

THE LIGHTSHIP

by

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EXT: SEA - NIGHT

A calm sea at night, with the moon's beams being caught on the waves, which ripple gently.

In the distance, a lightship which appears as a silhouette against the horizon.

As the light from the moon catches the deck of the lightship, a small round object drops into the sea with an almost silent plop. Other small round objects, maybe a bit smaller than a soccer ball, fall into the sea.

The small round objects bob up and down on the waves, until one is caught in the moon's beams to reveal a bloodied head.

In the distance, a dockside warehouse is illuminated against the sky.

CUT TO:

INT: DOCKSIDE WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Two longshoremen, DOUG and Craig, are playing cards at a table.

CRAIG

See you.

Craig pushes a coin onto the pile.

Doug looks at his cards. He tries to look blank.

Craig grins, knowing he has him.

CRAIG

What you got ?

Craig displays his hand. Doug shrugs, shows his hand and then sighs. Craig draws the pot to his side.

CRAIG

You know what your problem is ?

DOUG

What ?

CRAIG

You don't have what it takes.

DOUG

I don't - ?

CRAIG

You don't.

DOUG

That's enough for me. I always lose.

Craig draws all the coins towards him, then puts the cards back together as a pack. He puts the coins in his packet, then stands.

Doug is still pondering how he lost, remaining seated.

CRAIG
I gotta stretch my legs.

Doug stands and walks a little.

DOUG
Every time I play you I lose.

CRAIG
That's because you're a loser.

This strikes Doug like a home truth.

DOUG
I guess I am.

There is a creaking noise, a little eerie.

DOUG
What was that ?

CRAIG
What ?

DOUG
I heard something. A noise...
a creaking noise.

CRAIG
The floorboards, or the wind.

The creaking noise again.

DOUG
Hear it ?

CRAIG
Yes, a definite creaking noise.

DOUG
Where'd it come from ?

CRAIG
Must be the wind, or...

DOUG
- You think they might be -

CRAIG
Offloading ? Sure.

A loud bang. The doors are suddenly opened from the outside and a number of large crates are brought in.

Doug and Craig just watch but do not speak to the men bringing in the crates.

When they have finished, the men go out, closing the doors behind them.

CRAIG
What's in the crates ?

DOUG
Dunno.

CRAIG
Wanna look ?

Doug hesitates.

CRAIG
Have a look.

DOUG
You got a crowbar ?

CRAIG
No.

DOUG
How we gonna open it, then ?

CRAIG
Use your head.

DOUG
My head ?

CRAIG
Use your head.

DOUG
Okay.

Doug has a think about it, standing close to one of the crates which have chains and packlocks across them.

CRAIG
Use your brains.

DOUG
I ain't got none.

CRAIG

I know.

DOUG

What you ain't got you never miss.

Doug bangs his head against the crate.

Doug is not particularly dazed.

CRAIG

I woulda thought your skull was thick enough to crack it open. You okay ?

DOUG

Yeah. It don't hurt.

CRAIG

You know, that was born out-ta frustration.

DOUG

I think you're kinda implying I might be a little stupid...

CRAIG

Nah. You ain't stupid - you're -

They hear banging and sawing noises as something hacks through an area of the floorboarding

DOUG

What in Hell is going on ?

CRAIG

This ain't normal.

DOUG

Not normal ?

CRAIG

Nah. This is positively abnormal. Strange. Weird.

DOUG

Weird.

CRAIG

Definitely, positively, absolutely weird.

The hacking continues until an area of the floor of the warehouse is exposed to the sea underneath, as the warehouse itself is built on a jetty.

Doug goes over and inspects the hole. He sees the surface of the sea about ten feet below as the warehouse appears to be supported on wooden stilts.

DOUG
I can see the sea.

Craig goes over to Doug and looks down at the sea.

CRAIG
Something is going on. Something
screwy. Something not natural.

DOUG (alarmed)
"Not natural ?"

CRAIG
Something supernatural. Phenomena.

DOUG
That's kinda scary.

CRAIG
I hope you're not a scaredy-kat.

DOUG
No, no, no. Nothing scares me.

CRAIG
Good.

Craig leans back away from Doug.

CRAIG
Look...down there.

DOUG (leaning forwards)
Where ?

CRAIG (pointing)
There.

Doug leans forward some more.

Craig suddenly pounces.

CRAIG
BOO !!

Doug falls forwards and almost through the hole but catches himself with his hands and stays inside the warehouse.

DOUG
You shouldn't have done that.

CRAIG
Why not ? Shows what a scaredy-kat
you are.

DOUG

That was a stupid thing to do.

CRAIG

But I did it to a stupid person.
person. Stupid things happen to
stupid people.

DOUG

No; stupid people do stupid things.
That was stupid.

CRAIG

Okay. I'm sorry.

Craig holds out his hands to help Doug up. Doug is reluctant and untrusting at first, but then extends his hands. Craig helps him up and helps to dust him off a bit.

A light appears on the surface of the sea, reflected from a light source somewhere else, further out to sea.

DOUG

Hey, look at that.

CRAIG

Moonlight...

DOUG

It's a light, but it ain't not moonlight.
The moon's higher up...in the sky. The
light's down on the water...must be
a boat -

CRAIG

You reckon there's a boat out there ?

DOUG

Must be a boat.

Craig sits with his legs through the hole in the floor. Doug follows suit.

Craig rocks his legs back and forth.

Doug peers at the reflection of the light on the water.

Doug sees what appears to be a number of objects bobbing up and down on the water, caught by the light.

DOUG

What's that ?

CRAIG

What ?

DOUG (pointing)
That..in the water..there -

CRAIG
I don't see nothing.

DOUG
There..something..bobbing up'n down
in the water - there.

CRAIG
Could be apples.

DOUG
Apples ?

CRAIG
Didn't you play that game with apples
bobbing up'n down..? We all did, when
we were kids...

One of the objects suddenly gets caught in the light so that Doug can see it
clearly. It is a bloodied human head.

DOUG
It's not an apple. It's a head...

CRAIG
A head ?!

DOUG
A human head.

CRAIG
Jesus !

Other heads become visible bobbing up and down in the light.

DOUG
There's more...Look...

Craig sees the heads.

DOUG
What I don't understand is..where are
the bodies ?

CRAIG (still in shock)
Uh ?

DOUG
You got a head, you should have a body.
Stands to reason. A head's gotta have
a body, but these heads ain't got no

DOUG (cont'd)

body.

CRAIG

Five human heads !

DOUG

A head without a body..ain't gonna do nothing.

CRAIG

This ain't normal. Five human heads !
This is seriously, abnormal.

DOUG

Where are the bodies ?

CRAIG

The hell should I know ?

DOUG

The heads must've been cut off the bodies.

CRAIG

You reckon so ?

DOUG

If you got heads and no bodies, the heads must've been hacked off.

CRAIG

The heads are..covered in blood.

DOUG

Someone must've cut the heads off the bodies,
thrown them in the sea.

CRAIG

Who would do such a thing ?

DOUG

Must be a crazy guy.

CRAIG

Well, it's not the sorta thing a sane man would do, that's for sure.

DOUG

How'd they cut the heads off ?

CRAIG

A chainsaw, or an axe. There must be some maniac out there cutting people's heads off and throwing them in the water.

DOUG
Why ?

CRAIG
What d'you mean, why ?

DOUG
Why's he doing it ?

CRAIG
'Cause he's a complete goddamn lunatic,
that's why.

DOUG
It could be a she.

CRAIG
What ?

DOUG
It could be a she that's cutting off
heads and throwing them in the water.
It could be a she.

CRAIG
It could be several guys or females
doing this, but the bottom line is,
they are insane. Period.

DOUG
Gotta fish up a head.

CRAIG
Oh, no way !

DOUG
C'mon ! You ain't scared ?

CRAIG
No way !

DOUG
I gotta have a look.

CRAIG
Why ?

DOUG
I gotta see what it looks like.

CRAIG
Why ?

DOUG
I gotta see how it was done...

