

Lost in the waves - 1st Draft V1.1

By

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Based on a true story.

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1 OPENING SCENE

EXT. WATER OCEAN - DAY

Water is splashing everywhere.

Gail force wind is blowing.

People are scattering and trying to secure thing.

People can be seen on the shore looking concerned waving at the water.

Lifeguard boats and police boats are in the water.

AS LIGHTNING STRIKES SMASH CUT TO NEXT SCENE

2 GOING SURFING

EXT. IN FRONT OF HOUSE - DAY

Someone is putting stuff into the trunk of a red Jeep.

A phone rings.

GEORGE

Hey. I'm just leaving now.

Yeah... I'll be there in a half an hour.

George puts down the phone.

As a bag for a surf gets dropped on top of the roof rack of a red Jeep.

SMASH CUT TO NEXT SCENE

3 DRIVING IN THE CAR

INT./EXT. JEEP - DAY

GEORGE and KEN are driving on the highway in George's Jeep.

KEN

Thanks for picking me up... I probably wouldn't have gone by myself.

GEORGE

Yeah no problem. Besides I think it's gonna be a great day. Did you see the weather report?

(CONTINUED)

KEN

Oh... it's gonna be brutal...

Ken's phone receives a text message and beeps.

He takes it out and checks it.

His concerned mother had sent him a text to be careful.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The Jeep drives off into the distance on the highway.

4

SURFING ON THE WATER

EXT. SEA SIDE - DAY

The weather is nice and partly sunny but windy and getting worse.

MONTAGE

The two guys are taking off their surf equipment off the car.

They are putting together their surf equipment.

Putting on their surf cloths.

Putting their equipment into the water.

Getting on their surf boards.

Surfing.

Others surfing.

The shoreline with people watching worried.

Trees blowing in the wind.

Weather getting worse.

The clouds forming.

Wind beginning to blow harder.

Surfers getting wiped out.

Surfers leaving the water and people helping them.

Beginning to rain.

People on their phones looking concerned.

END OF MONTAGE

5 TV NEWS REPORT

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

In a dark living room a TV is running and showing a news report.

The reporter is showing scenes of weather devastation and speaking about the high winds and seas causing damage.

6 GETTING OUT OF THE SURF

EXT. SEA - DAY

Ken is struggling to keep his sail up in the air and keeps falling off his board due to the high bursts of wind knocking him off.

Finally he gives up and gets out of the water dragging his surfing equipment out of the water in high wind.

He finally sits down on the shore looking at George as he is still surfing.

George is struggling to keep his sail up but keeps balancing.

Ken is looking concerned as he sees George struggle and after some time George finally falls into the water.

By this time everyone else has gotten out of the water since the wind was blowing so hard that it was producing waves that were getting dangerous.

Finally Ken shouts to George.

KEN

George! George! Are you OK? Do you want us to help you get out?

GEORGE

Yeah! No! It's OK... I'll swim back to shore... I'm fine!

At the same time a jet ski was approaching to try and help him but George waves him off as he would have to leave his gear.

The jet ski rides off.

George is struggling to keep a float but tries to swim to the shore.

Ken is watching as he sees George being washed out further and further to the open sea.

(CONTINUED)

George sees that he is being blown out to sea and keeps swimming on top of his surf board towards the other shore but he can't.

Ken keeps looking to see how George is doing but he can hardly see him anymore.

George is struggling and suddenly he get's wiped out by a wave and everything flashes in and out of darkness with a high pitch sound and then goes black.

DIP FROM BLACK IN NEXT SCENE

7

RETURNING HOME

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

The phone rings in the dash compartment and VICTOR picks it up.

He looks at LEYLA and comments before he picks up.

VICTOR

Oh look who's calling...

Victor picks up the phone.

VICTOR

Yeah... what's up?

KEN

Tell me something... how do you turn off the alarm in your Jeep... is there like a special way of switching it off?

VICTOR

(WTF face)

No... why? You just turn the key and it goes of...

KEN

Cose' I'm trying to start my friends truck and the alarm keeps going off.

VICTOR

No... you just press turn the key.

KEN

OK thanks... I'll call you back in a little while...

Ken hangs up the phone and Victor looks at Leyla with a funny expression on his face.

(CONTINUED)

LEYLA

What? Problems again?

VICTOR

Oh... who knows... he's having problems starting George's car or something...

8 THE SEARCH

EXT. BEACH SIDE ROAD - NIGHT

Ken is driving the Jeep on a dirt road with a police car riding right in front of him.

They reach a military type post at the end of the road near the shore where there is a radar station.

9 IN FRONT OF RADAR STATION

EXT. BEACH SIDE RADAR STATION - NIGHT

The cop stops in front of a fence with barb wire on top of it and get's out.

Ken gets out of his car to and walks up to the police officer.

The police officer is trying to wave and flash his flash light towards the military radar station so that maybe the guard would notice but with no luck.

