

Salty air brings me back to focus, an orange glow hugs the horizon, and the crescent moon appears as orange fades to black. The ship creaks and groans as the waves sliver and roll against the body.

Land

An abyss of ocean is all we've seen for what feels like months, and finally, finally. There is the outline of land. I close my eyes and imagine grains of sand surrounding my feet and pulling me down as I walk without the constant motion and sway of the boat.

Warm hands wrap around my waist

"Wake up"

A strained voice whispers, as if a whisper is all the sound, they can manage.

"Hmm?"

I turn to face him, to ask what he means and find myself staring at a featureless, blank face. *Close your eyes, don't look, this isn't real* I chant to myself. The faceless man, *thing* sweeps loose strands of hair away, eventually resting his chilled palms on my face.

"Hey?" He slowly moves his hands to my shoulders - in an instant I'm facing him. His head bumps against mine, I keep my eyes closed.

"Please mae, - up" a voice echoes yet sounds so far away, and then, the ship sways more than usual. Finally, I open my eyes the faceless man has left, and I am alone.