HERE BE DRAGONS

Written by

Buster & Eugene La Haye

Lahayebros@gmail.com

HERE BE DRAGONS

EXT. OPEN SEA - DAY - **1700S**

A dense FOG hangs over the water. The sea is an eerie calm.

The PROW of a SHIP pushes through the mist. It is a Spanish galleon. 500 tons, 170 feet.

TITLES clue us in: (SUPERIMPOSED):

SÃO FILIPE

MERCHANT SHIP. Destination: SPAIN. Cargo: UNKNOWN.

EXT. *SÃO FILIPE* - DAY

The sparse crew works the sails in silence. There's a weariness to them... Sunken eyes that have seen too much.

THE CAPTAIN mans the helm. He checks the compass. The needle swings wildly from east to west.

CAPITÁN
(SPANISH, with subtitles)
This damn compass is useless.

His FIRST MATE stands at the rail (70s, straggly gray beard). He makes a mark on a TATTERED MAP.

FIRST MATE
It's the island. It has a way of affecting things.

A SAILOR rings the SHIP'S BELL.

CAPITÁN
That's four. Tell Bazán to check the cargo.

FIRST MATE
Bazán! Cargo check!

A sailor named BAZÁN turns white (pockmarked, 20s). He ties down the mizzen line and dutifully departs.

INT. BELOW DECK - *SÃO FILIPE* - DAY

Bazán carries a lantern past rows of swinging hammocks, occupied by WOUNDED SAILORS. Some of them groan in pain. There's an air of rotting sickness down here.

INT. HOLD - *SÃO FILIPE* - DAY

Bazán maneuvers past crates of supplies, stacked all the way to the ceiling. He sets the lantern down and opens a barrel.

Bazán reaches inside, removes a slab of MEAT. He skewers it to a stick.

Bazán advances toward an enormous WOODEN CAGE, hidden under a canvas sail -- tucked away at the far end of the hold.

He grips the canvas... and *rips it aside*.

The cage is empty. Bazán gasps.

Some of the bars have been chewed through, leaving a GAPING HOLE. Bazán drops the stick and spins around, pistol drawn.

He cocks the hammer back with trembling hands. His eyes sweep over the hold. They land on a barrel -- DEEP CLAW MARKS are scratched into the wood.

ANGLE ON -- a YELLOW EYE, watching him from the shadows. Big, cunning, distinctly inhuman.

Bazán hears something and turns.

BAZÁN
Diego? Is that you?

No answer. The ship heaves. A cask tumbles over and hits the floor behind him.

He whips around -- BANG!! Smoke clears from his pistol.

Nothing. Just the cask. Bazán hurriedly reloads. He pours in fresh powder, jams another shot down the muzzle.

SOMETHING crosses behind him.

Bazán freezes. Sweat pours down his face.

BAZÁN (CONT'D)
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

Bazán cocks the hammer back again. He takes a deep breath, stealing himself...

He spins around.

ROOOOOAAAARRR!! A creature lunges forward. We glimpse long claws, a flash of teeth, before we CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT - *SÃO FILIPE* - DAY

CRIES OF PAIN echo from the ship, mingled with the terrible sounds of Bazán being torn apart.

FADE TO BLACK.

TWO YEARS LATER

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

FADE UP ON -- a wall of dense foliage, shrouded in midnight fog. Impenetrable. Mysterious. Primeval.

SOMETHING rustles in the trees.

A fern moves aside and a FACE appears. It belongs to a ROYAL MARINE, sporting the classic red jacket. This is BILLY (20s, boyish enthusiasm). He crawls forward, flat on his stomach, and looks through a spyglass.

SPYGLASS POV -- *a TOWN is nestled in a COVE at the mouth of a valley. Glowing windows. The sounds of raucous drinking.*

PAN LEFT TO -- *a HALF-DOZEN SHIPS, anchored in the bay.*

Billy crawls back. He slides into a ditch where FIFTY MARINES are waiting, pumped with adrenaline, itching for action.

BILLY
They’re all there. I recognized Everly’s ship, Bennet’s, and Bartholomew’s...

ANGLE ON -- the commanding officer -- 2nd Lieutenant JOSHUA CORDELL (early 30s). Dashing good looks, with a determination stemming from unbridled ambition.

CORDELL
What about Sheffield’s?

BILLY
Sorry, Lieutenant. Didn’t see it.

A SKEEVY MAN with missing teeth speaks up. This is OTTO BORGEN, 50s, the only man not in uniform.

OTTO BORGEN
There's another cove on the other side of the island. He could be anchored there.

CORDELL
Any lookouts?

BILLY
Nary a man. I've seen whore houses better guarded.

CORDELL
They still don't know we're coming. Alright, Mr. Borgen, well done.

He tosses a money pouch to Borgen.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
Jameson, signal the Commodore.

EXT. JUNGLE CLIFF - NIGHT

A MARINE uses a lantern to signal a nearby SHIP.

EXT. THE *DISCOVERY* - STERN DECK - CONTINUOUS

The signal is received by a SAILOR aboard the HMS *Discovery*. Standing at the rail, watching the cliffs, is COMMODORE LESLIE HUMPHREY (70s, tall, severe). Beside him are CAPTAIN DECKARD (50s, about 250 pounds), and 1st Lieutenant PETERS.

SAILOR
Baker's Bay spotted. ... Everly, Bartholomew, and Bennet, all present. ... Low security.

CAPTAIN DECKARD
By God, we've got 'em! You'll make Vice Admiral for this!

HUMPHREY
Shut up. Signal Cordell to advance his team, but tell him not to engage until I give the order. I've spent six months planning this attack, I don't want any mistakes.

SAILOR
Aye, Commodore.

HUMPHREY
Captain, get us in position this side of an hour. Have the other ships do the same.

CAPTAIN DECKARD
An hour?! That’s impossible, sir. The wind’s are too far south, and there’re reefs everywhere...!

HUMPHREY
Very well. You’re relieved. Mr. Peters, you have the con.

CAPTAIN PETERS
Aye aye, sir.

Deckard is brushed aside by Lt. Peters (now Captain).

CAPTAIN PETERS (CONT'D)
Haul anchor and lower the main sail!

EXT. JUNGLE CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

A RED LIGHT flashes from the Commodore’s ship. The marine creeps back into the jungle.

EXT. JUNGLE DITCH - MOMENTS LATER

Cordell waits with his unit.

MARINE
Red light, Lieutenant.

CORDELL
This is it. Stow your worries and take heart, men. King George has need of us tonight.

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

PIRATES drown themselves in whiskey and rum -- laughing, shouting, singing off-key. BUXOM MAIDS carry food and ale around the room. ONE MAN winds through the tables, chasing a GIGGLING BARMAID.

A sharp-eyed WOMAN in a tricorn hat descends the stairs. She is MARIETTA SHEFFIELD (30s), first mate on the *SEA DRAGON.*

She stops a passing PIRATE.

MARIETTA
Where’s the captain?

DRUNK PIRATE
Yousha gimme a peck onda cheek in wit helpin whimmarsh shinon trawdi anni mabey Iyya tells ya.

She pushes him aside and grabs SOMEONE ELSE.

MARIETTA
Have you seen my uncle?

SOBER PIRATE
In the back.

INT. TAVERN - BACK ROOM - NIGHT

CAPTAIN ROGER SHEFFIELD (60s, red beard, going gray) sits at a table opposite CAPTAIN EVERLY (slim and scrawny). They’re playing backgammon before a crowd of ONLOOKERS.

EVERLY
Double fives! Doesn’t look good for the dreaded Roger Red.

SHEFFIELD
The night is young, Mr. Everly. Anything can happen.

Marietta pushes to the front and whispers in Sheffield’s ear.

MARIETTA
Captain, can I speak to you?
(he grunts)
Otto Borgen is missing. No one’s seen him all night.

SHEFFIELD
He’s probably with a girl upstairs.

MARIETTA
I checked. He’s not.

SHEFFIELD
Then he’s puking his guts out outside. What do I care what that whiny shit is up to?

MARIETTA
I want to look for him.

SHEFFIELD
Fine. Let me play.

Sheffield waves her away and rolls the dice.

EXT. JUNGLE ROAD - NIGHT

Cordell and his unit advance down a road, silent as the grave. They approach a GATE in the adobe town wall.

Cordell raises a hand. They stop. He nods at Billy. Billy rushes forward, bayonet in hand. He slips through the unlocked gate.

ON THE OTHER SIDE -- Billy surprises a PIRATE taking a piss.

PIRATE
SOLDIERS...! THERE ARE --

Billy stabs him, cutting him off.

WITH CORDELL -- We hear sounds of a SKIRMISH... then a bird call: *tweet-t-t-t-t-tweet!*

CORDELL
All clear.

He leads his men through the gate.

EXT. TOWN - BAKER'S BAY - MOMENTS LATER

Marietta walks through the edge of town. She hears FOOTSTEPS up ahead and hides behind a barrel.

Cordell ushers his men forward.

CORDELL
This way. Not too loud. Jameson, take ten men and watch the houses over there. Don't enter until you see the signal.

Marietta slips away.

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Marietta enters through a back door and seeks out a hulking giant named BIG OX.

MARIETTA
Get the crew and make for the ship.

OX
Are you daft? It’s not even midnight!

MARIETTA
Just do it. Be ready to sail at once.

INT. TAVERN - BACK ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Marietta whispers in her uncle’s ear.

MARIETTA
We need to leave.

SHEFFIELD
Not now. My luck just changed.

MARIETTA
Borgen sold us out. There’s gonna be a raid any minute.

Sheffield hesitates, about to toss his dice.

SHEFFIELD
(quiet)
Are you sure?

MARIETTA
King’s men are already in the town.

Sheffield doesn’t move, thinking fast.

EVERLY
It’s your turn, Captain.

Without a word Sheffield stands and walks out.

EVERLY (CONT'D)
Where are you going? You promised me two more rounds!

EXT. BAKER’S BAY - NIGHT

The *Discovery* has lined up with five other MEN-O’-WAR. Together they block the mouth of the bay.

CAPTAIN PETERS
All ships in position, sir.

HUMPHREY
Good. Light the Chinese candle.

EXT. TAVERN - NIGHT

PIRATES hurry out the back door, arms loaded with food and casks of rum. Some are only half dressed, carrying their clothes. Sheffield follows them out, pulling on his coat.

SHEFFIELD
If we hurry we could make the morning tide.

A distant WHISTLE makes them stop. They turn to see a WHITE LIGHT shooting into the sky.

It EXPLODES in showers of GREEN SPARKLES. They rain down over the bay, bathing everything in an eerie green.

WITH CORDELL -- The royal marines watch from the shadows.

CORDELL
That’s the signal!

INT. TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

SMASH!! The doors and windows break open. Marines force themselves inside, muskets raised.

CORDELL
Stay where you are!

There are SCREAMS. Pirates tumble out of chairs. ONE OF THEM draws his gun. BANG! A marine shoots him through the chest. People flee for the exits.

EXT. TOWN - BAKER'S BAY - NIGHT

PIRATES and PLEASURE GIRLS pour onto the streets and run for the ships. A French captain -- MONSIUER BENNET -- pushes his way through the crowd, followed by his crew.

BENNET
Hurry, to the ship!

They reach the waterfront.

BOOM! A cannonball blasts through the mast of a brig right in front of him. The mast keels over, striking the water.

EXT. THE *DISCOVERY* - CONTINUOUS

Commodore Humphrey watches through a spyglass.

HUMPHREY
Hit them again.

CAPTAIN PETERS
FIRE!!

EXT. WATERFRONT - BAKER'S BAY - CONTINUOUS

ANOTHER VOLLEY of cannon fire tears through the town, smashing glass, splintering wood.

Bennet draws his sword.

BENNET
They won't get Pierre Bennet without a fight!

He is stabbed through the chest by a passing REDCOAT.

INT. TAVERN - BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Cordell slams into the card room. He ducks as --

WHACK! A boarding axe strikes the door above his head.

It was thrown by Captain Everly. Cordell wrests the axe free and flings it back. It lands in Everly's shoulder as he's turning to run.

Everly collapses to the floor. Cordell crosses to him and kneels on his back.

CORDELL
What happened to Sheffield?

EVERLY
Go to hell, bilge rat!

Cordell pushes the axe in deeper, making Everly squirm.

EVERLY (CONT'D)
Alright! I'll tell!

EXT. TAVERN - MOMENTS LATER

Cordell meets Billy and THREE MARINES outside.

CORDELL
Sheffield's berthed on the north side of the island. Get a message to Commodore Humphrey.
(MORE)

CORDELL (CONT'D)
With the right wind, he can still cut him off. You three come with me.

EXT. ISLAND - NIGHT

Cordell leads the three marines up a ridge, silhouetted against the moonlit rocks.

Ahead of them several LANTERNS bounce through the trees.

CORDELL
That's them.

MARINE
Looks like they're stopping.

CORDELL
Probably catching their breath. Keep going.

EXT. JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS

Marietta peers into the darkness behind them.

SHEFFIELD
What is it?

MARIETTA
I thought I saw something move.

ONE-HANDED PIRATE
In this light? Not a chance.

SHEFFIELD
Crazy-eyes, what do you think?

A wiry BLACK MAN with wild green eyes looks through a glass.

CRAZY-EYES
I see three men, maybe four.

Sheffield hands him a musket.

SHEFFIELD
See what you can do.

EXT. ISLAND - CONTINUOUS

Cordell and the marines keep running. BAM! One of them is shot through the head. The others freeze. BANG! Crazy-eyes shoots another one. Cordell drops down.

CORDELL
Christ. One of them must have eyes like an eagle.

They keep moving, at a crouch.

EXT. JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS

Crazy-eyes hands a second musket back to Sheffield.

CRAZY-EYES
Got two of them, Captain.

SHEFFIELD
You're a marvel.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Sheffield's crew race across the sand. They crowd into a JOLLY BOAT and push off.

His ship, the *Sea Dragon*, is anchored offshore. Men are already aboard, trimming the sails and getting ready.

EXT. CLIFF - NIGHT

Cordell and the third marine crawl to the edge of a cliff. They look down at Sheffield's ship: it'll pass directly in front of them to escape.

Sheffield's jolly boat reaches the *Dragon*. The pirates climb a rope ladder to board.

Cordell loads fresh powder and shot into his pistol. He fires. BANG! Miss.

MARINE
You'll never be able to hit them from this far!

CORDELL
Maybe I'll get lucky.

He reloads his gun.

EXT. THE *SEA DRAGON* - INTERCUT

Marietta spots the two men's silhouettes.

MARIETTA
There! On the cliff!

SOMEONE tosses Crazy-eyes a fresh musket. He takes aim.

BAM! He hits Cordell in the shoulder. Cordell slumps forward and rolls off the cliff.

MARINE
Lieutenant!

SPLASH!! He hits the water and sinks below the surface.

The other marine ducks down, out of Crazy-eyes' view.

SHEFFIELD
An extra ration of rum for William Tell! Now take us out!

MARIETTA
Aye, Captain.

Marietta grabs the wheel.

Cordell bursts out of the water. He turns around, trying to get his bearings. The *Sea Dragon* comes up behind him, a dozen feet away. Cordell dives below to avoid being hit.

