



**A Pirate and a Princess(working title)**

written by

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When a pirate crew survives a storm, they come upon a pair of women needing rescue and quickly learn that their new passengers have a valuable secret and deadly enemies.

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"A PIRATE AND A PRINCESS(working title)"

FADE IN

EXT. OPEN SEA - DAY

SUPER: The Atlantic Ocean-Summer 1725

Pirate galley *Princ* mounts wave, *SPRAYS* seawater everywhere, flies Irish green harp flag.

EXT. *PRINC* - THE MAIN DECK - DAY

Pirate CREW in their short clothes all *SING* sea shanty.

CREW

**COME ALL YE YOUNG FELLOWS THAT  
FOLLOWS THE SEA.  
TO ME, WAY HEY, BLOW THE MAN DOWN  
NOW PLEASE PAY ATTENTION AND LISTEN  
TO ME  
GIVE ME SOME TIME TO BLOW THE MAN  
DOWN**

*SONG* continues in background.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION, (60) Hasidic Jew, old man, long beard, yarmulke, navigator & surgeon, plays his hautbois along with song.

AIDEN, (29) Irish, Captain, formal captain attire, moves among them, observes all work.

DOUGAL, (45) Scottish, first mate, red bearded, Scottish kilt, follows captain closely.

KWAU, (32) African, tall, grim faced, quartermaster, black pants suit, also follows.

They stop, aid some crewmen to pull line. Aiden & Dougal sing along. Kwau half smiles.

They move on past-

SAM THORSON-STRAND, (48) carpenter, Norwegian, blonde, bearded, patches hole in longboat.

CYRIL, (30) British, boatswain, aids Thorson-Strand.

AIDEN

Get that patched up men!

Both straighten, salute.

CYRIL  
Aye Aye Captain!

SAM THORSON-STRAND  
Aye aye Captain!

Aiden looks up.

AIDEN  
Ahoy, the rigging!

Boatswain Cyril blows *WHISTLE* to signal riggers.

#### SHIP'S RIGGING

MADDOX, (35) welsh, chief rigger, superstitious, gold earring, checks lines.

MADDOX  
Aye. Cap'n!

#### MAIN DECK

AIDEN  
How's that rigging look?! Any worn lines?!

#### SHIP'S RIGGING

Maddox stands on spar, pulls line, checks loops up & down spar.

MADDOX  
Nay Cap'n! Shipshape!

#### MAIN DECK

AIDEN  
Keep an eye out! I got a feeling!

Captain, Dougal & Kwau, walk fore along gunwales to gun port to-

MASTER GUNNER, (31), Caucasian, bald, bare chested, secures cannon.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Master Gunner!

Master Gunner turns, salutes smartly. Captain returns salute.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
 Good. Keep the powder dry.

Master Gunner makes positive hand sign. Captain moves on.

MASTER MOUSE, small mouse with tricorn hat, scampers up gunwale to Captain, salutes smartly. Captain returns salute.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
 As you were Master Mouse. What's to report?

*THUMP THUMP THUMP!* Master Mouse thumps his legs.

*WHOOSH!* raises forepaws up & down.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
 A storm? Are you sure. There's not a cloud in the sky.

LOOKOUT (O.S.)  
 Storm ho! Storm ho! Storm ho!

*MUSIC* stops.

Storm front ahead. Lightning on horizon.

AIDEN  
 Someday, I'm going to figure out how you do that, Master Mouse. Now, get below.

Master Mouse salutes,

*SQUEAK SQUEAK*

Scampers down gunwales.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
 Ahoy the rigging! Take in the course and the t'gallants! We're running under bare poles!

RIGGERS (O.S.)  
 Aye Aye Captain!

SMITH & JONES, (23) crewhands, identical, stand idle.

Cyril points at them.

CYRIL  
 You two! Smith, Jones! Make sure the hatches are securely battened!

SMITH/JONES  
I'm Smith. He's Jones.

