

A TALE OF ENDURANCE

Draft 2

PROLOGUE

The stage has a number of boxes on it each filled with the items needed to create everything in the show. As Shackleton reads his advert they are cleared to the sides.

SHACKLETON

Men wanted for hazardous journey. Low wages, bitter cold, long hours of complete darkness. Safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in event of success.

SCENE 1 - DEPARTURE

TIM

Tim McCarthy

MCLEOD

Thomas McLeod

MACK

Careful, careful thats medical equipment

TIM

Where do you want it?

MACK

Below deck please

NARRATOR

August, 1914. Plymouth, England

THE PRINCE

Nice camera

PUTTY

Thanks, I'm the expeditions official photographer

WALLY

Whats all this

COLONEL

Food for the dogs

PUTTY

Ah, I'm the expeditions official artist. Requested personally by Shackleton

BOSUN

Chippy!

NARRATOR

We are the crew of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition

BOSUN

Chippy!

TIM walks past

BOSUN

Excuse me, have you seen the carpenter?

TIM

He'll be below deck, I wouldn't disturb him though

SKIPPER

And we have enough supplies to last the whole journey?

WILD

Enough to get us to Buns Aires where we'll re-stock

SHACKLETON

We plan to dock there early October, supplies will last well beyond that

NARRATOR

Sir Earnest Shackleton a knight of the realm and already famous for his National Antarctic expeditions aboard the Discovery and Nimrod

TIM

You don't mind the cold?

MCLEOD

Are you kidding, I love ice in my whiskey

TIM

You lot the scientists?

BOB

Indeed we are. I am Bob the biologist

JOCK

Jock the Geologist

UZZBIRD

Meteorologist...Leonard. Some people call me Uzzbird...it's a Banjo

NARRATOR

We're going to be the first team to cross the Antarctic continent

MICKEY

Ah I've been looking for that!

BOSUN

You the carpenter?

MICKEY

I'm the surgeon, Mickey. It's for amputations...We probably won't need it

GEORGE

Does anyone know the route we're taking?

SHACKLETON

Positions men!

All crew gather into their map shapes

SHACKLETON

Now, pay attention

All crew create the map on the floor. Shackleton walks around pointing to each location as he describes the journey.

SHACKLETON

We set sail today, the 6th of August from the port of Plymouth. We will be at sea for two months until we dock in Buenos Aires in early October. This is a vital stop needed to re-fuel and re-stock the ship for the second leg of the journey. At the end of October we sail through the Southern Ocean for the Island of South Georgia where we will dock at the islands whaling station. We will use our time here to assess the conditions of the ice and make all necessary final preparations for the journey to the Antarctic. Finally we will travel from South Georgia through the South Sandwich Islands and into the Weddell Sea until we reach Vahsel Bay on the Antarctic Coast. This positions us with the shortest route across the continent. From here myself and five men along with the dog teams will sledge inland and make the crossing before the polar winter arrives. Our sister ship the Aurora will land on the other side of the Continent and will drop supplies off for us across the route, while Captain Worsley takes the Endurance around to meet up with other ship. Once we have made the crossing we will sail both ships to Australia, and from their, home. Any questions?

WALLY

There was talk of the Expedition being postponed Boss, on account of the war

NARRATOR

England declared war on Germany two days ago. Don't worry it'll all blow over by Christmas. Never the less First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill has made his feelings on the expedition quite clear, stating.

CHURCHILL

Enough life and money has been spent on this sterile quest

SHACKLETON

It's no rumour and I did of course offer this vessel and its contents toward the war effort, but I received a telegram last night from the First lord of the Admiralty on behalf of the King himself.

WALLY

If you don't mind me asking Sir...What did it say?

SHACKLETON

It contained but a single word

CHURCHILL

Proceed.

NARRATOR

With provisions loaded and spirits high we boarded the HMS Endurance and set sail.

SCENE 2 - AT SEA

The crew sing as they form the boat

SONG - Hall away Joe

***When i was a little lad
And so my mother told me, Tell me!
Way, hall away
We'll hall away Joe***

***That if I did not kill the gals
My lips would all grow mouldy, Tell me!
Way, hall away
We'll hall away Joe***

***Way, hall away
I'll sing to you of nancy, Tell me!
Way, hall away
We'll hall away Joe***

***Way, hall away
She's juts my cut and fancy, Tell me!
Way, hall away
We'll hall away Joe***

SHACKLETON

How fairs She Skipper?

SKIPPER

She's fine boss. We're passing through the Southern Ocean, the winds around here are known as the roaring 40s. Hope your men brought their sea legs

Tim throws up over the side. The other crew members laugh.

MCLEOD

You alright laddie?

TIM

I'm fine

NARRATOR

It was smooth sailing for the first two months but beyond Buenos Aires we've found the Southern Ocean to be much rougher, for a week the has sea flung magnificent power at our starboard quarter, but beyond the occasional monster leaping aboard to floor our decks/

SKIPPER

BRACE!

A wave hits the deck and the crew are flung to the floor

NARRATOR

/we've ambled buoyantly south. flung from side to side.

SKIPPER

All 22 men accounted for?

Horace and Crean arrive on deck carrying Perce

HORACE

23 Boss! We found this one hiding below deck.

Perce is sat in front of Shackleton. The men gather around.

SHACKLETON

Who are you?

PERCE

Perce Blackburrow Sir.

SHACKLETON

How old are you?

PERCE

Nineteen nearly twenty. please don't send me back.

Laughter

HOLIE

Too late to turn back now!

SHACKLETON

Mr. Blackburrow have you ever traveled to the Antarctic before?

PERCE

No, I haven't

SHACKLETON

Have you ever been on an expedition before?

PERCE

No

SHACKLETON

Do you understand the position you have put us all in? Your presence on this ship jeopardises the safety of my entire team. You are inexperienced and underprepared for the conditions we are about to endure. Not to mention your blatant disregard for authority in having the audacity to board this ship in the first place.

PERCE

It's just, I heard that you were two men short and I thought I could help

SHACKLETON

Who helped you aboard?

TIM

It wasn't me

THOMAS

Shhh

SHACKLETON

Well it was one you! The person responsible for helping this man aboard will step forward now... Alright As no one has come forward I guess Mr. Blackburrow here will not be missed. Officers take him to the bow and throw him over board.

CREAN

one, two, three/

WILL

Wait! It was me boss

SHACKLETON

Mr. William Bakewell, a little out of character for you isn't it, bringing a stowaway on board

WALLY

It wasn't just Will sir, I also aided him

SHACKLETON

Ahhh Mr. Walter How, the final piece falls into place

WALLY

Sorry Sir. It's just/

SHACKLETON

Just what!?

WALLY

Well he is a very competent deck hand. Mr. Blackburrow I mean

SHACKLETON

Is he.

WILL

We have known him a few years now he's never put a foot wrong

SHACKLETON

Unlike you two. Do you know what happens to expedition crews on long voyages Mr. Blackburrow?

PERCE

No Sir

SHACKLETON

Towards the end of the voyage when the men here are tired and food supplies are depleted they tend to get very, very hungry. Do you know what happens to stowaways at that point?

PERCE

They get eaten...

SHACKLETON

Your'e a smart boy Percy

PERCE

If you don't mind me saying so Sir. They'd get a lot more meat off you.

Shackleton Smiles

SHACKLETON

Introduce him to the cook first. Back to work men.

To Wild

SHACKLETON

Take him off the ship as soon as we dock in South Georgia.

To Wally and Will

SHACKLETON

And you two need to think very carefully about your positions on this ship and how you plan on conducting yourselves if you wish to remain on it. Have I made myself clear.

WALLY/WILL

Yes Sir!

SONG - Hall away Joe

***King Louis was the king of France
Before the revolution
Way, hall away
We'll hall away Joe***

***But then he got his head cut off
Which spoilt his constitution
Way, hall away
We'll hall away Joe***

SKIPPER

Lower sails and prepare to dock!

***Way, hall away
The good ships now a bolding, Tell me!
Way, hall away
We'll hall away Joe***

***Way, hall away
The sheet is now unfolding, Tell me!
Way, hall away
We'll hall away Joe***

SCENE 3 - SOUTH GEORGIA

The crew gather together on the shore of South Georgia

SHACKLETON

Gentlemen welcome to South Georgia island, the final call before our voyage south. We are here while we assess the weather conditions and make final preparations.

