

QUORUM: THE HARBOR PILOT'S TALE

Character Descriptions and Audition Sides

THE KEY FIGURES

Klaus Brunner (male, early 60s) is the episode's protagonist, a former merchant marine captain due to retire from his career as a harbor pilot for the *Schweizerische Rheinhäfen* (the Port of Switzerland) in Basel – and at least somewhat eager to do so after recent health warnings from his doctor. His voice is raspy, weighted with age, and he speaks English with a pronounced Swiss-German accent. As our story begins, he has been called back from his trip home to enable the urgent late-night departure of the river cargo coaster *Liparus*.

Simone Laplace (female, late 30s) is a French physicist working at the Geneva CERN facilities who finds herself held captive inside a metal cargo container aboard the *Liparus*. Upon her discovery by Brunner, she struggles to piece together the rationale for her abduction while evading her captors – and worrying about the fates of her missing husband and daughter. (Note: This character will also appear in a bonus sponsor-exclusive episode exploring some of her back story, and may also recur in future seasons of *Quorum*.)

Lachlan MacKinnon (male, early 50s) is the Scottish captain of the *Liparus*, and speaks with a pronounced accent peppered liberally with Scottish slang. He is trusting of his core crew, and generally comes across as amiable, but is somewhat thrown by Brunner's unexpected presence, and is cautious not to reveal too much. Though nominally in command, in reality he must accede to the demands of formidable passenger Francesca Salazar.

Francesca Salazar (female, 40s) is the Spanish representative of multinational corporation Camellirosa Shipping (and possibly another, less overtly acknowledged role), traveling aboard the *Liparus* and personally supervising a special cargo shipment. She is unashamedly demanding and authoritative, with a voice almost serpentine in its barely-constrained authority. (Note: This character is expected to recur in future seasons of *Quorum*.)

Herbie Pitt (male, late 30s) is the Australian second mate of the *Liparus*, largely tasked with ship's navigation, but easily distracted by his latest mobile-game obsession. Outgoing and gregarious on the surface, his personality can switch on a dime once crossed, unearthing a more sinister, even sociopathic aspect.

THE FEATURED PLAYERS

Curt Colepaugh (male, early 40s) is the American chief mate of the *Liparus*, in charge of cargo operations. Experienced and outwardly businesslike, but wary of the ship's new client, Salazar, and the uncertain lines of authority that her presence introduces.

Lynette Brunner (female, early 50s) is Klaus's English wife, who left her life in England behind when the pair were married. Though not pushy, she strives to be a voice of reason in the face of Klaus's obstinacy, and is eager for the pair to reach some level of normality in their lives once he retires.

Hans-Rudolf (male, 50s) is a German-speaking Swiss pilot boat operator and longtime friend and coworker of Klaus's. This night he is charged with picking Klaus up from the *Liparus* once the latter has steered the vessel safely out of port.

Baskin (male, 40s) is an intimidating Eastern European enforcer working under Camellirosa executive Francesca Salazar. A man of few words, he is more apt to allow the array of destructive weaponry at his disposal speak for him – without necessarily thinking through the consequences.

The **Broadcaster** is a German-speaking navigational radio operator for the Port of Switzerland in Basel, belatedly checking on the whereabouts of pilot boat driver Hans-Rudolf following the departure of the *Liparus*.

PRIMARY SETTING

The cargo coaster **Liparus** is a modern, 90-meter diesel-powered Rhine river cargo vessel with a crew of six, capable of carrying approximately 50 standard cargo containers within its hold and along its top deck – though it is currently only at around half that capacity. A deckhouse at the aft of the ship (built low to clear the Rhine river bridges) comprises the command bridge on its top level, a poop deck below that with a crane-mounted rescue boat (as well as the capacity to store a car or other land vehicle on the deck itself), a main level containing crew and passenger quarters, and the vessel's engine room at its bottom-most level.

SCENE

A particularly stormy night, traveling north along the Rhine river from the Port of Switzerland in Basel (and ultimately up to Rotterdam in the Netherlands) in August of 2012.

THE QUORUM ARCHIVES

Character Descriptions and Audition Sides

THE ATTORNEYS

Allen Hill (male, 30s) is an ambitious Deputy-in-Charge of the Real Estate Fraud section of the LA County District Attorney's office. After being tipped off to a series of criminal activities, he is eager to close his case with the help of his key witness.

