

## CAPTAIN YURI POPOV

You are getting far too old for this stress. This is your final journey on the K300. Then you can go home to sunny Kiev, and settle down and garden. Maybe grow potatoes, and make vodka at home, maybe even sell a little if you can make a lot. This is your dream. You really don't ask for much.

You like to think of your crew as your family. Most of them, anyway. Yablokov, your first mate, is adopted if that were the case. Or, what is saying - red headed stepchild? Still, as annoying as he is, you know he is also not a bad person. He just thinks that the Party is always right, and that if rules are followed, all will be well. You have been in this navy long enough to know how things really work. The men are everything. This junkheap you are in charge of would be nothing without them.

You are worried about a few of your men. Take supply officer **Kholodilnik** and Sasha used to be such good friends, like brothers. Now they barely talk, ever since they got back from shore leave. Here on the sub, where everyone's life depends on the other, it's important there are no squabbles in the family. You have left them alone to work things out, but if they don't soon you may have to have a chat with them

And you reminded your first mate, Yablokov, his morning that one of your men, Specialist Karpov, has a birthday today (you read it in his personnel file). You even helped the cook get a few extra supplies to make some cookies for Karpov. You were thinking that later in the evening you could get all the men together for a party. Of course he said that he thought being here and serving the motherland should be gift enough, but he said it might be good for morale to have a party, or at least be a little more liberal with the vodka today.

That's actually the one place where you do draw the line however. You won't deny your men vodka, but they certainly are not going to get any of your supply.

You are going to need it all to self-medicate, you think. You gave this assignment to Yablokov in the hopes that it would keep him busy, but you also know that anything that involves people enjoying themselves would just stick in the man's craw. Not that much would fit with the stick that's already up there. God, how you hate that man. You have dreams that he will fall asleep in a torpedo bay and be pushed out to sea.

As for the political officer, you have no idea what to do. She confided in you something about a spy, and you swore to her that everyone on your crew is loyal to Mother Russia. The thought that someone might actually be betraying you makes your blood boil; you hope she is wrong. You wanted to call all the crew and just ask them, but she made you swear to secrecy. Maybe you can talk one of your younger men into seducing her or something, make her forget this spy nonsense. You'd try yourself but you are far too old. You saw the cook Markov looking at her, and she seemed to respond - maybe you can ask him to keep her distracted?

Besides, you have enough other things to worry about. Like the fact that this ship is falling apart. Bronislav, your engineer, is a miracle worker, and has kept the Kashalot running a long time now, but you are afraid your luck may be running out. You just hope it holds one more journey though. Just one more, and you can start your new life as a potato farmer.

## COOK EVGENY MARKOV

You consider yourself a gourmet chef, but these ingrates you have to feed don't even know the difference between kulebiaka and a fritter! You trained in restaurants in Leningrad, and you were working your way up to being one of the most in demand chefs, cooking Russian and French cuisine for Soviet Party higher ups. But then you made the mistake of sleeping with the general's daughter, Lara.

He apparently had other relationship plans for his little girl (she said she was 18!), so you were drafted, and eventually ended up working in this sunken rust heap. Really, when you think about it, you got off easy. At least you're not in Siberia.

Getting supplies to cook with is a constant challenge. Still, you do what you can, and over the years have gotten pretty good at making pretty good dishes out of near rotten turnips and potatoes. You recently scraped together a small amount of ingredients to make your friend Georgi, the reactor specialist, some cookies\*, for today is his birthday. You bet he thought that no one remembers, but you remember him drunkenly going on about it last week, blubbering about how he misses his mother's cooking, and so on. While Georgi can be a bit maudlin, he's a good guy, and he has always complimented your cooking, which is more than anyone else here has done. You want to surprise Georgi with the treat today.

Your life just got complicated when the political officer boarded a few days ago. It's really hard to avoid people on a submarine, especially a woman. No one was happy about her coming aboard, least of all you, as she is no less than the general's daughter that landed you in the Navy all those years ago. She's grown up now, and even more gorgeous, and especially more off limits. Still, you can't help wondering if she still has feelings for you. Seeing her awoke feelings you thought you had long forgotten. You are wondering if she even remembers you, as she gave no indication of that when she came on board. It's true, you may have put on a few pounds since your youth, and for all you know she's married now to some high party official. Still, you wonder...