DOUG (cont'd)
if they used an axe, or a chainsaw.

CRAIG
How can you tell that ?

DOUG
From the marks around the head. An axe,
it would leave different marks to
a chainsaw.

CRAIG
How's that ?

DOUG
An axe would leave marks from slashing,
but a chainsaw, that would leave a nice
neat job...one cut straight across the
neck...an axe, a great big goddamn mess.
I'm gonna fish one up. Hold onto my legs.

Doug lowers himself through the hole and swings his legs up for Craig to catch hold of. Craig is thus effectively forced into helping him.

Doug is lowered down towards the surface of the water. Doug then holds out his hands to catch hold of one of the bobbing heads.

His hands hold onto one of the heads by the hair.

DOUG
Got it. Haul me up.

Craig hauls up Doug.

Doug presents the head to Craig.

DOUG
Nice.

CRAIG
Ugh ! it looks horrible.

DOUG
That head used to be a person. Show
some respect.

CRAIG
Sorry.

DOUG (to the head)
Hello, there. I know you can't hear me,
but...

(turning to speak to Craig)
...this is evidence, you see...how it

DOUG (cont'd)
was done. This is the work of an axe.
The head got hacked off, six, seven
blows, a right bloody mess - definitely
not a chainsaw.

CRAIG
Could be a machete.

DOUG
A machete ?

CRAIG
Yeah. Coulda been a hatchet job,
with a machete.

DOUG
But we rule out a chainsaw ?

CRAIG
I think we can rule out a chainsaw.
This is definitely the work of an axe,
a hatchet or a machete.

DOUG
There's some killer out there, cutting
people's heads off. Lower me again.

Doug pulls the same trick to force Craig to hold onto his legs and lower him
towards the surface of the ocean.

CRAIG
You see anything ?

DOUG
There's a boat, with a big light on top.
It's shining a light. The light's going
in all directions, turning, like a light
on top of a lighthouse, but it's on a boat

CRAIG
It must be a lightship.

DOUG
A lightship ? What's one o' them ?

CRAIG
A lightship is a ship like a lighthouse,
but it ain't fixed like a lighthouse, it
can move. Where they don't have a lighthouse,
they sometimes have a lightship.

DOUG
It's about a mile out to sea.

We see the lightship with its light at the top and also the moon shining down on the water. A figure on the deck of the lightship, glimpsed first in silhouette, then seen in the light of the lightship itself, seems to be cutting heads off people.

DOUG
Jesus Christ !

CRAIG
What ? What d'you see ?

DOUG
There's this guy, on the lightship,
hacking people's heads off. He's just
standing there, hacking people's heads,
throwing them into the sea.

CRAIG
Must be crazy. Stands to reason. Not
a thing a sane person would do.

DOUG
Darn tootin. Lift me up.

Craig hauls Doug up.

DOUG
I reckon we should go out there,
speak to the guy.

CRAIG
No way !

DOUG
We gotta do something.

CRAIG
We don't hafta do nothing.

DOUG
Someone's got to do something =

CRAIG
Don't haf-ta be us. D'you think he will
listen to reason ? The guy is insane,
period. You went out there, he might
your head off.

DOUG
My head ?

CRAIG
Our heads, Both our heads. The guy is
a psycho. What's going on there ain't

CRAIG (cont'd)
none of our business.

DOUG
What if the whole world were full of
people saying, this ain't none of our
business, huh ? What would happen then ?
Where would we be ?

CRAIG
Alive. You know what happens to the
intrepid ? They get skinned. You wanna
stay alive, you don't do nothing stupid.

DOUG
But you said, stupid people do stupid
things. And you said, I was stupid.

CRAIG
Not that stupid.

DOUG
Someone's gotta try stop him.

CRAIG
No way !

DOUG
Ah, c'mon. He goes on, killing people,
hacking people's heads off, tossing them
in the water...no-one stops him, where's
it gonna end ?

CRAIG
Does it matter ?

DOUG
It matters to me. I wanna do something.

CRAIG
You're crazy.

DOUG
There's a row boat down there...

CRAIG
No way !

DOUG
You don't help me, I'm gonna haf-ta
go it alone.

CRAIG
Go, go. See if I care. Asshole.

DOUG

See you.

Doug lowers himself down the hole into a row boat below, moored to one of the stilts holding up the warehouse.

Craig looks down at him in the boat as Doug unties the rope.

CRAIG

Son-of-a-bitch ! Wait ! I'm coming with you.

Craig lowers himself into the row boat below.

CUT TO:

EXT: SEA - NIGHT

Doug and Craig in the row boat, Doug rowing out to sea.

CRAIG

You could do with a brain...

DOUG

I could ?

CRAIG

Knock some sense into you. You got no sense of danger. You need someone to hold you back.

DOUG

So how come I persuaded you to come along with me ? Huh ? If I ain't got no brain...You tell me that.

CRAIG

You gave me no choice. I couldn't let you go there alone. You're gonna say to the guy, "Excuse me, you mind not littering the sea with heads."

DOUG

He's still doing it. Look - cutting people's heads off...

Sure enough, on the deck of the lightship, a man (THE CAPTAIN) is busy cutting heads off what appear to be dead bodies, using an axe, and throwing the heads into the ocean.

DOUG

Heavy, man, heavy...

CRAIG

How many's that ?

DOUG
Must be ten by now.

They pass through a sea coloured with blood with the occasional head bobbing
up and down.

DOUG
Don't wanna hit a head. That would be
disrespectful.

CRAIG
You think they can feel anything ?

DOUG
I dunno.

CRAIG
They are dead, you know.

DOUG
So ?

CRAIG
They don't feel nothing. They are dead.

DOUG
You never know.

CRAIG
What do you understand by, dead ?

DOUG
Dead is kinda..dead.

CRAIG
Not alive.

DOUG
Yeah.

CRAIG
Kaput. Deceased...not living. It is
impossible for them to feel anything.

DOUG
You still should treat them like people...
they used-ta be people...like they got
real feelings...

CRAIG
They ain't people no more.

DOUG
I guess not.

Doug rows.

CRAIG

A head minus a body ain't gonna feel nothing.

DOUG

It's got a brain.

CRAIG

It's dead.

DOUG

The brain's in the head.

CRAIG

It's fucking dead ! Once you're dead, you're dead.

This conversation has diverted Doug to the extent that he hits a head by mistake.

DOUG

Oh shit, I hit one. Sorry.

CRAIG

Grab it !

Doug grabs hold of the head and lifts it out of the water.

DOUG (to head)

Hey there, little fella, let me ease your mind.

CRAIG

We should do tests. See how it reacts. See if it's still alive, somehow. Gimme the head.

Doug hands the head to Craig.

CRAIG

See, it's got eyes, but can it see ? That is the question.

DOUG

How can you tell ?

CRAIG

All living creatures got reflexes, but dead things don't do nothing. If I hit a living person, it will react. If it sees the punch coming, it will move, flinch.

Craig puts the head down.

CRAIG

It will flinch, like this -

Craig suddenly throws a punch at Doug, who reacts and pulls his head out of the way.

CRAIG

You got good reflexes. That shows you're alive. Now, let's see what happens.

Craig picks up the head with one hand and swings a punch at it with his other hand. The head does not react and the blow sends it flying into the sea. It plops into the water with a splash.

CRAIG

The experiment proves it is not alive. It also proves it has no feelings. It's conclusive.

DOUG

So, it's dead ?

CRAIG

Definitely.

DOUG

Never mind. I still think we gotta show some respect. The dead might be dead, but it's not as if they had any choice in the matter.

CRAIG

Not in this case, no.

Doug picks up the oars and rows.

DOUG

He still doing it ? Cutting off heads ?

Craig takes a look, and sure, the man on the deck of the lightship is busy hacking heads off and throwing them into the sea.

CRAIG

Yep. He's pretty busy.

They get closer to the lightship. Another head is hacked off and thrown into the sea.

CRAIG

There's another...and another...and another... Seems that all this guy does is hack people's heads off.

