

7.) Lullaby of the Ice

(cold, blue light rises. The ship's deck is empty. Above, watching from the bridge, SECOND OFFICER stands. A glowing computer screen light up his face. A rhythmic pinging, sounds from the warning system, creating eerie music, as shadows, spirit-like enter slowly, their voices a quiet warning, as they glide across the stage, interweaving, blue and white spectres.)

SPECTRES

Sea ice
Pack ice
Drift ice
Fast Ice
Ice floe
Brash ice
Grease ice
Raft ice

(SECOND OFFICER begins to sing, a dark lullaby, slowly, somewhat fearfully as spectres continue singing, disappearing one by one, though their ghostly whispering continues.)

SECOND OFFICER

At night the sea becomes just sound
Your mind begins to drift
Not asleep but not awake
Like the listing of a ship
The ice then plays its cold, dark tricks
Without the sun to shine
Dividing land from sea
Dividing sea from sky

(CHIEF OFFICER REYES joins SECOND OFFICER on the bridge. He picks up a clipboard. As he asks questions, SECOND OFFICER reads from the computer screen, as CHIEF OFFICER REYES makes notes on the clipboard, as the computer's rhythmic beeping keeps time.)

CHIEF OFFICER REYES

Position?

SECOND OFFICER

76° 10' N, 162° 54' W

CHIEF OFFICER REYES

Course:

SECOND OFFICER

012° (north-northeast)

(TY enters with NINI, they are wearing headlamps. They inspect the steel drums, tightening the lashings, as SECOND DECKHAND continues his lullaby, as he watches them. CHIEF OFFICER REYES silently takes notes.)

OLD DECKHAND

In this bleak, inhuman world
You sail out here alone
Dark above and dark below
The blackest night you've ever known
That groaning, growling, droning, prowling
Cold and heartless beast

(satisfied the steel drums are secure, TY and NINI exit, as SECOND OFFICER and CHIEF OFFICER REYES continue to the computer's rhythmic beeping.)

CHIEF OFFICER REYES

Speed

SECOND OFFICER

11.2 knots

CHIEF OFFICER REYES1

Heading

SECOND OFFICER

015°

CHIEF OFFICER REYES

Status

SECOND OFFICER

Restricted maneuverability

(YOUNG DECKHAND enters, wearing a headlamp. He stops and looks around, pulling his coat more tightly around himself. SECOND OFFICER sees him and sings.)

OLD DECKHAND

You hold your breath
The surest sign of your uncertainty
The hull cuts through the frozen fear
Godless and ethereal
A floating, frozen shroud of death
Its ghosts are always near

(YOUNG DECKHAND hurries off as SECOND OFFICER and CHIEF OFFICER REYES continue.)

Rate of Turn
CHIEF OFFICER REYES

0°/min (steady)
SECOND OFFICER

Draught
CHIEF OFFICER REYES

9.8 m
SECOND OFFICER

One more run, they make me Captain
CHIEF OFFICER REYES

Congratulations, Sir
SECOND OFFICER

Stay by my side
And when I rise
I'll help you move up too
CHIEF OFFICER REYES

Thank you, Sir, for your trust in me
SECOND OFFICER

Safety message
CHIEF OFFICER REYES

Heavy packed ice
SECOND OFFICER

(they nod to each other as SECOND OFFICER begins to exit. CHIEF OFFICER REYES looks at computer screen.)

A floating, frozen shroud of death
Its ghosts are always near
SECOND OFFICER

(he exits. CHIEF OFFICER REYES looks around, and sure nobody is near turns off the computer, the screens go blank, stage goes black. All is silent.)