CYRIL  
We'll discuss that later now batten  
the hatches!

SMITH/JONES  
Aye Aye Sir!

DOUGAL  
Bobby?! Where are ye lad?!

BOBBY, (10) cabin boy, runs up.

BOBBY  
Here, Sir?!

DOUGAL  
Shake the next two watches outa  
their hammocks and set them to work  
tying down everything below deck!  
Have some of them mix caulk for the  
leaks and prepare the pumps!

BOBBY  
You don't think Cap'n Aiden's  
overreacting, do you?

LOOKOUT(O.S.)  
Ahoy captain! The storm'll be on us  
within the hour! It's already  
halved the distance to us!

AIDEN (O.S.)  
Well, get down from there man! You  
can't do any more good up there!  
All hands to quarters!

DOUGAL  
No lad, I don't think so! Now off  
with you!

Bobby races off.

Dougal walks away.

DOUGAL (CONT'D)  
All hands to quarters!

Captain walks to Master Gunner, puts his hand on his  
shoulder.

AIDEN

As soon as your crews get those guns tied down, go back and check them. The last thing we need is a gun breaking loose in a storm, again.

Master Gunner nods, goes back to work.

POWDER MONKEY, (10), races by, carries powder cartridges.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Mr. Powder Monkey!

Boy spins, salutes, shouts-

POWDER MONKEY

Captain!

AIDEN

Mr. Thorson-Strand installed a block and tackle in the magazine! use it to keep the powder off the floor!

POWDER MONKEY

Aye Aye Captain! I'd wondered what that was for!

AIDEN

Right! Now off with you!

Boy races off.

INT. CREW QUARTERS

Bobby runs to hammock.

BOBBY

All hands to quarters!

He shakes another hammock.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

All hands to quarters!

He shakes another hammock.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

All hands to quarters!

EXT. STERNCastle DECK

Captain *POUNDS* on navigation room door.

AIDEN  
Mr. Ben Zion!

Ben Zion answers door.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION  
Kapitän.

AIDEN  
Is all the navigation gear stored?

EZEKIEL BEN ZION  
Not yet.

AIDEN  
Well get it stored! The last thing  
we need is to lose any of that!

EZEKIEL BEN ZION  
Jah, Kapitän.

Door closes.

INT. GALLEY

JEAN-BASILE, (32) French, dark haired mustachioed man, cook,  
secures chickens in coops.

Salutes captain, French style.

JEAN-BASILE  
Capitaine!

AIDEN  
Issue each man a boiled egg and  
hardtack. It may be some time  
before we eat again.

JEAN-BASILE  
Oui oui, Mon Capitaine.

He reaches into cupboard, offers Captain small sack.

JEAN-BASILE (CONT'D)  
Here, sir.

Captain waves them away.

AIDEN

Give me my share last. The men need  
it more.

JEAN-BASILE

Of course, Mon Capitaine.

Captain turns, walks away.

EXT. QUARTERDECK

Captain, Dougal, at wheel.

ANGLE: THE SEA TO THE MEN'S RIGHT

Lightning bolt strikes sea 200 yards out

BACK ON BOARD SHIP

*CLAP! THUNDER* engulfs ship.

Crew freezes in place for beat in silence after thunder  
passes.

AIDEN

Get back to work!

They scurry to work.

MAIN DECK

Storm is overhead.

Riggers battle to get sails furled.

Captain opens door to deck below.

INT. GALLEY

Jean-Basile hands out small sacks from his bucket to a line  
of crewmen.

AIDEN (O.S.)

Jean-Basile! Douse the embers

JEAN-BASILE

Oui mon Capitaine!



He shoves bucket to nearest man, grabs bucket of water, drenches embers in fireplace.

EXT. QUARTERDECK

Captain at wheel.

AIDEN  
Stand ready!

Rain *LASHES* crew, waves *CRASH* on deck, Wind *HOWLS*.