DOUG
So why's he doin' it ?

CRAIG
You ask him.

DOUG
I'm gonna do just that.

CRAIG
You don't dare.

DOUG
I'm gonna do it.

CRAIG
You got guts where your brains should be.

DOUG
What's wrong with that ?

CRAIG
That's how people end up dead.

DOUG
Not me.

CRAIG
What about all them people he's killed...?
Maybe they asked him why he's doing it,
and his reply was, cut their heads off.

DOUG
That would shut them up.

CRAIG
They'd never find out. They're not in
a position to argue.

DOUG
Guess not.

Doug continues rowing.

DOUG
You seen any bodies ?

CRAIG
Bodies ?

DOUG
They got heads, they gotta have bodies
somewhere. You seen any ?

Craig looks around.

CRAIG

No.

DOUG

What's he doing with the bodies ? He ain't throwing them in the water like he's doing with the heads, so what's he doing with the bodies ?

CRAIG

God knows.

DOUG

This is kinda weird. Why cut someone's heads off ? Makes no sense. And where are all the bodies ?

CRAIG

He must be a control freak.

They are now within a hundred feet or so of the lightship itself. The man on the deck who was hacking off heads now stops what he was doing, but he leaves a body with a head half hacked off on deck, leaning over the side, and goes down below.

CRAIG

He's stopped, stopped just like that in mid hack.

DOUG

He must've seen us.

CRAIG

You reckon so ?

DOUG

Stands to reason. We scared him. He's afraid of us.

CRAIG

I doubt it. Don't think he's gonna be afraid of anyone; he's an axe-wielding maniac

DOUG

Yeah, but he don't like people watching him. Either that, or he's scared.

Doug rows up to the side of the lightship. Craig takes the rope and ties the row boat up against the side of the lightship.

CRAIG

I guess, since our mad friend axe-wielding maniac ain't on deck, we might go onboard.

DOUG
You ain't afraid, are you ?

CRAIG
I'd say I'm more curious than afraid.

DOUG
Good. You first.

CRAIG
Okay.

Craig climbs up the side rope ladder onto the deck of the lightship, followed by Doug.

CUT TO:

EXT: LIGHTSHIP - NIGHT

The deck.

Craig and Doug climb up and stand on deck.

DOUG
Hey, look at that !

Doug points to the body of a young woman with her head half hacked off. The head hangs on the neck by a few threads.

DOUG
Nasty.

CRAIG
Not nice, that's for sure.

DOUG
Is she dead ?

CRAIG
Hard to tell. I think she is...she
might be -

Craig moves up close to the young woman and takes a close look at her.

CRAIG
- alive. The head's still attached..
just about.

DOUG
She's half n' half..head's half on
half off...

CRAIG
Not completely hacked off...she might
still be alive.

DOUG
She might be dead -

CRAIG
She might.

Doug goes up close to the young woman.

DOUG
Miss, you alive ?

The young woman groans.

DOUG
She is.

YOUNG WOMAN (struggling to speak)
Yes...

DOUG (to Craig)
She's not dead.

The young woman coughs up blood. Her head flops back. Her eyes close. She is now listless.

CRAIG
She dead ?

DOUG (to Young Woman)
Miss, you dead ?

No reply.

Doug holds her head by the jaw and shakes it. No response. He opens up her eyelids but sees no animation in her eyes.

He releases her head and it flops back.

DOUG (to Craig)
She's dead.

They move away from the body.

DOUG
I guess we gotta go find the guy.

They go towards a door leading to below decks.

CRAIG
This could be dangerous..if he's insane...
he clearly is insane...

DOUG
This just cannot be allowed to continue.

CRAIG

I agree.

Craig opens the door.

They go inside, then below decks.

CUT TO:

INT: LIGHTSHIP - NIGHT

Doug and Craig go down the stairs and then along a corridor to the galley, which has the door shut.

DOUG

They got a cook ?

CRAIG

Sure. Every ship got a cook.

DOUG

But this is a lightship.

CRAIG

Don't matter. Every ship got a cook, even a lightship.

DOUG

What if the guy cutting off the heads killed the cook ?

CRAIG (jokingly)

And ate him ?

DOUG

Yeah. And ate him - ?

CRAIG

What if the guy cutting the heads off is the cook ?

DOUG

Then we'd be in the shit.

CRAIG

We would, wouldn't we ?

DOUG

Would explain why he's doing this.

CRAIG

Why's he doing it ?

DOUG

He's a cannibal.

CRAIG

Oh shit !

DOUG

He'd be cutting off the heads,
'cause he don't need heads 'cause
cannibals, don't eat human heads...
they just eat the bodies...the flesh
that's on the bodies...and the organs
inside.

CRAIG

Yuck !

DOUG

Precisely !

CRAIG

Oh shit ! I don't wanna be eaten up by
no axe-wielding maniac cannibal.

Doug moves away from the galley door. Craig follows him.

Doug spots a door with Captain on it, and goes up to it, followed by
Craig.

DOUG

If they got a captain, maybe he don't
know they got a crazy guy cutting off
people's heads...the cook's the culprit -

CRAIG

We don't know that yet...for sure. It's
a supposition.

DOUG

A what ?

CRAIG

A guess.

DOUG

Who else could it be ?

CRAIG

Dunno. - The captain, he should know
all that's going on his ship.

DOUG

Maybe he is the crazy guy.

DOUG AND CRAIG

Oh shit !

They hesitate for a moment outside the captain's cabin whilst they take in the possible meaning of this.

Doug then extends his hand to knock on the door. He looks at Craig who nods.

Doug then knocks.

From inside the cabin, THE CAPTAIN (who is the axe-wielding maniac) speaks.

CAPTAIN (O.S.)
Who is it ?

DOUG (to Craig)
What we say ?

CRAIG
Tell him we're sailors.

DOUG (loud)
Sailors, sir, reporting for duty.

CAPTAIN (opening door)
Sailors ?

CRAIG
Sailors, sir.

CAPTAIN (at the door)
Come in.

CRAIG
Aye, aye, captain.

They go inside, and the captain shuts the door.

CUT TO:

INT: CAPTAIN'S CABIN - NIGHT

The door shuts behind Doug and Craig,

Slumped with a half hacked-off head on a table, the body of a man leans forward on a chair.

The captain picks up a bloody axe which he left on the table to the side of the man's head.

CAPTAIN
Guys, you got me at an inconvenient time.
I'm busy...

CRAIG
What's going on ?

CAPTAIN
Look around you.

Doug and Craig look around the captain's cabin to see that the floorboards have been taken up and the area beneath which goes down into the hull has been covered with earth.

A number of tombstones stick up from the soil which covers the floor area, and there are also a number of wooden coffins and unused horizontal tombstones lying by the side of several mounds of earth.

There are also open graves dug in the soil area.

CRAIG
It's a graveyard...on a ship...

DOUG
On a lightship...

CRAIG
What is going on ?

CAPTAIN
What do you think is going on ?

DOUG
These people...

He looks around to see several open coffins with dead headless bodies in them.

DOUG
They're dead.

CRAIG
Very dead.

CAPTAIN
I killed them.

He picks up the axe and hacks at the body with its half hacked-off head slumped on the table.

CAPTAIN
There !

A few blows and the head is severed from the body.

He pulls the headless body aside and lugs it to a coffin, then lifts it up and puts it inside the coffin.

He wipes his brow which is covered in sweat.

He goes to the table and pours himself a drink of water and gulps it down.

The captain takes a deep breath, then exhales.

CAPTAIN
That's better.

CRAIG
What are you doing ?

CAPTAIN
I'm killing them.

CRAIG
Why ?

CAPTAIN
They're vampires.

CRAIG
Vampires !?

CAPTAIN
Vampires. I'm saving their souls.

DOUG
You are ?

CAPTAIN
Yes, gentlemen, I am saving their souls.

CRAIG
How ?