EXT. THE *SEA DRAGON* - OPEN WATER - DAWN

The sun rises over the ocean. Sheffield passes through a buzz of activity as men scrub the deck and haul lines. He's accompanied by Marietta and Big Ox, his second mate.

MARIETTA
Fifty-six men before the mast.
Seventeen left behind.

SHEFFIELD
What about provisions?

OX
Full stores of beef, cheese, and flour. Low on pork and water.

SHEFFIELD
Rum?

OX
Enough to last two weeks.

SHEFFIELD
We're in trouble.

CROWS NEST PIRATE
Sail astern!

MOMENTS LATER

SPYGLASS POV -- *the white sails of a fourth-rate MAN-O'-WAR glisten on the horizon.*

Marietta lowers her scope.

SHEFFIELD
British?

MARIETTA
Gotta be. Must've followed us from Baker's Bay.

SHEFFIELD
We'll lose 'em. Not a captain alive can outrun Roger Red.

There's a commotion on the main deck. People SHOUTING.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Buzzard's guts, what is it now?

OX
Captain, we have an uninvited guest!

Cordell is thrown down at Sheffield's feet, soaking wet.

PIRATE
Found this barnacle clinging to the bow.

MARIETTA
He has to be the man who fell off the cliff.

PIRATE
I thought Crazy-eyes killed him.

The ship surgeon, DR. CADAVER (50s), pipes up.

DR. CADAVER
Just winged him is all. This little bird will barely have a scar.

SHEFFIELD
Oh well. Cut his throat and throw him over the side.

The pirates rush to obey with gleeful satisfaction.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Wait!
(they freeze, knives inches from his neck)
Got a name, Englishman?

CORDELL
Joshua Cordell, 2nd Lieutenant.

SHEFFIELD
What do you know about that ship chasing us?

CORDELL
What ship?

They hoist Cordell up so he can see the other vessel.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
That? ... Must be a pirate ship. You should heave to, so you two can talk.

SHEFFIELD
No jokes, Lieutenant. Answer my questions squarely or you get five inches of steel in your neck.

PIRATE HOLDING CORDELL
Do what he says, you stinking muck-spout!

SHEFFIELD
That’s a British ship, isn’t it?

CORDELL
Yes.

SHEFFIELD
They’ve been following us since Baker’s Bay?

CORDELL
Yes.

SHEFFIELD
And they think they can catch Red Roger Sheffield, the scourge of the West Indies, is that it?

CORDELL
No.
(off his look)
They *know* they can catch him. That right there is the HMS *Discovery*.
(MORE)

CORDELL (CONT'D)
And on board is Commodore Leslie Christopher Humphrey. The same Commodore Humphrey who captured Davis, Fry, and Taylor. The same Humphrey who raided Madagascar and put Samuel Sharp's head on a spike. He'll do the same to you, and I'm gonna be there when he does.

SHEFFIELD
Cute. Anyone here lay eyes on the HMS *Discovery* before?

An African sailor named FATU speaks (late 30s, female).

FATU
Aye Captain. Fifty guns. A hundred-twenty feet at the keel.

SHEFFIELD
Those are fifty guns I'd rather not get acquainted with. Open her up, Marietta. We're gonna squeeze every inch out of these sails. And throw this barnacle in the hold.

INT. HOLD - THE *SEA DRAGON* - DAY

Cordell is pushed into a cell. The door slams shut.

He stoops to look out a small crack in the hull.

CORDELL
Come on, Commodore... Heaven grant you speed.

EXT. THE *SEA DRAGON* - MAIN DECK - DAY

Sailors heave at the lines, hoisting the STUDDINGSAILS. They furl out, to the left and right of the main sails.

EXT. STERN DECK - NIGHT

The lights of the *Discovery* shine in the dark. Sheffield examines them through his scope.

SHEFFIELD
Zounds! They're gaining on us!

MARIETTA
At this pace they'll overtake us
the day after tomorrow.

SHEFFIELD
All we need is a westerly wind.
We'll get one soon enough.

INT. HOLD - THE *SEA DRAGON* - DAY

Cordell sits up. We can hear SOMEONE coming.

A squat, pasty pirate in an apron waddles down with a big pot and a bowl. He's the ship's cook, EDDIE.

EDDIE
Wakey, wakey, Lieutenant. Old Eddie
made you breaky.

Eddie passes Cordell a bowl through the bars. He's about to ladle some porridge when Cordell speaks.

CORDELL
The Commodore still behind us?

EDDIE
You know what? No breaky for you.

He yanks the bowl back.

MARIETTA
Give him the porridge, Eddie.

Marietta appears on the steps. Eddie grumbles and fills Cordell's bowl. He waddles out, past Marietta.

EDDIE
Eddie's sorry, miss.

He lugs his pot away, leaving Cordell and Marietta alone.

MARIETTA
Half of them don't want you fed at
all. I convinced them otherwise.

CORDELL
Much obliged.
(he eats)
What's your captain plan to do to me?

MARIETTA
Sell you. There are copper mines in Venezuela that'll pay good money for strong workers.

CORDELL
I see.

Cordell finishes the porridge. He hands her the bowl.

MARIETTA
Keep it. Venezuela's a long way off.

CORDELL
The commodore isn't.

EXT. STERN DECK - DAY

Sheffield looks through his spyglass. The *Discovery* is even bigger on the horizon.

OX
So much for your westerly wind.

Sheffield turns his glass to a BLANKET OF FOG, two miles off.

SHEFFIELD
Take us east, Big Ox. Put us in that fog. Have the men run out the sweeps.
(looking back at the *Discovery*)
We may escape you yet, Commodore.

QUICK CUTS -- gun ports are opened, oars lowered down.

INT. BELOW DECK - DAY

Men heave at the oars.

MARIETTA
Pull men! Pull like the devil's got you by the gullet!

EXT. STERN DECK - DAY

They're a mile from the fog. The *Discovery* closes in. Sheffield can make out the Commodore in his spyglass.

SHEFFIELD
Come on. A little further.

There's a FLASH from the enemy ship, followed by a BOOM of cannon fire. The ball hits the water, a hundred feet astern of the *Sea Dragon*.

OX
You want us to ready the guns?

SHEFFIELD
Forget the guns. *Row.* That's all we can do now. Row!

Sheffield squeezes his spyglass till his hands turn white.

INT. HOLD - THE *SEA DRAGON* - CONTINUOUS

Cordell looks through the crack in the hull. The oars come down... and up... and down... and up...

There's another BOOM. A cannon ball splashes right outside his cell. *They're in range*.

EXT. THE *DISCOVERY* - FORECASTLE - CONTINUOUS

Commodore Humphrey watches through his spyglass.

HUMPHREY
Faster, men. Faster!

They fire another shot. It misses by a half-dozen feet.

The *Sea Dragon* disappears, swallowed up by the fog. Humphrey screams with rage and snaps his spyglass.

CAPTAIN PETERS
Should we follow them, Commodore?

HUMPHREY
Of course you follow them!

INT. BELOW DECK - THE *SEA DRAGON* - CONTINUOUS

The men cheer.

MARIETTA
Quiet down! You'll give our position away.

EXT. MAIN DECK - THE *SEA DRAGON* - DAY

They drift through the fog. Sheffield surveys the mist.

SHEFFIELD
Extra grog all around. And tell Eddie to whip up something special.

Eddie is in earshot.

EDDIE
Eddie hears ya. Veal stomach and boiled haggis it is.

EXT. MAIN DECK - NIGHT

By now the fog is so thick you can cut it with a knife. The men lounge on the deck, laughing and drinking.

A pirate named SEBASTIAN strums a baroque, five-stringed guitar. Some of the men play cards. A crew mate named ONE-HANDED JACK makes a show of shuffling the deck with one hand.

ONE-HANDED JACK
No one deals like One-Handed Jack!

CRAZY-EYES
Come on, Sebastian. Play something with a little heat.

Sebastian changes to an upbeat jig.

INT. HOLD - THE *SEA DRAGON* - NIGHT

Cordell lies on his bench, staring at the ceiling. Marietta sits by his cell, fastening a MODEL SHIP with balsa wood.

CORDELL
Why aren't you above board with the others, toasting your escape?

MARIETTA
(not looking up)
Captain said someone has to watch you, so I'm watching you.

CORDELL
You like making models?

MARIETTA
I like this one. Call it the *Hydra*. I'm gonna commission a full-sized version, one day.

CORDELL
Sure.

MARIETTA
You don’t believe me?

CORDELL
They don’t build ships for pirates, missy. Not unless you’re richer than Genghis Khan.

MARIETTA
Piss off, Lieutenant.

Cordell looks at her. Fair enough.

EXT. MAIN DECK - CONTINUOUS

The men are stomping their feet in time to the music. Fatu sits up, alert.

FATU
Quiet...! You hear that?

Sebastian stops strumming. Everyone listens in.

A distant ANIMAL CALL carries over the water. It has a low, guttural REVERBERATION, like a crocodile.

INT. CAPTAIN’S CABIN - SAME TIME

Sheffield looks up from his charts, listening.

INT. HOLD - THE *SEA DRAGON* - SAME TIME

Cordell stands, his ears perked.

EXT. MAIN DECK - CONTINUOUS

The call is answered by ANOTHER CRY. Like a bird call, but deeper. The men keep still, unnerved.

SEBASTIAN
What is that?

ONE-HANDED JACK
Dunno. Whale song?

FATU
That ain’t no whale song.

OX
See anything, Crazy-eyes?

CRAZY-EYES
In this fog? I couldn't recognize my own mother.

INT. HOLD - CONTINUOUS

Cordell and Marietta listen to the creak of the ship.

MARIETTA
What do you reckon that was?

He thinks.

CORDELL
Before I made lieutenant, I cut my teeth on the HMS *Valor*. One day we happened on a Spanish galleon, adrift in the fog. It was listing to one side. The sails were shot. And the crew was torn to pieces -- slaughtered by some unimaginable creature.
(beat)
People said it landed on an island ruled by giant monsters. They called it the Devil's Teeth... Maybe that island's close by.

Marietta says nothing.

FADE OUT.

EXT. THE *SEA DRAGON* - DAY

They are still trapped in the fog. Marietta, Ox, and Sheffield lean against the rail.

SHEFFIELD
Thirteen days of this unnatural mist.

MARIETTA
We'll have to land soon. We're running short on water.

A wind picks up, rustling their clothes. Marietta pins her hat down. She looks up at the sails, swaying in the breeze.

EXT. THE *SEA DRAGON* - STORM - DAY

LIGHTNING flashes. THUNDER booms. The ship is tossed on roiling waves. Men pull at the lines, soaked to the bone.

Sheffield shouts over the roar of the pounding rain.

SHEFFIELD
Take in the topsail! Do it, or she'll sink us!

Marietta is at the helm, fighting to keep her steady.

INT. HOLD - DAY

Cordell digs his metal spoon into the SOFT WOOD surrounding the door lock. He pauses to listen as waves pound the hull.

EXT. MAIN DECK - CONTINUOUS

A great ROCKY SHAPE looms out of the water.

CRAZY-EYES
ROCKS TO PORT, CAPTAIN!!

SHEFFIELD
TAKE US TWO POINTS STARBOARD!

Marietta spins the wheel.

Crazy-eyes looks back at the rock. It's gone.

CRAZY-EYES
What the -- !

SMASH!! The ship hits an unseen rock. Everyone is thrown off their feet.

INT. HOLD - CONTINUOUS

Water sprays in. The collision has buckled the wall of Cordell's cell.

CORDELL
Jesus Saint Mary in Heaven!

He digs furiously at the wood.

EXT. MAIN DECK - CONTINUOUS

The crew still hasn't pulled in the sail. The mainmast buckles from the weight of the wind.

SHEFFIELD
Dammit, take that sail in!

He pushes a man aside and grabs a line.

OX
Can’t, Captain! She’s stuck on something.

CRAZY-EYES
Look out!

SMASH!! They crash into another rock.

INT. HOLD - CONTINUOUS

More water blasts in, knocking Cordell over. It rises past his knees.

He throws down his spoon and yanks the bars. With each tug, the door bolt gets further out. Finally it rips free.

EXT. MAIN DECK - CONTINUOUS

Waves crash over the rail. The ship is getting pulled down.

SHEFFIELD
Cut her loose!

OX
WHAT!!??

SHEFFIELD
CUT THE MAST! SHE’S BREAKING UP THE SHIP!

The deck cracks from the mast being ripped out of place.

Sheffield grabs an axe from a sailor and hacks at the base of the mast. WHACK! WHACK! WHACK!

More men join in. With each swing they chip away at the base, until -- the mast tips down with an ominous GROAN.

It splashes into the water.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Cut the lines!

The men attack the rigging, sawing through the ropes.

Cordell reaches the deck and looks around.

CORDELL
Captain!

CRAZY-EYES
Captain! Land ho! Northeast!

Sheffield peers through the torrent of clouds and spray at -- THE OUTLINE OF AN ISLAND.

CORDELL
It’s the Devil’s Teeth!

SHEFFIELD
Take us northeast.

CORDELL
Are you crazy??!

SHEFFIELD
We’re taking on water! If we can’t beach her quick, she’ll be lost. Northeast!

MARIETTA
Aye, Captain.

She turns the wheel.

CORDELL
Captain, don’t! It’s the Devil’s Teeth. If you land there, everyone will die.

SHEFFIELD
What?!

CORDELL
Everyone will die! Don’t risk it!

SMASH!! They’re hit by another reef.

The waves carry them closer to the island. Cordell grips a line as a giant swell lifts them up and brings the ship down with a sickening CRUNCH on an outcrop of rock.

The water retreats. They hold fast.

MARIETTA
We’re grounded, Captain!

The roar of the wind dies down.

A shaft of light pierces the clouds, illuminating a line of rugged cliffs above the beach. SERRATED PEAKS tower over an island of thick, steaming jungle.

Cordell shares a look with Marietta.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)
I hope you're wrong about this place.

CORDELL
So do I.

EXT. MAIN DECK - THE *SEA DRAGON* - DAY

The storm is over. The tide has gone out, leaving the *Sea Dragon* beached on a thin stretch of sand.

Sheffield addresses the crew from the poop.

SHEFFIELD
Gentlemen. We're still alive, and for that I'm thankful. But now the real work begins.

EXT. ISLAND - DAY

Marietta sets out with a group of EIGHT PIRATES, including Sebastian, One-handed Jack, and Crazy-eyes.

SHEFFIELD (V.O.)
The first order of business is food and water. I'm sending out Marietta with a team of eight men to bring back fresh provisions.

EXT. THE *SEA DRAGON* - BEACH - DAY

Sailors dangle over the side, patching the hull with tar.

SHEFFIELD (V.O.)
I want the rest of you working noon and night to get the *Dragon* shipshape and ready to sail.

RESUME POOP DECK

SHEFFIELD
The sooner that happens, the sooner we can leave. So scupper your groaning and step to. Let's go!

EXT. MAIN DECK - DAY

Sheffield strolls along the deck, past men sawing fresh wood and mixing caulk.

