENS. He APPLIES BANDAGES and CLAMPS over the metal joints.

With several BLADDERS OF BLOOD, and a BELLOWS, Nobi pumps BLOOD INTO FRANK'S limp body.

Nobi rises and taps Waloo on the shoulder.

WALOO
Now?

Nobi nods.

WALOO (CONT'D)
(to the climbers)
Climb up there and take the cloth off the poles.

The men climb the posts and UNTIE the cloth from the TIPS of the METAL RODS.

LIGHTNING STRIKES the metal rods. ELECTRICITY SHOOTS down the RODS and CRACKLES across Frank's FRAME. THE ELECTRICAL BURSTS THROW several CLIMBERS from their PERCHES.

FLAMES EXPLODE across the MAKESHIFT LAB, and the FIRE ERUPTS along the POLES and ROOF. Waloo GRABS Nobi's arm.

WALOO (CONT'D)
Enough! Let's go!

Waloo, Nobi, and the men SCURRY for COVER as FLAMES engulf the hut.

EXT. ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN - DAY

The storm has passed and soft white clouds adorn a clear blue sky. Jonow and his men return from Waloo's hut. Waloo, Nobi, and several village men stand above the hut's SMOLDERING RUBBLE.

Nobi attempts to DIG Frank OUT. Jonow grabs Nobi's arm. Waloo pats Nobi on the shoulder.

FAAM, (50), a shrivel of a man, RUSHES up to Jonow.

FAAM
Chief, I have a message from
Osus...

Faam looks at the destruction.

FAAM (CONT'D)
What happened here?

JONOW
Faam, the message?

FAAM
The council is convened.

JONOW
Why?

FAAM
Something with Chief Timram.

JONOW
Timram?

The men grumble.

FAAM

Timram heard about a shipwreck and a treasure, and he's awful mad!

VILLAGE MAN #1

What for? It's on our side of the island!

FAAM

I'm just telling you what I know-- no need to get mad at me--I'm just the messenger!

JONOW

Tell the council I'm coming.

FAAM

Thank you, chief.

Faam hurries into the brush. Others take a last look at the ashes and follow Faam.

JONOW

Not sure what we were trying to do...but, we tried.

Jonow turns and follows the others.

EXT. ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN - MOMENTS LATER

Waloo and Nobi squat amid the ash.

WALOO

Well. No need to sit in the dumps. Lets clean this mess up.

Nobi crawls through the ash to Frank's head. He brushes the ash from the great face. He places his LIPS ON FRANK'S LIPS and BLOWS.

Waloo stops picking up the debris and watches Nobi.

EXT. JONOW'S VILLAGE - DAY

At the center of the village, Jonow and several men approach a large ANCESTRAL HUT. At the entrance of the hut are flank two GIANT STONE TOTEMS.

Fifteen to twenty VILLAGE MEN including Osus and Faam, FORM THE TRIBAL COUNCIL, and where they sit (in front of the ancestral hut), is the VILLAGE SQUARE.

Jonow takes the EXALTED SEAT at the head of the CIRCLE of men.

JONOW

Osus?

OSUS

As I feared, chief, wind of the wreck has made it to Timram's ears and he has issued a challenge!

FAAM

He has issued a challenge!

OSUS

Faam, shut up!

(pause)

He wants everything we've taken: the tools, the coffin, the dead sailors, everything!

JONOW

What is the challenge?

OSUS

Timram proposes that their village champion fight our village champion! This will avoid lives being lost in an all out war!

The men look to Jonow but Jonow is silent.

OSUS (CONT'D)

(to Jonow)

For many years I've been the tribe champion for your father, Taanow, and your brother, Jaam--when they were alive--but under you, I don't feel my voice is being heard in the tribe, my advice is only a mere echo in your council, chief--

FAAM

A mere echo!

Jonow looks at Osus and the village men.

JONOW

Your voice is heard and highly valued. Let me hear what you propose.

OSUS

Thank you, chief!

Jonow and the village men sit listening.

INT. JONOW'S HUT - DAY

Nobi stands at the hut door. Geera looks up from her cooking.

GEERA
What is it?

She walks up to him.

GEERA (CONT'D)
What is it? Tell me what's wrong!

He grabs her by the arm and pulls her out the door.

EXT. ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

Nobi pulls Geera up the path. They are running now, and she is out of breath.

GEERA
Please! Slow down!

Nobi lets her arm go, but he is still running. He stops next to Waloo, who is squatting near a burned hut.

GEERA (CONT'D)
Waloo! Are you hurt?

Waloo stands.

WALOO
No, I'm fine.

GEERA
The hut--?

WALOO
Destroyed in the storm! But, here's what Nobi wanted you to see!

Waloo points to Frank, TATTOOED FROM HEAD TO TOE, PROPPED against a coconut tree.

GEERA
Is it...he...alive?

WALOO
Very much so! We were hoping you can stitch him a loin cloth or something?

GEERA
Does he have a name?

NOBI
F-Frank!

She nods, unsure if she can stitch because her hands are trembling.

EXT. JONOW'S VILLAGE - LATER

Jonow is standing and addressing the men.

JONOW
I'm not asking for Osus to fight for me! I'm asking for the men to fight together as a tribe! This is the way it has always been--

OSUS
Always been? Until your father changed it! He chose a champion while he sat on his ass and did nothing--!

JONOW
The ways of Timram are the ways of the Urups!

OSUS
And the way of your father!

JONOW
Keep my father out of this!

OSUS
Or what!

JONOW
I don't need you to fight for me!

OSUS
(scoffs)
So, you're going to take on Timram and Og by yourself?

JONOW
Yes! I will fight for myself!

Geera rushes into the square.

GEERA
Jonow!

JONOW

Geera? What are you doing here?

VILLAGE MAN #1

No women are allowed during the village council!

OSUS

Let her in, maybe she can protect the chief from his stupidity!

GEERA

I need you to come home!

OSUS

Hurry home to your wife's protection--!

Osus stops short as he sees Nobi, Waloo, AND FRANK! Nobi has Frank by the hand and is GUIDING HIM FORWARD.

The men back away letting Nobi and Frank through their ragged circle.

Frank stands facing the men, between the stone statues.

INT. JONOW'S HUT - NIGHT

Jonow and Geera sit opposite each other at dinner. Nobi stitches Frank's thigh, then massages it. Jonow watches.

JONOW

He's too big to stay in here. Maybe he can stay at Waloo's?

GEERA

Nobi won't hear of it!

JONOW

Well, he's not a dog or a pig. We can't leave him out doors in a pen.

GEERA

We can fix up Jaam's old hut.

JONOW

I thought you didn't want anyone in Jaam's hut?

GEERA

During the mourning period--I didn't want anyone in there.

(MORE)

GEERA (CONT'D)

The mourning period is over. It's not a shrine...he can stay there.

Nobi presses bandages over the stitches.

JONOW

Timram knows about the shipwreck and about the coffin. He's sure to find out about this...him! I don't think we can hide him for long.

GEERA

Are you sure Timram knows?

JONOW

Osus thinks we should give the creature to Timram.

GEERA

What does Osus know?

They sit in silence for a moment. Jonow tries to eat his fish.

GEERA (CONT'D)

Ahi better? Not too spicy?

Jonow bites into the ahi.

JONOW

Better. Thanks.

(pause)

The men and I came to an agreement that I should be my own champion tomorrow--against Og.

Nobi stops stitching and looks up. Jonow waits for her to answer, even discourage him. She gets up and takes her bowl to the window.

JONOW (CONT'D)

I know I haven't had a fight since I was seven or eight...and mostly with Jaam!

(laughs)

Did I tell you about the time when Jaam, Dad, Waloo and I got into a coconut fight!

(beat)

Dad and I versus Jaam and Waloo and Dad had me fill a hollow coconut with pig shit and tie it with a hemp cord...

(laughs)

(MORE)

JONOW (CONT'D)

Shit! They never saw it coming!
Jaam popped up from behind a bush
and POW!

(beat)

I think that's the only time I ever
got the best of him in my life!

(pause)

I do miss him! Wish he was
here...and Dad! They'd know what to
do!

Geera comes to him and clears his bowl.

GEERA

Let me take that.

(beat)

I miss them, too. But, you're chief
and you have your own way.

JONOW

I'm just telling you that
tomorrow...Og may--

GEERA

I know.

She sets the bowls down and walks outside.

INT. JAAM'S HUT - DAY

Geera, Frank and Nobi walk inside. Nobi is carrying drawings.
Jonow waits at the door.

GEERA

You coming in?

JONOW

No. I'd rather wait out here.

GEERA

Okay.

Geera takes the drawings from Nobi and puts them in a WOODEN
CHEST.

GEERA (CONT'D)

We'll keep these with your
father's.

Geera walks around the hut.

GEERA (CONT'D)
 (to Frank)
 So what do you think? Would you
 like to stay here for a while?

He walks about the hut. Looks at Nobi. Nods.

JONOW (O.S.)
 Geera!

EXT. JAAM'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Geera finds Jonow behind the hut. He is standing over a
 DEMOLISHED CATAMARAN.

GEERA
 What is it?

JONOW
 Jaam's unfinished yacht is ruined!
 Must've been the storms! I should
 have moved it from under the fale!

GEERA
 Its not your fault, Jonow.

JONOW
 Help me get some of this shit off
 of it!

Jonow and Geera heave away fronds and other debris off the
 wreck.

EXT. JONOW'S HUT - DAY

Jonow stretches. In front of Jonow, Waloo raises his arms in
 a BOXING STANCE. Geera stands at the hut door watching them.

WALOO
 Remember Og's going to charge you--
 what is your counter move?

JONOW
 Side step his charge and jump on
 his back!

WALOO
 Then what?

JONOW
 Choke-hold!

Geera clears her throat.

GEERA

Uh-hum.

(to Jonow)

Did you eat breakfast? You don't want to fight on an empty stomach.

Jonow bounces from foot to foot, keeping his eyes on Waloo.

JONOW

I had a banana and some coconut. Don't want to eat too much.

(to Geera)

Coming to the fight?

GEERA

No.

JONOW

Okay. Wish me luck.

(pause)

Make sure Nobi keeps Frank hidden. If I don't prevail--have him take Frank into the mountains.

(beat)

Don't look so down. I'm pretty scrappy!

She nods as she watches him throw QUICK THRUSTS at Waloo's hands.

EXT. JONOW'S VILLAGE - VILLAGE SQUARE - DAY

Jonow's TRIBE sit opposite TIMRAM'S TRIBE in front of the ancestral house. TIMRAM, (50s), plumed in a TRICORN HAT flanked by his champion, OG, (late 20s), a offish hulk, Balu and Thorn sit near Timram.

