**New Subject**

**Title:** A debt, a stormy lake, and a risky fishing ride

**Logline:** Two brothers, fishers at Lake Sevan, face waves and algae in the middle of the night, risking their lives, to catch enough fish to make the money they need to pay back a debt due the next morning.

**Pitch:** Hamlet is at home having dinner with his family when he receives a call on his mobile: he must pay off his debt the next morning… That means he’ll have to enter the lake that night, despite the storm, to catch around 50 fish to make the needed money. Together with his brother Husik, he goes fishing fighting against the waves and a torn net that gives more algae than fish. They reach the end of the first net with only 14 fish caught. As they ride toward the second net, the sound of the boat’s motor starts to change… the fuel is running out, and they are kilometers away from the shore.

**Characters:**

Hamlet and Husik: Hamlet and Husik are brothers from the fishing village Noratus lying on the western shore of Lake Sevan. Hamlet, the older brother, has 4 children; Husik has 3. They have been working together as fishers for 10 years. Before that, they were in Russia, working in seasonal construction jobs. They left that job and Russia because they were too dependent on their patron, and they didn’t see the point of living away from their family and hometown. Fishing keeps them close to home and gives them some independence. They like the fact that they don’t have to report to anyone and that they don’t have fixed schedules. But they are exhausted by now, and do not enjoy the work however gorgeous the sunrises are from the middle of the lake. Hamlet’s oldest daughter is 20 years old, at the marriage age. Husik’s eldest is his 18 year-old son who recently started his mandatory military service. Since their families live in adjacent houses and they work together, most of the time they combine their costs and income. While they have chosen fishing over migrating, they do not want their children to become fishers. The job is exhausting and dangerous; the income unstable; they cannot live without taking loans. They are always in debt however much they hate it.

**Summary:**

Act I: At night, Hamlet is at home having dinner with his family when he receives a call on his mobile. The caller tells Hamlet that he needs the money back, he can’t wait anymore, he expects Hamlet to pay off the debt the next morning. Hamlet tries to negotiate. In vain. The next morning is the last chance. He’ll have to enter the wavy lake that night to catch around 50 fish to make the needed money. There’s no other way around.

Act II: A few hours later, Hamlet and his brother Husik, take off from the shore with their motorboat facing a stormy lake. It takes much longer than usual to reach their first net, they are worried that the boat’s fuel won’t take them much farther, having to crash all the waves. They pull the net and count the fish as they come out occasionally from a torn and algae covered net. They complain about the algae bloom and the government that instead of solving bigger problems like pollution of the lake, puts obstacles on their work by banning fishing. They reach the end of the net, it has only given them 14 fish, 1400 Drams [equivalent to 3.3 EUR] that barely covers the boat’s fuel cost. They decide to take a risk and continue riding toward the second net laid near the island where the currents might be weaker, so the fish a bit more. They ride again crashing into waves. They’re almost not moving forward. The waves are too big. They finally see the net from a distance, but the sound of the boat’s motor starts to change. The fuel is too low, it won’t take them further, they need to return to the shore ASAP.

Act III: They turn the direction of the boat. The sun has risen, and someone is trying to reach Hamlet: Driiing-Driiiing!