He's accompanied by the ship's carpenter, MR. ABRAHAM (60s, Polish), Big Ox, and Cordell, whose hands are bound in chains.

SHEFFIELD
How long until she's seaworthy, Mr. Abraham?

ABRAHAM
A week at least. I've never seen a hull breached like this. It's a wonder we didn't sink sooner.

SHEFFIELD
And the mast?

ABRAHAM
We'll have to find a new one on the island.

CORDELL
Forget the mast. I say we load everyone in the longboats and take off as soon as we have our provisions.

ABRAHAM
Isn't there a cell you should be sitting in?

SHEFFIELD
Easy, Abe. He wants to get out of here, same as us.

They stop.

OX
Captain, we need to discuss our next port of call. With Baker's Bay gone, there aren't a lot of free harbors open to us anymore.

SHEFFIELD
Aye. But first we need to know where we are in the first place.

INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

They examine the maps in Sheffield's cabin.

SHEFFIELD
We're not on these islands here. And we can't have reached Bermuda already. I think Cordell's right. This place ain't on the charts.

OX
(pointing)
What's this say, here?

SHEFFIELD
Hic sunt dracones. Mapmakers use that to indicate unexplored waters. It's a warning to be careful.

OX
What's it mean?

CORDELL
Here be dragons.

Abraham snorts.

ABRAHAM
Children's tales. That's all it is.

CORDELL
Tell that to the crew of the *São Filipe*.

Sheffield shows a flicker of recognition, but says nothing.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Marietta's team hikes up a forested incline.

ONE-HANDED JACK
Hey Crazy-eyes, I heard you once shot a hangman's noose at a hundred yards.

CRAZY-EYES
Nope. ... It was two hundred.

SEBASTIAN
Bullshit.

MARIETTA
He ain't lying.

SEBASTIAN
How do you know?

MARIETTA
I was in the noose.

ONE-HANDED JACK
What about you, Miss Mate? You ever hit anything at a hundred yards?

Crazy-eyes laughs.

CRAZY-EYES
Miss mate can't shoot worth a damn. Everyone knows that.

They emerge onto a --

SULFUR SPRING

It's a barren stretch of white and yellow rock, filled with vents of wafting steam and boiling mud pits. The pirates gag.

SEBASTIAN
Smells like something died out here!

PIRATE
It's the sulfur, I reckon. They use it for making gun powder.

He picks up a yellow stone. Marietta climbs a ridge.

MARIETTA
That doesn't mean nothing died.

She stares down at -- A GIANT SKELETON, cleaned to the bone. It's the length of three school buses, with a long tail, four short legs, and an enormous neck.

The pirates approach it with caution.

CRAZY-EYES
I'll be damned! This must be over a hundred feet long!

ONE-HANDED JACK
It's bigger than a whale!

Marietta tramps forward, following the length of the spine.

Crazy-eyes breaks off a rib.

CRAZY-EYES
Bet I can carve a fine sword out of this.

SEBASTIAN
Or a lute!

Marietta reaches the head.

MARIETTA
This thing's been picked clean.

ONE-HANDED JACK
What kind of creature would *eat* anything this big?

A deafening ROAR ripples over the trees, making everyone stop. Birds fly into the air.

CRAZY-EYES
Not sure I want to find out.

MARIETTA
Come on. This isn't what we came for.

They keep moving. Crazy-eye tries to bring the rib, but Marietta grab it from him and throws it away.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

The pirates fill up water kegs next to a TERRACED WATERFALL. Marietta stands watch, musket in hand.

SEBASTIAN
Everything's so humid here.

PIRATE
It's the West Indies. It's always humid.

SEBASTIAN
Not like this. The air on the island feels different.

MARIETTA
Shh! You hear that?

There's a RUSTLING in the bushes. Everyone freezes.

CRAZY-EYES
Go see what it is.

ONE-HANDED JACK
You see what it is.

Crazy-eyes steps forward.

Marietta cocks the hammer on her musket.

Crazy-eyes reaches into the shrub and pulls out -- a furry ONE-FOOT-LONG CREATURE with a wide tail and sharp teeth. It is a TRITYLODONTIDAE.

PIRATE
Eww! What is that thing?

ONE-HANDED JACK
Must be some sort of rat.

CRAZY-EYES
Guess we know what we're having for supper -- OW!

The creature nips his hand and scurries off. Crazy-eyes draws his pistol.

CRAZY-EYES (CONT'D)
This'll teach you --

MARIETTA
No, wait -- !

BANG!! The creature keeps running. Crazy-eyes pulls out a cutlass and chases it.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)
Don't leave the group!

She darts after him, cutting through the undergrowth.

EXT. JUNGLE/CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

Crazy-eyes stabs at the furry little devil, but it swerves and keeps running. It dashes across a clearing and --

SMASH!!

A giant clawed FOOT stomps down on it, crushing its bones.

Crazy-eyes and Marietta skid to a stop. They stare openmouthed at SOMETHING MONSTROUS AND HUGE. It gobbles up the rodent with its back to the pirates.

Marietta GULPS.

<u>It is a TYRANNOSAURUS REX</u>. 40 feet long, brownish tan skin, a head the size of a boulder.

It SNIFFS the air, smelling something new.

Marietta and Crazy-eyes back away.

The T-Rex turns and spots them. It lets out an ENORMOUS ROAR which shakes the trees -- the same guttural roar they heard from the ship.

The creature steps forward. The ground trembles under its feet. Marietta raises the musket.

It lunges.

BANG! She hits it in the shoulder. The rex stops just shy of eating her, more startled than hurt.

MARIETTA
RUN!!

Marietta and Crazy-eyes take off through the jungle. The T-Rex stomps after them.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

The pirates look up from their work. Marietta's SHOUTS carry through the trees.

MARIETTA (O.S.)
Run! Get out of here! Get back to the ship!

CRAZY-EYES (O.S.)
It's coming! Move!

PIRATE
What the hell is going on?

Some of the pirates back away.

Marietta and Crazy-eyes emerge from the bushes. They sprint into the water, crossing it at an ankle-deep section.

ONE-HANDED JACK
What is it? What'd you find?

The T-Rex bursts through the trees with another EPIC ROAR.

ONE-HANDED JACK (CONT'D)
Holy mother of God!

Everyone drops what they're doing and runs.

A PIRATE WITH AN EYEPATCH slips off a step in the waterfall and lands on the next terrace down.

The T-Rex bites his head off.

EXT. SULFUR SPRING - DAY

The pirates spill out of the trees and scramble over the rocks. The dinosaur follows them out.

ONE MAN stops to fire his pistol. It has no effect. He pulls out his powder pouch, reloads the barrel, then fumbles with the ball and cloth. He gets it in, raises the gun, and --

CRUNCH. Rexy bites him in two.

Sebastian trips and falls forward. He rolls onto his back and draws his cutlass. The T-Rex stoops over him. Sebastian waves his sword, trying to keep it at bay.

SEBASTIAN
Back! Back!

The Rex chomps down on his hand, sword and all. It rips off his arm at the elbow. Sebastian SCREAMS.

Marietta reaches the edge of the forest. She loads her musket and fires it at the T-Rex.

BANG! The bullet hits its eye.

Rexy ROARS with fury and spins around. Its tail knocks a PIRATE into a mud vat. He HOWLS as hot mud burns his skin.

One-handed Jack pulls up Sebastian by his shirt.

ONE-HANDED JACK
Come on!

EXT. BEACH/THE *SEA DRAGON* - DAY

The men fixing the ship stop to listen. We hear SCREAMS and terrible ROARS from the top of a cliff.

Cordell and Sheffield emerge from the captain's cabin.

SHEFFIELD
What is that?

CORDELL
Unlock my chains.

The sounds gets closer, accompanied by the BOOM-BOOM-BOOM of the animal's feet.

MEN appear on the ridge. They run down a path to the beach. Marietta is the last to arrive --

Followed immediately by the T-Rex.

The pirates GASP.

DR. CADAVER
What a beast!!

SHEFFIELD
Battle stations! Load the cannons!
Gunners to their positions.

Everyone jumps to action.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Cordell, take the forward battery.

CORDELL
Aye, Captain!

Cordell races below deck.

The T-Rex clambers down the hill, reaching the beach in seconds. Men attack it from all sides, throwing axes, firing guns. The rex whirls around, looking between the assailants.

INT. BELOW DECK - CONTINUOUS

TWO PIRATES heave on ropes to roll back a starboard 18-POUNDER. ANOTHER MAN swabs it out. Cordell supervises.

CORDELL
Check the vent hole!

PIRATE
CLEAR!

CORDELL
Load the cartridge. Where's the powder monkey?
(spotting a TWEEN)
You! What's your name?

TWEEN
Jamie.

CORDELL
Jamie, get us powder!

JAMIE
But I work Sebastian's cannon!

CORDELL
He's not here, we are! Now move!

Jamie grabs a cartridge bag and helps ram it down the bore. Another pirate loads the ball.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
Don’t forget the dampener!

Sheffield shouts from above.

SHEFFIELD
Fire at will!

ANOTHER TEAM is already set. They ignite the fuse. BOOM!

EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

The ball explodes into the sand at the dinosaur’s feet. It chomps down on ANOTHER SCALLYWAG.

INT. BELOW DECK - CONTINUOUS

Cordell’s team rolls the cannon into position.

CORDELL
A little higher.

They tilt it up. Cordell lights the fuse with a linstock. **BOOM**!! The cannon flies two feet back as the ball explodes out of the barrel.

At the last second, the rex stoops down and the ball soars over its head -- missing it by a foot.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
Again! Move! Move!

They haul the tackles, rolling the gun back in place.

EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

The dino lunges at Marietta. She falls back, into the sand.

She tries to crawl away but it blocks her path. Marietta rolls onto her back and looks up at the towering beast.

She’s done for.

INT. BELOW DECK - CONTINUOUS

Cordell takes aim. He lights the fuse.

KA-BLAMO!

EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

The T-rex rears back, ready to bite, when --

BLAM!! The cannonball rips through its throat.

The rex SQUEALS in pain. It sways... The pirates freeze, waiting... The monster keels over and smashes into the beach, sending up plumes of sand. Its legs twitch in its final death throes. The rex lets out one last RATTLY BREATH and dies.

Marietta staggers up. The pirates step forward. A few of them prod the animal with harpoons.

ONE-HANDED JACK
I think he hopped the stick!

The pirates cheer.

INT. BELOW DECK - CONTINUOUS

The gun crew shake hands and clap each other's backs. Cordell exhales.

JAMIE
You're a helluva gun captain, mister.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Flanks of REX MEAT turn on a spit over a giant bonfire. Eddie bastes it with delicious juices.

FATU
What do you say, Abe? Is it kosher?

ABRAHAM
Well, it's got skin like a lizard, which is a creeping thing, so that means no. But it looks a lot like a giant chicken, and chickens are fine. So to answer your question... I have no idea.
(takes a bite)
But who cares? A meal is a meal!

A lanky pirate named NAILS (20s) uses his knife to pry a 10-INCH TOOTH out of the rex's skull.

NAILS
Who gets the big tooth?

JAMIE
Give it to Cordell. He killed it!

NAILS
Fine by me. Merry Christmas, Lieutenant.

He tosses it to Cordell, who's sitting in the sand, his hands still in shackles. Cordell nods his thanks and pockets it.

CORDELL
I appreciate it.

One-handed Jack stares at the rex carcass in awe.

ONE-HANDED JACK
Where do you think it came from?

CRAZY-EYES
(mouth full)
Wha'd'ya mean? It came from just up the hill.

ONE-HANDED JACK
But animals like that don't exist!

GROUCHY PIRATE
He's right. It had to come from somewhere. I say it crawled out of the pits of tartarus to do away with all us sinners.

CRAZY-EYES
Bullshit.

JAMIE
Maybe it fell from a star.

EDDIE
Eddie says you're both wrong. Eddie says it's left over from the olden days, before there was even people. And somehow it survived.

ONE-HANDED JACK
What a load of rubbish!

CRAZY-EYES
I say who cares, as long as it's dead. And boy, is it dead!

There are CHEERS of agreement.

A FEW PIRATES start up some music. ONE bangs a kettle drum, ANOTHER plays the flute.

Sebastian is curled up with his back to the others, quietly sobbing. His baroque guitar sits at his side, untouched.

ABRAHAM
How ‘bout a dance, Miss Fatu?

PIRATES
Dance! Dance! Dance!

Fatu laughs as they push her into the circle.

FATU
Alright, lads. You asked for it.

Her hips sway in time to the music, hypnotic and suggestive. The pirates HOOT and HOLLER. Cordell smiles softly.

Ox appears over his shoulder and whispers in his ear.

OX
The captain wants a word with you.

Cordell nods and gets up.

EXT. MAIN DECK - THE *SEA DRAGON* - NIGHT

Marietta meets Cordell outside the Captain’s cabin.

MARIETTA
Captain says you fired the killing shot.

CORDELL
That’s right.

MARIETTA
I wouldn’t be here if you hadn’t. So thank you.
(Cordell nods)
He’s waiting for you.

INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN - NIGHT

Sheffield examines a bookshelf by lantern light. Cordell waits. Marietta and Ox keep an eye on him.

SHEFFIELD
Do you know your letters, Master Cordell?

CORDELL
I was schooled until I was twelve.

SHEFFIELD
Know any Shakespeare?

CORDELL
A little.

SHEFFIELD
I adore Shakespeare. “You taught me language, and my profit on it is I know how to curse.”

CORDELL
Caliban?

SHEFFIELD
Well done. None of these other clay-brained fools care about the Bard. Half of them can’t even read.
(opens another book)
Ah, here’s a good one. “There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.” Hamlet.

CORDELL
Is this why you summoned me? To talk poetry?

Marietta stiffens, sensing tension.

SHEFFIELD
I know you despise me, Lieutenant. You want to see me hang. But you don’t even know me. Most my crew were press ganged into service before I found them. Some of them were slaves.

CORDELL
Don’t bother trying to sway me. I was there when you raided Port Royal. The soldiers you killed that night were friends of mine.

SHEFFIELD
Relax. I have no interest in signing you before the mast. All I want is your help. A little quid-pro-quo.

He carries his lantern to a desk and sits down.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Your raid on Baker's Bay came at an inconvenient time. Our business was not yet completed, and owing to our hasty egress, most our goods -- the fruit of one year's worth of work -- was left behind. Please, sit.

Cordell does. Sheffield pours some wine.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Now my men are without pay, and in my line, captains who don't pay their crew don't stay captain for long.

CORDELL
What does that have to do with me?

SHEFFIELD
Two years ago, a treasure ship left for Europe with a chest full of Spanish doubloons. Sadly, though, it disappeared en route. It was found a month later by a British man-o'-war, but the treasure was nowhere on board. Rumor is that Spanish ship was called the *São Filipe...* and the man-o'-war which found her was the HMS *Valor*.
(Cordell leans back)
Today my niece told me you served on a ship by that name.

Cordell pours some wine for himself.

CORDELL
Your niece is well informed.

SHEFFIELD
It'd be a shame if someone with your extensive experience ended up in a Spanish mine, dying young and forgotten.

CORDELL
What do you want?

