

POISON PAWN

A melodramatic draft

Written by

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Based on the misunderstood biographies of;

Former US Chess Champion Bobby Fischer, EUROPE's frontman Joey Tempest, 17th Century Dutch VOC Colonial Captain Abel Tasman, an Albino Boa from a Reptile Zoo, a Hobby Horse from a High School Drama Department and twin Alpacas, Pablo and Pedro.

**CHARACTERS :**

THE TINY TITANIC (she/ her) - Villain

ALBINO BOA (they/ them) - Villain's Accomplice

PABLO THE DEPRESSED ALPACA (he/ him) - The Sensitive Hero

HOBBY HORSE (they/ them) - Faithful Friend

JOEYINA TEMPESTINA (she/her) - Persecuted heroine

UNABLE TASMAN (he/him) - Clown

**SUMMARY :**

A river-cruise boat called the Tiny Titanic is sailing along the river Rhine in the off-season. A Tropical Hurricane, called Joeyina Tempestina has shown up adjacent to their river cruise, and like a rock concert from the 70's, has completely enchanted the corporate customers, who watch it 24/7 from the ship's viewing deck, causing the ship to be on a constant lean. Tiny Titanic, a sentient self-steering vessel, has become river-sick from this constant lean, and the ships workers are also getting fed up with the Hurricane, for example, Hobby Horse, the ships newest worker, who performs in the Jazz Club, is frustrated at having no audience day in day out. Various schemes are made, but the situation takes a sudden surprise turn when Pablo the Depressed Alpaca (manager of the jazz club/ bar), is transported to the Hurricane and reunited with his missing twin brother Pedro. At the same time, Tiny's loyal accomplice, the Albino Boa catapults himself towards the Hurricane in a desperate self-sacrificial attempt to harness its energy and please it's master.

FADE IN:

1 INT. JAZZ CLUB - NIGHT

1

CLOSE UP of Hobby Horse on stage, under spotlights, performing a dramatic re-enactment of the chariot race scene from 'Ben Hur On Stage'. To end the scene, Hobby freezes on a triumphant race-winner's pose, but to deafening silence. The only sound they can hear is their own breathing. Defeated, they slump towards the bar.

HOBBY HORSE

That damn hurricane has stolen my  
entire audience.

Pablo the depressed Alpaca, the manager of the bar and jazz club, is licking the bar clean with his long furry tongue.

UNABLE TASMAN

Well don't worry about it, the ship is  
plotting to get rid of it soon...

Unable explains the various schemes he's overheard in what he thinks are hush hush tones but are loud and slurred..

UNABLE TASMAN (CONT'D)

They should have someone with some real  
salt-of-the-ocean naval conquest experience to take  
on this plan!

Launches into elaborate ways that HE would go about capturing the hurricane (very convoluted and full of incomprehensible sailors jargon...)

He interrupts his own rant with chugs of whiskey, or some other kind of amber spirit which we see going right through him, literally. He is a ghost, or more accurately, a gathered culmination of paranoid energies adrift on the ocean for centuries that have stuck and grown to the ship like barnacles. While Unable is talking, Hobby and Pablo make disinterested interjections, like "right....." or "uh-huh", side-ways glances, eyebrow raises.

### **IN THE VENTS ABOVE THE BAR**

Albino Boa is napping in the vents above the bar, when they overhear the paranoid ghost's plan to conquer and capture the hurricane. Realising there may be some good ideas lurking underneath those rants, they slither away to inform the ship.

### **2 INT. CAPTAINS BATHROOM - NIGHT**

2

Albino Boa and Tiny Titanic are energetically discussing their upcoming storm-capture mission. They have decided on a title: "Mission Hurri-CAN".

Leading up to this conversation, Tiny Titanic has been river-sick for weeks. The current cruise customers, a corporate group from Rotterdam Architects Anonymous, have been standing on one side of the boat at the viewing deck to observe the hurricane. Tiny has had enough of being off-balance, and with Albino's help, she plans to capture the hurricane and use it's mysterious electrical energies to combat the boat's mounting power bills.

**3 INT. AT THE BAR - MIDDAY - THE NEXT DAY****3**

Hobby is at the bar again, this time in a floppy sun-hat and cat-eye sunglasses, drinking some cold rosé.

## HOBBY HORSE

I don't know why I even bother. Don't get me wrong, I'm used to most audiences clocking out for the Ben-Hur stuff, that's more for the retired crowd, but I ALWAYS have at least some people stick around for my high octane SPEED 2 recital!

