

FADE IN:

EXT. SKY - DAY

CLOUDS.

SILENCE, then-

WHOOSH-

A NAVY FREIGHT AIRCRAFT slices through the clouds. The jet engines roar.

FLOATING WORDS hang in the clouds, as the freight aircraft jettisons away, it reads:

SUPERIMPOSE: "SUMMER, 1994. SOMEWHERE NEAR THE EASTERN COAST OF AFRICA."

INT. NAVY FREIGHT AIRCRAFT -- COCKPIT - DAY

A GPS SCREEN flickers.

A NAVY PILOT taps the screen and the image stabilizes.

Cargo doors open.

INT. NAVY FREIGHT AIRCRAFT -- CARGO HOLD - DAY

TWO NAVY OFFICERS peer out the doors and toward the ocean.

OFFICER 1
(shouts over ambient
engine noise)
This is it, push it off.

The SECOND OFFICER pushes a YELLOW, PLASTIC CASE ("PROPERTY OF U.S. GOVERNMENT" spray-painted on the side) out of the plane.

EXT. SKY - DAY

The case tumbles toward the ocean, when-

POOF.

A parachute deploys.

The case lands in the Indian ocean and waves swallow it.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. NORTHEAST INDIAN OCEAN [AERIAL P.O.V.] - DAY

A WHITE, LUXURY, 121' THREE-MASTED SCHOONER, "AIELLO'S WAKE," drifts in the Sea.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

BENEATH THE WATER - A MARLIN darts by in the b.g.

Under the schooner's shadow-

THREE FISHING LINES cast into the water.

EXT. AIELLO'S WAKE -- STERN - DAY

DAYTON AIELLO (13) a moody-teenager, with a birthmark that covers an eye, rocks back and forth in a game-chair.

Dayton rests his SNEAKERS on the schooner's stern and colors them in with a BLACK SHARPIE, when-

The MARLIN jabs out of the water and a gimbal-mounted rod bends sharply. It's caught by-

BLAKE AIELLO (4) similar birthmark on her face, clutches a PORCELAIN DOLL in another game-chair.

DAYTON

You've got to be kidding me!

BLAKE

(excited)

Daddy! Daddy!

LINDA AIELLO (38) witty, quick-thinker, and always smoking grabs Blake's fishing pole.

LINDA

(shouts)

John! We need your help. Get out here!

JOHN AIELLO (42) tall, clean-cut, and a perfectionist, rushes up from the lower deck.

BLAKE

I did it, Daddy!

DAYTON

(sarcastic)

You got lucky, Blake.

BLAKE

(firm)
NO. I did it!

John reels the Marlin closer.

JOHN

It's a big one.

BLAKE

What is it, Daddy?

DAYTON

Looks like a-

Dayton moves in for the kill-

DAYTON (CONT'D)

SHARK!

Blake SCREAMS and clenches her doll.

BLAKE

Daddy, Daddy!
 (scared)
 Let it go, let it go!

BLAKE (CONT'D)

(sobs)
 NO!!!!!! PLEASE!

JOHN

Honey, it's not a shark.

LINDA

Dayton!

John reels in the marlin.

Blake pouts to her doll.

Dayton helps John pull the marlin out of the water and heave it on-board.

The fish plops around on the deck.

John grabs a mallet and whacks the marlin-

JOHN

Looks like we've got dinner!

INT. AIELLO'S WAKE -- KITCHEN - DAY

A MEAT CLEAVER slams down on a cutting board and chops the marlin's head off.

JOHN
 (to Dayton)
 Come on, give me a hand.

Dayton stands shell-shocked.

DAYTON
 (Unsure)
 Dad?

JOHN
 Come on, be adventurous. This is
 how this side of the world
 thrives. How they support their
 families. Come on, *live a little*.

John slices the marlin in two halves - an art form.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Here-

John forces the cleaver into Dayton's hand.

Dayton shakes his head and drops the cleaver, John
 returns to prepping dinner.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 You're going to start helping out.

Linda strides down the staircase, from the upper deck,
 totting along with a cigarette.

LINDA
 John.

Linda grabs Dayton's mouth, like a fish-

LINDA (CONT'D)
 He can do whatever he wants. He's
 on vacation.

Dayton smiles at Linda, then he moves to the built-in-
 booth.

LINDA (CONT'D)
 And right now, he wants to help me
 set the table.

John stops slicing the marlin and addresses the situation-

JOHN
 You bail him out too much.

Linda opens the kitchen cabinet door and pulls out a
 stack of PLATES.

Linda places the plates directly in front of Dayton, as she inhales nicotine.

LINDA

Here-

Dayton positions them around the table.

Built-up ASHES fall from Linda's cigarette and onto a plate.

LINDA (CONT'D)

(to Dayton)

He's just jealous.