SHEFFIELD
I think the *São Filipe* landed here, and its crew hid their gold on the island.
(MORE)

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
I also think as part of the crew that found them, you'd know better than anyone else where that treasure would be. So I want you to tell me everything you remember about that Spanish ship.

Cordell puts down his wine cup, thinking.

CORDELL
There are a lot of stories about the *São Filipe...* but no one ever talks about the smell. That's what we noticed first. The stench of rotting flesh that had been festering for a week. We thought it was a dead whale. But then we saw the ship, coming out of the fog like a ghost.

EXT. OPEN OCEAN - DAY - **FLASHBACK**

The galleon *São Filipe* emerges from the fog. Listing badly, sails ripped. CREWMEN on the HMS *Valor* lean over the rail to look at it, including midshipman CORDELL (late 20s).

CORDELL (V.O.)
It was already a wreck when we found it. But the hull was intact and there wasn't any battle damage, so we knew it wasn't ambushed by pirates.
(beat)
The captain ordered us to heave to and board her.

EXT. THE *SÃO FILIPE* - MOMENTS LATER

Cordell steps cautiously aboard, his pistol drawn. He's followed by the captain HORRACE MOWBRAY (20s), and ten men.

They stop short. The deck is covered in BODIES.

All of them have been mauled. There are arms torn off, faces ripped up. Patches of dried blood pooled around each one.

CAPTAIN MOWBRAY
Lord almighty! What in heaven's name happened?

BO'SUN
They look like they were killed by a tiger!

SAILOR
It’s the devil!

Everyone SHUSHES him at once.

CAPTAIN MOWBRAY
Let’s have none of that talk, Master Reed.

CORDELL
We should search below. Maybe there are men still alive.

INT. BELOW DECK - *SÃO FILIPE* - DAY

Cordell leads a group down the steps. He lights a LANTERN. There are MORE BODIES below. Bullet holes and claw marks pepper the wall. A SCRAPING NOISE makes them jump.

A MAN is crawling across the floor. Cordell hurries to his side, turns him over. It’s the FIRST MATE from the prologue. A DEEP CUT runs down his face.

FIRST MATE
Agua... agua...

CORDELL
Get him water.

A sailor opens his canteen. He trickles water over the dying man’s mouth.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
Arnau, ask him what happened.

A Catalan man named ARNAU speaks to the survivor in Spanish.

ARNAU
He says they were attacked.

CORDELL
By what?

ARNAU
A monster. Says it was... I don’t know, sounded like *big iguana.*
(translating)
Whatever you do... do not land there... Do not try to find it.

CORDELL
Land where? Where did he come from?

The first mate lurches forward. He grabs Cordell's lapel.

FIRST MATE
Los Dientes del Diablo...!

He exhales and dies. His hand falls to his side. It is gripping a PIECE OF PARCHMENT.

Cordell takes the paper and unfolds it. It's a MAP of the Devil's Teeth. The word '**TESURO**' is scrawled next to an 'X.'

SHEFFIELD (PRE-LAP)
What happened to the map?

INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN - THE SEA DRAGON - NIGHT (**RESUME SCENE**)

Cordell sits across from Sheffield. The wine is now gone.

CORDELL
It was confiscated by my captain. I never saw it again.

SHEFFIELD
But do you think you could remember what it said?

CORDELL
If I had to.

Marietta, Ox, and Sheffield share a look.

SHEFFIELD
I propose a deal. You help us find the treasure, I set you free.

CORDELL
When?

SHEFFIELD
Immediately. No more handcuffs.

Sheffield sets a key down on the desk.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Once we leave, I drop you off at the nearest port. From there you can go wherever you like.

CORDELL
If I do say yes, then how would we proceed?

SHEFFIELD
You'll set out in the morning with a team. Naturally, I'll be among them. The crew will need a week to repair the mast, so that's how long you'll have.

Cordell considers this.

CORDELL
I'll need a pistol and cutlass.

SHEFFIELD
Done.

CORDELL
People might be killed.

SHEFFIELD
That comes with the business.
(beat)
If you don't want to risk it, then forget I asked and things can go back to the way they were before.

Cordell thinks... then holds out his shackled hands.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Good choice.

Sheffield unlocks the cuffs.

CORDELL
And the pistol?

SHEFFIELD
Ox, give the man his weapons.

Ox draws a flintlock pistol from his belt, sets it down on the desk.

OX
Careful with that. I set the sights myself.

CORDELL
Is it loaded?

OX
Of course.

CORDELL
Good.

Cordell cocks the hammer and points the gun at Sheffield. Marietta and Ox reach for their swords.

SHEFFIELD
Don't touch him!

They freeze. Cordell doesn't flinch.

CORDELL
Only a fool would hand a loaded weapon to his enemy.

SHEFFIELD
Maybe we're not enemies.

CORDELL
Let's get something straight. I'm still a soldier in His Majesty's navy and you're still a wanted cutthroat. When this is over, don't think I won't try to put a bullet in your back, because I will.

SHEFFIELD
Understood.

Cordell un-cocks the pistol.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The crew has gathered beside the smoldering remains of the bonfire. Sheffield addresses them from a mound.

SHEFFIELD
... Marietta and myself will accompany Master Cordell, along with eight volunteers. Big Ox will stay behind with Abe to oversee repairs on the ship. Any question?

JAMIE
Can we see the map?

CORDELL
I don't have it anymore.

CRAZY-EYES
(skeptical)
So you're guiding us from memory.

ABRAHAM
How do we know this treasure even exists?

SHEFFIELD
We don't. It's a gamble.

There is unconvinced MUTTERING from the crowd. A grouchy pirate named BLACKWOOD (40s) folds his arms.

BLACKWOOD
I dunno, Captain. Trusting our lives to that navy man seems like a blockheaded thing to do.

CRAZY-EYES
I agree with Blackwood. He's liable to stab us in our sleep.

SHEFFIELD
I know he is. He told me so himself. But for now he's on our side so I say we can trust him. If you'd rather stay behind, that's up to you. But those who choose to come will get triple their normal share of whatever we find.

More murmurs. Blackwood shrug-nods, impressed.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Anything else?
(apparently not)
Very good. Master Cordell?

CORDELL
Those coming with us, load up as many arms as you can carry. We leave in one hour.

BEGIN MONTAGE - THE JOURNEY

- Cordell and the others stock up on weapons. Swords are sharpened. Muskets loaded. Pistols tucked into belts.

- One-handed Jack expertly loads a pistol with one hand.

- Cordell sets out, leaving the beach behind. He's followed by Sheffield, Marietta, Crazy-eyes, One-handed Jack, Jamie, Dr. Cadaver, Nails, Blackwood, and TWO OTHER PIRATES: WENTWORTH (a tough old timer), and ESTEBAN (a grizzly man with a thick black beard).

- The team hikes through the sulfur springs where they found the ARGENTINOSAURUS SKELETON.

- They climb over a rise, heading up into the mountains. The waters of the Caribbean stretch out behind them.

END MONTAGE

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Sheffield falls in beside Cordell.

SHEFFIELD
How much further you reckon it is?

CORDELL
A full day at least. There's a cave in the mountains we can camp at for the night.

DR. CADAVER (O.S.)
Hey Captain! You wanna have a look at this?

The Doctor is kneeling over a nest of A DOZEN EGGS, all about ten inches tall. Some have broken open.

CORDELL
Eggs...!

MARIETTA
Big ones.

JAMIE
Too bad Eddie's not here, he could rustle up an omelette!

Sheffield picks one up.

SHEFFIELD
I wonder what one of these would fetch in London?

CORDELL
One scheme at a time, Captain.

Marietta takes it from him.

MARIETTA
Ooh! I can feel it moving.

CRACK! A fissure appears in the shell. Marietta shouts and drops it. The crack spreads. Something CHIRPS inside.

Jamie cocks the flintlock on his pistol.

A tiny reptile HEAD pushes through, wearing a plate of eggshell like a hat. It’s a BABY STEGASAURUS.

Marietta AWWES softly. Cordell puts a hand on Jamie’s pistol, lowering the muzzle.

The baby steg crawls out, onto Marietta’s outstretched hand.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)
It’s adorable!

SHEFFIELD
If that’s a baby, then where are the parents?

Something nudges his ear, making him turn. A FULL GROWN STEGASAUSUS is behind him. 25 feet long, tiny head, SPADE-SHAPED PLATES down its back.

The pirates gasp and step back, raising their muskets. Nails draws his sword.

CORDELL
Wait! It’s not aggressive.

NAILS
How do you know?

The mamma COOS gently. Its baby waddles toward her.

The stegs move off, into a nearby meadow. The pirates follow. They part a clump of bushes to discover --

THIRTY STEGOSAURS, grazing in the field. There are juveniles, bucks, big ones, small ones.

DR. CADAVER
It’s a whole herd!

SHEFFIELD
They’re grass eaters! Like bovines.

NAILS
What the hell’s a bovine?

MARIETTA
Big slow-witted animal.

ONE-HANDED JACK
Like you, Nails.

NAILS
Go to hell.

Cordell advances into the field. The others follow. They fan out among the stegs, admiring them.

Marietta caresses a stegosaur's head. It COOS, enjoying it. Wentworth runs his hand up a plate on its neck.

WENTWORTH
Mighty big for something that just eats grass.

They continue past the stegs to the other end of the meadow.

EXT. CREEK - DAY

The team has stopped to refill their canteens. They're still processing their encounter with the stegosaurs.

JAMIE
Amazing! Beautiful creatures. Those were really something, weren't they?

NAILS
What's so beautiful about them? They're just another monster we have to watch out for.

SHEFFIELD
Alright, break's over. Let's keep moving.

MARIETTA
What happened to Blackwood?

They look around. Blackwood is gone.

DR. CADAVER
He was right here!

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Blackwood sets down his musket and unbuttons his pants to pee. He sighs with relief, closing his eyes as he goes. He opens them again and JUMPS.

An EYE is staring back at him through the foliage.

Blackwood buttons his pants and picks up his musket. The eye doesn't blink. It is big, yellow, and cunning.

BLACKWOOD
You don't scare me, you scurvy dog.

He raises the gun to his shoulder. He cocks the hammer and slowly squeezes the trigger... BANG!!

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

The shot echoes over the trees. The pirates freeze. There's silence... then SCREAMS.

SHEFFIELD
Blackwood!

They take off running.

EXT. JUNGLE - MOMENTS LATER

They find Blackwood's body. His stomach is chewed open, guts everywhere. The animal that killed him has vanished.

ESTEBAN
Dios Mío! What on earth did this?

CORDELL
Whatever it was, it's gone now.

Dr. Cadaver kneels by the corpse.

DR. CADAVER
Looks like it went for his stomach. Means he was still alive when it started to eat him.

Jamie curls over and vomits his breakfast.

DR. CADAVER (CONT'D)
That's funny.

MARIETTA
What?

DR. CADAVER
Talon marks. It's almost like he was killed by a giant... *rooster*.

CORDELL
The map said things like that were near the treasure. It means we're getting close.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Everyone is asleep. Esteban is snoring. Cordell joins Marietta, who's standing watch at the mouth of the cave.

MARIETTA
Can't sleep?

CORDELL
Not a wink.

She offers him some rum.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
Thanks. Your uncle said your parents died when you were ten.

MARIETTA
That's right.
(beat)
I still cry myself to sleep every night just thinking about it.

CORDELL
Oh. I'm sorry.

Marietta giggles.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
You're sporting with me, aren't you?

MARIETTA
You believed it.

She takes the bottle back and takes a swig.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)
Aye, my mother's dead. And my father never stuck around to begin with. But to hell with them. I'm better off here, with the infamous Roger Red. What about you?

CORDELL
Two parents living. Along with four brothers and three sisters.

MARIETTA
And only so much pie to go around. Hence the navy?

CORDELL
Hence the navy.
(takes back the bottle)
How'd your mother die?

MARIETTA
Leprosy.

Cordell does a SPIT TAKE. Marietta laughs again and gets up.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)
You take the next watch, Lieutenant.
Some of us still like our sleep.

She walks off. He follows her with his eyes.

SHEFFIELD (O.S.)
She likes you.

Cordell jumps. Sheffield is watching from his sleeping spot by the fire.

CORDELL
How can you tell?

SHEFFIELD
I haven't seen her loosen up like that in years. Listen, navy boy. In case you get any ideas, just remember -- she's my niece, and I've sliced more necks than a drunken barber.

He pulls his tricorn over his eyes and goes back to sleep, leaving Cordell stunned.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

ANGLE ON -- the tip of a tall, narrow tree. It starts to QUIVER... Then it falls.

PIRATE
TIMBER!!!

There's a terrible GROAN of splitting wood as the tree CRASHES into the undergrowth.

PIRATES immediately jump on it and hack away the branches.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The crew of the *Sea Dragon* sand down the trunk, shaping it into a mast. Abraham surveys with Ox.

ABRAHAM
Well done, lads! It's the finest looking mast I've ever seen.

A SAILOR rings a bell on board the ship.

OX
Two o'clock! Time for grub!

MOMENTS LATER -- Eddie ladles out stew with hunks of rex meat in it. The crew lounge on the beach, slurping it up.

Abraham sits down with Ox.

ABRAHAM
We're ahead of schedule. We could probably put out to sea in just four days.

OX
(mouth full)
With a chest of gold on board, if the Captain's lucky.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Cordell follows a path through the trees. He pushes past a low-hanging branch and halts.

CORDELL
There it is.

The others stop behind him.

SHEFFIELD
I'll be damned!

JAMIE
That's where they buried the treasure?!

REVERSE ON -- an ABANDONED CITY, perched on a mountain, encircled by HIGH STONE WALLS. Once resplendent, it is now falling apart and overgrown.

MARIETTA
You never mentioned a city...!

ONE-HANDED JACK
Are there people there?

CORDELL
I don't know.

WENTWORTH
The map didn't say?

CORDELL
It wasn't exactly a detailed report.

CRAZY-EYES
I don't like this, Captain. Who knows what else he's hiding. Maybe he's already been to this island years ago. Or maybe there is no treasure and he's leading us into a trap.

CORDELL
I gave you my word. That's enough.
(to Sheffield)
You asked me to show you the treasure. That's where it is.

SHEFFIELD
Well... After what we've seen, I'll take a few things on faith.

He marches toward the city.

EXT. CITY GATE - DAY

Cordell approaches the front gate with the others. The MASSIVE DOOR is thirty feet tall and made of solid stone.

SHEFFIELD
HELLO!! IS ANYBODY THERE?!

A flock of BIRDS shoot out from a tower. Sheffield pushes against the door. It doesn't budge.

MARIETTA
Grapples?

SHEFFIELD
Yep.

MOMENTS LATER -- Grappling hooks fly up and catch on the ramparts. Everyone starts to climb.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

They descend a set of stairs into the city. It's deserted. There are cobblestone roads, overgrown with weeds.

ONE-HANDED JACK
Who built this place?

SHEFFIELD
Mayans? Incas? Who knows.

CORDELL
People who are long gone.

CRAZY-EYES
How are we gonna find anything in a city? It's a maze!

