

The Harper Kind

Conservatory Level: Tubers and Grains > Orchard > Live Animals

Atrium Level: Forward Viewing > Food Court, Shops and Medical > Passenger Quarters > Passenger Storage

Crew Level: Forward Storage > Piloting Chambers > Mess/Rec > Crew Bunks > Engine > Rear Storage

Toni, a passenger on the Harper Kind wakes up to silence aboard the vessel with very little of her memory. She wanders around, eventually discovering the info that the Kind is an Ark of sorts to escape some vaguely mentioned catastrophe above. This is also when she sees they're at the bottom of the ocean. The Ark is not intended to return to the surface for some time, potentially ever. The computer has it's stasis pods set to wake everyone up in 478 years later (522 years having already passed) to account for the world fixing itself.

She spends a day panicking and exploring and initially can't get into the crew section, but then she finds a crew key card that got misplaced. She uses it to get down to the piloting area but the card won't allow her to access anything beyond basics. The computer tells her she can't make contact with the surface because there's nothing left to contact.

She then finds a crew member, Tony, who awoke at the same time she did, but had his pod malfunction and was unable to get out. He's really struggling because he has Hypoxemia, but once he gets to his oxygen tank he's much better.

He is over the moon grateful for her getting him out and the two of them discuss the situation they're in, Toni explaining what she already found out and Tony acknowledging that they probably don't wanna wake anyone else up considering that would be full blown murder and neither of them are interested in that.

They decide together that, since they're not lacking on time, they should use some of that time to get their heads on straight, maybe regain some of their memories and try to solve this problem.

Over the next little bit Toni does start to regain some memories. Memories of before getting on the Kind but then regresses nearly beyond where she initially was when she woke up and Tony has to coax her gently back to a state of calm.

A few days into this thing, after the memory regression debacle, more things start to go wrong and when they're finally able to access a computer for a deeper inspection they discover the equivalent of a flipped breaker, which is on the outside of the ship and will require a couple parts to fix. While searching for the parts Toni notices a bit of a slap chop operation on what appear to be some smaller valves but doesn't think too much about it in the moment.

Tony, who worked for a few years as an underwater welder (which got him the job), suits up and goes outside to fix the "breaker". As he does, Toni keeps in contact with him over the radio as she goes back to inspect the slap chop job she noticed before. She discovers that someone has attached piping and a valve to one of the gas recycling system which is slowly leaking less than lethal amounts of Nitrogen Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide into the atmosphere of the Kind, likely leading to the memory loss. She turns the valve off.

She tries to tell Tony about what she found but he's so excited when he gets back in that she doesn't want to bother him with this new mystery and the two celebrate. Over drinks and dinner they have another conversation about the future and Tony, in a spur of the moment, asks if Toni wants to turn this celebration into a date. Toni agrees and the two end up sleeping together.

In the middle of the night, Toni wakes up with a massive headache. She quietly slips out of bed to Medical for some ibuprofen and then for the hell of it, considering what she found earlier, she takes one of the Auto-exams which will send results to her "smart-pad" later. She gets back to her room and lies down, about to drift off to sleep when the pad beeps and shows her, not only does she have elevated levels of carbon-monoxide and nitrogen-dioxide in her blood but that based off of the results she's had these elevated levels for a while. Then after some digging she discovers a folder of medical data that was "archived" but not deleted.

She heads back to Medical in order to retrieve this data and the computer shows her identical searches and testing 12 different times over the last 522 years. In shock she stumbles down to the computer they were recently able to get access to and manages to find security footage showing Tony repeatedly waking her up, trying to "woo" her with high intensity situations and it failing. Various stages of poisoning, some nearly killing her. Over and over and over and over, more even than the medical records showed.

This is when Tony appears behind her sees her watching the footage and tells her that it's too bad she found that, they got so far this time, but don't worry, next time will be better.

She manages to escape the room but Tony catches her. She fights him, finally able to get a flame near his oxygen hose which burns his face and distracts him long enough for her to shove him in an airlock. Given their previous discussions, Tony believes she won't actually kill him, and for a time it seems like that's the case, but eventually Toni does push the button allowing him to drown and then his body be pulled out into the ocean.

Safe at last, the crushing realization that she now still is stuck on the Kind for the rest of her life sinks in.

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