

Maritime Oblivion

Character List

TRAWLER: An older fisherman who has always been a close family friend. He has experienced loved ones passing many times in his life.

ANGLER: An older fisherman that is in an unexplainable deep sleep. The father of CHILD.

CHILD: A young child of indiscernible gender about 10 years old. They have not experienced a loved one passing.

SKY: A puppet of a stellar being that has a form for each 5 types of twilight (Night, Civil, Nautical, Astronomical, Day).

ANGLERFISH (ANGLER): A puppet resembling a creature of the deep sea missing its esca. It is puppeteered by ANGLER.

LITTLE LIGHT (CHILD): A puppet that is a small ball of light. It is puppeteered by CHILD

Synopsis

A child waits by the sea for his father to wake up from a deep sleep. They are accompanied by a family friend who is currently tending to him, and are encouraged to tell stories to pass the time.

SCENE 1

*Waves and seabirds can be heard. **TRAWLER** and **CHILD** are in a boat in the middle of the ocean. **ANGLER** is laying down between them, sleeping. **TRAWLER** and **CHILD** are seated on either side of **ANGLER**. **TRAWLER** is peeling an orange with a knife.*

TRAWLER

Here you go, have this.

***TRAWLER** hands **CHILD** half of an orange.*

CHILD

What do we do now?

TRAWLER

We wait.

CHILD

What about Dad?

TRAWLER

Don't worry about your father, he is keeping us safe.

CHILD

No, he is stuck in here sleeping.

TRAWLER

Haven't you noticed the weather?

CHILD

What about it?

TRAWLER

Take a look out there.

CHILD

It's sunny.

TRAWLER

Exactly. When he sleeps, so does the sea.

CHILD

He looks tired.

Silence.

TRAWLER

What do you think he is dreaming about?

CHILD

I don't know.

END SCENE

SCENE 2

*The lights dim as **TRAWLER** narrates what **ANGLER** is dreaming. The story is acted out on stage.*

TRAWLER

I think he is dreaming of an Anglerfish. One who lost his light.

***ANGLER** now puppeteers **ANGLERFISH**.*

ANGLERFISH

Where is my little light? My love! My life!

TRAWLER

He searched the ocean's depths desperately, until he spotted an alluring glow from above.

ANGLERFISH

Could that be it, my little light?

TRAWLER

Despite the pain, he frantically swam to the surface.
Unknowingly, the Fish had followed the light of the Night Sky.
It was not his little light.

ANGLERFISH

Where is my little light? My love! My life!

TRAWLER

The Sky heard the Fish's cries.

SKY Enters.

TRAWLER

As his horizon met the ocean, he walked over the water to the Anglerfish and offered his hand.

SKY

Have you lost something?

TRAWLER

The Sky asked.

ANGLERFISH

No, my little light was just here, have you seen them?

SKY

I have yet to see any light other than from my moon and stars.

TRAWLER

The Anglerfish refused to believe the Sky's words. He thrashes wildly and rejects the hand that the Sky had offered him.

ANGLERFISH

That's impossible, I know my little light would not stray far from me.

SKY

Keep calm my friend, I'm sure that everything will right itself.

SKY turns from Night to Civil Twilight, the stage slightly gets brighter.

TRAWLER

The Anglerfish became overwhelmed with rage and began shouting at the Sky.

ANGLERFISH

How could you possibly know that? You know nothing!

SKY

I know enough to say that yelling won't help you.

ANGLERFISH

You led me astray, it's all your fault! Now I'm even farther from my light!

SKY

You can't fault me for this, I had no intention to delude you.

*SKY turns from Civil Twilight to Nautical
Twilight, the stage slightly gets brighter.*

TRAWLER

The Anglerfish sorrowfully begins to plead and beg to the Sky.

ANGLERFISH

You're right, it's my fault. If only I had held them closer.

SKY

Take deep breaths friend.

ANGLERFISH

I'll do anything to have my little light with me again. Can't you return them to me?

SKY

I have no power to do such a thing.

TRAWLER

The Anglerfish fell into a deep despair. He began weeping uncontrollably.

SKY

It's alright, you can cry with me.

*SKY turns from Nautical Twilight to
Astronomical Twilight, the stage slightly
gets brighter.*

ANGLERFISH

Where is my little light? My love! My life!

TRAWLER

The Anglerfish continues to weep. He can't get anything out of his mouth other than a sob.

SKY

Let it all out friend.

*SKY turns from Astronomical Twilight to Day,
the stage is lit.*

TRAWLER

To try and cheer up the Fish, The Night Sky enveloped him into a dance. The Anglerfish accepted his hand as they danced across the waves along the horizon.

SKY

You must accept that people leave, and things won't always be the same.

ANGLERFISH

But what would my little light think?

SKY

One day, enough time from now, you will hear from them. Whether it's through a surge of the tide or through the slivers of sunlight, your little light will let you know.

ANGLERFISH

Will I really hear from them?

SKY

They will not speak. Instead, you will understand the peace they give you.

Trawler

With the help of his new friend, the Anglerfish grieved through countless of the Sky's cycles. He was patient, waiting for enough time to pass. Because he had hope that just like the Sky said, he would hear from his little light.

END SCENE

SCENE 3

*Lights come up. A window is open and sounds of waves and seabirds leak into a hospital room. **TRAWLER** and **CHILD** are seated in direct parallel to their positions on the boat. **ANGLER** is laying down between them in the bed, sleeping. **TRAWLER** is peeling another orange with a knife.*

CHILD

Is the Anglerfish going to be ok?

TRAWLER

After enough time has passed, yes.

CHILD

Is Dad going to be ok?

TRAWLER

He will pull through.

CHILD

Will he wake up soon?

TRAWLER

I think he will.

CHILD

I want to see him now.

TRAWLER

More than anything he wants to see you too.

CHILD

I am tired of waiting.

TRAWLER

We have to be patient for him.

CHILD

I am being patient!

Silence.

TRAWLER

It's a great day for fishing.

***TRAWLER** looks out the open window*

CHILD

I don't want to hear about fishing.

TRAWLER

But your father loves hearing about fishing.

CHILD

He hears us?

TRAWLER

He does. Why don't you finish telling the story?

CHILD

I don't know what's next.

TRAWLER

What do you think the little light would tell him after enough time has passed?

END SCENE

SCENE 4

*The lights dim as **CHILD** narrates what **LITTLE LIGHT** is saying. The story is acted out on stage. **ANGLER** plays **ANGLERFISH**.*

CHILD

I think that the Little light would tell him that...

***CHILD** now puppeteers **LITTLE LIGHT**.*

LITTLE LIGHT

Even though I am far away, across the ocean and the sky, I feel the warmth of the love that you give me. And I still feel it just as much as when you were here. I love you very much, Anglerfish.

ANGLERFISH

Thank you, little light.

CURTAIN