most people do not want love to be a journey... they want

it to be the promise of a perfect holiday cruise destination specific dreamworlds choreographed attentiveness calm tropical sailing romantic mysteries of the caribbean and island steel drums.

they want

the captain to wear fantasy white deck shoes sophisticated choices in the gift shop for discriminating interests the ship pool free of magical pollution and leaked human contaminants the private balconies facing the ocean cleared of choices and existential questions the toilets to flush indiscretions discreetly away.

they do not want

to see eye patch sailors gathering in small groups
looking over their shoulders at the passenger wealth
the captain thump walking the deck with his eyes on

the dark night of the white whale with his whale path and his ghost song cannibals waiting for them to arrive with field dressing tools

of communally notched animal bones addressing the perimeter of time.

what could ever go wrong
traveling in a confined space
with so many needs and so many expectations on deck
and the heavy slosh of bilge water below.

the journey and the cruise. wf.h. 2022