

Gough/Millar

12/09/05

## Pilot Outline

*Teaser*

## 1) EXT. OCEAN - HELICOPTER SHOT - DAY

The CAMERA SHOOTs low and fast over a vast expanse of shimmering blue water. SKIMS over atolls of shocking white sand and SPEEDS across aquamarine reefs. Suddenly, a seaplane BUZZES into view. The words "KEY WEST MARINE INSTITUTE" are stenciled on its side and its silver skin glints in the afternoon sunlight.

A TITLE CARD ON SCREEN: 120 MILES OFF FLORIDA KEYS, MARCH 5, 1996.

## 2) INT. SEAPLANE - DAY

ATLANNA CURRY is at the controls, a radiant beauty with tanned skin and a warm smile. Her ten-year-old son, ARTHUR aka A.C. is at her side. He's dressed in a tank top and board shorts, a classic beach rat. A battered copy of "The Once and Future King" is open on his lap, but he's too distracted by the awesome view. He grins as a pod of dolphins explodes out of the water. Atlanna offers him a friendly reminder that his father is going to be testing him when they get back. He pleads that it's his birthday. Before she can respond, the radio crackles to life. It's TOM CURRY, he's calling from the Coast Guard station. Atlanna tells him that their trip was a complete success, all the sea turtle hatcheries were undisturbed. They're flying home and should touch down in about an hour. Tom asks about A.C.'s homework assignment, but Atlanna covers and tells him that A.C. was too busy helping to get much reading done. Suddenly, a lightning bolt fissures the air, violently rocking the aircraft. Atlanna and A.C. look out in surprise and see ominous storm clouds have appeared out of nowhere. As the line crackles in and out, Tom asks if they're okay. Atlanna explains they're headed into a storm but assures him they'll be fine.

## 3) INT. KEY WEST COAST GUARD TOWER - DAY

Tom clicks off the radio, steps over to the COAST GUARD manning the Doppler radar and asks about the storm. The man studies his screen, shrugs, there's no storm for 500 miles. Tom stares at the radar in confused alarm. He grabs the radio, tries to reach Atlanna, but all he hears is the lonely sound of static.

## 4) INT. SEAPLANE - DAY

Atlanna and A.C. head into the heart of the storm. Ribbons of lightning rend the darkness and fat raindrops hammer. A.C.'s fingers dig into his seat as the craft is violently buffeted. Atlanna tries to reassure him that everything is going to be okay, but as he stares down at the heaving ocean, he catches a glimpse of a monumental waterspout twisting up.

## 5) EXT. STORM - DAY

Forking bands of lightning illuminate the scene as the aircraft is dwarfed in the enormity of the storm and the giant waterspout rises in front of them.

## 6) INT. SEAPLANE - DAY

Atlanna desperately banks the craft clear, only to have another spout rise and block their way. It's like an obstacle course as a dozen more spouts spiral up. As Atlanna tries to weave the plane between two of the watery tornados, one of the wings is caught in the maelstrom and ripped off. There's nothing Atlanna and A.C. can do as the crippled plane is pulled into the spout and sucked towards the sea like a dime in a blender.

## 7) EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY

The aircraft's skids break free as the plane nosedives into the water with incredible force.

## 8) INT. SEAPLANE - UNDERWATER - DAY

As the aircraft is sucked into the depths and water engulfs the cabin, Atlanna turns to A.C., rips the silver seahorse necklace from her neck, puts it around his, then pushes him out the passenger door, saying she'll be right behind him. As A.C. swims free, the swirling current cartwheels him into the wing, knocking him unconscious. Unaware of A.C.'s predicament, Atlanna turns to get out of the plane but comes face to face with a HIDEOUS MERMAID-LIKE SIREN. As it SHRIEKS...

## 9) EXT. KEY WEST COAST GUARD TOWER - DUSK

Tom is on the balcony, anxiously scanning the cloudless horizon with binoculars as the oversize sun sets into the ocean.

## 10) EXT. UNDERWATER - NIGHT

Strands of platinum moonlight filter through the water and illuminate A.C. He's still unconscious and is drifting like a rag doll 100 feet below the surface. He's been there for hours. Suddenly, an ominous dark shape rises into view and begins pushing him up.