Linda wipes the ashes from the plate - as if nothing happened.

LINDA (CONT'D)

He didn't get all the opportunities you did.

Linda lifts Dayton's head with her fake, red, acrylic fingernails and comforts him-

LINDA (CONT'D)

Everything will work itself out, I promise it.

Linda inhales another puff of nicotine.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Now, be a lamb chop and go check on your sister. Make sure she hasn't fallen over.

EXT. AIELLO'S WAKE -- DECK - DAY

Blake sits on the deck and plays with her doll.

FROM THE LOWER DECK- Dayton pops up and watches.

Blake moves her doll along the deck.

Dayton moves closer and sits in front of her-

DAYTON

What are you doing?

Blake ignores Dayton and pouts.

DAYTON (CONT'D)

What's wrong? Are you still mad at me?

Blake locks eyes with Dayton.

DAYTON (CONT'D)
Come on, you can't stay mad at me
forever.

BLAKE
Yes, I can.

DAYTON
Blake, I was just kidding.

BLAKE
It wasn't funny.

Dayton thinks-

DAYTON
(enthusiastic)
Who's your best friend?

Blake turns away and stares into the ocean.

Dayton moves in and obstructs her view-

DAYTON (CONT'D)
Come on. Who's your best friend?

Blake sulks.

Dayton tickles Blake.

Blake holds her composure, then-

Blake rolls around and laughs.

Blake's doll hits the deck and chips in the EYE.

Blake FREEZES.

BLAKE
You broke her!

Dayton tries to speak, but is at a loss for words, then-

Dayton realizes-

DAYTON
Wait! I can fix her!

Dayton waves for the doll.

Blake hesitates, then obliges.

Dayton pulls a MARKER out of his pocket and colors in the
doll's eye.

LINDA (CONT'D)
 (concerned)
 What is it?

John shakes his head.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

FROM A DISTANCE, THROUGH BINOCULARS-

John dangles off the side of the schooner and reaches for the case -- but it's just out of reach.

THE BINOCULARS LOWER, revealing-

A RICKETY BOAT with SOMALIAN VIGILANTES.

The Somalians watch the Aiello family.

EXT. AIELLO'S WAKE - DAY

John tosses a fishing net into the water and hoists the case and parachute aboard.

John untangles the chute from the net.

The case hits the deck.

LINDA
 Well?

John lifts the case and surveys it. An emblem catches his attention - "PROPERTY OF U.S. GOVERNMENT."

LINDA (CONT'D)
 (excited)
 Open it, open it!

John hesitates.

JOHN
 I don't know, Linda.

DAYTON
 (sarcastic)
 Where's your sense of adventure now, Dad?

John locks eyes with Dayton, then-

John opens the case to reveal -- TWO MILLION DOLLARS.

Linda grazes the stacks of cash.

LINDA

Woah!

Beat.

LINDA (CONT'D)

How much do you think it is?

JOHN

A million, maybe two?

LINDA

How'd it get out here?

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

IN THE DISTANCE-

The RICKETY BOAT with SOMALIAN PIRATES.

The SOMALIAN PIRATE LEADER pulls the binoculars down.

SOMALIAN PIRATE LEADER

Come nightfall we take them.

EXT. AIELLO'S WAKE -- DECK - NIGHT

A FULL MOON glistens in the starry night.

The schooner rolls side to side as gentle waves rock against it.

INT. AIELLO'S WAKE -- KITCHEN - NIGHT

A stack of dirty dishes piled high in the sink. Fish scales stuck to the plates.

INT. AIELLO'S WAKE -- DAYTON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dayton lies in bed and throws a BALL against the adjacent wall.

INT. AIELLO'S WAKE -- HALLWAY - NIGHT

Blake shakes Dayton's doorknob - it's locked.

BLAKE

(frustrated)

Daytie, Daytie let me in.

INT. AIELLO'S WAKE -- DAYTON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

DAYTON
(annoyed)
Go away, Blake.

BLAKE (O.S.)
I wanna play!

DAYTON
Not now.

BLAKE
(exhales)
Ugh-

Dayton puts HEADPHONES on plays a SONG.

INT. AIELLO'S WAKE -- HALLWAY - NIGHT

Blake exhales, pushes her hair out of her face and waddles down the hallway, dragging her doll behind her.

INT. AIELLO'S WAKE -- STUDY - NIGHT

The yellow, plastic case sits open on John's desk
John gazes at the money.

JOHN
(to self)
Pay off the mortgage, buy a new
car-

CREAK.

John steps toward the door-

JOHN (CONT'D)
Linda?

INT. AIELLO'S WAKE -- HALLWAY - NIGHT

John swings open the door -- no one is there.

INT. AIELLO'S WAKE -- STUDY - NIGHT

John closes the door, when-
Blake JUMPS out from the closet.