

# SS Utopia - Episode 1

ELLIE

This podcast features strong language, adult themes, and violence, and is not recommended for younger listeners.

*SCRATCHY RECORD PLAYER SOUNDS... A BIG BAND SINGS, "Good night, farewell..."*

THE BLOOD CROW

Welcome, my darling to Episode 1 of the The Blood Crow Stories. We're so glad you've joined us. Let's join Max, a college student, who is hard at work on his thesis, which will take him down a dark road.

MAX

Hello, my name is Max, and if you're listening then you're either very bored, or really into history - like me. I'm currently doing my college thesis on Dr. Weissman and the SS Utopia. The SS Utopia was an experiment back in the early 1900s. It was a cruise liner with submarine capabilities. In those days, war seemed almost never-ending. So a team of scientists attempted to create a city capable of becoming its own country, able to move freely wherever conflict was not occurring, and so they built the ship. In those days, the biggest concern for people being stuck on an isolated ship was that the inhabitants would get 'stir crazy'. That doesn't sound so scary now, but back then 'stir crazy' was used to describe the way prison inmates would go insane due to the extended isolation in prison. The leaders of the SS Utopia Project hired Dr. Harold Weissman to conduct interviews with inhabitants of varying types during their time at sea. The hope was that he could document and detect the effects of living on the ship and if the project would be viable for mass production. The SS Utopia was not intended to be the first of its kind, but it was certainly the last... that we know of. The project was shut down after the ship sank, and all that remained were a few artifacts. Among them was a metal safe, and inside, reels! All the recordings from the inhabitants selected by Dr. Weissman. Since I intend to use my psychology degree to go into prison psychology, I figured this was a great thing to write my thesis on. And well... (A SMALL LAUGH) These are too great not to share. I'll let the good doctor explain more...

DR. WEISSMAN

Ok... pressed all the buttons... Everything's moving... Ok, I see... this should be recording now. There is the microphone... Umm, Hello! My name is Dr. Harold Weissman, renowned prison psychologist. This is the first in a series of audio diaries myself and 12 inhabitants of the SS Utopia will be recording. To preserve the purity of this test, I will only be handing out 6 recorders today, in the first week of our launch. I must account for the possibility of people's feelings being swayed by knowing they are recording their thoughts. Each will record their thoughts as they occur to them, similar to how a child writes in a diary. Once a month I will meet

with them to evaluate their acclimation to life on the ship. With this I aim to gain an understanding of how the psyche is affected by these conditions, so what we may move further with sister projects. I hope we can create an exact map of the human psyche as it becomes acclimated to this lifestyle. The possibilities are really quite exciting-(INTERRUPTED BY KNOCKING)heh-oh-eh...

*PAPERS SHUFFLING*

DR. WEISSMAN

Alright, this is the intake interview to begin your place in this research. For legal reasons, can you please read over the following statement out loud.

TOMMY

I, Thomas Washburn, being of sound mind do hereby consent to be a patient under the psychological care of Dr. Harold Weissman. I consent to the ownership of an audio recording device, which I will use to record my thoughts and actions during my time on the SS Utopia. There, that good enough?

DR. WEISSMAN

Yes, very clear. Thank you. Did you have any questions before we begin?

TOMMY

Yes, uh, how much of this do I have to record? I mean, I know you called my office a few weeks ago and you said everything. But I have a wife, sir. And husbands provide certain... Services... To their wives that I would rather not be recording, if you catch my drift.

DR. WEISSMAN

Of course, Mr. Washburn. No intimate moments will be required to be recorded. However, since this is a psychological study, your thoughts before or afterwards would be appreciated.

TOMMY

Thoughts?

DR. WEISSMAN

Oh, don't worry, you'll get the hang of thoughts. You and I will meet at the end of every month for you to turn in your tapes and for me to perform a very basic check up. I will then give you new, empty tapes and you'll continue your recordings for the next month.

TOMMY

Ok, I have a few more questions.

