

Scene 1

In a lifeboat in the middle of the sea, no land in sight except for the boat itself and its occupants: William, John, Frank, George, and James. Jabbering is heard from inside the boat but is undiscernible along with retching noises.

George (*half of his body lying over the edge, hand in the water letting the water run over him*): Any sign of land? Or Nantucket?

William (*putting away his spyglass*): Nay.

George: Damn. Is it ration time?

William: Nay.

George: Damn.

Frank: Good lord that's all you talk about is when is ration time. 'Is ration time now?' The answer will always be fucking no. The only thing we have to look forward to is the blasted sun and James's blasted blabbering.

James: I knew I knew that them *things* were the creation of the devil! I should've listened to the dirty fucker when he told me

that they make bubbles before hopping up. They make the damned bubbles! Bubbles bubbles bubbles.

William: We need to talk about something else, tell me John what got you into the whaling business?

John finishing dry heaving: Well, I guess it's because of the money in it. Enough to keep myself in a good stupor.

George: Why in a stupor? I've thought that you'd like ol' Madame Fanny's girls. Hehehehe.

John: I... I have my reasons for it.

James: Death is fast approaching Oh! *He hops up and whirls William around and forces the spyglass out.* Can you see it? He has a warship! The likes that I've never seen! And our shipmates are on it! Guiding him to us. Damn you! Damn you all to hell!

William: Ain't nothin out there. Tell me James my boy. Don't ya have a lady waitin for ya?

James: Anna is dead just like us. Just like everyone who is born and who isn't a twinkle in their da's eyes.

Frank: Shut up! George! I will give you my rations for the rest of the time here if you kill the sun-crazed bastard!

James: As the lord sayeth we come from dust and we return to dust. But our dust will be water where the devils live.

George: I can't do it. I ain't got the strength to lift me hand up or make a fist. Now if I had a ration.

John: I will not give out rations when we can keep our thoughts together. Now, how about we be civilized and we talk about what did you all go on this voyage for?

Lights dim signifying a scene change

Scene 2

At a dock in Nantucket where men and women bustle about with the stench of the dead whales hanging in the air.

Enter John standing at the corner near where several women and men stand while each of his crewmates lines up to talk to him.

William: Well you see I've been in the shipping business for nearly twenty years. I have a wife and two kids, boy and girl. Mary and I married after my first voyage and Eddie and Pearl

came after the second voyage. *William walks away from John to the family standing together.*

Mary: May God keep you safe William.

William: The Lord has kept me safe all this time and he'll keep me safe once more.

Pearl: Father you know the Lord punishes pride. Father, I beg you not to go. I... I... I had a dream last night, (*enter five men: one wearing William's clothing while wearing a mask, another dressed up as a sea captain, and the other three wear tribal uniforms covered in blood*) that you were with these savages and they had killed Captain Smith (*As she says this one of the savages strikes the Captain down and they begin to dance over the limp man and they eat him. They bend down and begin making loud eating noises*) and you were eating him too (*William's masked counterpart joins in.*) Blood was pouring out of your mouth and... Well then, I-

William: Pearl! Get ahold of yourself. You've been listin' to the gossip with them other ladies eh? I told ya that they're sayin a big bunch of nothin to try and seem more mature than the others.

Pearl: Yes father.

William: Mary please try to keep the child away from those girls, they worryin our daughter. And Edward keep the house in tip-top shape. *The family steps in the background letting **George Approaches John***

George: I... well I gotta do this job to pay off lad. So I can get married. *George walks over to a heavily pregnant woman* Well miss Martha I see the child is coming along.

Martha: Yes just like your ability to become more like Onan! I swear if you think that you can just skip off in another port well you have another thing coming! Madame Fanny has her ways! *The woman raises her fist before striking him as they move to the background leaving Frank to walk up.*

Frank: Well it's a family tradition and well Pa needs the money for the doctor. *An older man starts coughing violently forcing Frank to rush to the background. James stumbles up*

James: I came because debt must be paid and pay it we will. We shall all end up in the pits of hell for we've lost all

civilization! All sorts of civilization! We are dogs and dogs are better than us. We are worse than dogs. Where has our humanity gone? *James runs off stage blabbering still.*

John turning to the audience: The only reason I came here was that I was almost arrested for being a peg boy up in Sag Harbour. I only joined this ship because some of my old clients were hanging around town and I didn't want to deal with them.

