

A sign was attached to the rock of a reef a boat drifted by. On the sign, an image and some text were drawn respectively written: A horizontal line of attached half circles that represented the water surface was breached by a creature with a long hat like appendage with a fin attached at its top and its bottom, other smaller appendages spread out into eight long arms and two tentacles below the surface. The text said, "Warning! Pirate Black Floof's Trench. Carnivorous Giant Squids. [b]DO NOT ENTER, SWIM, OR LINGER![/b]"

On the aft of the boat, a glowing emerald was attached and jolts of electricity sometimes appeared around it. In a slow and careful motion did a green man turn a dial on a control panel near the emerald. The screw propelling the large boat slowly ceased moving. Soon the boat just drifted along in between surface breaching reefs. They were a cluster hereabouts and canceled out the waves so well the water was almost still.

"Ohh... My..." a brown earth pony mare uttered while she stood as far away as possible from the bow but stretched her neck so far forward so she could still peek over its edge. She sometimes pulled back as if she was too scared to look at whatever she looked at for too long.

"Heh, told ya," a pink pegasus mare spoke quietly towards the other mare. She looked over the edge as well. "It's like looking straight into Tartarus."

The green man from before stood at the wheel back in the aft. He saw what they reacted to as well by looking into the water to the side.

Black Floof's Trench is a deep water trench that starts just off the coast of Jagged Bay and goes out towards the sea. The water levels around its beginning are surprisingly shallow that reefs appear there. This creates a strong contrast for anyone seeing it.

The green man could see the sandy bottom to his left, while still far down, quite clearly, and as the boat drifted forward, a clear cliff formed on the bottom which walls descended into pitch-black darkness. As the boat drifted further out over the dark chasm beneath them, a brown ship could be seen wedged in between the walls that made up the chasm far down. It seemed to have shipwrecked right over the trench and its back and front were holding it up from drifting down even further into the dark abyss.

The green man smiled and pulled off his shirt with a palm-tree motif, kicked off his sandals, and walked up to the other ponies in the front in his bathing shorts or swimsuit?

They turned to look at him. The brown pony looked scared and the other nervous. The brown mare looked down and then up again at the green man.

"Ehh... Well, you know... You don't have to do this, Anon," she mumbled.

The green man tilted his head to the side and smiled at the mare. He waved a hand in the air dismissively.

"Don't you worry little poney. Daddy-Anon, is gonna get that loot of yours," the green man said and patted lightly on the brown earth pony's head. She blushed. "Now, how do I tell which jewel box I should get, mmh?"

"Well, the box is in the captain's quarters and is suppose to be jewel decorated. If that decoration is

still on. And..." She blew up her cheeks like a balloon as she looked down. "...I think, because Black Floof's obsession with leaving behind a legacy, she probably wrote her initials on it somewhere."

Anon nodded and gave her a thumbs up.

"That's good enough for me," he said as he strapped on some goggles

She caressed her hoof with her other hoof and looked up at Anon.

"B-but while I'm glad that you volunteered, now that I have seen the trench... I have second thoughts."

"Oww, right in the heart." Anon clasped his hands over his chest. "That's adorable. You're worried."

She still looked worried.

"Anon, please. Did you not see the sign? There are giant squids down there," she spoke with much worry but still kept her voice down.

The pegasi mare was looking over the edge and down on the ship as she spoke, "Maybe Ex is right, you have to swim awfully far and we can't even see the bottom from here. A squid could be lurking just beneath us and we wouldn't be able to tell." She turned to Anon with a smirk. "I promise, I won't tell anyone at Beaky's about this if you back out now," her smile grew, "for a modest sum of shells."

Anon grinned at the pegasus and fired away at her with his finger guns.

"Pew pew pew," he whispered.

The brown earth pony mare gave the pegasus an annoyed look.

"You guys, this is no laughing matter. Anon, could die down there, then you would feel awful, Splash," the brown mare said.

The pegasus lowered her head a bit as she realized that the other mare was right.

Anon shook his head with a smile and waved his hand.

"Neither of you should feel any guilt if something goes wrong down there," Anon said and pointed a finger downwards. "There won't be any, obviously, but you can't stop me now anyway. My mind is made up."

Anon walked to a brown bag, unzipped a pocket, and took out a smaller emerald-like the one attached to the back of the boat. This one had wires attached to a small plastic pad with a button on it.