CAPTAIN
Vampires...to save their souls you
haf-ta kill them...put a stake through
their hearts and cut their heads off...
then you haf-ta give them a decent
Christian burial...a proper service...
then you've gone and saved their souls...

CRAIG
Don't you think that's a bit extreme ?

CAPTAIN
You gotta do it right. Cut their heads
off, put a stake through their hearts...
say a prayer over them...they get the
proper service of the dead to guide
them to salvation and their Resurrection.

CRAIG
Makes sense.

Craig looks around at the graveyard.

CAPTAIN
It's a proper graveyard, at sea...

DOUG
...On a lightship...

CAPTAIN
On a lightship. You gotta respect
the souls of the dead. You gotta
respect their right to a decent
Christian burial.

CRAIG
So, these guys and gals, without
you they would just be lost souls - ?

CAPTAIN
Damned for all eternity, the undead.
A fate worse than death.

DOUG
They go to Heaven ?

CAPTAIN
With a little bit of help from me,
they do.

CRAIG
Wow. You're the man.

CAPTAIN
I sure am.

The captain goes to the body whose head he had just hacked off and picks up a stake and mallet.

He hammers the stake through the heart of the body. Blood pours out.

CAPTAIN
Very satisfactory. Excellent, in
fact.

The captain lowers the coffin into the grave and starts shovelling dirt over it.

CAPTAIN
Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust
to dust...in sure hope of the Resurrection.

He shovels on more earth.

CAPTAIN
That should do it. Should go straight
to Heaven. Now I gotta throw that head
in the sea.

He picks up the head.

CRAIG
Can we watch ?

CAPTAIN
Sure. Follow me.

CUT TO:

EXT: LIGHTSHIP - NIGHT

Deck.

The captain, Doug and Craig.

The captain is holding the head. He takes a good swing and throws it into the sea, with a splash.

CAPTAIN
There he goes...

CUT TO:

INT: LIGHTSHIP - NIGHT

Captain's cabin.

Doug, Craig and the captain.

CRAIG
So, how many souls you saved ?

CAPTAIN
This trip, must be about a hundred.

CRAIG
How many in total ?

CAPTAIN
Must be thousands by now.

CRAIG
So, you got thousands of guys and
gals you found out were vampires;
you cut their heads off and you
put stakes through their hearts...

CAPTAIN
- Sent their souls to Heaven...

DOUG
-Thousands...

CRAIG
- Used to be alive...

CAPTAIN
- They were the undead...

DOUG

- Undead...

CRAIG

- But alive...

CAPTAIN

- Not really - they were the undead...

CRAIG

Whatever - the bottom line is, they are dead now...

CAPTAIN

At peace. Their souls are at rest.

CRAIG

Thousands...

CAPTAIN

Now at rest. The alternative was eternal damnation.

DOUG

That's not good. Better to be dead than eternal damnation.

CAPTAIN

Exactly.

CRAIG

Anyway, the point I'm making is, without you they would be lost souls...

CAPTAIN

- Damned for eternity...but I saved them...

CRAIG

Without you, this dreadful state of affairs, this vampirism, would just run and run, and thousands of people now dead would be alive.

CAPTAIN

Not alive. That is not a life. That is a living death. They were the undead.

CRAIG

I bet they're very grateful to you. I bet if they ever meet with you in Heaven, one day, when you die, they would say, thank God you killed us and saved our souls.

CAPTAIN

I guess they might say something like that.

DOUG

Where they all come from ?

CAPTAIN

Here n' there. All around. I go to all sort-sa ports and check 'em out, for vampires. I go finding souls to save. That is my function. God sent each man and woman down to the good Earth to do something. My purpose is to save souls.

CRAIG

- Of vampires ?

CAPTAIN

Sure - they got the right to have their souls saved like anyone else... only they ain't got many people will do them the service.

CRAIG

Yeah, but surely they're the minions of Satan ?

CAPTAIN

It's not their fault they're vampires. One bite is all it takes - then their souls are lost forever, unless someone like me takes pity on them and frees them.

DOUG

It's mighty kind of you.

CRAIG

A public service.

CAPTAIN

The way I see it, if they had the choice, they would choose the path of righteousness.

DOUG

You are one holy person.

CAPTAIN

I am doing God's will.

DOUG

Where all these vampires come from in the first place ?

CRAIG

Transylvania...Dracula country.

CAPTAIN

They hang out in the ports...ships come in with coffins...where they rest until night...then they come out...that's when I'm at my busiest.

DOUG

Are they all foreign ? Aliens ?

CAPTAIN

A lot of the original vampires were aliens.

CRAIG

But not extraterrestrials ?

CAPTAIN

No.

CRAIG

You know, all this vampire stuff is a bit unbelievable.

CAPTAIN

But it is real. It is actually happening. God instructed me to go forth and find vampires, and save their souls.

CRAIG

God told you -

CAPTAIN

God spoke to me.

CRAIG

God spoke to you ?

CAPTAIN

He sure did, and told me to save the souls of vampires. Now you folks are hungry, I bet. I'm a good cook. I got some nice meat. I'll go fetch us something to eat.

He goes out.

DOUG

Whatcha think ?

CRAIG

He's crazy - a complete loon. Hearing voices, God tells him kill perfectly innocent people, they're vampires, cuts off their heads, puts a stake through

CRAIG (cont'd)
 through their heart - then, this is
 the craziest, - God tells him to bury
 them in a graveyard, in his cabin. This
 guy is a paranoid schizophrenic.

DOUG
 Shush ! I think he's back.

The captain returns with a tray with several pieces of meat on it, and plates and cutlery.

He puts the meat down on the table.

CAPTAIN
 This is the captain's mess, but I
 will endeavour not to make a mess...
 Ha-ha ! I will endeavour to be neat
 and tidy. Neat meat.

The takes out a large threatening carving knife and sharpens it before carving.

The meat is pretty raw and red, even seeming to ooze a little blood, or blood-coloured juice.

The captain neatly cuts slices from the main joint and serves them up for the guys to eat.

Then he lifts the top off a tray and reveals some raw-looking kidney.

CAPTAIN
 I like it raw. One thing I can't
 stand is overcooked meat; I hate
 it ! Gimme something nice n' raw -
 not completely raw, but as they say,
 bloody as hell.

CRAIG
 Not, burnt to a crisp ?

CAPTAIN
 Not burnt to a crisp. Gimme bloody
 as hell.

The guys look glum at the prospect of having to eat this stuff. Bad enough is it's poorly cooked animal meat and kidneys, but there's the possibility it might be human, and the captain is a cannibal.

CAPTAIN
 Now you folks eat this up now...
 I'll be watching you. I want every
 last scrap eaten up now.

He sits down to eat his portion and cuts up some of the kidney and places a little bit on each plate.

CAPTAIN

Yummy.

Craig and Doug very slowly, very reluctantly eat up their food.

CAPTAIN

You like it..raw ?

CRAIG

Er...yes.

CAPTAIN

Good.

(to Doug)

You ?

DOUG

Yessir.

CAPTAIN

You're sailors, you say ?

CRAIG

Yes.

CAPTAIN

So, where you from ?

CRAIG

We're local. We just rowed up, you know,
'cause this is a lightship.

CAPTAIN

You ain't seen a lightship before ?

CRAIG

I seen one, but not up close. I was
curious.

CAPTAIN

You know what they say, Curiosity
killed the cat, ha-ha !

They eat their food up.

CAPTAIN

Every last scrap now, every last
morsel, or I will be offended.

They eat as slowly as possible.

Some time later, their plates are clean.

CAPTAIN

Hope you boys enjoyed that.

CRAIG

Oh yes, it was delicious.

CAPTAIN

Good. I guess I'll go do the dishes.

He rises from the table and picks up the plates and puts them on a tray.

CAPTAIN

I was thinking, you know, this killing vampires business, it's hard work. I could do with some help...There just seems to be so many of them; I really need a helping hand, an assistant, or two. How about it ?

CRAIG

Er...

DOUG

We need a moment, to think it over. Is that okay ?

CAPTAIN

Sure. Your future is in your hands.