\*These are the cookies that heal 1 hp per cookie, per your special ability. Up to you how you use them. Captain got you the ingredients - he's a good guy

## DIVE SPECIALIST ALEXANDER SASHA ANDROPOV

Really Alexandra “Sasha” Andropova (Sasha is a unisex nickname in Russian)

You don't know how much longer you can keep up your charade, but you're very close to discovering the truth, you can just feel it! It's very hard hiding one's gender on a submarine. This whole plan is crazy, but you know with the bureaucracy the way it is, you would never know the truth any other way.

What you do know is that your twin brother was killed last week, when he was on shore leave, visiting you. He was the one that was stationed on this tub. You were going to meet him at a bar, but were held up, and when you got there, he was just lying there in the street, his head bleeding. You ran to him, and he was still alive, but fading fast. His last words to you were “he took my lucky charm. It was k...k...” and he coughed, pointed to where the sub was docked, and died. Who did he mean? Kapitan? Kolya? Karl?, Kostya? Karpov? You had met many of the men on his crew before, but “K...K...” could mean many things. Still, it was a place to start.

While you and your brother are of course fraternal twins, your looks are practically identical, and you're about the same size. You hid his body, took his uniform, did some other makeup magic, stuffed a sock in your pants, and went on board the K300 as your brother. If any of the crew were startled to see Sasha alive, they hid it well.

You know the murderer must be amongst the crew, and likely has a name or title that starts with “K”. So you've been concentrating your search on these 5: Captain Yuri Popov, Torpedo Specialist Kostya Borzakovsky, Medical Officer Karl Segeiyevitch Galenin, Supply Officer Kolya Kholodilnik and Reactor Specialist Georgi Karpov. It's been very hard on a cramped sub to search private bunks, but you have managed to get through all the footlockers for those on your list without being spotted. At least you hope you weren't. It's been especially tricky with that political officer on board. You're pretty sure you have eluded her. You did hear a noise when you were searching the last one (Kolya's) but when you looked you didn't see anyone. And no one has called you out. Yet.

Anyway, you didn't find your brother's lucky charm. So that means either the culprit keeps it on him, or it's the captain, as you have not yet been able to search his cabin. The captain remains the toughest challenge. You're just waiting for the right moment, when he's distracted, to somehow get into his cabin. (GM note: there are no actual private bunk locations in game. It's more like footlockers by bunkbeds for most anyway. And these are inaccessible during game runtime. Besides, you've already been through them. The captain's cabin however is an IG location.) You have at least ruled out completely Kostya, the torpedo specialist, as you accidentally saw him undressing for a shower. No lucky charm, but he is cute!

## TORPEDO SPECIALIST KOSTYA BORZAKOVSKY

You thought things could not get worse on this tub when your sister boarded. You know Lara is very smart, and you always knew she would do better than you. But you really don't think she understands what she's gotten herself into here. Political officers on Navy ships are never welcome, though everyone must tolerate them. Some fear them. You suppose you have something to be thankful for there. Not that you don't have a healthy fear of your sister, but you don't think she will go after you politically. She knows you, and knows you have no ambition. You don't think that anyone knows about your relationship to her, and are happy keeping it that way, as you want no special treatment. While Borzakovsky is not the most common name, there could be others. Still, you need to make sure that nothing happens to her while she is here. You swear you will punch out the lights on anyone that makes a move.

You know she was foolish when she was younger, and had an affair with some underling that worked at the Party club in Moscow. You were away at school at the time, and by the time you found out your father said that he had "taken care of it". You didn't want to ask what that meant. You felt kind of sorry for the guy though, knowing your father. Lara is grown up now though, and past such foolishness. She is the one that has to do your family proud, to make up for your slack after all.

You wonder why she is here? Last you heard she was even on a political tract to join the KGB, though she doesn't talk about her work much of course. Your family just can never leave you alone. Your father, a highly placed general, considers you an embarrassment. You think you have done quite fine for yourself here, and are content with your lot in life. That's the problem of course, at least to your father. Personally, you think the world needs more people like you, so that the ones in charge have someone to boss around.

Things are also a little weird with others on your crew. For instance Dive Specialist Alexander "Sasha" Andropov has been acting weird ever since he got back from shore leave. You would expect normally he would be one of the first people hitting on your sister, but thankfully instead he's been very quiet and keeping to himself. That's fine with you. There was some strangeness the other day though when Sasha seemed embarrassed about seeing you getting undressed. We're all guys here. Well, except for your stupid sister.