MARIETTA
Look for signs of habitation. The crew of the *São Filipe* would've left stuff behind.

EXT. SMALLER STREET - DAY

They advance deeper into the city. Something SCURRIES between two buildings. Crazy-eyes spots it.

CRAZY-EYES
Did you see that?

JAMIE
What?

CRAZY-EYES
Something just moved! Like an animal!

ESTEBAN
Big or... pequeño?

CRAZY-EYES
Big. Five or six feet tall.

They scan the surrounding buildings, ready to draw. NAILS points to something on a wall.

NAILS
Look. An arrow... and writing!

Sure enough, an ARROW made in charcoal points down an alley. The writing says: **DE ESTA MANERA AL CAMPAMENTO.**

SHEFFIELD
Esteban, what's it say?

Esteban scratches his beard, struggling to read.

ESTEBAN
De... esta... man- man...

CORDELL
Manera al campamento. It means "This way to camp."

MARIETTA
You know Spanish?

CORDELL
A little. I can read it.

Marietta is impressed. They enter the alley.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL -- a bipedal CREATURE, watching them from the shadows. It has massive claws, a long swishing tail, and big yellow eyes. This is the UTAHRAPTOR, known in other movies as a VELOCIRAPTOR. It SNARLS and darts forward.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

The pirates enter a large, marble square. ANOTHER ARROW points to a ROUND TEMPLE.

INT. TEMPLE - DAY

They step inside. The room is pitch black.

ONE-HANDED JACK
I can't see a thing in here.

Marietta feels the wall. Her fingers close on a torch.

MARIETTA
Nails, get the flint.

MOMENTS LATER -- Cordell holds a FLAMING TORCH aloft.

The walls are adorned in PAINTINGS... They show PEOPLE bowing down to the dinosaurs... feeding them... riding them...

CORDELL
Look at this. They lived side-by-side. Even trained them.

There are graphic illustrations of PEOPLE BEING EATEN. Bloody teeth. Bodies piling up.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
And then it ended... the animals became wild... they turned against their masters.

SHEFFIELD
Here's a big one.

He holds a torch to a painting of the ENTIRE ISLAND. Two giant, FISH-LIKE REPTILES are swimming in the bay. Mosasaurs.

DR. CADAVER
You think those lizard-fish things are still down there?

WENTWORTH
If they were, we'd be dead.

Crazy-eyes spots an arrow in the middle of a panel.

CRAZY-EYES
There's another arrow.

NAILS
But no door.

MARIETTA
There must be a secret entrance! Look around for a trigger mechanism.

They fan out around the room. Marietta inspects a torch holder near the arrow. She turns it.

CLANK A HIDDEN DOOR swings open.

INT. TUNNELS - DAY

Cordell leads the team down a dark passage under the city.

They find a golden T-REX IDOL, lit by a column of sunlight.

NAILS
Look at this pretty thing!

Nails stoops to touch it.

MARIETTA
Don't.
(Nails freezes)
(MORE)

MARIETTA (CONT'D)
We're here for the gold from the *São Filipe*. That's all.

NAILS
Whatever you say, Miss Mate.

INT. ANTECHAMBER - DAY

They enter a vestibule with five arched doorways. Jamie peeks into a room on the right.

JAMIE
Hey, I think this is it!

INT. CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

They step into an underground chamber. Half-a-dozen SKELETONS lay about. There are remains of a camp site: supply boxes, charcoal. Tools and weapons.

ONE-HANDED JACK
What happened to them?

Cordell pulls a crumbling journal from a skeleton's bony hands. He skims through it.

CORDELL
They stole the treasure from the others and hid here... Then they got to fighting among themselves.

CRAZY-EYES
If that's true, where's the treasure?

SHEFFIELD
I think I just found it.

Sheffield holds his torch over a MASSIVE WOODEN CHEST.

He brushes off some cobwebs. Esteban uses a shovel to smash the lock. Sheffield opens it up. The pirates GASP.

MOUNDS OF GOLD COINS glisten in the torchlight. There are jewel-encrusted goblets, bracelets, pearl necklaces.

ESTEBAN
Ay caramba!

ONE-HANDED JACK
I've never seen this much bonnie swag in my life!

SHEFFIELD
It's enough for *ten* kings' ransoms!

He runs his hands through the gold coins, laughing.

MARIETTA
How do we get it out of here?

CORDELL
There's a wheelbarrow.

They hoist the heavy chest on the barrow.

SHEFFIELD
Alright, step to.

INT. PASSAGE - DAY

The pirates hurry down the corridor. Nails pushes the barrow. Crazy-eyes leads. He stops.

CRAZY-EYES
Wait! There's something up ahead!

Everyone freezes. They stare into the dark, sensing movement.

Crazy-eyes takes Sheffield's torch and tosses it on the floor. It lands at the feet of -- A UTAHRAPTOR.

It snarls, hungry.

TWO MORE RAPTORS emerge from the darkness behind it.

CORDELL
MOVE!!!

He shoots. The pirates scramble back the way they came.

The raptors charge after them.

One-handed Jack brings up the rear. He fires a blunderbuss pistol. It blows off a raptor's head.

ONE-HANDED JACK
How do you like that, you dumb --

WHAM!! TWO MORE RAPTORS dive out of a CONNECTING PASSAGE. They tear One-handed Jack apart.

One of them pounces on Jamie. It rips into his leg.

JAMIE
Ahhh! Help!

Marietta backhands a BOARDING AXE into the raptor's eye. She yanks Jamie up and hands him to Dr. Cadaver.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
I think I'm gonna die!

DR. CADAVER
Not today, laddie.

They reach the end of the passage. Sheffield slams a BARRED GATE shut, right as a raptor bangs into it.

Cordell bolts the lock.

Nails and Esteban are already sprinting ahead.

MARIETTA
Wait! Not so fast!

The others race after them. They round a corner and stop at a three-way junction. Nails and Esteban are gone.

WENTWORTH
Which way did they go?

CORDELL
I dunno. Let's try this way.

He darts down the left passage.

INT. PASSAGE - DAY

Nails and Esteban wind through the maze. Nails is still wheeling the treasure.

They reach another junction. One door has **SEGURO** written above it, the other has **PELIGRO.**

NAILS
Which one do we take?

ESTEBAN
You know I can't read!

He leads him into the passage marked PELIGRO.

INT. PELIGRO PASSAGE - CONTINUOUS

HISS!! A GIANT SNAKE lunges out of nowhere, killing Esteban. It's a prehistoric beast called a TITANOBOA -- 40 feet long.

Nails SCREAMS and stumbles out of the passage.

INT. OTHER PASSAGE - CONTINUOUS

Sheffield and the team sprint down a hallway. They're being chased by THREE RAPTORS.

Wentworth lights a GRENADE.

WENTWORTH
Take this, ya ugly bastards!

CORDELL
No, don't -- !

He throws it. *BOOM*!

The raptors stop, sensing something. There's a LOW RUMBLE. The walls start to shake. And then --

THE ROOF CAVES IN. Wentworth is crushed by the rubble.

SHEFFIELD
In here! Step to!

Crazy-eyes dives into a side room. Marietta, Dr. Cadaver and Jamie follow. Sheffield grabs Cordell by the collar and pulls him through the doorway, right as --

The rest of the hallway collapses, cutting off all trace of light. The dust settles, and everything goes QUIET.

SHEFFIELD (V.O.)
Is everyone alright?

DR. CADAVER (V.O.)
I'm alive... That's a start.

SHEFFIELD (V.O.)
Marietta? Crazy-eyes?

MARIETTA (V.O.)
I'm here.

CRAZY-EYES (V.O.)
Yep.

CORDELL (V.O.)
How's the kid?

Jamie GROANS in pain. THE CAMERA slowly adjusts to the dim light. Everyone is coated in dust.

Cordell finds a torch. He snaps the lock of his flintlock pistol over the top. The spark sets it ablaze.

WE ARE IN:

AN UNDERGROUND STORE ROOM

Cordell holds the torch over Jamie's bleeding leg. Jamie sweats profusely, the blood drained from his face.

SHEFFIELD
See what you can do for him, doctor.

DR. CADAVER
Aye, Captain.

Dr. Cadaver opens a saddlebag. Cordell examines the entrance. It's completely blocked by rubble.

SHEFFIELD
That damn fool nearly buried us alive.

CRAZY-EYES
Let's move some of these rocks so we can get outta here.

CORDELL
These rocks aren't going anywhere.

CRAZY-EYES
Like hell!

CORDELL
Hercules himself couldn't lift these. We're trapped down here.

Crazy-eyes looks between their defeated faces.

SHEFFIELD
It's worse than that.

JAMIE
Worse?!

SHEFFIELD
Even if we dug our way out, I told Big Ox to sail as soon as the *Dragon* was ready.

CORDELL
Are you daft?!

CRAZY-EYES
Why would you do that?

SHEFFIELD
In case we all died.

CORDELL
You said they'd have the ship fixed in a week...!

MARIETTA
And it took us three days just to get here.

CRAZY-EYES
That means if we're stuck just ten or fifteen hours, we'll be stranded!

SHEFFIELD
I know. I'm sorry.

No one speaks.

DR. CADAVER
At least we got the treasure.

CORDELL
(shakes his head)
Nails had it last.

INT. ANTECAHMBER - DAY

Nails enters the vestibule, pushing the wheelbarrow. He recognizes the room and laughs.

NAILS
This is it...! I'm almost free...!

INT. PASSAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Nails sprints down a corridor.

He passes the GOLD T-REX IDOL and stops. He glances around. No one around to tell him no.

Nails carefully removes the idol from the plinth... Nothing happens. He grins and puts it in his bag.

WHISSSHHZZZZ!! A giant BUZZSAW flies out of the wall and slices off his head.

His body plops to the floor, beside the treasure-barrow.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

The moon shines down on the ruined city. A PTERYDACTLE lands on a tower, a fish in its beak.

The sound of a PAINFUL SCREAM carries us to --

INT. UNDERGROUND STORE ROOM - NIGHT

Dr. Cadaver sews up the raptor bite on Jamie’s leg. Marietta holds the torch over them.

JAMIE
CHRIST THAT HURTS!

DR. CADAVER
Give him more rum.

Marietta puts a bottle to Jamie’s lips. He gulps it down.

MARIETTA
You’re doing well.

DR. CADAVER
Gimme.

Cadaver uses the liquor to clean Jamie’s wound. He takes a swig himself, and hands it back to Marietta.

CRAZY-EYES
What’s the point? He’s just gonna die here anyway.

MARIETTA
We don’t know that.

CORDELL
Yeah, we do.

Cordell is slumped in a corner, absently turning the T-Rex tooth in his hands.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
If that bite doesn’t kill him, he’ll starve to death. Or die of thirst. Or suffocate. And if somehow we get out of this room, we’re still trapped in an underground maze, in a city full of monsters, miles from shore, on an island not on any of the maps. And the only ship in leagues will sail without us.

Cordell hurls his rex-tooth at the wall.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
I curse the day we ever set foot on this island.

SHEFFIELD
I don't.
(beat)
Aye, I mourn the crew I've lost. And I won't deny our chances are slim. But we've stumbled on unpathed waters. Undreamed shores. The world is broad and wide, and we are the mapmakers. Every creature we discover, every mystery we unearth deepens our horizons. It's music to the soul, as much as any painting or song. And I wouldn't give it up for all the lazy comforts of Buckingham Palace.

Cordell looks at him, unimpressed. (But maybe deep down he's just a little bit encouraged.)

INT. UNDERGROUND STORE ROOM - LATER

The group is asleep. A prehistoric MOUSE with buggy, black eyes crawls over the floor. It's almost 12 INCHES LONG.

It climbs onto Marietta's face. She stirs.

MARIETTA
Hey, shoo. Go away.
(opens her eyes)
EEEEK!!

Marietta jumps to her feet. Everyone bolts up. The rodent scampers away behind a vase.

Cordell pulls the vase aside just as -- the mouse disappears through a HOLE IN THE WALL.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)
Where'd it go?

SHEFFIELD
There must be a room behind there!

Cordell hammers the stone with his fist.

CORDELL
How thick do you think this wall is?

DR. CADAVER
Why?

MOMENTS LATER -- They empty a horn of powder into the hole.

MARIETTA
Not too much. We don't want to cause another cave-in.

Everyone takes cover behind some pots. Cordell ignites a powder trail with his flintlock.

It SPARKLES across the floor. Jamie plugs his ears. The sizzling powder reaches the wall, and... *BANG*!

They peek around the pots. A LARGER HOLE, eighteen inches wide, has been blown out of the wall. Cordell dashes forward and wrestles more stones loose to make it wider.

CORDELL
Light.

Marietta hands him the torch. Cordell peers into the space.

It's a NARROW VERTICAL CHUTE, barely big enough for a person.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
Looks like an air shaft or a chimney.

SHEFFIELD
How far up does it go?

CORDELL
Can't tell.

He hands off the torch and removes his coat and cross belts.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
I'll reconnoiter a bit. See if I can find a way out.

DR. CADAVER
Ain't no way the kid will make it up that with his leg.

CORDELL
I'll try to find some rope.

MARIETTA
Lieutenant.
(hands him the torch)
Good luck.

For a moment THEY LOCK EYES, then he climbs into the hole.

INT. AIR SHAFT - NIGHT

Cordell wiggles up the shaft, carrying the torch in his mouth. He reaches an OFFSHOOT leading left and examines it.

There's a RAT'S NEST inside, full of dozens of giant rodents, crawling over each other.

Cordell shouts and drops the torch.

It vanishes down the pipe, leaving him in total darkness.

CORDELL (V.O.)
Crap.

INT. UNDERGROUND STORE ROOM - NIGHT

The team waits. Marietta paces. She picks up the T-Rex tooth off the floor.

MARIETTA
How long has he been gone?

DR. CADAVER
Couldn't say.

SHEFFIELD
It feels like three or four hours.

MARIETTA
That's too long. I'm going after him.

Marietta crouches down. She's about to enter the shaft when -- Cordell reappears in the hole.

Marietta SCREAMS and falls back. Cordell crawls out.

CORDELL
Everyone okay?

MARIETTA
Damn you, Joshua Cordell, you scared me half to death!

CORDELL
I think I found a way out. Here. Use this to hoist the kid.

Cordell throws a coil of CREEPER VINES on Jamie's lap.

INT. AIR SHAFT - NIGHT

Sheffield and Crazy-eyes climb the chute, carrying the rope, which is tied around Jamie's chest. Cordell is further up.

CORDELL
Careful. There's a rat's nest up here.

CRAZY-EYES
After what we've seen, you think we're scared of rats?

A giant mouse lands on him.

CRAZY-EYES (CONT'D)
Oh, Christ!

He tosses it away. It hits Jamie in the head. Jamie flips out, flailing his arms, trying to get it off. Sheffield grits his teeth under the strain of the rope.

SHEFFIELD
Easy, kid! We might drop you!

INT. UNDERGROUND KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

An ornately carved metal grate CLATTERS to the floor. Cordell crawls out of an air shaft.

CORDELL
Okay, it's clear.

The others follow him out.

Cordell peeks around a corner.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
We've got a problem.

A RAPTOR is prowling around at the end of the hallway.