Abril Ramas (female, 50s) is the lead attorney for Anton Kreitzer, a high-powered capitalist who has recently left the country after being unintentionally caught up in a criminal conspiracy.

Henry Cumberland (male, 50s) is the Fraud and Corruption Prosecutions Director of the LA County District Attorney's office. Eager (or at least willing) to pursue the truth, but well aware of the political constraints in taking on a high-profile prosecution in Los Angeles.

THE PHYSICISTS

Michelle Andreoli (female, mid-20s) is an American graduate student brought on board Dr. Laplace's quantum entanglement team at the CERN laboratories. She is eager to take on this challenging work, but may know more about the project than she initially lets on.

Jean-Phillipe (male, 30s) is a French CERN engineer assisting Dr. Laplace in her experiments at CERN.

PRIMARY SETTINGS

The Attorneys takes place in the offices of the Real Estate Fraud section of the Los Angeles District Attorney; The Physicists takes place the CERN particle physics laboratory based in the Geneva canton of Meyrin, with facilities extending into Switzerland and France.

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LOADING DOCK

LYNETTE

(FILTERED, ON PHONE)

Why does it have to be you?

KLAUS

Because the captain is Scottish, and my English is so good. Whose fault is that?

LYNETTE

Don't you turn this on me, Klaus. It's almost midnight.

KLAUS

I was making light. I will be home, soon. Someone wants this boat out tonight, even in this weather. Someone important enough to change things at the drop of a cap.

LYNETTE

The drop of what?

KLAUS

Drop of a cap. Quick, sudden, yes?

LYNETTE

(LAUGHING)

Drop of a *hat*. Not cap, *hat*.

KLAUS

Ah, yes. *Hat. Entschuldigung.*

LYNETTE

You don't always have to pick up the slack.

KLAUS

I do to stay with the *Schweizerische Rheinhäfen*.

LYNETTE

Yes, well... we still need to talk about that. After what the doctor said about your heart...

KLAUS

Later, Lynette. I am almost to this boat, the *Liparus*. I will call you as soon as I am back ashore.

LYNETTE

I'll be asleep.

KLAUS

Then I will... come in quietly.

LYNETTE

All right, Klaus. I know better than to argue. But we have enough now, with my work. It may be time.

LIPARUS ENGINE ROOMSOUND: METAL HATCH OPENING

KLAUS

Here, this hatch should lead through to the engine...
Does not appear to be anyone here. Hopefully this means
they have called everyone up above to look for us.

LAPLACE

Should we... I don't know, sabotage the engine?

KLAUS

They would know we are here when the engine stopped. We
would be trapped. We must get off the ship. Our best
choice is the rescue boat, but if not, one of the
emergency rafts.

KLAUS (CONT'D)

Do you know why they are after you?

LAPLACE

No! I'm just... just a researcher. Nobody even -

SOUND: STUMBLING

LAPLACE (CONT'D)

Klaus! Are you all right?

KLAUS

(PAINED)

I have... heart condition... angina...

SOUND: PILL BOTTLE RATTLING

KLAUS (CONT'D)

I just need... medicine... It will... it will pass...

LAPLACE

Are you... are you sure you're all right?

KLAUS

I... have no choice not to be. *Ich habe keine Wahl.*

(BREATHING SLOWLY)

This stairwell here should lead up to the poop deck...
Let me just listen... Stand back.

SOUND: INTERIOR DOOR OPENING

KLAUS (CONT'D)

It looks clear. Stay behind me. This will take us out
to starboard. If I recall correctly, the rescue boat is
on the deck's port side... But move quietly. We have to
get up past the crew quarters.

LIPARUS MAIN DECK - OUTSIDESOUND: METALLIC KNOCKING

KLAUS

Was ist das...? Hello? Is... Is someone there?

LAPLACE

(MUFFLED, METALLIC REVERB)
Hello? You speak... English?

KLAUS

Yes, yes I do. Where are you?

LAPLACE

I don't... I don't know. It's dark. I think I am in some kind of metal... container.

KLAUS

Wait... yes, I think I hear you. Yes, here it is... What are you doing in there?

LAPLACE

I... don't know. I was... leaving work. My husband Samir had come, with little Brielle. We were going out to dinner in Geneva. But there was... someone loading what... what looked like some of our heavy equipment into a big cargo truck. Had some kind of... flower logo on the side. But I hadn't heard about any transfer... I went to check, and... that is all, until now.