DR. WEISSMAN

Yes, please, ask them.

TOMMY

Am I supposed to keep quiet about all this? When you called my office you seemed very secretive.

DR. WEISSMAN

You will need to keep the research a secret, but your personal recorder is contained within a briefcase. You can simply tell people you are recording your own thoughts for posterity. It's not far from the truth.

TOMMY

What about my wife?

DR. WEISSMAN

Do you hide anything from your wife, Mr. Washburn?

TOMMY

Well of course I do. Nothing big, or salacious, but just things I don't think she needs to know.

DR. WEISSMAN

This is one of those things. I've often found that when close relatives are privy to the information of the research they have an indirect influence on its outcome. The work you're doing will benefit thousands of people in the future. We need to preserve the accuracy of this research.

TOMMY

Understood. Alright, I wager I can ask you more questions in the future?

DR. WEISSMAN

Anytime. But I request you refrain from questions outside of this office.

TOMMY

Right, purity of the experiment and all that. Ok, I think I'm set.

DR. WEISSMAN

Alright, now for my intake questions. How did you acquire your ticket into the SS Utopia?

TOMMY

Bought it. Same as any other man, I suppose.

DR. WEISSMAN

Where?

TOMMY

There was an ad in the paper. It said "Escape the troubles of war to paradise!" It was too good to pass up, and the tickets were a moderate price. I called the phone number, and sent my money by wire the next day.

DR. WEISSMAN

What did your wife think of all this?

TOMMY

She's a fussy little thing. She didn't really want to just pick up and move. She's a small town girl so she likes to plant roots and stay there. I told her this was only temporary. After some flowers and smooth talking she finally agreed. It was a good thing too because the tickets were already bought! (LAUGHS)

DR. WEISSMAN

(LAUGHS) Yes, very fortunate. What do you do for a living, Mr. Washburn?

TOMMY

Ya know, just call me Tommy.

DR. WEISSMAN

Very well... Tommy... What do you do for a living?

TOMMY

My father was in the banking industry, made numerous large investments which I manage today.

DR. WEISSMAN

Sounds like a lucrative position.

TOMMY

Oh it is. It keeps Mary in fine dresses and pearls so it's good enough for me.

DR. WEISSMAN

Mary is your wife?

TOMMY

Yes.

DR. WEISSMAN

You mention her a lot.

TOMMY

A man's not supposed to talk about his wife?

DR. WEISSMAN

Mr. Washb--Tommy, this is a simple intake. My aim is to build a profile of you that allows me to better understand you and the future tapes you'll be turning in.

TOMMY

Oh yeah, I talk about her a lot. What can I say? I'm a lucky guy. High school sweethearts, and she never left my side. I spoil her but hey! I've got the means to do so. Jim at the accounting firm? He couldn't even get his wife a fur for Christmas. We're fortunate. That's why I got us these tickets.

DR. WEISSMAN

I'm sorry, why?

TOMMY

Because we can. I don't want to be drafted. I don't want Mary being a widow. This war don't concern us. Might as well find a better life... get out while the gettin's good.

DR. WEISSMAN

Ahh, I understand.

MAX

Ok, I'll spare you the rest. It's just basic medical history, family history. Things relevant to my thesis but probably not anyone else. I spliced together some of the basic profiles of the other five members. Knowing who these people were, I think, is really important.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER MOUSE*

MAX

Ok here we go, Penelope Rutherford.

*TWO MORE CLICKS ON THE MOUSE*

DR. WEISSMAN

Ms. Penelo-

PENNY

Call me Penny or I'll have your hide from here to Sunday.

DR. WEISSMAN

Yes, Ms. Rutherford.

PENNY

It's Missus.

DR. WEISSMAN

My apologies. I didn't see a husband in your dossier.

PENNY

That's because he didn't come.

DR. WEISSMAN

He chose to stay on shore? Why?