Behind Timram's group wait PACK ANIMALS and empty CRATES prepared for the post-fight obvious outcome.

Timram has a SMALL DINNER BELL, which he RINGS to speed-up the FESTIVITIES.

A dozen MALE TRIBAL DANCERS in WAR PAINT RUSH OUT from behind Jonow's group and stop a few yards shy of Timram's group.

The dancers SLAP THEIR THIGHS, STOMP, SHAKE THEIR HEADS and STICK THEIR TONGUES OUT.

MALE TRIBAL DANCERS

*Prepare your feet! Stamp with fury
and gusto! It is death! It is life!
Behold the man who reined in the
sun and so it shines! Arise, arise
to your heights! It is death! It is
life!*

After the dance finishes, Osus raises his hand, and the dancers vacate the ground. Osus CHANTS.

OSUS:

*Where are you, O chiefs? Where are
you, O nobles? Where are you, O
servant people? For the message is
to all, from the highest to the
lowest. Listen, O men, O women, to
the will of Jonow, the great chief
and champion of our people!.*

Jonow steps forward. He does a short version of THE STOMPING DANCE then BOWS to Timram and Og.

Timram returns the bow. He RINGS the BELL.

Og steps into the arena opposite Jonow. Timram rings the bell again and Thorn stands.

THORN

Before the bout, I'd like to take a moment and give thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To the Father. To the Son. And to the Holy Ghost! Oh Lord I ask that the victors be humble in victory, and the vanquished be gracious in defeat. We ask all these blessings in the son's name Jesus Christ, Halleluyah!

Timram nods and Thorn sits. Balu rises.

BALU

To the great god Lono I pray--

Timram rings the bell.

TIMRAM

Balu, I think Lono will understand we only have time to pray to one god right now.

Balu sits. Jonow and Og approach each other in the center of the arena.

Og CROUCHES into a *Hakoko* (sumo) STANCE. The two men SIZE EACH OTHER and CIRCLE. Og CHARGES, quickly KNOCKING Jonow to the GROUND. Jonow ROLLS just out of Og's STOMP. Jonow GRABS Og's LEG and PUSHES him off balance. Og FALLS. Jonow RUSHES BEHIND him, JUMPS on his BACK and WRAPS his ARMS around Og's NECK.

Og STRUGGLES. Og SWINGS from SIDE to SIDE, gaining leverage, until Jonow SLIDES to one side and Og CATCHES him with an ELBOW.

BLOOD GUSHES from Jonow's NOSE and he LOSES HIS GRIP and FALLS to the ground.

Og turns and PLANTS a FIST to the SIDE of Jonow's HEAD, and HAMMERS Jonow to his KNEES with a STRIKE to the TOP of the head.

Jonow LIES on his BACK DAZED. Og STOMPS on Jonow's SHOULDER and RIB CAGE--

Timram TINKLES the BELL several times.

TIMRAM (CONT'D)

Enough, Og! I think he gets the point. Its getting dark and we don't have all day to collect our things.

Og stands by as Jonow's men gather him.

TIMRAM (CONT'D)

Do we have that list?

THORN

Yes, great chief.

Thorn hands Timram the list.

TIMRAM

(reads the list)

All sailors bodies and uniforms from the shipwreck are to be returned to me. All goods returned. All weapons. All tools and machines taken into Elephant Mountain. And especially the CREATURE we've heard so much of--!

As Timram speaks, Nobi leads Frank into the arena between the two tribes.

NOBI
S-Sit Frank!

Frank sits. Jonow lifts his eyes but can't move.

JONOW
No, Nob! Take him back!

Timram rings his bell.

TIMRAM
Good! He's come without a fight.
Chain the creature!

Several of TIMRAM'S MEN creep forward with SHACKLES.

Timram's Men FETTER Frank's ANKLES and WRISTS. They put a RESTRAINT on Frank's neck. Frank stands.

TIMRAM (CONT'D)
Okay. Attach him to the ox cart.

Timram's Men pull the chains but Frank doesn't budge. Several MORE MEN join the TUG-OF-WAR.

TIMRAM (CONT'D)
Og!

Og bounds over, shoos several men away, he YANKS the WRIST CHAINS, and Frank STUMBLES FORWARD. Several men rejoin pulling the chains.

Frank watches the men struggle. After a few moments, Frank appears bored and sits.

Timram gestures to Og. Og shoots across the arena and barrels into Frank.

Frank's expression barely flickers: maybe a ripple of confusion before BACK-HANDING Og. This almost effortless swat LIQUIFIES Og's knees.

Timram TINKLES the BELL.

TIMRAM:
Get up, Og! Attack!

Og grunts up to one knee. Toddler-stands. Reddens. Raises clenched fists. Charges. He HEAD-BUTTS Frank's CHEST, followed by a SERIES of LICKS across Frank's JAW and BICEPS.

He buzzes around Frank, ready to LAND more PUNCHES, when Frank grabs Og's wrist and lifts him a foot off the ground.

In one swift movement, Frank PLOWS Og's arm INTO THE ARENA FLOOR.

Og's EYES and MOUTH WIDEN in PAIN.

Frank TWISTS OG'S ARM until we hear--POP! Visibly, the joint is out of the socket!

Frank raises Og to a FACE-TO-FACE. Og screams.

Frank stares at Og for a moment before TOSSING him aside. Timram's Men scatter. Frank stares at Timram.

Timram drops his bell, backs away, then turns and runs. The remainder of Timram's FOLLOWERS FLEE likewise.

Frank sits in silence.

JONOW'S VILLAGE MEN AND WOMEN slowly gather around Frank.

MIRA (16) a slight but beautiful girl, approaches Nobi.

MIRA
Can I touch him?

Nobi takes her hand and guides it to Frank's thigh.

MIRA (CONT'D)
Does my touching hurt him?

NOBI
I--its fine!

Mira RUBS Frank's THIGH, MASSAGING his STITCHES. She weighs Frank's ankle chain in her hand before UNFETTERING his ankle. Others follow suit and remove Frank's shackles.

She takes the *lei* garland of flowers from around her neck and puts them on Frank.

She sits opposite him. Others in the tribe do the same.

INT. JONOW'S HUT - EVENING

Jonow lies on a cot. He has bandages on his forehead and over his right eye and a rolled cloth blotting his BLOODY NOSE. Nobi sutures above Jonow's left eye.

Geera and Waloo look on, watching Nobi's progress. Frank sleeps in a corner.

JONOW
Had I'd known he'd do that, I
wouldn't have had my skull cracked!

GEERA
Lie still!

WALOO
(whispers to Geera)
We're going to have to do something
about Jonow's shoulder if he wants
to have use of that arm.

GEERA
I know!

Waloo goes to Nobi.

WALOO
Can Frank do this?

Waloo does a twisting gesture.

JONOW
Did you see Timram's face! He'll
think twice about attacking us!

WALOO
Yes, that's what I'm afraid of!
Timram trades with the Urups, he'll
make sure they know Frank is here!
(to Frank)
Stand behind Jonow like this.
(to Jonow)
If I know Timram--he's already
dispatched someone to the Urups!
(gestures to Frank)
Go like this--SKAA-EET!

JONOW
What are you doing?

WALOO
Hold still. He's putting your
shoulder in place.

JONOW
No--!

Frank PULLS Jonow's ARM and SHOULDER into alignment.

JONOW (CONT'D)
OW!

Jonow cradles his arm.

WALOO

Shake your hand. Give it a few minutes. What were you saying about Timram?

Jonow rubs his shoulder.

JONOW

Timram will fight to keep his little power and standing with the Urups!

(beat)

I bet Frank can destroy all of Timram's warriors!

WALOO

I suspect he was protecting himself more than fighting for us!

JONOW

You may be right.

Jonow looks at Frank.

JONOW (CONT'D)

Do you think he understands us?

Geera goes to the window.

GEERA

Here comes Faam! While you were asleep he came by to borrow your drua. I told him no!

Jonow continues massaging his arm.

JONOW

It's fine. I won't be using it for a while.

Faam peeks in.

FAAM

Is the chief awake? Oh, hey, Jonow...I came by earlier...are you doing okay?

Geera abruptly leaves the window and goes to a chair in the corner.

Faam keeps his eyes on Frank.

JONOW

My shoulder is hurting, but, I'm doing better.

FAAM

That's good. Very good. I didn't want to disturb you if you were unwell...

GEERA

(scoffs)

Right!

FAAM

I was hoping...if you weren't using it being that you're laid up...as you know...my canoe leaks...and...I thought that maybe, rather, if I could borrow yours?

JONOW

Sure you can borrow it on one condition.

FAAM

Anything, chief...well...if is something in my power to do!

JONOW

If you could get with Mermit. I believe he has a message for me. And, of course, you'd have to dive for rays!

FAAM

Anything! Of course! Dive for rays! Sure! I mean I'm no half fish like yourself!

Faam goes to the door.

FAAM (CONT'D)

I'll make sure I bring it back in one piece!

GEERA

You'd better!

Faam bows and leaves. Geera gets up and slams the door.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

A WARSHIP bearing Portuguese colors beams along the wide ocean breast.

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Portuguese warship lurks before a string of scattered islands.

INT. SHIP - NIGHT

Onboard lively shadows busy themselves fore and aft.

INT. CROW'S NEST - NIGHT

Sailor plies his eyeglass along the horizon. Small island shapes materialize in the darkness.

Rocky skull of Elephant Rock looms above the mists.

INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

PORTUGUESE CAPTAIN and SEVERAL OFFICERS lean over a map. A lamp trickles light along the map's surface. The Captain's finger runs a course around the irregular patches of islands.

His finger stops and presses several times on one spot of the map (Jonow's island).

The Captain stands. Officers pop to attention. The captain nods. Dismiss. Officers file out of the cabin.

EXT. OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

Faam sits in his drua eclipsed by a small island. He watches the Portuguese warship, then he slowly paddles his drua away undetected.

When he is clear, Faam paddles swiftly.

EXT. JAAM'S HUT - DAY

Frank and Nobi work on Jaam's yacht. Nobi attempts to erect the fore mast which topples. Frank jumps to his aid.

FRANK

Watch out!

Frank lifts the mast, stays, shrouds, etc., Off of Nobi.

NOBI

Y--You can talk!

FRANK

Yes. The feeling finally came in my tongue and jaw.

(pause)

Please, can you tell no one I can speak.

NOBI

W--Why?

FRANK

People scare me. If they knew I could speak--there'd be endless questions--do you know what I mean? I don't want to have to explain anything, okay?

NOBI

I--I--understand. N--Not wanting to t--talk!