Pablo gives an indication of sympathy by feeding some olives to his glass jar of anaerobic bacteria he keeps underneath the bar.

## HOBBY HORSE (CONT'D)

And I'm not even the worst affected! At-least my salary isn't dependent on bums in seats. You haven't sold a drop in weeks! Screw it, let's go see what all the fuss is about...

Determined to scope out the competition, Hobby and Pablo join the crowd gathered on the deck.

**4 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - MIDDAY****4**

Tiny and Albino Boa are talking in the Captain's office, which has a large poster of Jack Bauer from 24 stuck up where a map would normally be. They're in the middle of brain-storming for Mission HurriCAN. Their best plans so far include:

1. Using a very large magnet in combination with a springy lasso.
2. Having a herd of stand up paddle boarders surround

the hurricane in a circle holding hands with ESP devices. 3. Sending the local military submarines anonymous signals about an "unidentified threat" at the hurricane's location.

**5 EXT. ON THE DECK - AFTERNOON**

5

Pablo and Hobby are dancing on the viewing deck both wearing T-Shirts that they bought from one of the other dancers. They are fully grooving along with the trippy music emitting from the hurricane. Lost in the crowd, woodstock vibes. When suddenly, a smashing sound from the bar brings them out of their trance.

**6 INT. AT THE BAR - AFTERNOON**

6

Unable (an alcoholic spirit) has taken advantage of Hobby and Pablo being away from the bar and helped himself to the alcoholic spirits behind the bar. He is now whirling about on the bar - Coyote Ugly style - doing ghostly mischief. The glass smashing sound was from one of the bottles he was using in an elaborate war-game on the bar top. Various bottles, glasses and bowls of nuts are being used to represent different players and tensions are high on all sides.

Hobby and Pablo burst onto the scene and a fight ensues with Hobby, Pablo and Unable shouting incoherently at each-other. At the climax of this fight, Hobby snaps out of their hurricane-induced-dance-trance and realises they ALL need to snap out of their collective delusion or their very livelihoods will veer into oblivion. To demonstrate this point, Hobby points at the nut-bowl shouting "DON'T YOU SEE, THAT'S US!" and shoves it violently off the bar, smashing it into pieces.

Unable drunk and enraged, grabs Pablo's glass jar of bacteria from behind the bar as retaliation, and throws it at Hobby. Unfortunately his hand eye coordination is not great, so the jar smashes right in front of Pablo. The bacteria oozing out and writhes towards Pablo's feet, lifting him effortlessly, and carrying him towards the dancers of the deck, who part ways to let them slide through, possessed by some kind of osmo-magnetic-electric forces as they slide off the ship, into the ocean and towards the hurricane. Pulsating to the rhythm of that mysterious music.

**7 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON**

7

To catch a break from scheming, Albino Boa looks out the window and happens to see Pablo the Depressed Alpaca sliding towards the hurricane and thinks to themselves:

That's it! You've made my master sick, and now you take our only bar manager? This is the 11th hour, I must make the ultimate sacrifice!

**8 EXT. INSIDE THE HURRICANE - AFTERNOON/ DUSK**

8

Pablo is carried into the eye of the hurricane, lying on his back on a grooving bed of bacteria. The light is tranquil with peach and pink hues and flashes of gold. Through the haze, he sees something in the distance. He thinks:

Could it be??? Is that you Pedro?

Pedro (Pablo's missing twin brother) is gliding down towards him through the mist (like Emma Thompson as the angel in Angels in America). Just as they are about to touch hooves, they hear a strange unsettling sound... Pablo turns and sees

the Albino Boa hurtling towards them like a massive wide-mouthed comet, ready to swallow them all whole! P&P close their eyes as they touch hooves.

**LONG SHOT - EXTERIOR VIEW OF HURRICANE**

We see Joeyina quickly sidestep the Albino Boa hurtling towards them with the swiftness of Jonah Lomu. The Albino Boa overshoots and descends like a deflating balloon animal about 10km away from the hurricane.

**9 INT. AT THE BAR / JAZZ CLUB - NIGHT**

9

Back in the bar, Hobby is performing a cover version of the Hurricane Song to a lively crowd. Pedro and Pablo are pouring drinks at the bar, their necks wrapped around each other as they hum along with the music.