PENNY

Said this was the coward's way out. He wanted to stay and be ready to fight if they needed him to. I told him the army don't have no use for a 57-year-old man, but he is stubborn. Especially when he's doing what he thinks is right.

DR. WEISSMAN

That's admirable.

PENNY

It's stupid. I've been married to him for 32 years and never once has he not been pigheaded. But God love me, I love the big ol' fool.

DR. WEISSMAN

So then why not stay behind with him?

PENNY

Are you joshin' me? Just because he's a fool, don't mean I have to be one too.

DR. WEISSMAN

Very well. Did anyone else come with you?

PENNY

No. We have no children. Which is fine enough. I could use some time to myself. And later, when he comes to his senses and joins us out here, I can say a big fat I-told-ya-so.

DR. WEISSMAN

(LAUGHS) Yes ma'am. Alright, what do you do for a living?

PENNY

I'm retired, but before that I was a nurse. I was at a small ob-gyn practice, assisting mothers through labor and all that. I never wanted kids of my own, but that doesn't mean I hate kids. I

actually love kids, just they're not for me. So I enjoyed helping these new mommas through the difficulties of childbirth.

DR. WEISSMAN

That's very admirable of you.

PENNY

You're damn right it is. (THEY LAUGH TOGETHER) Either way that's how I met my Marshall.

DR. WEISSMAN

Your husband?

PENNY

Yes, Marshall Rutherford. The most handsome man you'll ever meet, no offense. But yes, he was a military man. A man from his unit had a wife in my care. When their son was born the whole damn unit wound up in the room. I tried to clear them out, but damn if Marshall didn't catch me with those blue eyes. Six months later we were married, and I never looked back.

DR. WEISSMAN

Oh! Six months is a very short time.

PENNY

I don't like wasting time. I knew he was the man for me, and that was it. I think 32 years shows I made a smart choice.

DR. WEISSMAN

Indeed. Now let's continue on with-

*MOUSE CLICK*

MAX

So that's Penny. So far I've liked her the best. Now, I know you're probably thinking this is really boring. The people themselves are interesting, but as far as why I would make a podcast of all of this, it seems pointless, right? It's not, I assure you. I was researching Dr. Weissman for my thesis, but it was what I heard on these tapes that, well... I know I'm not crazy, and I need other people to hear this. I need to others hear what I hear. I never expected a simple thesis to turn into this, so please bear with me. I can't even pinpoint the exact moment where... Whatever happened, all began. But I know where it got WAY too real for me. I tried letting in the people in my life--friends, lovers, classmates--no one will listen to these. So I'm hoping by putting this out into the world, maybe I can find even just one person that can help me make sense of it all... Ok, enough of that, next... Let's see... Ahh! [SNAPS FINGERS] Aodhan Manus.

AODHAN

I'm not lettin' you turn me in!

DR. WEISSMAN

Sit. I have no intention of turning you in. In fact, you're exactly what I need.

AODHAN

Look, I don't know what you do in your private life, and I don't care but-

DR. WEISSMAN

Sh-sh-sh-shush. This has to do with science. I'm researching how living down here affects people, [A BREATH] mentally. I'm attempting to achieve a proper cross section of people to research. At current, I lack the view of the average... poor person.

AODHAN

I ain't poor! I'm a hardworking man just getting what I earned!

DR. WEISSMAN

And what do you mean by that? W-w-wait-wait-wait-wait... Please read this out loud for me.

AODHAN

What is this?!

DR. WEISSMAN

It's a standard release form. I'm recording this conversation, and you will be recording yourself in the future. So you need to read this to cover us both, eh, uh, [EMPHATICALLY] legally.

AODHAN

And you're not going to turn me in?

DR. WEISSMAN

I have no business in dealing with stow aways.

AODHAN

Alright...

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

MAX

Sorry, it's the same thing you heard Tommy do, and he asks a million questions during it. Ok!

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*



DR. WEISSMAN

Alright, so to continue what I was going to say: What do you mean you're getting what you earned?