## 11) EXT. OPEN SEA - NIGHT

A full moon hangs in the star-soaked sky as A.C. breaks the surface of the mirror calm sea. He's lying on the barnacle encrusted back of what looks like a very large, overturned lifeboat. A.C. is startled awake as the shape sprays up a geyser of water. He looks around in shock as he realizes he's actually lying on the back of an enormous blue whale. Suddenly, three dolphins leap out of the water and over his head. As A.C. looks out across the moon-spangled sea, CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL he's surrounded

by twenty whales that are slowly circling and a hundred dolphins that are leaping out of the water in celebration. OFF this magical sight...

*Act I*

12) EXT. MANTA TECHNOLOGY MARINA - NIGHT

TITLE ON SCREEN: KEY WEST, LAST NIGHT. CAMERA CRANES DOWN from the night sky TO REVEAL a chain-link sea gate stretching across the entrance to a large high-tech boatyard. The CAMERA MOVES DOWN THE GATE, PASSES a metal sign that reads, "MANTA TECHNOLOGY. NO TRESSPASSING! KEEP OUT!" CAMERA SWEEPS ON, PLUNGES into the water and doesn't stop until it discovers a large hole that someone, or something, has ripped in the fence 10-feet below the surface.

UNDERWATER POV - looking up as the distorted silhouette of A MAN talking on a cell phone comes into focus.

MARIUS HOLT, the slick owner of Manta Tech is in mid-conversation as he strides towards his BMW. He tells the person on the other end of the phone to inform him as soon as "Ernesto Luna leaves Caracas". He snaps his cell phone closed and nods to the TWO SECURITY GUARDS patrolling the marina. As he gets in his car and speeds through the gates, one of the security guards grabs some bottles of beer from a cooler.

As the guards head down the pier towards the main facility, one of them tosses an empty beer bottle into the water. A beat later the bottle shoots back up and smashes in front of them. The men stare at each other, confused, when Steppenwolf's "BORN TO BE WILD" suddenly blares from one of the research vessels that's moored nearby.

UNDERWATER POV - looking up at the men, then shooting under the pier, to the back of the research vessel where the hefty propeller gleams.

13) EXT. RESEARCH VESSEL - NIGHT

The men race onboard and turn off the music. They hear a strange whistling sound, turn and dive out of the way as the propeller flies through the air and is impaled on the deck by one of its blades. They grab their guns and begin firing into the water.

UNDERWATER - bullets razor the water as a SHADOWY FIGURE torpedo-swims out of the way with superhuman speed.

As the Men empty their weapons, A YOUNG BLOND MAN catapults out off the water behind them and lands on the deck. This is A.C., he's 20-years-old now. Before they can spin to face him, he slams their heads together, knocking them out. As he grabs one of their swipe cards...

## 14) INT. MANTA TECH FACILITY – NIGHT

A.C. enters and finds a forlorn dolphin swimming in the large research tank that stretches down the center of the room. He affectionately strokes the dolphin's nose. As he steps over to a control panel, he pulls out a digital camera and snaps off some shots of a weird-looking harness. He hits a button, causing the underwater gates to rise. Alarms blare as the dolphin swims for freedom.

UNDERWATER – A.C. follows the dolphin as it leads the way through a narrow tunnel and out into the marina. The dolphin swims through the hole in the main gate and out into the open ocean. A.C. is right behind it when a tranquilizer dart razors the water and hits him in the shoulder. As the world turns black...

## 15) INT. LOCK-UP – KEY WEST POLICE STATION – NIGHT

A.C. wakes up. He's got a nasty headache and is seriously thirsty. He demands to be let out, saying he was trying to prevent a crime. A voice mockingly tells him that the world is full of misunderstood heroes. A.C. turns and finds an old man sitting in the corner of the cell. This is MCCAFFERY. He looks the worse for wear and has obviously been drinking. A.C. recognizes him as the town's reclusive lighthouse keeper. McCaffery surprises A.C. when he confesses he knows A.C. dives Devil's Deep. McCaffery explains that he believes this is the gateway to the Bermuda Triangle. A.C. tries to blow him off, but McCaffery responds by bringing up the fateful plane crash. A.C. makes bail, and as he's lead out, McCaffery warns him that exploring the deep can be dangerous; he needs to watch his back. OFF this intriguing encounter...

## 16) EXT. KEY WEST POLICE STATION – DAWN

A.C. heads outside and finds his father, Tom, waiting by a Coast Guard jeep. He's the one that posted A.C.'s bail and he's not happy. As they climb into the vehicle...

