

Captain Bowers made sure his last crewmen were in the capsule. He told Jock, "I'll be right back. I want to thank someone."

"Cap'n! No!" Jock shouted, but either the captain ignored him or didn't hear him. He slipped and slid his way back to the stern, to where the frogman was working on the mine's tangled chain.

"I wanted to say thank you." The captain leant down and put his hand out for the frogman to shake. Brandon looked up and took his hand just as WOOOOSHHH!!!! A giant wave hit the deck, pulling Captain Bowers overboard!

Christopher swore to himself as he saw the events unfold. "Get into the cage and close the doors!" he shouted over the noise of the engines and rough weather. He was glad that he had his personal communication system which could be received in the capsule. A green light blinked to tell him that the doors were closed, so he pulled the lever to start the winch engines up.

The capsule started its perilous journey back up to Thunderbird 2. More huge waves threatened to swamp the capsule, so he hurriedly pushed the winch up to top speed so he could get the rest of the passengers up to Thunderbird 2.

Suddenly a whine erupted through the winch area as the capsule ground to a halt. Loads of status lights went red.

"Vee to CJ!" Virgil's voice blasted into Christopher's ear. "What's happened to the winch?"

"It looks like it's jammed!" Christopher started hurriedly to examine the equipment "I don't know what to do!"

"The toolkit is next to you." Virgil's voice was calm, but with an underlying current of anger beneath.

Christopher opened the toolkit as Thunderbird 2 fought to keep a stable position. He tried everything he knew.

"It's not going to budge," Christopher said to Virgil.

"Keep trying, CJ," Virgil urged him. "You can do it."

Christopher ran his fingers through his hair, thinking frantically. Then he paused. Clenching his fist, he moved to the side of the winch motor and thumped it. Suddenly the red warning lights ceased to flash, and the capsule restarted its choppy journey upwards. He got the passengers out of the capsule, and sent them to Thunderbird 7 for a check-up.

"Vee!" Christopher locked the capsule down into its area. "I'm shutting the winch down!"

"F-A-B, CJ." Virgil sounded a little more relieved. "How did you get it working?"

"Don't know." Christopher shrugged. "Luck?"

Post by TheWrongTrousers on 18/08/2004

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