Ken finally says to the officer.

KEN

Maybe you should turn on your police lights and siren... they might notice that.

OFFICER

OK... let's try that.

The officer turns on the police lights and sirens and flashes his high beams towards the radar building.

After a while a military dressed person looks out the window and walks towards the gate.

MILITARY GUY

Good evening...

OFFICER

Hi. Look we've got an emergency... we have a person that has been blown out to sea

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

OFFICER (cont'd)

and we can't locate him and we thought that maybe you guys could see something on the radar...

MILITARY GUY

I'm not supposed to let anybody into the area but I suppose my lieutenant wouldn't mind if it's for a missing person...

They all walk together towards the radar building and enter.

10 LOOKING AT THE RADAR

INT. RADAR OPERATING CENTER - NIGHT

They walk towards a control console facing the glass with a view of the stormy sea.

The military guy sits at the console.

MILITARY GUY

OK... so what are we looking for?

KEN

Well he was surfing at the point and got thrown off his board at around 4 o'clock and then we lost sight of him at around half past 4 and he was moving north west.

MILITARY GUY

OK... so it's 2100 hours that makes four hours back... let's see...

He works the controls of the console and works the controls and roles the screen back to the time the surfer went missing. He tries to scroll around the screen trying to find the server.

MILITARY GUY

Uff... I'm not seeing anything... I guess the radar can't see anything of his not the board or him or something...

OFFICER

You can't see anything?

MILITARY GUY

No... I'm sorry there's nothing...

(CONTINUED)

OFFICER

OK... thank you for your help...

KEN

Wait! What about wind and water currents can you check that?

MILITARY GUY

Yeah sure we can do that...

The military guy starts pulling up water currents and wind data on the screen showing how the winds carry a person.

OFFICER

OK... great so this is where he started and here is where the currents would carry him...

MILITARY GUY

Yeah... I guess this is where he would probably end up yes...

He points to the coast.

OFFICER

OK... thank you for your help...

The military guy get's up and accompanies the officer and Ken back to the door as they exit.

11 BACK AT THE GATE

EXT. BEACH SIDE RADAR STATION - NIGHT

The officer and Ken get back to the police car.

OFFICER

OK... so now that we know where he would be we can search for him...

KEN

Great!

The officer picks up the CB radio from his car.

OFFICER

This is of C42 to dispatch... C42 to dispatch...

DISPATCHER

OK C42 go ahead this is dispatch.

OFFICER

I have just been at Point Radar station and have received some

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

OFFICER (cont'd)
information about the missing
surfer from the point...

DISPATCHER
Go ahead C42... I'll patch you in
to the captain...

OFFICER
Sir. I have some info on the
surfer victim that went
missing...

DISPATCHER
Report...

OFFICER
I was just at Point Radar station
and the technician showed me the
area where the tides are going.

DISPATCHER
10/4 Continue.

OFFICER
Sir I think we should continue
our search for the body tomorrow
due North.

KEN
(Aggravated)
What! You're gonna do what?!

OFFICER
(To Ken)
Calm down sir!

DISPATCHER
OK C42. Report back to the
station there's not you can do
there.

OFFICER
10/4 Dispatch!

The officer puts down his radio.

KEN
Why aren't you doing anything?!
Why don't you call in a rescue
boat?

OFFICER
Look sir. I need you to calm
down. I'm afraid we've done all
we can in this weather. No rescue
boat can go out with high winds
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

OFFICER (cont'd)
like this. So go home and we'll
call you when we have any new
information. OK?

The officer sits back into his car as he's talking to Ken
and then drives off.

KEN
OK... thanks! Thanks for nothing!

Ken kicks some dirt of the ground as the officer drives
off.

He walks around looking at the ocean and holding his head.

Then he gets back into the Jeep and tries to start it but
it won't start.

He get's frustrated and bangs his hands on the steering
wheel.

12 ROAD BACK HOME

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Ken is driving George's Jeep on a lonely back road.

INT./EXT. JEEP - NIGHT

Ken is driving and he opens the window letting in some
air.

He picks up his phone and dials Victor.

Victor can be heard over the phone but not seen.

VICTOR
(Anxious)
What happened? Did you find him?

KEN
No...

VICTOR
What do you mean?!

KEN
(Aggravated)
No we didn't... he's dead! They
couldn't find him... he's dead...
they're gonna look for his body
tomorrow...

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

So that's it? What did they say?

KEN

Nothing I called the cops and they said they can't look for him now... then I went to the radar station and the guy at the radar station couldn't find him either... so the cops said that they'd look for him tomorrow...

VICTOR

What do you mean tomorrow? Why didn't they send out a boat or something or call the coastguard or something?

KEN

Because they said they couldn't sail out of harbor in weather like this and that if they didn't find him by now on the coast that he's probably dead...

VICTOR

Shit! Did you check the currents... on the meteo app...