## 17) EXT. SEVEN MILE BRIDGE – HELICOPTER SHOT – DAWN

The ocean shimmers like a blanket of liquid gold as the Jeep powers across this architectural wonder.

## 18) INT. JEEP – MOVING – DAWN

Father and son sit in silence as A.C. gulps from a gallon bottle of water. It's tense. Finally, Tom turns to A.C. He can't bail him out forever. He's lucky Manta isn't going to press charges. A.C. counters that they don't want to press charges because they don't want anyone to know what's going on there. Tom shakes his head, doesn't understand A.C., when is he going to get his life together? He has such amazing gifts, why is he wasting them? As far as A.C. is concerned, saving the ocean isn't a waste. He may not know how he got his powers, but he feels this inner duty to use them to protect the environment he loves. Tom doesn't want to see him end up as another Key West beach bum, A.C. has

already given up his chance to go to college. This isn't the life that A.C.'s mother would have imagined for him. Stung, A.C. responds that his mom's not dead, she's missing. He'll stay in Key West until he's figured out what happened to her. Tom swings the car onto the palm tree-lined beach. He turns to A.C., it's been 10 years, he has to let it go. He's got to stop blaming himself for the accident. A.C. shakes his head, he doesn't blame himself, but something happened that day. Why won't Tom believe him?

A.C. climbs out of the car, tells him he's swimming home. As Tom watches A.C. stride into the ocean, frustrated, CAMERA FINDS a convertible BMW speeding in the other direction.

19) INT. BMW - MOVING - DAY

RACHEL STARLING is behind the wheel. She's a confident beauty in her 20's. As she cruises through the gates of "KEY WEST NAVAL AIR STATION"...

20) EXT. TARMAC - NAVAL AIR STATION - DAY

All-American boy, JESSE HICKS, is waiting by an F-16 fighter jet as Rachel strides across the tarmac wearing a flight suit. He grins as he tosses her a helmet and tells her that she's cutting it close. She quips, that if he hadn't kept her up half the night, she would have been on time. He flirtatiously shrug-smiles, training missions make him horny. As they climb into the jet...

21) EXT. UNDERWATER - REEF - DAY

A.C. torpedo-swims through the water, he's totally at home in this aquatic environment. As he swims, a shadow suddenly passes over him. He looks up and sees the silhouette of an F-16 fighter jet shoot overhead. A.C. smiles to himself, speeds off after it. As the jet flies low to the water, A.C. keeps pace with it just below the surface.

22) INT. F-16 JET - DAY

It's on a routine training exercise. Rachel is the pilot and Jesse is her navigator. Rachel notices a sonar warning, studies the screen and sees an object is tracking them underwater at the same speed. As the object suddenly stops, Rachel banks the jet into a wild turn, flips her visor and stares down at the water.

23) EXT. OCEAN - DAY

A.C. pops his head up and grins as the jet shoots ten feet over his head.

24) INT. F-16 JET - DAY

OFF Rachel's confused shock, she could have sworn she saw somebody down there...

*Act II*

## 25) INT. "OLD MAN AND THE SEA" - DIVE SHOP - DAY

The old corrugated iron structure is built on a pier over the water and is painted in a wild variety of hot Caribbean colors. Wooden propeller fans whir as A.C. breezes in and gets a frosty reception from EVA TORRES. She doesn't understand why he didn't listen to her, she warned him that Manta had put on extra security. Eva is an environmental activist and her group, Oceanwatch, had heard Manta is working on a dubious new technology to clean up oil spills. It sounds great on paper, but it's an environmental disaster waiting to happen.

She sent him in there to find out more about it, instead he ends up getting arrested. He apologizes, his camera was taken and he had to rescue Sundance. "Sundance?" That's the name he's given the dolphin he freed. He explains that he did overhear Holt talking to someone on the phone about Ernesto Luna arriving from Caracas. Eva hasn't heard of him, but tells A.C. she'll look into Luna. She also warns him to be careful, he may have superhuman powers underwater, but he's vulnerable like everybody else on land. Seeing he's distracted, Eva turns and finds he's staring at Rachel, who has just entered. Eva rolls her eyes as A.C. heads over to introduce himself. A.C. flirts with Rachel and pegs her for a Top Gun. There's definitely an attraction, but she sees every one of A.C.'s moves coming. She tells him that she wants to go diving and has heard around town that he's the best. However, when she sees the distinctive sea horse necklace hanging around his neck, something about it rattles her. A.C. asks if she is okay, but she brushes it off. As they head out to the boat, CAMERA REVEALS that A.C. is being closely watched by a mysterious, but very beautiful, young woman, NADIA. OFF her enigmatic smile...