Frank looks at Nobi for a while.

FRANK

Let me show you something. In my home country, before I could speak, a good family let me live in their shed. They hid me from the hunters--

NOBI

H--hunters?

FRANK

Hunters.

(beat)

They showed me a special way to communicate.

Frank goes to a tree and PEELS OFF some bark.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Let me see your knife.

Frank takes the knife and CARVES LINES along the BARK in the fashion of a CHECKERBOARD. He continues carving letters in the SQUARES.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 When I could not speak, a farm
 girl, with whom I'd fallen in love,
 taught me this! She was the one
 that hid me in the shed!

Nobi leans over Frank's shoulder as Frank rapidly taps OUT
 WORDS on the board. Frank stops and looks at Nobi's face.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 Understand?

Frank taps out more words with THREE TIMES the SPEED. When
 Frank is finished, Nobi gets up and BRINGS him a HAMMER and
 an AWL.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 Bravo! That's exactly what I wanted
 to the letter!
 (beat)
 I tried this method with a German
 boy your age and he couldn't keep
 up.

NOBI
 W--what happened t-to the girl?

FRANK
 (pause)
 They turned her against me!

Frank becomes silent. Nobi takes the board and knife from
 Frank. Nobi TAPS RAPIDLY. Frank watches and reads. Nobi stops
 and waits for Frank's reply.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 You believe the German boy was too
 afraid of me to do anything?
 (laughs)
 Maybe. I am a bit scary!

Nobi nods. Frank laughs.

INT. JAAM'S HUT - LATER

Nobi idles at his sketches. Geera unloads food from a basket.

GEERA
 I brought you some food. I know how
 when you get on a project you
 forget to eat. I think you're
 spending way too much time here.
 (pause)
 (MORE)

GEERA (CONT'D)
 Why don't you ask your father--
 Jonow--if he'd like to participate?

NOBI
 I--I not. C--calling. H--him. F--
 father!

GEERA
 Okay. You don't have to call him
 father. Just give him a chance.

Nobi rapidly taps on his board. He looks at Geera and waits.

GEERA (CONT'D)
 I'm not coming over there...so,
 you're going to have to tell me
 what you want.

NOBI
 Y--you're m--mean!

Geera takes his board and places it on a shelf.

SUPER: SEVERAL DAYS LATER

INT. JONOW'S HUT - DAY

Jonow lies on his cot. Most of his bandages are off saving
 for a PATCH over ONE EYE.

Frank and Nobi sit across from each other tapping on an
 alphabet checkerboard.

Geera sweeps, but her eyes are on the game between the two.

JONOW
 What's all that tapping--it's
 giving me a headache!

GEERA
 Nobi and Frank are playing a game.

JONOW
 Can they keep it down?

Waloo enters the hut.

WALOO
 Morning, Jonow, how do you feel?
 You're looking better.

JONOW
I have a headache.

WALOO
Faam is back. He wants to see you--

JONOW
Did he wreck my drua?

WALOO
He's brought Osus and a few elders
from the village.

JONOW
Sounds serious. Show them in.

Faam, Osus, and TWO ELDERS enter the hut.

JONOW (CONT'D)
Osus?

OSUS
There is trouble, chief. Faam has
brought grave news...

FAAM
Two mornings ago. Early. Very
early, I think. A little earlier
than when I usually get up...,
because I wanted to do as you
asked, chief, and meet Mermit--

OSUS
Faam! Explain more with less!

FAAM
More with less! Yes. Along where
the island's rise together, between
the two breasts, excuse me Geera--
but that's what we fishermen call
them--the two breasts...where the
water sweats between the two full
mounds--

OSUS
Faam, the point!

FAAM
The point. Yes.
(beat)
I saw it!

JONOW
Saw what?

FAAM:
A Urup warship!

ELDER MAN #1
It's coming to destroy us!

OSUS
Quiet! Chief, what do you think?

JONOW
Are you sure it was a warship?

FAAM
Quite positive, chief.

JONOW
Did you see guns?

FAAM
About a hundred cannon cocked
around it's belly!

JONOW
How close were you?

FAAM
Like I said, I was at one island
breast, between the two nipples--

OSUS
Faam, enough about the breasts!

FAAM
I'm trying to explain my exact
position to the chief!

JONOW
Did anyone see you?

FAAM
No, chief! I waited until the ship
was clear of the islands...I moved
like a whisper: unseen--!

ELDER MAN #1
Unseen my ass! This banana-eater
led them right to us!

OSUS
Stop yammering you old fool!

JONOW
Waloo, what do think?

WALOO

If Timram told them about the shipwreck--the buried sailors--and about Frank, that would explain the warship. As you said, Timram would rather see the island destroyed before giving up his little power!

They all agree.

JONOW

Faam, could you determine its course?

FAAM

From what I could tell--a few days ago--they're headed toward us!

JONOW

Then they'll be here by sunrise, if not sooner!

The men are quiet. Jonow paces.

JONOW (CONT'D)

There's no way we'll be able to protect the village from shelling. Let's take all we can: men, women, children, livestock, food--whatever--into the jungle.

MEN

Thank you, chief!

Faam, Osus, Elder Men leave.

WALOO

What should we do with Frank? If we take him into the jungle--they'll pursue him there!

JONOW

Leave him here?

WALOO

We could take him apart and leave him on the beach--like a peace offering.

JONOW

You mean kill him?

WALOO

I'm not saying kill him. I'm saying leave him as we found him. If they don't take him, we can try and revive him.

JONOW

And if we can't?

Jonow looks at Nobi and Geera.

GEERA

Waloo, you've never made a good decision in your life!

WALOO

I'm just making a suggestion!

GEERA

Yes! A bad one!

WALOO

Aren't you afraid of him?

GEERA

I'm more afraid of you and your stupid ideas!

(beat)

Look how he is with Nobi! Maybe, if you'd been a parent, you'd know how to trust! What to trust!

(beat)

When you bring life in the world you don't just leave it on the beach!

WALOO

Why are you attacking me, Geera?

Waloo looks at Jonow, then leaves.

JONOW

I think you hurt his feelings.

(beat)

You know full well why he can't have children.

GEERA

His scorpion pinching his sac story? So, I have to excuse all his bad decisions?

JONOW

I'm not asking you to excuse him--
I'm asking for some empathy.

GEERA

Everybody wants to tell the chief
how to be chief, until the bad tide
comes, then they all scatter!

JONOW

Waloo may be right. We can hide
him, but we can't protect him. And
if we harbor him, they may kill us.

Jonow peers over to Frank.

JONOW (CONT'D)

My friend, you can stay in Jaam's
hut. But, when you hear cannon
fire, run to the other side of the
island. Understand?

Frank looks at Jonow.

JONOW (CONT'D)

He doesn't understand a word I'm
saying.

(to Geera)

Can you pack my tackle box?

Geera unties the box and PROPS it so Jonow can see all the
HOOKS.

JONOW (CONT'D)

These hooks have given me good luck
on the sea! My father, Taanow, made
them. Jaam and I used to joke that
I was the little hook!

(to Frank)

Here take this one. You're one of
us now!

Geera takes the hook and hands it to Frank. The hook is small
in his hand.

EXT. JAAM'S HUT - NIGHT

Frank stands in the hut alone. He is still holding the hook.
He sets the hook on a SMALL TABLE then goes to the CHEST of
Jaam's DRAWINGS and OPENS it. He looks at several sketches
then carefully places the drawings back in the chest.

EXT. BAY - NIGHT

The WARSHIP LULLS at anchor. LAUGHTER foams from the vessel, and spills along the waves.

INT. WARSHIP - CONTINUOUS

Several sailors mill about JOKING and LAUGHING in PORTUGUESE. The main JOKESTER (20s), slightly tipsy, IMITATES firing a BLUNDERBUSS. A SAILOR PRETENDS to be an island native scratching for cover. The sailor MOCK-FALLS after being hit by IMAGINARY GUN FIRE, he mocks flying through the air and CRASHING to the DECK. The sailor SPRAWLS on the deck, spewing native gibberish before FEIGNING DEATH.

The rest LAUGH HARD NEAR TEARS. ALL SAILORS EXIT saving Jokester, who chuckles by the gunwale.

EXT. BAY - CONTINUOUS

Near the warship Frank's head SURFACES without as much as a RIPPLE.

Frank GRIPS the HULL and CLIMBS.

INT. ONBOARD - NIGHT

Jokester SWINGS a LANTERN nonchalantly. He's HALTED by a MAST in his PATH.

JOKESTER

Que?

He SHINES the LAMP forward to reveal--YELLOW FEET, SHINS, and THIGHS! He raises the lantern. A YELLOW TATTOOED FACE BOWS into the POOL of LIGHT!

FRANK

Tchau!

Jokester SCREAMS and DROPS the lantern!

All is a BLUR: FIRE RUPTURES from the LANTERN and WHISTLES across the deck! QUARTER BELLS SOUND!

SAILORS SCRAMBLE to their STATIONS--and RUSH TO ARMS!

Frank SMASHES any and everything IN SIGHT: YANKING men out of their BOOTS, THROWING THEM OVERBOARD, EXPLODING CARBINE MUZZLES before they FIRE! SNAPPING HARQUEBUSES in HALF, and CRUSHING HANDS still GRIPPING PISTOLS!

SOME men manage to FIRE their GUNS, but Frank evades their GUN-BLASTS by SWINGING on the MAST-RIGGING and CATAPULTING himself like a cannon ball into their MASS.

The DECK is a SMOLDERING, SCORCHED WASTELAND!

Frank SNORTS and catches his breath. For a moment, his is the only BREATH WE HEAR, then we hear the SOUND of SCURRYING below deck.

GUN FIRE BURST from BELOW, MUZZLE BARRELS FLASH--THUNDERING Frank with a SHOWER OF LEAD BALLS.

BLACK FILTH CHOKES the AIR!

Frank PLOWS DOWN a DOZEN SAILORS SNEAKING an ATTACK from the REAR. He STOMPS a sailor THROUGH the PLANKS. Frank YANKS a FELLOW by his COLLAR, VICE-GRIPS the sailor's HEAD BETWEEN his HANDS, and SQUEEZES the head to a BLOODY PULP. BLOOD SPRAYS everywhere--BLINDING all ON-COMERS.

SHIPS BELLS RING ALARM. More SAILORS FLOOD the DECK. MORE FLASHES. MORE STENCH!

Frank CLEARS several sailors with a HAND-SWIPE as he creates an escape path! He GATHERS RIGGING from the FORE AND AFT MASTS, and WRAPS THE CORDS around his forearms. He HEAVES until we hear the SPLINTERING of the WOODEN POLES. The MASTS TOPPLE deck-ward!