KEN

(Interrupting Victor)

Yeah... I did... I also told the cops but they said they'd send someone there tomorrow...

VICTOR

So there's noting you can do?

KEN

No...

VICTOR

So now what?

KEN

I'm driving his car back home now... I don't know what I'll tell them on the border if they ask me who's car this is... I don't know... I have to call his wife and tell her what's going on...

VICTOR

Damn... OK... call me later!

(CONTINUED)

KEN

OK... bye...

Ken puts down the phone.

EXT. BORDER CROSSING - NIGHT

He drives up to the border crossing and the guard lets him pass without a problem.

13 AT VICTOR'S HOUSE

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Victor is watching the news to see if there's any reports on the missing surfer but the information is scares.

He talks to Layla about it.

VICTOR

I wonder if there's any news yet...

LEYLA

I have no idea... I mean Ken will probably let you know if everything is OK...

VICTOR

You know that guy is our neighbor...

LEYLA

What do you mean?

VICTOR

Well Ken said that George lived just a few blocks away. You know he's the guy I said that owns the red Jeep... remember?

LEYLA

Oh right... I think I do...

VICTOR

Maybe I should call him...

LEYLA

Just let him handle it...

VICTOR

Well why don't they get the Navy out there or something...

(CONTINUED)

LEYLA

Just let them handle it...
they're professionals and they
know what they're doing...

VICTOR

I guess you're right.

14 KEN CALLS THE WIFE

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ken is sitting at the kitchen table with his head facing
the table.

He picks up the phone and calls.

KEN

Hi this is Ken... George's
friend...

FADE TO BLACK AS HE KEEPS TALKING

15 LOOKING AT THE SHORE

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

George is clinging to his surfboard and the seas are a
little calmer now. He is very tired and is barely clinging
on.

He notices some lights in the distance that looks like a
shore line. But he can't make out what it the lights are.

He climbs up onto the surfboard a little as much as he
could.

He tries looking around to determine where he is.

He notices the lights of the nearby seaside town and
recognizes it.

GEORGE

Town name!

He get's of the surfboard and gets ready to swim towards
the shore.

He's struggling against the current as he swims.

The current is more powerful than he is and is sweeping
him away from the lights but he doesn't give up.

The current has swept him a long way away from the lights
and he can barely see them anymore.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

Damn!

He decides to rest to conserve since his effort is not working.

So he lays back down clinging onto the surfboard shivering in the cold water watching the lights in the distance as a fog horn can be heard in the distance.

FADE TO BLACK AS HE CLINGS TO SURFBOARD AND CAMERA BACKING OFF TO A WIDE SHOT

16 SPEAKING WITH COAST GUARD

EXT. COAST - DAY

Ken is walking on the coast looking at the ocean and walking towards the Coast Guard station.

He is having flashbacks of George when they were on their way surfing.

He walks up to the Coast Guard building and enters.

INT. COAST GUARD OFFICES - DAY

Ken walks into the Commander's office.

COMMANDER

Please sit down.

Ken reluctantly seats down on a chair in front of the Commander's desk.

COMMANDER

How can I help you sir?

KEN

Well I just came to see if there was any news about my friend?

The Commander sits back into his chair and takes a sip of his coffee.

COMMANDER

The surfer's friend right?

KEN

Yeah... and I came here to see if there was any news...

COMMANDER

I'm sorry to have to tell you this but in these kind of cases there's not a lot we can do.

(CONTINUED)

The Commander get's up and walks to the window and looks trough the venetian blinds.

COMMANDER

But we did send the police possible locations where his body could turn up...

Ken get's up from his chair.

KEN

You mean you're not looking for him?! Why now?! Why aren't you sending boats out to search for him?

The Commander turns around at Ken and tries to calm him down.

COMMANDER

Sir! Please calm down... There's no need to get upset...

KEN

What do you mean no need? George could be out there right now freezing to death and you guys are sitting on your asses in staid of looking for him... What can I do to help?

The Commander walks up to Ken and puts his hand on his shoulder.

COMMANDER

Look there's nothing much you can do in these kind of situations. The best thing you can do is go home and stay by the phone... we're on top of things and if anything turns up we'll call you...

He tries to escort Ken towards the door and out of his office. But Ken stop.

KEN

Will you please reconsider sending out a boat to search for him? He might still be alive! I'd go out myself but I don't have a boat...

Ken turns around and exits the office.

FADE TO BLACK AS THE DOOR IS CLOSED

17 SEARCHING BY DAY

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The relatively calm ocean can be seen with just a few waves in full view as the camera moves up and reveals the shore and boats tied to the boardwalk.

Ken is talking to a skipper with a boat on the pier.

It looks like Ken is giving the Skipper some money and the Skipper is showing him onto the boat.

EXT. ON THE BOAT - DAY

Ken is standing on the boat besides the Skipper who hands him a pair of binoculars.

 SKIPPER

 Here...

Ken takes the binoculars and starts looking thorough them searching the ocean.

