

TURTLE DREAMING

Written by

Neroli Wesley

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23 Nelson Rd, Croydon, Victoria 3136, Australia  
(+614) 2575 5828 neroli\_w@yahoo.com

Registered with the Australian Writers' Guild  
No: JB010194

INT. NEW YORK APARTMENT - DAY

INT. NEW YORK NIGHTCLUB - DAY

EXT. NEW YORK - NIGHT

EXT. PLANE OVER ANDROS - DAY

A plane roars over the Bahamas, brilliant against blue sky. Below lies a green island bathed in sunlight, ringed with white sand and surrounded by light blue reefs.

Passengers are visible through the windows. Through one, MAD a beautiful Bahamian woman is looking angrily down at the island. We pass over her and move to DOM, thirty, boyish, dejected. His red hair is plastered flat.

INT. PLANE OVER ANDROS - DAY

Dom slumps in first class in a beautiful suit, a tie and expensive shoes. He holds a brochure on which turtles and angelfish glide through crystal water. The seat next to him is empty.

DOM

Shite.

His accent is Irish tinged with New York. Amongst the brochures on his tray table he has a thin phone, a GoPro camera and a glass of wine. He picks up the phone, drops it on the floor, bends to pick it up and knocks the wine into his shoes.

DOM (CONT'D)

(flapping)

Shite! Oh for Pete's sake.

He slips off his shoes and lays his socks on the empty seat. Determined, he grasps the phone tightly, reaches out his arms, aims carefully and takes a selfie.

DOM (CONT'D)

(fake smiling)

Knees.

INSERT - PHOTO ON PHONE

of Dom. It's crooked. There is a SWOOSH as it uploads.

He types quickly. Hits a button. The plane bumps a little. Dom grips the armrests and closes his eyes. Out the window dark clouds appear. Lightning flashes far away.

DOM (CONT'D)

(softly)

Great.

He's not looking well. His phone plays a RINGTONE: Jaws.

DOM (CONT'D)

Finally.

He dumps the brochure on the empty seat, picks up the phone and checks the screen.

INSERT - PHOTO ON PHONE

of HILARY, thirty, neat blonde hair, sharp features, lots of teeth. She's reaching out her hand to the block the camera.

He lifts the phone rapidly to his ear.

DOM (CONT'D)

Where are you?

He looks puzzled. He looks at the screen. Over the photo the 'Incoming Call' button is still there. Her ringtone continues.

DOM (CONT'D)

Damn. Stupid thing.

He swings the phone up to his ear with more force.

DOM (CONT'D)

Where are you? I had to get on the plane on my own. I'm already feeling sick and you've got my tablets.

He's talking too loudly. A passenger looks over at him.

DOM (CONT'D)

What?

The passenger glares.

DOM (CONT'D)

(softer)

I was going to tell you when we got there.

Dom shakes his head.

DOM (CONT'D)

Don't be like this. I thought we could have a quiet time together, you know, work out a plan. Going forward.

He holds the phone further from his ear and grimaces but the plane tilts sideways and makes him smack his own ear, hard. He looks at the phone with hatred but controls himself.

DOM (CONT'D)  
 Look, come over. We can work  
 something out. Think about it at  
 least. You can bring my clothes.

The volume on the other end of the phone hurts his ear. The plane falls. Dom's hair flaps up and down. His brochure floats for a moment and slaps down.

DOM (CONT'D)  
 You're overreacting. I'll come home  
 then.

He listens again for a long time. The plane shakes.

DOM (CONT'D)  
 I am not a loser. Ok. All right.  
 I'll see you when I get home then  
 but you're being crazy. What? It is  
 my home! Hilary?

Dom looks at the phone. She's gone. Rubbing his stomach, he looks up at the toilet indicators. They are all full. He springs up.

DOM (CONT'D)  
 (springing down)  
 Ooh. Ouch.

He undoes his seat belt, springs up again and lurches down the moving passage back through the curtain to cattle class.

INT. PLANE OVER ANDROS - DAY

In cattle class there is one free toilet.

DOM  
 Oh, thank god.

He heads for the toilet like a drowning man reaching for a life-raft a hand over his mouth. MAD, beautiful, lithe, mid twenties, suddenly steps into the aisle. They collide.

DOM (CONT'D)  
 Oh! Sorry!

MAD  
 Look where you're going!

Her voice is angry but musical.

DOM  
 That's all right. I mean...you go  
 ahead.

MAD  
 Idiot.

Her chocolate skin is creamy smooth. As she lurches towards the toilets he watches her. She's too thin but gorgeous.

DOM  
Yes. Yes. You go.

Dom is green. His mouth is full. He looks around desperately and takes a sick bag from the back of Mad's empty seat. He barfs into the bag but sick goes everywhere.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Oh god.

The plane jumps as Dom tries to wipe off the seat. A yellow chunk sticks to his chin. In the window seat DOLORES, fifties, bleached hair, Botox smooth, looks disgusted.

DOM (CONT'D)  
I do apologize for that.

DELORES  
(tight lipped)  
Hmm.

The seat belt lights DING on. Delores presses her button for cabin crew. Behind Dom a baby begins to scream. Dom stares at the mother trying to calm the child.

DOM  
Great. Just what we need.

Mad comes out of the toilet. She looks down at her chuck splattered seat, looks at Dom's bare feet covered in sick, then looks up at Dom. Her phone CHIMES. She ignores it.

MAD  
What have you done?

DOM  
I'm so sorry. I get travel sick and my girlfriend missed the plane.

She glares at him.

MAD  
That's great. I love sitting in vomit. It'll make my day.

The STEWARD arrives and looks at Dom with thinly veiled contempt. He looks at the soiled seat and suppresses an eye roll, squeezing past Dom and Mad taking the sick bag between two fingers as he goes.

DOM  
Look, Hilary missed the plane so I've got a spare seat next to me in first class. You can have her spot.

Dom points towards first class, notices there are chunks on his hands and wipes his hands on his suit pants.

MAD

I'd rather stick hot needles in my eyes.

DOM

Please. It's the least I can do.  
Let me to make this up to you.

The steward returns, squeezes between Dom and Mad and wipes the seat. He gives it a good spray with air freshener. Delores coughs.

Dom tries to get the Steward's attention.

DOM (CONT'D)

That's all right isn't it? If she takes my other seat?

The fasten seat belts sign DINGS off and on. The steward glances around wildly.

STEWARD

It's fine. Get back to your seats and get your belts on. We're nearly there.

DELORES

(leaning to touch Maddie)  
You go dear. Never waste your chances. And good luck with, you know, the other thing. Be careful won't you?

Maddie smiles at her. It's like the sun has come out.

MADDIE

Thank you for letting me unload my troubles Delores. Have a wonderful holiday with your son.

DELORES

Take care dear.

INT. PLANE OVER ANDROS - DAY

Dom and Mad make their way to first class. Dom moves his laptop bag in the overhead locker, then scoops up a mess of brochures and electronics and motions for Mad to sit.

MAD

Thanks.

Dom drops his phone. As Mad sits down she catches it deftly.

MAD (CONT'D)

Here.

DOM

(embarrassed)

Butter fingers.

Mad enjoys the comfortable seat and settles back. Dom sits with a thump as the plane jerks sideways. He falls onto Mad.

DOM (CONT'D)

Oh sorry.

MAD

No. This gets better and better.

Dom's tray table falls down and hits his knees.

DOM

Ow!

Mad laughs in disbelief as Dom drops his papers and gadgets. There is an awkward pause. Dom gathers himself and holds his hand out.

DOM (CONT'D)

My name's Dominic. Dom really.

Mad goes to shake his hand but thinks better of it.

MAD

Madeleine. Mad really.

Dom wipes his hands on his shirt.

DOM

How do you do, really Mad. So, why are you going to the Bahamas or is that a silly question?

MAD

I'm going home.

DOM

Oh right. I thought you'd be like me. On holiday.

MAD

No, I grew up here. I have to go home.

DOM

And where's that? Nassau?

MAD

No, I'm from Andros. You probably haven't heard of it.

She takes the Bahamas brochure from his table.

MAD (CONT'D)  
(pointing)  
Here. It's this big island. We flew  
over it a few minutes ago.

DOM  
No. I've not heard of it.

Mad is lost in the brochure with it's glorious photos of blue  
sky, white sand and pale green waters.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Well, I'm going to a resort in  
Nassau with my girlfriend for the  
weekend. Then it's back to work in  
the city.

After a pause Mad looks up.

MAD  
(politely)  
What do you do?

DOM  
I work in IT for an insurance  
company. It's great. I love it. And  
you?

Mad's phone CHIMES. She looks at it and frowns.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Someone's trying to get hold of  
you.

She turns it off.

MAD  
(softly)  
Keep hold of me.

Dom considers asking for an explanation but thinks better of  
it. Mad looks out the window. Dom sneaks looks at Mad, then  
sneaks out his phone and snaps a photo of her. She stiffens  
and turns to stare at him.

MAD (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

DOM  
Oh, it's for my blog. Sorry, do you  
mind?

MAD  
Yes, I do mind. Please don't.

DOM

OK. OK. I won't use it. I'm sorry.  
I'm doing a holiday blog.

Mad turns and stares out the window again.

DOM (CONT'D)

Well, I'm going to go out and get  
smashed tonight seeing Hilary's not  
here. Can you recommend a good  
place?

MAD

(uncertainly)

I don't know. Maxine's maybe. It's  
on West Bay St. It had great music  
but it's been a long time.

The seat belt sign DINGS. The Steward walks up the aisle.

STEWARD

Tray tables up please and belts on.  
We're coming in to land.

Mad fumbles for her seat belt but comes up with damp socks  
instead. She holds them out to Dom with a mouth like a prune.  
He takes them shamefaced. They both stare silently ahead.

EXT. NASSAU - NIGHT

EXT. MAIL BOAT - DAY

Water RUSHES and an engine CHUGS. A dirty, turbulent wake  
appears behind the stern of a big rusty boat. Chunks of  
something are falling into the water. The wind whips Dom's  
grubby suit around. Dom is throwing up.

DOM

Blurghhh...ch...cch...ack.

The back of the boat is swimming in vomit. There's more and  
more. There's even more. Dom stoops weak and grey, clinging  
onto a hand rail.

HAROLD, a huge islander, fifties, wearing a dirty red  
singlet, shorts and bare feet walks steadily down the side of  
the boat towards Dom.

HAROLD

He looks pretty bad.

Behind Harold, Mad follows holding onto the his shirt. Mad's  
singlet and shorts reveal she is very thin.

MAD

Where?

She stops behind Dom. Harold walks back towards the bow.

MAD (CONT'D)  
Excuse me. Are you all right?

She gets a better look at him and realizes he's familiar.

MAD (CONT'D)  
Dom? Is that you? What the hell are  
you doing here?

Mad hovers beside him. Dom tries to open his eyes.

MAD (CONT'D)  
Come up to the front. You'll be  
better looking forward.

He slips down to the wet and dirty deck.

DOM  
I can't move. Dying.

MAD  
You'll be better away from the  
diesel.

DOM  
Please. Kill me.

Mad laughs in spite of herself. She tugs at his arm.

MAD  
Come on.

DOM  
Too scared. Can't swim. Leave me.

He heaves again, splattering Mad. She backs away brushing herself off, moving confidently on the deck.

MAD  
I don't think I've ever met anyone  
that throws up as much as you do.

Mad walks up the side of the boat and disappears. He watches her go.

DOM  
Oh.

Mad returns with Harold who leans down, picks up Dom by his waistband and holds him at arms length as he carries him forward. Mad follows.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Ook.

HAROLD  
(to Mad)  
So you are back, Maddie.

MAD  
For now.

HAROLD  
Your mother?

DOM  
Uck. Arp.

MAD  
She's not so good.

HAROLD  
Has not been for a time now.

Harold dumps Dom on a dirty plastic chair at the front of the boat, looks at Mad, shrugs and walks away. Mad picks up a dirty rag and tries to wipe Dom's face. He looks up at her.

DOM  
You're an angel.