CRAZY-EYES
What's the plan, Captain?

SHEFFIELD
Someone needs to distract it, so we can make a run for the passage.

MARIETTA
Any volunteers?

Jamie starts squirming like crazy. He digs his hands down the back of his shirt, struggling to keep quiet, and pulls out -- A GIANT MOUSE. Cordell and Sheffield share a look.

INT. CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

The rodent scurries past the raptor, SQUEAKING LOUDLY. The raptor HISSES with glee and chases after it.

Sheffield watches it go.

SHEFFIELD
Alright. Let's move.

INT. UNDERGROUND PASSAGE - NIGHT

Crazy-eyes runs point, a pistol in one hand, torch in the other. Next are Sheffield and Dr. Cadaver, carrying Jamie. Cordell and Marietta are last. They hurry through the maze.

SHEFFIELD
Fortune's on our side, lads! We haven't seen any more of those creatures.

The mouse shoots out of a passage on his right.

CORDELL
Oh, shit -- !

ROAR!! The raptor leaps out after it, landing between Sheffield and Cordell. Cordell draws his pistol.

He shoots the animal in the flank to get its attention.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
GO! WE'LL DRAW IT OFF!!

Cordell and Marietta dash back down the corridor. The raptor stomps after them.

SHEFFIELD
Don't get lost!!

They're already gone.

INT. UNDERGROUND PASSAGE - NIGHT

Cordell and Marietta hurtle through the tunnels. The raptor pounces on Cordell from behind.

CORDELL
HELP!

Marietta SCREAMS in rage. She drives the T-REX TOOTH into the raptor's skull. It falls back, dead.

CORDELL (CONT'D)
Thanks for that.

MARIETTA
You can thank me later.

They sprint deeper into the tunnel.

INT. UNDERGROUND PASSAGE - NIGHT

Crazy-eyes keeps running. He stops.

CRAZY-EYES
I think I found Nails.

He picks up Nails' SEVERED HEAD and tosses it to Dr. Cadaver. Dr. Cadaver shrieks and drops it.

SHEFFIELD
If that's Nails, then that means...

He holds up the torch, advancing slowly. The rest of Nails' body lies on the floor... and beside it --

The wheelbarrow with the treasure.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
We got it, boys! The treasure of the *São Filipe*!

More RAPTOR CRIES echo up the passage.

DR. CADAVER
Let's not celebrate too soon.

MOMENTS LATER -- They race down a hallway. Dr. Cadaver pushes the wheelbarrow. Sheffield carries Jamie on his own.

SHEFFIELD
You sure weigh a lot for a kid!

Jamie moans in pain.

EXT. TEMPLE - DAY

They emerge into the city. Sheffield puts down Jamie and doubles over, panting for air.

DR. CADAVER
It's morning!

CRAZY-EYES
We were down there all night!

SHEFFIELD
We can worry about that later.
Let's just get out of here.
(looks around)
I think the gate's this way.

Dr. Cadaver and Crazy-Eyes take off. Sheffield reluctantly picks up Jamie and starts running.

INT. PASSAGE - DAY

Cordell and Marietta tumble into another hallway. A RAPTOR looks up. It is chewing on One-Handed Jack.

CORDELL
Dammit.

They run for a SPIRAL STAIRCASE going up.

INT. UNDERGROUND CHASM - CONTINUOUS

Cordell reaches the top of the stairs and stops. He's standing over a BOTTOMLESS PIT, twenty feet across.

MARIETTA
Where's the bridge?!

The raptor enters the staircase behind them.

Cordell takes a thick VINE hanging from the ceiling. Marietta grabs his waist.

CORDELL
Do you trust me?

MARIETTA
Just go!

She practically pushes him off.

The raptor gets to the top of the stairs and *leaps after the humans*. It misses them both and plummets to its doom.

Cordell and Marietta swing across the gorge and land on the other side. They keep running.

EXT. CITY GATE - DAY

Sheffield and the others reach the colossal STONE DOOR.

SHEFFIELD
There's gotta be a device to open the gate. Look for a lever.

CRAZY-EYES
There!

Crazy-eyes pushes a massive LEVER. At first it won't budge, but then -- CLANK! It falls forward.

Unseen gears that haven't worked in years snap to life. The ground rumbles with the sound of STONE SCRAPING STONE.

The giant door eases up.

EXT. AMPHITHEATER - DAY

Cordell and Marietta emerge in a small arena. They climb up the stone tiered seating toward the exit.

EXT. CITY STREET - MOMENTS LATER

The pair zigzags through twisting alleys.

CORDELL
I know I've seen this before.

They reach the broadway and stop to catch their breath.

MARIETTA
Look! There's my uncle!

Sheffield and Dr. Cadaver are visible through the gateway, waving their arms.

SHEFFIELD
(far away)
Looook out!!

MARIETTA
WHAT!!!??

DR. CADAVER
BEHIIIIIND YOU!

They turn around. A RAPTOR is SNARLING at them from the end of the road. *It charges toward them.*

Cordell and Marietta sprint for the gate, running for their lives. *They're still a hundred feet from the doorway.*

EXT. OUTSIDE THE GATE - SAME TIME

Crazy-eyes loads a musket. He takes up a firing position.

SHEFFIELD
You only got one shot at this.

CRAZY-EYES
That's all I need.

Cordell and Marietta are twenty feet away. The raptor is almost on top of them.

Crazy-eyes squeezes the trigger. The ball EXPLODES from the barrel. It soars through the air and hits a ROPE inside the giant doorframe, supporting the COUNTERWEIGHT.

The heavy door PLUMMETS.

Cordell and Marietta fly through the entrance.

The door CRASHES DOWN, crushing the raptor's skull under fifty tons of granite. BOOOOOM.

Cordell and Marietta are safe.

SHEFFIELD
That's some good work, Crazy-eyes.

CRAZY-EYES
Aye aye, Captain.

INT. CAVE - DAY

The six survivors stagger into the cave. Dr. Cadaver carries Jamie. Crazy-eyes and Cordell lug the chest.

SHEFFIELD
You've got one hour to rest, then we're leaving.

They collapse onto the ground. Sheffield opens the chest to admire the loot. He gazes on it, longingly.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Aye...! There’s a bonnie sight for these old eyes.

Cordell sits by Marietta.

CORDELL
Guess you have enough to build your ship.

MARIETTA
Like you said. Richer than Genghis Kahn.
(beat)
I could use some able seamen to help sail it.

CORDELL
Are you offering me a position?

MARIETTA
It’s an idea. Don’t read too much into it.

Crazy-eyes approaches them.

CRAZY-EYES
Hey, Lieutenant. You led us straight and true back there.
(offering his hand)
I misjudged you.

Cordell shakes it.

CORDELL
Thank you.

CRAZY-EYES
Now I’m getting some winks. Any of you wakes me, I’ll stab out both your eyes.

Crazy-eyes plops down in a corner, already fast asleep.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Cordell and the others hike down the mountain. Jamie leads, using a branch as a crutch. Sheffield and Crazy-eyes carry the chest.

SHEFFIELD
I reckon it took them two days to patch the hull.
(MORE)

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Another five for the mast. The sails were mostly fine, but the mizzen course needed stitching.

MARIETTA
Stop you're worrying, uncle. We're making good time.

SHEFFIELD
Alright. Rest up.
(they set the chest down)
Crew or not, we'll reach the coast in half an hour.

He drinks from a canteen. Crazy-eyes spits on his palms. Jamie stops at an overlook.

JAMIE
Hey, I can see it! The *Sea Dragon*. It's down there!

The others dash forward. Sure enough, the *Sea Dragon* is sitting on the beach, right where they left it.

CORDELL
The mast is done. And the hull looks intact. She's ready...!

DR. CADAVER
Why haven't they left yet?

SHEFFIELD
Doesn't matter. If we hurry, we'll be there in no time!

Sheffield races back to the chest.

CRAZY-EYES
Wait, something's wrong.
(Sheffield stops)
Where is everyone...?

Marietta looks through a spyglass.

MARIETTA
He's right. I can't see the crew.

DR. CADAVER
You think they were attacked by those creatures?

Sheffield takes the glass and looks for himself. He frowns.

SHEFFIELD
Let's grab the chest and get down there.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

They approach the ship. It appears abandoned.

SHEFFIELD
AHOY THERE! IS ANYONE ABOARD!!

No answer.

MARIETTA
They can't have *all* been killed.

EXT. MAIN DECK - THE *SEA DRAGON* - MOMENTS LATER

They climb onto the deck. Jamie waits below with the treasure while the others explore the ship.

MARIETTA
There's dried blood here, powder burns... I think the doctor's right. They ran into another monster.

SHEFFIELD
If that's true then where are the bodies?

Birds twitter nearby. Cordell pauses, listening. *Tweet-t-t-t-t-tweet...* It sounds familiar.

DR. CADAVER
What is that?

Before they can answer -- *TWO DOZEN BRITISH SOLDIERS pop out of hiding spots on the quarter deck and forecastle, muskets raised.* They're led by Commodore Humphrey.

HUMPHREY
Drop your weapons! Now!

SHEFFIELD
Louse ridden bastard!

Sheffield draws his sword, when --

CLICK! A PISTOL IS COCKED by his ear: Cordell is pointing his gun at Sheffield's head.

CORDELL
Sorry, Captain.

Marietta and Crazy-eyes freeze, their sabers halfway out of their belts. Sheffield gives a rueful grin.

SHEFFIELD
I can’t say you didn’t warn me.

He lets his weapon clatter to the deck. Humphrey and his men descend the stairs from the quarter deck.

HUMPHREY
Search them! Then bind their hands.

The soldiers pat the pirates down. Satisfied, they put iron cuffs on their wrists. Humphrey shakes Cordell’s hand.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)
Good to see you, Lieutenant. I knew you wouldn’t forget yourself.

CORDELL
Never, sir. When did you arrive?

HUMPHREY
Yester-morn. We’re anchored in a cove just up the beach.
(to Sheffield)
Well, well. Captain Sheffield. It’s been a while since our little run-in off of Tortuga. You didn’t think you could elude me forever, did you?

JAMIE (O.S.)
Captain, did you find anything up there?

The marines notice Jamie. They run to the side of the ship and point their muskets down. Jamie raises his hands.

Humphrey spots the chest.

HUMPHREY
And what do we have here?

SHEFFIELD
My dirty linens.

HUMPHREY
Mr. Peters, if you please.

Captain Peters and a redcoat climb down the ladder.

Peters opens the chest. He marvels at the JEWELS inside.

CAPTAIN PETERS
Booty, Commodore. Looks like over a thousand Spanish doubloons!

HUMPHREY
You've been busy, Captain. I'm afraid we'll have to confiscate that. You know how it is. Legal forfeiture in the name of King George.
(re: the pirates)
Put this lot with the others.

ONE OF THE MARINES pushes Marietta toward the ladder.

LASCIVIOUS MARINE
Move along, beautiful.

MARIETTA
Touch me again, you'll regret it.

HUMPHREY
Tsk. Tsk. Someone needs to teach you some manners.

The soldier clubs Marietta in the head, knocking her down on one knee. Marietta grits her teeth.

MARIETTA
That was the second mistake you made today.

LASCIVIOUS MARINE
Is that right? And what was the first?

MARIETTA
Not checking my boots when you searched me.

She draws a KNIFE from her boot and *stabs it into his groin*. The man screams.

Marietta grabs his musket and FIRES, shooting ANOTHER MARINE.

Cordell draws his pistol, but Crazy-eyes slams into him. BANG! The shot goes wide.

Marietta grabs a line and leaps over the side. She hits the sand below and runs for the jungle.

SHEFFIELD CORDELL
Go, child! Get out of here! Marietta, stop!

HUMPHREY
Shoot her, dammit, shoot her! Don't let her escape!

Bullets blast up geysers of sand all around Marietta's feet. She dives into the trees and disappears.

REDCOAT
Shall we go after her?

HUMPHREY
No, it doesn't matter. The jungle will take care of her.
(to Sheffield)
My condolences, Captain. It seems your niece is going to live here for the rest of her life.
(to the others)
Take them away.

The pirates are led off.

EXT. DOWN THE BEACH - DAY

Sheffield and his team rejoin the crew of the *Sea Dragon*, who are chained up and guarded by a circle of redcoats.

ABRAHAM
Sorry, Captain. They outnumbered us three to one. That commodore's a real piece of work.

SEBASTIAN
Big Ox didn't make it. Neither did Freeman or Allen.

FATU
What happened to the lieutenant?

Sheffield eyes Cordell -- shaking hands with the OFFICERS on the other side of the beach.

SHEFFIELD
He's with his own people now.

Cordell sees Sheffield watching him. He looks away, <u>ashamed</u>.

WITH CORDELL -- Sailors crowd around him, slapping his back.

OFFICERS
Good to see you, Lieutenant! / I knew you'd pull through. / Where the hell did you come from?

BILLY
Back off! Give him some air.
(to Cordell)
Don't blame them, they thought you were dead! Must've been hell, stuck with that lot. We've had them a day-and-a-half and already I can't stand them. One bloke won't shut up about some guy named Eddie. Can't figure out who he's talking about.

HUMPHREY
Lieutenant, a word?

Cordell joins Commodore Humphrey. He is having tea with Captain Peters and (the former captain) Deckard.

CORDELL
Captain Deckard. Good to see you.

DECKARD
He's the captain now. I was relieved.

HUMPHREY
Will you shut up about that?
(to Cordell)
No doubt you've noticed our crew has shrunk since you left us.

CORDELL
Yes, sir. I had.

CAPTAIN PETERS
We lost twenty men fighting the pirates. And that was just the start.

HUMPHREY
Yesterday, I sent a dozen sailors on a foraging mission. None of them came back. Then last night, five more went missing without a trace.

CAPTAIN PETERS
Folks are starting to say the island's cursed.

HUMPHREY
We also noticed your handiwork up the beach.

He indicates the T-Rex, now little more than a SKELETON.

Humphrey leans forward. Looks Cordell in the eye.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)
Which got me thinking, and I want you to be straight with me... *What in the Devil's name is on this island?*

CORDELL
There are animals, sir. I don't know what they're called, but they remind me of... dragons.

DECKARD
Dragons don't exist!

CORDELL
These ones do. They're big. They have scales and plenty of teeth, and they're worse than any ship or battalion I've ever seen. If it weren't for the quick action of Sheffield's crew, I wouldn't be standing here now.

CAPTAIN PETERS
Whatever they are, they've made a tough state of affairs even worse. We were short handed when we left Baker's Bay. Now we're down to forty-six men, not counting officers. It's barely enough to crew the ship.

HUMPHREY
Thankfully, with that buccaneer in chains, and the Spanish treasure to boot, it more than makes up for our losses.

Humphrey stands and empties his teacup into the sand.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)
Captain Peters, by first light I want the supplies on Sheffield's ship transferred to ours. We sail on the morning tide.

CAPTAIN PETERS
Aye, sir.

HUMPHREY
As for you, Lieutenant. Your fortitude this past week has been a credit to your country. As soon as we reach Jamaica, I'm recommending you for command of the HMS *Prudence*.