 SKIPPER

 So you say we need to go to this area here?

He points to the map as Ken looks down from the binoculars and looks at the map and then at the Skipper.

 KEN

 I don't know. The guy at the radar station was tracking currents yesterday and I saw where the currents were going... I don't know I guess we could check around this area... I think this is where he would have drifted after 20 hours...

 SKIPPER

 Yeah... that's where the currents flow yeah... but if you ask me... if he was swimming and trying to get to shore... he would have drifted much less and the currents would have swept him further out...

He points to a place on the map.

 SKIPPER

 That's where I'd search for him... not where the cops said.

Ken touches his face and thinks a little then turns back to the Skipper.

(CONTINUED)

KEN

I think you might be right...
that's what I'd do if I was him.
I'd swim like a maniac...

The boat sails off to the open ocean.

THE SHOT BECOMES WIDER AS IT RISES HIGHER AND THE BOAT
GETS FURTHER AWAY AND FADES TO BLACK

18 FLOATING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

George is clinging and resting on his surfboard. There is a big container ship sailing far away in the background and Georg lifts his head when he hears a horn sound.

He looks around and sees the container ship and barely waves his hand but unfortunately nobody on the ship can see him and it sails away.

George is tired and rests his back on the board searing into the air and clouds.

He is very tired and almost out of energy so he lays on the surfboard watching the birds cycle above.

FADE TO BLACK AS THE CAMERA MOVES HIGHER AND ROTATES TO
SHOW HOW ALONE HE IS

19 BACK ON THE DOCK

EXT. DOCK - DAY

Ken just steps onto the pier when his phone rings.

VICTOR

Hey... how's it going? Any news?

KEN

No... nothing. I just got off a boat and I was looking for him for 5 hours but didn't find him...

Ken walks towards his car while talking.

KEN

I don't know... maybe he drowned... I don't know anymore... and the Coast Guard and cops won't do anything... it pisses me off!

He get's into his car.

(CONTINUED)

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

He shuts the door of his car.

VICTOR

They're not looking for him anymore?

KEN

Anymore... nobody even went out on a figgin' boat all day. I went to see the Commander but he said that they told the police and that's it...

Ken starts his car and drives off.

VICTOR

What do you mean? They've just given up on looking for him?

KEN

They said that they're gonna look for his body...

VICTOR

And you didn't find any clue or anything?

KEN

Dude! I told you... these assholes aren't looking for him... how am I supposed to find him in the middle of the ocean?

Ken stops his car on the side of the road.

KEN

Some how I have the feeling that he might still be out there... and I wanna give him a chance to survive... it ticks me off that these guys arn't doing anything to find him...

His phone beeps as he receives a message as he quickly looks at his phone and then goes back.

KEN

Listen I just got a text from the Coast Guard. I've got to go there.

He puts down his phone.

SMASH CUT TO NEXT SCENE AS HE PUTS HIS PHONE DOWN

20 COAST GUARD OFFICE

INT. COAST GUARD CALL CENTER - DAY

The phone rings in the dispatcher office just as the Coast Guard officer picks up.

He immediately takes the phone onto his shoulder and calls the Commander.

COAST GUARD OPERATOR
Sir. They've called in a report
of a body at Clifton point!

The Commander get's up from his chair and orders them to send a boat.

COMMANDER
Send a boat ASAP!

CUT

21 FINDING A SURFBOARD

EXT. BEACH PARKING - DAY

Ken's car speeds down onto the parking just off the beach.

Ken gets out of his car and runs to the beach where police are already there and a Coast Guard boat is the water.

The police are taking out a piece a surfboard and the Coast Guard is fishing something that looks like a body out of the water but it turns out it's just trash.

A police officer is trying to stop Ken from reaching the coast and when they are dragging out the body like looking trash.

THE CAMERA IS MOVING FURTHER AWAY AND GOES INTO A CROSS
FADE

22 PHONE CALL ON THE BEACH

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Ken is dialing his phone and trying to phone Georges wife.

He dials and hangs up and then dials again and finally get the nerve to talk but is very uncomfortable.

KEN
Hi... I was just at the beach...
No... No... they found a
surfboard... it wasn't his

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KEN (cont'd)
board... no nothing new... yeah
OK I'll call you and I'll let you
know... I really don't know...
I'm on my way

He puts down the phone and stairs at the ocean.

FADE OUT TO BLACK JUST AS THE SHOT GOES FURTHER OFF

23 GOING TO THE US COASTGUARD

EXT. BORDER CROSSING - DAY

MONTAGE

- Ken driving on highway
- Ken waiting in traffic at the border
- Ken driving into city (Maybe LA)

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. US COASTGUARD BUILDING - DAY

Ken is walking towards the entrance of the building.

INT. RECEPTION OFFICE - DAY

Ken walks up to the counter.

KEN
Hi. I've come here to see about
my friend who went missing?