MAD  
(laughing)  
No. No I am definitely not that.  
Just breathe. You'll be all right.  
We're nearly there.

Dom looks forward through slitted eyes. Palm trees thrash against a grey sky. It starts to rain heavily. Mad, two steps away, holds the rail tightly lost in thought. She sings under her breath. Something about mothers. She shivers violently, rubs her wet arms. Dom burps.

EXT. ANDROS PORT - DAY

Harold dumps Dom, still in his chair, on the dock. The mail boat shuts off its ENGINES and the mechanical racket is replaced by the sound of RAIN, BIRDS and people laughing.

DOM  
(relieved)  
Oh. Yes.

Behind Dom a battered red pickup pulls up on the shore. REX, dark skinned, mid-thirties, athletic, leaps out of the pickup. In the foreground the rain washes over Dom's upturned face.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Ahh.

REX  
(distant)  
Maddie!

On the shore Maddie and Rex hug and smile and hold each other at arm's length and talk. She puts her bag in the pickup. She talks more seriously to Rex and points to Dom. He nods and strides towards Dom.

REX (CONT'D)  
(politely)  
Excuse me. My name is Rex Sanders.

Maddie watches from the pickup as Rex holds out his hand to Dom. Dom drags himself up off the chair, sways and shakes Rex's hand.

DOM  
Dominic O'Leary

Rex looks down at his hand and wipes it on his bright blue batik shorts.

REX  
Er, Maddie says you were ill. Have you got somewhere to go?

DOM  
Yes. At least. Yes. I've bought the Lost Hope Inn. It's out here somewhere.

They are both as surprised as each other.

REX  
The Last Hope Inn? Well congratulations my friend that is wonderful. It's been empty for a while now. It will be wonderful to have it working again.

DOM  
Last Hope. Well, I hope so. I hope so.

REX  
Is Thomas meeting you?

Dom is trying to understand Rex's thick and delicious accent.

DOM  
I'm sorry? Oh, meeting me? I don't know. It was all a bit sudden.

Rex looks at Mad in the pickup. Looks at bleary-eyed Dom in his ruined, dripping suit. Considers.

REX

Why don't you wait here? I have to drop someone off and then I'll come back and take you. Wait here, all right?

Rex gives him a dazzling smile, turns and walks back to the pickup. Dom looks at Rex's departing back gratefully.

DOM

Thank you. Thank you so much. That's very kind of you.

Dom's phone plays Hilary's TUNE. He reaches under his sodden jacket into his pants pocket but can't get the phone out. He struggles desperately, wrenches it out and hurries to lift it to his ear but it slips out of his hands. It flies up and up.

DOM (CONT'D)

No.

And SPLASHES down into the water.

DOM (CONT'D)

No.

He rushes to the edge of the dock and drops to his knees in time to see Hilary's face disappear. The TUNE distorts and slowly fades.

DOM (CONT'D)

No.

Suddenly there's movement. Dark protruding eyes roll to look up at Dom. A smooth beaked mouth opens and shuts. Under the phone is a turtle. Its shell has a large gaping crack in it.

DOM (CONT'D)

Shite!

(over his shoulder)

Hey! Hey Rex! Help.

Rex runs back.

REX

What happened?

DOM

I dropped my phone, but there's something down there.

Mad joins them on the edge of the dock. She sits down and lowers herself into the water.

MAD

Hawksbill I think. Oh, she's injured. Rex, have you got a tarp?

Rex nods and runs back to the pickup. Dom looks confused.

DOM  
A tarp for my phone?

MAD  
A tarp for Mrs. Turtle here. There  
are not so many left.

EXT. ANDROS PORT - EVENING

Rex's pickup is parked on the dock near the edge. Dom hovers on the dock with the tarp. Rex, Mad and Harold are in the water lifting the turtle. Its shell is over two feet across.

REX  
Careful Harold. Watch the claws.

MAD  
It's all right beautiful. We've got  
you.

They gently lift the turtle onto the tarp. One of its flippers folds under as they move it across the edge of the dock.

MAD (CONT'D)  
Dom. Get her leg out.

Dom looks at her with horror.

DOM  
You mean touch it?

MAD  
Yes I mean touch it. Quickly, she's  
heavy.

Dom bends down and gingerly uses one finger to lift the flipper out as the turtle is lowered down. Mad pats the turtle's back. It closes its eyes.

MAD (CONT'D)  
There. You'll be all right lovely.

DOM  
Did you get my phone?

Rex takes the wet phone out his shirt pocket and passes it to Dom. Dom takes it and looks down at it sadly.

DOM (CONT'D)  
All my phone numbers.

REX  
Harold, can you take it to Nassau  
tomorrow? See you can get them to  
rescue the SIM card?

Harold takes the phone and puts it in his pocket.

HAROLD  
I can do that.

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

Rex and Dom are in the front seat of the pickup travelling down a wide, dark road with sparse trees on either side.

DOM  
So you dropped Mad off?

REX  
I took her home.

DOM  
Home. You've known her for a long time?

REX  
All her life. We grew up here. It's big, but it's small. You know?

DOM  
Like Ireland then. I understand.

Rex looks at him for a moment and nods.

REX  
So, you bought the Inn. Have you run an Inn before?

Dom shifts in his seat.

DOM  
Not exactly.

Rex looks at him. Dom speaks in a rush.

DOM (CONT'D)  
I was here for the weekend but my girlfriend, my girlfriend didn't come, isn't coming. I lost my job and she says she's had enough.

Rex glances at the road but Dom is far more interesting.

DOM (CONT'D)  
I got a payout. I was drunk. I don't know. I saw it advertised in the window, "Lost Hope Inn, Andros" and I thought. (Beat) I didn't really think.

Rex's jaw drops and he stares at Dom.

DOM (CONT'D)  
But I've got big plans now.

REX  
What kind of plans.

They are bumping down a dirt road through palm trees.

DOM  
I was thinking of a big resort kind  
of thing.

REX  
A resort? You're joking aren't you?

Dom is looking dreamily forward but Rex is horrified. The pickup slows, stops, RUMBLES roughly.

REX (CONT'D)  
Well, this is it.

Rex is gripping the wheel tightly and staring straight ahead.

DOM  
(looking around)  
This?

Rex points to a sandy path.

REX  
Through the trees there.

Dom looks confused but he opens the door and gets out. He hooks his laptop bag over his shoulder and turns to say something but Rex is disappearing down the track. Dom waves.

DOM  
(yelling)  
Thanks. Thank you.

The night is quiet now apart from the SHUSHING of waves and frogs CROAKING. He turns and SQUELCHES slowly down the path.

EXT. INN - NIGHT

Dom appears from the sandy path. Everything is DRIPPING. He emerges onto a calm moonlit bay. Small waves are LAPPING the white sand.

DOM  
Wow.

There is bleached wooden jetty with a canoe bobbing beside it. Hammocks are slung between palm trees. As Dom walks a coconut falls wetly beside him. He jumps.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Feck.

He peers up. Looks at the coconut. Peers up again. He takes another few steps looking up carefully. In front of him is a shack made of stone, driftwood and thatch. He stops.

DOM (CONT'D)  
All realtors lie.

Rustic chairs and tables sit to the left of the central door where a long wooden bar is open to the inside and outside. Stools are fixed in front of it. A BUBBLING tank full of tropical fish provides the only light.

Dom takes a key from a pocket in his laptop bag but the door pushes open.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Hmm. Good security.

INT. INN FOYER - NIGHT

Dom enters the foyer. He throws the key into the back corner of the room. The foyer is charming but shabby. A giant turtle shell, a huge batik shirt and a yellowed map of the inn are displayed on the wall. Dom dumps his bag on the bar.

DOM  
Hello fishies.

He sees an air conditioner on the wall and brightens up. He plugs it in and it sparks but CLANKS on grumpily. Dom stands with his face in the breeze.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Thank god. Thank god.

Dom drags a battered cane chaise longue underneath the air conditioner and collapses onto it. He closes his eyes. He sleeps.

INT. INN FOYER - MORNING

Morning light floods through the door of the shack. Gentle SWISHING of palm leaves and SHUSHING of waves are the only sounds. It's tranquil. Dom's hand is resting on the floor.

A colorful crab is clawing a meaty thumb. Dom wakes, screams and catapults into the air. The crab goes flying up and lands in the fish tank with a SPLASH.

DOM  
Feck!

He stands, clothes dried to his body, hair on end. He staggers to a water jug on the bar. Drinks desperately. Holds his head.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Argh. Bloody hell.

He goes to the door. The sun hits him like a hammer.

DOM (CONT'D)  
No. No, that's no good.

Dom turns back into the foyer and looks around, moving things, looking under things. He finds a huge straw hat behind a chair and plonks it on his head.

EXT. INN - MORNING

The view is idyllic. Blue water, blue sky, palm trees. A school of fish fly out of the water, SPLASHING down musically. There are eight huts scattered along the foreshore.

DOM  
This can't be.

He staggers to a palm tree and starts to relieve himself on it.

THOMAS, sixties, rotund, in bare feet and colorful island clothes appears. He smiles broadly, approaches Dom and holds out his hand to shake.

THOMAS  
The new boss.

His voice is deep, slow and rumbles up and down through the scales.

DOM  
Ah.

Dom is still pissing like a racehorse. Embarrassed, Dom swaps to his left hand and starts to hold out his right hand, then thinks better of it.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Yeah. I'm Dominic.

THOMAS  
Thomas. Better not to do that too often. It will smell bad.

Thomas calmly walks past him towards the sea. Dom finishes and follows him.

EXT. INN BEACH - MORNING

Down by the WAVES the water is impossibly bright. Dom approaches Thomas.

DOM  
Sorry, what was your name?

THOMAS

I am Thomas. I look after things.

Behind them a coconut falls where he was standing. He stiffens, turns, looks at the coconut.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Don't worry. You have two eyes, but they have three eyes.

Dom is trying to understand.

DOM

(uncertainly)

Eyes?

Thomas points two fingers to Dom's two eyes.

THOMAS

You have two eyes. Coconuts have three eyes. They see you.

Dom has no clue what he said. He looks at the pale blue water. Little wavelets SWISH. He's sweating. The sun is beating down. His filthy suit is clinging. He looks at the water again, thinks, kicks off his shoes and wades in carefully. His toes settle into the white sand.

DOM

Oh, that's so good. I could get used to that.

He gains confidence, goes in deeper and sits down in the shallows. Thomas smiles in the background.

THOMAS

Stay. Stay forever.

Dom is taking his coat off and SWISHING water around him. Thomas wanders away leaving Dom in the water.

INT. INN FOYER - DAY

Dom is sitting at the bar looking out to sea wearing the enormous batik shirt. He has a phone book open in front of him and he's dialing an old Bakelite phone.

DOM

Hello? Is that Terence?

He has a pen ready and the back of a drinks coaster. The crab is in the fish tank with half a fish hanging out of its mouth.

DOM (CONT'D)  
This is Dominic O'Leary. I bought  
the Last Hope Inn yesterday. You  
remember?

Dom listens impatiently.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Good. Good. I wanted to ask you, is  
there a cooling off period?

He holds his breath. He stands up, slaps the bar and beams.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Ten days. Fantastic, thank you.  
I'll be coming right back. Yes. See  
you in a bit.

Dom replaces the receiver with a BANG, selects an American  
beer from the fridge and sits down again.

There is a KNOCK at the door.

MAD  
Hello? Anyone there?

The door swings open to reveal Mad and EVE, mid-twenties,  
blonde, wearing shorts and a bikini top. They are holding two  
ends of a heavy tarp covered package.

DOM  
Hello there.

EVE  
Can you give us a hand with this?

She starts in through the door walking backwards.

DOM  
Oh, er. OK.

He holds the door open as Mad brings the other end of the  
package through. She looks pleadingly at Dom.

MAD  
I can't leave her at my mom's  
house. I forgot. Mrs Turtle is only  
food to my mother. She has the old  
ways.

EVE  
(cheerfully)  
She'll end up as turtle soup and  
that's not going to happen. Female  
hawksbill, possibly carrying eggs.  
Not on my watch.

DOM

Ah.

Mad and Eve shuffle in.