Aiden, Dougal wrestle wheel.

They must shout over storm noise.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Hard to port, Mr. Dougal! We'll run right to the winds and waves!

DOUGAL  
Aye Captain!

AIDEN  
Get those blessed sails furled and secure those lashings!

*THUNDER* rolls.

Ship *GROANS*.

Wind *WHISTLES*.

Rain *SLASHES* deck.

Aiden, Dougal wrestle wheel.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Cyril! Summon the starboard watch to the deck!

Cyril fights his way to door below decks, opens it, leans in, blows his *WHISTLE*.

CYRIL  
Starboard watch to the deck now!

Twelve *MEN* of varied colors burst through door, into storm.

Aiden points left.

AIDEN  
You men, man the port braces!

He points right.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

You others, the starboard! Move!  
Move!

Men separate, take their places.

They take brace lines, pull on them with all their might.

One line gives way,

LEAD MAN, yanked off his feet, hoisted into air.

Others *CRASH* in heap behind him.

Lead man swings right past Kwau, who, in one fluid motion,  
grabs man by collar with his left hand, line with his right.

Kwau anchors both to deck with his weight and strength.

Other riggers run forward, secure line.

KWAU

Pull!

Cyril makes his way to captains side.

CYRIL

Captain! if we don't get the rest  
of the canvas furled, we'll lose  
the masts!

AIDEN

I see it Cyril!  
(to the rigging)  
Ahoy Maddox! Is that halyard  
running free?!

SHIP'S RIGGING

Maddox, feet planted on spar, pulls on line.

MADDOX

It's stuck! It's bound up by the  
mast! It's not coming down!

DECK

AIDEN

Get up and slack off the truss  
lashing! Cut it loose if you have  
to!

Low RUMBLE.

Aiden steps away from wheel.

Cyril takes his place.

Captain walks carefully to ships side.

Mountainous wave rises before him. He turns, bellows-

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Knockdown!

Crew brace themselves.

Wave *CRASHES* over ship, submerges them briefly.

Ship rolls on its side, deck at 45 degrees.

QUARTERDECK

Ship *GROANS*.

Wind, waves toss ship.

Man on upper side, loses grip, slides down deck, *SCREAMS*.

Dougal swings out from behind wheel, grabs him by sleeve,  
pulls him in.

SHIP'S RIGGING

Wind whips Maddox on rope ladder.

Riggers cling to whatever they can.

Sail breaks loose, *SNAPS* in wind.

QUARTERDECK

Aiden, Dougal wrestle wheel while Cyril, others, cling to  
deck.

CYRIL

Captain! Captain! With that sail  
loose! It'll drive us into the sea!  
We must reduce the windage...or  
we'll sink!

AIDEN

Ahoy Maddox! Did we lose anyone?!

SHIP'S RIGGING

MADDOX

Nay Cap'n but not for lack of  
trying!

AIDEN (O.S.)

Well, cut away that sail man! Let  
the storm take it before it pulls  
us down!

MADDOX

Aye Captain!

Riggers pull out their knives, begin to cut canvas from  
spars.

Maddox climbs down to sail's lower spar, lashes it to mast.

QUARTERDECK

Angle of deck reduces.

Captain looks over to Mr. Ben Zion.

AIDEN

Ben Zion, What are you doing here?!

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

The navigation room is all squared  
away, Kapitän! Where can I be of  
use now?!

AIDEN

Get below and report to the mates!

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Aye!

SHIP'S RIGGING

Riggers secure spar, cut away sail.

Canvas flies away in wind.  
 Ball lightning sparks above main mast.  
 Masts glow light blue.  
 Riggers struggle with grip.  
 Maddox *GASPS*.

MADDOX  
 St. Elmo's Fire!

He crosses himself, signals riggers.

QUARTERDECK

Every man on deck stunned.  
 Kwau awestruck.

DOUGAL  
 Captain-

AIDEN  
 I see it, Dougal!