RECEPTIONIST
OK sir. Are you filing a missing
persons report?

KEN
No ma'am. I'm here to see about
the search for my friend... he
went missing two days ago...

RECEPTIONIST
OK sir I think it's best that you
talk to our Search Operations
Commander. It's the second floor
third door on the right... I'll
call ahead and let them know
you're coming...

KEN
Thank you!

(CONTINUED)

The receptionist stands up in her chair and points to the stairs as Ken goes on his way.

INT. STAIRS AND HALLWAY - DAY

Ken is going up a staircase and arrives on the second floor and begins to search for the office and enters an office.

INT. COMMANDER'S OFFICE - DAY

Ken enters the office just as the Commander stands up and greets him.

SEARCH COMMANDER
(Shows Ken the chair)
Hello... come in Sir... please
sit down.

Ken sits down.

KEN
I just wanted to drop by and see
if you guys had better luck with
finding George than your counter
parts down south.

SEARCH COMMANDER
(Leaning back in his seat)
I'm sorry sir but I'm not aware
of any searches for any missing
people named George...

KEN
(A little aggravated)
What do you mean you're not
looking for anybody? Has the
search ended... did they call it
off... have they found a body?

SEARCH COMMANDER
OK sir... when did you say your
friend went missing?

KEN
Well he went missing two days
ago... but the Mexican coastguard
has been looking for him... but
they didn't want to look for him
in the storm... are you saying
you're not looking for him?

SEARCH COMMANDER
I apologize Sir but we haven't
received any requests to search
for anybody in the last week.

(CONTINUED)

KEN

You mean you're not looking for him?!

SEARCH COMMANDER

Sir why didn't you tell them to call us or why didn't you tell them to get us to search for him?

The commander sits up and picks up his phone.

SEARCH COMMANDER

(Into phone)

Get me the watch commander and tell him to fuel the bird. We've got a missing person in the surf...

He looks at Ken and holds his phone lower.

SEARCH COMMANDER

(To Ken)

When exactly did hi go missing and when was that? I need you to be specific!

KEN

It was two days ago right before the storm started at around 5PM. He got swept off into the waves after the gale force wind started up. We called the police and the harbor master but they said they couldn't go out in such high winds...

SEARCH COMMANDER

OK... no problem... we'll get a boat out ASAP...

SEARCH COMMANDER

(Into phone)

OK we've got a civilian in the surf. 64 hours out, swapped out to sea from Clifton point at 1700 hours pacific time. Get the boat out and a bird in the air with thermals and chart me a search area ASAP. Priority one!

The commander puts down the phone.

SEARCH COMMANDER

(To Ken)

OK we'll have a boat out in half an hour searching the projected area search area. We've got a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SEARCH COMMANDER (cont'd)
limited window and maybe we might
get lucky... I don't know why
these guys don't call us in these
type of situations...

KEN
What do you mean? Why don't they
call you guys?

SEARCH COMMANDER
I don't know... they don't have
the right equipment to do
searches like this... we can send
out our boats even in a storm and
we've got 3D thermal vision so we
can see if it's a person or
what... but they don't call us...
this is the first I've heard of a
person being swept out to sea...
don't worry we're looking for him
now we'll find him one way or he
other...

KEN
You think there's a chance that
you can find him... that he's
still alive?

SEARCH COMMANDER
Sir... honestly I don't know but
I can tell you we'll do our
best... and if by any chance that
he's still out there... we'll
find him...

24 THE SEARCH BEGINS

EXT. BOAT - DAY

MONTAGE

- sailors casting off boat
- sailors running up and down the decks
- ship sailing into the waves
- sailors closing hatches
- sailors looking through binoculars
- sailors looking at maps
- sailors looking at radar screens
- sailors looking at flair camera

(CONTINUED)

- helicopter taking off
- helicopter flying
- sailors pointing at monitors
- commander giving orders to sailors

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. BOAT AT SEA - DAY

Ken is on the deck of the Coastguard ship.

He is walking on deck and decides to stop to look overboard.

He stares at the ocean for a while as a Coastguard commander walks over and leans on the rail.

COMMANDER

You know it's completely normal to feel like this...

KEN

Feel like what?

COMMANDER

TO feel helpless in a situation like this. Where there's not much you can do and it's out of your hands.

KEN

Well I keep thinking that I could have done more... maybe if I insisted that he wouldn't have gone in the water... or if I had called you guys sooner...

COMMANDER

There's no way you could have known. Why don't you come with me to operations and see where we're looking for him?

They both turn around towards the hatch of the ship.

INT. OPERATIONS CENTER - DAY

Crewman are sitting behind consoles and operating them.

The Commander walks to a console manned by a crewman and followed by Ken.

The Commander steps to the side of the console and starts explaining to Ken what is happening.

(CONTINUED)

COMMANDER

So here is the primary search area that we calculated from the information that you gave and the tide and wind. This Ensign will show us how he's searching for your friend. Ensign?