The captain goes out.

DOUG

Jesus Christ ! That shit, that muck he made us eat, it was human flesh, wasn't it ?

CRAIG

I think so. I'm pretty darn certain it was.

DOUG

The guy's a cannibal. He might eat us next.

CRAIG

Uh-huh.

DOUG

He might kill us next.

CRAIG

That would leave us with no alternative - we would have to kill him. I don't wanna die and be eaten by him.

DOUG
He's got the axe.

CRAIG
We've got to get that off him.

DOUG
How ?

CRAIG
Distract him somehow.

DOUG
He might kill us if we tried to get
it off him.

CRAIG
We gotta try, or it will be us next.
Mind you, he didn't seem to think we
were vampires. He hasn't tried to kill
us yet.

DOUG
What are you saying ?

CRAIG
Maybe, if he doesn't think we're
vampires, we might be safe.

DOUG
Can we trust him ?

CRAIG
He is kinda crazy. I mean, this
vampire nonsense, it is nonsense.

DOUG
What if he's right ? What if there
are vampires ?

CRAIG
Yeah, well, that's not very likely,
is it ?

DOUG
But is it possible ?

CRAIG
Anything's possible.

DOUG
But you think...?

CRAIG
He's totally nuts. Crazy, insane.

CRAIG (cont'd)

He hears voices from God, telling him to kill people, they're vampires -

DOUG

- He says they're vampires - it's what he thinks...

CRAIG

We only got his word for that. I'm not sure I believe him.

DOUG

Then what do we do ?

CRAIG

We gotta kill him.

DOUG

You certain ?

CRAIG

Absolutely. Definitely.

DOUG

What if he's right, though ? I just got this feeling he might be right.

CRAIG

If he's not crazy, if he's telling the truth, if there are vampires, if he really is a vampire-killer, I'd be very much surprised. In fact, I would be amazed. I think it's a safe bet, he's crazy.

DOUG

So we gotta kill him ?

CRAIG

There is no alternative.

CUT TO:

EXT: LIGHTSHIP - NIGHT

On deck.

Doug and Craig.

They look at the moon.

DOUG

We gonna do it ?

Craig sighs.

CRAIG

We have to. It's him or us.

DOUG

Geez, I'm damn lucky to have you as my friend, 'cause you can work these things out. I'm too stupid - no way could've worked out, he was crazy. He might've convinced me he was telling the truth. That's how dumb I am, stupid. He would've cut my throat, cut my head off, thrown it in the sea. I owe you my life. I owe you everything.

CRAIG

That's alright. Everyone has to have someone to look out for them. I'm only glad I can be here to do it for you.

CUT TO:

INT: CAPTAIN'S CABIN - NIGHT

Doug and Craig have just come in.

The captain is busy burying a body.

CRAIG

Captain -

CAPTAIN

Yep ?

CRAIG

You mind if we ask you a question - ? Before we agree to help you, in this mission of yours, to free the souls of vampires, we just need ta know, how you can be certain a person is a vampire ?

DOUG

Yeah, how can ya tell ?

CAPTAIN

I can smell 'em.

CRAIG

You can smell 'em ?

CAPTAIN

Yes. My nose can smell 'em out.

CRAIG

You can smell 'em ?!

CAPTAIN (tapping his nose)
...With my nose.

DOUG
With your nose ?!

CAPTAIN
My nose. Very good nose for smelling
out vampires.

DOUG
How can you smell out a vampire ?

CAPTAIN
You can smell a vampire as well as
a rat, easy, if you've got a nose's
good for smelling.

CRAIG
Umm, that makes perfect sense.

(to Doug)
What d'you reckon ?

DOUG
Er...

CRAIG
Captain, we couldn't smell out a vampire,
couldn't even smell a rat. If we became
your assistants, we would be relying on
you to smell out the vampires for us.

CAPTAIN
That's okay. I'd can do all of that.
What I need help with is the actual
execution, cutting off the heads,
burying the bodies.

DOUG
I'd be good at that. I could cut off
those heads real good.

CAPTAIN
Tell you something, I'm like a bloodhound,
I can smell them vampires a mile off.

DOUG
A mile ?

CAPTAIN
A whole mile off.

Doug looks at Craig.

CRAIG

Wow ! That's some distance, and some nose !

DOUG

Sure is.

CUT TO:

INT: LIGHTSHIP GALLEY - NIGHT

Doug and Craig.

Around them knives hung up on the wall.

Behind them a large freezer.

DOUG (pointing to freezer)

What's he got in there ?

CRAIG

Bodies. You wanna look ?

Craig puts his hand on the handle. Doug puts his hand on Craig's arm to stop him opening it up.

DOUG

No. It's too horrible. He'll have bits of carcasses all hung up in there. His raw meat. Ugh !

CRAIG

So we gotta do it ? Kill him ?

DOUG

I guess so.

CRAIG

Only thing is, he don't think we're vampires.

DOUG

He don't ?

CRAIG

No. He said so. He don't smell us.

DOUG (smelling himself)

He don't ?

CRAIG

Nope.

DOUG

I guess I don't smell like a vampire.

CRAIG

Guess you don't. Mind you, he might change his mind. He might suddenly decide he can smell us...as vampires. But as long as he don't think we're vampires, we're safe.

DOUG

So what are you sayin' ? Do we do it, or what ?

CRAIG

He's crazy, but if he can't smell us as vampires, we might be safe..

DOUG

We might...

CRAIG

I think at the moment we might be safe.

DOUG

So what are you saying ? We do nothing ?

CRAIG

I don't wanna do the wrong thing.

DOUG

If we kill him -

CRAIG

We might regret it.

DOUG

If we don't kill him -

CRAIG

We might regret it even more.

DOUG

If we kill him -

GRAIG

We gotta do it. Haf-ta get that axe off him.

DOUG

We kill him ?

CRAIG

- With his axe.

DOUG

Okay. Let's do it.

CUT TO:

INT: CAPTAIN'S CABIN - NIGHT

The captain is hacking off a woman's head.

Doug and Craig peer round the door and come in.

CRAIG (saluting)
Sir, reporting for duty, sir.

Doug also salutes.

CAPTAIN
At ease.

They stand at ease.

CRAIG
Captain, we want to join you. We want to become vampire-hunters like you. Only one thing I gotta ask.

CAPTAIN
Yes ?

CRAIG
This smelling out vampires thing, you ain't been wrong ?

CAPTAIN
Never.

CRAIG
Never ever ?

CAPTAIN
Never..ever..ever.

CRAIG
Never made a mistake ? Never..ever ..ever ?

CAPTAIN
Never. All kills were legitimate.

CRAIG
How d'you know you ain't never been wrong ?

CAPTAIN
I just know.

DOUG
But that's like saying you're the man.

CAPTAIN

I am..the man.

DOUG (to CRAIG)

He is..the man.

CRAIG

Thing is, we don't know about this identification business. We ain't never spoken to no-one you thought was a vampire.

CAPTAIN

Why'd you want to do something like that ?

CRAIG

Just to get their opinion.

CAPTAIN

Their opinion ?

DOUG

Yes...

CAPTAIN

About what ?

CRAIG

About whether or not they were vampires.

CAPTAIN

You think, you'd ask a vampire, "Are you a vampire ?" They're gonna say, "Yes ?"

DOUG

They might do, if they was being honest.

CAPTAIN

A vampire ain't gonna be honest. They use deception. They hide their fangs. Sometimes, I actually haf-ta prise their jaw open to see they got fangs instead of teeth.

DOUG

What happens you got a guy's not a vampire, just got funny teeth, 'cause his teeth are like that ?

CAPTAIN

Vampires do not tell the truth.

CRAIG

You ever asked them that question ?

CAPTAIN

No.

DOUG

Then how'd you know for sure what they might say.

CRAIG

How'd you know ?

CAPTAIN

You got a point. I ain't never actually asked one. Maybe I should give it a try.

CRAIG

I would really like to speak with someone you think is a vampire.