PRINCE

Time for a picture Sir?

SHACKLETON
Of course. Gather around men.

PRINCE
Look this way.

The picture is taken

PRINCE
Thank you Boss

PUTTY
Time for a quick sketch?

SHACKLETON
Oh, er...No. Now don't get too comfortable gentlemen we are only here for a few days!

*A month later
Music change the men are in the same positions utterly board*

HOLIE
I was promised adventure. Not sitting around for days on end. We've been here a month how much longer is this going to take.

RICK
Better to get things right and take your time I say. Cant afford a mistake on a voyage like this.

BOSUN
They made a mistake when they signed you up.

Shackleton walks among the men

SKIPPER
what are the conditions like out there?

WILD
The reports from the whalers show the ice is still much further north than we had hoped

SKIPPER
How much further north

UZZY
We wont know until we get out there

SHACKLETON
What do you think skipper

SKIPPER

We've already waited too long for the ice to recede, delaying any longer means we'll lose the summer and it will be too treacherous to make the crossing. We've wasted enough of spring as it is. We either go now, or we turn around and go home. Possibly try again when the war is over.

SHACKLETON

Thank you

Skipper exits

SHACKLETON

If we go home we won't get another shot at this all finances will have been moved into the war effort. Besides the age of exploration is coming to an end, there's very little left to be discovered. These voyages don't capture the public's imagination like they used to, you know how hard we fought to secure the funding for this expedition.

WILD

The way I see it, if we go back now, we join a war, if we continue on, we face the ice alone. Either way poses a great risk.

NARRATOR

Frank Wild, Second in command of the expedition and Shackleton's right hand man on all previous voyages

SHACKLETON

I had a dream as a young man that someday I would go to the region of ice and snow and go on and on till I came to one of the poles of the earth. That dream has already been snatched from me by others reaching it first, I've tried and failed twice before. Crossing the Antarctic continent is the last great challenge left of polar exploration.

WILD

I submit to your best judgement.

SHACKLETON

It's now or never, we set sail tomorrow morning. Tell the men to prepare the ship.

WILD

Alright gentlemen. We set sail tomorrow let's ready the ship.

TIM

We're finally going then?

MCLEOD

Looks like it

BOSUN

Where do you think you're going

PERCE

I just thought I'd help load the ship. I wasn't going to stay onboard

BOSUN

You're not part of this crew. We don't need any help from an unqualified stowaway

BOB

Quite right!

WILL

Leave him alone he's only trying to help

BOSUN

As Boatswain of this ship I decide who does what below deck. Don't get ahead of yourself Will or you'll find yourself scrubbing decks for the entire journey.

MACK

Give us a hand Colonel

COLONEL

A storekeeper and representative of the Royal navy does not busy themselves with such menial work

SKIPPER

Perce!

PERCE

Yes Captain?

SKIPPER

I'm short a steward. If your up for the challenge.

PERCE

But Shackleton/

SKIPPER

Changed his mind after seeing how able you were on the journey here. The positions yours if you want it.

PERCE

I do, thank you captain.

SKIPPER

I do hope that looks not at me

BOSUN

No skipper

SKIPPER

All men on deck!

ALL

Ey Sir!

HEADING OUT

The crew are on the top deck with the sail raised

SHACKLETON

Skipper take us out

SKIPPER

Yes, Boss

SHACKLETON

Gentlemen, we sail for Antarctica. I cannot say for certain what the next few weeks have in store, but I can say with confidence that it will be an arduous and trying time for each of us, pushing us above and beyond the limits of what we think we are capable of. We sail into the unknown and the unpredictable, but I believe each one of you holds within yourselves the will and courage to achieve the extraordinary. This expeditionary team will cross the Antarctic continent for the glory of the British Empire. God save the King.

All

God save the King

WILD

A fine speech

SHACKLETON

I thought them in need of a little encouragement. All of Europe's at war behind us and only snow and ice lay ahead. But look on the bright side Wild... at least it not raining.

MICKEY

We have now cut ourselves adrift from civilisation and are making our way off the map. We have met several large bergs drifting majestically north. And in contrast to their absolute whiteness the sea has a dark black look.

PUTTY AND PRINCE

Putty bumps into Prince who is setting up his camera.

PRINCE

Of course

PUTTY

You

PRINCE

You... This had better not be broken

PUTTY

Never mind your camera, what about my paints.

PRINCE

Your paints? You can't break paints, it's a liquid in a pot. Do you know how long it's going to take me to make sure this is in working order? This is a highly technical scientific instrument

PUTTY

It's a camera...

PRINCE

It's a highly tech.... *(walks away)*

PUTTY

Where are you going?

PRINCE

To bow of the ship to get a better view

PUTTY

Well I'm coming with you

PRINCE

There's not room for the both of us

PUTTY

Then I suggest you stay here and play with your highly technical scientific instrument.

PRINCE

Look I need to be up the front there to capture an image of this ship as we head south. A snapshot of life exactly as it looks right now, a black and white memory for all the people back home

PUTTY

Well I also need to capture this ship sailing south, except with feeling and emotion.

PRINCE

The public back home and the financiers of this trip aren't interested in feelings and emotions. They want to see a well documented account of the expedition

PUTTY

What they want to see is talent, which is exactly what you don't have I'm afraid. Any one can click a button. Click, click, look, now I'm a photographer, click.

PRINCE

I'll have you know there is a tremendous amount of skill required in the art of photography. Firstly, you have to decide on the size of the aperture, as this will effect how much light is exposed to the film. Then you have to precisely focus the lenses. Finally you have to know by how much the ink in the screen plate must be diluted by to allow for quicker exposure. But I'm sure that's far too complicated for a simple artist like yourself.

PACK ICE

NARRATOR

As we push further south thick sheets of pack ice blanket the sea as far as the horizon. Their brilliant white interrupted only by the leads of open water that our skipper navigates the ship through

WILD

Did we know there was ice this far north?

SKIPPER

It's unusual this late in the spring.

SHACKLTON

Uzbird, Jock. Were we expecting to encounter pack ice so soon

UZBIRD

Their were conflicting reports but I estimated up to 7 degrees of longitude. This is 9 or 10. It'll add another 200 miles or so to navigate through.

JOCK

From what we heard in South Georgia the drifting pack ice is up to 5 feet thick in places. Obviously I cant make a proper assessment until we get further in, but if that report is correct it will be much harder for the ship to break through.

SKIPPER

Boss, I say we sail due east for two days, then we head south and try and hug the coastline as much as possible. There should be less ice forming and if it does, it should be thinner

SHACKLETON

Alright let's plot a new course captain.

Uzbird and Jock exit.

COLONEL

This then is the pack a sight worth coming so far to see, and even as I write the book is constantly being jerked from under my pen as the ship takes the shock of charging each slab and we go on through the pack.

SKIPPER

Brace!

The ship hits the ice

SKIPPER

Brace!

The ship hits the ice

MACK

The Skipper specialised in ramming and I have a sneaking suspicion that he often went out of his way to find a nice bit flow that he could drive at full speed and cut the ice in two. He loved to feel the shock, the riding up and the sensations the ice gave as we drove through.

NARRATOR

As we pressed further into the pack ice, the leads narrowed bringing us almost to halt

WILD

But Dame fortune, Sir Ernest's old and constant friend again favoured us for a rift appeared southward and we passed through

WALLY

At midnight we crossed the Antarctic circle with a glorious sunset reflecting in placid waters, and so entered geographical Antarctica with the dawn of the new year

SKIPPER

Land ahead Sir

BOSUN

In the distance great ice cliffs rose up out of the sea. It was an awe inspiring sight and radiating from its surface an intense cold could be felt

SKIPPER

Brace!

The ship stops

SKIPPER

Brace!

A jolt

SKIPPER
Brace!

A smaller jolt

SHACKLETON
Skipper?

SKIPPER
She stuck fast boss. The ice is too thick to ram through

SHACKLETON
What do you suggest

SKIPPER
If we take up saws and pickaxes we may be able to cut her free. It looks about another 800 foot to the next lead.

SHACKLETON
The ship is stuck gentlemen and we're not going anywhere until we cut her free. Take up your pickaxes and saws, we're going onto the ice.

PICKAXE

SONG

Roll the old chariot along

SKIPPER
What's with all the yapping lads? You are supposed to be working not talking. Men. We have another 400 yards until the lead, the ice is working against us and keeps freezing over. We need to break this up as quickly as possible.