## 26) EXT. UNDERWATER - REEF - DAY

A.C. and Rachel explore this unique Technicolor wonderland. Their hard, suntanned bodies shimmer in the rippling, tropical sunlight. As they swim, A.C. looks around, it's almost as if he can sense someone is watching them. A little freaked out, A.C. gestures to Rachel and they break for the surface.

## 27) EXT. OCEAN - DAY

A.C.'s boat, "QUINT", bobs on the blue water. A.C. and Rachel climb aboard, he wonders if she found what she was looking for, but she just smiles. As they take off their tanks, they hear a clicking sound and turn to find Sundance, the dolphin. As they rub its nose, Rachel notices a serial number branded on its fin. It appears that the dolphin was the property of the US military. As Rachel notes the number, A.C. sees the Manta research vessel gliding into view 400 yards away.

## 28) INT. MANTA RESEARCH VESSEL - DAY

Marius Holt stares at the flashing target on his handheld GPS tracker, they've found their dolphin. He smiles at the "Quint" then hits a button on a control panel.

## 29) EXT. UNDERWATER - MANTA RESEARCH VESSEL - DAY

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON a small high tech device attached to the hull. As it emits a high pitch pulse...

## 30) EXT. "QUINT" - DAY

A.C. keels over in pain, holding his ears in agony. The dolphin reacts, squeals mournfully, then begins swimming towards the research vessel like a dog obeying a whistle. Rachel races to A.C.'s side, not sure what's affecting him or the dolphin. OFF Rachel, frantic, as A.C. writhes, blood oozing from his ears...

## 31) INT. MILITARY HOSPITAL - DAY

A.C. wakes up and finds himself in a military hospital. Rachel is at his bedside and explains that the doctor has no idea what caused his ears to bleed. They want him to stick around for some more tests. Jesse angrily enters. Rachel excuses herself and takes Jesse into the hall. He wants to know where she has been all day. He had to cover for her unauthorized maneuver this morning. She explains she went diving. She knows she saw something out there and is determined to find out what it was. Jesse shakes his head, what's he supposed to think when his fiancée goes AWOL with some beach bum. She tells him to keep his voice down, if anyone finds out they're engaged, they'll get scrubbed. Jesse responds, that if she keeps pulling moves like she did this morning, they'll get scrubbed anyway. She apologizes, thanks him for covering, then promises she'll see him tonight. As he leaves, she heads back into A.C.'s room but discovers he's gone. She spots his seahorse necklace lying on the bed. As she picks it up, FLASH CUT TO:

## 32) INT. UNDERWATER - NIGHT

Everything is blurry and impressionistic. CAMERA SPEEDS INTO A TIGHT SHOT of a PORTAL WINDOW. TWELVE-YEAR-OLD RACHEL bangs on the glass, terrified. Tears streak her cheeks. She's trapped in the cabin of a sinking ship. Suddenly, young A.C. appears on the other side of the glass. His mother's seahorse necklace dangles around his neck. As he raises his fist and shatters the window, FLASH CUT BACK TO:

## 33) INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

OFF Rachel, reeling from the memory...

*Act III*

## 34) EXT. MANTA TECH - DAY

CLOSE ON AN AXE as it slices into a barrel, sending oil sluicing into a pool. PULL BACK TO REVEAL Marius Holt holding the axe. He's in the middle of a presentation to a group of State Senators and oil company executives. He proudly announces that Manta

has made a breakthrough in environmental protection. He holds up a golf ball-sized glass ball that's filled with a luminescent blue liquid. He explains that his company has developed a new, patented bio-enzyme called "Proteus". He drops the ball in the pool, which is now covered with a thick layer of oil. As the enzyme hits the slick...

UNDERWATER SHOT LOOKING UP as the black oil instantly dissolves.

As the assembled group claps, CAMERA FINDS Eva standing in the crowd. She questions Holt about the environmental impact of Proteus. Do they know what the long-term effect of this bio-enzyme's going to be on the ocean, or are they just worried about their flagging stock price? Holt smiles and assures the assembled media that the protection of sea life is the company's main concern. A.C. suddenly steps into view and shouts that if that's true, why is Manta illegally capturing dolphins? Clearly annoyed at the disruptions, Holt signals to his security men, who roughly escort A.C. and Eva out.

