

The following was spoken as an overlapping montage by the "figureheads" in "The Death of Charlie Noble," in the balcony, on stage and via live, closed-circuit TV cameras and monitors. The text is derived primarily from first person accounts of shipwreck survivors plus an excerpt from a lifeboat training manual.

Speak Together

Penelope

What a spectacle my dear sister, was here! One must have been a witness of it to form an idea of our distress; and that which I am using so much pains to trace out to you, falls incredibly short of the reality.

Laurie

Alas! Sister it would be vain for me to attempt to paint to your imagination a true description of my deplorable situation!

P. Our first emotion was upon our bended knees to offer up our Thanksgivings to Heaven, for having still preserved us alive even in such a deplorable situation, to raise up our suppliant hands in petition to Providence, to complete its miracle, by affording us some unforeseen means of reaching some hospitable dwelling.

A. The joy to find ourselves at length, secure from those dangers which had so long kept us in the most cruel alarms, caused us to forget, for a moment that we had only escaped one kind of death, probably to endure another more terrible and painful.

P. Thus, my dear sister, were we once more plunged into a state of unutterable despair! Fate seemed to have emptied its quiver of the sharpest ~~wounds~~ arrows against us, and never could death appear with more horrid aspect to wretches before.

A. I shall now relate the circumstances of my misfortunes just as they happened without exxageration. We had pleasant weather for six or seven days after our departure, but on the 12th it became squally, while the clouds wore a threathending aspect. (Begin to whisper) At twelve at night it was discovered that the ship had sprung a leak which threw the crew into the utmost.....

Repeat words + phrases
throughout, at will:

i.e., if you, if you, are, are, are etc.

Barbara

"put your backs to it" if you are to gain momentum
enough to ride and split the crests of ~~an~~ oncoming waves
and pass beyond them. ~~Repeat~~ ~~Repeat~~

Pause

Once beyond the breakers, ~~the~~ rowing and steering is much
less difficult as there is little danger of falling or cap-
sizing. ~~If~~ the boat is partially filled with water and it

Responds sluggishly to the oars, a little time much be taken
to bail. You then proceed to the victim. When the victim is
picked up the boat is turned and headed back to the beach.

Pause

As your lifeboat nears the surf again a new problem develops;
namely, how to run inwards through the breakers. (Start mouthing)
Two courses of procedure are possible. If the waves are not
very high, you may run in bow on,