KLAUS

Hold on a moment.

SOUND: HEAVY METAL DOOR OPENING

LAPLACE

Where... where are we?

KLAUS

On a cargo ship, the *Liparus*, bound for Rotterdam, under Captain MacKinnon. Who are you?

LAPLACE

I'm... I'm Simone Laplace... A physicist, work near Geneva, at the... did you say Basel?

KLAUS

Yes. I'm a harbor pilot. We are on the Rhine. Just... relax. Here, I have a water bottle. Drink.

LAPLACE

I don't... I don't understand...

LIPARUS MAIN DECK - OUTSIDE

KLAUS

Klaus Brunner. Permission to come aboard.

MACKINNON

Granted. Lachlan MacKinnon. Or just Mac, if'n ye like. Master o' the *Liparus*. Welcome. Take it ye'd be our harbor pilot? Heh, or just out for a fine stroll?

KLAUS

Here is my... *Was ist das Wort...* my documentation.

MACKINNON

Looks to be square. Expecting a bloke named Steiner.

KLAUS

Herr Steiner is unavailable. I was on my way home when I was called back. Other pilots do not speak English.

MACKINNON

Sorry to hear it, chap. Sure we'd'a made do, but I appreciate the effort. Me German's tripe.

KLAUS

Do you know why the change in departure time?

MACKINNON

Last-minute delivery. Container loaded an' secure now, an' harbor control says we're clear to shove off, now's we got you to guide us. Here, let's get up to the conn.

MACKINNON (CONT'D)

Crivvens, a dreich night, this one. An' I went through Hurricane Bawbag winter past. Sorry steps are on the windward side. But gather you're used to it.

KLAUS

Indeed. The course heading is as indicated?

MACKINNON

Aye, all's same's the original plan. Only heading out now 'stead o' morning. Anything I should worry 'bout?

KLAUS

Hm? *Ach, nein*. No. I served on an inland container ship much like *Liparus*, with the *Schweizer Hochseeschifffahrt...* Swiss Merchant Marine. I do not anticipate any issues.

MACKINNON

Good to hear. Come in afore you're drookit.

LIPARUS MAIN DECK - INSIDE

SALAZAR

(MUFFLED)

There is a reason we plan things with precision. Any deviation from those plans risks incurring the –

SOUND: INTERIOR DOOR OPENING

KLAUS

My pilot boat is on approach. If you could sign here?

SOUND: PAPERWORK RUSTLING

MACKINNON

Right... Listen, don't mean to be rude, but...

SOUND: RISING FROM SEAT

SALAZAR

Please do not stand on ceremony, Captain. You must be our harbor pilot. Francesca Salazar.

KLAUS

Klaus Brunner. I am sure you are eager to be on your way, given the urgency of your departure.

SALAZAR

Indeed. We appreciate your... expediency.

KLAUS

A pleasant journey to you all. *Gueti Reis*.

SALAZAR

Auf Wiedersehen.

LIPARUS FORECASTLE - INSIDE

SALAZAR

(FILTERED, OVER RADIO)

This is Ms. Salazar. I have no wish for further loss of life, but you have something that belongs to me.

KLAUS

I did not know people could belong to other people.

SALAZAR

A matter of semantics. You are a practical man. But I now wish to address Dr. Laplace. Doctor... I realize this is confusing. We would not have taken this action had we another option, but events have forced our hand. Now, you are at a decision point. Further resistance will invite retaliation, and tenfold. Not against you... but Samir and Brielle.

LIPARUS BRIDGE

KLAUS

The *Liparus* is clear of port, and you are free to navigate the Rhine. Mr. Pitt... ah, Mr. Pitt?

PITT

Hmm? Oh, right, right. Sorry, mate. Bad habit o' mine, this game here. Right addictive, it is.

KLAUS

Ah... it is of no consequence. But... would you be so kind as to take over while I contact my pickup?

PITT

That I would, Brunner. Got three days' trip ahead. Leisurely tour here up the Rhine all'a ways up to Rotterdam. You need to use the VHF radio phone?

KLAUS

The pilot boat is in range of my... what do you call it in English? *Das Sprechfunkgerät*... hand radio...

PITT

Ah, walkie-talkie.