JOCK
Lads you are wasting your time hacking there, the ice is too thick. You need to start closer to the ship.

HOLIE
I don't think I can do this anymore

WILL
Do you think we are going to get the ship out of the ice today?

CHIPPY
I don't think we'll ever get the ship out.

UZZY
Of course you can you're built like an Ox.

DOUGHBALLS
You smell like one too

HOLIE

I'm tired, I'm cold, and I want a fag.

UZZBIRD

You're the one who left your tobacco tin on the ship.

Enter Colonel. Everyone stops working, stares.

COLONEL

Alright lads?

HORICE

Colonel?

MACK

Are you actually going to help us?

COLONEL

Yes.

WALLY

Are you felling alright?

COLONEL

Yes.

MICKEY

Finally

BOB

There is a god!

Colonel starts hacking ice, strains back.

COLONEL

My back!

Colonel starts leaving

WALLY

One of you two not going to help her?

Mickey and Mack share a look

MICKEY/MACK

No

MCLEOD

How are you finding the ship?

TIM

I don't think I fit in.

MCLEOD

Why do you say that?

TIM

They just see me as an amateur, I'm naive and inexperienced

MCLEOD

Experience? That means nothing, you are here on the endurance right. Back home there are hundreds of people that would give their left arm for this.

Tim faints. People gather.

MCLEOD

Tim, you alright son?

TIM

No, No, I'm fine.

Tim starts to work and faints again

MCLEOD

Skipper!

SKIPPER

Get him inside. He can't continue.

SHACKLETON

Skipper.

SKIPPER

Boss.

WILD

The men have been working for 48 hours, how much progress have we made?

SKIPPER

Progress is slow, we have moved 15 yards in the past four hours. We have another 400 yards to the lead.

SHACKLETON

How many more days work is that?

SKIPPER

two maybe three, the ice is freezing as fast as we cut it

WILD

The men can't manage that, look at them, they are exhausted.

JOCK

Boss. The ice here its six foot thick. We cant move it. We'd need cranes and winches

SHACKLETON

Alright thats enough. You have all performed admirably but I'm afraid the ice has us beat. Go back to the ship. Have a hot drink and get your heads down. We'll reassess this tomorrow.

Closing verse of Roll the old chariot

FROZEN IN OVER NIGHT

The men are sleeping. Wild walks among the men until he finds who he's looking for

WILD

Mickey. Mickey get up.

MICKEY

What is it?

WILD

I need you to go and harness one of the dog teams and ready a sled with a days provisions.

MICKEY

For what?

WILD

Can you do it?

MICKEY

yes of course

WILD

Quietly as you can

Mickey exits. Wild goes over to Jock and Uzbird

WILD

Morning Gentlemen

JOCK

Morning

UZBIRD

Everything alright?

WILD

I need you both to gather the scientific equipment you need to take accurate measurements of the surrounding landscape and meet me on the ice. Starboard side. Do not wake or engage with the other men, just do as I've instructed.

Wild exits

UZBIRD

You feel that?

JOCK

Feel what? i don't feel anything

UZBIRD

Exactly, we're not moving. Where's the swell?

Putty has been listing in and follows them.

PRESSURE RIDGE

Mickey continues to get the sled ready throughout

JOCK

Morning boss

SHACKLETON

Good morning. An early start I know, I'll cut to the chase. As you may have noticed the temperature has dropped dramatically overnight. The lead we've been desperately trying to reach has frozen over and huge pressure ridges have formed a little over 10 miles away where the pack ice has pressed together. We cannot see over them to assess the conditions of the sea.

WILD

You two and Mickey will take this sled with Officer Crean and make your way to the top of one of the ridges. From there you are to make a detailed survey of the landscape. We need to know in which direction there is open water and how far away you estimate it to be.

CREAN

I think it goes without saying that this excursion and its findings are not to be shared with the rest of the men.

MICKEY

That's all the climbing equipment loaded. I'm ready when you are.

WILD

Any questions?

Putty appears at the edge of the ice

PUTTY

Can I go?

WILD

How long have you been there?

PUTTY

ummm... Somewhere around pressure ridges and don't tell the rest of the men. If you're going out to the pressure ridges I should definitely go to make documentation of them.

SHACKLETON

Your call officer.

CREAN

Alright. But science first art second.

PUTTY

Suits me

SHACKLETON

God speed

Shackleton and Wild exit

MICKEY

Ready?

CREAN

Yes ready. pull!

BOB

Wait! Hold on, Hold on. oops, nearly went over. Sorry could you just hold that. Thank you. You nearly left without this expeditions biologist. Imagine how foolish you would have felt when you realised.

UZZBIRD

Imagine

MICKEY

Bob I would not recommend you for this excursion

BOB

No, no, I'm here now lets get on with it

UZZBIRD

Are you sure looks like we might run into a blizzard later

BOB

Very kind of you. Very kind but I'd feel a coward if I stayed on the ship whilst you lot went out, besides I'm a scientist.

JOCK

It'll be rough out there, harsh terrain

PUTTY

I can't rush my paintings you may be out there hours

BOB

Don't worry my tests take hours

PUTTY

Brilliant

MICKEY

Officer ready

CREAN

Yes ready. pull

BOB

What do you think we'll find penguins or seals. I'm thinking more penguins but you never know with seals they can gather in large inland groups, be strange to find them this far out though. Putty, Putty. Putty what do you think /

PUTTY

...

BOB

I think penguins, it's the type I'm curious about either emperor or king, though their breeding season is winding down

PUTTY

I saw a king penguin the other day. I made a sketch of it, take a look

BOB

Yes I see. Well what can I say. Artistically that is beautiful. Scientifically very inaccurate.....it's the wings the plumage isn't so pronounced at the bottom.

Mickey drowns Bob out with calls to the dogs.

UZZBIRD

What do you make of the ship not moving. You think it's frozen.

JOCK

Lets pray it's just calm waters, if its frozen that far down we'll never get it out

MICKEY

Do you mind me asking sir, what did you do before the expedition

CREAN

I was an officer in the navy.

MICKEY

Ah a soldier

CREAN

An officer in the navy. Yourself?

MICKEY

Ah well I'm a surgeon as you know but I practiced abroad for a few years in Egypt and Japan. Before this I was medical officer on a cruise ship around the East Indies. I love traveling.

UZZBIRD

And chopping off peoples legs

MICKEY

When I have too.

CREAN

Were approaching the pressure ridge

The sled stops

MICKEY

The dogs cant go any further, you'll have to walk from here

CREAN

Alright men let's unload the equipment

UZZBIRD

Tie yourselves off

CREAN

The further success of this expedition depends on what you find beyond that pressure ridge. Take it slow, find your footing. Good luck.

Uzbird, Jock and Putty start walking

BOB

Did I ever tell you about my travels through Africa/

MICKEY

I need to tend to the dogs

*Uzbird, Jock and Putty climb the pressure ridge.
Uzbird looks through his spyglass.*

JOCK

Do you see any open water

UZBIRD

I just see ice

UZBIRD

Hold on let me double check the direction

Jock looks through the spyglass

JOCK

It's frozen all the way to the coast. Look at the ship its frozen in behind us as well!

Uzbird looks

JOCK

What do you recon that is in miles

UZBIRD

Difficult to say from this distance, one things for certain though we're not going anywhere.
We're frozen into the pack.

WINTER IN THE PACK

SHACKLETON

Hows the ship

SKIPPER

Structurally she's fine. Buts she's frozen into the ice almost all the way down to the keel It's at least 10 feet thick. Any chance of her moving at this point is an impossibility.

SHACKLETON

How are the men

HORICE

Resting, a lot of them have been asleep most of the day. I thought it best to cancel all duties on the account of the extreme toll the last two days of pickaxing has taken on them

SHACKLETON

What did you learn from you expedition out to the pressure ridge

JOCK

Nothing good. Any leads of open water have now frozen over. Its ice as far as the eye can see

UZZBIRD

I took a two readings from the horizon boss. It confirmed what I suspected the pack is drifting. The longer we stay trapped the further were going to be from our landing point if we do get free.

SHACKLETON

What other options do we have?

HORICE

Well sir, we're only one days sail from land, I think we stand a good chance of making it on foot. We'd have to pack all our supplies onto the dog sleds and make for our original landing point on vessel bay

SHACKLETON

How far is it?