As the press conference breaks up, Holt berates his HEAD OF SECURITY, he needs to get his act together. They can't afford to have any more surprises in the next 24 hours. He orders him to keep a round-the-clock watch on the dolphin and warns him that if A.C. comes knocking again, they'd better be ready. OFF this threat...

### 35) INT. "OLD MAN AND THE SEA" - DIVE SHOP - NIGHT

It's almost closing time. Jesse and a group of NAVY BUDDIES are sitting at a table in the back. As A.C. and Eva make their final rounds, A.C. sees one of Jesse's buddies aggressively hitting on Nadia, the beautiful young woman who was watching him earlier. A.C. tells the guy to back off. Jesse steps in and tells A.C. to mind his own business. A.C. has a thing for other people's girlfriends. He warns him to stay away from Rachel, she'd never go for townie trash like him anyway. A.C. shrugs, if Jesse's the competition, he's got nothing to worry about. Enraged and a little drunk, Jesse throws a punch, sending A.C. crashing through a table. Eva intervenes and tells A.C. to stay down, then orders Jesse and his friends out of the bar. As Jesse leaves, Nadia helps A.C. to his feet. She thanks him for stepping in and flirtatiously offers to repay him. A.C. politely declines, telling her he's had a rough day. Nadia asks if he's got a girlfriend, A.C. says he's single. She suggests they go for a swim, the water's magic this time of night. As A.C. stares into her piercing blue eyes, he finds himself agreeing. Eva watches A.C. head out with Nadia, her faced tinged with longing. As she turns back to the bar, CAMERA reveals McCaffery. She tells him it's closing time, but then he slides her a crisp \$20 bill. She smiles, what's his poison?

### 36) EXT. COVE - NIGHT

Two naked figures leap off the end of narrow wooden jetty. Nadia giggles as A.C. gives chase. As he playfully catches her, she smiles and tells him that she's had her eye on him for a while. However, as he leans in for a kiss, she darts under the water.



UNDERWATER SHOT – Nadia's legs morph into a freaky mermaid-like tail.

Unaware, A.C. grins as he looks around. Suddenly, Nadia bursts out of the water. She's been transformed into a hideous siren, with a scaled face and rows of lethal shark-like teeth (just like the one that attacked Atlanna in the Teaser). She viciously rips her webbed hands across his chest. But as she opens her mouth and lurches in for the kill, a harpoon bolt bursts through her heart. As she implodes like a vampire getting staked, McCaffery is revealed on the jetty. He's holding a harpoon gun in one hand and A.C.'s boxer shorts in the other. He calmly tells A.C. to get dressed, they need to talk.

37) EXT. GALLERY – LIGHTHOUSE – NIGHT

A.C. leans against the wrought iron fence that circles the top of this impressive white-washed structure. The massive Xenon light in the lantern room behind him spins past every 30 seconds, its beam bleaching out across the inky sea. A.C. nurses his chest wound while McCaffery pours them drinks. A.C. wonders what attacked him. McCaffery explains it was a siren, a mythical denizen of the deep. They have a seductive power over men, they lure you in, then kill you. A.C. is confused, why did it choose him? McCaffery confesses that he always knew this day would come. A.C. looks at him, confused, "What day?" The day McCaffery would have to explain A.C.'s true origins. He's the heir to the kingdom of Atlantis. A.C. scoffs, tells McCaffery to lay off the booze. McCaffery is deadly serious. He explains that A.C.'s parents were the rulers of the mythical underwater kingdom of Atlantis. After a coup in which A.C.'s father was killed, McCaffery helped Atlanna to escape to the surface with A.C. The trio was rescued by Tom. Atlanna made McCaffery promise never to tell a soul about their true heritage. McCaffery agreed, but knew that after Atlanna's mysterious disappearance, it was only a matter of time until they came looking for A.C.

Reeling, A.C. refuses to believe McCaffery, but then the old man describes A.C.'s powers. He knows A.C. can breathe underwater, that he has incredible strength, that he's immune to deep-sea pressure, that he gets sick when he's away from water too long and that he feels a connection to the ocean that he can't explain. Overwhelmed, A.C. dives over the side and into the churning waves below. OFF McCaffery...

*Act IV*

38) EXT. ATLAS POINT – DAWN

A.C. stands like Luke Skywalker, wind whipping his sun-bleached hair, silhouetted against the gigantic orange sun as it slowly rises out of the ocean. He's deep in thought and it's clear he hasn't slept.