MADDOX (O.S.)  
 The spar's giving way! Look out  
 belooww!

SHIPS'S RIGGING

Empty spar turns sideways, swings downward toward deck.  
 It strikes cask.

*CRASH!*

Shattered pieces fly in all directions.  
 Men dodge out of harms way.  
 Large piece flies toward Captain.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION  
 Look out Kapitän!

Ben Zion pushes Aiden out of way.  
 Shrapnel lodges in Ben Zion's shoulder.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION (CONT'D)

Aaaaahh!

He falls to deck, Captain at his side.

AIDEN

Ben Zion, you're wounded.

Ben Zion looks at his shoulder.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

I've had worse. I've treated worse.  
Help me to my feet.

Aiden helps Ben Zion up.

Dougal points to sea, cries out-

DOUGAL

Captain! Look!

Captain looks out to sea.

Waves beneath ship glow blue.

Rain, winds calm.

Ship rights itself.

Men line rails, stare at glowing sea,

AIDEN

Maddox, you ever see anything like  
this?

MADDOX

Cap'n, I've not even heard of  
anything like this.

Large shapes, double size of ship, pass beneath them.

Ezekiel Ben Zion shudders.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Leviathan.

AIDEN

Don't say such things. It's  
probably just whales casting a  
shadow from...whatever that light  
is.

Master Mouse scampers up Boatswain, tugs at his collar,  
points to sea.

Cyril points.

CYRIL  
Captain, look.

OPEN SEA

Human-sized shapes rise up from sea.

QUARTERDECK

Men stare in shock.

DOUGAL  
Selkies.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION  
Nixies.

MADDOX  
Finfock.

CYRIL  
What could we be witnessing?

AIDEN  
Who can tell?

Shapes dissolve back into sea.

Light below fades.

Maddox points up.

MADDOX  
Look.

Storm clouds disappear.

Crew is speechless.

DOUGAL  
What just happened?

Captain turns to crew.

AIDEN  
I don't know, but I know what's  
going to happen. Maddox, get the  
riggers aloft. Check for damage and  
be ready to unfurl the sails.  
(MORE)

AIDEN (CONT'D)

And bring up some of the spare canvas to replace the lost one.

MADDOX

Aye, sir.

AIDEN

Mr. Boatswain!

CYRIL

Sir!

Master Mouse, on Boatswain's shoulder, salutes.

AIDEN

Go below and check for damage. Send up Mr. Thorson-Strand. Tell him about the spar. Take Master Mouse with you.

CYRIL

Yes Captain.

AIDEN

Dougal, keep an eye on everyone. Make sure anyone who needs it, gets help.

DOUGAL

Aye, Captain.

AIDEN

Mr. Ben Zion...

Everyone looks around, sees no sign of Mr. Ben Zion.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Ben Zion!

Captain goes toward ladder.

INT. NAVIGATION ROOM

Captain bursts through door.

AIDEN

Ben Zion, what are you doing?

Ben Zion looks through window with Davis Quadrant, surrounded by charts, bookcases.



EZEKIEL BEN ZION  
I'm trying to fix our position.  
Whatever happened out there may be  
tied to this part of the ocean.

AIDEN  
Ben Zion, you're wounded.

He takes instrument.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Get yourself seen to, you're no  
good to anyone if you pass out.

LOOKOUT (O.S.)  
Wreckage ho! Wreckage ho!

AIDEN  
You get taken care of. That's an  
order.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION  
Jah, Kapitän.

Aiden leaves.

EXT. STERNCastle DECK

Aiden crosses deck to rail, pulls out spyglass, scans  
horizon.

ANGLE: CAPTAIN'S SPYGLASS VIEW OF OPEN SEA

Two women cling to some wooden flotsam in water.

STERNCastle DECK

AIDEN  
Dougal, prepare a longboat! I see  
two survivors clinging to the  
wreckage! They look like women!