ENSIGN

Yes sir! We're using the Flir stereoscopic long range camera.

KEN

So you can see a person in the water?

ENSIGN

Yes sir! If the temperature difference is big enough but the stereoscopic camera helps us see if it's a person or not.

COMMANDER

You see we need to check out any heat signature but with the stereo vision we can see if it is a person or something else.

KEN

So you'll be able to see him?

COMMANDER

(Points to the screen)
Well we've searched this area here.

SLOW DIP TO BLACK

25 SEEING THE BOAT

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - DAY

George is barely clinging to the half of the surfboard with slightly torn surf suite and burned to the face as the sun is blazing above.

He seems dehydrated and is almost asleep.

At one moment a ship's horn can be heard in the distance.

After the horn sounds again George looks up a little not knowing if it's a mirage or is there a ship around.

He is disorientated and thinks that it's not real but starts focusing.

He realizes that there is a ship in the distance.

(CONTINUED)

He looks closer and realizes that it's a cargo ship with containers.

He starts focusing on the ship in the distance until he realizes that it is real.

He tries to push himself onto the surfboard to make himself seen.

After unsuccessfully trying to lift himself up he begins to wave his hands as high as he can reach and calls out to the ship.

GEORGE

I'm over here... help me... I'm
over here! Heeelp!

George uses his last energy to wave and scream at the ship but it doesn't seem like anybody noticed him as the ship just sailed forward.

After screaming for a while as the ship disappears over the horizon he gives up and lays on his back onto the surfboard and almost gives up completely.

He can be seen disappointed and almost giving up on life as he floats motionless in the ocean.

CAMERA MOVES UP FROM A CLOSE UP TO A DISTANT SHOT SHOWING
GEORGE FLOATING VERY SMALL IN THE VAST OCEAN

26 BACK ON THE DOCK AGAIN

EXT. COAST GUARD DOCK - EVENING

Ken is walking of the Coast Guard dock with the cruiser in the background and he decides to call back George's wife as the sun sets behind him.

KEN

Hi it's me. We just got back...
no there's no new news yet...
they're going out again in two
hours...

SLOW DIP TO BLACK AND PULL OUT AS HE WALKS

27 WASHING UP ON SHORE

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - EVENING

George is still alive and floating on the peace of the surf board in his as his torn up surf suite with his body full of sun burns as the sun is setting over the ocean.

He has really given up on being rescued.

(CONTINUED)

As the sun is setting George catches a glimpse of a reflection in the distance.

He tries to see what is reflecting and notices that there is something high up reflecting the sun.

As he tries to swim closer he realizes that it's a cliff in the distance.

He becomes excited as he realizes that the shoreline seems to be close.

He keeps swimming and finds amazing energy to be able to keep at it for what seems to be a really long time.

As he comes closer to the shoreline he realizes that at the bottom of the cliffs that may be dangerous as the waves crash onto the jagged rocks.

The waves start pushing him along as he tries to swim away from the jagged rocks but he is weak.

By some stroke of luck George is washed up onto the only sand shore far around that doesn't contain jagged rocks and survives.

As he is washed up on shore he just lays there motionless besides the broken surfboard.

After a while he gathers some energy to get up and pushes himself onto all fours.

He starts moving on all fours towards a narrow path between the cliffs leading up towards the top of the cliff.

George is tired but he keeps on pushing and tries to lift himself up onto his feet but he is too weak to stand up so he keeps grabbing the rail on the side to be able to move up.

He reaches a road as he pushes himself out of some bushes by the road.

Cars are passing with their headlight shining as it has become dark and they're honking their horns since George is stumbling across the road.

George is confused as he is very dehydrated and is not seeing very well. He can hardly breath.

28

IN A RESTAURANT

INT. BAR - NIGHT

People are sitting at the bar and drinking as the female bartender is doing something behind the bar.

People are sitting at the tables eating dinner.

They're all laughing at the bar and having fun as the door violently busts open and George shuffles towards the end of the bar.

People at the bar look at him like he is a junkie or a drunk.

As he stumbles they start laughing at him.

He reaches the bar as the female bartender goes towards him as he gasps.

GEORGE

Wwwwater.... water... I need
water please...

She's confused and grabs a glass of water and hands it to him as she's surprised.

FEMALE BARTENDER

Stop guys! I think that's him!

George keeps drinking the water as the people stop joking around and start staring.

FEMALE BARTENDER

Yeah I think that's him... the
guy from the news... the
surfer... the missing surfer...
this is him!

BAR DUDE

Yeah that's him... I saw his
photo on the news!

The female bartender grabs a phone and calls 911 as George slowly climbs onto a bar stool still drinking his water.

FEMALE BARTENDER

Yeah hi... the missing surfer...
he just walked into my bar...

Emergency services sirens can be heard in the distance.

