

# **BRAVELY AND FAITHFULLY by Edward Hochsmann**

## **EXCERPT**

Kauai has arrived and is retrieving the twenty-two human trafficking victims from the sinking freighter Miho Dujam:

On her second return to the foredeck, Haley noticed Ben was no longer herding the remaining women in line. In fact, he was nowhere to be seen, and she wondered if he had returned on board while she was shuttling survivors to the messdeck. After her third run, she remained on the foredeck and watched as the last survivor came aboard. Drake and Bondurant then cast off Kauai's mooring lines before jumping across. As the two vessels drifted apart, Haley went directly to Drake and asked, "Chief, where's the XO?"

"He's inside looking for evidence, ma'am," Drake replied.

"He's what?"

"He told us to cast off and return on board after the last survivor crossed over. He's taking the RHIB back." He and Bondurant shared a worried look.

"How much longer will that ship last?"

"Ma'am, I'm surprised she's still upright."

Haley hated stepping in, but things seemed to be getting out of hand. "Chief, call the RHIB!"

"Kauai-One, COB, is the XO with you?"

"Negative," Lee's voice replied.

Drake lifted his radio again, but before he could speak, a series of loud bangs erupted from the Miho Dujam, and she quickly rolled to the left. He keyed the radio and shouted, "Kauai, COB, XO is still on board!"

The ship continued to roll with a cacophony of bangs and crashes and, within twenty seconds, had completely capsized with only her hull bottom visible. Haley, Drake, and Bondurant were transfixed in shock until the IMC jolted them into motion.

"Man Overboard Port Side, repeat Man Overboard Port Side! This is no drill!"