

# DWINDLING INTEREST IN “THE LAST SHIP”

August 7th, 2014 By Jovel Johnson



When *The Last Ship* premiered on June 22 there were high hopes for this series. As with any new show, I watched this with an open mind because I like to give new shows the benefit of the doubt. The first episode, in my opinion, wasn't bad – intriguing even. Plainly put, I was interested in seeing it again. The premise was interesting and the problem that needed to be solved (world coming to an end due to seemingly incurable virus needed to be found ASAP before the entire world dies) was something of a different apocalyptic variety. Zombies are all the rage now with top shows like *The Walking Dead*, so having this “end of days” kind of story, **although familiar**, was a bit refreshing. And in the wake of the **recent Ebola outbreak in Liberia** (which infected two American doctors), the deadly virus scenario is all too real.

But as the series went on, I realized there were a few things that were becoming apparent to me. These are things that I may have overlooked or even realized, but chose to sweep them under the table because I wanted to give the show a chance. Watching Sunday's 7th episode, “SOS” made me realize the downfalls of the show.

## Unnecessary Drama

OK. So they're on the "last" ship. Everyone on board knows they're on the "last" ship. Everybody knows there's a scientist on board trying figure out this whole antidote/virus business. And everybody knows that they went to Nicaragua to get monkeys to experiment on, and if they are mature adults, they know that experiments can either work, or they don't. So why did Chandler, Slattery and CMC Jeter (Charles Parnell) hide from the rest of the crew the fact that the experiments were failing and she really didn't know if the vaccine was going to work? Yes, Chandler jumped the gun before and told the whole ship that she found the cure and they were on their way home.



*Dr. Scott's experiments are failing, and Chandler won't share the info. (spoilertv.com)*

But I'm sure, even with their disappointment, they'd understand how things can fall apart. I mean they're already facing extinction, is there ANY other news that can top that? Really? Suspicion ran high when a few of the crew saw Dr. Rachel Scott (Rhona Mitra) throwing dead monkeys off the ship, and even when rumors were running rampant on the ship, nobody thought to just tell everybody what was going on. With them being this small unit practically alone on the seas, shouldn't it just be a space where there's free flowing information? Why don't they throw protocol out the door? What good was going to come from keeping that from them?

### **The acting is a bit...over the top**

The exaggerated side eyes. The strained attempts to look menacing. Or mean. It was a bit distracting, and this comes primarily from Adam Baldwin who plays XO (Executive Officer) Mike Slattery, who's always on the giving side of those looks. It became clearly apparent in a previous episode, "El Toro" where he, along with Captain Tom Chandler (Eric Dane) and Lt. Danny Green (Travis Van Winkle), was captured and held hostage in Nicaragua while on a mission to find monkeys for Dr. Rachel Scott's (Rhona Mitra) vaccine trials. Under duress the men showed great bravery and defiance even while being bound and outnumbered by armed men. Rightly so. You can't let the enemy see you sweat. But Slattery was not only showing bravery, but also showing good face with his "intimidating" side glances to Chandler and Green. I know those looks were supposed to be saying, "We can't back down. They're going down", but it just looked like a child TRYING to look mad.



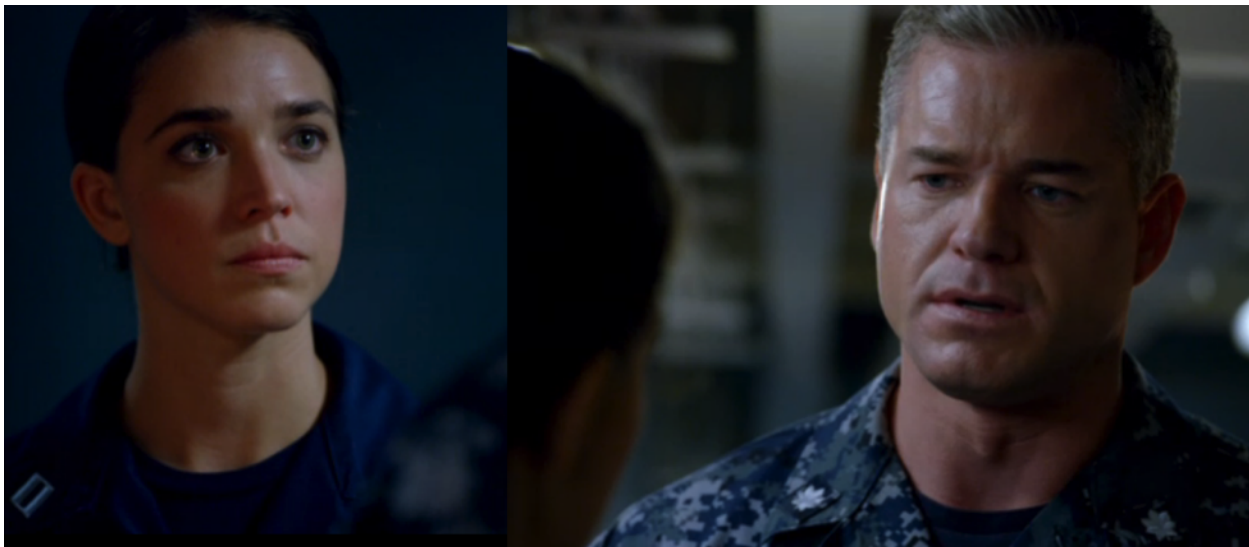
*See what I mean? The ole Slattery mean mug. (releasetheclackum.blogspot.com)*

But he's not the only one. With information being held from the crew, some wanted off the ship – 16 of them to be exact. And I'm wondering, "Where are you guys going? The ship is the safest place to be right now (they even

said that in the show). How are you planning to live?” Anyway, they all formally put their names on a piece of paper with the request to leave. THAT’s when Chandler decides to have full transparency and show the whole crew what’s been happening. Was that so hard? The 16 decide to re-enlist. Despite that, everybody else starts to treat them like deserters. With a rescue mission being put in place for **a lone survivor off Jamaica’s coast**, Lt. Green, speaking to Cossetti, one of the main instigators of the “upheaval”, melodramatically cautioned him that to win back everyone else’s trust, he needed to be on his ‘A’ game without mistakes. An 18 year old Jamaican girl is rescued, but it wasn’t without hitches. In fact, Admiral Ruskov and his ship full of Russians intervened, leaving Chandler and Tex having to let the team leave without them. Lt. Green grilled Cossetti about the details in the most annoying way. Over the top. Think I’m the only one with these problems? Au contraire, mon frere...**think again.**

### **Throw Away Subplots**

The relationship between Lt. Green and Lt. Kara Foster (Marissa Neitling) is unnecessary and doesn’t help to push any kind of story forward. Apparently, **there are US Navy regulations** that prohibit the fraternization of its members; therefore Green and Foster are breaking the rules. However, even with that risk, there is no sense of angst for the couple. Even when Green broke it off with her (for personal reasons) there is no feeling of loss. The relationship was brought to light with both being punished. Still no feelings. We’ll see if that relationship will make any kind of impact.



*Chandler (right) found out about the relationship between Foster (left) and Green. (releasetheclackum.blogspot.com)*

## Empty Characters

In the beginning I cared about the characters. However, as the episodes went on, the character development started losing steam, so I started losing interest in what happens to them. At this point, I'm just watching as a mental bystander, not really having any kind of invested emotions in the series...that is until the show begins to pick up speed again.

And I'm hoping it does, because as I said, I had high hopes for it and the post-apocalyptic problem is refreshing. For now though, I'll be watching it from the emotional sidelines because I like to finish what I start and, well, I'm a glutton for punishment.



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