39) EXT. DUNES – DAY

A.C. sits on the dunes looking out at the twinkling expanse of blue water. He doesn't turn as Rachel approaches. She explains that Eva told her he might be out here. She heard

about what happened at the bar and apologizes for Jesse. A.C. quips that her boyfriend packs quite a punch. She lets it go, steps over and gently places the seahorse necklace in his lap. As she turns to leave, he dangles the necklace in the sunlight and tells her that it belonged to his mother. She gave it to him just before she disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle.

Rachel sits down next to him and confesses that she saw a necklace just like it once. When she was 12 she was trapped in a sinking boat, the "Magellan". She was rescued by a young boy wearing a seahorse necklace exactly the same as A.C.'s. A.C. looks at her in surprised recognition, but covers. She says it was her first kiss, that's how he saved her, breathing into her lungs. She confesses that she always wondered if the boy was real or if she had just imagined him. Rachel looks out to sea and tells him that her ship sunk off the Florida coast right in the heart of the Triangle. She was scared of the water for years and joined the Navy to get over her fear. She went diving with him yesterday because she thought she saw something out there from her jet. A.C. shrugs, sounds like she has a vivid imagination. They share a smile, there's an unspoken attraction. She always felt that if she found the wreck, it would give her some sort of closure.

As they get up to leave, Rachel casually mentions that she did some digging about his dolphin friend, Sundance. It seems he's a military vet and only recently retired from the Army Corp of Engineers. He is trained for underwater demolitions and is an expert at planting explosives onto the hulls of ships. Suddenly, thunder crackles. They look out and see a storm forming on the horizon.

#### 40) INT. "OLD MAN AND THE SEA" - DAY

Wind hammers the corrugated roof while Eva secures the windows against the impending storm. A.C. heads in. She asks about his mystery date last night, he covers by joking that the girl turned into a real bitch. While he was out romancing, she's found out about Ernesto Luna. It's not the name of a man, it's the name of an oil tanker. It belongs to a Venezuelan oil company called VenzOil. It left Caracas two days ago and will be passing off the Keys tonight. A.C. suddenly puts the pieces together, Manta is going to use Sundance to blow a hole in the tanker and use the Proteus enzyme to clear the spill. It's the ultimate product launch and Manta stock will be sent soaring. However, the long term environmental consequences will be devastating. He has to stop them. Before Eva can argue, A.C. races out, dives off the pier and torpedo-swims away...

#### 41) EXT. MANTA TECH - NIGHT

The storm has arrived. Wind howls. Rain hammers. Holt and his team load Sundance onto the research vessel.

UNDERWATER SHOT - as A.C. bursts through the marine gates, he unwittingly activates a sensor. A heartbeat later, a titanium net whips around him and yanks him to the surface.

As he dangles in the net, A.C. struggles futilely. He's winched over to the research vessel where Holt is waiting. He shakes his head, then violently clubs A.C. with a metal baseball bat. As A.C. slumps, unconscious...

42) INT. BARREL - NIGHT

A.C. is jerked awake. He's groggy and weak and deeply dehydrated. He looks around, not sure where he is, then realizes he's been welded into a metal barrel. As he starts banging on the sides, CAMERA PULLS OUT TO REVEAL the barrel is sitting on the deck of the research vessel which is now out at sea, pitching in the violent storm. OFF Holt as he watches two of his men carry the barrel to the edge of the boat and toss it overboard...

43) EXT. UNDERWATER - NIGHT

As the barrel slowly twist-sinks into the darkness...

*Act V*

44) EXT. RESEARCH VESSEL - NIGHT

The lights off the monolithic oil supertanker flicker in the distance as Sundance is strapped into a harness packed with C4 explosives. Holt watches with a satisfied smile as Sundance is released into the storm ravaged sea.

45) UNDERWATER - NIGHT

The barrel plummets deeper and deeper.

INT. BARREL - NIGHT

A.C. is totally dehydrated. His skin is cracked and his breathing is labored. He's on the verge of passing out when the barrel begins to groan under the water pressure. It finally buckles and splits, spraying A.C. with water.

UNDERWATER - NIGHT

The falling barrel is suddenly ripped apart by a renewed A.C., who torpedo-swims back toward the surface.

46) EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT (STOCK SHOT)

Angry bands of lightning illuminate the mighty supertanker that is slogging through the mountainous waves.

