

Lumsden Writing Workshop

October 22, 2011

Idea

A ship has run aground on rocks on a stormy sea. The ship is in danger of breaking apart.

Genre

Action / Thriller; action-packed thriller.

Setting

An ocean on another planet—an unexplored planet. The characters have only recently arrived on the planet. The time is “the far future”.

The story unfolds on the ship that has run aground. This is not a ship with sails. It has engines that use carbon dioxide. There are 20 people onboard the ship. These people are: crew that operates this ship; scientists and explorers; and some soldiers for protection.

Background

Humans have exhausted the water resources on Earth, so humans have left Earth (left it as a lifeless rock). Humans have gone in search of new planets, looking for water. The hope is to settle on a new planet. Humans sent lots of “city ships” into space, in all directions, and one city ship has found a planet with oceans. This large city ship landed on the planet. It then sent several smaller water vessels to explore the oceans and area, searching for food, clean water, test the air, etc. This smaller ship is a scientific / exploration vessel. This is the smaller ship that has crashed onto the rocks on the stormy ocean.

Characters

The main character is a soldier—he is the squad leader of the soldiers on the ship. Mike is the squad leader’s name; last name Cicansky. He is 37 years-old. He is a seasoned soldier. He is missing an eye and the socket is sewed up. He has some scarring around the ruined eye. This character is known as Sergeant Mike Cicansky.

There are three secondary characters that are important to the story: A stowaway, a scientist and the captain of the damaged vessel.

Scientist: Dr. Randall is a young but brilliant scientist who has not yet earned the respect of the other scientists on the expedition. The other scientists are older than him and believe they know more than he does, but, in fact, it is Dr. Randall who is the smartest of the bunch.

Captain: Captain Max is 65-years old. He is an old sea dog. He is a tough, old, mean buzzard. He has the respect of everyone on board.

Stowaway: The stowaway is only known as Belhumeur. He is a young man, 18 years-old, physically fit, and strong because he was a laborer on the city ship.

Plot

Beginning: The first page of the graphic novel is the sailing vessel crashing into the rocks in the planet's ocean. This is a one-panel page.

The ship is damaged—hull is punctured and water is coming in. Sergeant Cicansky and his soldiers put out fires on the ship. Dr. Randall leads the medical team to treat the wounded. Captain Max receives damage reports from his crew members. The stowaway (Bellhumeur) was hiding out in the belly of the ship, so make his way to safety through the flooding ship.

People decide not to abandon the ship. They signal for help and then stay on the ship and wait for help. The crew will do what they need to do to keep the boat afloat until help arrives. The signal is sent via communication system, but because of the storm the communication system is knocked out after the signal is sent. The crew has no way to know if their signal got to the city ship or if the city ship is sending help.

Middle: The people of the damaged ship argue about what to do. Some want to abandon the ship and go into lifeboats, and some want to stay on the ship and wait for help that has been signaled; but, no one knows if the city ship has received their distress signal, and they have no way of knowing whether or not help is on the way.

There is a fight for the lifeboats, and those that want to leave win the fight and take all the lifeboats. As the lifeboats are on the storm tossed ocean, giant shark fins are seen, the giant sharks approach the lifeboats, and the lifeboats are capsized. People are swimming, being eaten, etc.

The people stayed on the damaged ship now realize they have to fix the ship in order to survive because there are no more lifeboats and because there are sharks in the water. Captain Max leads a team into the belly of the ship to fix the leaks that are starting to get worse. The attempt fails and all members of the team die, including Captain Max. After the Captain and the fixing team dies, people start looking to Sergeant Mike as the new leader.

End: Dr. Randall and the stowaway fix and enhance the communications on the ship, but also manage to boost the signal for help. The signal is sent but what they don't realize is that the signal is actually picked up by an alien race that lives in the ocean. Soon after, an alien ship rises out of the water and stops a distance away from the humans in the damaged ship.

Sergeant Mike has to find a way to get approach the aliens. So he puts on a scuba suit and has to swim through the shark infested water to reach the aliens. Mike gets into the alien ship, meets the alien leader, and asks for help. The aliens agree. The survivors get onto the alien ship. The alien ship takes the survivors to the city ship. The end.