EVE

Clear a space.

Dom obeys, meekly rearranging chairs. He finds a dog bed under one of the chairs and lays it down. They lower the turtle and unwrap it carefully. Eve kneels beside it.

MAD

So we'll use the epoxy or the Bondo?

EVE

Not sure. Get both. I have to get a good look at it first.

Mad runs out the door.

EVE (CONT'D)

(shouting after her)

And bring the bag.

Dom is standing away from the turtle shifting from foot to foot.

DOM

So you want to leave it here?

EVE

Until she has healed yes.

She stands and holds her hand out.

EVE (CONT'D)

I'm Eve. And you're Dom. Maddie told me.

Dom looks at her grubby hand but shakes it anyway.

DOM

Yes I am. Hello. So...

Mad bounces back into the foyer with a large black bag and an armful of boxes and tools. One box falls and Dom reaches out and catches it.

DOM (CONT'D)

Butter fingers.

Mad smiles at him. Eve takes the box from him.

EVE

We need a working area. Could you get us some boiled water Dom?

(MORE)

EVE (CONT'D)

That would be a help. And some towels. OK Mad can you hold her still while I examine her.

Dismissed, Dom goes to look for a place to boil water and get towels.

EXT. INN FOYER - DAY

Dom enters carrying a big pot of water. Mad and Eve are sticking the turtle's shell together with glue, Mad holding the shell and Eve spreading the glue carefully.

MAD

I hope we got all the water out.

Dom sets the pot of water down near a mountain of white hotel towels. Mad smiles up at him.

EVE

She's had antibiotics. It's all we can do. There. That looks good. It'll set in a minute.

Eve washes her hands in the water and takes a towel.

MAD

There's no movement in it now.

EVE

Excellent. You can let go.

She takes another towel, wets it and carefully puts it over the turtle. Standing she turns to Dom.

EVE (CONT'D)

Nice to meet you. I'm afraid I have to go. If you could keep her damp she'll be more comfortable. Come on Maddie.

She turns and walks out.

MAD

Thanks so much. Don't mind her, she's got to get back to work but she really appreciates your help.

She is backing out the door.

MAD (CONT'D)

I've got to go. Thank you again.

And she's gone. He can hear an ENGINE starting and traveling away. Birds CALL outside. He looks around. The whirlwind has finished.

DOM  
(to the turtle)  
It's you and me then I guess.

He notices the crab.

DOM (CONT'D)  
And you crabbie.

He slumps in a chair and looks around him. The turtle watches him, then closes its eyes and snuggles down. Dom relaxes into the chair and watches the crab stalking a blue fish. He looks at the map on the wall.

INT. INN BAR - MORNING

Sitting at the bar, Dom is drawing madly. The old map of the inn has paper laid on top of it. It's been drawn over with plans for the resort. The laptop is open. Half of the screen shows to an image of a huge hotel. The other half displays a blog.

DOM  
So if I dig the sand out past the  
jetty and clear the forest back to  
here.

The turtle is resting in the corner on the dog bed. The crab is sitting still in the fish tank and the blue fish is gone. The crab burps discretely. Dom is sketching in a car park.

DOM (CONT'D)  
This is going to work.

Dom pushes the plans aside and jots down numbers on a note pad.

DOM (CONT'D)  
So two hundred guests at a three  
hundred dollars a day.

Birds are CALLING to each other outside. The turtle moves a flipper. She is watching Dom. She seems to smile.

DOM (CONT'D)  
What are you looking at?

There's an ENGINE in the distance. Rex appears in the open doorway.

REX  
Hi Dom. I heard you're looking  
after the turtle.

DOM

Come in, come in. Good to see you.  
Yes, Mrs. Turtle is firmly  
ensconced. Practically part of the  
family now.

Rex comes in, glances at the turtle in the dog bed.

REX

Maddie is very keen to see it back  
in the water. She even called her  
important vet friend.

DOM

Eve, I know. Formidable woman.

Rex looks at the papers on the bar.

REX

What's this?

DOM

Plans for the hotel. Look. Here's  
the marina and a big dock for  
cruise boats. This bit's a luxury  
hotel.

Dom lifts the laptop closer so that Rex can see.

DOM (CONT'D)

Something like this I think. The  
little huts seem very inefficient.  
You could fit a lot more people in  
and offer parasailing and speed  
boats and...

REX

A marina? Speed boats? I thought  
you would forget about that when  
you saw this place.

DOM

No. Why would I?

Rex shakes his head in disbelief. He tries to hide his  
disgust but his nose is curling.

DOM (CONT'D)

I've got to get the rest of my  
money from the joint account. Has  
Harold had any luck with my phone?  
I need to talk to Hilary but she's  
not replying to my FaceBook  
messages and I don't know her  
number. Crazy isn't it.

REX

I haven't seen him. I came over because I thought you might like to come diving with me.

Dom stops what he's doing and looks at Rex.

DOM

I think that would be a very bad idea.

EXT. DINGHY - MORNING

Dom and Rex are sitting in a small dinghy. A small outboard PUTTERS away, pushing them out from the shore. Dom has his huge lady's straw hat on.

DOM

I hope you know what you're doing. Because I don't.

Rex motors to a buoy over the reef and hooks a rope to it. He helps Dom get into his dive gear and gets into his own. Dom is very reluctant.

DOM (CONT'D)

Can't I sit here and watch you?

Dom fiddles with his GoPro and snaps it into its water proof casing.

DOM (CONT'D)

I could point this at you from up here.

REX

Now, this is an introductory dive. That means I am in charge and I will be looking after you all the time. All you have to do is breath and look. OK? Now this sign means OK.

Rex holds his hands in an 'O' shape over his head. Dom looks glum but copies the movement.

DOM

OK.

REX

And this means there's something wrong.

Rex holds his hand out flat and tilt waggles it from side to side. Dom makes the movement.

DOM  
Not OK. OK.

REX  
Now, off we go.

He demonstrates putting his mask on and regulator in. Dom slowly follows suit. He looks doubtfully at the mouthpiece.

DOM  
Who used this last? Have you washed this? How many mouths has it been in?

Rex gives him a look. Dom puts it in his mouth. Rex give Dom a final check and nods. Rex holds his gear on and does a perfect backwards FLOP into the water.

A moment later he pops up. He holds onto the ladder at the back of the boat.

REX  
Dom? Are you ready?

There is a pause.

REX (CONT'D)  
Dom?

Dom's head appears. His eyes are wide and terrified. He shakes his head no. Rex motions him to the ladder.

REX (CONT'D)  
I'll tell Maddie you're a sissy.

Dom shuffles over to the back of the dinghy.

REX (CONT'D)  
Sit on the edge and hold the ladder. Hold your mask on and slip into the water. I'm right here.

Dom lifts a foot to put it over the edge. He wavers but he makes it. His bum thumps down on the edge of the dinghy.

DOM  
(muffled)  
Ow.

He lifts his other foot over. It's going well. Then his flipper catches on the lip of the boat, he loses his balance and falls in with a SPLASH.

REX  
I should have said hold the ladder and sit on the edge.

Rex reaches down into the water and pulls Dom up. He presses buttons on Dom's gear while Dom waves his arms wildly. The GoPro swings about on its tether.

REX (CONT'D)  
Stop that.

Rex guides Dom's hands to the ladder.

REX (CONT'D)  
Are you all right?

Dom is trying to speak but only garbles. Rex pulls Dom's regulator out. Dom gasps.

DOM  
Home. I want to go home.

REX  
Don't be a baby. You are so close.  
Take slow breaths. I'm right here.

Rex shoves Dom's mouthpiece back in, puts in his own, presses buttons as they sink below the water together. The waves LAP against the boat.

A few seconds later they come rocketing back up again. Dom rips the mouthpiece out.

DOM  
I'm drowning. I'm drowning. I'm  
wagging my hand like mad and  
you're ignoring me.

REX  
I'm only ignoring you because you  
are stupid. You are not drowning.  
Here. Take my hands. Breathe when I  
breathe and for pity's sake try to  
relax. You could walk to the Inn  
from here.

Rex pushes the regulator back into Dom's objecting mouth and they disappear again.

EXT. UNDERWATER REEF - DAY

Rex and Dom sink down through the clear water, their bubbles BLOPING up to the surface as they breathe. Rex lets go of one of Dom's arms and starts finning slowly along the reef.

Dom looks around. The life underwater is incredible.

MONTAGE

-A school of bright silver yellow tipped fish dart around him.

-A parrotfish chew on coral making a SCRITCHING sound.

-A 'Nemo' pair dart in and out of their anemone. Next to the anemone Rex points out something tiny clinging to a rock. The pulls Dom closer. It a tiny brightly colored slug. It has little feathery ears and feather spike on its tail. Dom smiles at Rex with his eyes.

-Dom is captivated, in awe of the experience.

-Huge brain corals think quietly to themselves.

-A jellyfish undulates smoothly past an enormous fan coral.

-Dom is not so happy about the jellyfish. He tries to bat it away but realizes he's using his bare hands. He tugs on Rex's arm. When Rex turns he points to the tentacles. Rex looks at it. Looks at Dom. Rex flaps one fin towards it and it floats away.

-An eel darts out its hole, opens its mouth wide and takes a small fish.

-A trigger fish floats at a cleaning station while cleaner wrasse pick fragments out of its mouth

-A pair of angelfish amble along together like an old married couple.

-Rex looks at Dom. Dom smiles with his eyes and gives him the thumbs up. Rex does the thumbs up then puts his head on one side. He points up. Dom shakes his head and makes a wonky OK sign. Rex nods and returns the OK.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. UNDER DINGHY - AFTERNOON

Rex tows Dom to the thick tether rope leading up to the boat and puts Dom's hands around it. He motions for Dom to hang on and swims up.

Dom looks up at the fish swimming calmly between him and the sparkling underside of the water. He turns back to watch the colorful parade. He is entranced. He remembers the GoPro attached to his wrist. He takes lots of pictures.

A lionfish dawdles past. Dom admires it, smiling wide-eyed. So beautiful. Suddenly a spear goes right through the lionfish killing it instantly. Dom starts gasping his air. Rex floats next to Dom holding a spear gun. He give Dom an OK and pulls him up to the surface, dragging the lionfish up with them.

EXT. INN BEACH - AFTERNOON

Dom and Rex trudge up the beach carrying air tanks and dive gear.

REX

Look I said I'm sorry. They're a pest. Introduced. We kill any we see and eat them.

DOM

Humph.

REX

You liked it though didn't you?

DOM

(smiling)

Apart from that?

EXT. INN - AFTERNOON

They drag themselves up the gentle slope. Dom weaves to avoid being under the palm trees.

REX

Come on. It's fantastic. Admit it.

DOM

All right. (Beat) It was so beautiful but so unreal. Like a different world under there. And they're down there all the time, living that separate life. It blows me away.

REX

(grinning)

I knew it. You're all right Dom.

They reach the bar and plop down on the stools.

DOM

Oh God. I'm so tired now.

REX

Eat something and sleep. You'll be fine. Hey, do you want to come to the Red Bay festival tomorrow?

Dom looks doubtful.

REX (CONT'D)

There's a market and good food and music.

Dom shakes his head.

REX (CONT'D)

Maddie and her mother will be there and I might even convince Maddie to sing.

DOM  
 (looking up)  
 Oh. I guess I could. Have you got  
 any pants I could wear?

Rex laughs as Dom stands.

EXT. RED BAY FESTIVAL - DAY

Rex and Dom are walking along a crowded street in rhythm with raucous DRUMS and WHISTLES. Islanders dance by in brightly colored costumes with huge feathered headdresses.

DOM  
 (yelling)  
 This is wild.

Rex grins at him as they pass a BRASS BAND. The band are dressed in plain white with colorful aprons and multicolored neck and shoulder pieces covered in jewels and pearls.

DOM (CONT'D)  
 (yelling)  
 They have feathers on their feet.

Rex laughs and nods. He motions for Dom to follow him. He pulls Dom to a stand selling hats and drinks.

REX  
 (yelling)  
 You need a hat. You are burning  
 already.