Several hands utter-

CREWMEN  
Women?

Maddox hangs off ratlines he had just begun to climb.

MADDOX

Captain, we've women enough aboard  
ship to bring us bad luck.

AIDEN

Worse luck would be to have their  
ghosts haunting us for the rest of  
our days.

Maddox hesitates.

MADDOX

Aye, Captain.

MONTAGE: VARIOUS

A) EXT. THE MAIN DECK

Crew lowers longboat over side.

B) EXT. THE OPEN SEA

Aiden, Dougal, Kwau, several crewmen of mixed nationalities  
row out to wreckage, *SING* rowing song.

C) EXT. THE WRECKAGE

Longboat approaches wreckage. Kwau in bow.

END OF MONTAGE

AIDEN

Bring us in close men. Kwau, be  
ready.

Kwau nods to Captain.

MARTA, (51) Spanish, cries out-

MARTA

(spanish)  
*Help! Help!*

KWAU

Captain. They are Spanish.

AIDEN

Bring 'em in anyway.

Long boat pulls up next to wreckage.

Kwau reaches out for women.

Marta, fearful

MARTA  
(spanish)  
*African savage!*

Kwau glares.

TERESA, (21) Spanish, her companion, weak.

TERESA  
Who are you?

AIDEN  
We're the men who are pulling you  
out of the sea. If you prefer your  
current accommodations, we could be  
on our way.

TERESA  
No, please, help us. Thank you.

AIDEN  
Kwau.

Kwau reaches out, pulls women into boat by their collars, one  
in each hand.

Women, both dressed well, drenched. Teresa, elegantly dressed  
in indigo gown, violet waistcoat, gloves, with intricate  
hairstyle. Marta, fuller figured in period servants attire  
and cap. Both olive skinned.

TERESA  
Thank you, sir. My name is Teresa.  
My less well mannered maidservant  
is named Marta.

AIDEN  
My name is Aiden. I am the captain  
of this crew.

He points to Kwau.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
This is Kwau, our quartermaster.

He points to Dougal.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
The bearded man is my first mate,  
Dougal.

Dougal nods to them.

DOUGAL  
Ladies.

Teresa returns nod.

TERESA  
Sir.

DOUGAL  
Take us back, lads.

Hands row back to ship, *SING* rowing song.

AIDEN  
You are well dressed, if drenched.  
You are ladies, then.

TERESA  
We are. And if the Capitán were to  
see us to a safe port, Our families  
could make it worth his while.

Aiden nods to this, turns to his men.

Marta, Teresa whispers-

MARTA  
(spanish)  
*Mistress*

TERESA  
Si.

MARTA  
(spanish)  
*We can not trust these men.*

TERESA  
(spanish)  
*We have no choice... for the  
moment.*

No indication of men understanding.

MAIN DECK

Teresa takes Aiden's hand, steps aboard. Marta follows.

Entire crew, gathered on deck, inspect them.

Crew members mutter under their breath.

RANDOM CREW (O.S.)  
Spaniard... More bad luck...

Jean-Basile screws on his most charming Gascony smile, approaches Teresa, bows in his most gentlemanly fashion.

JEAN-BASILE  
Bonjour, mademoiselle. Je m'appelle  
Jean-Basile. Enchanté.

Teresa curtsies.

TERESA  
Enchanté monsieur. Je m'appelle  
Teresa.

She offers her hand, he kisses it.

JEAN-BASILE  
Your french is exquisite'  
mademoiselle.

Teresa smiles.

TERESA  
Merci.

Marta steps between them, fixes Jean-Basile with stern glare.

Jean-Basile raises his hands in surrender, backs away,  
*CHUCKLES.*

Ezekiel Ben Zion faints.

Crowd swarms.

AIDEN  
Ben Zion!

Aiden kneels down next to Ben Zion, Teresa at his side.

Dougal waves men back.

DOUGAL  
Back now, lads. Give him some air.

