

SUBDUCTION

Paul Calandrino

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pcalandrino@gmail.com

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CHARACTERS

SAMANTHA “SAM” GARNER	Mid 30s, fit, American
DECLAN “DECK” GARNER	Her husband, mid 30s, much less fit, American
RUPERT BOYD	Late 30s, TV actor, very fit and handsome, Australian

SETTING

The Washington coast.
Sam and Deck’s bedroom.

TIME

Around 2 a.m.

In the dark we hear the calm breathing of two sleepers and the sound of gentle surf in the distance. Then a rumbling, a screeching, and a thunderous crash. We hear furniture toppling and glass shattering. A woman screams. A man cries out, “What the ...!”

DECK, a pudgy guy in his mid 30s, turns on the bedside lamp. His wife, SAM, sits bolt upright beside him. They both wear kayaking helmets, dry suits, and life vests.

The dresser stage left is tipped over and the TV that was on it lies busted on the floor.

What the hell was that!

DECK

The big one! It’s the big one, Deck!

SAM

Was it? Was it an earthquake?

DECK

Get up! Get up! We’ve got to get rolling!

SAM
(scrambling from bed)

Oh my god! Oh my god!

DECK
(also scrambling, screaming)

I never thought this would happen! I mean, I thought it would happen but I never thought it would *happen!*

DECK

It’s happening, Sam! It’s really happening! What do we do? What’s first?

SAM
(grabbing a clipboard hanging on the wall)

Stay calm!!!

DECK

I’ll stay calm if you tell me what’s first!

SAM

That *is* first! The first thing to do is to *stay calm!*

DECK

Oh, right, right, right. Stay calm.

She pulls a stopwatch from her pocket and presses the button.

SAM

Fifteen minutes till the tsunami hits. We have to stay focused. Take a deep breath. (*they take a deep breath together*) Another. (*again*)

There's a thump that rattles the wall. They both scream.

DECK

Aftershock!

SAM

Number two: Kit bag! Get the kit bag from the closet. Three: Water!

He rushes to the closet right and drags out an enormous duffel bag. She reaches behind the bed and pulls out a 5-gallon jug with only half an inch of water in it.

SAM

What happened to the water? Where's the—!

DECK

Shit! Sometimes at night when I'm thirsty, you know, instead of going all the way into the bathroom—

SAM

Deck!!! That's our emergency water!

DECK

I'll go fill—

SAM

There's no time! (*from the list*) Tent, sleeping bag, space blankets!

DECK starts for the closet but stops short.

DECK

Dammit!

SAM

TENT, SLEEPING BAG, SPACE BLANKETS!!!

DECK

I think they're in Colorado.

SAM

WHAT THE FUCK ARE THEY DOING IN COLORADO???

DECK

I'm sorry, I loaned them to my parents—

SAM

Deck! Deck! Deck!

DECK

I know! I fucked up!

SAM

Again! I know I can't trust you to take out the garbage or unclog the gutters, but we agreed this was important!

DECK

I won't let it happen ag—

SAM

HUNTING RIFLE!!!

DECK

What? Oh! *(reaches into the bag and pulls out the rifle)* Rifle!

SAM

Thirteen minutes! Let's go! Move! Move! Move!

She grabs the kit bag and drags it left. There's pounding at the door. They freeze. A man's distressed voice comes from offstage.

MAN

(offstage, Australian accent)

Help! I need help. Help me, please!

SAM

Quiet. He doesn't know we're in here.

MAN

(offstage)

I know you're in there! I saw the light come on. I'm injured.

DECK

Crap!

SAM

We can't help him. We've only got enough supplies for ourselves.

DECK

We've got to get out of here.

SAM

If we open up, he could attack us. Okay, I'll go let him in, you hold the rifle on him.

DECK

Sam?!

SAM

It's him or us! Now, try to do something right for once in your life. Show some spine. Do the right thing.

He raises the rifle and aims it off left.

MAN

(offstage, pounding on the door)

Help me, please! I'm bleeding!

DECK

Okay, Sam, open the door. I got this.

She exits.

SAM

(opens door offstage, surprised)

Oh, my god! You're, you're ...

SAM helps the man into the room. He is tall and gorgeous and bleeding from the head. He is TV star RUPERT BOYD.

RUPERT

G'day. Thank you. God bless.

SAM

Deck, look, it's—

RUPERT

Bandages. Do you have any bandages?

SAM
(*indicating the kit bag*)

There's a first aid kit in the—

RUPERT pounces on the kit bag and starts rifling through it.

DECK

Get up! Get out of there! Now!

RUPERT

Look at my wounds, mate, I need—!

DECK

Get up! (*he does*) Get in the chair! Sam, tie him up!

SAM
(*urging RUPERT to the chair*)

Tie him up?!

DECK

So he doesn't follow us.

RUPERT

Follow you? What the bloody hell—?

DECK

Shut up! How much time, Sam?