INT. BELOW DECK - CONTINUOUS

Frank continues to harry the sailors: He USES the CANNONS to CRUSH the sailors hiding behind them. Then he SNAPS the cannons off their broadside ports and SWIVELS them toward each other and the deck! He takes the cannon ropes and the cannon wicks and KNOTS the LINES TOGETHER.

Frank SNATCHES a LANTERN and SMASHES it against the wicks, until--

HISS! CRACKLE! ROAR! BOOM! The ship COUGHS, SHUDDERS, LEANS, tries to catch its breath--before UPENDING!

The EXPLOSION WINDMILLS MEN through the BREACHED HULL and into the AIR!

The decks are SLICK with BLOOD. A series of Explosions BELCH from the GUN PORTS and RIPPLE through the BELOW DECKS.

Frank gets behind a CANNON and with a RUNNING START SMASHES the cannon through the GUN-PORT and into the SEA, then Frank DIVES into the water through the BREACH.

KA-KA-BOOM! Explosions continue to RACK the warship. DEBRIS SOOTS the air like SNOWFALL. The ship TOTTERS and SINKS.

EXT. JONOW'S VILLAGE - NIGHT

The sky is lurid red. A BLACK PLUME rises like a column into the night.

Villagers PEEK from their HUTS. SOME drop everything and RUN into the JUNGLE.

Jonow heads to the shoreline for a closer look. Other men follow him at a safe distance.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

Waloo stands near the cliff's edge. He pulls out his spyglass and surveys the ocean.

One flash after another after another. Waloo can barely decipher the silhouette of a ship pasted and illuminated on the night canvas. The flashes seem to emanate from that single ship!

He lifts his eyeglass again.

WALOO

(mutters)

Where is the attacker? The other warship?

He brings the glass down. He walks closer to the cliff ledge. Cranes forward. He can only make out a single ship buckling in the gloom.

UNDERWATER - NIGHT

Frank ARRESTS the warships ANCHOR. He SHOULDERS the anchor and PULLS, SWIMMING with all his might, until the ship begins to SWAY. The ship SLOWLY TUGS ALONG behind him.

EXT. SHORE - EARLY MORNING

The TWISTED WARSHIP WOBBLES shore-ward, seemingly under its own power, until we see a SERPENT of CHAIN LINKS EMERGE from the WATER. Finally, Frank WADES from the shallows, a chain on each shoulder, HAULING the MASSIVE VESSEL to the BEACH.

After anchoring the ship, Frank SPLASHES BACK into the surf. He SURFACES at the HULL and starts POUNDING.

From the FRESH HOLE he's made, Frank PLUNGES into the ship below the water line. A moment later, he surfaces with MORE CHAINS, but with AFRICAN MEN, WOMEN and CHILDREN ATTACHED!

Frank CARRIES the soaked victims to shore.

Frank SWIMS BACK to the ship RESCUING MORE VICTIMS.

EXT. SHORE - CONTINUOUS

Cautious villagers gather on the beach and approach the warship site.

Geera follows the crowd as she leads Jonow by the hand.

Nobi catches up to the two, then RUNS AHEAD to where Frank is UNSHACKLING the Africans. Nobi WRAPS his arms AROUND Frank.

Crates line the shore and the shallows. Dead sailors bob among the crates in the surf. Villagers haul the remaining boxes ashore and smash them open. They SPLASH into the surf and begin to strip the dead.

Men and women scamper pass Jonow with their spoils, BOWING to him as they scamper away.

Once the last shackle is broken, Frank leads the AFRICAN MEN to Jonow. The men bow politely and Jonow returns the bow.

EXT. JONOW'S VILLAGE - LATER

In front of the ancestral hut as a BONFIRE SPURTS, DRUNK VILLAGERS STUMBLE from the post VICTORY CELEBRATION. Frank sits before the hut door between the two stone totems facing the fire.

AFRICAN MEN stand GUARD behind Frank (as if he needed their protection)!

Mira--HEAD SHAVEN, PAINTED YELLOW and TATTOOED--sits opposite Frank with her lap full of garlands.

Several SHAVEN GIRLS assist Mira in PUTTING the garlands around FRANK'S NECK.

INT. JONOW'S HUT - NIGHT

Geera slightly snores on her cot. Nobi is asleep on Frank's shoulder. Frank's chin lies tucked on his own chest.

Jonow peers at the sleepers, but can't tell if Frank is asleep.

JONOW
(whispers)
Geera.

GEERA
What?

JONOW
Should I send Frank to Jaam's?

GEERA
I told Nobi--Frank could sleep here tonight.

JONOW
I'm going out for a minute.

GEERA
Okay.

Jonow creeps to his tackle box and takes it outdoors.

EXT. JONOW'S HUT - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Little Jonow (6) sits with Little Jaam (8) in the moonlight, watching their father, TAANOW (30) CARVE a LARGE MAKAU HOOK.

TAANOW
What is this I've made?

JAAM
A hook!

JONOW
A hook!

Father lifts the hook in the air with a flourish.

TAANOW
I've made life!

EXT. JONOW'S HUT - CONTINUOUS (PRESENT)

Jonow holds a SMALL and LARGE HOOK. He weeps.

JONOW
Thank you, Lono, great father, for sending us a deliverer!

Jonow bends and kisses the small hook and gently places both hooks back into the box.

SUPER: WEEKS LATER

EXT. JAAM'S HUT - DAY

Nobi and Frank work on Jaam's yacht. Mira hangs around-- mostly watching Frank.

Frank bench presses a large pole (the yacht's fore mast) and lifts it into place. He does so slowly, showing-off for Mira. Nobi stops planing the timber and watches Mira.

EXT. JONOW'S VILLAGE - DAY

Jonow's village is looking more like a EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT. Light washes over the newly constructed PALISADES where once an open LIP OF GRASS graced the ancestral hut.

It is market day, and Jonow no longer wears a loincloth but is in EUROPEAN TROUSERS, shirt, etc. Geera and Nobi are likewise dressed in EUROPEAN GARB.

BOOTHs are set up in the streets where MEN and WOMEN COMPETE by SCREAMING their WARES.

NEW VILLAGERS enter and exit through the mouth of the village's new-minted, WOODEN GATE.

Aligned near a PALISADE WALL are a SERIES of MILLSTONE STATIONS overseen by Frank and Nobi. BALD YELLOW WOMEN sit at each station. A CROWD gathers to see the demonstrations of wheat and coconuts being ground into flour.

Frank places a LARGE ROD in a hole in the RUNNER (TOP) STONE while a WOMAN pours COCONUT CHIPS into the CENTER TROUGH.

Frank pushes the top stone in a circular motion until a POWDER forms between the lips of the two stones. They repeat the process several times, pouring the powder back through the trough, PULVERIZING and REFINING it.

Nobi takes a handful of flour and lets it run through his fingers. The crowd is awed.

Nearby, MEN compete in a "LIFTING THE LARGEST STONE" contest.

Jonow sits at the TABLE OF HONOR before the ancestral hut. PEOPLE QUEUE in front of Jonow to PAY RESPECTS and ASK FAVORS.

Mermit STANDS in the LINE waiting his turn. Jonow sees him.

JONOW

Mermit, you dog! Get up here!

Mermit pardons his way up the line. He bows when he gets before Jonow.

MERMIT

Great Chief!

Jonow gets up from the platform. The two men walk together.

JONOW

Bet you're starving without me?

MERMIT

I have less to trade without your gifts, Jonow.

JONOW

What brings you here? This is a long way from your usual.

MERMIT

Not so much now. I still trade with the Urups...in Timram's village.

JONOW

Timram's?

(beat)

How long have you been trading on the island?

MERMIT

Several weeks, chief. I've been meaning to come here...

(beat)

So, the rumors are true. About the monster.

JONOW

Yes. But its not like that--he's one of us now.

Mermit pulls Jonow aside.

MERMIT

I wanted to tell you first--the Urups are coming.

JONOW

How do you know this?

MERMIT:

Timram sent a delegation to them.

JONOW

Well, let them come. You heard what he did to the warship? The Urups are the ones who should be afraid!

MERMIT

Yes, they are afraid--that's why they are coming--and in greater numbers!

(beat)

There are three destroyers on their way!

Mermit looks over his shoulder at Frank.

MERMIT (CONT'D)

I am to meet with their captain and tell him what I know--

JONOW

So, you've come to spy on us?

MERMIT

I am sorry, Jonow. I had no choice.

JONOW

I see.

(pause)

When do you sail?

MERMIT

Tomorrow night. I wanted to tell you, so that you can prepare your people.

JONOW

You talk to me of people! I trusted you, Mermit!

MERMIT

I am sorry, Jonow! Please don't have your monster kill me!

Jonow looks back at Frank.

JONOW

No one's going to kill you.

(pause)

Well, I bet you'd like to see Waloo before you go.

MERMIT

Thank you, chief, I would like that very much.

The two walk together in silence and stop at the millstone stations.

JONOW

Nobi, come with us to see Waloo.

(beat)

Maybe Waloo will listen to you and come down from the mountain.

Nobi brushes the grain from his hands and follows Jonow and Mermit through the gate.

INT. WALOO'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Waloo pours a fruit and coconut concoction into GOURD BOWLS. He passes the bowls to Jonow, Mermit, and Nobi, but Nobi refuses.

MERMIT

In that case.

Mermit pulls out a small FLASK and pours RUM into each bowl.

MERMIT (CONT'D)

Sweeten it up a bit.

Jonow sips.

JONOW

We came to convince you to stop being a recluse and come join the festivities.

(beat)

We even brought Nobi to help you change your mind!

WALOO

I'm good here. You don't need an old man spoiling everyone's fun.

(beat)

Geera was right: I'm bad at decisions.

JONOW

You know she didn't mean that!

WALOO

She did. And she was right!

(pause)

(MORE)

WALOO (CONT'D)

I told you why I resigned the chiefhood and gave it to your father?

JONOW

Many times.

MERMIT

Why did you?

WALOO

I wasn't a very good chief!

(laughs)

I was chief of the whole island--before his father--even before Timram!

MERMIT

The whole island?

Waloo sets down his bowl.

WALOO

I'm blamed for befriending Captain Cook! I don't mean I was the only one. We had a league then.

(pause)

We canoed from miles around to Kealakekua Bay!

MERMIT

I think I've heard this story!

JONOW

You got him started--let him finish!

WALOO

I never thought Cook was the return of the god Lono! Never did! I thought he was just a man...

(pause)

But with all the excitement--with all the correlations the people made--I just kept my mouth shut!

(pause)

Anyway, you know what happened to James Cook!