DOM  
 (yelling)  
 Good idea.

REX  
 What?

Dom gives Rex the OK sign and turns to try on hats. Rex buys water. Behind them a float rumbles past packed with women in feathered white bikinis dancing wildly.

DOM  
 What do you think?

He's wearing a broad brimmed straw hat. It's bright pink and covered in sequins. Rex gives him the OK. A variety of people flow past behind them with accents from all over world.

REX  
 Are you ready? Let's go.

Out in the flow of people again they continue along a road bursting with color and sound.

Men with painted chests shimmy and writhe to a group of DRUMMERS. Rex is looking for something. He pulls at Dom's sleeve.

REX (CONT'D)  
(yelling)  
This way.

They head away from the road across a grassed area. The drums fade and the sound of a band gets louder. They walk towards a scaffolding stage where a woman in green and pink costume is singing.

DOM  
I love this. Is this reggae?

REX  
Junkanoo.

DOM  
Junk-a-newt?

REX  
It is Bahamian music.

They get closer to the stage. Dom does a double take.

DOM  
Is that Mad?

REX  
It is.

She is wearing a spectacular white costume. Feathers frame her face and big feathered wings swing behind her as she sings. She is pure concentration making love to the mic.

DOM  
She is fantastic Rex.

REX  
I know.

Dom automatically feels for a phone in his non-existent pocket.

DOM  
Damn. I don't have my phone.

They dance with everyone else as they listen to her sing. She finishes the song with a long note. Bows and thanks the band behind her as the crowd claps and cheers.

REX  
Maddie!

She sees them. She sways gracefully down the steps and holds out a hand to each of them.

MAD

Help me. This thing is so heavy.

Rex passes Mad a bottle of water and she gulps it down. Dom can't take his eyes off her glittering assets.

DOM

That was great. You are amazing.

She gives him a half smile but turns to Rex.

MAD

Come on. I have to talk to my mother.

They head across the grass. Rex and Dom hold one wing each.

EXT. CONCH STALL - DAY

They thread their way through the crowds to a row of food stalls. Mad looks along the row.

MAD

There she is.

On one of the temporary food huts, an orange and pink sign reads "Honky Tonk Conch".

MAD (CONT'D)

I'm back mom.

A tiny woman is wielding a large knife. She feels around the conch, find the right spot and thrusts the knife in. There is something wrong with her eyes. She squints at Mad.

BRIDGITTE

Hello child. I expect you were well received?

She is dragging conch snails from their shells. Her deep voice is stately and formal. It rises and falls like a feather on a wave.

REX

Hello Mrs. Waters. This is Dominic O'Leary.

Bridgitte squints at Dom frowning.

BRIDGITTE

Mr. O'Leary. I would shake your hand but...

Her hands a full of wet slimy snail.

DOM

That's OK. How do you do Mrs. Waters.

BRIDGITTE  
Do you like conch Mr. O'Leary?

She is slicing off large chunks of snail until she is left with only white meat. She bangs it viciously with a kitchen hammer. Dom's nose curls and he takes a half-step back.

DOM  
(uncertainly)  
I have never had it.

BRIDGITTE  
Sit down and I Madeleine will bring you some. It is a delicacy.

She pronounces 'delicacy' with four distinct syllables.

EXT. PICNIC TABLE - DAY

Dom and Rex sit down at a picnic table with long seats attached to it.

DOM  
That is a scary, scary woman.

REX  
She is very well respected.

DOM  
I'm sure.

The sun bakes their skin. They drink from paper cups.

REX  
So tell me about this resort idea.

DOM  
Would you like to know? It's going to be great. I'm a bit excited about it. The inn as it is not really going to make much money.

REX  
No?

DOM  
No. Well it's way too small and there's no activities for people. It's nice and all but it's kind of dull. The best bit so far has been the diving. I mean Rex, that was spectacular. I have to thank you. I had no idea it would be like that.

REX  
No?

DOM

No. I mean all the different fish and the coral and the spear-fishing of course. I was going to ask you about taking tours. We could have a big cruiser and take people out for the day. I'll have a dock and it could be big enough for ferries. Do you know how big that would have to be?

REX

(worried)

No.

DOM

We can ask Harold. And we can have a big marina. There's plenty of beach there. We could fit in heaps of yachts and maybe power boats. I can't remember what they're called, can you?

REX

(dejected)

No.

DOM

And you should see the hotel I've got in mind. It'll be like one of the ones on Paradise Island in Nassau. Five floors with a swimming pool and a sauna and hot tubs for hire. We can have day spa for the ladies and a gym. We'd have to put in sewage treatment but that's possible.

REX

(desperate)

No.

DOM

What? What do you mean no?

There are raised voices from the "Honky Tonk Conch". Mad and her mother are having words. Dom's flow is broken. They both look at the hut.

DOM (CONT'D)

They're having a robust discussion.

REX

Their relationship is stormy.

Mad arrives at the table with a plate covered with various conch filled treats. She is not quite crying.

MAD  
 (imitating Bridgitte)  
 People respect ya according to how  
 ya live.

She bangs the plate down on the table. Dom and Rex look up at her not knowing what to say.

MAD (CONT'D)  
 She doesn't know anything about my  
 life. She doesn't know me.

She slides onto the seat. One wing gets caught and ends up covering her face. She shoves it behind her but her hand slips through the feathers. Rex tries not to laugh. She glares at him.

MAD (CONT'D)  
 It's no wonder I haven't been home.  
 Look how she treats me.

Rex casts about for a way to change the subject.

REX  
 Try the conch Dom. It is very good.

Keeping an eye on Mad, Dom picks up a golden lump.

DOM  
 What's this?

MAD  
 (sulkily)  
 A conch fritter.

Dom brings the fritter up to his mouth, sniffs it and recoils.

BRIDGITTE  
 (calling from the hut)  
 Maddie. Maddie come here.

Mad rolls her eyes but slides out fighting the feathers as she goes.

MAD  
 Coming.

Determined to try the fritter Dom bites into a corner. Rex watches him. He chews. He keeps chewing. His face contorts in different directions.

REX  
 How is it?

Dom spits it into his hand.

DOM  
Like fish flavoured chewing gum.

He puts the fritter back on the plate. Rex picks it up and bites in. Frowning at Dom, he swallows.

REX  
Delicious.

INT. PICKUP - NIGHT

Dom, Mad and Rex are arranged across the bench seat of the pickup. Mad's feathers are sticking out everywhere. She looks like an angry chicken. Dom has a feather up his nose.

MAD  
I can't believe she left without me.

They are driving down a wide road. Trees line either side.

REX  
We know.

Dom is trying to extract the feather without Mad noticing. It's a long way up. When it finally emerges it's yellow on the end. He bends it down.

MAD  
(not letting it go)  
How could she.

REX  
It was getting dark. Her eyes are no good in the dark. She couldn't steer the dinghy.

MAD  
Still.

The vehicle lights are bright. There appears to be something flowing across the road from one side to the other.

DOM  
There's something on the road. What the hell is that?

REX  
Crabs.

Hundreds of crabs are walking across the road. They stand on their tippy toes and skitter sideways all driven by the same need, the same goal. Desperate ballerinas.

DOM  
Where are they going?

REX

To the sea. They must put their eggs  
in the sea if they are to survive.

He rolls the pickup forward slowly. Dom watches as a couple  
narrowly escape being squashed.

REX (CONT'D)

They make delicious crabbie  
patties.

DOM

I'll take your word for it. Can we  
stop?

Dom gets out to watch the procession. Rex sighs and opens his  
door to follow.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

The crabs SKITTER on the road and different frogs are  
CROAKING as if their descendent's lives depend on it. Rex  
goes to join Dom. He is next to a river of crabs. Rex points.

REX

Those are white crabs, and those  
black.

Dom is transfixed by the crabs passing through the light.

DOM

They're like transformers.

REX

Dom. I need to tell you. A resort  
would be very bad for the island.

DOM

Why? It would be good. Lots of  
people would come. That means  
employment and people buying things  
and money coming in.

REX

Perhaps, but the island is  
important in other ways. Our fresh  
water goes to Nassau for one thing.  
If it is contaminated we have no  
water to drink.

DOM

How would a resort hurt the water?

Dom is still watching the crabs but he's listening.

REX  
(doggedly)  
The mangroves at the back of the inn are where lots of our fish grow up. Even we don't kill the bonefish. We throw them back when we catch them. We need them.

Dom stands up. He doesn't look at Rex.

DOM  
Aren't there other mangroves?

REX  
They are all connected. The beach at the inn? The crabs go near there to release their eggs and up the other way the turtles nest.

Mad realizes she's missing something and gets out of the car. Dom turns to her.

DOM  
What about you Mad? Wouldn't you like to ride a jet ski with me?

Mad's feathers wave in the breeze.

MAD  
A jet ski? Are you mad? Jet skis here?

She takes his hand and drags him to the side of the road. They are facing out into the forest.

DOM  
Where are we going?

MAD  
Look at this. Listen to this. Smell this. Now think about a jet ski.

DOM  
(teasing)  
I don't know. This smells kind of rank to me.

MAD  
Then you are an idiot.

She drops his hand and looks at him with disgust.

MAD (CONT'D)  
Come on Rex. He can walk from here.

DOM  
Wait. What?

She goes back to the pickup. She climbs halfway in but her wing gets caught on the door frame.

MAD

Damn it.

She gets back out and rips the wing right off. She flings it into the cab and climbs in after it.

DOM

How am I supposed to find the way?

REX

It's that way. You can't miss it.  
There's plenty of moon.

Dom looks at him with his mouth open.

DOM

You're not serious.

REX

You will be fine. See you tomorrow.

Rex gets into the driver's seat and does a three point turn.

MAD

Enjoy the walk. It is a beautiful  
night.

She throws his hat out the window and they drive off. He's alone. The frogs are very loud. He stomps up and down a bit. The moon bathes the night in silver.

DOM

I can't believe it.

Dom begins to cross the river of crabs. Silently an owl swoops down in front of him. It grasps a crab in its talons and flies off into the forest.

DOM (CONT'D)

(softly)

Well, will you look at that.

He puts the pink sequinned hat on and trudges down the road.

INT. INN BAR - MORNING

Dom is at the bar with his laptop open. He is looking at his social media profile. He is clicking around trying to find something. He is scrolling down and down, then up.

DOM

Where are you?

He opens his friends list and types into the search box.

DOM (CONT'D)  
That's odd.

He goes back to the main page and types into the search box there. He sits back and slaps the bar. The crab sits up.

DOM (CONT'D)  
No. She hasn't. Sorry crabbie.

He clicks on the top listing and Hilary's brief profile appears on screen. He looks at it closely.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Unfriended.

Dom thinks for a moment and opens Skype. He types in "Hilary" and starts the call. Hilary's TUNE plays as he waits, the same tune as on his phone. No-one answers. He opens his email and types in a message. He presses send. A moment later there is a DING.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Well, I've done my best.

Dom reaches down and takes the GoPro from his laptop bag. A DONG sound comes from the computer.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Dong?

He looks at the screen.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Bounced. Jesus.

He sighs heavily and looks out to sea.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Oh well.

He sets up his GoPro and connects it to his laptop. He fiddles about and photos of the dive start appearing on his screen.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Lovely.

The sound of the pickup ENGINE comes from the track.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Oh great. Benedict Rex.

Rex and Mad crunch over the sand towards the hut carrying lumpy bags of something. They stop in front of him on the outside of the bar.

REX  
Morning.

MAD  
Morning Dom.

Dom doesn't look up.

DOM  
Morning.

REX  
You found the place then.

Dom says nothing.

MAD  
(teasing)  
Wasn't it a nice walk?

Dom lifts his eyes and stares at Mad. She takes a step back. Rex walks to the central door and pushes it open. Mad follows him.

INT. INN FOYER - DAY

Dom swivels on his stool to watch them come in.

DOM  
Come in. Welcome. Don't wait for an invitation.

Rex appears through the door closely followed by Mad. Dom folds his arms and regards them sourly. They start to sing.

MAD  
We're sorry Dom.

REX  
We're very sorry Dom.

MAD  
It was a long day.

