

**THE BLACK LANDS**

**BY**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Black Lands is the adventure of Papu, a tragic and horrific story about an alien creature, which lives on a strange island protected by storms in the middle of the sea. An island of death encountered by a team of anglers and Papu; the son of Derick.

This book is written in a script format. It uses similar elements with a screenplay/stage play script. However, it is a tragic horror adventure. This method is used so that a clear picture of events can be seen in the mind of the reader.

## TEASER

{EXT. SEA - DAY}

The surface of the sea is smooth and calm.

NARRATOR (V.O)

*My name is Papu, travelling on the sea was an interesting journey I was desperate about. Luckily, for me, my dad was an angler.*

{BODO-TOWN}

The sky THUNDERS as the rain showers upon the small town. A town full of short houses linked together.

NARRATOR (V.O)

*He hunts the biggest fishes in his time; I saw him as the greatest fisherman in history. The man of the sea.*

{INT. HUT - NIGHT}

An old woman; GRANDMA, is squatting before a twelve-year-old boy; PAPU.

GRANDMA

*Papu,*

NARRATOR (V.O)

*My grandmother loves horror stories.*

PAPU

*Yes, Grandma!*

NARRATOR (V.O)

*I thought it's one of the reasons my Dad never takes her stories serious.*

GRANDMA

*Don't go fishing in the mid-sea on Sundays. A long time ago, two young-looking brothers disobeyed our traditions and went on fishing in the mid-sea on a Sunday.*

{EXT. MANGROVE/CANOE, SEA}

TWO YOUNG MEN in their twenties are pulling a long gill net out of the water. The gill net is very long that they stand at the two ends of the net from a distance.

MAN ONE

(something heavy is pulling the net from his hand back into the water)

*Brother! Are you pulling the net?*

(suddenly falls inside the water with the net. After a while of struggles, silence befalls and he sinks very fast into the water)

MAN TWO

(pulls the net out)

*Brother! Did you cut the net?*

(suddenly sees a gigantic dark creature coming very fast out of the water towards him)

*No!*

(runs on the branches of the mangroves, the creature approaches, he jumps behind the leaves of the mangroves, the creature falls into the water and disappears. He runs towards a canoe, enters and paddles it very fast. Suddenly, the cloud THUNDERS, STORMS and RAINFALL begin to occur around him. And, something hits the canoe from beneath the sea, the canoe goes up into the air and tumbles into the water with him)

*{INT. HUT}*

The BOLT OF LIGHTNING flashes through the window and the sky THUNDERS, then Papu shivers.

GRANDMA

*History has it that the gods were angry with them.*

PAPU

*Were they able to return?*

GRANDMA

*No! They vanished away into the middle of the sea. No one has seen their bodies. The gods took them away so that others will learn to obey our tradition.*

(looks at the door)

*My son, DERICK, why stand by the door?*

DERICK

(a tall man in his forties)

*It's late, mum, Papu needs to sleep because we have a journey to embark on in the morning.*

PAPU

*Come on, Dad, grandma is telling me interesting stories.*

NARRATOR (V.O)

*I loved Grandma's stories. They're what keep me awake at night because they're scary!*

DERICK

(to Papu)

*Get up, go to your room and sleep.*

GRANDMA

*Go on, sweetheart.*

(Papu leaves)

*Sundays are...*

DERICK

(interrupts)

*Mum, how many times will I tell you that I'll be fine?*

GRANDMA

*Son, tomorrow is a Sunday, I wouldn't want you to go on fishing in the mid-sea.*

DERICK

*(sighs)*

*Mum, I think you should go and get some sleep, it's almost 10 pm.*

*(walks to the door and faces Grandma)*

*It's his first time to go fishing with me, I won't take him there, I promise.*

NARRATOR (V.O)

*My Dad was fed up with ancient tales. It was my holiday anyway.*

**END OF TEASER**

# THE BLACK LANDS

*{EXT. DERICK'S YARD - DAY}*

Derick is arranging a fishnet and paddles in black linen.

Papu carries a bag on his back and walks to Derick.