A scream from James is heard causing the lights to dim.

Scene 3

Back in the lifeboat but time has passed leaving the crew to only be illuminated by moonlight.

George: I can't fuckin do it anymore! What do you mean we have no more rations!

John: We only had rations for three! You're lucky we made it this long!

Frank: Oh Pa, I don't think I can make it much longer without somethin to eat. Blast it! *Frank pulls out his gun and fires into the water* There's nothing but water around us and we can't drink it. We are in a cruel joke ain't we! Pa is dying from

disease, I'm dying because I can't drink the damned water. James is singing hymns. *He turns his gun and presses it to James' forehead.* Quiet! Quiet! *A low moan erupts from him as Frank falls back and kicks his legs up to the sky.* I'll never whale again! Is that what you want to hear God?

George: Nantucket must be just around the corner. William?

William: Couldn't tell ya, it's too dark. I'd give my left arm for something to eat. Like fried cod or... or.. Cheese.. Or or..

James: We all know the cure for this sin. Death is not that far behind us! My shepherd God help me! I'm with the lions and they're starving!

Frank: Shut it!

George: Nantucket can't be that far away.

William: A hint of whiskey with the soup is always the best.

John fires his gun in the air getting everyone's attention.

John: Do you want to be fed? *Everyone but James nods* Well then

how badly? Because it seems that the only way we will be fed is if one of us dies or we happen upon land.

James: Oh now we are at the zenith of our masks. Cast them off
Cast them off! I want to see your true faces as you eat your own souls. We are worse than dogs now! Worse than dogs! We try to act like we've been graced with God's gifts but it's a lie! For we cannot sacrifice we cannot! **We may say we want to be of the holy nature but when push comes to shove.** When our masks crack we all become the devil's children!

Frank: I vote that we eat him first!

John: Frank, we are all in this situation, we just have to make it a little bit longer.

James: The blind man says to his eyeless sheep! We shall never leave our little boat even if we do land. It shall stay in the backs of our heads! The guilt, the urges, the thoughts, the sins. None of us will be the same nor will our children be the same!

William: James I suggest that you keep our children out of this.

William whispers a small prayer for Pearl and Edward

James: Oh but in the end the fruit of our loins shall make the same mistakes. For I have seen the future.

George: Does that future include land?

James: No! I have seen the future and we are others and others are we. We are nothing to our children's children's children! We are monsters! We are the vile ones! They will shame us for our actions! They will say our job was nothing but the Devil's bugging! They'll scoff at us as they commit their own atrocities. For they did not pay attention to the whale songs and our broken masks. Do you not see how futile it is to see yourself as a hero? We are nothing more than others to an other because we decided we are others.

Frank: We are Nantucket! We are the proud and the free!

James: And we are the corpses walking and the dust compacted tightly together. Humanity is gone! Humanity is black like shadows because it has never existed. We only lie to ourselves saying it does exist and we are proud of it. But-

George: I get it you slit! Our descendants will hate us! (A groan is heard from all of them as they fall back in the boat.) Well, I hope my descendants have some more wit about them to pack more rations on trips, that's for sure!

A whale's call is heard suddenly in the distance. Every man sits up and huddles closely together, except for James. A whimper can be heard from Frank and George while John and William lock eyes on James.

James: Death has come! Oh, death! My sweet mistress make me moan in the nothingness we all return into! Make me! Make Me! Mak- He stops and falls over violently convulsing before beginning to foam from the mouth. Without thinking George fires his gun into James several times before he stops jittering about.

Frank: We killed him.

George: Oh Martha! I've messed it up big time!

William: Well... it's fresh food.

John: We just gotta light a little fire or something to cook him.

Frank: I think we can use every part of him.

George: Oh Martha! What have I done?

Frank: You gave us meat for a long time George! You're a hero!

George stops bubbling and pulls out his knife before handing off to William as he begins to delicately carve into John, while the lights dim. The cackling of the fire is heard, but it sounds more like James laughing than a fire going. The curtain falls.