MERMIT

Yes, I do!

He fills his bowl again.

WALOO

I was to wishy-washy to be a good chief! Good chiefs know when to speak up and when to be silent!

(pause)

Seems I have a knack for bad ideas!

He picks up the bowl and drinks.

WALOO (CONT'D)

Got any more sweetener?

Mermit pours rum into Waloo's gourd.

WALOO (CONT'D)

Maybe if I hadn't let the monster in, in the first place!

JONOW

You're too hard on yourself! You couldn't have stopped the Urups from coming--They would have come anyway!

Waloo takes a long drink from his bowl. He holds back tears.

WALOO

How did I fail you! How did I fail my people!

JONOW

Waloo!

MERMIT

You haven't failed!

WALOO

Maybe if I had children like Geera said! To be a good chief you need to be a father! Ability to watch over life! See it grow!

(to Mermit)

Did I ever tell you why I never had children?

(weeps)

When I was young a scorpion bit me in my sac--

JONOW

Waloo, that's enough--he doesn't need to hear the scorpion story!

MERMIT

He's right, Waloo--I think you'll cheer up if you come down to the village and see all the wonderful things their doing!

WALOO

Things that are destroying my people! Destroying our ways! No, thank you! I've sworn never to return!

JONOW

Waloo don't say that--!

WALOO

And every time I see that creature-- that abomination--I see James Cook's face--and I want to kill it!

Nobi jumps up. ANGER and ALARM are in his EYES. He stamps to Waloo and knocks the BOWL out of his HAND then STORMS from the hut.

JONOW

Nobi! Apologize to Waloo!

WALOO

No, let him go! He thinks the creature is some type of pet!

(pause)

He's right about one thing--that I shouldn't contemplate murder!

JONOW

(to Mermit)

I'll be right back! Can you console him?

Jonow bolts out the door.

EXT. JAAM'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Jonow runs to the door of Jaam's hut--but stops at the threshold.

JONOW

Nobi, I saw you run in there! Can we talk?

(pause)

Waloo didn't mean he'd kill Frank-- he was just upset!

Mira comes out of the hut.

JONOW (CONT'D)

Mira?

She is followed by several BALD YELLOW WOMEN. Frank DUCKS through the threshold behind them.

JONOW (CONT'D)

Frank, I'm looking for Nobi--have you seen him?

Frank steps aside so that Nobi can pass. The women step aside also. Nobi stands at the door.

JONOW (CONT'D)

(to Frank)

Thank you. Nobi, lets go home.

Jonow turns and walks away, he looks over his shoulder but no Nobi.

EXT. JAAM'S HUT - LATER

A large plank used as a massage table lies next to Jaam's yacht. Frank lies on the table face down as YOUNG VILLAGE WOMEN, including Mira, CARESS his BODY with OIL and MEND his STITCHES.

Nobi stands at the hut door watching.

INT. JAAM'S HUT - EVENING

Nobi sits at a table finishing the last touches of his replica. Mira enters.

MIRA

Where's Frank? During his massage, I saw some stitches that need mending.

NOBI

He's r--resting.

He gets up. She goes to leave.

NOBI (CONT'D)

S--stop!

(pause)

I--I have something for you.

MIRA
I...have to get back...and help my
mother...

Nobi lifts the replica of Jaam's yacht. He puts it in her hands.

MIRA (CONT'D)
It's beautiful.

NOBI
I--I made it for you!

MIRA
I can't accept this...

She places it on the table. Nobi picks it up and puts it back in her hands. Mira looks into his face knowing what he's going to say--

NOBI
I--I--love--

MIRA
Don't say that!
(pause)
I like you a lot. I think you're
the smartest boy I've ever known.
(beat)
But I don't...we're not...I mean I
like you...but I'm not attracted to
you that way!

She pushes the replica to the table and runs out.

INT. JAAM'S HUT - NIGHT

Frank brings Nobi a bowl of fish. Frank sits opposite watching Nobi eat in silence.

FRANK
Waloo kill me? Why? Because of
Captain Cook and some traditions?
(beat)
When he dies, the world will be
better off--and all such old fools
like him!
(pause)
What's wrong?

Nobi doesn't reply. After a moment, Frank picks up the alphabet board and starts TAPPING.

NOBI
I--I heard you!

Frank stops tapping.

FRANK
Is it Mira? I can give her to you.

NOBI
I--I don't w--want her!

FRANK
(laughs)
Of course you do! I see the way you
look at her!

Frank studies him for a moment. Then he gets up and gathers several drawings from a stack in the corner. He SPREADS the DRAWINGS across the table.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Look.
(beat)
My creator thought he was the only
animator! The only god! But, you
figured it out! You know what that
means?
(beat)
No one on the island ever has to
die again! Or better, if they die,
and we want them back, we can
resurrect them--you and I!

Nobi stops chewing.

FRANK (CONT'D)
--And if I need a mate--not now, of
course--but, in the future--I'll
need a few volunteers.
(pause)
There'll need to be a sacrifice or
two--I'd need someone fresh--
someone young!

Frank paces the hut.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Like the fresh young sailors you
and Waloo dug up. The ones you used
to revive me in the mountain--they
had the best bodies...

He looks at Nobi.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 Not like the old criminal bodies my
 master used! Young female
 volunteers!

Nobi gets the alphabet board and stands in front of Frank.
 Nobi begins tapping as he watches.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 Why do you need the African men?

Nobi TAPS a PHRASE and sits.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 Okay, I'll tell them to do whatever
 you want.

Nobi puts down the board.

INT. JAAM'S HUT - LATER

Nobi has the Africans DISMANTLE Jaam's DRUA and PLACE it on
 OXEN CARTS.

Frank stands at the hut door looking on.

EXT. JONOW'S HUT - DAY

Nobi guides the Africans and the oxen carts full of TIMBER,
 CROSSBEAMS, HULL, CANVAS, CHAINS, ROPE, etc. They begin to
 unload the items behind the hut.

Jonow and Geera watch from the hut door.

GEERA
 What's all this?

JONOW
 Looks like Jaam's drua.

GEERA
 What does it mean?

Jonow shrugs then helps Nobi and the laborers unload.

EXT. WALOO'S HUT - NIGHT

Waloo lies drunk on the floor. Mermitt paces.

MERMIT
 What's keeping Jonow?

Mermit walks to the door. Takes a long look into the jungle.

MERMIT (CONT'D)
Jungle's a little quiet, don't you think?

WALOO
(grumbles)
Quiet.

MERMIT
Someone's out there!

Mermit GRABS a TORCH.

EXT. WALOO'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Mermit takes a few steps outside.

MERMIT
Who's there?

He RAISES the torch.

MERMIT (CONT'D)
I know someone's out here!

Mira and HALF A DOZEN YELLOW VILLAGERS stand in the shadows of the BUSH.

Mira steps forward.

MERMIT (CONT'D)
Who are you?

MIRA
Mira.

MERMIT
Mira? Okay, Mira. I have to leave.
Waloo is...um...sick!
(pause)
If Jonow--the chief--should return--
tell him that...I had to leave...

Mira doesn't reply.

Mermit steps into the hut for a moment.

MERMIT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Waloo, Jonow will be here shortly.

He steps back outside. The GANG OF YELLOW PEOPLE has now formed at Mira's back.

Mermit stares at them for a moment before backing his way into the jungle.

EXT. SHORE - NIGHT

Mermit completes loading his catamaran. He presses the vessel into the shallows and jumps aboard.

EXT. SEA - CONTINUOUS

Mermit's catamaran catches wind--stars flush by--and a lone island seems to rise from the sea. He nears Maaj's shrine.

MERMIT

Making good time!

He slows the vessel and weighs anchor. He stands in the boat watching the open sea.

MERMIT (CONT'D)

Where are they?

He peers at the horizon.

MERMIT'S CATAMARAN - LATER

Mermit nervously counts coins. Looks up. Loses count. Counts again.

Mermit stops counting. Stands. Listens.

A heavy "V"-SHAPED WATER WAKE bee-lines towards his craft.

Mermit watches as the WAVE STREAMS CLOSER. He reaches down and GRIPS his HARPOON.

The wake ceases. The water becomes still and calm. Silence.

Mermit stands for a moment. He searches across the water with his eyes. Tightens his grip on the spear. He lifts the spear.

Nothing moves. He lowers the spear.

He sits and counts nervously.

Then a LARGE SHADOW (Frank's) blankets the bow of Mermit's drua. The shadow blots out the moonlight.

Mermit slowly turns toward the eclipse. His face freezes.

EXT. SEA - LATER

A LARGE WARSHIP appears on the horizon and approaches Maaj's shrine.

FLOTSAM FLOATS about the ship.

SAILORS lower a LIFE BOAT into the water and PADDLE in circles for a moment. WRECKAGE swirls in the water.

A DECK SAILOR leans over the gunwale.

DECK SAILOR
What is it? Anything?

Sailor in the life boat lifts up a TWISTED CATAMARAN HULL.

EXT. JONOW'S HUT - EVENING

Jonow and Nobi are on the deck of Jaam's yacht, though the yacht is unfinished, it looms large and beautiful.

Geera comes out of the hut and admires it and the men working on it.

GEERA
Hate to stop you, but its dinner time.

Jonow wipes sweat from his brow. He grabs Nobi by the shoulders.

JONOW
Look at it! Its coming together-- better than even Jaam could've imagined!

Nobi looks at Jonow for a moment.

JONOW (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, I didn't mean it that way.

Nobi climbs off the boat as Jonow looks after him.

INT. JONOW'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Jonow sits on his mat with an empty bowl. Nobi dozes on his mat. Geera collects Nobi's bowl and comes to Jonow.

GEERA

More?

JONOW

No. I'm stuffed!

(beat)

But, I could use a shoulder rub.

Geera puts down the bowls. She rubs his shoulders. He grimaces.

GEERA

Softer?

JONOW

No that's fine. A little lower!
There!

(beat)

It's a beautiful yacht!

(pause)

Jaam made it look so easy! Canoes,
catamarans, druas, outriggers--you
name it--he built it! He had a
gift!

Geera continues to rub his shoulders.

GEERA

A gift.

JONOW

Owe! Taller, funnier, handsomer!

GEERA

Too hard?

(beat)

Yes, Jaam was better looking than
you...

(pause)

That's why I can't figure out why I
loved you more!

He turns to her. She stops rubbing his shoulders.

JONOW

You loved me more?

She looks over at Nobi. He is still asleep. She sits beside Jonow.

GEERA

From the beginning!

(pause)

(MORE)

GEERA (CONT'D)

Maybe it was because you looked so small and helpless. So pathetic! Like a little brother I could take care of. And you had googly eyes for Maaj--not for me!