You have also noticed both Karl, the medical officer, and Kolya, the supply officer, seem to be very nervous lately. Maybe they are both just superstitious, like Victor, the Engineer. As long as Victor isn't panicking though you are not worried, as he is really the heart of this ship, keeping everything running. All you want is to be left alone, so you'll just keep your head down and do your job. As long as no one messes with your sister, anyway.

## REACTOR SPECIALIST GEORGI KARPOV

*Role playing note - think Eeyore.*

You are 40 years old today. You woke up this morning, went to breakfast...and, well, nothing. You thought your good friend Evgeny, the cook, of all people, would have remembered. But really, what did you expect? A cake, when there are barely enough supplies to keep everyone from starving? Still, a "Happy Birthday" would have been nice. You guess he was just too busy though. Oh well. It seems to be your lot in life. Your own mother used to forget your birthday all the time. As for your father, he was also in the navy, and never around much. It's ok, really. You know other people have much more important things to worry about than your small needs.

Take the captain for instance. You very much respect him. You have seen him bend the rules time and again to help crew members. Not you, of course, You're just not that important. Your friend Evgeny is very important though, as everyone needs to eat. And you think his cooking is delicious. The man is an artist, too good to be here. You just keep the reactor running. A monkey could do it, really. Just monitor the system, kick it when it's being a pain. That's you, a 40 year old monkey, just doing monkey work on another ordinary day, nothing special about today, not at all.

That political officer has been asking a lot of questions, asking what people do, how they do it, and so on. She hasn't talked to you yet. Probably saving the worst for last. Just your luck, if you get arrested on your birthday, You don't know what for, but you're sure there is some problem with the reactor she will find. Well at least of if you will be sent to Siberia, it will be by a pretty woman. You've seen Evgeny looking at her. You think he likes her. She's probably out of his league, but he deserves to be happy.

You, you deserve nothing. That's what your mother always told you, and you know it's true. Come to think of it, you think you might be coming down with a cold as well.

## FIRST MATE ANDREI YABLOKOV

You think you were the only officer that was completely ecstatic to have a Political Officer come on board. That's fine. No one listens to you, but they will have to listen to her. No one wants to come to the attention of the Party. Unless it's good attention. You are sure that you would do well in Moscow, if just given a chance. If you were running this submarine, there would be no lax rules. There would be no unbuttoned uniforms, and all the metal here would gleam.

Specialist Andropov has certainly cleaned up his act recently. He used to be a total slob, but in the past week his uniform has always been pressed, and he is always freshly clean shaven now. You are not sure what precipitated this welcome change. Perhaps it's the presence of a lovely lady on board. Whatever it is, you must commend the man.

As for Reactor Specialist Karpov, you can't believe the captain wants to give that man a party just because it's his birthday. The captain is a good man, but far too soft. You say that being on this ship, and serving the motherland, is its own reward. There will certainly be no party while there is a political officer on board. What would she think of such unprofessionalism?

In fact you need to make sure that everyone is on their best behavior, and that this inspection goes off without a hitch. No buttons unbuttoned, not a thing out of place. You need to start with the captain. He is a good man, but old and foolish, and a complete drunkard. You will remove his vodka supply from him so that he will sober up. Things will be much better with him sober for once.

You must also immediately reprimand Engineer Bronislav. You just noticed that he did not make his bunk this morning. Unacceptable. Absolutely unacceptable.

You don't know how you manage to keep it together, the burden you are under. All the men seem to love the Captain, but he is a slovenly drunk. You can't stand the man. You are watching him the closest of all. One small infraction or slip up, and you will find a way to relieve him of his command, and then you will be free to run this ship right.

Everyone else, you will watch closely. No inappropriate behavior or drunkenness will happen on your watch! For the Motherland!

*[GM note: This goal is doomed, of course. But you knew that, didn't you?]*

## SUPPLY OFFICER KOLYA KHOLODILNIK

When Alexander ( “Sasha” ) Andropov came back on board after shore leave last week, you almost ran screaming, sure it was a ghost. He was dead, and then there he was, as if nothing had happened! You greeted him guardedly, but over the next few days of asking pointed questions, you became convinced that either Sasha is the world’s coolest cucumber as they say in America, or when he hit his head and you thought him dead, he instead suffered some sort of memory loss. Or....or....there is one more possibility that has been growing in your gut like a disease. Maybe he really is a ghost! He certainly seems different now. Sasha had always been one of your best friends on the K300. He was a good wingman, and sometimes you were his. Any time you and he were on shore leave you both would hit the bars hard, and the women harder. Sometimes even the two of you together would find a girl willing to take on both, which was exciting. You and Sasha liked to share.