REX  
It was a very long day.

MAD  
I was upset about mom.

REX  
Now she feels very dumb.

MAD  
We don't want a resort.

REX  
And we want you to abort.

MAD

But it's not up to us.

REX

Although we made a fuss.

MAD

Of ourselves we are ashamed.

REX

And you cannot be blamed.

Mad pulls the yellow tipped feather from a bag.

MAD AND REX

For being snotty.

Mad touches his nose with the feather and then lets it drop.  
He catches it.

Dom is charmed in spite of himself. They pose theatrically.

MAD AND REX (CONT'D)

For being Snottyyyyyyyyy.

Their last note fades away and they look at Dom for a  
reaction. He's trying not to smile

DOM

Humph.

MAD

(imitating Bridgitte)  
People respect ya according to how  
ya live don you know.

DOM

(smiling)  
Humph. Humph.

MAD

We brought lunch.

REX

For the turtle.

MAD

And for us.

DOM

Well, I suppose if you brought  
lunch.

INT. INN FOYER - LATER

The three people and the turtle sit together in the corner.  
There is the remains of lunch on the table. Mad is examining  
the turtle. The crack has a new layer of something blue.

MAD

Eve must have come yesterday. This racing stripe looks pretty good.

DOM

She was like that when I got home.  
(teasing)  
Eventually.

Mad ignores the barb. She strokes the turtle.

MAD

It's probably stronger for you Mrs. Turtle. Nice and strong.

DOM

Did I?

She's patting the turtle on the head now.

MAD

Did you what?

DOM

Did I do that by dropping my phone on her?

Mad looks at him in surprise.

MAD

Did you?

She throws her head back and laughs. Dom is embarrassed.

MAD (CONT'D)

(laughing)

With your phone? Have you felt this shell?

Dom is mortified.

DOM

No. I didn't know if I should.

MAD

(smiling)

Come here.

Dom doesn't move. Mad reaches out her hand.

MAD (CONT'D)

Come on.

Mad leads him beside the turtle. He reaches out to touch the shell. He pats it and then feels the edge.

DOM  
Oh. It's tough.

MAD  
(nodding)  
It's very tough. She was probably  
hit by a boat or something.  
Dropping your phone on her wouldn't  
even scratch it.

DOM  
That's a relief. I wasn't sure you  
know. And I didn't want anyone  
to...  
(forcefully)  
... laugh at me.

Mad goes into peals of musical laughter all over again. Rex  
comes in carrying a guitar.

REX  
What's so funny?

MAD  
We were laughing about you Rex.

Rex looks from one to the other and decides to let it go. Dom  
shoots Mad a grateful look. Rex hands her the guitar.

REX  
Let's hear that song Maddie.

MAD  
OK. I'll get a better chair.

Dom goes to the bar and brings back his GoPro and sets it up  
while Mad finds a chair and gets organized. Rex sets himself  
up with some maracas. Mad looks at Rex.

MAD (CONT'D)  
Ready. Three and four and.

Rex begins to shake a rhythm quietly and Mad strums the  
guitar. She sings about turtles, their lives, their dreams.  
The song is happy and sad, poignant and caring. She sings her  
love to Mrs. Turtle and her kind. The turtle opens her eyes.

MAD (CONT'D)  
There. That is for you Mrs. Turtle.  
I hope you enjoyed it and I hope  
you will soon go back to the sea  
where you belong.

DOM  
You sing like an angel Mad.

REX  
Very good. I think we can work on  
the chorus though don't you?

MAD  
It could be better.

DOM  
It was perfect.

MAD  
Do you have anything to drink?

DOM  
I'll get something.

Dom scoops up the GoPro and heads back to the bar.

INT. INN BAR - AFTERNOON

He drops the camera next to the laptop.

DOM  
(calling)  
Water or beer?

MAD  
Beer please.

REX  
Water for me.

INT. INN FOYER - AFTERNOON

Dom takes the drinks and hands them to Mad and Rex. They smile at him.

DOM  
I'll be back in a minute.

INT. INN BAR - AFTERNOON

Dom goes back to the bar, gets a beer for himself and sits at the laptop. He connects the GoPro with the cable and waits. He smiles over at Rex and Mad.

REX (O.S.)  
What are you going to do about your  
mother. She does not want to move.

INT. INN FOYER - AFTERNOON

Rex and Mad are relaxing with their drinks.

MAD  
I know but something has to happen.  
She is not coping there on her own.

REX

She is so proud and so independent.

MAD

I know. She won't listen to me.

REX

She practically rebuilt that hut herself and her garden is very big now. She grows so much food for everyone.

MAD

But if she can't see then something has to change. (Beat) You think I should go and live with her don't you?

REX

Only if you think it is the right thing to do.

MAD

It might be right but I don't want to end up in jail.

REX

Jail?

MAD

I would probably kill her in frustration. She still talks to me as though I am a child.

Rex shrugs.

REX

Perhaps because when you are with her you act like a child.

INT. INN BAR - AFTERNOON

Dom has uploaded the video and is labelling it. He types a description.

DOM

(under his breath)

Having fun with my new friends on Andros. Madeleine Waters and Rex Sanders perform Turtle Singing for Mrs. Turtle, an injured Hawksbill we are caring for.

He ticks boxes and adds keywords and checks it over. He clicks "Upload" and watches the bar fill.

MAD (O.S.)  
Maybe you're right. She does bring  
out the worst in me.

INT. INN FOYER - AFTERNOON

Mad is sipping her beer. Rex is playing the guitar and stealing glances at her.

MAD  
(sighing)  
Maybe I could get someone to live  
with her. Would that work? They  
could have room and board in return  
for looking after her.

REX  
Perhaps.

MAD  
Who would be willing though?

REX  
She is very well respected.

Mad sighs again.

INT. FOYER BAR - AFTERNOON

Dom is busily adding the video to his social media accounts and sharing.

DOM  
(quietly)  
Put that in your pipe and smoke it  
Hilary.

MAD (O.S.)  
What are you doing Dom?

DOM  
Making my ex-girlfriend jealous.

MAD (O.S.)  
What?

He takes his beer and joins them in the foyer.

EXT. FOREST - DUSK

Dom and Mad are standing by the pickup.

REX  
Would you like me to pick you up  
later?

Mad looks to Dom.

DOM  
(to Mad)  
Thomas should be back tonight. He  
can probably give you a lift.

MAD  
(to Rex)  
Or there's the canoe. I'll be fine.

REX  
(smiling)  
OK then.

Rex drives off towards town.

REX (CONT'D)  
(laughing)  
Canoe my great Aunt Fanny.

DOM  
What did he say?

MAD  
I thought he'd never leave.

Dom laughs. They walk together through the forest. Birds make  
various CALLS. Water BURBLES somewhere.

DOM  
It is really nice here.

MAD  
Yes it is.

DOM  
Why did you leave Mad?

MAD  
You've met my mother. She knows  
everyone on the island. Everyone.  
There is no privacy. It used to  
drive me mad.

They walk on.

MAD (CONT'D)  
By the way. You know how you're  
calling me Mad?

DOM  
Because it's your name.

MAD  
No-one calls me that.

DOM  
But you told me on the plane.

MAD

It was a joke. Dominic - Dom.  
Madeleine - Mad. Get it?

DOM

(embarrassed)

I'm so sorry. Why didn't you tell  
me?

MAD

I am telling you. Call me Maddie.  
That's what they call me here apart  
from mom.

DOM

That's the first time I've heard  
you call her mom. It's usually 'my  
mother'. Maddie.

MAD/MADDIE

(laughing)

Yes?

DOM

Just wanted to try it out.

MADDIE

How does it feel?

DOM

Good. Very good.

EXT. WETLANDS - EVENING

They walk on together over damp ground and reach a wide  
stretch of water. They watch terrapins rolling across the  
surface. Birds pluck insects out of the air.

DOM

Your accent has changed.

MADDIE

Has it?

DOM

It's richer I think. More island.

MADDIE

I'm home I guess. Your accent is  
Irish, yes?

DOM

That's right.

They stroll along beside the water. It's full of life. Across  
the other side in the mangroves things SPLASH and other  
things CRY.

MADDIE

I wanted to be a singer.

DOM

You are a singer.

MADDIE

No I mean a professional singer. My mother didn't think it was a wise choice. She was probably right.

DOM

I think you would be very good.

MADDIE

I was good I think. But it wasn't good for me.

DOM

You were a singer? Where?

MADDIE

In a club on the lower east side. I was singing for free when I met a man who promised to make me rich and famous.

Dom is quiet, listening.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Instead he kept me in locked in his flat all the time. When I had work he would take me there and bring me home. He used to call me his canary but I felt more like a doll.

DOM

You were a prisoner. That's horrendous. Did you go to the police?

MADDIE

(laughing bitterly)  
He was the police.

They walk on. Dom looks at the water.

DOM

How long?

MADDIE

Five years. He gave me drugs to keep me quiet and I took them. It helped me to not think.

DOM

Jesus. So are you still?

MADDIE

Not any more. I stopped taking them so I could get away. It was either that or jump out a window and they were locked anyway.

Dom stops and turns her to him. He hugs her tightly and she hugs him back for a long moment. She breaks away and starts walking again. She points to a night heron catching a fish.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

So why did you leave home?

DOM

I didn't want to. After the crash it was really bad there. Most of the finance companies folded overnight. I had a friend in New York who said he could put in a good word for me.

MADDIE

Sudden then.

DOM

Very sudden. My mam was already passed and my dad was long gone so I've only got brothers and sisters left.

MADDIE

How many?

DOM

Ten. Five of each.

She looks at him in amazement.

MADDIE

Ten. Where are they?

DOM

All over the world. Ireland went through a bad patch. Anyway, I thought I would like New York but I really don't. The companies are even more cutthroat if that's possible.

MADDIE

Cutthroat how?

DOM

You would think a lot of the big names would be better run than small places.

Maddie nods.

DOM (CONT'D)

They're not. I can't believe how much they get away with. I was doing client training for software that I knew didn't work. Nightmare stuff.

MADDIE

You said on the plane that you loved your job.

DOM

I love coding. Making software. I love that part. Turns out I'm not a great employee. I'm not a very good liar.

MADDIE

I don't know. You fooled me.

DOM

I was making polite conversation with a stunning woman I'd practically thrown up on. What do you want from me?

She laughs. They walk on. Maddie notices a green frog on a log. She stops to examine it. Dom doesn't really want to go nearer.

MADDIE

(impatient)

You are being silly.

He edges closer. The frog jumps off the log. Dom jumps ten feet high.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Let's walk back on the beach.

She turns and walks in a different direction.

DOM

You know the way?

MADDIE

I know the way.

EXT. FOREST - EVENING

MADDIE

So on the plane you said you were going to Nassau for the weekend. Was that a lie too?

DOM

No. Hilary didn't miss the flight. She decided not to come.

(MORE)

DOM (CONT'D)

She saw I'd lost my job on the net somewhere and she didn't want to be with me.

MADDIE

She dumped you.

DOM

Kind of. Maybe. I don't know. She hasn't been happy with me for a long time. She said I was the world's most boring man in the world's most interesting city.  
(glancing at Maddie)

Anyway it doesn't matter now.

Maddie lets the comment pass her by.

MADDIE

Nice moon.

EXT. BLUE HOLE - NIGHT.

They arrive at a lake ringed with reeds. The water sparkles in the moonlight.

MADDIE

This is a blue hole. We swim here sometimes. Or used to.

DOM

You can again.

MADDIE

The hole goes down and down and there are tunnels that go to the sea and back to the wetlands we came through. It's all connected.

DOM

I am detecting an ulterior motive.

They walk on. Something big SPLASHES behind them.

DOM (CONT'D)

What was that?

MADDIE

The Chickcharnie.

DOM

The what?

MADDIE

(laughing)

Don't worry. Just a monster. I've fought worse.

He walks a little closer to her.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

They have reached the beach. The fine white sands shines in the moonlight.

MADDIE

So you intended to buy an Inn on Andros?

Dom laughs.

DOM

No. I did not intend to buy an Inn on Andros.

