

RED DEVIL, BLUE SEA

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FADE IN:

UNDERWATER

A mini-submarine named the Merlin surveys a shipwreck.

External lights capture the edges of the vessel, coral reefs.

INT. MERLIN

Two high definition video monitors display the footage.

Cramped space for three people and the equipment.

VINCENT (early 40s) Red Wings baseball cap and reggae shirt.
Headset with microphone.

Eyes focus ahead, drives.

The time on his digital watch reads quarter past eleven.

BARRY (late 20s) jeans with a Florida tourist-type shirt,
looks out of his small, circle- side window.

Wedding band on his finger, he holds the hand of DAWN (mid
20s) who favors a scuba wet-suit. Her hair cut short, tomboy-
like.

Vincent taps a switch on the instrument panel.

VINCENT

Topside, this is The Merlin. We're
ahead of time by fifteen.

SHAWN (O.S.)

Roger that, Vincent.

Vincent's right hand dives into the nearby plastic bag filled
with almonds.

DAWN

So, anyone can train to pilot a
Quester?

VINCENT

A few physical limits aside, mostly
anyone.

BARRY

Only a month?

VINCENT

Don't worry about it. Just keep
enjoying the -

Something outside SLAMS into the sub.

The video feeds flicker, go black.

Loose sand clouds all outside visuals.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

UNDERWATER

The mini sub lights cast light over the ocean surface...

A shadow of something huge pulls the sub forward...

Sand and stone part ways...

VIDEO MONITOR FOOTAGE - SIDE

Small fish, crab and loose coral pepper around a camera's
view...in the light, like a sandstorm.

INT. MERLIN

Video monitors flicker. Brief light from a peephole in the
window illuminates faces of three dreamers.

UNDERWATER

The shipwreck fades as distance increases. Debris clouds
around soft light, engulfs the mini -sub.

FADE OUT.

INT. MERLIN

Dawn opens her eyes.

Vincent's fluorescent watch and a small hole opening on the
main window the only available light.

Her vision disoriented. The aurora from the window blinks
like a bad projector.

Sounds of light scrapes on metal outside. Like nails on a chalkboard.

Dawn looks to the monitors. Dead.

Struggles to get out of her seat belt.

She manages...falls two feet. Her leg taps one of the side monitors by accident. The monitor responds with snow.

Dawn's eyes focus. Vincent's hat in front of her. Almonds all around. Small drops of blood. Hers.

Gazes up...Barry and Vincent, strapped in upside down.

She checks the pulse of Barry. Sigh of relief.

Crawls under them. Gets to the intercom.

Flicks switches.

DAWN

Topside. Come in. Come in, Shawn.

Nothing but static.

DAWN

Anyone read me?

Her attention goes to Vincent beside her...back to Barry.

The illumination from the screens highlight their faces.

No visible cuts.

Barry's face expressionless.

About to check Vincent's neck pulse...

The craft vibrates. Dawn rocks back and forth.

Almonds like jumping beans, dance around her legs.

Rocks, coral scrape the sides of the mini- sub.

A glimmer of light peeks through the front window. Different location from the last one. Dawn peeks out. The window all black with that one exception.

The crack of light moves. Dawn looks closer. Moves Vincent's watch arm close to the glass.

Turns his wrist...light from his watch reveals...

Rows of tentacle suckers. Deep red fluid sloshes between squid and ship.

UNDERWATER

Between squid tentacles, a new small opening.

Dawn's eyes peer through.

A light burst of black ink rises...

INT. MERLIN

Dawn terrified. She glances at Vincent's watch.

Ten to four.

Light scrape on Vincent's arm...bleeds. Blood runs over Dawn's hand.

Dawn freaks, lets Vincent go. His arm dangles in front of her face.

Dawn's gaze darts around control panels. Even though they are upside down, she focuses on the steering handle.

She grabs it. Vincent's hands shoots up over hers.

VINCENT

Not a good idea.

DAWN

It's dragging us.

Dawn motions to the window. Vincent leans ahead.

DAWN

Radio's out.

Vincent checks his watch.

DAWN

How much air we got in this thing?

VINCENT

We have enough oxygen to last us another two to three days.

DAWN

But they are coming to get us soon, right?

Dawn looks back at Barry.

VINCENT

He'll be fine. Get to your seat.
Hang on and slide in it. You'll
know when.

Vincent turns off a switch. Outside light shuts down. Waits a few seconds.

DAWN

Dumb thing's not trying to eat us,
is it?

VINCENT

He ran into us, might have got
caught up in the rails.

Vibrations halt. He eases back on the handles...calmly shifts...

The mini-sub swirls, tentacles turn with it. Dawn eases into her seat. Almonds scatter on the floor. Sub and squid tilt upright, level off...

Tentacles pulse, slide off. Merlin throttles forward.

Vincent flips the outer right light switch back on. His eyes go wide. His grip tightens on the handles as the sub nose dives. Dawn fastens her seat belt.

UNDERWATER

Merlin crashes down a rugged slope. Skids in plumes of debris. The mini-sub slides into a one twenty angle. Junk plumes over the light, chokes it out.

INT. MERLIN

Everything rattles! Vincent strains for control. Blood trickles down his hand, to the right handle. Merlin rumbles, stops.

Dirt and plankton clear, light focuses. Three small streaks on the glass window. Vincent stares at them...

VINCENT

We all right back there? All in one
piece?

Vincent opens up a compartment, takes a first aid kit and a navigation map. Unstraps his belt, turns to Dawn.

DAWN

I'm fine.

Vincent hands her a bandage.

DAWN

You're worse than me.

VINCENT

What? This? Ain't nothing. Two years ago, me and a thresher...now that was a scratch.

Gauzes his arm up.

VINCENT

Where'd he smack us, our friend...
Beak was this way...four hours...

Points east. His finger goes to the map. He shows Dawn.

VINCENT

Here's the wreck. And we... Are
somewhere around here...

His finger rests on "*Arkhipov Chasm*".

DAWN

Eight miles? Seven?

VINCENT

Topside knows we're gone, tracked
us on radar. While we're waiting,
I'll have things up and running.

DAWN

Something you're not telling me.
Is this right? We could be
anywhere.

VINCENT

Navy knowledge.

Scoops up his hat. Slaps it on.

Barry's eyes open.

FADE OUT.