## 47) UNDERWATER - SUPERTANKER - NIGHT

Sundance expertly attaches the explosive harness to the hull of the supertanker.

## 48) EXT. RESEARCH VESSEL - NIGHT

One of Holt's men informs him that the explosives harness is in place. As Holt's finger presses the detonator...

## UNDERWATER - SUPERTANKER - NIGHT

A.C. rips the harness off the hull and, with superhuman strength, flings it away. As it harmlessly explodes, the concussive force sends him flying back in an orgy of bubbles...

## 49) INT. RESEARCH VESSEL - NIGHT

Holt watches in disbelief as the supertanker forges on, unharmed. He wants to know what the hell happened. A.C. responds, "I did!" Holt turns in shocked disbelief and finds A.C. standing in the door, dripping wet and backlit by lightning. How did A.C. get out of the barrel? As Holt reaches for his gun, A.C. hand-rams him into a wall, knocking him out. Before Holt's men can move in, the boat is washed in floodlight. They look over and see a Coast Guard cruiser has pulled up next to them. Over a loudspeaker, Tom Curry tells them to put down their weapons, they're under arrest. OFF Tom and A.C...

## 50) INT. "OLD MAN AND THE SEA" - DAY

A.C. waits on a table, heads back to the counter where he's surprised to find Tom. Tom wonders what would have happened if Eva hadn't told him what he was up to with Manta? A.C. grins, he would have handled it, but he appreciated the backup. Father and son share a moment. Tom is about to go, when A.C. asks him about Atlanna. He's never really told him about her life before she came to Key West. Tom confesses that Atlanna was always vague about her past, although she did say it was very painful. A.C. asks if Atlanna knew the old lighthouse keeper McCaffery. Tom's defenses instantly go up, he tells A.C. that McCaffery is a crazy old man with a fondness for tall stories. McCaffery was the only person who made Atlanna uncomfortable and she always went out of her way to avoid him. Tom advises him to do the same. OFF A.C., intrigued...

## 51) EXT. GALLERY - LIGHTHOUSE - DAY

McCaffery has his eye to a telescope, scanning the shimmering ocean. He hears a noise, turns and finds Tom Curry. Tom says that he thought they had an understanding, he was supposed to stay out of A.C.'s life. McCaffery eyes him coolly and tells him that he has up until now, but A.C. needs to be prepared. He needs to know who he really is. Tom shakes his head, he doesn't want McCaffery filling A.C.'s head with myths and fairy tales. McCaffery says it's too late, A.C.'s destiny has come knocking, and there's nothing Tom can do about it. OFF their antagonism...

## 52) EXT. NAVAL BASE - DAY

As Rachel strides through a SEA OF CADETS, all wearing their pressed white Naval uniforms, a figure in an orange tank top comes into view. It's A.C., he couldn't look more out of place. She laughs, wonders how he got past security. He shrug-smiles, tells her it's a trade secret. As they talk, CAMERA REVEALS, Jesse watching their encounter. A.C. tells Rachel that he owes her a dive session. She asks when he wants to make it up. He grins, "Right now, he wants to show her something!" SMASH CUT TO:

## 53) EXT. REEF - UNDERWATER - DAY

AN OLD WOODEN SIGN. Even though it's covered in algae, the word, "MAGELLAN" is still clear. It's the wreck of the boat Rachel was mysteriously rescued from all those years ago. Rachel looks over at A.C. in surprise. They swim across to a portion of the wreck featuring a familiar porthole. She wipes her hand across the glass in awe. Suddenly, Sundance swims into view. As the trio frolic, a shadow passes over them. They look up and see the shattered end of an airplane wing floating above them. A limp arm dangles over the edge.

## 54) EXT. OCEAN - DAY

A HIGH OVERHEAD SHOT of the makeshift raft. An UNCONSCIOUS YOUNG MAN, wearing a WWII vintage navy flight suit, is strapped to the wing. As A.C. and Rachel break the surface...

## 55) EXT. "QUINT" - DAY

A.C. and Rachel drag the man onto the deck. Rachel checks his dog tags, they say he was born in 1920. That's impossible; he doesn't look a day over 25. As A.C. checks the Pilot's pulse, the man's hand opens and a gold wedding ring rolls across the deck. A.C. picks it up. He reads the engraving, "Atlanna & Tom Forever 4/26/85". He looks at Rachel in shock; the ring belonged to his mother. OFF this revelation...

*The End*