MADDIE

Then why did you?

DOM

I was very drunk. I was very, very drunk. I'd been up all night. That club you told me about isn't there any more by the way but I found another place. And another. (Beat) Ouch. Something's biting my legs.

He slaps at his ankles.

MADDIE

Let's walk in the water then.

They move down to the water's edge and wade in knee high. The water SWISHES as they walk.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

You were drunk.

DOM

So drunk. Anyway, in the morning I was on the way back to the hotel and I passed a realtor. There was a picture of the Inn in the window and it looked so beautiful. The photos made it look like it was new and well looked after. The weird thing was it cost exactly the same amount I got in my payout. Within ten thousand dollars. So that seemed like a sign. I don't believe in signs at all but it looked a lot like a sign. Then I saw it was on Andros and that rang a bell from somewhere.

Maddie laughs.

MADDIE

So you're saying you bought it because of me?

DOM

Partly. Probably. Don't blame yourself though.

She laughs again and takes his hand. They walk on. The Inn is ahead of them.

INT. INN FOYER - NIGHT

Dom and Maddie stumble into the Inn.

DOM

God. I'm exhausted. Are you trying to kill me? That would stop the resort wouldn't it.

Maddie laughs. Disappears out the back.

Dom plugs in the air conditioner and feeds the crab. There seems to be more fish missing now and the crab is looking pretty comfortable. It has some eggs attached to its body.

DOM (CONT'D)

There you go crabbie.

Maddie comes back in drying her hands.

MADDIE

I've been meaning to ask, why are you sleeping in here?

DOM

It's the only room with air. I can't sleep in this heat.

MADDIE

It's hot here. You will get used to it. Besides you only have to open the door. There is always a breeze here.

She walks to the door and looks around behind it. She picks up a conch shell and chocks the door open.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

See?

Dom enjoys the cool air on his skin and sighs happily. His floppy hair stirs in the delightful air.

DOM

Oh my god. I wish I'd known that. I think I'm in love.

They both stop still. Their eyes connect. They cover the ground between them in an instant and their lips lock. Dom picks her up and carries her. They sink onto the old chaise longue and kiss some more. The chaise collapses. They ignore their changed altitude and make love on the floor.

EXT. INN - MORNING

Morning light floods in the open door.

Thomas reaches across the bar to grab a shopping list. He sees Dom and Maddie asleep together. He smiles. He walks away towards the path and a moment later we hear the JEEP driving off.

EXT. INN FOYER - DAY

Dom wakes up. He admires Maddie lying in his arms. He slides one arm from underneath her and frees it carefully. He eases himself up. He looks around. His clothes are not visible. He grabs the dirty towel from the back of the turtle and wraps it around his waist.

DOM  
(whispering)  
Good morning Mrs. I need to borrow  
this.

He stands up and goes out the back to the bathroom. Maddie stirs. She smiles in her sleep and rolls over.

Dom comes back with a clean towel and lays it carefully over the turtle.

DOM (CONT'D)  
There you go. Nice and damp.

He heads back across the room stepping over the rubbish on the floor. A half a bread roll sticks to his foot. He peels it off. Looks at it. Sniffs it. Picks a speck of it. Takes a big bite. It CRUNCHES loudly.

INT. INN BAR - DAY

He sits down at his regular stool.

DOM  
(whispering)  
Top of the morning to you crabbie.  
I see you've had breakfast.

There are a fewer fish in the tank but Dom feeds the ones that are left. The laptop is still on the bar where he left it.

DOM (CONT'D)  
(quietly)  
This place has great security.

He opens the laptop and looks at his social media profile. He looks puzzled and clicks the 'Refresh' button. His brow furrows as he thinks.

DOM (CONT'D)

Ah.

He pulls a little device out from the machine and looks at it sourly.

DOM (CONT'D)

Dead dongle.

He closes the laptop and looks vacant. He looks down at the bar. He grabs his sheaf of plans, a pen and a bottle of water and heads for the door. He picks up his pink hat off the floor on his way out.

EXT. INN BEACH - DAY

Dom wanders down to the beach looking up and zigzagging to keep from being under coconuts as he goes. He sits on the sand and dumps everything beside him. He gazes out to sea.

The hat sparkles pink in the sunlight. Dom smiles. He puts it on. He stands and goes for a little walk in the water. The towel is caught by a wave and falls off. He picks it up and slings it onto the jetty. He has a little swim. Breaststroke so as not to lose his hat.

EXT. JETTY - DAY

He swims to the jetty, hauls himself up and collects the sopping towel. He walks to the end of the jetty puts the towel down and sits. Tiny fish are visible in the water below him. He watches them living their tiny lives. He notices an almost transparent tiny prawn lurching along struggling to climb over a shell.

DOM

I know what that feels like.

He reaches down into the water and lifts the prawn over the shell. Ever so gently he sets it down on the other side.

DOM (CONT'D)

There you go. That's better.

EXT. INN BEACH - DAY

Towel over his shoulder he makes his way back to where he left his water bottle. The plans have scattered up the beach towards the Inn. He strides uphill purposefully. He's not worried about the coconuts anymore. He walks straight under them picking up pieces of paper as he goes.

INT. INN FOYER - DAY

Dom comes through the door his hand full of paper. Maddie is sitting at the bar. Her hair is damp. She looks up at Dom. He stands solidly before her naked but for his pink hat.

MADDIE

Morning.

He separates out the original yellowing map and hands it to her.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Thank you.

He holds out the rest of the papers in both hands and rips them down the middle. He stacks the halves and rips them the other way. He drops the pieces on the ground.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

(hopefully)

No more jet skis?

DOM

Definitely no jet skis.

MADDIE

Good.

She leaps into his arms and kisses him.

DOM

I am so hungry. I feel like I haven't eaten in a week.

MADDIE

Me too. Let's see what we can find.

EXT. INN BEACH - AFTERNOON

Maddie and Dom are sitting at a table under the palms. Bowls of fresh fruit salad sit next to an plate littered with crumbs. The map is in between them covered with a clean sheet of paper.

DOM

There's room for two extra huts here and here.

MADDIE

Yes. There's space here for one more.

They steal glances at each other shyly. Their fingertips touch on the map.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

How many huts do we need to make it work?

DOM

We? So it's we now is it?

Maddie looks at him frowning.

DOM (CONT'D)

Kidding. I'm joking.

Maddie looks sideways at him.

MADDIE

Humph.

She relaxes. Their hands sneak towards each other again. They clasp.

DOM

I was thinking, what if your mother moved in here. We could move her house over and put it out the back and she could cook for us.

MADDIE

What about Thomas?

DOM

He won't mind. He's the most placid man I've ever met.

Maddie looks at him sceptically.

MADDIE

I don't know. I'll think it over. It's a generous offer. You don't know my mother very well.

A Jeep ENGINE approaches and stops.

DOM

That's Thomas now. We can ask him what he thinks.

Thomas emerges from track carrying bags of shopping. There is someone behind him. Thomas approaches looking grim. STARK, thirties, thin sharp in a suit arrives, follows Thomas.

THOMAS

We have a guest.

Shielding his arm with his body he tries to point towards Stark behind him. He mouths something horrible at Dom. His bushy eyebrows waggle furiously. Dom gets up to greet them.

DOM  
Hello there. Can I help you?

Stark ignores Dom and slides up behind Maddie.

STARK  
(mocking)  
Hello Madeleine.

Maddie stiffens at the sound of his voice.

STARK (CONT'D)  
You thought you could hide from me.

She jumps up and swings around to face Stark. She is rigid with fear.

MADDIE  
How did you find me?

STARK  
You shouldn't do so much singing online.

MADDIE  
What do you mean online? What are you talking about?

Stark takes a step closer to Maddie. She cringes away.

STARK  
You're coming home with me, my little canary.

MADDIE  
No. I'm not going anywhere with you.

Stark takes a small bag of white powder from his pocket and waves it at her.

STARK  
Come on now. Haven't you been missing this?

Maddie takes deliberate steps towards Stark.

STARK (CONT'D)  
That's it slut. You want it don't you.

She knocks the bag out of his hands. It flutters down.

MADDIE  
No.

Stark slaps her hard across the face. She reels back and falls on the sand.

DOM  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Dom rushes forward. Stark takes out a fishing knife and moves deliberately towards Maddie. She scoots backwards away from him. Dom jumps between them. He has only a pen for a weapon but he brandishes it bravely.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Stay back.

Stark ignores him. Dom backs away as Stark pushes forward.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Stay back.

STARK  
(smirking)  
Or what little man? Think you're  
Wild Bill Hickok?

Dom looks at his pen. He throws it aside.

DOM  
What do you mean little? I'm bigger  
than you, you skinny freak.

Stark looks at Dom with scorn. He feints to the right. Dom moves his balance and Stark lunges forward to the left and swings. Dom goes down. He looks at Stark advancing on Maddie with horror. Maddie is frozen.

STARK  
How could you choose this dump over  
your lovely golden cage?

He raises the knife. He's about to stab down when a coconut falls and CLONKS him right on the head. He looks surprised.

STARK (CONT'D)  
Oh.

The knife falls from his hand. He collapses to the ground.

DOM  
Maddie!

Dom crawls over to Maddie sitting on the sand. They cling together.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Are you all right Angel?

MADDIE  
Yes, I think so. Are you?

Thomas looks down at Stark.

THOMAS

These coconuts. They have three eyes.

Thomas pokes Stark with his foot. Stark stirs and moans. Thomas takes the knife and cuts down a hammock.

EXT. JEEP OUTSIDE THE INN - NIGHT

Stark is trussed up in the hammock. Dom and Thomas throw him in the back seat of the Jeep. Thomas goes to the driver's seat.

MADDIE

I don't understand. What did he mean online.

She looks accusingly at Dom.

DOM

(with a small cough)

Um.

Maddie faces Dom. If looks could kill he'd be feeding the fishes. She walks forward poking him in the chest.

MADDIE

What did you do? What did you do?  
You put me on your stupid blog  
didn't you? Didn't you.

DOM

Your song was so wonderful I...

MADDIE

(interrupting)

How dare you put me online. Didn't  
I tell you I was hiding here?

DOM

Well no actually. No you didn't.  
You said you'd come home to see  
your mother and that you had a  
nasty boyfriend but you didn't tell  
me he was a monster that was going  
to show up here and try to kill me.

MADDIE

Kill you? He was trying to kill me!

DOM

Yeah, well he nearly did for both  
of us didn't he?

Maddie steps back. Looks down. She turns and gets into the Jeep. Dom steps forward and looks in the back seat. Stark is writhing around making muffled angry threats.

DOM (CONT'D)

What are we going to do with him?

THOMAS

I will talk to Harold. We will take him back to Nassau or... (loudly) the crabs are always hungry.

In the back seat the writhing stops. Thomas gives Dom a wink as he starts the Jeep. Maddie won't look at Dom.

DOM

What if he comes back?

THOMAS

You know where he lives Maddie?

Maddie nods, head lowered.

MADDIE

Yes.

THOMAS

(loudly)

Harold will make it clear to Mr. Stark that he is not welcome here. If anything happens to Maddie we will make a journey to the city to visit him. We will take him a nice gift.

DOM

I think that's the most I've ever heard you say at once.

THOMAS

Needs must.

He nods at Dom and drives away towards town. Dom watches them go. Dom's hand is dripping. It's blood. He rolls up the enormous batik sleeve. There's a gash on his forearm.

DOM

Gah.

He throws up behind the nearest palm tree. Finished, he stands up and gives the palm tree a friendly pat.

DOM (CONT'D)

Sorry about that.

EXT. INN BEACH - EVENING

Dom, Rex and Thomas are sitting on the beach. They're cooking fish on an open fire, kicking back with a local Kalik beer, enjoying the ocean. Fish jump by the jetty. Venus reflects off the gentle sea.

DOM  
So I haven't seen her since.

REX  
She's pretty upset.

Dom nods. He's wearing islander clothes that fit.

DOM  
She would be I guess. I was. I really like her.

REX  
I know. Give it time.

REX (CONT'D)  
How is your arm?