AODHAN

This ship! Who do you think built it? Businesses hire people like me to build the luxuries that only you rich people get to enjoy. I bled to build this ship; I know every square inch of it; I deserve to be on it, so I snuck on. I'm not the only one, but I'm not gonna rat out my friends. We have a small community, people and families that constructed this. We earned our place on this ship, and it's bullshit we couldn't buy tickets.

DR. WEISSMAN

Bullshit? So you mean you couldn't afford a ticket?

AODHAN

Of course we couldn't. They barely paid us to build it. I made \$400 a year. You people probably make that in a month! Why should I build your way to escape the war then still have to go to war myself? You people profit off people in our position because we can't do better. THAT is what's bullshit.

DR. WEISSMAN

Fair enough. Well, I would greatly like your input on this. Tell me, do you have any family?

AODHAN

No. Had a sweetheart a while back, but once her family found out where I'm from, they wouldn't allow it. The damn girl left me. Didn't even argue her parents. Guess that shows how much she loved me.

DR. WEISSMAN

That's an awful situation.

AODHAN

Yeah, well, convince the rest of the country we Irish ain't a problem, and we'll be square.

DR. WEISSMAN

I'll do what I can. Perhaps your tapes can even influence that. With these tapes I want you to record your thoughts, your feelings, how it feels to live here. perhaps you can illuminate to the world your struggles, and bring understanding.

AODHAN

Yeah? Hm. Then I'm in. If I can show these richies what for, then I'll do it. So I just take this case and record everything?

DR. WEISSMAN

Yes, do not share with those around you what you're doing. Though, in all fairness you can tell them you're recording them, if you want.

AODHAN

Nah, people like us get spooked when we know you people are list'nin'. If they got on to that idea it'd be a damn riot in the bottom deck.

DR. WEISSMAN

Do you feel safe to do this then?

AODHAN

Oh yeah! Look, boyo, I got no problem helping you on your little science thing and I'm not gonna tell anyone what I'm doing other than I stole this fancy device from the upper deck folks, and I just want to play with it a bit.

DR. WEISSMAN

Every week I need you to drop off your tapes so I can give you new ones. They only hold so much... time.

AODHAN

Got it. We done here?

DR. WEISSMAN

Umm, yes. Here's the-

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

MAX

Aodhan's intake is the most intriguing to me. In movies you always see the secret society of poor people. To me that's way more exciting than regular rich life. But well, everything about this ship is beyond regular. So next, let's see... We've got Fiona Bedevere next.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

DR. WEISSMAN

Mrs. Bedevere, thank you for that. So now, what do you do for a living?

FIONA

Oh! I'm an artist! My husband is the one who really works. I just do paintings and occasionally put them in a gallery to sell them. They don't pull in a lot of money, but it is a nice feeling that someone wanted my art.

DR. WEISSMAN

Are you still painting?

FIONA

Yes! I've been painting the sights around the ship, some portraits of the other passengers, and when we go above water, I go up to the observation deck and paint the ocean.

DR. WEISSMAN

That's a lot of paintings. You could open your own gallery here! (LAUGHS)

FIONA

Oh my! (LAUGHS) thank you. Maybe I'll consider that.

DR. WEISSMAN

You strike me as a very shy person. Being in a smaller area with so many people... Is this ship problematic for you?

FIONA

...a little? I usually just stay in our estate room, or come out occasionally when I want to paint. I keep to myself really. A lot of the passengers have very... Large personalities. My social time is limited.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

MAX

Unfortunately that's as useful as Fiona's intake tape is. She's really shy, and doesn't share much info. Thankfully she gets better a bit later. So next we've got... Leo! Leo Moretti. His file struck me as the most interesting, largely because of his job. A big question I had about a ship like the Utopia was how did they have food, how did they sustain living out there, how did they do anything out there? It's very cool how they do it. Well, I'll let Leo tell you.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

DR. WEISSMAN

What do you do for a living?

