

Whale Fall
By C. Smith

EXT. ABYSSAL ZONE OF THE OCEAN- TIME UNKNOWN

On the ocean floor lies what was once a blue whale. Over the years, it has been thoroughly picked apart by the creatures of the deep sea until nothing but bone remains.

The whale fall is dimly illuminated by the light of PONTUS (ancient-looking anglerfish) making his rounds. He spots movement in the wreck and swims over to take a closer look. THALASSA (appears to be a 15 year old human girl) sits in the middle of the whale fall. She notices Pontus coming towards her and waves cheerfully.

THALASSA

Hello there.

PONTUS

A human? In the deep sea? This is unheard of.

THALASSA

No human would be able to survive this far in the ocean. I simply look like one, that's all.

PONTUS

Okay, fake human, what are you doing down here?

THALASSA

Moving in.

PONTUS

I beg your pardon?

THALASSA

My old place wasn't working for me, so I set out on a quest to find a new home. And eventually I found this place. Pretty cool, huh?

PONTUS

This whale fall's been abandoned for years. You aren't going to find any food here.

THALASSA

That's okay. I don't need food
anyway.

PONTUS

What do you mean you don't need
food? Without energy and
nutrients, you have no chance of
survival. Every creature needs
food.

THALASSA

Not me. I've been doing just fine
without it.

PONTUS

But if you're not looking for
food... why come to a whale fall?

THALASSA

I told you before. I'm moving in.

PONTUS

These are hardly suitable living
conditions. Wouldn't you rather
prefer a cozy cave? Or a nice
reef?

THALASSA

Nah. I'm okay here.

Pontus circles around the whale fall, looking for anything he
might be missing.

PONTUS

I just- I don't see why you'd want
to stay here.

THALASSA

I used to live a lot closer to the
surface. Up there it was bright
and loud and there were so many
creatures flitting about that you

could hardly get a moment of peace. I hated it there. But down here, it's nice. It's dark, quiet, and cold. Everyone keeps to themselves. So it's just me, this whale skeleton, and the ocean.

(beat) Well, and you now.

PONTUS

I think I understand. I, too, prefer a rather solitary life.

THALASSA

And there's plenty of room for your thoughts to roam free.

She points at the bones above her. Pontus shines his light on them.

THALASSA (CONT'D)

See those bones? I like to pretend they're marble arches, like the ones on the surface. It makes me feel important and elegant.

She pauses, gazing out at the vast expanse of the ocean.

THALASSA (CONT'D)

That, and it reminds me of home.

PONTUS

Isn't the ocean your home?

THALASSA

I've lived here for centuries, but this wasn't where I was created. I was born in Greece, a country on the surface.

PONTUS

How did you end up here?

THALASSA

I had always felt a strong connection to the sea. One day when I was around 15, I decided that I would be happier in the ocean than I was on land. So I walked straight into the sea. The seafoam swallowed me up, and I never looked back.

She strokes one of the whale's bones with her hand.

THALASSA (CONT'D)

We're alike, this whale and I. We both left our home and fell into depths beyond our greatest imaginations. Only difference is that I'm still around to see it.

A comfortable silence falls over our duo. Thalassa pushes off from the ground and sits atop one of the bone arches. Pontus swims over next to her. The two of them look off into the abyssal plains.

Thalassa points off into the distance. Pontus directs his light across the way.

A whale is slowly sinking down from the top. The duo watches as it touches down on the ocean floor, causing a cloud of sand to form upon impact.

PONTUS

Oh look. Another one. Looks like this area's about to get a lot more crowded.

THALASSA

Aw damn.

FIN.