SAM

Uh ... eleven minutes.

DECK

Tie him up!

SAM

We can't tie him up! That would be like murder. The wave hits and—

RUPERT

Look, I'll leave! Just let me go!

SAM

Deck, this is that guy. Don't you recognize him?

DECK

What guy?

SAM

That guy from TV. From that show.

RUPERT

“ICE.” I-C-E.

SAM

The one about the immigration and something enforcement. What’s the “C” stand—?

RUPERT

Customs.

DECK

(struck)

The agent that falls in love with the girl agent who’s the star?

RUPERT

Rupert Boyd. I’d say pleased to meet you, but ...

DECK

No way. That guy’s American. You’re ... what are you?

RUPERT

Australian. *(American accent)* Look, I can do an American accent, see? I talk like an American on the show.

DECK

Oh, my fucking god! It’s you!

RUPERT

Right?

DECK

What are you doing here? Shouldn’t you be in Hollywood or wherever?

RUPERT

Shooting an episode in Seattle.

SAM

So, see? We can’t kill him.

DECK

Well, we can’t take him.

SAM

Just up the hill to safety. To dry ground.

DECK

Sam, we've planned this all out! We only have MREs for the two of us. When those run out we'll have to hunt for food, fight for every drop of water we can find. It's every man for himself! You said so yourself.

RUPERT

You can leave. I won't follow you! I promise!

DECK

Australian, I had no idea. Okay, we'll just knock him out.

SAM

Knock him—?

RUPERT

Aw, mate.

DECK

I'll use the rifle stock.

SAM

That's crazy! It could discharge.

DECK

Okay, I'll use something else.

SAM

Let's just take him!

DECK

(handing the rifle to her)

Hold this. Keep it pointed at him. He moves, blast him.

SAM

But—

DECK

(digging through the duffel)

In self-defense! You're always telling me, just like Mom, Declan, grow a spine. Stop being a jellyfish! Well, now's the time!

RUPERT

(rising from the chair)

I'll just let myself out, guys.

No, don't!

SAM

RUPERT sits. DECK pulls out a mini folding shovel from the bag.

This'll do.

DECK

But, but—

SAM

Time!

DECK

Seven minutes!

SAM

Sorry, pretty boy.

DECK
(raising the shovel)

Stop!

SAM
(points the rifle at DECK)

Sam!?

DECK

I don't know how to say this, Deck, but there's not much time. If this is the end of the world, we might have to repopulate the planet.

SAM

The fuck? It's not the end of the world. It's just—

DECK

And who has the better DNA, Deck? Who? You or Rupert?

SAM

Okay, in the first place—

DECK

WHO?

SAM

DECK

Okay, you're right! The TV guy. And if it *was* the end of the world, you'd be absolutely doing the right thing. He'd be the better Adam, hands down. But it's just the Northwest, babe. The Cascadia earthquake. The rest of the country is fine!

RUPERT

What the hell are you guys talking about?

DECK

The earthquake. The big one. It just hit!

RUPERT

There hasn't been an earthquake.

SAM

The dresser fell over. The whole house shook.

RUPERT

Yeah, when I ran into it with my car.

DECK

Your what?

RUPERT

My car. Must've hit some gravel or snot—you know, oil slick? Lost control. I apologize. It's a Hummer. House got the worst of it I'm afraid.

DECK and SAM are stunned. She lowers the rifle. They look at each other a long time.

You guys thought it was the ... *(laughs hysterically)* That's rich!

DECK

No earthquake?

RUPERT

Sorry to break the news to you, mates. Looks like you're well prepared, though.

DECK

Sam? *(she looks away)* Sam??? Would you have ...?

SAM

Yes! ... No! I don't know. Just winged you, maybe? I'm ... sorry.

DECK

I know I haven't been the best ... husband, provider. But ... I love you, Sam.

SAM

I know you do. And I know I'm a hardass, but you just ... annoy me so much!

DECK

Tell me about it. How can we ... how do we survive this?

SAM

I don't know if we can. Maybe we should ...

RUPERT

(hopping to action)

Aw, now look. Don't be too hard on yourselves. From what I've seen, you're a perfect match. You were willing to do what you had to do to save the human race, even if it meant wingin' hubby. And you agreed with her. You guys think alike. You're made for each other.

SAM

Hey ... he might be right.

DECK

Yeah. Yeah, you and me, babe. Two peas in a pod.

They embrace.

RUPERT

Yeah, both batshit crazy. Would you mind calling for help?

SAM picks up the phone and dials 9-1-1.

SAM

Huh ... busy signal. Weird.

Off in the distance the tsunami warning siren sounds. SAM and DECK freeze, then bolt offstage leaving a bewildered RUPERT behind. SAM reenters.

SAM

GET A MOVE ON! NOW!

He follows her off. A car starts and peels out offstage. The lights flicker and then extinguish as the growling thunder of something immense approaches and the whole stage shakes.

End of play.