Except at your last port of call, Sasha was not sharing. In fact he was being downright secretive, saying he had “private business”. You were put out, and followed him. As you suspected, you saw him with a good looking woman, laughing together. You left them alone, but asked Sasha about it when he got back to the bar. He got very defensive, so you started to tease him. But he had a bug up his butt about this woman, and would not tell you anything, and shoved you. So of course you shoved him back, and before you knew it, the two of you were rolling around in the street, exchanging punches. Then he hit his head on the curb. It was horrible. You didn’t mean for that to happen. You don’t know what came over you. You were terrified. He just stopped moving. Sasha, your best friend....gone. You stumbled over something he had dropped, the lucky charm he always carries. For some reason you picked it up and then you ran back to the submarine, and hid in your bunk and cried until leave was over, sure someone would come to arrest you soon.

But no one did, and then Sasha came back, as if nothing had happened. But now...now he quiet. He is morose, and keeps to himself. Maybe you are dead too? And this is hell? You don’t know. You think maybe you are going mad. You need to find some more vodka, for that might chase away these thoughts, at least for a while. Sometimes you think the ghost of Sasha is just looking at you, staring right through you. He *\*knows\**. Why does he torture you so? . You keep the charm in your pocket, playing with it often. Perhaps it drew the ghost to you. Maybe you should destroy it! But things like fires are forbidden and dangerous. But this is bad luck. You just don’t know! You don’t know how much longer you can stand this!

## POLITICAL OFFICER LARA BORZAKOVSKAYA

You know full well that no one wants you here. No one ever does. The problem is compounded by you being a woman. You have learned to use this to your advantage however. You saw how the captain was looking at you. He underestimates you. You can use that. You read Captain Popov's file very carefully. You know he is respected by his men, so getting on his good side is crucial to talking to them. You also are fairly certain the Captain is not the one you are looking for. He is too lazy to be a spy. The captain is of course the only person that you have told your true mission to. Everyone else believes that you are here on a standard inspection.

You are very young, but have risen far in the party. You originally wanted to be a doctor, and started to train for that, but you found the profession too sedentary. You recently even have had the KGB put out feelers, and you think they might draft you soon into their training program. This is very exciting. Catching a spy here would be a very nice feather in your cap, and hopefully cement that position.

You are not unreasonable though. You father always taught you to be fair, and you intend to be. You have been through everyone's files, and have figured out the following about everyone here. Some of these people you just need to question further.

You are counting on the first mate, Andrei Yablokov, to help you, though you need to rule him out first, and then decide if you wish to also confide in him. He has been driving you insane, but only because he preens like a crow. Some men are just like that though. His record is impeccable. Almost too impeccable. In fact you have never seen anyone this squeaky clean. You find this suspicious. As annoying as he is, maybe this is an act to hide something. You will observe him and see if there is a dark crack anywhere in his clean record.

You just hope your brother, Kostya Borzakovsky, doesn't interfere with you. He can be very protective of you. Oh, you already ruled him out. He's your brother. You love him, and you know him well - he has no ambition at all. No spy there. You don't know if he has told anyone about your relationship. Borzakovski isn't the most common name around, but it's not unique. You think you will ask him to keep the relationship quiet for now. You think this might make both your and his job easier. Kostya has always been an embarrassment to your father, a highly placed General. Father helped get him a position on this submarine, as it gets him out of the way. Father is so strict though. You think Kostya has done just fine for himself.

As for the others -

Chief Engineer Victor Bronislav - seems ok, not high on your list. Competent engineer, record just bad enough to be normal.

Reactor Specialist Georgi Karpov - his file says today is his birthday. You hope you don't have to ruin it.

Supply Officer Kolya Kholodilnik - odd man, seems to have a haunted expression on his face. Maybe you just scare him, and that's normal. Still, probably worth questioning.



Dive Specialist Alexander Andropov- Now this is interesting. Nothing exciting in the file, but this person moves like a woman. You think the rest of the crew doesn't notice; men rarely notice things. But he..or she...is definitely worth questioning.

Medical Officer Karl Segeiyevitch Galenin - seems ok on the surface. Complains a lot, but who doesn't. Needs some more observation before ruling out completely.