He held it up high so the ponies could see the device.

"I made this present for any tentacled admirers that doesn't get personal space.

Then he pulled the hem of his bathing shorts open and dropped the device into its crotch area and

tied them hard.

He saluted the ponies before he began to climb down the boat's now extended ladder.

"Cya."

The brown mare looked like she was about to protest but chose to close her mouth. The pegasus mare also looked worried.

Anon stopped one step above the water. He looked at the ponies and winked.

"Don't worry, I'm gonna be fine," he said quietly.

He turned his head downwards. His eyes scanned the waters below. They traveled along the walls of the chasm and around the ship beneath him.

"No, Chinese food, huh?" he whispered to himself.

Slowly he extended his foot down towards the next step which was just submerged under the surface. The slow speed of his breach did not cause any ripples. He proceeded to sink his limbs at a snail's pace until he reached the last step of the ladder, at which point, the water reached his waist. From there, he crouched down and duck his head underwater.

Underwater, the light of the sun did not interfere with his vision as much and he could see clearer. He again checked for red fleshy tentacles to wave out of the darkness, but nothing. He made sure to check in every direction even more along the water but still nothing.

He poked his head over water again and saw that the mares' heads poke out over the boat's railing and down on him. This time he didn't smile and started to look at the side of the boat.

"Please, don't do this," the brown mare said but Anon didn't hear it.

He didn't even look up at her.

He blew out all his air and then took one massive breath in. [s]Dear princess Celestia. Today I learned that swallowing air into your stomach for later is not a diving method since the pressure can cause your stomach to rupture. [/s]

After he was satisfied with his intake of oxygen, he let go of the ladder and let himself sink a bit.

When he made sure that he, wouldn't disturb the surface with unwanted splashing, he twirled around in the water and began his dive.

Looked around during his swim but he was conscious of how he kept refocusing on the ship that was getting closer and closer. It was as if he was afraid to look elsewhere. Both because he might see signs of a squid but also because looking at the thick line of darkness seemed to pull at his sanity.

At some point, he stopped altogether to look around and focused solely on the ship ahead. The pace of his swimming increased. At first, he tried to be sneaky about it. Now he was just trying to move as fast as possible without disturbing the water. A combo that was not so easy to accomplish.

Finally, he reached the middle and unbroken pole of the ship. The sails were long gone and the wood on the pole and deck of the ship were coated in algae and at times some kinds of tiny, round, white shells.

He swam along the pole down to deck as it felt safer to have it near him because he could use it to put it between him and any attacker. As he reached the deck, he swam to the door leading into the captain's quarters.

It was closed and you could barely see that it was supposed to be a door as the frame and the cracks between the door and it was covered in some kind of marine vegetation. He tried the handle. He felt the oily and mud-like coating on the handle as he tried to pull it down. The handle was had probably corroded but after Anon put down his feet into the cozy, partially living deck, he managed to get more force in and the handle broke off.

Anon's teeth visibly clenched as his mouth turned to a mad grin and his eyes glinted with madness. Then his facial expression turned to that of dread.

He tossed the handle over his shoulder. His head turned from side to side, looking for perhaps windows into the captain's quarters. He found nothing next to the door.

He looked to the right. There probably existed windows into the captain's quarters from the side of the ship but that meant swimming over the chasm again.

He decided to swim over the captain's quarters. As he did this, he saw that when the ship was shipwrecked, the aft had partially been destroyed by the trench mountainside. Around where the wheel would be, which Anon could not find, boards had been torn off and there was a large hole between the mountainside and ceiling of the captain's quarters.

Small fishes fled the hole as Anon sawm down into. It was dark but not enough for it to rob him of his sight. There were windows on the side of the quarters that let in light from above.

Anon was supposed to start his search for the jewel box immediately but was taken aback by something he just noticed being right next to him. [s]Ah, you think it's a squid but it ain't. Misdirections masta!!!111 [/s]

On a chair at a wooden desk, dressed in some kind of tattered black leather jacket and wearing a black hat with a wide brim that seemed to fold in on itself and with an added extra length of transparent frilly hems was a pony skeleton. The corpse was haunched over the desk. The size of the skeleton was like the mares in the boat above Anon.

Anon began to pull out drawers from the desk. He was met with really water damaged books in two of the drawers. The last drawer had a lock but the key was already in it. He pulled it out but it was empty.