CAPTAIN (pointing to a woman)

Okay - her.

DOUG

She's dead.

CAPTAIN

She ain't dead - she's one of the undead.

The captain shakes the body of the woman.

CRAIG

She's dead.

CAPTAIN

Ah shit ! What do you know ? You don't kill 'em real quick they just hiss and try to bite yoy...turn you into one o' them, and that is a fate worse than death. Tell you what, I'd rather be dead than one of the undead.

CRAIG

But you don't know what it's like. It might not be that bad.

CAPTAIN

The undead ain't got no soul. All they know to do is bite other people and turn them into one of the undead like them.

DOUG

Like they ain't got a choice ?

CAPTAIN

Exactly. They ain't got no choice and they try to make it like you got no

CAPTAIN (cont'd)
choice neither if they make you like
one of them.

CRAIG
Do we smell like vampires ?

CAPTAIN
Ah, c'mon !

CRAIG
Well, do we ?

CAPTAIN
Do you think I'm crazy ?! No way !
No way you smell like vampires !
Vampires have a distinctive smell.

DOUG
You know, we thought you might be
..crazy.

CAPTAIN (laughing)
Me ? Crazy ? No way.

DOUG
All this vampire stuff.

CAPTAIN
Yeah, I know, it sounds crazy - I mean,
if you didn't know I wasn't crazy,
Hell, you might think I was crazy.
I mean, I would in your position.

CRAIG
Yeah well, any sane person seeing
someone hacking people's heads off,
burying their bodies at sea in a graveyard
in a cabin in a lightship...

DOUG
- A graveyard in a lightship...

CRAIG
- Might well think that person was crazy.

CAPTAIN
They might. I ain't crazy, you know that.
I am sane. You do believe in vampires,
don't you ?

CRAIG
Yes, definitely.

DOUG

I believe in vampires.

CAPTAIN

Good. You'll join me now, be my helpers ?

DOUG AND CRAIG

Yes.

CAPTAIN

Excellent.

The captain picks up the axe and hands it to Craig. It is a little heavy at first.

CAPTAIN

Heavy, ain't it ?

CRAIG

A little.

Craig moves his hand to get a good feel of how best to swing the axe around its centre of gravity.

CAPTAIN

I got a nice specimen here...this little lady, poor little thing, she can only be seventeen; seventeen, they turned her into a vampire, a girl of that age - I mean, that's no life for a girl of seventeen; she should be out partying, but some bastard turned her into one of the undead. She's unconscious... I try to drug them so they don't feel nothing, but sometimes they don't co-operate too well, so I knock 'em out. This girl is a real cutie and sweet as anything . She just took my glass of milk and cookies like a baby. Now I'm gonna send her sweet little soul to Heaven. Er, you're gonna send her sweet little soul to Heaven, your first kill - your first conversion, to the ways of righteousness and giving her salvation. Cut off her head. Go on, cut it off.

CRAIG

Now ?

CAPTAIN

Yes. Now.

The captain backs away so Craig can take a swing at the head of the teenage girl laid out across the table in front of them.

Craig feels the weight of the axe and adjusts, then takes a practice swing.

CRAIG
Kinda heavy.

CAPTAIN
You get used to it.

Craig takes another practice swing, then prepares the axe. He raises it up near to the girl's head. But he hesitates.

CAPTAIN
Go on, be a hero.

Craig raises the axe again, but hesitates at the top of the swing.

He holds the axe there but does not strike.

He then puts the axe down.

CRAIG
I can't do it.

CAPTAIN
Not bad for your first try. Took me half an hour pluck up the courage to do my first one - did I have the right to do it? You do some soul-searching - then I heard God speak to me; I had that right, it was the right thing to do, sending her soul straight to Heaven. Gimme the axe.

Craig hands it to him.

CAPTAIN
Stand back.

Craig stands back.

The captain aims a rehearsal strike to get full measure of the swing on the girl's neck, then prepares to strike.

The axe goes up, but suddenly Craig grabs hold of it further down the handle and pulls it away from the captain.

Craig now swings the axe at him, warning him off, aiming towards his chest. The captain backs off.

CAPTAIN
What in Hell are you doing?

Craig looks at the captain.

CRAIG

I can't let you do this !

CAPTAIN

Gimme the axe ! I gotta send her soul to Heaven !

CRAIG

She's a sweet innocent thing.

CAPTAIN

That's why I gotta send her soul to Heaven, 'cause at the moment she is one of the damned - the undead remain in the ways of damnation unless someone can give them salvation. Gimme the axe.

Craig swings at him.

CRAIG

Get back.

CAPTAIN

Are you out-ta your mind ?

CRAIG

It's you, you're the one's out-ta their mind.

DOUG

Captain, you are fucking crazy.

CAPTAIN

Gimme the axe. I got work to do. I gotta free her soul.

CRAIG

I'm warning you.

CAPTAIN

Are you nuts ?

CRAIG

Keep away from me.

Doug watches them as the captain paws at the axe but Craig keeps him at bay by swinging it.

DOUG (to Captain)

He means it, you know. He will use it. He will kill you.

CAPTAIN

Gimme the axe !

CRAIG

So you can kill us too ?

CAPTAIN

Don't be stupid ! I wouldn't kill you...
I only kill vampires...

DOUG

You might think we were vampires.

CAPTAIN

You don't smell like vampires. I only
kill vampires...

DOUG

You can smell 'em...

CAPTAIN

Exactly.

CRAIG

You're a murderer !

CAPTAIN

They're the undead. How can I be
a murderer if I kill the undead ?

DOUG

Umm..a little tricky; I think he
got us there.

CAPTAIN

They're vampires, for Chrissakes !
They are the undead. You cannot kill
the undead.

DOUG

Why not ?

CAPTAIN

They're already dead - only they roam
the earth until someone has the decency
to send their souls to heaven.

CRAIG

Alive or undead, they still got a life,
at least an existence.

CAPTAIN

What the Hell are you talking about ?

CRAIG

They're not actually dead, not until
you kill them. After you kill them, then
they really are dead.

CAPTAIN

For one of the undead, being dead is a blessed relief.

DOUG

How do you know that ? You ever asked them ?

CAPTAIN

No.

CRAIG

Then how can you say that, for sure ?

CAPTAIN

I guess I can't. Look, if I don't kill that girl, her soul will live in eternal damnation. You want that to happen - ? Gimme the axe.

CRAIG

Get back.

CAPTAIN

Gimme the God-damn axe !

The captain lunges forwards at Craig. Craig swings the axe into his chest, which bursts open with blood. The captain staggers back and falls down into an open grave he had dug beforehand.

CAPTAIN (gasping)

You imbecile ! You God-damn fucking imbecile ! If only you knew what you done !

CRAIG (jumping into the grave)

You fucking insane psycho !

Craig in a frenzy hacks the captain to death. He keeps dealing out blows with the axe way past the point when the captain stops moving or twitching and is clearly dead, down to the frenzy he is in.

DOUG

Hey ! Stop it ! He's dead for Chrissakes !
Look at him ! He's dead !

Craig comes out of his frenzy and stops wielding the axe. He lets it fall down by the side of the grave.

Craig climbs out of the grave.

He sits down near the grave and pants.

Doug goes over to him and pats him on the back.

DOUG
It's okay. It's okay.

CRAIG
I had-ta do it. That poor innocent
girl. He was gonna hack her head off.

DOUG
You did the right thing.

CRAIG
He might've turned on us - kill us
next. He was totally insane.

DOUG
What we do now ?

CRAIG
Guess we go home.

CUT TO:

EXT: LIGHTSHIP - NIGHT

Doug and Craig climb down into the row boat.

CUT TO:

EXT: ROW BOAT ON OCEAN - NIGHT

Craig takes the oars. Doug sits back with the rudder and casts off.

CRAIG
Let's go.

He rows the boat away from the lightship.

CRAIG
Glad to be away from that creature.

DOUG
Know what you mean.

CRAIG
Man was crazy. Out of his God-damn tree.