And Cook Evgeny Markov - Evgeny? Is it really him? Your first love. You have not seen him for years. You think he recognized you, but you are not sure. He is older, but still handsome. Seeing him brought back so many memories. You were young, only 17. Evgeny is a bit older, and you may have led him to believe you were as well. He was a chef in the kitchen of private Party club at the time. You loved his food. Your father, needless to say, did not approve of the relationship when he found out. You have often thought your father might have had something to do with Evgeny disappearing. The note Evgeny left, that he didn't love you, devastated you at the time, but later in life you looked at it again, and it occurred to you that the handwriting did not look right. You wonder, maybe he didn't write it? You find yourself nervous around him, like a young girl again. Relationships in your line of work can be dangerous, but...he is still very handsome...

## MEDICAL OFFICER KARL SEGEIYEVITCH GALENIN

You have heard that American ships have entire hospitals, and the latest equipment. Doctors are actually appreciated there. In America, all navy officers get their own cabin, and a mint on their pillow every night, and xray machines that actually don't harm more than they hurt. In America, every person has their own automobile, and a pair of cowboy boots. You very much would like to wear cowboy boots. In America, doctors are considered a higher class, and make lots of rubles - no, they use dollars there, better than rubles!

When you were back on shore leave you secretly sent the American consulate some documents you were able to get from the submarine. You heard back some encouragement, and you think that if you can keep giving them information, they will let you defect. You very much would like to defect.

It's not that you hate everything Russian. You are just so tired of watching people die because you were not able to get the right equipment or medicine on this rust heap. Sure, Russians are a tough lot. And the captain has been good to you, and when you have really needed some supplies or equipment, he has always put in a good word. But it's just not enough. You want to be a big time doctor in New York, or maybe Miami. You hear they have many pretty girls there.

The political officer coming on board has made you very nervous. You are sure she is looking for you. You are hoping that she becomes sick so that you can "help" her. Help her right off this submarine, while it's still submerged, if you can. Failing that, how can you be blamed if you got a bad batch of drugs (something that would never happen in America!) and she were to become very ill. Hard to arrange though.

Your best hope is misdirection. You know about Sasha's secret, and plan to use it against her. That's right, Andropov is really a woman! You don't know how she pulled it off. And you don't think she was always a woman. Maybe a sister or something? You are a doctor, you can tell if someone is male or female, no matter how much they try to hide it. That, and her dumping her menstrual pads in your medical waste can was a mistake. She probably thought that waste was somehow destroyed, but nothing goes to waste on a dump like this. Of course you are sure they actually do throw out the medical waste in America. But here, you have to wash everything and try to re-use it. She has clearly been trying to hide it. Surely you are not the only one that has noticed. So you think you will point the political officer to Andropov if you are questioned.

Meanwhile, you just need to keep your nose clean. You hear they like clean noses in America.

## CHIEF ENGINEER VICTOR BRONISLAV

A woman on your baby will lead to certain doom! You got a bad feeling, and knew she would be coming, last week when at dinner you accidentally dropped your fork. After all it's known that if a fork or spoon falls on the ground, expect a female guest. You mentioned this, but no one believed you then. It's a hard burden being right all the time.

The submarine is called the Kashalot, but you call him Kasha for short. He is like your own little boy, and you keep him running and happy. You will do anything to help this ship, and your captain.

The captain has always been good to you. You know this is his last assignment before retirement, and you will sorely miss him. He asks no more from his crew than he is willing to do himself, and he has put his own career on the line several times to get you and others the supplies you need to keep things running, which is not an easy task.

Still, you are very uneasy about this trip. A woman being on board is the least of it. You left on a Friday, always bad luck. When you set sail you made sure to spit over your shoulder three times to try to alleviate that. Also this 'inspection' that Officer Borzakovskaya is here for - unbelievable! Kasha is perfect! And just in case this inspection is anything like a test, as she said she would be interviewing crew member today, you did not make up your bunk. After all everyone knows that on examination day, it is bad luck to make your bed, wear anything new, or cut your fingernails. (the latter two are not that hard, as you have nothing new, and your fingernails are always worn to the nub from fixing Kasha.)

You also need to make sure that you keep the right tone. After all talking about future success, especially boasting about it, is considered bad luck. It is considered better to be silent until the success has been achieved or to even sound pessimistic.

First Mate Yablokov makes your life very difficult. He is bad luck, you are sure of it. He does not understand the things that must be done, the fixes with your skills, as well as the little rituals, to keep luck on your side. That man and his rules will some day be the death of you, you swear.

And to top off everything, the waters your baby is entering into are ones that you have heard many stories about. You are certain that with all the bad luck omens that there will be mermaids or sirens or something that will cause you problems. Everyone talks about the Americans being the threat, but you know they are the least of your worries right now.