KLAUS

Hah. Yes. Walkie-talkie. A funny language, English.

PITT

Tell your man to grab you at the bow ladder, aft of the forecastle. Colepaugh may still be up there – with Nigel on the bow thruster while we pulled out. Last pilot said poop deck ladder had some iffy rungs.

KLAUS

I am... surprised Captain MacKinnon has not returned.

PITT

We're a bit casual, small crew'n all. 'Sides, that Salazar's a character. Clearly used to bossin' folks around. That's her Mercedes anchored on the poop deck. Ooh la la. Anyways, you can catch Mac below, main deck level. Stairs through there, two flights down. Need a guide?

KLAUS

I believe I can find him. I am at least passingly familiar with the layout of comparable vessels.

PITT

All right. Real nice meeting you, mate.

LIPARUS CARGO HOLD

PITT

Dammit, Klaus, y'know, gotta say I kind of liked you. Sure as hell didn't want it to come to this. Even tried to help you, warn you about the bad ladder. I'm nice like that. And this is how you repay me? I was on a streak there, my little game.

SOUND: HARD PUNCH, BODY FALLSOUND: CHAIN DRAGGING

PITT (CONT'D)

That ogre Baskin's happy to blow up your boat, shoot you an' be done, but hell, where's the fun there?

SOUND: HITTING WITH CHAIN

PITT (CONT'D)

Was cool to see that baby go up like that. Whoosh! Love my games, but ain't nothin' like the real thing. Been a while since I seen that. But see, you and me, we got a personal relationship. Hell, 'nother life, we coulda been friends.

SOUND: CHAIN WRAPPING, STRUGGLING

KLAUS

(GASPING)

Pitt... I... I have... enough... friends.

SOUND: BODY PUNCHSOUND: CHAIN RATTLING

PITT

Nice try, buddy. But truth is you ain't the first feller I choked out. Been nice knowing you.

LIPARUS MAIN DECK - OUTSIDE

COLEPAUGH

Hold it right there, Brunner!

SOUND: GUN COCKING

KLAUS

Mr. Colepaugh. Do you intend to shoot me?

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING, SLOWING

COLEPAUGH

We'll see. Didn't have to go this way. Thought you'd be getting off astern. Don't know quite what the hell's going on now, but... you sit tight 'til Salazar and Baskin get here. Don't make things worse.

KLAUS

(SIGHS)

I am afraid things are going to be worse.

SOUND: HEAVY PUNCHSOUND: BANGING ON METAL

COLEPAUGH

What... what the hell do you think you're -

LIPARUS BRIDGE

KLAUS

Ich werde vom Vorschiff absteigen. Der zweite Kumpel glaubt, dass es sicherer ist.

HANS-RUDOLF

(FILTERED, OVER RADIO)

Ich verstehe. Ich werde dich dort in ungefähr fünf Minuten treffen. Gehen wir danach etwas trinken?

KLAUS

Lynette ist besorgt, dass ich nach Hause komme. Vielleicht dann beim nächsten Mal.

LIPARUS MAIN DECK

KLAUS

Hans-Rudolf, wir haben ein Problem.

HANS-RUDOLF

Was ist es? Ich komme gerade mit.

SOUND: BOAT APPROACHING

KLAUS

Hier ist jemand. Hier gefangen. Können Sie eine Nachricht im UKW-Radio senden?

HANS-RUDOLF

Sicher. Gib mir nur eine Minute.

LIPARUS POOP DECK

MACKINNON

(APPROACHING)

This weren't the arrangement. We're sailors. Thought your man Baskin here'd take care of this kind of thing.

BASKIN

I take care of boat, yes? Big boom.

MACKINNON

Aye, ye did at that. Still don't ken who carries a grenade launcher around with him.

SALAZAR

Are you sure he's not down in the hold?

BASKIN

Maybe they jump. Into water.

SALAZAR

Not in this storm. He'd know better. He'll either try to take the ship or the rescue boat, Baskin, stay here. The captain and I will make sure the bridge is secure.

BASKIN

I will wait. He will die.

