

A SEA OF STARS

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SAILING BOAT - OCEAN - DAY

Small waves lap against the wooden hull of a sailing boat too small for the vastness of the empty ocean around it.

Head resting on the gunwale, KAREN (25) drifts at the edge of consciousness, skin red from the relentless sun. She yawns and winces, her fingers gingerly touching her cracked lips.

A blue tarp stretched over the tiller to the rudder rustles in the light breeze. The sails above are furled.

The sun beats down in the cloudless sky.

Karen lifts a battered canteen to her mouth and takes a small sip. She spreads moisture over her lips with her tongue.

She sits up, groaning with effort, and lifts the edge of the tarp.

DAVID (30) lies across the bottom of the boat, sheltered by the tarp. She crawls to him and lifts the canteen to his mouth. He drinks reflexively.

Karen carefully lifts the bottom of his life vest. His shirt is stained crimson with dried blood.

She returns to the tiller and lifts another edge of the tarp. A Garmin GPS and Sonar device shows their position in the middle of the Atlantic, empty ocean with not a speck of land nearby.

She adjusts the tiller slightly, leans back against the gunwale, and closes her eyes again.

EXT. SAILING BOAT - OCEAN - SUNSET

Tarp pushed aside, David sits propped against the side of the boat, arms wrapped around his abdomen. A wave jostles the vessel and he winces.

KAREN

Sorry.

Karen turns the boat into the waves.

KAREN

We're in the current.



FISHERMAN (O.S.)

Ahoy! *Heb je hulp nodig?* Do you need help?

Karen and David stay still and silent against the hull of the sailing boat. After a moment they hear the fishing boat engine rev as it pulls away.

Karen moves to look around the bow of the boat.

KAREN

They're leaving.

DAVID

Help me up.

Karen holds David's arm as he starts pulling himself up into the boat.

EXT. SAILING BOAT - OCEAN - DAY

Karen drips the last of the water into David's mouth. She drops the empty canteen and checks the GPS. The sonar shows nothing but blue.

Karen is about to sit when she sees another small boat in the distance. A lone MAN waves uncertainly to her, too far away to see clearly.

She waves back, equally uncertain.

EXT. SAILING BOAT - OCEAN - DUSK

The other boat rests alongside theirs, the boats lashed together. Another small boat drifts further away, abandoned.

The Man looks exactly like David. He and Karen stand holding one another as if seeing each other after a long time apart.

They disengage but don't let go. The Man looks at David.

KAREN

He got attacked. It's...not good.

DAVID

Do you have any water?

The Man hops back over to his boat. He tosses a full water bottle to Karen. She takes a few mouthfuls before handing it to David.

KAREN

We didn't have time to grab everything.

MAN

We're here now. That's all that matters.

She looks up as the first stars begin to show.

KAREN

Yes. We're here.

EXT. SAILING BOAT - OCEAN - NIGHT

The trio stand together, David holding his stomach, his life vest left in the bottom of the boat.

They nod to each other. Together, they jump into the water, disappearing beneath the surface.

They don't come back up.

Above, three stars separate from the others, moving in unison until they are directly overhead.

On the sonar display, a round solid red shape rises from the depths, taking over the blue until it almost fills the screen.

Light suddenly blooms from beneath the boat.

FADE TO WHITE.