

A Bombastic Party on the Sea

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FADE IN:

EXT. BAY - NIGHT

A large passenger ship sails on the sea far out in the bay.

On the ship people laugh and shriek, lift their glasses and drink champagne and cocktails, they are having a fancy-dress party, everybody are in various garbs of fancy-dress.

A large clock presents the time as 11:30.

The engines roar...

Now the IMAGE starts IN REVERSE ORDER and the ship sails backward to the shore.

The ship continues in reverse until it approaches the pier, the anchor releases and splashes then drops deep into the sea.

The ship stops.

On the ship, the passengers ushers backwards towards the stern where the party celebrations are in full swing.

A man dressed in a Seaman's Officer uniform, a Petty Officer, a man about 45, walks amongst the passengers and makes his way onwards towards the gangway where the steps have been laid down to the pier jetty.

EXT. PIER - NIGHT

There is a large queue of more people attempting to get on board the ship.

The Petty Officer stands at the top of the steps and one by one he checks their party invitations.

JAMES, a man about 40, a rough looking character, unshaven and ragged, he is not wearing fancy-dress, and he steps onto the top of the steps.

The Petty Officer gestures to the man for his invitation card.

The man has a surprised expression of his face. He arms fly in the air, he protests, he insists on coming on board the ship.

The Petty Officer shakes his head "no".

The man protests then storms away down the gangway steps to the pier.

The final guests board the ship.

EXT. CLUB - NIGHT

James, clean cut, waits in a line.

A Limo stops next to the line. Inside is CINDY, 41, a seductive blonde and JENNIFER, 39, a prematurely greying brunette.

The back door opens and the two women get out.

The women scan through the line.

Cindy waves down, Mark, a 20 year old, and signals him over to the car.

James looks over at the two women.

Jennifer points at him and waves him over.

He practically runs over and follows her into the back.

INT. SLEAZY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

On the dance floor, Cindy and Mark dance and kiss simultaneously.

At a table, James and Jennifer drink beers and laugh.

She moves closer to him and rests her drink on the table.

He puts his arm around her and they kiss romantically.

Two well dressed men burst in through the front doors.

One walks over and throws Mark off of Cindy. He kicks Mark on the ground and grabs Cindy. She shrugs and leaves with him.

The other walks over to James and Jennifer. He grabs Jennifer, but she holds onto James.

She struggles, but loses her grip and is dragged out of the restaurant. She reaches back after James, but he remains sitting, powerless.

On the table there is an empty envelope.

The front of it reads: "You've been cordially invited to celebrate the New Year onboard the McGovern's boat, Countess."

EXT. BOAT YARD - SUNSET

The IMAGE plays in REVERSE ORDER.

James walks away from the bottom of the boarding ramp. His clothes are dirty and he is ragged looking.

Jennifer walks backward off the ship with the man that took her from the restaurant.

James slowly gets down on the dirty ground, on top of a pile of flowers.

He clutches his stomach as he gets up to his knees.

Flowers fly up into James's hand as he stands.

Jennifer continues walking as the man she's with punches James.

Jennifer ignores James as he tries to give her flowers, then he backs away.

He runs backward to a cab, pays the driver and gets in.

EXT. BAY - NIGHT

A small rowing boat rows up to the hull of the ship, James is inside.

The rowing boat stops.

The man lifts a hand-sized black disc, it is magnetic and he sticks it to the hull of the ship.

It is a BOMB!

A black disc, a red digital timer display counts down 30 minutes.

The engine starts with a roar, the anchor lifts and the ship starts slowly out to sea.

James looks out to sea and he spits as if spitting at the ship.

30 MINUTES LATER

The ship sails far out to sea the sun sits on the horizon and bathes the sea and the distant perspective in orange light.

I/E. SHIP - NIGHT

The people inside the ship all have champagne and count down from ten.

The clock ticks closer and closer to midnight.

Outside, on the black disc, a red digital timer display counts down.

Five seconds remain, 4, 3, 2, 1...

FADE OUT.