SOUND: MACHINE GUN BOLT

RADIO LISTENING ROOM

BROADCASTER

(FILTERED, OVER THE RADIO)

*Lotsenboot, das ist Hafenkontrolle. Komm rein,
Lotsenboot. Lotsenboot, kopieren Sie? Hans-Rudolf, bist
du da? Was ist los?*

DIC ALLEN HILL'S OFFICE

HILL

Ms. Freeman? Allen Hill, with the DA's office. First, let me say we all really appreciate everything you've brought to us. Everything you've been through. But... well, to be perfectly honest, things have gotten a bit... complicated. I understand you're not willing to give us anything more on Anton Kreitzer - and I'm not asking you to say anything that isn't completely true. But ultimately, that means unless and until Kreitzer resurfaces, and can shed more light on this, Joe Santoro's the only person we can really go after, and he's... well, he has a pretty strong reputation for being tough to pin down. Could take years. And our office... isn't willing to expend much more to speed that up. Anyway, best of luck to you. I know this isn't what you wanted to hear, but maybe... maybe you can reach out to your family for support.

LOS ANGELES DA CONFERENCE ROOM

RAMAS

All... So on the afternoon of July ninth, you and Harmon broke into the county land registry office -

ROBIN

What? No, not like that. I do business there.

RAMAS

But - correct me if I'm wrong - your work *doesn't* include access to the secure records wing. Did Burt Waters accompany you to the registry office?

ROBIN

I don't... no, he didn't.

RAMAS

Curious. Because our independent inquiry says his ID was used to enter the secure wing of the registry office, where the records were stored. And just forty-seven seconds after that *same* ID was used to pass through an entryway in the Hahn Hall of Administration across the street. This Waters must be a fast runner. (DISMISSIVELY)

Never mind. You said yourself Waters wasn't with you. Surely it must have been some kind of error. In any event, you did recover the records for the White Bluff Restoration Trust. And left the premises with them, correct? Is that standard procedure?

ROBIN

What? Um, no... But we didn't have any choice. It was an emergency. Everything's been returned now.

RAMAS

I see. And was Mr. Kreitzer mentioned in those records?

ROBIN

Not... exactly, no. We didn't recognize any of the names of the trustees or shareholders. Not right away. They were mostly aliases.

RAMAS

I see. And was there... I don't know, some kind of key identifying all these aliases?

ROBIN

No, we figured that out later. Jimmy found out from Margaret Florian later on. Who ran their poker game.

RAMAS

I'm sure. Sounds like an unimpeachable authority.

LOS ANGELES FRAUD AND CORRUPTION OFFICE

CUMBERLAND

Allen? Cumberland. Listen... this Freeman woman. Don't get me wrong, glad what she brought us, but I'm getting pushback about offering her full protection. That's straight down from McCauley's office. Kind of surprised, with his anti-corruption record, but...

(SIGHS)

Hell, tell the truth, him stepping down as county DA this fall, figure he just doesn't want to get into it. New woman'll be in place before it all gets going, get all the credit. He still wants to push on Santoro, but case against *him's* pretty much in the records, not anything Freeman has to say herself. Anyway, see if she's willing to... well, make any adjustments to her story. Something that'll give us some real leverage. Then maybe we can make some kind of deal with her. Otherwise... well, you know what to do.

CERN - TEAM WORKSPACE

MICHELLE

Dr. Laplace. It's Michelle Andreoli. I know you've been... well, kind of dejected. We can all see it. Before you shut me down again, I need you to... need you to know you are on the right track. I can't... I can't tell you exactly *how* I know, but... let's just say I have it on good authority you're making progress. But you wouldn't... anyway, I think I've found something that might change your mind. Not just from the October test data, but even the run you did back in March, before I came. It wasn't a failure, not entirely. You just didn't know what to look for. I guess this could've waited until tomorrow, but with the weather out there, I honestly didn't know if you were planning to come in. I've emailed you the specifics, but... I thought this was something you'd want to start working on... working out... as soon as possible. Anyway, I'll... hopefully I'll see you tomorrow.

CERN - QUANTUM ENTANGLEMENT LAB

LAPLACE

Jean-Philippe, es-tu prêt?

JEAN-PHILIPPE

(DISTANT)

Nous sommes... ah, we are ready, Doctor.

SOUND: SWITCHES ACTIVATING

SOUND: DEEP HUM RISING, FALLING

SOUND: SWITCH DEACTIVATING

JEAN-PHILIPPE (CONT'D)

(DISTANT)

Modulators clear.

SOUND: SWITCHES DEACTIVATING

LAPLACE

Now... we will see what we have done.