HORICE

Ninety Miles, Its a three maybe four day walk. depending on weather conditions

JOCK

Thats not ninety miles of flat ice, we'd be crossing over steep pressure ridges some of the ones we've seen have been 20/30 foot high. Not to mention the deep snow drifts.

CREAN

It's already 20 degrees below, The summer's over it's only going to get worse as we move into winter. Boss, even if we did make it to Vessel bay, the men will be in no condition to then trek across the continent. I know these men, if we lave the Endurance they'll panic it's an unnerving prospect for any sailer to leave his ship, it's his home.

SHACKLETON

How are supplies?

HORICE

We have enough to last through winter if were careful and ration properly.

Shackleton thinks through his options

SHACKLETON

We winter in the pack. Make all necessary preparations to last the next five months longer if need be. Once the ice opens up again we'll make a decision on whether we can make the trip across the continent or if we turn back for South Georgia. As far as I'm concerned the expedition is still on, we still aim to make the crossing. I want shifts and rota's drawn up for all ship duties. We all chip in, no pulling rank, if we're going to make it, we'll all make it together.

ROUTINE

NARRATOR

The harsh weather has descended upon us and we have settled into our winterised quarters that we've nicknamed, The Ritz. We follow a strict weekly rota. On Mondays we collect crates of ice for drinking water.

NARRATOR

In the evenings we play football.

NARRATOR

On Tuesdays we scrub the deck.

SHACKLETON

A tidy ship makes for a tidy mind.

NARRATOR

Then below deck

BOB

Knight to E5.

NARRATOR

long into the night.

COLONAL

Check

NARRATOR

We play chess.

HOLIE

Bishop to E5.

CREAN

Checkmate.

NARRATOR

Wednesday we scrub our clothes and bedding.

TIM

I don't remember bringing this many socks

MCLEOD

Look at the state of this, disgusting!

NARRATOR

Then we line the ice to watch the two doctors race their dog teams.

HOLIE

In 3, 2, 1. Go!

NARRATOR

Thursdays the dogs are fed and cared for.

NARRATOR

Before our resident biologist recounts tales of the strange and wonderful creatures he's seen in foreign lands

BOB

Now heres a strange one for you. The hyena, I met these while out on the plains of Africa. They have a distinctive call.

Crean yawns

BOB

No, No, it's more in the chest let me show you *(Makes animal noise)* Now the other fascinating thing is that the male and female hyena both have a penis.

NARRATOR

Fridays we take stock of all the provisions on boards

NARRATOR

Then the entire crew sit down together for a meal

NARRATOR

Let us say grace, Dear lord

ALL

Grace!

NARRATOR

Saturdays we take turns putting on performances for each other.

Song

NARRATOR

Sundays we rest.

Men get into the shape of the map with their blankets and fall asleep.

DRIFTING

SHACKLETON

Where are we?

SKIPPER

From my latest calculations I place us around here. The ice is drifting and us along with it. Since our entrapment seven months ago we've moved 200 miles into uncharted waters. We are now much further from our landing point.

SHACKLETON

But if the ship frees we can still make it to the lading point?

SKIPPER

Yes. But e have a much more pressing concern. A pressure ridge is pushing against our port side, the ice is exerting an incredible force on the hull of the ship.

WILD

The men have been out there all day trying to cut sections of the ice off to release the pressure but the pack is pressing in as fast as we cut it away.

SKIPPER

We need to have pumps and buckets on standby and a team of men on a night watch. If the pressure builds too much it might crack the timber and then/

SHACKLETON

It'll flood the ship. Alright. Wild I want men on rotation 24 hours a day. I want them cutting away that ice in 4 hour shifts.

PROVISIONS LOW

DOUGHBALLS

Excuse me Colonel

COLONEL

you've been here once today already and I have told you you can't check anything else out of the store.

HORICE

Colonel, what's the problem

DOUGHBALLS

I need 2 pounds salted meat, powdered egg, and enough flour and water for two ship biscuits a day.

COLONEL

If we keep using the food at the rate we have been we wont make it until the end of winter. You advised me to ration for five months its now been seven. Food supplies will run out unless we make a drastic change to what the men are given to eat

HORICE

Do you have a list of supplies

COLONEL

yes sir

HORICE

Is it possible to make whats left here stretch even further.

DOUGH BALLS

If we stick to the same plan every day I can stretch things out. A broth in the morning. Ships biscuits in the evening but our salted meats are running low. We need to find another source of protein.

The ship tilts

Wilde enters in a hurry

HORICE

Wild. Whats going on.

WILD

Are You all ok?! A a pressure ridge is pushing up the side of the ship. You need to take nails and secure all crates to the deck

HORICE

Were running out of food.

WILD

Moral is already close to nothing, if they can't eat I'm afraid they will loose all hope

Holie enters

HOLIE
Officers

WILD/HORICE
Holie

HOLIE
There's a situation bellow deck. We are burning through coal too quickly. Stocks are depleting fast, we won't be able to power the ship for much longer if this continues. We need to save what we have for when the ship gets free or we won't make it home.

WILD
We can't take that kind of risk

HORICE
What would you suggest as another course of action?

HOLIE
I have no other options, unless you want to start burning parts of the ship

WILD
No Holie we wont be doing that. Can we burn blubber in the stoves we use to heat the ship

HOLIE
We can try

WILD
Alright. Keep this to yourself

HOLIE
Yes sir

HORICE
We send out a hunting party for seals and penguins. Meat for the men and blubber for the fuel

WILD
Sounds as though it is our only way forward, I'll inform Shackleton.

BOB'S NEW SPECIES

BOB
Good evening everyone, I know we've all been hard at work and it's been tough but I've got some incredibly exciting news about my new found specimen. Until I can decide on an official scientific name for this new species I've decided to call it Specimen E, for Endurance, I thought it was quite appropriate. I found this creature at the bottom of one of my nets this morning. they had been out all night and from what I can tell, it was long dead by the time I brought it up, which would explain the lack of tissue and such due to rot. As I studied it I've come to the belief that this is likely just a small sample of a larger creature, which based on my current hypothesis is of some form related to the Asteroidea class, within the 'starfish' species group for the sailors at the back. Now you will notice unlike the starfish back home this one has a much larger and thinner leg. Yes Perce?

PERCE
Do you think that it could be eaten?

BOB

No, no i wouldn't recommend it not until we know more about the nature of it.

WALLY

What if we tried perhaps boiling it. Maybe we could cook it with some kind of tomato sauce

BOB

As I said, I do not know enough about the creature just yet it may be poisonous. Yes Uzbird?

UZZBIRD

Have you found any meatball fish down there yet that could perhaps accompany it.

Bob looks at his sea creature

BOB

Its a piece of spaghetti isn't it?

Everyone bursts into laughter

BOB

You imbecilic, half witted, commoners. I am a respected scientist and I will not be made a fool of. This is totally unacceptable.

As Bob continues to rant, the white sheet is draped over him and others to create the scene for hunting party.

HUNTING PARTY

The hunting part are out on the ice sneaking up on some seals.T

HORICE

Over their seals! *(Very quiet)*

CHIPPY

What? *(Very quiet)*

MACK

Seals *(Very quiet)*

Chippy and Holie look at each other

MACK

Seals *(Does an impression of a seal.)*

CHIPPY/HOLIE

Oh!

They try to conceal their footsteps as they unload the rifles and get into positions behind some snow drifts.

HORICE

(Inaudible) Listen to me, do not fire until I give the word. You are to aim for just below the neck, the blubber is too thick for your bullets to penetrate at any other point. The first shot will spook them you'll have to track your shots after that. / Now we must take at least one back today and we have limited ammunition so every shot counts. I am told you are the best shots on board time to prove that today

CHIPPY

/Do you understand what he's saying?

HOLIE

Not a word

HORICE

Do you all understand.

They all nod

HORICE

Get the rifles and take your positions

MACK

First one to miss doesn't get any dinner

CHIPPY

That'll be you then

HORICE

Keep noise to a minimum, we don't want to spook them

HOLIE

Where are we aiming?

Holie turns around with his gun, all the men duck. Horace motions for him to turn around, he sweeps back over them again and they all duck.

HORICE

Keep them pointed at the floor! Turn around.

HOLIE

Sorry! Where are we aiming?

HORICE

At the neck. Steady, take aim, fire

HORICE

You've spooked them now, track your shots. Fire!

MACK

How many did you get?