(pause)

I know you love her still. I know you go out to the shrine every chance you get...

JONOW

You know?

GEERA

I've known all along!

(beat)

And one day--when this is all over--you're going to look at me--not as your brother's wife...but, as...something more...

Jonow looks at her profile. She doesn't return his gaze.

INT. JAAM'S DRUA - LATER

Jonow walks the deck. He tosses a small rock up in the air. Catches it. Sits alone playing catch.

Jonow finds a LARGE CHAIN and THREE LARGE ROCKS and PLACES them near the TRAP DOOR. He threads a rope through several chain-links creating a NOOSE.

He slips his foot into the noose. Hard-jerks the chain. The noose SNAPS around his ANKLE.

Good. He takes his foot out of the noose. He hefts one of the rocks then nooses it with the rope. He puts the rock on the trap door and flings the lever.

Jonow sits. He takes out a HOOK, turns it, and PLACES it under the PLANK-SEAT.

JONOW

For luck!

Nobi stands beside the yacht with the alphabet board in hand, but Jonow doesn't notice.

The rock drops swiftly, yanking the chain with it. He reels up the chain. Repeats the process with a larger rock. Same result.

Jonow examines the rocks. Not heavy enough. Plops them overboard. He puts the chain and rope under a blanket.

JONOW (CONT'D)
(mutters)
Need much heavier rocks.

Jonow looks up and sees Nobi. He puts out his hand.

JONOW (CONT'D)
Let me help you up. I thought you were still asleep?

He pulls Nobi into the yacht.

JONOW (CONT'D)
Just testing the trap doors. All we have to do is test if the yacht's seaworthy! But, I guess you can examine it for yourself.
(pause)
I'm...I mean--your father--would be extremely proud!

The two sit in an awkward silence. Nobi taps on the board.

JONOW (CONT'D)
Nobi, I don't feel like reading--if that's okay with you.

Nobi stops tapping.

NOBI
Y--you taking Frank to s--sea?

JONOW
Yes, if he'll go.

Jonow climbs down from the yacht.

NOBI
I--I don't think you're an i--idiot.

JONOW
Well. That's good to hear!

Jonow smiles at him and leaves.

EXT. JONOW'S VILLAGE - DAY

Jonow watches several YELLOW WOMEN GRIND at the STATIONS. He watches the upper millstone turn above the lower one.

EXT. JAAM'S HUT - EVENING

Frank prepares for his massage. Nobi has a bowl and is stirring.

FRANK
How's the father and son bonding
going?

Nobi remains silent.

FRANK (CONT'D)
I'm glad to see you've come back to
the fold.
(beat)
What do you have there?

Nobi continues stirring. Frank comes over and looks into the bowl.

FRANK (CONT'D)
New paste? Good. My joints need a
little care...

He points to various spots on his body. Mira enters. Frank smiles at Nobi.

FRANK (CONT'D)
I brought an eager volunteer!

MIRA
Is it ready?

Nobi nods. Mira takes the bowl from his hand.

MIRA (CONT'D)
(to Frank)
Hurry the girls are waiting!

She leaves. Frank looks at Nobi and raises his eyebrows. Frank walks out.

EXT. JAAM'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Nobi INSTRUCTS Mira and several YELLOW WOMEN on COATING Frank's BODY with the NEW PASTE.

INT. JONOW'S HUT - EVENING

A KNOCK at the door. Geera and Jonow share a look. Jonow goes to the door where Thorn and Balu stand.

JONOW
Come in, Thorn and Balu.

THORN
I hope we weren't disturbing you,
chief.

JONOW
Have a seat. Have you eaten?

BALU
Thank you, yes, chief we have
eaten.

The two men stand at the door failing to enter.

THORN
Tell him!

BALU
I will--don't rush me!

JONOW
What is it?

BALU
Mermit--!

THORN
Mermit is missing--he was to return
two days ago!

JONOW
Well, he's gone missing before,
sometimes he navigates farther
south--

THORN
He was to meet the Urup ship
several nights ago and report back
to Timram--they found--

BALU
Urups found pieces of a catamaran
completely destroyed and no Mermit--

THORN
Timram sent new messengers to the
warships to come with all speed.

JONOW
Timram sent you to tell me this?

Balu and Thorn hesitate.

BALU
No, chief, we came on our own!

JONOW
Timram has no idea you're here?

THORN
Timram needs your help--but he is too proud to ask himself!

BALU
He fears his own people, chief: those Yellow Worshippers have spread throughout his village!
(beat)
Timram sent for the Urups not to revenge himself on you--but to protect himself from his people!

Jonow looks at Geera. He sits.

JONOW
I'm not sure what you want me to do.

BALU
Send your fastest canoes to intercept the messengers, that way we can avert the warships--!

JONOW
I'm not sure what good that will do. Timram's messengers must have at least a day's head start!

THORN
Well then, we'll need to smuggle Timram from his village--the longer he stays--the greater the incitement!

BALU
And we'll need to warn the surrounding islands of what is going on!

JONOW
They won't understand--

BALU
We must make them understand!

Jonow nods.

JONOW

I will need to take counsel.
 (beat)
 Have you a bed for the night?

BALU

We'd better return before our
 absence is missed.

JONOW

Very well. I will send my answer
 tomorrow.

BALU

Thank you, chief!

THORN

Thank you, chief!

The two men depart.

GEERA

What will you do?

JONOW

I fear that if we convened an
 assembly--There'd be too much
 squabbling and confusion!
 (beat)
 I will gather Osus, Faam, and some
 of the elders to Waloo's hut--we'll
 counsel there.
 (beat)
 If what Balu and Thorn say is true,
 worshippers may become alarmed if
 we start gathering.

The two are silent for a moment. Geera picks up a bowl and
 covers it.

GEERA

You go to Waloo's and I'll go to
 Osus with a dish. I'll have Osus
 gather the elders and they can meet
 you at Waloo's.

Geera rushes out of the hut.

INT. WALOO'S HUT - NIGHT

Jonow sits across from Waloo who is lying weakly on his mat.

JONOW

Mermit is likely dead. Timram is fleeing his people. I'm bringing counsellors here so we can plan what happens when the Urups arrive!

(beat)

Christ! I wish I'd never found that coffin!

WALOO

You didn't know. If we knew a lot of things, we wouldn't have done them. What is done, is done, and cannot be undone.

Jonow looks down at Waloo.

JONOW

You look tired. Should I have the meeting elsewhere?

WALOO

No, here is fine.

(beat)

Just need to catch my breath. Take a little nap. And I'll raise with the strength of Lono.

JONOW

Sure, old man! Strength of Lono!

Waloo quickly slumbers. Jonow pulls a blanket over him. Geera enters.

GEERA

I couldn't find Osus or Faam!

JONOW

Shh. Let him sleep.

GEERA

(whispers)

I couldn't find Osus or Faam!

JONOW

(whispers)

What about the others?

GEERA

(whispers)

I didn't stop for them! I thought if Timram is in danger, you could be too!

A steady TAPPING comes from outside. Jonow and Geera share a look. Jonow gets up.

GEERA (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Don't go out there!

Jonow looks at her, walks out.

EXT. WALOO'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Mira sits a few yards away CHUCKING SMALL ROCKS at the hut. Jonow walks toward her. Geera stands in the doorway.

MIRA
There will be no meeting tonight!

JONOW
What do you know of a meeting?

MIRA
I know your two Timram friends
won't be returning!

Jonow glares at Mira then turns to Geera.

JONOW
Watch over Waloo until I return.
(beat)
Hand me one of Waloo's spears.

Geera returns with a spear. He takes it and glares at Mira. Jonow peers into the darkness and becomes aware of YELLOW BODIES TAKING SHAPE in the FOREST.

JONOW (CONT'D)
(to Geera sotto voce)
I need to go to Timram's.
(beat)
Will you be okay?

GEERA
I'll spear anyone who comes near
this hut.

JONOW
Good!

Jonow backs his way into the brush.

WALOO (CONT'D)

I will tell the chiefs no Urups on
the islands! Tell Urups to go home!

GEERA

Lie down. Rest. I'll get you some
water!

Geera rolls a soft mat and places it under Waloo's head.

EXT. WALOO'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Geera walks to the door and looks into the jungle. Mira is gone. Geera walks over to the bucket of water and dips water into a bowl with a gourd.

INT. WALOO'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Geera cups the bowl and returns it to Waloo.

GEERA

Here is your water...

She looks at him, but, Waloo doesn't move.

EXT. JONOW'S VILLAGE - NIGHT

Frank sits in front of the ancestral house flanked by AFRICAN GUARDS. A BONFIRE blooms before them. SUPPLICANTS, an AUDIENCE of YELLOW PEOPLE including Mira, sit opposite Frank awaiting his orders.

Frank raises his hand and the Yellow People give a GREAT SHOUT.

EXT. TIMRAM'S VILLAGE - CONTINUOUS

FLAMES LEAP from NUMEROUS HUTS and uncontrollable fires RACE through the streets. From above, roofs sigh ash and embers FILL THE SKY.

Clothing SMOLDERS. CHARRED CORPSES line SOOT-FILLED ROADS.

Jonow, unseen, chokes his way through the scorched streets behind CRUMBLING HUTS.

INT. THORN'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

Jonow creeps into Thorn's hut. Thorn's hut is barely damaged. Inside the hut is PITCH DARKNESS.

JONOW
 (whispers)
 Thorn? Balu? You there?

Jonow WRAPS a TREE LIMB with cloth. He IGNITES IT and enters the house.

Jonow inches into the hut with the torch. He tips through pools of darkness, feebly lighting where he can.

JONOW (CONT'D)
 Balu?

He trips on something in the darkness and SWEEPS the torch ACROSS his PATH. He's tripped on a CRUSHED SKULL!

The torch SPUTTERS and GOES OUT. Jonow backs his way out of the hut and into the street.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Two YELLOW MEN, in a drunken embrace, prop each other against the neighboring hut.

Yellow Man #1 pushes off his friend and TOTTERS before Jonow.

YELLOW MAN #1
 Where'd you come from, stranger?

JONOW
 There's a dead man in there...maybe
two--!

YELLOW MAN #1
 I'm sorry for your loss, stranger!

JONOW
 I'm no stranger--I'm Chief Jonow!

YELLOW MAN #1
 Chief Jonow!

The man HUGS Jonow. Jonow tries to free himself. Yellow Man #1 puts his forehead on Jonow's.

YELLOW MAN #1 (CONT'D)
 Chief Jonow should know better than
 to conspire with traitors!