LEO

I'm a farmer, here on the ship.

DR. WEISSMAN

Yes, of course. That's level 5, isn't it?

LEO

Level 6. Level 5 is the kitchens.

DR. WEISSMAN

Oh, my apologies. Could you please explain what you do as a farmer?

LEO

Ok? It's very simple. We have a farm. Level 6 is large enough we have the animals organized by three sections. The first area is for animals that produce goods. You know, cows for milk, chickens for eggs, things like that. The next area is for breeding. Same animals, just designated for producing more animals. There's also an aquarium section with varying kinds of fish. The next section is the actual produce part. There are varying bits of soil and the produce is organized by type. There's a bunch of experimental things to grow the produce better, but well, I'm not a scientist like you. I don't need to understand it. I just need to harvest it. Then the back section is the meat section. To say it politely, it's where we take animals who will become the actual meat: poultry, and fish that are sent up to the kitchens. The kitchens have various machines for dealing with everything we send them.

DR. WEISSMAN

That's quite an operation down there.

LEO

Yeah, you should visit it sometime. It'd be nice if you folks up top knew where your food came from. Might give you some appreciation for what we do.

DR. WEISSMAN

I definitely appreciate your work.

LEO

Oh, you know who I mean.

DR. WEISSMAN

Yes, sir. Is this like the work you did back home?

LEO

Yeah! I've been a farmer for as long as I can remember. We have a couple scientists on staff there, and they don't know a single thing about the grit of farming. But they'll figure it out in time. It's only been a couple of days.

DR. WEISSMAN

Ah yes of course.

LEO

So, I just take this briefcase and talk into it a bunch and you figure out some science stuff

from it?

DR. WEISSMAN

(LAUGHS) Yes, that's a decent sum up of it. And you'll drop off the tapes weekly to pick up new, empty ones.

LEO

Got it. So, can I get back to work?

DR. WEISSMAN

Yes, and thank you for your time. We can go over family history in another session. I understand you're the head of your team, and have a lot to do. [PAUSE] Thank you for the work you and all of Level 6 do. I will definitely encourage people to come down and learn more about what you do.

LEO

I appreciate that. Thank you, Doctor.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

MAX

No need in hearing his other intake as it's the same family history and health things everyone else covered. So the last person we have is Nora Edmond. She's... She's fun. (LAUGHS)

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

DR. WEISSMAN

And, uh, what do you do for a living?

NORA

Nuthin.

DR. WEISSMAN

Alright... What about for Fun?

NORA

Nuthin.

DR. WEISSMAN

Ms. Edmond, why did you agree to this study?

NORA

Because assholes like you don't know a damn thing about anything going on right under your

noses.

DR. WEISSMAN

So you want to upper class to understand the lower class?

NORA

I mean, you'll never understand. But maybe you'll fucking listen.

DR. WEISSMAN

That's more than fair. So then why are you not giving any information about yourself?

NORA

I don't want you all knowing too much about me. You can know my life without knowing me. I don't need this all getting out and you hurting my family or something. I don't need a mafia showing up at my ma's house.

DR. WEISSMAN

So you fancy conspiracies?

NORA

'Ey, it's not a conspiracy if it's true, is it? I don't even know if you are a real doctor. But I'd be an idiot to not take the opportunity to have someone like you listen to me.

DR. WEISSMAN

Very well. You make very valid points.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

MAX

She's a big more obstinate, but he gets her to accept the recorder and go on her way. She's my favorite, honestly. I guess because her headstrong attitude and twinge of reasonable paranoia is way too much like my sister. But yeah, so those are the starting people of Weissman's work.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

*PHONE NOTIFICATION BING*

MAX

Oh shit! The rest of my audio! Damn I'm gonna owe Scott and Ellie way, WAY too many favors for this. 800 hours of audio down to manageable bits. Apparently giving people the technology to record their every thought just leads to lots of needless empty space or random babbling. So... Exactly like social media. That's what fascinates me about this, I guess. This

feels like the origins of things like Livejournal, and subsequent social media. Giving people of that time a way to record and document their every thought and personal feelings about the world around them. Diaries for public consumption. That's what made me decide to do my thesis on these recordings. People can say what they want about "kids these days", but the self indulgent need to tell our own story has existed throughout history. Dr. Weissman took that desire and used it to study life on the Utopia. Who knows, if Utopia had not sank, we might all be living on ships right now. But anyway! Back to the tapes.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

FIONA

Could you hold still?