DOM  
(holding it out)  
Good. Eve came over and put in some stitches. She's a vet but she did a good job I think.

Rex examines the sutures and nods.

REX  
I keep hearing about this Eve.

DOM  
I hope the turtle is all right. How long can they go without food?

THOMAS  
She is fine. I have been feeding her. She is nearly ready to go back to the sea. So she says.

Dom and Rex look at each other and then at Thomas to see if he's serious. He seems to be. He is placidly looking out over the ocean.

DOM  
What about you Thomas. Do you have a girlfriend?

THOMAS  
(laughing slowly)  
No. They are too much trouble for an old man like me.

DOM  
What about children?

THOMAS  
My children are well and grown. I love them. They love me.

(MORE)

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
I see them now and then. It is a  
good place for children.

Dom looks at Thomas with new respect.

REX  
Oh-oh. Here's trouble.

Maddie and Eve are coming out from the path. Eve waves down  
to Dom. Her blonde hair is light in the sun. He waves back.

REX (CONT'D)  
Who's that?

DOM  
That's Eve.

Rex's eyebrows go up. He jumps to his feet and heads up the  
beach.

REX  
(over his shoulder)  
Might see if they need a hand.

Dom and Thomas get up slowly and follow.

INT. INN FOYER - EVENING

Dom and Thomas walk in the door to find Rex and Eve standing  
facing each other, shaking hands and staring into each other  
eyes. Maddie is on the floor checking the turtle with her  
back to the door.

EVE  
So you're the dive-master friend.

REX  
It is lovely to finally meet you.  
I've heard so much about you.

EVE  
And I you.

Dom and Thomas exchange a knowing look.

DOM  
I hate to interrupt but should we  
have a look at the turtle?

THOMAS  
I think Mrs. Turtle is ready to go.  
What do you think doctor?

They gather around the turtle. Eve kneels down and removes  
the greying towel.

DOM  
Hello Maddie.

Maddie keeps her head down as Eve examines the shell.

EVE  
Has anyone got a torch?

They all look around the small room. It's a wreck.

REX  
Oh. Hang on.

He takes a phone out of his pocket and switches on its light.

REX (CONT'D)  
Here. It's Dom's phone.

DOM  
It's my phone? How long have you  
had that?

Dom holds out his hand and Rex passes him the glowing phone.

REX  
Harold brought it back today. I  
mean, it's the same phone but a  
different phone. It's got all your  
numbers in it.

DOM  
That's great. That's so great. I'll  
fix him up for it.

EVE  
A little light over here please.

Dom holds the light for Eve. Maddie arranges the towel over the turtles eyes.

DOM  
That's better.

Eve runs her hand around the edges. She takes a piece of sandpaper and gives the epoxy a little smooth. She runs her hands over the shell.

EVE  
You are beautifully ready to go  
Mrs. Turtle.

Everyone beams and smiles at each other but Maddie does not look at Dom.

EVE (CONT'D)  
Right then. Let's get her out of  
here.

Eve, Rex and Maddie each take a corner of the shell. Dom steps up and takes the last corner. Eve looks at him approvingly. They move towards the door as one.

EXT. INN BEACH - SUNSET

The group, walking in unison, arrive at the water's edge. The turtle is alert and looking around as they go.

EVE

So you dive in the wetlands too?

REX

I dive everywhere. The wetlands are not as glamorous but that is where the baby crabs grow and the turtles. I love to see the tiny creatures.

EVE

Not glamorous but essential. Absolutely essential to the system.

REX

Exactly. Exactly right.

EVE

Would you be interested in taking me out there some time?

REX

I would like that very much. What about tomorrow?

Eve grins at him. They've reached the water. They stop.

EVE

On three. One. Two. Three.

They lower the turtle gently into the shallows. Mrs. Turtle lifts her head, seems to sniff the air and looks around. She looks at the people gathered around her one at a time.

DOM

Goodbye Mrs. Turtle. Good luck.

She lifts herself up and makes tentative moves with her flippers. She drags herself slowly into the sea. Maddie steps into the water and gives her a final pat.

MADDIE

Goodbye. We love you. Goodbye.

Deeper and deeper she goes until finally a wave lifts her and she swims into the golden waters.

EVE

She's away.

The turtle's head appears as she looks back once, a dark shape against the gold.

Then she disappears beneath the waves. The humans cheer. They dance around and high five. Thomas looks quietly happy and a tear rolls down his cheek.

DOM  
That is wonderful.

Rex grabs the chance to hug Eve and she smiles and hugs him back. Dom hugs Maddie clumsily. For a instant she relaxes but then she Maddie pushes him away roughly and rushes back up the beach. Dom watches her go.

INT. INN - NIGHT

Dom and Thomas drift into the Foyer. Dom sits down at the bar by the fish tank. Thomas gets two beers from the fridge, opens them and sits. He pushes one beer to Dom. Dom's head is low.

DOM  
Thanks.

Dom pulls out his phone from his pocket.

DOM (CONT'D)  
I should have filmed that to put on my blog.

THOMAS  
Better sometimes to live it.

The crab seems to be chewing. There is only one small frightened fish left. Dom looks at Hilary's number. He snaps a photo of the crab to use as her contact photo.

DOM  
There. She always was crabby.

He lifts a finger to press the call button. Thomas drains his beer and gets up. He looks at Dom kindly. He puts a heavy hand on Dom's shoulder.

THOMAS  
It will be all right. You will see.

He wanders to the door and looks at the sky. It's clear, perfectly still and very quiet.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
The wind is picking up. Does not look so good.

He turns to Dom.

THOMAS (CONT'D)  
Stay here. I will be back later.

Thomas walks steadily towards the path. Now Dom has no excuse. His finger gets closer to the phone screen - it hesitates.

DOM

So hot.

He puts down the phone, gets up and plugs in the air con. It sparks and grumbles. He goes back and sits at the bar. His finger moves closer to the phone screen - it hesitates. He drops the phone with a clatter.

DOM (CONT'D)

Irish courage.

He grabs a bottle of Irish whiskey and a small glass from under the bar. He fills the glass, raises it to the crab.

DOM (CONT'D)

Your health! Sláinte!

He pours the whiskey from the glass into the tank.

DOM (CONT'D)

And mine.

He drinks the bottle down.

DOM (CONT'D)

That'll help.

He takes up the phone and stabs at the button. Holding the phone to his ear he waits. He tenses.

DOM (CONT'D)

Hilary.

He holds the phone away from his ear.

DOM (CONT'D)

I know. I lost my phone. It fell on a turtle.

DOM (CONT'D)

I tried. You blocked me. Then my dongle gave up the ghost.

DOM (CONT'D)

On Andros. It's an island. A fairy tale tropical island. With palm trees. And psychic coconuts.

He listens.

DOM (CONT'D)

It's a long story. Look, I'm not coming back Hil.

He jerks the phone away from his ear. He looks at the screen, touches it and suddenly we hear Hilary. Her accent is New York harsh and nasal.

HILARY (O.S.)  
...asshole. Why?

DOM  
Because I want to stay here.

HILARY  
Don't be ridiculous. You've taken leave of your senses. Not that you ever had many senses to leave.

DOM  
Well, you were the one that wanted a break. I lose my job and you want to a take a break. Nice.

HILARY  
You and your stupid English whining. Get back here Dominic.

Dom rolls his eyes and scowls.

DOM  
For your information we're opening an inn. An eco-inn.

HILARY (O.S.)  
What's an echoing?

DOM  
A hotel where we care about things.

HILARY  
What? You're not making any sense.

DOM  
I'm making more sense than I ever have. I'm not coming back. Hil, I need half the money from the target account.

HILARY  
Oh, no, no. That's for our apartment.

DOM  
I won't need an apartment if I'm not coming back now will I?

HILARY  
Hang on. Did you say "we"?

DOM  
It doesn't matter.

HILARY

(furious)

You bastard. It'll be a cold day in hell before I give you that money.

Dom is surprised. He sits up straighter.

DOM

(being reasonable)

Hilary, you know half of it's mine. I need it to fix things up here.

HILARY

If you want it you'll have to come and get it. By the time my lawyers are through there will be nothing left.

DOM

What did I ever see in you? You are a horrible person.

HILARY

Fuck you Dom. I hope you drown. Slowly.

DOM

Hilary? Hilary?

He looks at the phone in disbelief.

DOM (CONT'D)

Shit.

He shakes his head. Puts down the phone.

DOM (CONT'D)

No. But (Beat) that's not right. That's not right.

Dom leans on the bar and holds his head in his hands. His elbows rest in puddles of beer. The scar on his arm is angry red. He raises his head slowly.

He stares across the bar out through the palms to the water. He's very still.

DOM (CONT'D)

Well, that's that then.

A gust of wind SWISHES through the palm trees. He takes the phone and holds it over the fish tank with two fingers.

DOM (CONT'D)

Look out below!

He drops it. The crab jumps out of the way and faces Dom accusingly.

DOM (CONT'D)

Oh. Sorry.

The crab's mouth parts work angrily and it snaps its pincers. Dom shakes a finger at it like a prim teacher.

DOM (CONT'D)

Language.

He sits up straight, sways, falls off the stool. He uses the stool to stand up.

DOM (CONT'D)

Sorry crabbie. I have to go.

He opens the can of fish food and pours the whole lot into the tank.

DOM (CONT'D)

May your craic be mighty.

He holds on to the bar for support as he makes his way to the door. The wind grabs it and slams it in his face. He staggers back holding his nose.

DOM (CONT'D)

That's fair.

He wrenches open the door. The wind RUSHES in. His hair whips about as though it's a small angry orangutan. He plunges outside.

EXT. DINGHY - NIGHT

Dom is lying on the bottom a dinghy. It's rocking on unseen waves. Water sprays liberally over Dom. He stirs.

DOM

Oh feck.

He lifts himself up to sitting. Wind buffets his hair. The orangutan does calisthenics. There is water in the dinghy. Too much water.

DOM (CONT'D)

What the hell.

Dom scrabbles around. He finds an old shoe under the seat and starts bailing frantically. Then he stops. He looks at the shoe and starts laughing maniacally.

DOM (CONT'D)

(slurring)

Can't even do that properly.

He raises his face to the wind.

DOM (CONT'D)  
(crying)  
I can't even do that properly.

He shakes his fist at the ROARING wind. He stands up to have a better go.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Fuck. Fuck. I have to fucking live.

He's standing with his feet wide facing the wind. The dinghy rocks alarming. Waves splash over the bow.

DOM (CONT'D)  
(screaming)  
Fuck. Fuck. Fuck you life.

A big wave hits. The boat rocks wildly. He topples into the ocean. He grabs the edge of the dinghy with one hand, then the other. With a supreme effort he hoists himself back into the boat. He lies on his back panting.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Can't even do that.

He sits up and looks around for the oars. He wrestles them into the oarlocks. He starts to row. Stops. Thinks.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Which way?

He looks around holding the hair out of his face. He sees the ocean, then a white shore curving around in the distance, then he looks over his shoulder. The jetty is twenty feet away. He face palms.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Jesus.

He goes to take up the oar. It slipped through the oarlock. The waves are taking it. In a second it will be out of reach.

DOM (CONT'D)  
Oh for fuck's sake.

He reaches out for oar. He's nearly got it. He's got it. He lifts it up and starts swinging it into the dinghy. A huge blast of wind catches the oar, flings it in the other direction and suddenly Dom is in the water.

EXT. OCEAN UNDERWATER - NIGHT

He is sinking under the water. It's dirty with sand. He can see the oar floating above him. He reaches for it but it's too far. His face is screwed up with effort. He starts to paddle weakly but the swell moves him around. He's not getting any nearer. He needs to breathe.

The oar disappears in the gloom. A bubble floats up. His mouth is open. His eyes are closed. He sinks gently down, down into darkness.

Suddenly he is moving upwards. Something is pushing his limp body towards the surface. Slowly at first he rises, then he is moving faster. Mrs. Turtle is underneath him, lifting him up, her shell fitted into the curve of his back, straining with her powerful flippers to lift him up.

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

Dom's head breaks the surface above the thrashing waves.

MADDIE  
(screaming)  
Dom? Dom?