CAMERA PULLS AWAY AS WE FADE TO BLACK

29 IN THE HOSPITAL

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

The emergency room sliding doors violently bust open as the EMTs enter with a stretcher and a patient on top trying to save him.

The view point changes to show George on a different hospital bed hooked up to the monitors and to the ivs.

A nurse is taking his temperature as he sits up.

Ken steps into the foreground on the phone and paces up and down.

KEN

... yeah it's me... they found him... no he's OK. We just got to the hospital. You should get down here. No, no he's fine...

In the background George is drinking water and rubbing some kind of cream onto his face.

CAMERA PULLING BACK AS PEOPLE START TO WALK IN FRONT OF IT
AND FADE TO BLACK

30 TV INTERVIEW

INT. TV STUDIO - NIGHT

Several days after washing up on shore George is fine and is in the TV studio for an interview.

The reporter and George are sitting in the studio talking as a behind the scenes guy starts to count down.

The reporter starts talking into the camera.

REPORTER

Good evening to all our viewers and tonight on Nightline I'm joined by Geoger Whatever who survived being lost in the ocean for 72 hours after being sweped way by waves whiles surfing. So George did you ever think that you'd be stranded in the ocean fighting for your life for so long that morning when you went surfing?

GEORGE

No. I never imagined something like this could happen to me. I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE (cont'd)
still haven't grasped the whole
situation of what even
happened...

REPORTER
Without a doubt it must have been
quite an ordeal to be pushed into
such a helpless situation. How
did you survive and didn't give
up?

GEORGE
Honestly I don't know... I
remember thinking at the
beginning that everything was OK
and that I if I could just swim a
little further I'd be able to
reach the beach but then the
beach kept getting further and
further away. Then every so often
I would see the coast again and
started swimming hard again. But
I was never able to get any close
because the wind just kept
pushing me further out. But I
knew that I had to cling to that
piece of surf board or I'd drown
and then when I saw the coast or
a ship I just kept swimming East
hoping I'd hit the beach
eventually.

RECEPTIONIST
The Coastguard is saying that
that surfboard probably saved
your life and that you would have
most likely drowned from
exhaustion without it.

GEORGE
Of definitely. I knew that from
the start that this surfboard was
my life line and that I should
never let go or unhook the leg
rope.

REPORTER
You being an active active person
and a school physical activities
teacher must have helped in the
sense that you were physically a
lot more prepared at your age
than most people would have been.
Wouldn't you agree?

GEORGE

I honestly don't know. I think that being physically active might have given me that extra push to be able to survive this ordeal. But I think that not giving up was the most important thing.

REPORTER

Many of our viewers have expressed outrage over the fact you and your friends had actually gone into the water even though the authorities had issued a storm warning deeming it unsafe to sail in such conditions. What would you say to those people?

GEORGE

Well there's something that people need to understand that the essence of wind surfing is wind and most of the time when it might be unsafe for ships and boats to sail it is actually the best time for wind surfing. It might seem dangerous but experienced surfers know how to handle higher wind situations and equipment is made to handle higher winds without problems.

REPORTER

But how would you comment on the situation that happened? Would you say that you misjudged the wind, did the weather surprise you and what actually went wrong?

GEORGE

Well it all started like a perfectly normal surfing day. The wind was high but manageable and everyone was actually doing really well. But then the wind suddenly picked up and people started getting out of the water. Some of the more experienced surfers stayed in the water because we were still able to handle it. Then the wind picked up again and waves started to pick up. More people went out of the water at that time and I guess in retrospect I should have gone out as well if I had know

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE (cont'd)

what was going to happen. But then in a sudden gust of wind my mast broke which was not supposed to be possible and I was unable to get back on my surfboard because without the sail the board could not support my body weight. Some of my friends saw that I was in trouble and offered to call the Coastguard to get me out of there but I guess I was too stubborn to let them do that and shouted that I was OK and that I'd swim back to the shore. I started swimming back but wasn't getting any closer to the shore. In fact I was drifting further away and in the last ditch attempt I unhooked the mast and sail to make it easier to swim back. But kept hanging on to the surfboard and I knew I needed that so that I wouldn't get tired. But I kept swimming and swimming and I was only getting further because the current was sweeping me further out.

REPORTER

So when did you realize that you were not going to be able to swim back to the shore?

GEORGE

Well when I saw that I was drifting further and further away I realized that I was just wasting my energy and that the wind had picked up so much that the waves were taking me out to the open sea. I was getting tired and decided to rest a little before the waves would carry me out enough for me to see into the next bay and that's when I'd try to swim again and reach the shore. Of course when I started swimming again I wasn't able to get any closer, the storm was growing stronger and I could hardly see the coast so I decided to conserve my energy again.

REPORTER

So what was going through your mind at the time when you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

REPORTER (cont'd)

realized that you were probably not going to be able to get back to shore on your own?