GEORGE

One so far

HORICE

Fire! Rifles down. Excellent work. Holie, Chippy bring that seal over here so we can strip it and get it back to the ship.

Holie and Chippy exit. Mack and Horace put the rifles away.

MACK

Can I have a quick word?

MACK

I just wanted to talk to you about the medical supplies sir, luckily we haven't had any major injuries so supplies are not too bad. But the ethanol Sir, I have a feeling that some of the men might have been taking it and using it make a drinkable spirit. I've only used it a few times for disinfecting words but already half a bottle has gone.

HORICE

I'll see if we need to move it into a lockable cabin.

The seal is dragged onto stage, it splutters with a final breath.

HORICE

Cut the blubber off and separate the meat. We don't want any extra weight on the sled.

MACK

Do you need help

CHIPPY

Please/

HOLIE

No! We're fine.

CHIPPY

What?/

HOLIE

We got a big problem

CHIPPY

What?

HOLIE

We've already used up two thirds of our coal.

CHIPPY

Doing what?

HOLIE

Well, we used most of it ramming the pack ice, but the rest we've used up keeping the ship warm for the last ten months. We don't have enough to get home on should the winds die down. That's why we're out here, we're not just hunting for meat, they want to use the blubber as fuel for the fires.

CHIPPY

Sounds like a good plan

HOLIE

Yeah, here's the thing though, you can't power an engine on blubber.

CHIPPY

So we're stuck

HOLIE

No, but on what we have left we better hope when the ship breaks free it doesn't have to ram it's way out, otherwise we're not gonna make it to shore.

CHIPPY

You told anyone else this?

HOLIE

Yeah, the officers all know. They want it kept from the men though. Not good for moral I imagine.

CHIPPY

Well thats pretty hard to come by now anyway.

BOSUN DEMOTED

A scene in which bosun is demoted for bullying while the ship creaks and starts to split

SHACKLETON

Bosun, a word.

BOSUN

Boss

SHACKLETON

I'll speak frankly. I've grown tired of your demeanour and the way you've been treating your fellow crew members. Some of the men from the forecandle have raised complains with me of you acting bullish, abusing your position as boatswain.

BOSUN

Boss, I'm working with men who have no experience on such a voyage. At times I have had to push them to get jobs completed to the standard required.

Crack

SHACKLETON

I have always thought it possible to achieve more with kind word than a closed fist. Perhaps there is lesson in that for you. I've made the executive decision to demote you to able seaman. Out here there's no escaping each other, we are all each other have. I need a boatswain that will lead through example while supporting the men.

BOSUN

The lower deck will be a mess, no one else is qualified

SHACKLETON

You'll take orders from Bakewell.

Loud crack

SHACKLETON

That didn't sound good

BAIL AND FIX

CHIPPY

The hulls cracked, we're taking on water. Alright you three take those pieces of timber and brace the sides.

COLONEL

What do you need

CHIPPY

I cant do anything if we're under water

COLONEL

I need you to bring all the buckets we have and get a chain started I want this water bailed. I didn't sign up for this.

They brace the sides of the wall

BOB

How much longer

CHIPPY

Keep it braced

PUTTY

Im loosing it

Chippy helps push it back into place

CHIPPY

We need to work faster. The whole ship will go under at this rate

COLONEL

I know!

CHIPPY

Tell them to throw the water over the starboard side

COLONEL

I don't tell you how to do your job, don't tell me how to do mine

CHIPPY

You're the only person who doesn't.

CAPTAIN

How is she?

CHIPPY

She's holding, just about. I'm going to need more braces the pressure from the ice is too great. She wont hold on her own.

CAPATIN

Colonel?

COLONEL

We're bailing as fast as we can. It's not going to be enough if Chip can't get those cracks plugged. He needs more people to help

CAPTAIN

Keep bailing, you should have started the pump. Chip make sure work from the bottom up. and brace at two points for each crack. I'll get the boss

The wood buckles again and the bailers join to push it back

COLONEL

The lack of respect from them lot is what annoys me, they don't know the first thing about either of our jobs. but their happy to come down here and tell us how do them.

CHIPPY

Tell me about it, Bob asked me to build him some shelves for his samples, like I don't have anything better to do.

COLONEL

I don't mind authority, I despise entitlement.

SHACKLETON

Chip!

CHIPPY

This is a lost cause. We're never gonna stop the ice

The middle beam bends again and Chippy puts his back against it

SHACKLETON

I can wake up more men, get them down here to bail water. We could use the timber from the lifeboats for extra support.

CHIPPY

Boss, I don't think she'll make it to shore let alone England. The ice is both destroying the ship and keeping it together. If its releases we sink. If it keeps pressing it'll snap us in two. All I can do is brace it further and buy us some time.

SHACKLETON

How much time?

CHIPPY

Depends on the ice. A few days maybe more. But one large shift in the ice and she'll go under.

WILDE

She can't withstand this any longer. What the ice takes the ice keeps.

CAPTAIN

Without the ship we won't make the crossing

SHACKLETON

If we stay on this ship we'll die. I put all the mens lives above the aims of this expedition

WILDE

Without the ship they'll be lost, I fear we'll lose their trust

SHACKLETON

We have no other option. I don't need their trust I need them to stay alive. God forgive me.
Give the order captain.

CAPTAIN

Abandon ship!

All exit

ABANDON SHIP

The men are sleeping. Shouts can be heard off stage.

CAPTAIN

Abandon ship! Abandon Ship!

Enter Shackleton and Wild

SHACKLETON

We're abandoning ship. The pressure the ice has been exerting on the ships hull over the many months we've been here has finally cracked it. The lower deck is already filling with water. It's not safe here any longer. Take all the provisions and equipment you can. We'll set up a temporary camp on the ice tonight.

WILDE

Make haste men. Someone wake him up!

Shackleton and Wilde exit

UZBIRD

Bob get up!

BOB

What time is it!

UZBIRD

early

BOB

Awww

CRACK

MACK

Mickey, Mickey!

CRACK

MACK

Mickey get up lad, we're abandoning ship. I need you to get the blankets and the bandages go now!

BOB

What's going on?

UZBIRD

We're abandoning ship

BOB

Why?

UZBIRD

She's on her side

BOB

I haven't noticed anything

UZBIRD

Well did you go to sleep next to that crate?

BOB

Good point!

WALLY

I don't understand why we're leaving the ship. it's our only place of shelter.

WILL

You want to go into the drink or you want to take your chances on the Ice

WALLY

How are we going to survive out there?

WILL

Just trust Shackleton, he knows what he's doing

WALLY

I hope you're right

DOUGHBALLS

We still have preserved food down in the galley.

PERCE

What do you need?

DOUGHBALLS

Take all of it!

JOCK

Uzbird I need my rope and my boring stick

UZBIRD

Just go get it, don't tell me about it!

BOSUN

This is a joke

HOLIE

The whole expeditions turning into a joke

BOSUN

So much for his plan

HOLIE

If he's even got a plan

PRINCE

Have you seen my f1 point aperture lens? I cant leave the ship without it

PUTTY

Come on I'll help you look

TIM

This is a right mess we're in

MCLEOD

Just stay calm, you'll be fine

TIM

What if I don't see my mum again?!

MCLEOD

Just take the end of this and we'll figure it out

RICK

Crean! We can't go out there it's 20 below

CREAN

You knew what you signed up for now move it

TEMPORARY CAMP / SLEEPING BAG LOTTERY

SHACKLETON

Gentlemen, the situation is this. Only 11 Reindeer sleeping bags remain, along with 5 regular wool and straw bags and the rest will have to sleep in the clothes you are in. Every mans name is in this hat, These first names pulled will have ownership over the reindeer sleeping bags...Horris, Chip, Crean, Colonel, Bosun, McLeod, Putty, Skipper, Mack, Bob, Perce. The next round of drawing will decide who receives the wool and straw bags... Uzburd, Prince, Shackleton, Dougballs, Wild. Now, unfortunately for the remaining men the other bags were soaked on the lower decks so I'm afraid you will have to go without. Im sorry for those of you without but this was the only fair way of deciding. Now get your heads down for the night and try and get some sleep.

CAPTAIN

I feel guilty for your bad luck, are you going to be okay in those wool bags?

WILD

Thank you captain, but we've made our decision

CAPTAIN

It was decided by chance, wasn't it boss?