PAPU

*Dad,*

DERICK

*Yes, Son.*

PAPU

*Grandma said it's not safe to go fishing today.*

DERICK

*No, boy, they're called fairy tales. That's what I was told when I was like you. Don't worry, son, you'll discover the truth one day.*

*(holds Papu's hand)*

*This is not the first time I'm hunting fishes, but it's your first time. Don't let anything ruin your day.*

PAPU

*But grandma said the story is popular in this town.*

DERICK

*Someone told Grandma that story, I'm sure the man who made up the story lived about a thousand years ago.*

*(giggles)*

*So, it's likely the ancestors of everyone in this town were his story fans. So, the story passed down to grandma.*

*(sighs)*

*Hey, I don't want you to worry about this thing. Get ready, it's almost 7 o'clock.*

PAPU

*Okay, Dad, is Dan coming with us?*

DERICK

*Yeah, the whole team is coming with us.*

NARRATOR (V.O)

*Like my Dad, I don't believe in fairy tales too.*

*{TRAWLER, DOCK}*

Four young men in their thirties are in a trawler preparing it for their journey.

NARRATOR (V.O)

*DAN, JOSH, JABESH and KANE are my Dad's team members. They inspire me a lot!*

DAN

(arranges fishnet)  
*Josh, you look sad, what's up?*

JABESH  
*He's missing his chick!*  
(Kane is snoring in his sleep on the edge of the trawler)

JOSH  
*Hey, I'm no gay like you, Jabesh!*  
(walks closer to Dan)

DAN  
*You want to tell me about her?*

JOSH  
(giggles)  
*Just watch.*  
(picks up a paper from the ground, folds it, goes closer to Kane and drops it on Kane's mouth)

KANE  
(wakes and sits)  
*Damn you! You always do shits like this.*  
(grasps the paper and throw it against Josh. While Dan, Josh and Jabesh laugh)

JOSH  
*No, Kane, I'm trying to help you!*

KANE  
*Screw you, help yourself!*  
(Derick and Papu arrive)

PAPU  
*Dan!*  
(runs to Dan)

DAN  
(hugs Papu)  
*Hey, my boy!*

NARRATOR (V.O)  
*Dan is like a brother to me.*

DERICK  
(drops the linen; containing fishing tools, on the trawler)  
*Get ready, boys, I don't want my mother to worry much.*

JOSH  
*What?*

DAN  
(to Derick)  
*About you?*

PAPU  
*About me!*

DAN  
(giggles and looks at Papu)

*About you?*

DERICK

*Yeah, you heard him.*

JABESH

*Is he coming with us?*

KANE

*O shit! Did...*

DERICK

*Shut up, Kane! For crying out loud, that's my son!*

DAN

*O my God!*

*(stares at Papu)*

*You'll enjoy the ride but always be in your suit as the colds may want to be your friend.*

PAPU

*I'm so excited to go on this journey with you guys.*

DAN

*I'm sure you'll enjoy it because it'll be fun. We're going to where we've never been to before.*

PAPU

*Seriously?*

DAN

*Yeah.*

PAPU

*The mid-sea?*

DAN

*(scratches his head)*

*Huh... let's say that's right.*

*(Kane taps out the trawler's anchor)*

*Keep your eyes and ears open, you'll enjoy the sound of waves and the sight of dolphins.*

PAPU

*I would love to see and touch a dolphin!*

DERICK

*(starts the engine)*

*Come on, son!*

DAN

*Hey, go meet your Dad, we'll talk later.*

*(Derick sails the trawler)*

DERICK

*(Papu walks to him)*

*Stand here and learn how to sail a boat.*

PAPU

*Okay, dad.*

DERICK

*If it was at night, look out for the stars and follow it. This boat can run up to an eighty-kilo-meters per hour!*

PAPU

*Wow!*

DERICK

*Which means we'll be home soon, okay?*

PAPU

*Okay, dad.*

DERICK

*I want you to be the one to tell Grandma the truth about the tales she's been carrying for years.*

*{TRAWLER, SEA}*

JOSH

*(walks to Derick)  
Captain,*

DERICK

*What.*

JOSH

*Can I talk to you for a second?*

DERICK

*Yeah, sure!  
(to Papu)  
Sit over there.  
(Papu walks to a distance and sits on a wooden box)*

JOSH

*(walks closer to Derick)  
Since this is the first time we're going into the mid-sea, I'd advise we leave Papu behind.*

DERICK

*Hey, don't tell me that you believe in my mum's tales.*

JOSH

*No, not at all. The thing is, he's a kid and could be scared of waves.*

DERICK

*Not when he's with me. Besides, it's too late to go back now.*

JOSH

*Okay.*

DERICK

*(nods)*

*Well, you won't understand why I brought him. My mother has been feeding him with what the old fans of Mr Storyteller told her. Every day and night, she'd warn my son never to sail with me on Sundays. I want Papu to be the one to tell her that her stories were fictions. I don't want this kid to start getting scared of nature from childhood.*

*(keeps quiet for a while)*

*See, we're the kings of the sea, coming here to express your fears isn't a bad thing, though. But it's somewhat immaturity.*

JOSH

*(smiles)*

*I got it.*

*(walks away)*

LATER

Derick is lying on his back at the side of the trawler.