MAN

This is weird.

FIONA

You had no problem when I first asked you.

MAN

Yeah, because I thought "nude modeling" meant something else. And what's with the big briefcase?

FIONA

Oh that's just a doodad I brought with me. Ignore it, and if you move one more time I'll send you out without your clothes.

MAN

Fine. Fine.

FIONA

(ANNOYED SIGH) There. Good enough. I can fill in the rest. Thank you for your time. Here.

MAN

A quarter!?

FIONA

Don't spend it all in one place.

FIONA

I thought having live figure models would be easier. People here just want portraits that make them not look fat, or conveniently leave out the huge mole on their nose. It's been a couple days and I already feel tired of painting. Don't all artists go through that? Just a time where you hate

your talent? Maybe I'll try knitting for a while.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

MAX

The first tapes are a bit like this: generalized life, things of people not sure how to begin.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

TOMMY

Mary! Where's my blue tie?!

MARY

Darling, I haven't the slightest idea. You said you put all your ties in the black suitcase.

TOMMY

... There are two black suitcases, and it's in NEITHER of them.

MARY

Well then that sounds like your problem and not mine. (GIGGLES) Honestly, dear just wear the black one. No one is going to notice.

TOMMY

But I will notice! (SIGH) Fine. The black one.

TOMMY

Tonight is one of the dinner shows. I'm not a big fan, but Mary is. They have magical performers, comedians, other performing types. Mary used to drag me to these things all the time back in New York.

MARY (FROM A DISTANCE)

I didn't drag you!

TOMMY

Fine, I enjoyed them a little bit. I'm hoping tonight's show is at least decent. It's the first big dinner and a show they've done, but I wager they'll be doing more of them. (PAUSE) I'm not entirely sure what else to say. That's what we're doing tonight? I hope it's good? I'll have to ask the Good Doctor if this is the kind of drivel he's expecting from us.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

AODHAN

Alright... Everything is moving so this is going, right? Okay, um. Hello, my name is Aodhan.



No... That sounds stupid. Fuck. Well, I guess you're going to be my new best friend, oh special briefcase. Maybe these worthless rich people will understand a thing or two after a while. We built this ship. Hell, we built their fancy houses, their cars, their offices. They profit off the sweaty backs of hard working men and women and I'm just tired of it. I'm tired of working me ass off for just... I'm tired of working me ass off just to still be some low class worker for the rest of my life. No doll marries a guy like me. I can either keep working or go to war... and I'm NOT going to war.

MAN 2

Come on Aodhan! There's a whole party out here and you're missing it!!

AODHAN

I'm gonna be out in a fucking second!!

AODHAN

I wish I could explain this recording thing to them. But they wouldn't get it. I like them, but they're dim as shite. They wouldn't understand how important this is, or what it could do for us. They don't understand how big of a deal it is to make these rich people either learn about us, or maybe make them FEEL it a little. (GROANS) Fuck, I better go. Oh so this button is to sto-

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

MAX

I know, and you're right about Aodhan. He's one of the deeper cases of this, and I think Dr. Weissman favors him among the 6. There's no way of knowing for certain, but even in that first entry, he has captured my attention from a psychological standpoint. Ok, two more first tapes, and then I should probably get some sleep. It's already 2am, and I only just began this thesis. Man (SIGHS) Chris wasn't kidding, this shit consumes you, but I am too close to graduating to get lazy.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

LEO

Hey, this is Leo, tape 1 of this Weissman experiment. Not sure what all I'm going to even talk about. My job is pretty boring. I just milked four cows, and my damn arms are tired. Getting those cows to stay standing while this boat rocks is more difficult than it has any right to be. The chickens didn't produce many eggs today, but I guess they're spooked as well. Just about the only damned thing working here is the fruit and vegetables. They're coming in great, and tons of 'em. Gotta keep those fat cats fat, I guess.

