

## 20.) The Interrogation

*(in the darkness, the chant of “Night after night, night after night,” can be heard as light slowly rises on deck. Everyone is at a breaking point. As the chant continues, the otherworldly laughter returns and the groaning of the ice and the blowing winds take on a rhythmic beat, becoming a waltz: broken, dissonant. The chanting of the crew stops as they all look around, frightened, as the music and laughter become louder. Mist swirls across stage, as the music is blended with sounds, a turning roulette wheel, dice being tossed, the mist begins to turn multi-colored, like the rainbow sheen in the ice. Suddenly from out of the mist, LIFE-IN-DEATH appears. She is wearing a gown seemingly made of liquid. A gown the garish colors of the poisonous rainbow that surrounds the ship. Her headdress is also dripping with colorful, shimmering beads. She waltzes across the stage, seductive. On the other side of the stage, DEATH appears. He wears a suit of white, blue, and silver angular panels, hard, harsh. His suit is covered in ice crystals that catch and reflect the light. His white hair hanging from his forehead like icicles. He holds out his hand, LIFE-IN-DEATH takes it. She dances around him, as he simply leads her as if presenting her at a cotillion. As the mist clears, the light is blue and white, contrasting with LIFE-IN DEATH’s colorful presence.)*

ALL

None of this  
Is happening  
It’s just a dream  
Disorienting  
Nightmare of my mind

Can’t escape  
Cannot wake  
Cannot shake  
These visions of mine

*(as everyone continues singing, trying to avoid these figures, DEATH and LIFE-IN-DEATH, walk amongst them, zipping a coat, brushing a frozen lock of hair from a forehead, straightening a head lamp, looking to each other for approval or disapproval as they inspect their “merchandise”. With each touch, the CREW MEMBERS flinch, or hurry away as if each touch burns.)*

My mind is playing  
Dreadful tricks  
And vile games  
I’m losing my grip  
Losing control  
Losing all hope

SECOND OFFICER

Cannot sleep

MAYA

Cannot eat

CHIEF OFFICER REYES

Cannot think

ALL

Don't know my own name

DEATH

*(to LIFE-IN-DEATH, elegant, stately, as he takes LIFE-IN-DEATH'S hand and leads her through a waltz, his manner crisp and clean.)*

A motley crew

LIFE-IN-DEATH

Not at their best

DEATH

Got here in time  
But I digress  
Don't usually get  
Specimens so

LIFE-IN-DEATH

Desperate

DEATH

Disheveled

LIFE-IN-DEATH

Dejected

DEATH

Distressed

LIFE-IN-DEATH

Then place your bet  
The table's set  
Whom will you claim  
Whom shall I get

DEATH / LIFE-IN-DEATH

Shall we draw lots  
Let fate decide

DEATH

Who goes with Death?

LIFE-IN-DEATH

Who stays by my side?

*(LIFE-IN-DEATH spots CHIEF OFFICER REYES and sidles up to him seductively.)*

A man so handsome and strong as you  
Must run the ship, must lead this crew  
So tell me, Dear  
What happened here  
What choices brought you to this despair

*(DEATH spots MAYA. He crosses to her, takes her hand and kisses it.)*

DEATH

You're very wise  
Can see in your eyes  
You must have answers  
For what did transpire  
Tell me true, who put you here  
And I'll be sure that sleep is benign

DEATH / LIFE-IN-DEATH

*(exchanging smiling glances.)*

Secrets here  
Truth untold  
Will someone speak  
The guilty exposed

DEATH

*(crossing to SECOND OFFICER, DEATH shakes his hand, puts his arm around  
SECOND OFFICER'S shoulder and leads him around the deck.)*

Your wife, your kids  
Alone at home  
Don't know what's happened  
Your fate unknown  
To climb the ladder of success  
A conscience is a great excess  
But you can clear your conscience now  
Just tell us what happened and who and how

*(frightened, SECOND OFFICER runs from DEATH, who stands smiling, as LIFE-IN-DEATH crosses to NINI.)*

LIFE-IN-DEATH

*(motherly, fixing NINI'S disheveled hair, rubbing her arms vigorously as a mother would a small child, zipping her coat all the way to keep the cold out.)*

Lost your God  
Lost your faith  
Confess to me and you can erase  
Erase your sins  
Restore your soul  
If you don't...

*(LIFE-IN-DEATH looks down, pointing to hell.)*

You know where you'll go

*(DEATH looks on approvingly with a small laugh and a gentle clap. MAYA tired, broken, steps forward as the crew gathers around.)*

MAYA

Why don't you just kill us now  
This game you play  
This menace, these lies  
You know what happened  
And you know why

DEATH

I told you she was wise

LIFE-IN-DEATH

*(very impressed, she crosses to MAYA.)*

I like your spirit  
And your pluck  
Knowing is one thing  
But here's the rub  
There's no joy  
In just taking all

DEATH

Want to give you a chance  
To have your say

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| To speak                            | LIFE-IN-DEATH         |
| Extol                               | DEATH                 |
| Proclaim                            | LIFE-IN-DEATH         |
| And express                         | DEATH                 |
| Your final words<br>With no regrets | DEATH / LIFE-IN-DEATH |
| What we want                        | DEATH                 |
| A simple request                    | LIFE-IN-DEATH         |
| We want you to confess              | DEATH / LIFE-IN-DEATH |

*(a distress flare is lit and rises into the air with a whistle, as YOUNG DECKHAND can be seen coming from where the flare was launched. DEATH and LIFE-IN-DEATH, all radiance and good cheer, regally cross the stage to wear he stands.)*