DECKARD
But, sir...!

CORDELL
You're making me a captain?

HUMPHREY
That's right.

CORDELL
I don't know what to say, sir. Thank you! I shall endeavor to live up to the faith you've placed in me.

HUMPHREY
Thank yourself. You've earned it.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Stars shine down. Half the men are asleep. The *Discovery* is anchored off shore. Sheffield sits in the sand, making plans with Crazy-eyes and Abraham.

CRAZY-EYES
Counting officers, I make sixty-three men.

SHEFFIELD
And what are we?

ABRAHAM
Twenty-four, plus three wounded.

SHEFFIELD
Not great odds.

CRAZY-EYES
We've had worse. I can take on ten of them myself.

ABRAHAM
I don’t know if you’ve forgotten, but we’re in handcuffs! Being guarded night and day.

PASSING MARINE
Hey, stop talking!

A PASSING MARINE kicks sand in their eyes. They wait until he’s gone, then they put their heads back together.

SHEFFIELD
What about the *Sea Dragon*?

ABRAHAM
Commodore Shithead holed the cargo deck this morning. It’ll be scuttled by high tide. Face it, Captain. They’re holding all the cards.

Sheffield looks out at the island, a smile on his face.

SHEFFIELD
Not quite all of them.

ACROSS THE BEACH

Marietta peeks out from behind a rock. Campfires dot the beach where the soldiers are camped.

She eyes the *Discovery*, floating in the bay. A longboat is moored alongside it. A HANDFUL OF SAILORS hoist barrels up to the main deck.

Marietta wades into the water and dives forward.

EXT. LONGBOAT / THE *DISCOVERY* - NIGHT

She pokes her head out of the silky black sea and swims up to the longboat. A JOLLY FACED SAILOR has his back to her. He’s busy tying a rope around a barrel.

MARIETTA
Psst! Hey! Handsome!

He turns around and gasps.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)
Ever been kissed by a mermaid?

The sailor removes his hat, kneels down.

JOLLY SAILOR
No. I mean... not yet, miss.

MARIETTA
Today's your lucky day.

JOLLY SAILOR
(calling up)
Hey lads! There's a real live mermaid here and she's giving out free --

Marietta grabs his collar and heaves him out of the boat with a SPLASH. She hoists herself on board.

There are FOOTSTEPS up on deck. Marietta grabs the sailor's wide-brimmed hat and fits it over her head.

TWO FACES appear up above.

SAILOR
What'd you say, Jacky-boy?

MARIETTA
(deep voice)
Uh... sorry, lads. She went away.

SAILOR
That's the last time I'm falling for that one.

The sailors shake their heads and disappear.

Marietta removes the hat. She's about to climb up the ladder, when -- A DEEP MOAN reverberates from the water.

She freezes.

The longboat bobs as SOMETHING passes beneath it. We can make out LARGE, SHINY SCALES, blending into the inky water.

EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

ANOTHER LOW GROWL carries across the bay. Billy sits up.

BILLY
Did you hear that?

CORDELL
I think it came from the water...!

EXT. LONGBOAT / THE *DISCOVERY* - CONTINUOUS

The ripples from the animal fade away. The water returns to normal. Marietta glances at the beach. No one has moved.

She crosses herself twice, then climbs the ladder.

INT. GUN DECK - THE *DISCOVERY* - MOMENTS LATER

Marietta slinks through the gun deck, dripping wet. She opens a trunk, pulls out a blanket, a piece of bread, and a FILE.

She drapes the blanket over her shoulders and crouches behind some barrels. She takes a bite of the bread and starts filing away at the iron cuffs.

EXT. MAIN DECK - THE *DISCOVERY* - DAY

TWO MARINES slam a fresh lock on the treasure chest. They hand the KEY to Humphrey, who puts it around his neck.

HUMPHREY
Put the chest in my cabin.

SAILOR
Aye, sir.

A bell is rung. Captain Peters climbs up to the quarter deck.

CAPTAIN PETERS
That’s the end of first watch. Just waiting on the prisoners, sir.

MOMENTS LATER -- The longboat bumps against the hull of the *Discovery*. The pirates are all aboard, still in shackles.

CORDELL
Prepare for transfer of prisoners!

A marine in the longboat gestures to Sheffield.

MARINE
Alright. Up you get.

Sheffield climbs the ladder. He reaches the main deck and looks around. The deck is lined with redcoats and sailors, all watching him.

Cordell looks down on him from the quarter deck, alongside Captain Peters, and a very smug Humphrey.

Sheffield is pushed forward. Crazy-eyes comes next, followed by Abraham. Sheffield stops in front of Cordell.

SHEFFIELD
I gotta admit. You'll make a hell of a captain, son.

Cordell says nothing.

CAPTAIN PETERS
Take him below.

INT. HOLD - THE *DISCOVERY* - DAY

The cage door slams shut on Sheffield and his crew.

SUB-LIEUTENANT
Enjoy your new quarters, Your Highness.

The sub-lieutenant laughs and marches upstairs, leaving FIVE REDCOATS standing watch outside the cell.

CRAZY-EYES
(quietly)
What about Marietta, Captain? Did she make it?

SHEFFIELD
I don't know.

INT. GUN DECK - DAY

Marietta peeks around a barrel as sailors hurry past on their way to the main deck.

EXT. STERN DECK - DAY

The sub-lieutenant reports to Humphrey and Peters.

SUB-LIEUTENANT
Prisoners locked up, sir.

HUMPHREY
Perfect timing. The tide is about to turn. Captain Peters, if you please.

CAPTAIN PETERS
All hands about ship! Prepare to set out.

A SERIES OF SHOTS: Men heave at the capstan. The anchor is hauled up. Sails unfurl, catching the wind.

The *Discovery* sails west, toward a STRAIT a half-mile wide that forms the entrance to the bay.

A south-east wind blows the Commodore's pennant west.

SAILOR
Wind at sixteen knots, Captain! East-southeast.

Cordell and Captain Peters follow Humphrey to the foredeck.

CORDELL
If I may, sir, what do you intend for Captain Sheffield?

HUMPHREY
The same thing I do with every man who flies a pirate flag. Watch him dance the hempen jig. That goes for the crew as well.

CAPTAIN PETERS
Don't worry, Cordell. They'll get what's coming to them.

CORDELL
(uneasy)
Of course, sir.

INT. HOLD - THE *DISCOVERY* - DAY

The redcoats lounge about. TWO OF THEM play cards.

MEAN REDCOAT
I'm so hungry I could eat a hippopotamus. Go and ask the galley for some food.

LAZY REDCOAT
The Commodore told us not to leave the prisoners.

MEAN REDCOAT
Just shut up and do it, will you?

Lazy Redcoat throws down his cards and storms off. Mean Redcoat checks his hand.

MEAN REDCOAT (CONT'D)
Dammit. I knew he had two pair!

He swaps out some of the cards.

OLD REDCOAT
Hey. I think he’s coming back.

MEAN REDCOAT
Already? Shit.

He hurriedly puts the cards back.

MEAN REDCOAT (CONT'D)
Well? What’d you get -- ?

He looks up and stops. Marietta has just walked through the door, pointing two pistols.

The redcoats jump up, reaching for their guns.

MARIETTA
Don’t even think about it.

JAMIE
Marietta!

SHEFFIELD
That’s my girl.

MARIETTA
Lay your guns down. Then turn and face the wall.

MEAN READCOAT
It’s one against four, you stupid cow. You can’t kill all of us.

BANG!! She shoots Mean Redcoat through the chest, then throws away the pistol and draws another one.

MARIETTA
Now it’s one against three. Anyone else want a Victoria Cross sent to their families?
(they do as instructed)
Good choice. You. Grab the keys and unlock the cell.

A quivering redcoat obeys her. The pirates file out.

FATU
You’ve got some wild juju, Miss Mate, and I like it.

Sheffield takes a gun from Marietta and addresses the guards.

SHEFFIELD
Alright, lads. Into the cell. Nice and quiet like. Eddie, lock the door.

Eddie locks the redcoats in, giggling. The other pirates undo their shackles.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Good work. Where's the magazine?

MARIETTA
Already been there.

Marietta swings a bag off her shoulder, dumps it on the deck. It's full of knives, swords, pistols, and muskets.

The pirates dive in, loading up on weapons. Marietta reloads her pistol.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)
Nobody touches Lieutenant Cordell but me.

She tucks a boarding axe in her belt and marches off.

EXT. THE *DISCOVERY* - DAY

The ship sails toward the strait, a mile off.

HUMPHREY
Deckard, be a lad and fetch me my pipe. I believe it's in my cabin.

Deckard scowls and trudges downstairs.

He opens the hatchway and freezes: Sheffield and his crew are coming up the steps.

They see Deckard and stop. Their eyes light up.

DECKARD
Son of a bitch!

Sheffield and Crazy-eyes lunge forward and grab Deckard before he can act.

SHEFFIELD
Perfect, lads! We got ourselves a hostage!

Sheffield draws his gun and emerges onto the deck.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Avast, ye swabs! Anyone move, and we cut your captain’s throat.

Crazy-eyes pushes Deckard out with a knife to his neck. The other pirates follow, brandishing weapons.

HUMPHREY
God damn it!

The marines and sailors draw their swords and pistols. Cordell aims his gun at Crazy-eyes.

DECKARD
Please, I’m not the captain. I was demoted!

MARIETTA
Shut up.

CAPTAIN PETERS
You hurt him, and we’ll kill you all twice over.

Sheffield marches Deckard up to the stern deck.

SHEFFIELD
Aye, but we’ll take you all with us. And who among you wants to die for this miserable, bloated prick?

CORDELL
Crazy-eyes, put the knife down. You don’t need to do this.

CRAZY-EYES
Dry up, Lieutenant. I don’t take orders from <u>you</u>.

HUMPHREY
Forget it, Roger Red. This ship will never sail under the likes of a rum-swilling cutthroat!

Fatu points her guns at Humphrey.

FATU
Keep talking, and it won’t sail under the likes of you neither.

Suddenly -- Billy grabs Marietta by the collar and points a pistol at her head. The pirates react, aiming guns at Billy.

BILLY
Let them both go, or I turn your niece's brain into Swiss cheese.

It's a good ol' Mexican standoff.

UNDERWATER - SAME TIME

The *Discovery* floats above us.

SOMETHING MASSIVE swims underneath it, obscuring the ship. It lets out a QUIVERING GROWL.

THE *DISCOVERY* - CONTINUOUS

Billy keeps his gun on Marietta. Fatu, her gun on Humphrey.

HUMPHREY
Atta Bill, boy-y! There will be mentions in dispatches for you.

CORDELL
Stop! I'm putting my pistol down, okay? Enough of us have already died on this island.

SHEFFIELD
Save your breath, Cordell. You know if I play nice, he's just going to hang me later.

He fixes his pistol on Humphrey. Cordell steps between them.

CORDELL
We can give you the longboat! Let you go now. It's big enough for your crew.

HUMPHREY
Horseshit. The only place he's going is back to the brig.

SHEFFIELD
You scupper my ship, and you expect me to settle for a *longboat*?

CORDELL
(turning to Humphrey)
Commodore, please. These aren't bad people!

HUMPHREY
I respect your compassion, son, but it's wasted on this lot.

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

The animal twists around to face the ship. At last, we can see it clearly. It is a MOSASAUR -- the terror of the primordial deep. Over 60 feet, with a long blade-like tail and a double hinged jaw, allowing it to swallow prey whole.

It flaps its tail, powering toward the *Discovery*.

EXT. THE *DISCOVERY* - CONTINUOUS

Crazy-eyes' knife digs into Deckard's neck, drawing blood.

SHEFFIELD
I'll give you to the count of one to lay down your arms and surrender the ship, or we'll all meet again in Davy Jones' locker.

DECKARD
(on the verge of tears)
Please... I don't want to die.

HUMPHREY
Be quiet.

SHEFFIELD
Five.

CAPTAIN PETERS
I think they're bluffing!

CRAZY-EYES
We're not.

SHEFFIELD
Four.

Jamie looks over the rail. A THICK RIPPLE has appeared on the water. It's a hundred yards away and moving toward them.

JAMIE
Uh... Captain?

SHEFFIELD
(ignoring him)
Three.

CORDELL
We can work something out. A pardon, letters of marque --

MARIETTA
Why would we ever trust a *single word* from you!?

Cordell turns to look at her, desperate.

SHEFFIELD
Two.

Billy cocks his gun. So does Fatu.

The ripple is only thirty yards away... twenty...

JAMIE
Captain...!

SHEFFIELD
One.

BAM!! The ship lurches. Half the men are thrown off their feet, including Cordell and Billy.

Humphrey yanks a gun out of Fatu's hand and points it at Sheffield's chest. BANG!!!

Cordell leaps in front of him and gets shot.

MARIETTA
No...!

Captain Peters runs to the ship's side and looks down.

CAPTAIN PETERS
What the hell was that?

SAILOR
Reef to starboard, Captain.

CAPTAIN PETERS
That can't've been a reef, there's nothing there!

Marietta looks from Cordell to her uncle, confusion and dread rushing over her. She clambers to Cordell and undoes his shirt. Blood pours out of the wound onto her hands.

MARIETTA
It's not too bad. We'll fix you.

Humphrey is in shock: he just shot his star lieutenant.

BILLY
If that wasn't a reef, then what hit us?

MARIETTA
(looking up)
It's the sea beast!

SEBASTIAN
The what...??

MARIETTA
The animal on the fresco, in the temple!

SHEFFIELD
Aye, she's right. There be creatures in this bay.

ABRAHAM
A leviathan!

CAPTAIN PETERS
I think we just met one of Cordell's dragons.

CRUNCH!! The ship lurches again, from the other side.

INT. HOLD - THE *DISCOVERY* - CONTINUOUS

Water pours in through a hole. It rushes past the ankles of the redcoats in the cell.

REDCOATS
Shit! / What is this!?

One of them shakes the cell door.

SCARED REDCOAT
Hey! Let us out!

EXT. THE *DISCOVERY* - CONTINUOUS

TOP VIEW -- The mosasaur circles around the stern of the ship. It's nearly twice as long as the beam.

OFFICERS
What a beast! / She's over sixty feet! / Look at the size of its teeth!

DECKARD
Don’t be ridiculous. It’s just a big whale or something -- !

THE MOSASAUR BREACHES, exploding out of the water and twisting in midair, throwing spray all over the onlookers.

It lands with an earsplitting CRASH.

BILLY
That’s no whale.

The ship’s CARPENTER runs up from below.

CARPENTER
Sir! Water’s coming in at the bow, and there are marines locked in there. I couldn’t find the keys.

EDDIE
Eddie took ‘em for safe keeping.

HUMPHREY
Well, who the hell is Eddie?

Sheffield yanks the keys out of Eddie’s pocket and throws them at the carpenter.

SHEFFIELD
Here’s the keys!

CAPTAIN PETERS
Man the pumps. And try to patch up the hole.

ABRAHAM
If that creature hits us again, we’re never going to make it to the strait.

SHEFFIELD
(to Peters)
How many guns do you have?

CAPTAIN PETERS
Fifty eighteen pounders, plus the chasers. But we can’t man them all. We’re already spread too thin!