JONOW:
 Traitors? Balu was Timram's loyal
 physician! And Thorn was his
 trusted advisor!

YELLOW MAN #1
 Traitors! All!
 (beat)
 I'm saying Thorn, Balu, and Timram--
 all of them--sold us out!

YELLOW MAN #2
 Right! And its your lucky night--
 because all night we're rounding up
 traitors...like you!

JONOW:
 Let me go--!

Yellow Man #1 pins Jonow's arms behind his back while Yellow Man #2 PLASTERS Jonow's JAW with a SUCKER PUNCH. Jonow SLUMPS to his KNEES.

Yellow Man #2 STANDS Jonow up, so Yellow Man #1 can take a turn. Yellow Man #1 PLOWS a BLOW below the mid-section and Jonow TOPPLES AGAIN.

Yellow Man #2 PULLS a KNIFE.

YELLOW MAN #2:
 I'll gut you!

Yellow Man #1 grabs Yellow Man #2's hand--

YELLOW MAN #1:
 Remember what the giant said about
 this one--!

YELLOW MAN #2:
 What if my knife accidentally slips
 under his ribs--!

As they tussle, Jonow staggers-up and runs.

The men trade looks. Yellow Man #2 snatches up his spear and gives chase.

INT. JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS

Jonow slides down an embankment and into large, leafy fronds. He lies catching his breath.

The Yellow Men rush by. Halt. Peer into the jungle.

A spear ZINGS inches from Jonow's ear. Jonow leaps up and grabs Yellow Man #2 and shoves him into Yellow Man #1.

Jonow zigzags through the brush.

The Yellow Men recover and pursue.

Jonow sprints then stops. He reaches down and snatches a handful of rocks. He stuffs the rocks in his mouth and climbs a tree.

The Yellow Men stop and listen, they walk beneath Jonow's tree, but they are unaware he is above.

He gobs the rocks into his hand and chucks them as far as he can.

Yellow Men rush toward the sound and Jonow scurries down the tree and runs in the opposite direction.

The Yellow Men realize their mistake and double-back. Jonow accidentally runs into his pursuers.

YELLOW MAN #1
Here you are, little man!

Yellow Man #1 tackles Jonow. The two men furiously beat him until FRANK APPEARS.

Frank throws Yellow Man #1 into a tree where he SLUMPS and doesn't RISE. Yellow Man #2 screams and flees, but Frank GRABS him by the ANKLE, LIFTING him above his head and SNAPPING Yellow Man #2's BACK over his KNEE!

Frank takes an unconscious Jonow in his arms and CARRIES him out of the JUNGLE.

INT. JONOW'S HUT - NIGHT

Frank carries Jonow through the door. Geera drops bowls, utensils, etc.

GEERA
Oh, my god! Lie him here!

Frank delicately places Jonow on a mat. Geera lies over Jonow--she listens to his heart and feels his breath.

GEERA (CONT'D)
He's alive!

Jonow opens his eyes.

JONOW
(weakly)
Geera!

She laughs. She kisses his forehead.

GEERA
You look terrible.

He nods.

JONOW
Have Nobi take Frank out.

Geera goes to Nobi.

GEERA
Please, take Frank out.

Nobi takes Frank by the hand and leads him out of the hut.
Geera goes back to Jonow's side.

JONOW
Two Yellow Men tried to kill me.
And Frank...you should've seen the
way he murdered those men!

GEERA
He saved your life!

JONOW
I know, but listen...
(beat)
I just came from Timram's village--
flames are everywhere! Thorn and
Balu have been assassinated! The
people are mad and it's all Frank's
fault!
(beat)
I'd better warn Waloo!

Geera grabs his arm.

JONOW (CONT'D)
What's the matter?

GEERA
Waloo is dead, Jonow.

JONOW
He told me he just needed a little
rest! He said he'd rise with the
strength of Lono!

GEERA
He didn't rise! He died in his
sleep.
(pause)
He called me Maaj.

Jonow motions her close.

JONOW

The longer he is here, the more people will die.

GEERA

What will you do?

JONOW

I will take him back where I found him.

(beat)

Waloo, was right. The men who made him never meant for us to find him.

GEERA

So we murder him?

JONOW

It's not murder. He is not one of us--!

GEERA

So, that makes it right, Jonow?

JONOW

Why are you defending him!

Jonow coughs. A trickle of SPITTLE and BLOOD forms at the corner of his LIPS.

JONOW (CONT'D)

I've been thinking: If I can get him on Jaam's boat and out to sea...

Geera gets up. She goes to the door, then gets a small, wet cloth and wipes Jonow's mouth.

GEERA

(whispers)

He'll kill you!

JONOW

My life matters little now--!

GEERA

Don't say that! We've lost so much already!

JONOW

I see no other way!

GEERA

There has to be another way! Send
Osus! He wants to be chief...let
him be chief!

Jonow leans back, he turns his face to the wall.

JONOW

You'd think in such a small place
there'd only be small problems! Its
easy to be chief when there are
small problems!

(pause)

I can't quit now!

GEERA

Waloo did it!

JONOW

Waloo did it!

(beat)

But, that's what made Waloo a good
man but a terrible chief!

Geera stands up.

GEERA

You lie there feeling sorry for
yourself! Big chief dies for his
people! Big sacrifice!

(beat)

What is this place anyway! A little
island in the middle of nowhere!

(beat)

I'm not losing another husband--!

Jonow sits up.

JONOW

I'm sorry you feel that way!

Geera throws down the rag.

GEERA

You think you know how Jaam died!
Well, you don't!

JONOW

Geera--!

GEERA

Drowned? That's what everyone knows--
-what everyone believes!

(beat)

(MORE)

GEERA (CONT'D)

But, I know the truth! Jaam died of shame! Because he and Maaj were on the boat--together...They...they--!

JONOW

Please, no more!

(beat)

I'm not trying to be Jaam. Jaam has run his course--I have to run mine...

(pause)

I'm hoping to stay alive long enough to reach our brothers on the other islands.

She is silent for a moment. Jonow lies back. Nobi enters alarmed at the yelling. Frank follows Nobi in.

JONOW (CONT'D)

(to Geera)

Jaam was a great man. Even great men make mistakes...as do small men. I know I am a small man, but I have to do my heart.

(to Nobi)

Can I borrow the yacht? Thorn and Balu told me that the other islands would love for us to show them all the innovations we've made on our island. I want to take the yacht and show them. Can I with your permission?

Nobi nods.

JONOW (CONT'D)

Frank, I want to take several milling stations to our neighbors. Can you and the Africans gather all the items we need?

Frank bows and leaves.

JONOW (CONT'D)

If I can get Frank from the island. You, Osus and the others can get our people to another island away from the worshippers and out of reach of the warships.

GEERA

I don't like that idea--

Faam rushes in.

FAAM
 Pardon me chief, but we need you!

Faam runs out. Geera follows with Jonow LIMPING BEHIND.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Along the beach all CANOES, DRUAS, CATAMARANS BLAZE in the NIGHT. VILLAGERS vainly try to DOUSE the FLAMES.

Jonow, Geera, and Faam watch helplessly.

JONOW
 Faam, have Osus gather the
 remainder of our people to the
 mountains!

Faam DARTS off.

EXT. SHORE - LATER

Jonow walks alongside African Men guiding carts laden with several millstone stations.

INT. JAAM'S DRUA - DAY

The yacht is moored in the shallows. Frank, surrounded by YELLOW WORSHIPPERS, accepts gifts, garlands, kisses, etc., as African Men load the milling devices fore and aft. Jonow climbs aboard. When the Africans finish loading, Frank embarks also.

INT. WALOO'S HUT - NIGHT

Geera enters the hut. She grabs a stool and reaches up where Waloo keeps SKETCHES. When she HEARS FOOTSTEPS, she jumps down and BOLTS the DOOR.

Several YELLOW MEN BREAK IN and SHOVE Geera to the ground. Mira enters followed by several AFRICAN GUARDS. Mira has BUNDLES of SKETCHES in either hand.

MIRA
 Looking for these?

GEERA
 Those are Jaam's--they don't belong
 to you!

Several guards GRAB GEERA.

EXT. WALOO'S HUT- CONTINUOUS

Mira walks over to a fire. The guards tug Geera along behind.

MIRA
Where's Nobi?

Geera glares and remains silent. Mira weighs the two bundles in her hands.

MIRA (CONT'D)
So that's how you want it?
(beat)
These instructions we need and boat
drawings we don't...!

GEERA
No!

Mira THROWS Jaam's SKETCHES into the FIRE.

MIRA
(to Africans)
Find Nobi and bring him here!

The guards rush out and disappear into the forest.

EXT. ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN - MORNING

Geera is ESCORTED by several YELLOW MEN to Waloo's LOOKOUT.
Mira RAISES Waloo's SPYGLASS and SCANS the SEA.

She sees Frank and Jonow floating in Jaam's yacht. She lowers the spyglass.

MIRA
(to Geera)
For your sake, you'd better pray
Frank returns safely.

Mira turns from the peak and heads down the mountain. The two men escort Geera behind her.

EXT. SEA - DAY

Jaam's drua approaches Maaj's shrine.

INT. JAAM'S DRUA - DAY

Jonow is lost in thought. Frank sits opposite. Frank gets up and begins to wander the deck. Jonow eyes him. Frank passes close to the rope snare. Jonow's eyes widen.

Jonow edges closer to the lever.

Frank crosses the snare, but there is scarce time for Jonow to pull the lever.

Jonow keeps his hand close to the handle.

Frank stands just beyond the noose, surveying the ocean.

Finally, Frank deliberately walks to the noose. He lifts his foot and raises it above the noose.

Jonow grips the handle. One...Two...

Frank stands on one foot--hovering just above the noose. Frank watches Jonow's face.

FRANK

All you have to do is pull the lever and sink me to the bottom of the ocean? I'll just disappear and all your problems will vanish?

Jonow stares in shock.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Do you know this phrase: And he breathed the breath of life into his nostrils and he became a living soul...

(pause)

You see once you bring life into this world you can't just sport with it! Can't trade it at a booth!

Frank steps OVER the hitch rope and sits next to Jonow. Jonow doesn't remove his hand from the lever.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I could crush your hand and the lever right now! Look at me!

(pause)

I was built of the minds and limbs of condemned men! Now I've got a second chance! Your people gave me a second chance at life!

(beat)

(MORE)

FRANK (CONT'D)

That's what Dr. Frankenstein never understood--how life was precious to me!

(beat)

You know what I'm made of?

Jonow shakes his head.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Murderous criminals: Hanged, shot, guillotined! Diseased minds! Reprobates! Dregs of humanity! That's what I was made of! Why even bring me into this world?