DOUG
Sure was.

CRAIG
Would've killed us.

DOUG
That's for sure.

CRAIG
I mean, where do loonies like that

CRAIG (cont'd)
 come from ?

DOUG
 Dunno.

CRAIG
 They're just crazy. Totally nuts.
 Then all them people he killed...
 I mean, Jesus, how many, in total ?

DOUG
 Hundreds.

CRAIG
 Thousands. Guy like that should be
 locked up in a mental asylum..

DOUG
 An institution.

CRAIG (with emphasis)
 An institution. We had-da do it. He's
 better off dead.

DOUG
 Yep.

Later:

They get close to the stilts on which the warehouse is standing on the water,
 They look back to the lightship to see the light is still rotating and shining
 on the water.

DOUG
 Hey, look at that !

He points and Craig looks back at the lightship to see some people on the deck
 waving to them.

DOUG
 See that. They know we saved them from
 the captain. They're waving to us. They
 must be grateful.

CRAIG
 I guess they reckon they owe us. We
 saved a few lives there. We saved
 that young girl's life.

DOUG
 You saved her. You were the man.
 Without you I just would've believed
 all that lunatic's lies...

CRAIG

But even you must've known he was insane.

DOUG

He might've pulled the wool over my eyes.

CRAIG

You would never have fallen for that pile of crap.

DOUG

I almost did - you set me right. Without you I would never have killed the captain. I wouldn't've had the intelligence. I wouldn't've had the guts.

CRAIG

I killed the captain.

DOUG

Precisely. You saw through him right away.

CRAIG

I gotta look out for us both. Nice to see they're grateful, though.

Doug waves back to them.

It seems there is a celebration of sorts on the deck of the lightship, but it is some way off, so it is hard to make it out clearly.

Craig rows on a bit more.

DOUG

Hey - we're home.

Doug ties the boat up.

CRAIG

You help me up ? I'm a little stiff. I guess I must've been running on adrenalin all the while. It's odd, you can do all sort-sa things, with tremendous energy, you get it from somewhere, don't know where...then it's all over, it all hits you all of a sudden; you get aches and pains, you get stiff.

DOUG

That comes with being a hero.

Craig smiles.

CRAIG
Anyone in the right circumstance can
become a hero if push comes to shove.

DOUG
But you did it.

CRAIG
I guess I did.

Doug holds out his hand to help Craig up.

Craig looks up to the hole above them that leads into the warehouse.

CRAIG
I'll never make it.

DOUG
I'll go first. You shove me up, then
I'll haul you up.

CRAIG
Okay.

Doug jumps up to the hole and holds on with his hands, then swings up to get
his arms in place, so that they hold him up.

Craig pushes him up by his shoes until Doug can clamber inside.

Doug then lowers his arms down and takes Craig by the hands.

He pulls Craig up into the warehouse.

CUT TO:

INT: WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Doug and Craig.

CRAIG
What a night, huh ?

DOUG
Crazy.

CRAIG
I mean, what a crazy son-of-a-bitch.

DOUG
He was nuts.

CRAIG
How'd it all happen, huh ? How did he
get the insane notion there are such
things as vampires ? Then that stuff

CRAIG (cont'd)
about hearing voices - God telling
him what to do - that is a symptom
of paranoid schizophrenia.

DOUG
That mean he's a loon ?

CRAIG
Precisely. I did not expect this to
happen. I'm playing cards, the crates;
then there's this lightship, crazy guy
cutting off people's heads, mad son-of-
a-bitch..vampires..insane, totally nuts.

DOUG
The world is well rid of him.

CRAIG
Absolutely.

Craig draws out a chair and sits down wearily at the table. He takes out the pack of cards and puts them down on the table. He takes out some coins and places them in front of him. He builds the coins up into a column.

He then shuffles the pack and gives himself five cards, then opens them out for Doug to see.

CRAIG
A good hand. I guess that's luck.
I guess that's just destiny.

DOUG
Like when you saved us all, you
worked out, that guy was crazy.

CRAIG
But you must've -

DOUG
I was actually beginning to believe
him. For a moment I thought he was
telling the truth...

CRAIG
About vampires - ? He was a vampire-
hunter ?

DOUG
Yes. But that's because I am stupid.
Dumb.

CRAIG
You ain't that dumb.

DOUG
Maybe I got a trick up my sleeve.
You ever played with a Tarot pack ?

CRAIG
No.

DOUG
I got a pack.

Doug takes a Tarot pack out of his pocket and puts it down flat on the table so that the cards are all covering each other and none are visible.

DOUG
That tells you what your destiny is.
Shuffle them.

Craig shuffles.

DOUG
Deal yourself one card - one card
only.

CRAIG
Okay.

Craig deals himself a card, and slowly turns it up. It is Death.

CRAIG
Death.

DOUG
Ha-ha ! Death !

CRAIG
Death. Oh shit !

DOUG
You know what that means ?

CRAIG
I'm gonna die ?

DOUG
Yes. You are gonna die. Nah, it don't
necessarily mean, you are gonna die. All
it means is you are gonna meet with some
big change in your life..which could be
death, but does not haf-ta be death. But
the biggest change any person could have
in their life is..death.

CRAIG
I got the Death card. That is significant.

DOUG

It is ?

CRAIG

I'm gonna die..soon..maybe tonight.

DOUG

You're just getting paranoid.

CRAIG

Oh God, why ? Why me ?

DOUG

Look at this.

Doug takes the pack and exposes them, fanning out the cards, showing that each card in the Tarot pack is death. It is a trick pack.

DOUG

Each card is death. I got it from a joke shop. Scares the shit out-ta people.

CRAIG

Very funny.

DOUG

First time I pulled one over on you.

CRAIG (dismissively)

Congratulations.

DOUG

Ah, don't be a sore loser.

Doug sits down.

CRAIG

That captain, he was death alright...

DOUG

You stopped him.

CRAIG

Yes, I did. Someone had-ta do it. Sometimes in life, you haf-ta take a stand. It's just so surprising I actually had it in me. Someone like that, when they lose it, they lose it big time. They just have no control over their insane delusions - no-one stops them, they go on a rampage.

DOUG

Crazy thing is, I believed him.

CRAIG
That is just plain dumb. There are no
vampires, period, Only crazy people
believe in vampires.

DOUG
And I ain't crazy, just dumb.

Doug looks around and his attention is drawn to the crates.

DOUG
What's in the crates ?

CRAIG
Dunno.

DOUG
Odd.

CRAIG
How's that ?

DOUG
Why they leave them here ?

CRAIG (uninterested)
Dunno.

DOUG
What's in them ?

CRAIG
You know what happened to the
curious cat ?

DOUG
Dur - curiosity killed the cat ?

CRAIG
Exactly.

DOUG
So what are you saying ?

CRAIG
Don't get curious.

DOUG
But I am curious. It's my nature.
I wanna know what's in the crates.
I need-ta know.

CRAIG
You don't need-ta know nothing.

DOUG
I gotta know.

CRAIG
On your own head be it.

DOUG
Let's take a look, huh.

CRAIG
Can you open them ?

DOUG
I got no crowbar.

CRAIG
So...

DOUG AND CRAIG
Use your head.

CRAIG
Go on.

DOUG
How can I...?

CRAIG
Look through the cracks in the wood.

DOUG
Oh yeah.

Doug inspects a crate closely, then another one, then another. They are well put together so that the cracks between the planks are so small he cannot see inside them, not a chink of light or space.

DOUG
They ain't got no cracks.

CRAIG
That's impossible. All crates got cracks.

DOUG
Not these crates. Take a look.

Craig gets up and inspects the crates and sees that the planks are very closely put together without enough of a crack anywhere to see through.

CRAIG
You're right. This is strange.

DOUG
I gotta know what's in them.

CRAIG
If there ain't no cracks, you gotta
go and make one.

DOUG
How do I do that ?

CRAIG
Use your head.

DOUG
My head - ?

CRAIG
Your God-damn thick skull. Use your
head to crack 'em open.