The wind whips her voice away. She steers her little boat towards him. The engine noise is lost in the GALE.

MADDIE (CONT'D)  
Dom!

She is next to him at last. He's lying on his back in the water. The turtle's flippers are visible underneath him. She grabs his shirt and drags him into the boat. Mrs. Turtle slips away. Maddie calls after her.

MADDIE (CONT'D)  
Thank you. Thank you.

There is a lull in the weather. It's calmer. She slaps Dom across the face.

MADDIE (CONT'D)  
Dom.

No reaction. She rolls him on his side. He doesn't stir. Crying, she rolls him on his back. She gives him mouth-to-mouth and rolls him on his side.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Water gushes from his mouth. He coughs and splutters.

MADDIE (CONT'D)  
Throwing up again. You really have  
a problem.

He laughs and coughs and laughs. Maddie helps him sit up.

DOM  
(coughing)  
Timing.

MADDIE  
What? What are you saying?

DOM  
Good timing.

He coughs again. He slumps in the bow of the boat.

DOM (CONT'D)  
(rasping)  
How long was I out? You must have  
been right there.

She pushes her wet hair off her face. It's freshly braided.  
She looks at him.

DOM (CONT'D)  
You must have been practically on  
top of me.

MADDIE  
Maybe. What do you remember?

DOM  
I fell in. Then I was here.

She takes his hand. She looks into his eyes.

MADDIE  
Mrs. Turtle brought you up. She  
saved you.

Dom blinks at her. He looks into the choppy water and his  
gaze goes soft for a moment. He turns back and grins at  
Maddie.

DOM  
(relaxing)  
Good old Mrs. Turtle. I knew there  
was a reason I liked her.

Maddie passes him a bottle of water. As she passes it to him  
she looks at the shore.

MADDIE  
(pointing)  
Oh no.

Smoke is rising from the Inn and being blown away over the  
island. Dom turns to look. Maddie jumps to the outboard and  
starts it up. She guns it.

EXT. INN - NIGHT

The Inn is on fire. Maddie supports Dom as they hurry up from  
the beach. They stand in front of the burning building,  
leaning on each other. The noise of FIRE and WIND is  
deafening.

DOM  
That'd be right.

The fierce flames are being fanned by the hurricane. Burning embers are flying into the palms behind the inn and they are catching fire.

Thomas is there with a garden hose trying to put it out but the hose is not up to it. A pathetic trickle arcs out and HISSES as it reaches the fire.

DOM (CONT'D)  
(yelling)  
You may as well piss on it Thomas.  
Let it burn. It's too late.

All they can do is watch.

MADDIE  
The crab!

DOM  
No, it's all right. Look there.

Behind Thomas, resting crookedly on the sand is the fish tank. The crab is sitting at the corner farthest from the fire contracted tight as a drum.

People have gathered to help. Rex is there and Harold. They are trying to beat the fire out but the wind is whipping everything into a frenzy and in the end they can only stand back.

Suddenly the hurricane releases its fury and rain pours down like a waterfall. The friends stand together in the rain letting it wash them clean of sand and soot and sadness.

The fire has died down. Gradually the rain slows, the wind lessens.

EXT. INN - NIGHT

The fire is out. The rain is normal rain. Rex and Harold are over by a hut checking something. Dom and Maddie sit on the sand spent. Thomas wanders closer kicking sand on embers.

THOMAS  
Well.

DOM  
(guilty)  
Yeah.

MADDIE  
You did your best Thomas.

DOM  
I should have been here.

Thomas shrugs. Looks away.

THOMAS  
What's done is done.

Maddie is watching him sadly. She notices something.

MADDIE  
Your hands.

She scrambles up and takes Thomas's enormous hands in her slim ones.

MADDIE (CONT'D)  
You're burnt.

She turns his palms up. They are covered in burns.

MADDIE (CONT'D)  
(calling)  
Rex. Rex.

Rex and Harold look up and quickly come over.

INT. INN - MORNING

In the early morning light the rain has stopped. Thomas is sleeping in a hammock, his hands and feet neatly bandaged. Under the palms Eve is gathering her things into the black bag. Dom, Maddie and Rex sit in chairs watching.

EVE  
I'll be back to change the dressings tomorrow. Make sure he has plenty of water and rest.

There is a CHIME. Rex takes out a phone and looks at it.

REX  
Harold says your mother is fine, Maddie.

MADDIE  
I was not worried about her. She knows the weather. But thank Harold for me.

REX  
I will.

DOM  
Is that my phone? How can that be my phone?

Rex passes it to Dom.

REX

We had it coated in Nassau. It's waterproof.

Dom's jaw drops. He looks at it as though it's an alien artifact.

DOM

Well, who'd a thunk it.

EVE

Same instructions for you two. It's shock. You are in shock. It will pass but you must take care of yourselves. Rest, drink water, eat the fruit I brought if you can manage it.

MADDIE

(dully)

Yes mom.

EVE

Can you take me back to the airport?

REX

Of course.

Eve bends down to hug Maddie and then Dom.

DOM

See you tomorrow then.

Eve and Rex walk together towards the path. Dom remembers himself and gets out of his chair.

DOM (CONT'D)

(calling after them)

Thank you. Thank you for everything.

(softly)

You are such good people.

They turn and wave and disappear into the trees.

MADDIE

They really are. I don't know why I ever left here.

DOM

They are your family.

MADDIE

And yours if you want them.

Dom turns away and walks into the burnt out shell of the inn. Maddie gets up and follows him.

INT. INN FOYER - MORNING

They look around at what's left. Wisps of smoke drift up from burnt furniture. Dom picks up a burnt corner of the old map.

MADDIE  
All your plans.

DOM  
Doesn't matter.

He lets it fall. They poke around in the ashes. They find the section of wall with the air conditioner in it. There is a black and yellow burn mark leading from the air conditioner down to the plug. The cane chaise lies burnt and crumpled underneath the wall.

MADDIE  
(teasing)  
That's it then, no air. I told you  
we don't need it.

Dom turns on his heel and walks back outside. Maddie is puzzled.

EXT. INN - MORNING

Dom hears a SCRATCHING noise. He follows it to the fish tank. The crab is trying to get out. Most of the water and all the fish have gone. It's trying desperately to climb the glass.

DOM  
Maddie. Maddie can you come here a  
minute please.

MADDIE (O.S.)  
What is it?

Maddie joins Dom at the fish tank.

DOM  
(worried)  
What that stuff on it's belly? Is  
it burnt?

Maddie kneels down.

MADDIE  
Eggs. They're eggs. She's ready to  
have her crab babies.

Dom gets closer too and has a closer look.

DOM  
(relieved)  
That's fine then. That's a fine  
thing. How do we help her.

He looks at Maddie expectantly.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The crab is in the shallows doing a bizarre crab dance. It is on it's back legs with its claws in the air thrusting its egg laden nether regions into the waves. Dom watches fascinated.

DOM

Look at that. We should have called her Beyonce.

Maddie laughs.

MADDIE

The eggs get thrown in the water and carried away. She's doing her best for them.

DOM

(smiling)

Lots of new little crabbies.

They watch the performance together.

DOM (CONT'D)

Maddie, I have something to tell you.

MADDIE

What?

He sighs and turns to face her.

DOM

I can't rebuild the inn. I have no money. I used all my payout to buy it and Hilary is keeping the rest. I'll have to go back to New York and get a job. (Beat) Oh God.

Maddie steps closer and takes his hand. She smiles into his eyes.

MADDIE

But that's what I came over to tell you. That video, Eve looked it up. It's got thirty-seven and a half million views. I went viral. That must be worth something mustn't it. Aren't there ads or something?

DOM

Yes. Yes there are.

They grin at each other elated. They hug. They kiss.

Satisfied, the crab returns to Maddie and Dom and waves its claws. Maddie laughs and picks it up.

MADDIE

Well, all right but you better not  
let my mom get hold of you or  
you'll be soup!

DOM

Yuk.

Maddie pokes her tongue out and dances away.

EXT. INN - NIGHT

Joyful island MUSIC is playing. A new sign, "The Best Hope Inn" is nailed at a jaunty angle from a palm tree. A piece of paper flutters below it. In pencil it says, "Grand Opening".

The inn has been rebuilt in a similar style. There are new chairs and tables and new stools. The bar is one long piece of dark timber.

At one end a large tropical tank full of bright fish bubbles away. At the other end the crab rests on a red velvet throne in a luxurious habitat tank. The glass has a small cat door cut through it. A sticky label is attached to the top.

INSERT - STICKY NOTE

with scribble in red pen, "Beyonce - DO NOT EAT".

Thomas and Bridgitte troop from behind the inn. Thomas is carrying trays heaped with food.

BRIDGITTE

Not too fast Thomas.

She is stepping carefully, holding tightly to Thomas's shirt with one hand, a large jug of something green in the other.

THOMAS

Yes. Yes.

They head towards the beach. Harold is on the way up carrying empty trays and plates. He smiles at them and hurries past.

EXT. JETTY - NIGHT

The music is louder. The laden pair make their way along the jetty. A pontoon bar has been added to the far end. Fruit and flowers hang from the thatched roof. People fill the space.

EXT. PONTOON BAR - NIGHT

Thomas stops at the end of the jetty. The pontoon is moving up and down on the waves.

THOMAS  
(to Bridgitte)  
Step.

Maddie hurries past carrying four exotic cocktails. She sees her mother hesitating.

MADDIE  
Dom!

She nods towards the impending accident. Dom rushes over to take the jug and nearly drops it. He looks at the trays.

DOM  
Oh look at that. Conch fritters.  
Fantastic.

He helps Bridgitte step down onto the crowded pontoon and guides her towards a row of chairs. They are all full but Eve notices and vacates. Bridgitte sits down.

EVE  
Would you like something to drink  
Mrs. Waters?

BRIDGITTE  
I would. Something cold.

Dom gives Eve a grateful look. Eve goes into the bar area where Rex is making drinks. She kisses him on the back of the neck.

EVE  
A lemonade for Maddie's mom.

He nods. Behind the bar is an open platform. Maddie is standing on a small stage at one end. She taps a microphone. The party goes quiet.

MADDIE  
I wrote this song for my wonderful  
husband. Thank you for everything  
Dom.

Dom stands by glowing with pride. She sings alone with only her guitar as backing. Her voice is pure and strong. Everyone listens intently except Bridgitte.

BRIDGITTE  
Somebody get me a fritter.

Thomas whispers in her ear. She frowns but sits back and is quiet. As the song nears its end Dom climbs on the platform and joins Maddie in the chorus. They harmonize together on the final note. Dom steps to one side and claps.

DOM  
Maddie O'Leary everybody.

People clap and cheer.

EXT. PONTOON BAR - LATER

The crowd has thinned. Harold and a group of islanders are singing on the stage. Rex and Eve are slow dancing. Thomas is sharing a cut coconut with Bridgitte. Maddie is talking to Delores and her SON.

DELORES

I'm so grateful you grabbed your chance for happiness. It's all we can ever do.

MAD

(hugging her)  
Come and see us again.

Delores and her son walk up the beach. Maddie looks around.

MADDIE

Has anyone seen Dom?

She sees him standing on the beach under the palms.

EXT. INN BEACH - FIRST LIGHT

Dom is standing by himself looking out to sea. He's swaying to the music. Maddie strolls toward him but stops suddenly and throws up behind a palm tree.

MADDIE

Well, I guess it is morning.

Dom wipes her chin tenderly with his shirttail.

DOM

It certainly is, Angel. It's dawn.

They lean together by the water and watch the sunrise, bright pink and gold chase away the dark. Behind them a coconut THUMPS to the ground and bounces. They don't seem to notice.

EXT. BEACH - DAWN

The turtle is ashore watching the dawn too. Her blue scar stands out like a wound but she is whole. Eggs fill the shallow hole scooped from the sand. She covers them carefully.

As the joyful MUSIC drifts across the water she struggles slowly back down to the sea. With great effort she pulls herself into the waves.

With a last look at Dom and Maddie in the distance, she smiles a turtle smile and quietly glides away into the blue.