SHACKLETON

Not for us, we knew from the beginning we were not to be amongst the lucky ones

WILD

We rigged the ballet so our names would not be in the first calling

SHACKLETON

The men have to come first here, it's a small sacrifice to honour our role in this expedition, as leaders it's our duty to show fairness and equality.

WILD

Keep this to yourself captain, we did not do this for recognition

CAPTAIN

As you wish.

MORNING CAMP

Snap to morning

The men wake after their first morning on the ice

TIM

We're gonna be stuck here

MCLEOD

We might be but we still have a job to do

WILL

It's cold isn't it?

PERCE

Its freezing!

WILL

I wonder how long we're going to be here. Do you think we're going to die?

BOSUN

Can you cut the talking for one second. Nothing you say is of any relevance to us surviving. So keep it shut.

UZZBIRD

It's out of tune, I dropped it yesterday.

CREAN

Give me some cover so I can get this lit

HOLIE

Bob! Bob.

BOB

Get off me...what? huh?...what?

HOLIE

Did you get a sleeping bag last night?

BOB

Yes thank you I did

HOLIE

Funny how all the officers got one.

MCLEAOD

I got one of those sleeping bags

TIM

Lucky for some

MCLEOD

Look, I really don't need it, do you want it

WALLY

What was that?

MCLEOD

It's nothing to do with you

WALLY

What makes his so special? More important than the rest of us.

MCLEOD

He's under my care. I'm only trying to help him

TIM

Listen I don't need any help. I can fend for myself

MCLEOD

I'm trying to help you. Do you know what I'll bloody keep it

WILL

Whens breakfast. I'm hungry

COLONEL

You're hungry. You should of thought about that before you brought another mouth onboard to feed. So when you're hungry you ask him for food

PERCE

Who me?

COLONEL

Yes you!

HORICE

Who's that?

CREAN

Nell. My sweetheart

HORICE

You got a lady Prince?

PRINCE

Me, ah well there is this one girl. But I just got to know her before we shipped out. Maybe if we make it back home/

HORICE

When we make it back home!

PRINCE

When we make it back. I'll take her dancing

CREAN

You will

A small group start singing "Bully in the alley" its get louder as they try to rouse Bob from his tent. Eventually Micky stand up and starts clapping wildly.

HOLIE

Can you all shut up

RICK

Just a sing song Holie. Keep spirits up.

JOCK

Mack! mack. Listen i'm worried, I'm already frozen to my core, these conditions are getting worse. Are we going to be alright.

MACK

I don't know what to tell you. We're completely exposed to the elements out here. You need to be really careful. Keep your gloves on and tuck your hands under your arms, Keep moving. Were all at risk from frostbite and hypothermia. Try and keep your clothes dry. Get in here and warm up.

PUTTY

Sorry, sorry, do you mind not playing that I cant concentrate on my work.

UZZBIRD

Sorry

PERCE

I'm glad you have that. The ice is too quiet, it eerie.

BOSUN

Why are you even on this expedition?

PUTTY

I'm trying to concentrate

BOSUN

No genuinely I'm intrigued. What qualifies you to be on this ship.

PUTTY

I'm the expeditions official artist.

BOSUN

No, you're a liability. Prince, I understand why he's here he's documented expeditions before. You, your just another mouth to feed and another unskilled man likely to get us all killed!

SKIPPER

Bosun! With me.

Skipper takes Bosun to one side.

SKIPPER

Is there a problem?

BOSUN

Yeah, I'm camped out on the ice with a bunch of unskilled men who offer nothing to our survival.

SKIPPER

And what would you have me do with them? Should I have everyone you don't deem worthy of being here lined up and shot? No one have could predicted the situation we now find ourselves in. He was brought onto this expedition to paint, not to hunt, not to stoke fires and not to survive on a sinking ship in the middle of a frozen ocean. The only way we're going to survive this is together. We work as a team, we live as a team and we'll survive as a team. Am I clear?

BOSUN

Yes

SKIPPER

Dismissed

DOUGHBALLS

Colonel, Colonel, I need your help.

COLONEL

What is it?

DOUGHBALLS

I need to know what provisions we recovered from the ship yesterday

COLONEL

I don't have a complete list we just grabbed what we could.

DOUGHBALLS

I have 23 men to feed. Perhaps if we put our heads together we can take stock of what we have and work out the best way to ration it.

COLONEL

Alright then.

RICK

You know what guys I've got a brilliant joke that'll liven up the atmosphere. Right are you ready. Hey you'll know this one Holie. Right, Bob, Bob you'll like this. What did the sea say to the ship? Come on Mickey you know this, Mick, Mick. What did he say?

MICKEY

What?

RICK

Nothing, he just waved... get it?

*Mickey walks away cursing in Lithuanian.
Crean, Horace and Putty stand up and start drinking from a flask.*

PUTTY

Thanks, where did you get this from?

CREAN

Shhh

PUTTY

Good for a steady hand.

SHACKLETON

Alright men listen up. The ships gone so we'll go home! All efforts are now towards the survival and safe return home of every member of this team.

WILD

It is too dangerous to continue to camp at this point in the ice. The ship has stabilised but she could go under at any moment and if she does she'll drag us down with her.

SHACKLETON

Our best course of action is to try and reach land. Its a 350 mile walk to the west.

Panic in the camp

SHACKLETON

I know that seems daunting. But if we push ourselves and try and cover between 10 and 15 miles a day we can make it just inside of a month. Solid land means better protection from the elements and easier walking conditions. Once we make land we can track along the coast to a fishing station on the other side of the continent.

WILD

These will be difficult conditions to walk in so we need to leave all unnecessary items here on the ship. We take one stove and the tents and we hunt for food as we go.

SHACKLETON

You can all take two pounds of personal possessions each, no more.

UZZY

Boss, what about this

SHACKLETON

Thats vital mental medicine. We'll take it.

WILD

We leave in a few hours. Prepare yourselves.

WALK TO LAND

The men walk into a blizzard. The day/night cycle with each changing group.

Group 1

HOLIE

Sir i'm exhausted how much longer till we rest?

BOB

We're all exhausted!

WILD

We need to press on we have to cover more land

UZZBIRD

How you doing back there?

HOLIE

I'm freezing

UZZBIRD

Here, its my last cigarette

HOLIE

Thank you! ... Shit!

WILD

Whats going on back there?

PERCE

Who's pulling back

SHACKLETON

Keep moving

UZZBIRD

Come on leave it!

SKIPPER

Let them rest. I can't see a way through up ahead

SHACKLETON

Take a break. We'll find a path ahead. Skipper take charge.

SKIPPER

Huddle up. Get down we're taking a break.

HOLIE

This is impossible

SKIPPER

We have to keep pushing

HOLIE

We're walking into a blizzard!

PERCE

At least we're moving and not just sitting round on a ship

HOLIE

I preferred it on the ship!

UZZY

The ship's unsafe

HOLIE

I'd take my chances

SHACKLETON

This way! There's a route round to the left

SKIPPER

Form up men. Left!

Group 2

COLONEL

I'm soaked through, I can't feel my feet.

MCLEOD

I can't feel anything

PRINCE

Stop moaning and keep moving

PUTTY

Slow down we can't keep up

PRINCE

Keep moving

PUTTY

Slow down

COLONEL

Stop arguing and keep it together

PRINCE

Listen, I just had to leave behind 400 of my best screen plates. If we don't get these ones home it will have all been for nothing

MCLEOD

Oh what a shame! Our lives are more important than your photos.

PUTTY

Those screen plates were some of his best work. I saw them. Prince I'm sorry.

PRINCE

There's nothing we could do. I couldn't have carried all of them.

Group 3

MACK

Mickey how you holding up?

MICKEY

I'm not doing to bad how about you?

MACK

I'm alright. have you got the bandages and splints?

MICKEY

You have them

MACK

No I told you to get them

MICKEY

Well I don't have them. I thought you were taking a check of what we had before we set off/

HORICE

Preserve you're energy! We still have a long way to go.

TIM

Sir, When can we stop I need to rest

HORICE

We stop when Shackleton gives the order

RICK

Dock, I've a problem. my arse is numb.

MACK

We're not checking that

Group 4

CREAN

Come on men. Keep together!

WALLY

I could go for some of your stew about now

DOUGHBALLS

Well its penguin and seal meat from here on in I'm afraid. you'll be lucky if its cooked.

Bosun falls back and off the line

BOSUN
Jock!

JOCK
Bosun! Grab the rope!