JONOW

I don't know.

FRANK

I'll tell you why: To be tracked down and killed! Hunted! For my master's amusement!

Frank points to his tattoos.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Marked from head to toe--so that whoever finds me will kill me!

Frank wanders back to the rail.

FRANK (CONT'D)

They'll never stop pursuing me!

(beat)

To them, one constructed of murderers, is always a murderer!

He turns to Jonow.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Have I not suffered enough?

JONOW

You talk of suffering?

(beat)

My father, my brother, and my wife all suffered! Waloo suffered! Nobi can barely speak since Jaam died! Geera suffers because I can't love her the way she needs to be loved!

(beat)

I can't open my heart again!

(beat)

(MORE)

JONOW (CONT'D)

No one on the island wants me for their chief! Men and women worship you like a god!

(beat)

So don't tell me about your suffering until you have nothing left to lose!

(beat)

I know I will die today!

Jonow COVERS his FACE with his hands.

FRANK

Death! If you only knew!

EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Blizzard. Barking dogs. Men in heavy parkas, welsh wigs, carpet shoes, etc. They circle a PIT OF ICE!

INT. ICE PIT - DAY

Tattoo-less Frank suspended in ice like an insect in amber. Frank stares up at the pack of men peering over the brink at him.

FRANK (V.O.)

I'm no god! Can men trap gods?

(scoffs)

Men! A pack of Arctic wolves!

Geneva and Ingolstadt wolves!

INT. JAAM'S DRUA - DAY (PRESENT)

FRANK

All I remember is being trapped in ice. Then I awoke here!

(beat)

To a people who accepted me--who needed my protection! A people who knew nothing of the world!

Fishermen who've never seen the cruelty I have!

Frank is in a trance letting the words hang in the air.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Is it my fault? Did I ask to be a god?

JONOW

You never discouraged it!

Jonow REACHES BENEATH his PLANK-SEAT where he's PLANTED SEVERAL HOOKS--all the while keeping his eyes on Frank.

JONOW (CONT'D)

My people will end in the way of our fathers! And you will end in the way of your father!

FRANK

My father? Victor Frankenstein?

(scoffs)

What father hunts his son?

(beat)

You know what he'd say, my father?
If the multitude of mankind knew of
my existence--they'd do likewise
and arm themselves for my
destruction!

(beat)

The world couldn't find out about me because I was his son? More his shame! He chased me across desert mountains and through dreary glaciers and in caves of ice!

Frank SWEATS PROFUSELY. VISIBLE CRACKS begin to show across his BROW and his STITCHING'S.

MEN (V.O.)

Monstro!

We hear DOGS BARKING, the HEAVY BREATH OF MEN, and the TREAD of SLEIGHS CRUNCHING through snow!

FRANK

They call me Monstro!

Frank WANDERS onto the NOOSE. Jonow YANKS-UP the LARGE hidden HOOK. He SLIDES OVER the DECK and DRIVES the HOOK through Frank's FOOT PINNING FRANK!

Jonow LEAPS to the LEVER and YANKS it. The trap door SWINGS OPEN--

And Frank PLUMMETS into the SEA!

The SINKING MILLSTONE SPIRALS to the SEA SHELF PULLING Frank along with it. A SEDIMENT CLOUD PLUMES around him.

Frank regains his composure and begins STROKING up to the SURFACE.

Jonow sees Frank swimming up from below. Jonow GRUNTS on the BOOM, FORCING it AROUND. He TUGS the HALYARD and the wind CATCHES THE SAIL and the CRAFT begins to TURN.

Frank's HAND LATCHES onto the SIDE. He lifts himself by the RAIL and falls aboard!

Jonow releases the rigging and grabs a hook. He DRIVES the HOOK through Frank's HAND! Then Jonow grabs the CROSSBOW and FIRES it into Frank's CHEST!

The giant STAGGERS BACK a few STEPS. He TOPPLES FORWARD and the momentum BOWLS Jonow TO THE DECK.

Frank SNAPS the SHAFT from his chest and gathers the crossbow BREAKING it in HALF.

Jonow reaches for the tackle box, but, Frank grabs his hand and SQUEEZES, SHATTERING all the BONES in his HAND!

He TWISTS Jonow's ARM until the bone SNAPS OUT of the SOCKET!

Frank lets go and Jonow's ARM limply HANGS AT his SIDE.

Frank pulls the hook out of his hand and uses it to SAW HIMSELF FREE of the rope. He holds the hook up--admiring it.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Exquisite!

Frank chucks the hook overboard.

Jonow hugs his limp arm. He scoots to the edge of the craft. He searches desperately for an escape: Prow-ward, sea-ward, and aft.

Frank LURCHES FORWARD but SEA WATER BEGINS TO POUR from his cracks, sutures, etc. He stops and examines his hands.

FRANK (CONT'D)

How?

Nobi appears from stowing away. He steps between Frank and Jonow.

JONOW

Nobi?

FRANK

You did this!

Nobi LOOKS into Frank's EYES. He sidesteps Frank and pulls the SECOND LEVER! A MILLSTONE and CHAIN ASSEMBLY RATTLE through the TRAP DOOR where Frank's been STANDING in a NOOSE.

Frank's THROWN to the DECK. Frank CLAWS forward GRASPING Jonow's ANKLE and the two are SWALLOWED through the TRAP DOOR!

Nobi witnesses the millstone, Frank, and Jonow SINKING into the GLOOM.

The DRUA begins to DRIFT. Nobi takes a deep breath. He runs aft and finds MORE HOOKS under the PLANK. He TIES several hooks together.

UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

Frank and Jonow suspend in a slow descent under the weight of the millstone. The millstone comes to rest on the ocean shelf.

Frank firms his grip on Jonow's ankle, then his calf, and thigh. Frank methodically gains control of Jonow's body, until he has a stranglehold around Jonow's neck.

Jonow thrashes to free himself, but, he can't release the grip.

They crash to the shelf near Maaj's shrine.

Maaj's shrine pulses in and out of Jonow's focus.

Jonow closes his eyes. He can feel the sea bed and the shelf strong under his feet. He hunches and pushes against the shelf--step by step--thrusting his body forward.

At the shelf's edge Jonow opens his eyes to see the impenetrable murk of deeper waters.

Jonow stops at the shelf's edge. He can no longer feel the CHOKE of Frank's GRIP.

FRANK'S ARM FLOATS BY! Jonow grabs the arm and PUSHES it into the ABYSS.

Jonow backs away from the ridge--then turns back toward the shrine.

Strewn across the shelf are Frank's decoupled body parts!

Jonow looks up. The yacht diffracts above. Jonow pushes up with all the power left in him.

He strokes with one arm, the other arm dangling at his side.

He struggles closer, but the boat appears to be getting smaller and farther away.

A LARGE CHAIN of HOOKS snakes pass Jonow, then they JERK suddenly into his wounded arm and retracts: Slowly, painfully, Jonow is pulleyed to the surface.

INT. JAAM'S DRUA - CONTINUOUS

Nobi winds the rope through a whalebone-pulley. He struggles reeling the chain links through the trap door. He watches every link ply to the surface, until--

Jonow's head breaks through the water! Nobi wrenches away the hooks and grounds Jonow onto the deck.

Nobi turns Jonow on his side. Slaps his back. Jonow's eyes remain shut. Another slap! And another--more desperate than the first!

Jonow COUGHS. He CHOKES BLOOD and SEA WATER from his LUNGS. Jonow lies for a moment gathering life.

Nobi anxiously looks down at him.

Jonow gestures for Nobi to help him sit up. Jonow tries to speak, but, his throat is tight.

Nobi plops down beside him.

JONOW

I...

Pain shoots across Jonow's face, but he manages to turn to Nobi--

JONOW (CONT'D)

(hoarsely)

I--I know I've never been a good father...or a good husband!

Tears burn Nobi's cheeks.

JONOW (CONT'D)

Stop crying or you're gonna make me cry--!

Jonow starts crying.

Nobi wanders across the deck. Picks up a hook. Sits close to Jonow. Carves letters into the deck--

Jonow stops Nobi by putting his hand on Nobi's. Nobi removes Jonow's hand, and resumes SCRATCHING LETTERS on the deck. Jonow's head droops. Nobi lifts Jonow's head. Turns Jonow's head to the CARVED LETTERS.

JONOW (CONT'D)
I-C-O-U-L-D-N-O-T-L-E-T-

Jonow stops.

JONOW (CONT'D)
You couldn't let me die alone?

Nobi hugs him. Jonow winces but doesn't withdraw from the embrace.

NOBI
W--what now?

JONOW
We head forward to the other
islands--

Nobi tries to speak but can't get the words out. He takes the knife and scratches along the deck. Jonow reads.

JONOW (CONT'D)
Yes. Frank's followers will be
expecting his return.

The two sit for a moment. Nobi gets up, grabs the hook-chain assembly and drops it through the trap door.

EXT. SEA - EVENING

Jaam's drua drifts motionless surrounded by THREE MASSIVE WARSHIPS.

A tiny life boat comes alongside the drua.

INT. JAAM'S DRUA - DAY

An OFFICER flanked by SEVERAL SAILORS board the drua. The Sailors search the boat while the Officer scrutinizes Nobi. Nobi has a LARGE HOOK in his HAND. Jonow SHAKES his HEAD to Nobi and he DROPS the HOOK. The Officer then stands above Jonow who LIES SHIVERING beneath a BLANKET.

OFFICER
What's going on here? Why did you
hail us?
(pause)
Can you understand me?

The two say nothing. The Officer pulls the blanket off Jonow. He stares at Jonow's bruised and dislocated shoulder.

A SAILOR RUSHES from behind the forecastle to the Officer.

SAILOR
Sir! We've found something!

The Officer goes to the stern where the Sailors are gathered around Frank's DISMEMBERED BODY. The Officer returns to Jonow.

OFFICER
Get the ship's surgeon and find me
an interpreter!

The sailor rushes to the life boat.

INT. JAAM'S DRUA - DAY

Nobi steers the drua under Jonow's guidance.

Frank is PROPPED in the DRUA. His body is patched together, but we notice an ARM MISSING and that his EYES are SEWN OPEN!

EXT. ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN - DAY

Mira focuses the spyglass on the horizon where Jaam's yacht appears. She SCANS intently through the glass. She smiles when she sees Frank.

Satisfied, She LOWERS the SPYGLASS and tramps down the mountain.

A moment later on the horizon--

EXT. ISLAND SHORE - CONTINUOUS

HALF A MILE behind Jonow and Nobi appear an ARMADA of ISLANDERS in CANOES, DRUAS and CATAMARANS.

FADE OUT.

THE END.