SAILOR
Captain, the wind’s changing! West-northwest.

Everyone looks up. The pennant flaps in the other direction.

SAILOR (CONT'D)
It’s blowing us back to the shore.

DR. CADAVER
Aye, the island won't let us leave!

CORDELL
(coughing blood)
You'll have to... close-haul her...
Against the wind.

Sheffield and Captain Peters share a look.

SHEFFIELD
You man the guns. We'll do the sails.

CAPTAIN PETERS
Fine.

HUMPHREY
No! I forbid it! I'd rather sink with every soul on board than let a pirate crew put their filthy hands on my braces -- !

CLANG!! Eddie knocks out Humphrey with a frying pan. He collapses onto the deck.

EDDIE
Anyone else got a problem with Eddie or his friends?

No one speaks.

SHEFFIELD
Good. Let's get the hell out of here.

The men jump into action.

CAPTAIN PETERS
Gun crews to the port side batteries! Chocks under the wheels. Aim the cannons low.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Stand by to tack! Haul in the spanker! Ease out the headsail sheets!

QUICK CUTS -- Sailors ready the guns. Gun ports are raised, cannons wheeled forward. The pirates heave the sail lines.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Crazy-eyes, take the crow's nest. Marietta, you're on the helm.

MARIETTA
Aye, Captain. Doctor!
(Dr. Cadaver turns)
I'd appreciate it if you could save the Lieutenant's life.

DR. CADAVER
I'll see what I can do.

Cadaver kneels by Cordell as Marietta moves to the wheel.

Crazy-eyes scrambles up the rigging into the crow's nest. He looks down on the MOSASAUR -- veering toward the ship.

CRAZY-EYES
Here she comes! Two points off the port beam.

INT. GUN DECK - CONTINUOUS

The men watch the approaching dinosaur through the gun ports, linstocks at the ready.

CAPTAIN PETERS
Open fire!!

BOOM! BA-BOOM! BOOM-BOOM!

The guns explode in a line, firing one-by-one. White smoke fills the gun deck. CANNONBALLS hurtle into the bay.

One hits the mosasaur's tail. It roars and dives down.

CAPTAIN PETERS (CONT'D)
Reload!

The men swab the barrels, tamping down fresh shot.

EXT. THE *DISCOVERY* - CONTINUOUS

The vessel plows forward. The bay entrance is on its one o'clock, half-a-mile away. Dr. Cadaver examines Cordell.

DR. CADAVER
The bullet's still inside. We have to get it out or it will fester.

CORDELL
Isn't there somewhere more important you should be...?

DR. CADAVER
Trust me, son. I'm better off here.

SHEFFIELD
Crazy-eyes! Where is it?

CRAZY-EYES
I'm looking, captain!

Crazy-eyes swivels around in the crow's nest. The water around them is EMPTY. He spots a SHAPE, moving toward them --

CRAZY-EYES (CONT'D)
Dead ahead! She's coming right at us!

SHEFFIELD
Helms-a-lee! CLEW UP THE MAINSAIL! BRACE ROUND FORWARD!

MARIETTA
Helms-a-lee, Captain.

Marietta spins the wheel hand-over-hand. The men pull the lines. The giant ship turns starboard, into the wind.

The mosasaur powers toward them like a torpedo. It opens its jaws, ready to take another chunk out of the ship.

The vessel turns slowly... slowly...

SHEFFIELD
Just a little further!

The monster is twenty yards away. IT LUNGES -- !!

The *Discovery* swings right, completing the tack. The beast bites down, missing the ship's rudder by a foot.

The sails flap a bit, then go steady. Sheffield watches as the strait swings from the starboard bow to the port.

MARIETTA
We'll have to tack again before we're clear.

The mosasaur circles around, swimming back toward the ship.

CRAZY-EYES
Sea beast on the starboard beam now!

INT. GUN DECK - CONTINUOUS

The sailors dash across the deck to the other side. They prepare the starboard cannons.

CAPTAIN PETERS
Men to the starboard guns! Step to!
Load the cannons!

They work feverishly. One man gets his foot caught under a wheel. He screams and falls down.

EXT. THE *DISCOVERY* - CONTINUOUS

The mosasaur breaches again. It locks eyes with Sheffield.

SHEFFIELD
Zounds, she’s a smart one!

The creature SLAMS into the starboard side of the ship.

Dr. Cadaver adjusts his glasses. He inserts a pair of tweezers into the Cordell’s wound and digs around with a CATLIN (like a scalpel). He swabs away blood.

Cordell breathes deeply, his face drenched in sweat.

DR. CADAVER
I almost got it...!

WHAM!! The creatures hits them again. The catlin skids over his patient’s stomach, slicing it open.

DR. CADAVER (CONT'D)
Whoops!!

Cordell groans in pain.

SHEFFIELD
Where the hell are the cannons?!

INT. GUN DECK - CONTINUOUS

All the starboard guns are primed and loaded.

CAPTAIN PETERS
FIRE!!

BA-BOOM-BOOM! *BANG!!*

Instead of firing, the last cannon completely EXPLODES, knocking the gun crew down.

CAPTAIN PETERS (CONT'D)
Dammit! What happened?

BILLY
Forgot to swab the barrel, sir!

A sailor checks the gun port.

SAILOR
It’s still out there! I don’t think we hit it at all!

EXT. THE *DISCOVERY* - CONTINUOUS

Deckard watches from the main deck.

DECKARD
For heaven’s sake! This shouldn’t be that hard!

He storms onto the poop and man’s a SWIVEL GUN.

DECKARD (CONT'D)
You just need to aim for the eye!
(looking around)
Where are you...?

SHEFFIELD
Mister, be careful!

ROOAARRR!! The dinosaur bursts out of the water, flying directly at Deckard.

IT CHOMPS DOWN -- EATING DECKARD AND THE SWIVEL GUN WHOLE.

When it falls away, a bite-shaped piece of the deck has been removed. Sheffield and Marietta are stunned.

CRAZY-EYES
Rocks, dead ahead, sir! A quarter-mile forward!

MARIETTA
If we don’t turn in time, we’ll collide...!

SHEFFIELD
I hear ya.
(to the crew)
Stand by for another tack!!

The pirates hop to. Some of them run past Humphrey’s unconscious body, which has been cleared out of the way.

Humphrey stirs. He sits up, groggy.

HUMPHREY
How did I...? Christ! What the devil are *these*?!

His hands are in SHACKLES. Sebastian unties a nearby rope.

SEBASTIAN
Miss Mate's idea. Didn't want you causing any more trouble.

HUMPHREY
Like hell! I demand you release me at once! Where are the keys to these manacles?

INT. GUN DECK - CONTINUOUS

The sailors stuff cartridges and cannonballs into the guns.

CAPTAIN PETERS
Reload! Step to! Aim lower, this time. Closer to the ship!

The mosasaur GROWLS, swimming toward them.

CRUNCH!! It hits the hull again.

INT. HOLD - CONTINUOUS

The starboard wall BUCKLES but doesn't break. The navy carpenter helps nail planks to the hole in the bow.

CARPENTER
Dammit! We just got this fixed!

The water is up to his knees.

INT. GUN DECK - CONTINUOUS

CAPTAIN PETERS
Open fire!!

The starboard guns go off. THREE OF THEM hit their mark, blasting holes into the mosasaur's flank. It SCREAMS.

CAPTAIN PETERS (CONT'D)
Well done, lads!

The dinosaur slams into the ship again -- <u>HARD</u>.

EXT. THE *DISCOVERY* - CONTINUOUS

Crazy-eyes falls from the crow's nest. He catches himself in the rigging.

Humphrey topples over the rail and lands in the swirling bay.

SEBASTIAN
Man overboard!

Humphrey kicks to the surface, his hands still in shackles.

SHEFFIELD
Heave to!!

MARIETTA
Belay that, there's no time!

She grabs the end of a rope and SWAN DIVES off the stern. Sheffield takes the helm.

Cordell shuts his eyes and clenches his teeth. Dr. Cadaver pulls the bullet up out of his stomach.

DR. CADAVER
That's done it! Now we just need to patch you up, lad. You'll be fine!

Marietta swims to Humphrey. Her rope unwinds from a coil on the ship's deck as the *Discovery* gets further away.

She grabs the Commodore under his arm.

HUMPHREY
No -- ! Not you!

MARIETTA
Peace, old man! I don't like it either.

Sebastian watches them from the stern deck.

SEBASTIAN
She's got him! Pull them up!

Half-a-dozen pirates heave on the rope.

SHEFFIELD
Ready about!

The rest of the crew grab the sail lines, preparing to tack.

The mosasaur reappears, directly behind Marietta and Humphrey. It slithers through the water like a snake -- widening its mouth to devour them.

Sheffield turns the wheel. The ship starts to rotate again.

SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)
Slack off the headsail sheets!

The crew loosen the sails, letting them FLAP AROUND LOUDLY.

The *Discovery* veers southwest, passing into the wind.

Marietta and Humphrey reach the ship's stern. They rise out of the surf, as the pirates pull them up.

They're three feet above the waves... four feet...

THE MOSASAUR LEAPS OUT BEHIND THEM!!

Marietta yanks her foot up just in time. *The mosasaur's jaws snap shut on empty air*. It SPLASHES back down.

The *Discovery* scrapes the ROCKS as it finishes tacking.

The dino can't stop in time and COLLIDES WITH THE OUTCROP. Some boulders shake loose and topple onto on its head. The animal MOANS in pain.

The ship enters the strait.

INT. GUN DECK - CONTINUOUS

The sailors scramble to the gun ports to watch the rocky cliffs give way to the OPEN OCEAN.

CAPTAIN PETERS
That's it! We're out of the bay!

The sailors cheer.

EXT. THE *DISCOVERY* - CONTINUOUS

Marietta and Humphrey haul themselves onto the deck. They tumble to their knees, soaking wet, sputtering water.

A hand helps Marietta up. It's Cordell. He's bent over, his face is white, and his stomach is tightly bandaged.

CORDELL
I thought you were a goner.

MARIETTA
I thought you were too.

He collapses onto a crate. Marietta sits down next to him.

CORDELL
The doctor says you were planning to kill me earlier.

MARIETTA
The thought did cross my mind.

He nods, then leans against her. Spent.

Captain Peters appears with the rest of the sailors.

CAPTAIN PETERS
Not bad shooting, eh? I know we didn't finish it, but hopefully that water-dragon creature will think twice before it thrashes another of His Majesty's ships --
(sees Humphrey)
What the hell are those!?

MARIETTA
Oh. Sorry.

Marietta unlocks the handcuffs.

HUMPHREY
Thank you. Captain Peters, will you please put these back on Mr. Sheffield, where they belong.

The entire ship goes silent.

MARIETTA
I just saved you...!

CAPTAIN PETERS
Commodore, Mr. Sheffield saved us all. We'd never have made it out if it wasn't for him!

HUMPHREY
It doesn't matter. A pirate is still a pirate!

CORDELL
Maybe let it go, sir. Just this once.

Humphrey considers him. He eyes Cordell's stomach. Then nods.

HUMPHREY
Just this once.

SHEFFIELD
Is that offer for the longboat still open to us?

EXT. THE *DISCOVERY* - DAY

The pirates load supplies onto a longboat. Captain Peters and Cordell confer with Sheffield, while Humphrey entertains Jamie with close-up magic.

CAPTAIN PETERS
We can give you some charts and provisions for up to two weeks.

SHEFFIELD
Thanks. I'll make it work.

Cordell spots Marietta whisper SOMETHING to Dr. Cadaver and Crazy-eyes. They all slip away below decks.

CAPTAIN PETERS
And remember, this doesn't mean you're free. The next time we cross paths, I'll have to arrest you.

SHEFFIELD
Understood.

LATER -- The longboat is in the water. Most of the pirate are already on board. Marietta, Crazy-eyes, and Cadaver appear, toting KEGS.

DR. CADAVER
Sorry we're late. Just getting some essential supplies.

MARIETTA
It's barley oats. Eddie said he can use them.

They hand the kegs to sailors, who lower them down with rope. Eddie receives them on the longboat.

EDDIE
Eddie doesn't remember saying that.

CAPTAIN PETERS
That's, uh -- fine. It's just two weeks' worth, right?

CRAZY-EYES
Of course!

Crazy-eyes claps Peters on the shoulder and climbs down. Dr. Cadaver follows. Cordell helps Marietta onto the ladder.

CORDELL
Be careful out there, alright?

MARIETTA
I promise.

She gives him a TINY KISS -- then winks at him.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)
So long, Lieutenant.

SHEFFIELD
Oars to water! Heave!

The pirates push away from the *Discovery*. They pull on the oars, taking their longboat further and further away.

EXT. STERN DECK - THE *DISCOVERY* - LATER

Humphrey, Captain Peters, and Cordell stare at the open ocean. The pirates have disappeared from the horizon.

HUMPHREY
We'll get another chance.

CAPTAIN PETERS
That's right, sir.

HUMPHREY
His ship's gone. And most of his crew as well. And there aren't too many ports he can reach in that jolly boat. Mark my words, we have't seen the last of Roger Red.

He marches down to the main deck, leading the others.

CAPTAIN PETERS
It wasn't a total loss, sir. We did secure the treasure.

HUMPHREY
Very true, Captain! I've got the key right here --

He freezes. The others stop as well. Humphrey pats his chest and digs through all his pockets.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)
It’s gone.

CAPTAIN PETERS
What’s gone?

HUMPHREY
The key! The one to the chest! I had it around my neck, now it’s not there! That harlot must’ve taken it when she saved me!

INT. CABIN - THE *DISCOVERY* - DAY

They race into Humphrey’s cabin. Captain Peters and Cordell drag the chest out from under the bunk.

CAPTAIN PETERS
The padlock’s gone too, sir.

HUMPHREY
Out of my way!

He throws open the lid.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)
Good God. ... What is this?!

Peters looks inside. Then Cordell. The chest is full of --

CAPTAIN PETERS
Barley oats...?

HUMPHREY
No!! I never should’ve let those slippery bastards go!

CORDELL
Don’t worry, sir. You’ll get another chance. ... It’s like you said. We haven’t seen the last of Roger Red.

Humphrey grabs a fistful of oats and throws them at the wall.

A lively SEA SHANTY starts up, carrying us to --

EXT. PIRATE LONGBOAT - OPEN SEA - DAY

The pirates have opened the “extra supplies” and are passing around the treasure: pearls, rings, a jewel-encrusted crown. Enough for all of them to live like kings.

Sheffield mans the tiller. Marietta sits beside him, wind whipping her hair.

SEBASTIAN
(singing)
Well, here we are, we're back again
safe upon the shore.
In Belfast town we'd like to stay
and go to sea no more.

We'll go into a public house and
drink till we're content.
For the lassies they will love us
till our money is all spent.

The rest of the pirates join in at the CHORUS:

PIRATES
So pass the flowing bowl while
there's whisky in the jar
And we'll drink to all the lassies
at the Jolly Roving Tar!

Sheffield's boat rides the waves into the sunset, carrying him and his crew onto their next grand adventure...

FADE OUT.

THE END