GEORGE

Well once I was unable to swim back it actually dawned on me that I was all alone and that since it was getting dark nobody would know or see me in the water. I started thinking what I could do and realized that if I wanted to get found I should conserve my energy and cling onto my surfboard because it's going to be the only thing that would be able to help me. I actually just floated with the waves until the storm was over and tried not to look too much because water was getting into my eyes. But then after what felt like a few hours later when the rain had stopped and the wind had gone down I started to look around and try and get a sense of where I was. I could see lights in the distance but I couldn't judge how far they were. I kept looking for lights from a helicopter or a rescue boat but after a long time I gave up on that. Then I started thinking to myself how was I going to get myself out of this. The good thing was that I was wearing my winter surfing suite and that it would keep me warm for a long time. I kept thinking if I just conserved my energy someone would come looking for me if not sooner in the morning so I had wait the night. So I just rested on top of the surfboard and tried to catch a few rain drops in my mouth because I knew I couldn't drink the sea water.

REPORTER

And what did you do the next day when you realized that there was no one coming to find you?

GEORGE

Well it was getting day and I started looking around but I couldn't see the shore in any

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE (cont'd)

direction. There were no ships anywhere so I figured that I had drifted a long way out. I decided that my best way was to conserve my energy and only move if I saw a ship or the coast line. Other than that I tried to not move much and just keep as steel as I could.

REPORTER

And you stayed out there the same way for the next two days? How did you keep your spirits up and what was going through your mind?

GEORGE

Well for a while I didn't even think too much about it because I had no concept of time passing it was only when it was getting late afternoon that I realized that it had probably been more than 24 hours. That's when I was getting really worried. I was actually completely lost and even started thinking that I might actually die out there. I couldn't understand why nobody came looking for me. Then after while I started thinking about my wife and son and what they must be going through so I decided that the best option to getting rescued was to hang on as long as I could.

REPORTER

People have complained about the lack of communication between emergency services and how the police department was unwilling to send a rescue boat or even communicate the emergency to the Coastguard who was actually the only one that could have rescued you?

GEORGE

I actually have nothing for respect and gratitude for all the people who were involved in my rescue. I heard today on the radio that there were people who went out after the storm on their boats to search for me even

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE (cont'd)

though the weather service was still cautioning against going out. But as far as communication goes I've been told that it took quite some time for the Coastguard to get involved. But regardless of everything I'm grateful to all the people who were involved in my rescue.

REPORTER

In fact didn't you rescue yourself in the end? You found your way to the only beach between cliffs and climbed up to a restaurant and called the ambulance from there?

GEORGE

Well it was getting late afternoon and the sun was going down and somehow I spotted a reflection in the distance and saw that it was a cliff and then I just started swimming and kept thinking that there were no waves and no wind so if I could just keep swimming I could reach the coast. So I kept swimming and swimming until I was there. I still didn't know how I would get out of the water because there was cliffs as far as I could see. I don't know how but the little current there was washed me up onto the only sand beach for miles.

REPORTER

But you weren't out of the woods yet right? Nobody knew you had washed up onto the shore?

GEORGE

No there was nobody there but I was so thirsty and I just kept going up until I got a glass of water. By that time I was so dehydrated that I didn't know what was going on around me I just needed a glass of water and they were really nice at the bar where I stumbled into.

(CONTINUED)

REPORTER

So has this experience changed you as a person and are you ever going to surf again?

GEORGE

Oh yeah... it has definitely had an impact on me. Physically I'm fine no lasting trauma at least that's what they said at the hospital when they let me go home after three hours. But mentally I keep thinking what happened and if it was even real. Why did I survive and what I did to deserve it. I haven't even realized how close I actually came to dying because they told me at the hospital that if I had stayed out there for another couple of hours I would have died of dehydration. So I definitely have a new perspective on life. I'm just not sure what it is yet and as far as surfing... I think I'm done with surfing for now. But who knows I might get back out there after a while.

REPORTER

So what is the next step for you now that you are back home and in recovery?

GEORGE

Well first I'd like to visit the Coastguard and the people at the bar and thank them in person for all their help in my rescue. Then I'm going to spend a lot of time with my family. But also I have to thank my good friend Ken who didn't give up on me and kept calling all the rescue people trying to get them to look for me. Without his efforts nobody would have gone out looking for me and if by chance I wouldn't have washed up on shore they would have never found me. So I'm very grateful to him for sticking in there. I also have to get my surfboard from the beach that I washed up on. I'm going to keep that board with me because it saved my life.

(CONTINUED)

REPORTER

Thank you for joining us tonight
and sharing your story with us
and I wish you a smooth recovery.

The reporter turns towards the camera as George nods as a
sign of gratitude.

REPORTER

That was quite a story of the man
who stayed alive for 72 hours on
the open ocean and through a
hurricane and lived to talk
about. Amazing more on this story
next time when our team dives
deeper into the misery why
communications were rescue
agencies were so crippled and why
it took two days for the search
to start for this man. I am
Reporter for Nightline and good
night.

THE END