TERESA  
This man is wounded. Who is your  
surgeon?

Aiden gestures at Ben Zion.

AIDEN

He is. I told him to get checked.

TERESA

Then you will need another surgeon. Capitán, I have studied surgery. If you will trust me, I will do my best to save your man.

MARTA

Ama-

TERESA

Silencio!

Captain, in disbelief,

AIDEN

It appears we have no choice.

TERESA

I will need his surgical kit, boiling water, and as clean a cloth as you can find aboard this ship.

AIDEN

You heard the lady! Hot water and clean rags!

JEAN-BASILE

Oui, Mon Capitaine!

BOBBY

Aye, Cap'n!

Jean-Basil, Bobby head in opposite directions.

Aiden kneels down next to Mr Ben Zion, reaches for his chest.

AIDEN

He usually keeps his surgical kit in his vest pocket here.

Captain pulls leather case from Mr Ben Zion's coat, hands it to Teresa. She opens it.

TERESA

This will do nicely, Capitán.

She taps his shoulder, he stands up, steps aside. She kneels down in his place, motions for Marta,

TERESA (CONT'D)

Marta...

Marta steps forward, takes waistcoat off her mistress,  
receives her gloves.

Teresa stretches her arms, flexes her fingers.

Jean-Basile, Bobby appear with kettle of boiling water, clean  
rags.

Teresa pulls forceps from surgical kit, dips them in boiling  
water,

Teresa sets her jaw, narrows her eyes,

Men grimace, turn away, covers their faces.

Marta faints.

Dougal catches her, lays her on deck.

Drop of blood spurts, lands on Teresa's cheek. She doesn't  
flinch.

She removes her scarf, pulls stray thread.

She checks kit.

TERESA (CONT'D)

There's no sewing needle.

Master Mouse scampers up to Mr. Ben Zion's head, pulls a  
sewing needle from the man's yamulke, offers it up to Teresa.

Teresa smiles, nods.

She squints, threads sewing needle, knots end.

She sews wound shut.

TERESA (CONT'D)

Is there some whiskey about?

Dougal pulls out flask, offers it to Teresa.

DOUGAL

Here ya go, lass.

TERESA

Thank you.

Teresa opens flask, pours over wound, returns to Dougal.

TERESA (CONT'D)

That should prevent infection.

Dougal, impressed, eyes wide, shrugs, takes drink.

Bobby hands clean rags to Teresa.

Teresa bandages Mr. Ben Zion. He GROANS.

TERESA (CONT'D)

Easily, sir. You're recovering from surgery.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

*Malekh?* (subtitle 'Angel')

Teresa smiles.

TERESA

No sir. My name is Teresa. I'm--

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

-The lady we pulled from the sea. I remember. My name is Ezekiel Ben Zion.

TERESA

You are of the Israelite faith.

Ben Zion smiles.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Jah.

Captain stands over him, extends hand, smiles.

AIDEN

On yer feet, Ben Zion and next time I tell you to do something, do it.

Ben Zion takes captain's hand.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Jah, Kapitän.

Aiden helps Ben Zion to his feet.

He extends hand to Teresa, helps her up, takes handkerchief, wipes the blood from her cheek.

Their eyes meet, she smiles demurely.

Marta, back on her feet, steps between them.

Marta, unsettled-



MARTA

Ama-

TERESA

Marta, you speak English as well as I do. Don't be rude.

Marta blushes.

MARTA

Mistress, I am sorry but it is improper for a... Lady of station to be so familiar...

Marta turns to captain.

MARTA (CONT'D)

Even to her hosts.

Aiden, Teresa smile at each other.

TERESA

Very well, Marta. We shall observe propriety.

She curtsies to Aiden, he tips his hat.

AIDEN

Kwau, Dougal, Let's get the ladies settled in the great cabin. Find some clothes for them, At least until their current garments are dry.

DOUGAL

Aye, Captain.