BOSUN
Pull

JOCK
Stay close to me

WALK BACK

Group 1

SHACKLETON
Alright men take rest here. Wild, Skipper with me

HOLIE
Whats going on? Do you even know where we are going?

WILD
Just wait here

SHACKLETON
I've messed up here Wild, I'm the reason the men are in this life threatening position. I told these men they would be heroes, all I've done is lead them to their doom

WILD
They made the choice to come here. They knew the risks when they signed up

SHACKLETON
At least back home they wouldn't of died in vain, they would have risked their lives for their country

SKIPPER
We need a new plan! We're barely covering 5 miles a day. We'll die before we make it to the coast. We can't walk through a blizzard!

SHACKLETON
We should never have left the ship. look where it got us. Staring into the white abyss. I'm lost Wild i don't know what to do.

WILD
These men need you! They need a leader. They are relying on you to get them out of this. Stand up! Stand up. We're not defeated yet

SKIPPER
We should return to the ship and get the supplies we left behind. We can formulate another plan from there.

SHACKLETON
Alright. I agree. We cant make any progress here. It was a mistake to attempt to make land. We go back. Men! We are turning back to the ship

HOLIE
What? What?

UZZY
Are you sure boss?

SKIPPER
Just move men. Let's go.

Group 2

PRINCE
Wait they're turning around, Shackleton must have given the order to turn back

PUTTY
You can't be serious

COLONEL
I told you he didn't know what he was doing

PRINCE
I don't believe this three days walking for nothing

COLONEL
I can't walk anymore I'm exhausted

PRINCE
The longer we wait the harder it will be

COLONEL
McLeod

PRINCE
McLeod

MCLEOD
In all my years of seamanship this is the worst expedition I have ever been on, and now I'm stuck here with you lot

COLONEL
Come on McLeod, no man left behind

Group 3

HORACE
Men we need to turn around

RICK
What do you mean?

MACK
Horace is right look, we need to turn back

RICK
Good joke Mack

MICKEY
He's not joking

TIM
Look its the Colonel, he's heading this way

HORICE
Alright men, let's head back!

RICK
No, no this is stupid, we cant turn around. Im staying here, I want to go home

MICKEY
Rick stand up

They fight

RICK
No I'm not going back

MACK
Why did you do that?

MICKEY
He grabbed me

HORICE
Get it together! Move back to the ship.

group 4

CREAN
I'm sorry Men but we're heading back. look they're all coming this way!

WALLY
What?!

CREAN
We're turning around

WALLY
I can't do this, we've walked for three days, we've gone nowhere, no, I can't, i can't/

CREAN
Look at me, look at me, put the rope back on, you're going to be fine, Put one foot in front of the other. Good. Now again, thats it, thats all it is. One step at a time.

BOSUN
He doesn't care about anyone but himself and his officers, look at us. If we carry on listening to him we're all dead men.

CREAN

Bosun, remember your place, I'm am a second officer you've already been demoted.

BOSUN

I don't need to listen to this anymore

CREAN

I wont risk other lives because of you, if you don't want to be here take you're rope off and leave.

SHIP SINKS

Group 4, Run onto the ice

CREAN

I can see the ship

All collapse on the floor exhausted. Slowly Wally sees the ship.

WALLY

Do you see what I'm seeing

JOCK

Has the ship moved

WILL

It's sinking

BOSUN

No I cant do this no, no, no please, please, I can't

Jock holds onto Bosun

DOUGHBALLS

Screaming and shouting will achieve nothing, lets just grab what we can while we still have a chance

CREAN

We need to wait for Shackleton

DOUGHBALLS

There's no time for that now

Group 3 run onto the ice

RICK

Whats happened

WALLY

Its sinking

RICK

No I have to get on their, I have to get warm!

TIM

You cant go back on the ship you'll be a deadman. She's going under!

Group 2 run onto the ice

MCLEOD

She's going under?

WALLY

Yeah, she is

COLONEI

We have to get the provisions/

ALL

Its not safe

PRINCE

We spent a year on that ship, it's our home

WILL

Not any more

Group 1 run onto the ice

MCLEOD

She's sinking skipper

Commotion

SKIPPER

OY!

Skipper walks up to the boat

SHACKLETON

It's your call skipper

SKIPPER

Whats left to salvage

All Shout over each other

SKIPPER

One at a time!

DOUGHBALLS

There's still some food left down in the galley

MACK

Half our medical supplies are still aboard

COLONEL

We need to prioritise getting the wood and coal

48

SKIPPER

Take Doughballs to the lower deck and get what you need

SHACKLETON

Mack and Mickey be quick. Colonel get what you need then help unload the three lifeboats we might need them. The rest of you take everything you have and head west away from the ship we'll set up a permanent camp a mile away Jock, Bob take some poles and rope and make a line that leads from the ship to that new camp so we can all find each other.

CHIPPY

If I can get the rest of my tools I can help salvage parts of the ship that might be useful to us.

SKIPPER

Where are you going?

PERCE

There's still tents and canvases in the hold

SKIPPER

Be quick

SHACKLETON

Do you need anyone

CHIPPY

Two men

SHACKLETON

McLeod and Bosun lend a hand.

SKIPPER

Be quick men, she could go at any moment.

OCEAN CAMP

NARRATOR

After salvaging what we could we moved a mile from the ship and made a more permanent home out of the wreckage. We dubbed it ocean camp. Seal and penguin hunting was our daily occupation. We used their blubber to power a stove that Chippy ingeniously made from the wheelhouse of the Endurance. We settled into our roles and tried our best to keep spirits high but we were never comfortable, a lot of us had started to see the first signs of frostbite and blisters were a constant problem. We were now at the mercy of the flow and although we were being carried along by the drifting pack, the ice wasn't moving fast enough to be noticed.

TIM

Who do you think would win in a fight a polar bear or a leopard seal.

WILL

A polar bear, they have legs they can run fast

TIM

What if the seal was sliding down a hill though?

WILL

Then polar bear could drag it under water?

TIM

Seals are fast under water

WILL

Yeah but they don't have claws

SHACKLETON

There are no polar bears in the antarctic.

WILD

How far do you think we'll have to go out today to find penguins?

HORICE

At least a couple of miles! They're staying away from the camp now

WILD

Do you think we'll find any?

HORICE

I just don't know

PERCE

Do you know what I miss, a good old cup of tea

DOUGHBALLS

What I would do for a cup of tea

COLONEL

Here's your rations for today, please make it stretch

PERCE

Any more fuel for the fire?

COLONEL

I'll get some

WALLY

We got the frozen seal meat.

PUTTY

Where do you want it?

DOUGHBALLS

Over this fire, it needs to thaw

WALLY

I don't know how we can keep eating this stuff

PUTTY

Its been 8 weeks I'm used to it

MCLEAOD

Do you hear that its been two months since we left the ship

BOSUN

It's ridiculous

MCLEOD

Soon they'll be no penguins and seals left

SHACKLETON

Keep your thoughts to yourself

MCLEOD

Why? We're fucked anyway

MICKEY

Holie, you aright?

HOLIE

It's my hand dock its burning

MICKEY

Come in we'll take a look at it

MACK

Take the glove off let me see it, gently now. Jesus christ. Right we need to pop them. On my count . 1 . 2. 3.

Holie screams

MACK

Hold it. 1.2.3.

Holie screams again

MICKEY

Thats it. We're gonna badge you up. Just rest here

Bob climbs out of his tent and shuts the banjo up.

WILD

Boss, we need to discuss our next move

SHACKLETON

I'm not sure what we do next, all we have left are the three lifeboats the provisions and the men.

WILD

We can't stay here waiting for the ice to split up, It's too thick. I think we should attempt to make the coast again, even if we aren't successful we'll be closer to the edge of the pack. When the summer comes the ice will melt there first.

SHACKLETON

You might be on to something there. We must take everything with us though, winter's coming to an end, we might end up needing the life boats. Chippy what does one of the lifeboats weigh.

CHIPPY

1,800 pounds or there about

SHACKLETON

What do you think we have here? 200 pounds of equipment give or take? Add their two pounds of possessions that comes to nearly a ton a piece. 3 boats, 23 men. 8 to a boat. Can they pull that?

WILD

250 pounds each. At full strength no problem but their getting weaker everyday.

CHIPPY

Sir I couldn't help but overhear. I think I have a solution. I could build a larger craft out of the three lifeboats. big enough to hold all the men but much lighter than the total weight of the three boats now. With all the men pulling one craft we'll move quicker.