*COW MOOING IN THE BACKGROUND*

LEO

Shit. That's from the breeding pens. She wasn't supposed to have that calf for another week. These tapes are gonna be nothing but me being pissed at being one of the only people running this floor.

*COW MOOS AGAIN*

LEO

Fine! Fine! I'm coming! Just let me turn this thing off!

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

MAX

So many of Leo's tapes are just that. Thankfully my friends pared it down into more reasonable bits. The last first tape is Nora and well, again, she's fun.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

NORA

I assume it's moving so it's working. If not, fuck it. Tape 1... Everything is fine. Nothing you rich fucks care about anyway.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

MAX

I swear to you that's it for the first tape. (LAUGHS) thankfully after a couple days she opens up, but that first tape was too funny to pass up.

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

NORA

Almost got caught today. It's ridiculous. I hate skulking around like a rat in the sewers. I'm a human being and I deserve to be here and live normal on this stupid boat. I mean what are they gonna do? Throw me off? Fuck... They probably would. (FRUSTRATED SIGH) I'm only here because of him anyway, and no, I'm not saying who! Love already makes you do stupid things, like following them onto a big, stupid boat. I'm not going to be stupid enough to name him for this doctor to just expose it all and ruin it. I want to do these tapes to give a voice to other women like me. I'm not anyone to speak on other's behalf, but... Someone has to speak up for the mistresses, yeah?

*CLICKING ON A COMPUTER*

MAX

Yeah, a mistress. For as far as I've listened, she still doesn't name who's mistress she is, and

I'm not sure why it surprised me to know her reason for being there. Mistresses weren't entirely uncommon, still aren't, and some might argue they are an entire culture themselves. It definitely seems so in Nora's tapes. She teeters between telling nothing and telling almost everything. Along with Aodhan, she's one of the most interesting to me psychologically so far. But then again they really all are. Dr. Weissman was fantastic in his selection of people. No two are alike and all of them have such wildly different perspectives on the same situations that it really gives weight to the saying "there's three stories, yours, mine, and the truth." I think this thesis is going to wind up being more than I bargained for, but that's why I made this podcast. These people are so amazing, so interesting. Who WOULDN'T want to hear all this? We have a personal fascination with knowing the inner workings of other people's lives. It's why you go through years of photos and status updates on a new friend on social media. We have this deep desire to know secrets, and here are six of the most interesting people I've studied and all their secrets. (YAWNING) And, who knows, maybe I'll get extra credit for making a podcast too. (LAUGHS) Anyway, I can see the sunrise, which is NOT a good thing, so I'm going to go to bed. I've got way more audio to sift through and make coherent, so I'll have to get back at this tomorrow maybe. (TO SELF) umm... How should I end this... BYE!

#### THE BLOOD CROW

The Blood Crow Stories is produced by Ellie Collins and Scott Moore. Season 1: The S. S. Utopia is written by Ellie Collins, sound production by Scott Moore.

Dr. Weissman is played by David Benedict

Max is played by Evan Ivey

Tommy Washburn is Judson Ragsdale

Mary Washburn is Laura Houser

Aodhan Manus is Joe Ravensson

Nora is Emily Thomas

Penny Rutherford is Angel Ashe

Leo Moretti is Charlie Close

Additional voices provided by: Zak Vaudo, Audrey Stadtler, Lindsey Van Pelt, Leaf Ballard, Arun Matthew, Daniel Van Hyle, Eric Ravenscraft, and Gray Lin.

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