DAN

*(controlling the wheels and sees dolphins)*

*Dolphins!*

Papu runs to the side of the boat to have a view of the dolphins.

DERICK

*Drop the net!*

KANE

*Roger!*

PAPU

*Are you going to catch one?*

DAN

*We don't hunt dolphins, boy!*

Kane and Jabesh drop the nets. Josh rolls the roller.

PAPU

*Whoa! They're beautiful!*

DAN

*Yeah, it's fun, right?*

PAPU

*Yeah!*

*(suddenly, a dolphin; having three fingers' scratch, flies high into the air and falls back into the water)*

*I love the way they fly!*

DAN

*(sees the wounded dolphin)*

*What?*

PAPU

(another dolphin; with a splash of blood, flies high into the air and falls back into the water)

*That one is bleeding!*

DERICK

(jumps up and looks at the dolphins)

*Huh...*

KANE

*O shit!*

JABESH

*Something's hunting them!*

JOSH

*Looks like a big shark.*

DAN

*That's not a shark's handwork.*

Suddenly, another dolphin; without its head, flies into the air and falls into the water.

JABESH

*It's like a giant thing!*

DERICK

*We don't know what it is yet!*

(suddenly, the other dolphins start running towards the trawler)

KANE

*They're coming this way!*

DAN

*What should we do, Captain?*

DERICK

*Run!*

DAN

*What?*

DERICK

(runs and takes the wheel from Dan)

*Wait! Something big is after the dolphins!*

(sails the trawler away from the dolphins)

Suddenly, the trawl under the sea hooks and drags the boat backwards and water enters the boat.

PAPU

(falls on the floor)

*Arrr!*

Jabesh holds the side of the boat, Josh grasps the roller, Dan jumps upon and grasps the anchor windlass, and Derick offs the engine and holds the wheels.

KANE

(falls on his back)  
*What is that?*

JOSH

*That thing could take us out! It's big enough to drag the boat!*

DAN

(to Papu)  
*Go into the wheelhouse, kid!*  
(Papu runs into the wheelhouse)

DERICK

*Pull the nets out!*  
(three dolphins fly into the air; one has no head, one has only one side, the other's tail only shows up)

JOSH

*Damn it!*

DERICK

*Cut the ropes!*

DAN

*Yes, Captain!*  
(quickly grasps huge scissors and cut the ropes holding the nets)  
*The dolphins are approaching.*

JABESH

*Come on! They're after us, Captain!*

Derick starts the engine and sails the boat faster; away from and out of the sight of the dolphins.

KANE

*O shit! What could that be?*

DERICK

(slows down the boat)  
*I think it could be a big oyster*

DAN

*Can an oyster take out dolphins and hit us that fast?*

DERICK

*It didn't hit us, that was a rock.*

DAN

*Then why did you ask me to cut the trawl?*

DERICK

(slightly glances at Papu and winks at Dan. Dan nods)  
*We have many nets, so, let's not ruin the fun.*

PAPU

*It's a Sunday, dad!*

DERICK

*Hey, son, don't scare yourself. This is just a normal coincidence. A spirit can't touch flesh and blood!*

NARRATOR (V.O)

*We were all afraid, my dad's trying to encourage us.*

JABESH

*Where are we heading to now?*

JOSH

*Catch fish, go home. I don't think we want to go home empty-handed. It would be a shameful day!*

KANE

*We need to go to the usual side of the sea!*

JOSH

*Come on, we're the kings of the sea! We can fish anywhere!*

DERICK

*(glances at Dan and Papu)*

*We're going home!*

NARRATOR (V.O)