Doug draws back and takes a running headbutt at a crate, splintering a plank
enough to create a crack which is large enough to see through.

CRAIG
You got a crack ?

DOUG
Yep.

CRAIG
Your head hurt at all ?

DOUG
No. You know I got a thick skull.
Can anything enter my thick skull ?
No.

But Doug's forehead has a cut on it, oozing blood.

CRAIG
You got a cut.

DOUG
Where ?

CRAIG
Your forehead, there.

Doug puts his hand to his forehead and takes it away to see blood.

DOUG
I'm bleeding. I didn't feel nothing.

CRAIG
That's 'cause of your thick skull.

Craig takes out a handkerchief and uses it to wipe up Doug's blood.

CRAIG

Press it to your head till it stops.

DOUG

Thanks.

Doug holds the handkerchief against his forehead.

CRAIG

Let's see if you done any damage.

Craig inspects the crate and sees that there is now a crack between the planks.

Craig places his eye in the crack and sees a human eye looking at him. He recoils in shock.

CRAIG

Jesus !

DOUG

What is it ?

CRAIG

An eye. A human eye. There's people in there. Shit, human trafficking. Nasty business.

DOUG

Who is it ?

CRAIG

Man, woman, kid, I don't know. I don't like it. I don't like it at all. In fact, I hate the idea. people trafficking...

Suddenly there are banging noises from the crate and from the other crates as they begin to be opened up from the inside.

DOUG

What's happening ?

The crates appear to be smashed open from the inside as a number of VAMPIRES emerge from the broken piles of wood, each with their hangs hanging out of their mouths, with blood-shot eyes and hissing.

VAMPIRE

Blood, blood, blood !

SECOND VAMPIRE

We want blood.

THIRD VAMPIRE

We need blood.

CRAIG
Jesus Christ !

VAMPIRE
Blasphemy !

The Vampire laughs.

DOUG
What are they ?

CRAIG
Vampires -

DOUG
Are they alive ?

CRAIG
No.

DOUG
Are they dead ?

CRAIG
They're the undead - vampires ! The captain was right...he was telling the truth all along. I made a terrible mistake.

A female vampire hisses and approaches Doug. She wips away his and caresses his head. He is effectively seduced by her, but licking the blood on his forehead. handkerchief her tongue is

DOUG
Ma'am, excuse me, but, are you one of the undead ?

FEMALE VAMPIRE
Oh yes, I sure am. I love blood.

The female vampire suddenly plunges her fangs into Doug's neck and sucks his blood out until his face becomes pale.

DOUG
Ah, geez...

She sucks away, draining his blood, using her fangs like straws.

FEMALE VAMPIRE
Tastes...yummy.

A group of vampires surround Craig and dance around him, until, at a signal from the first vampire to emerge, they grab hold of him and pin him down; then the first vampire plunges his fangs into Craig's neck and sucks him. After a few seconds, he lets the other vampires take turns in sucking out Craig's

blood.

Craig and Doug thus die at the hands and fangs of the vampires.

The vampires suck out their blood until they are motionless and their eyes close.

FEMALE VAMPIRE

They dead ?

VAMPIRE

Yes. Tomorrow they will rise again
and join us..become one of the undead.

FEMALE VAMPIRE

Good of them to kill that captain for
us -

VAMPIRE

- That vampire-hunter -

FEMALE VAMPIRE

- The only person could've stopped us.

VAMPIRE

He was doing it right, you know,
cutting off heads and a stake through
the heart, separate burial for the
body, and the prayer..is the only way
to save a vampire's soul...

FEMALE VAMPIRE

Salvation.

VAMPIRE

You ever dream of salvation ?

FEMALE VAMPIRE

Everybody dreams of salvation.

VAMPIRE

Is that what you want ? Would you
prefer to be dead, than to roam the
earth forever as one of the undead ?

FEMALE VAMPIRE

Free of this curse ? Free of the curse
of the undead ?

VAMPIRE

You ever dream of that ?

FEMALE VAMPIRE

Nah - I'm happier as I am, sucking
blood.

VAMPIRE

That is all we do - suck blood, have sex and indulge in the worst forms of depravity.

FEMALE VAMPIRE

Such fun...

VAMPIRE

The alternative the captain offered us; well, he didn't offer us, he imposed it on our kind; he gave us no choice... the alternative is to die, and give up being undead, save our souls and live forever in eternal bliss..salvation.

FEMALE VAMPIRE

But we have eternal damnation, which is much better.

SECOND VAMPIRE

At least we have a choice.

FEMALE VAMPIRE

Do we ?

THIRD VAMPIRE

We choose to be vampires, to suck blood and exist as the undead till Doomsday...

FEMALE VAMPIRE

That suits me just fine.

VAMPIRE

Until Doomsday -

FEMALE VAMPIRE

- Or Hell freezes over...wouldn't have it any other way...

They kiss and fall to the floor, ripping off each other's clothes and indulging in a frenzy of lust and sex.

The other vampires join in the orgy of sex amid the dead bodies of Doug and Craig.

CUT TO:

INT: LIGHTSHIP - NIGHT

Captain's cabin,

The graveyard.

Two new coffins are brought in by the vampires and laid to rest in open

graves.

Nearby is the dead hacked-up corpse of the captain, still in the grave where Craig left him after he killed him.

The vampires go out.

A little later we hear scratching noises and the coffin lids move from the inside.

Hands emerge from inside the coffins, moving the lids to the side, exposing Doug and Craig as new vampires.

They rise up from their coffins and climb out of the graves.

Craig levitates and hovers. Doug follows suit.

CRAIG

This is the best bit - the levitation and the floating. I like to hover in the air, hover over things. The rest of it you can keep, all that sucking blood; frankly, it sucks.

DOUG

It is the duty of the undead to kill and suck blood.

CRAIG

It is not our duty...it's a compulsion, an addiction, like smoking.

Craig hovers downwards until his feet are touching the ground (the graveyard), followed by Doug.

Craig moves towards the open grave where the captain's body is.

CRAIG

He was right, you know. If only we'd listened to him. If only we'd believed him; we wouldn't be in this mess.

DOUG

Excuse me, I did believe him..

CRAIG

That's because you're stupid, but my superior intelligence saved the day and we both ended up in this state, dead...

DOU

The undead.

CRAIG

Alright, the undead. The only thing worse than being dead, is being the undead.

DOUG

You'd prefer to be dead ?

CRAIG

I think I would.

DOUG

He was offering people a way out...

CRAIG

Their salvation...I know...and I killed him...

DOUG

So, what do we do now ?

CRAIG

We feed our addiction, I guess; we have no choice. I mean, have you ever heard of a vampire giving up vampirism ?

DOUG

I heard o' guys giving up smoking.

CRAIG

But this is worse. This is something you can't give up until you die, and you can't actually die because you're one of the undead; you do it until someone kills you..someone like the captain, but I killed him...

DOUG

Kinda sucks, don't it ?

CRAIG

He was the only one could've saved us, and I killed him...I was smart, could tell his story - vampires - was just bullshit...but it was true...he was telling the truth. I am too intelligent for my own good.

DOUG

Don't be so hard on yourself. It was an easy mistake to make. I believed him, because I was less intelligent than you. - We're stuck with it now.

CUT TO:

INT: LIGHTSHIP - NIGHT

The galley.

Doug and Craig.

Craig has his hand on the door of the freezer. He opens it to expose hanging animal carcasses and pieces of meat.

CRAIG

He wasn't a cannibal. All pig flesh,
nothing human. He was telling the truth
all along. If only I'd listened to him.
If only I'd believed him...

DOUG

I bet a lotta people tell themselves
that when they make a mistake...

CRAIG

But what a mistake to make ! I am an
asshole.

CUT TO:

EXT: LIGHTSHIP - NIGHT

The vampires are on deck, dancing, sucking the necks of some people they had brought onboard, and having sex.

Doug and Craig are watching them.

CRAIG

This is our future now. This is
our life, our existence...

THE END