Anon blinked under his goggles and then he looked at the corpse again. The skeleton pony held something in its hooves on the desk that it covered with its whole body. He got closer and saw that the pony's head was resting on jewel decorated jewel box.

Anon did a small fist-pump.

He slowly removed the jewel box and lowered the skeleton head down onto the desk. The key was in the jewel box lock and as Anon felt the lid, he noticed that it was opened. Having just

experienced how a door handle broke, he wasn't too surprised when the key was tough to turn. However, he risked it and this time, what he was holding did not break but locked the box with a little bit of a struggle though.

He was about to leave when he again got saw the hat on the cranium of the dead horse. He shrugged his shoulders and took off the hat and put it on himself. He nodded to himself and then proceeded to pat the back of the white pony cranium.

[i]Mmm, good little pony,[/i> he thought to himself as he caressed its skull.

With the box in one arm, he swam up out of the hole and from there swam towards the surface.

He was actually starting to become quite thirsty, for air.

It took him a bit longer to swim up to the surface with just one arm. On the way towards it, he repeatedly checked for any signs of Chtulhu's offsprings in the waters. But there were none.

As he was about to reach the surface. He saw how Pearl Splash, the pegasus was flying just above the surface. Anon saw that her blurry body do gestures above the surface.

His eyes went wide and looked down. A bundle of tentacles slithered into the darkness.

He continued to use his free arm to keep himself swimming upwards but with the hand which arm held the chest tight to his body, he reached into his bathing trousers.

He saw a red fin attached to a hat like body with a large on the side and then followed by a cluster of tentacles bend into the light and then back into the shadows. It had only lasted for less than a second but it had been enough to confirm that it was a giant squid for Anon. I had appeared on about the same depths as the ship so while it had looked small it was clear it wasn't as it was about as long as the ship.

Anon fumbled around in his shorts, hoping it hadn't fallen out during the dive down. It hadn't, his fingers clutched around the device.

The squid drifted out of the darkness slowly. Its tentacles were in a bundle and their aim was towards Anon.

Anon's terrified gaze was stuck on the Lovecraftian creature just casually moving in his direction as if sneaking.

His thumb hovered above the button on the device. He had stopped swimming for the surface now. His focus was entirely on the creature below him. While was starting to feel the need for air at this point, he knew that it wouldn't matter if the squid caught him by surprise.

Suddenly, as if shot by a cannon, the squid was propelled upwards with tentacles first. One moment it was near the ship, the next its arms spread out like a blooming flower's pedals to grab Anon.

However, Anon was ready for it. Bubbles exited his mouth as his lips moved to form inaudible words that were undoubtedly part of some great one-liner that would make Arnold Schwarzenegger teary-eyed. Then he pushed the button.

His whole body began to spasm as pain flowed throughout his body. The squid had also felt it,

clearly as it waved erratically for a moment before, the squid dove like a rocket back into the abyss.

Anon soon regain control of his body. Even though he had basically been shaking, he had managed to hold onto the jewel box. Pain still soared in his limbs but the very extreme need for oxygen did not give him any time to relax. Not that he wanted to stay in the water any longer.

He swam up the last meters to the surface and the first thing he did when he breached the surface was gasping for air. He grabbed hold of the ladder on the boat with his free hand and began climbing up. He crawled up and laid himself on his back on the deck of the boat, exhaling and inhaling rapidly.

"Hahaha," the pegasus landed on the boat next to Anon. She looked sick and relieved at the same time, with a drugged up grin on her lips. "You're crazy, Anon. When I saw the squid, I thought that was it. I thought you were dead for sure."

On Anon's face was a tense wide grin. He hugged his body.

"Heh hehe-Hahaha! Oooooohhh, that hurt," Anon said, put a palm to his forehead, and with his other hand, he pointed a finger gun at the pegasus. "You could call it quite the [i>shocking turn of events."

"Wha? No, way. HAHA, are you really..?" The pegasus crumbled onto the floor and rolled over on her back. She had to hold her stomach as she began to howl with laughter.

Anon felt something soft tackle him. He saw that it was the brown mare from before that was had thrown her arms around him. The fur on her cheeks was already tear-stained and water had already welled up in her eyes again.

"Ohh- ohh ahh oww ohh oww..." she stammered out.

Anon stroke the back of her head.

"There there, little poner," he said.

This only made the mare hug him tighter.