

DARK WATERS

by

Rushed? Moi?

FADE IN:

**EXT. LOCH NESS - NIGHT**

The Rosie, a 20m research boat, is at rest on the still water below a moonless sky.

A few hundred meters away something impacts the water in a blinding flash of light--

**INT. THE ROSIE - SLEEPING QUARTERS - MOMENTS LATER**

BEN CRENSHAW (35), a videographer, and KAILA CRENSHAW (30), a documentarist, play with a pair of night vision goggles--

Ben bolts uprights, scrambles to the porthole, looks through.

BEN  
What the hell was that?

KAILA  
Sounded like a--

DAVID STURGEON (15), a novice sailer, rushes in.

DAVID  
My dad wants you up on bridge, now!

**INT. THE ROSIE - BRIDGE**

WILLIAM STURGEON (55), a sailer weathered by a lifetime of the elements, is at the wheel.

WILLIAM  
Whatever it was, was more real than the bloody monster you're after.

BEN  
It must have been a plane, right?  
(to Kaila)  
What do you wanna do, K?

KAILA  
We have to see what it was.

DAVID  
(scared)  
Dad?

WILLIAM  
We do what we're paid to do, son.

**EXT. LOCH NESS**

The Rosie slowly makes her way to the impact site as a thick, heavy mist engulfs them.

**INT. THE ROSIE - BRIDGE**

William strains to see what's ahead of them as he eases off the ship's motor.

**EXT. THE ROSIE - DECK**

David has a torch trained on Ben as he leans over the side to lower a tethered sonar device into the water.

BEN

Underwater camera, sonar, even night vision goggles. We've got, hey, keep the light on me. I can't see shit, it's so dark down there.

DAVID

I'm trying. Think the batteries...

David momentarily points the torch up as he gives it a quick smack, then aims it back in Ben's direction.

DAVID

Ben? Ben? How the...

**INT. THE ROSIE - BRIDGE**

KAILA

What do you mean he disappeared?

DAVID

He was there, then he wasn't. In the split-second I had my torch light off him he just... vanished.

Kaila pushes past David and rushes out.

**EXT. THE ROSIE - DECK**

Kaila desperately races from port to starboard side.

KAILA

Ben! Ben! Ben, where are you?  
(to William)  
Where are the lifebuoys?

Before William can answer--

DAVID

I don't think he went in. I would have heard him.

WILLIAM

He's not going to be playing hide and seek is he? Go and grab the--

The ship's engine splutters and the port side light that was on David, momentarily blinks out. In an instant, David vanishes.

WILLIAM

David???

William rushes over to where David was, then over to the ship's port side gunwale to look overboard.

WILLIAM

David!!!

**INT. THE ROSIE - BRIDGE - LATER**

William adjusts the VHF radio's settings.

WILLIAM

(into radio mic)  
Hello? Anyone there? Hello!

Defeated, William lets the mic drop by his side.

KAILA

Nothing?

WILLIAM

Nothing. It's like everyone just...

William notices one of ship's alarms blinking red.

WILLIAM

She's almost out of fuel.

Kaila looks at William, not quite grasping the significance.

WILLIAM

It's the dark.  
(thinks, then)  
Here, take these.

He passes her a torch and the pair of night vision goggles, then climbs to his feet to leave.

KAILA

Where are you going?

WILLIAM

Once she's out of fuel her lights  
will go off. You keep the camera on  
me and the torch's light on you.

(off her silence)

If you make it though the night,  
show the world what happened here.  
If there's anyone to show it.

KAILA

I don't understand.

WILLIAM

Aye, but you will.

KAILA

You can't go.

WILLIAM

My boy is out there, alone in the  
dark. And he's all I have.

KAILA

No, please.

**EXT. THE ROSIE - DECK**

William looks stoically up towards Kaila in the bridge. The ship's lights begin to flicker as the engine goes silent.

**INT. THE ROSIE - BRIDGE**

Kaila watches as the darkness engulfs the deck and William vanishes.

She slips the night goggles on and sees William, David and Ben all staring up at her, their eyes silvery and oversized, and their bodies in varying states of decay.

She gasps, eyes wide with fear, staggers back, drops the torch, and just as the torch is about to hit the floor we...

FADE OUT.