*My dad somewhat respects Dan.*

JABESH

*Great!*

*(suddenly, something hits the boat and they all fall on the floor of the boat)*

KANE

*Jesus Christ!*

*(to Dan)*

*I thought you cut off the trawl?*

DERICK

*(rushes, grasps the wheels and sails the boat very fast)*

*God damn it! That's not the trawl!*

*(water swells behind them and follows the boat)*

JABESH

*(points at the swelled water following them)*

*Look!*

KANE

*O shit! Something's following us!*

DAN

*(points ahead)*

*There's a storm ahead!*

DERICK

*We're going through it!*

DAN

*You've got to be kidding me!*

DERICK

*We don't have any choice!*

(approaches the storm)  
*Fasten yourselves!*

DAN

(to Papu)  
*Be careful, kid, don't come out here!*

Papu fastens himself to a fixed wooden chair in the wheelhouse, folds his hands and shivers.

Derick sails the boat through the storm. The swelled of water following them suddenly disappears.

JOSH

*It's gone!*

JABESH

*It probably can't go through these waves.*

KANE

*I hate today. This doesn't look like a few hours journey.*

DERICK

(glances at Kane)  
*Hey! We're heading home. Okay?*

KANE

*Okay, Captain.*  
(lightning begins to occur around them in few distances)

DAN

(points)  
*There's land there!*

JOSH

*An island!*

DERICK

*Come on!*  
(they successfully go through the storms)

KANE

*The storm isn't a big one, though.*  
(the storm continues to go on behind them)

DAN

*It seems as if it's a fixed storm!*

DERICK

(slows down the boat, offs the engine and walks forward)  
*What the...*  
(they all join him in looking into that direction)

KANE

*O shit!*

JOSH

*Is this place on the world's atlas?*

A plane 200meters-wide and 600meters-long black island: having few kinds of grass, trees and rocks; in about a 500meters away, is before them. The island is such that the other end can be seen from anywhere you stand on the island.

JABESH

*An island on the mid-sea, history never made mention of this.*

DERICK

(to Papu)

*Come on, son!*

(Papu walks out of the wheelhouse to where he is)

*An island surrounded by storms.*

(takes his walky-talky; around his waist, and looks into it)

*Damn it! No signal. I think this storm wouldn't let any signal through.*

DAN

*Seems like the storms were designed to keep people off this place.*

KANE

*Excuse me, is that the way home?*

DERICK

*Hey, hey, never worry about that. We'll go around the island and go through the storms on the other end. That's the way home, guys.*

JABESH

*Half-past-six, it's getting dark already.*

PAPU

(to Derick)

*Dad, I'm scared.*

DAN

*Come on, boy, we'll protect you. We're pros.*

DERICK

(walks closer to Papu)

*I got everything under control, besides you're with me. Son, you are all I have left since I lose your mum. She died of cancer, which happened because it was above me. But here, this is my second home. My life's work. Don't be afraid! There's nothing out there and if there is, I got your back. All right?*

PAPU

*All right, dad.*

JOSH

*There could be some treasures on that island.*

JABESH

(to Josh)

*What are you thinking?*

JOSH

*We probably don't want to stay on this water all night.*

DERICK

*Focus! We only need to go around this island and go home in one piece.*

DAN

(looks around the island with a telescope)  
*There isn't a way around it. Both sides are covered with huge heels; we can't make it through those paths.*

KANE

*What are we going to do now?*

DERICK

*We'll go through it.*

KANE

*What?*

DERICK

*Get the truck, we're pushing this boat through the island.*

JOSH

*Copy that, Captain!*

Josh, Kane and Jabesh go into the bottom of the boat to get tyres and iron pipes.

DERICK

(takes the telescope from Dan and views the island)  
*Everything seems dark.*

DAN

*Yeah, I think it's poisoned with hydrocarbon.*

DERICK

*Yeah, it must be an oil-rich ground.*  
(views and sights the island carefully through the telescope and sees something that moves behind a small rock)  
*Jesus Christ!*

DAN

*What!*

DERICK

*I think I saw something moves.*  
(Papu shivers)  
*Hahaha! That was a joke!*

PAPU

(frowns)  
*It didn't sound funny.*

DAN

(slightly glances at Derick who winks at him)  
*Hehehe! You know, your Dad is a funny man, kid.*

DERICK

*Well, I think it's a cool experience we're going to have here.*  
(quickly goes into the small house inside the boat and carry out a long box)

DAN

*Seriously?*

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