SHACKLETON

That places all our bet's on getting that one boat over the pressure ridges and to the coast. If it breaks or gets stuck we'll have nothing. Three boats gives us three chances, better odds of success

CHIPPY

Not if we can't pull them

SHACKLETON

I'm sorry but I've made up my mind. Gentlemen we have to pack up camp/

MCLEOD

But Boss/

SHACKLETON

We have to pack up camp. Put everything into the there lifeboats. We're going to try for the coast again. (*Gasps*) You'll be divided into three groups, pulling a lifeboat each. Wild will inform you of them once we have everything packed up. Quickly men.

HOLIE

Has he lost his mind?

CHIPPY

He wont listen to reason that's for sure

HOLIE

He can't make us march again

COLONEL

We've no other option

HOLIE

We go back out there we die. We should stay here until the ice breaks

BOSUN

Just get your stuff, we cant stop him

MCLEOD

So we're walking again

PRINCE

I can't do another walk

CREAN

I'll be honest with you, I'm low on hope, but what choice do we have. Besides I'd rather be walking towards something than sitting here with nothing

MCLEOD

We're on a loop, we walk, we camp, we walk, we camp an each time we get weaker.

HORICE

We must put our faith in Shackleton

SKIPPER

Look sharp men, she's going down

The men watch as the Endurance sinks

SKIPPER

Show her some respect

*They all take their hats off.
As they pack up the camp singing starts.*

Song

"Leave her Johnny, leave her"

During the song we hear the following snippets

TIM

Looks like we've lost everything

MACK

The ships gone, maybe were next

REBELLION

The boats are called across the ice

SKIPPER

Ready! Heave!

HORICE

Ready! Heave!

HOLIE

Ready! Heave!

SKIPPER

Ready! Heave!

HORICE

Ready! heave!

HOLIE

Ready! Heave!

CHIPPY

I can't do it anymore!

HOLIE

What do you mean you can't do it anymore?

CHIPPY

I'm exhausted, I won't go any further!

BOB

Why have we stopped

BOSUN

What?

BOB

Why have we stopped!

CHIPPY

I told Shackleton that three boats was a bad idea! I even offered to build him a bigger one that we could all fit in. He just pushed me aside!

BOSUN

He doesn't care anyone but him and his officers

BOB

Yeah but he's the boss we have to do what he says

HOLIE

Well maybe we need a new boss

BOB

What! Do you know what your suggesting, that's mutiny!

COLONEL

Do you know how many times we've almost died on this expedition already

HOLIE

Too many times.

BOSUN

You need to stand up for yourself, do you not see how they treated you, how they treat all of us

CHIPPY

They tricked you with Bob, they made a fool of you

BOSUN

I got demoted for doing my job, for keeping a tight ship!

BOB

No. I'm just trying to do my job I'm a biologist

CHIPPY

You don't have job without your samples.

BOSUN

They made you leave a years work on a sinking ship! But Uzbird got to take his banjo.

BOB

Yes I'm well aware of the dumb banjo!

CHIPPY

Do you want to die

BOB

Of course not

CHIPPY

Well if you stay with Shackleton you will, with us you'll have a chance of surviving

COLONEL

I say we take charge of our own survival, we have provisions, we have a boat. We can hunker down and wait a few months for summer.

CHIPPY

Agreed lets make camp here

Horace pulls onto the ice

HORICE

Ready! Heave!

WILD

Men you need to keep hauling that lifeboat we're not stopping here

CHIPPY

We're not pulling it any further

WILD

What?

BOSUN

We're done

HORICE

What do you mean you're done?

CHIPPY

We're done following orders and a plan that's going to get us all killed!

SHACKLETON

You are required to follow all orders given to you by senior officers

CHIPPY

That contract ended with the sinking of the endurance

Skipper pulls onto the ice

SKIPPER

Ready! Heave! Why are we stopping?

CHIPPY

We're not following your command anymore.

PERCE

Whats going on?

MACK

Mutiny

SKIPPER

I'm still your captain

BOB

of what ship?

CHIPPY

None of you are getting paid now we've abandoned the ship, yet your all still following orders blindly. We're not going to make it to land. Its safer for us to set up camp here and wait for the ice to break up. You are all welcome to join us.

SHACKLETON

Alright take break men. Officers with me. Do we still have the rifles in our lifeboat?

CREAN

Yes

SHACKLETON

Go and get one

CREAN

We're not going to shoot him are we?

SHACKLETON

If we have too.

MCLEOD

You know your behaviours out of line

CHIPY

The way we have been treated for the past year is out not of line

JOCK

We volunteered, we knew what we signed up for

DOUGHBALLS

I signed up to cross the antarctic not sit on the ice with nothing

JOCK

At least you're still alive

COLONEL

We won't be if we keep dragging these boats in these conditions

WALLY

What would your plan be? Shackleton has more experience than any of us

BOB

Experience of failure, how many of his past expeditions have been a success

WILD

We're in danger of losing control here, we need to crush this now!

SHACKLETON

You cannot threaten a member of your own crew

SHACKLETON

That man is jeopardising the safety of the entire crew. He is now far more dangerous than anything else we have faced out here. If I have to put him down to save the rest of my men I'll do it.

PRINCE

I trust and respect his decisions

WILL

Well you had a reindeer sleeping bad, some of us have been sleeping on the ice for the last 2 months

PUTTY

He made you destroy some of your best work

PERCE

We couldn't carry that weight

HOLIE

We found space for his banjo

COLONEL

He nearly threw you overboard

PERCE

He trusted me, I trust that he'll get us home

HORICE

They need to work for something other than just survival. We need to offer to pay them everyday until we get home

WILD

It'll certainly sway a lot of the men, it might not be enough to stop him.

SHACKLETON

That's his choice. Is it loaded?

CREAN

Yes

SHACKLETON

Form up men. You are correct that the contract you have signed is void when the ship sinks, is destroyed or is lost. But I guarantee each and every one of you on this expedition that you will be paid for every day you are out here until we return home. The expedition you signed a contract for is from the port of plymouth until our return back there. You are still all required to follow all orders given to you by senior officers for the safety and wellbeing of yourselves and the rest of the crew. Do you all understand

ALL

Yes Boss

SHACKLETON

Do you understand?

CHIPPY

... Yes Boss

SHACKLETON

Pick up those ropes and lets keep moving.

PATIENCE CAMP

And we kept pulling, we hauled those three life boats over pressure ridges and through deep snow drifts. We tried to make for land but after two days we were beat. Shackleton called off the second march and we created another camp on the ice. We had no other option but to wait for the ice to break up so we could make for land in the boats. We were in for a long stay and so appropriately named this new home patience camp.

*Three tents on the ice. We hear loud shots in the distance.
Everyone is in a tent apart from Mickey. Will pops his head out of the tent.*

WILL

Whats that noise?

MICKEY

We're shooting the dogs. We've nothing left to eat.

More shots. Wild enters with a rifle.

MICKEY

Is it done?

WILD

It was painless. How's Mack?

MICKEY

He's not taking it well. He loved those dogs like his own children.

WILD

Don't go over their. I'll send someone to collect the meat in the morning.

Mickey goes back into his tent. Shackleton emerges.

SHACKLETON

Wild, can I talk with you.

WILD

Of course

SHACKLETON

How you holding up?

WILD

Not good, but some of the men are faring far worse than me, they're clinging to life but only just. The meat from the dogs should boost them a little if we can get a fire going.

PRINCE

I can't even remember what it feel like to be warm

PUTTY

I'm starving, do you think Perce is still on the menu.

PERCE

I don't think there's enough meat left on me to be worth it

PRINCE

Shame

SHACKLETON

How we doing in here men?

HOLLY

How long do you think were gonna be here on the ice, Boss?

SOPHIE

Hopefully not another year

SHACKLETON

It's not safe to launch the lifeboats yet

JOCK

We have to wait until the ice breaks up don't we boss

SHACKLETON

Thats right Jock

CREAN

It's our duty to get you home we will fulfil that agreement

SKIPPER

On my life, I'll die long before any of you do

MCLEOD

I'm really tied

AOIFE

Stay awake McLeod

WILD

Keep him warm, don't let him go to sleep

TIM

Come on stay awake

SHACKLTON

Skipper I need a word

SKIPPER

Yes boss.