Kwau nods.

INT. GREAT CABIN

Kwau leads ladies into great cabin.

Ladies stare wide-eyed.

MARTA

Madre de dios!

Room extends entire width of stern, windows run length of room. Group of AFRICAN WOMEN, (ages 20-30) occupy table & chairs at back of room.

Ladies turn to see captain's stern face, hat in hand.

TERESA

Capitán-

Aiden interrupts-

AIDEN

This ship is a former slaver. We crewmen rebelled and seized it with the help of the slaves. We owe them our lives, and have agreed to return them to their homeland- regardless of obstacles. The Great Cabin has been set aside for all women aboard. Tinashe...

TINASHE, (27) African, Kwau's sister, steps forward.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

This is Kwau's sister, Tinashe. Tinashe, would you please see to these ladies well being.

Tinashe smiles at ladies.

TINASHE

Of course, Captain.

Aiden turns back to ladies.

AIDEN

These women are not your servants, your slaves, nor your property. They are not your lessers in any way. There are certain things that are tolerated aboard this ship. Indignity is not among them. Am I understood?

TERESA

Of course Capitán.

Men turn to go.

TERESA (CONT'D)

Capitán.

Aiden turns back.

TERESA (CONT'D)

Thank you for your hospitality.

Captain bows to her, she responds with curtsy. Men leave.

Marta, distressed, approaches Tinashe.

MARTA

Seriorita, por favor. The men of this ship, can they be...trusted?

TINASHE

No man has put hands to any of us since we took the ship. You may rest at ease. No one here will harm you.

Marta looks skeptical.

TINASHE (CONT'D)

Truthfully, you will come to no harm, here.

TERESA

Please forgive Marta. She was given to worry even before we were both kidnapped, held for ransom, and shipwrecked...which seems actually wise now, looking back on it.

TINASHE

Well, you're in good company. I don't think there is a single person aboard this ship who was not kidnapped in one way or another.

TERESA

Really?

TINASHE

The sailors and junior officers were, I believe the term is, shanghaied, from harbor towns in the new world then the ship sailed to Africa to purchase all of us.

MARTA

(spanish)

*Beasts!*

Tinashe scowls.

TINASHE

They flew the Spanish flag. Both our captors and our buyers.

Ladies blush.

TINASHE (CONT'D)

Perhaps it would set your minds at ease if I tell you the story of this ship and it's people.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. THE NORTH ATLANTIC - 1 YEAR EARLIER

SUPER: 'ONE YEAR EARLIER'

Ship *Profit* cuts through waves. Flag of Spain waves on stern.

TINASHE (V.O.)

The ship we sail was originally a slaver named 'Profit' which had, as I understand it, been built specifically for moving slaves.

EXT. MAIN DECK - DAY

Caucasian officers of *Princ* wear short clothes of simple sailors.

Leathers WHIPS cut through air, land on their backs.

CAPTAIN NORRIS (45) Caucasian, bearded, stands dressed in formal captains attire surrounded by his CAUCASIAN OFFICERS.

Every officer carries whip, sword, pistol.

NUBIAN, large, red-eyed, black-furred, rat, sits on captain's shoulder.

TINASHE (V.O.)

Captain Norris was a vile beast. Every single person aboard bears scars from his whip. He was English, but hired by the Spanish because of his cruelty toward both slaves and seamen.

MALE SLAVES, chained together, bare-chested, visibly miserable file out of hold.

Kwau emerges. He receives LASHES from several directions. He glares with snarl.

TINASHE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Because of his size, my brother was singled out.

(MORE)

TINASHE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Every day, they would find an  
 excuse to beat him, and he would  
 grow more and more angry.

MAIN MAST -DAY

Kwau & Aiden, tied securely to mast, face to face, bare-  
 chested.

TINASHE (V.O.)  
 One day, Aiden did something to  
 displease the captain and both he  
 and Kwau were going to be whipped.

*WHIP* slashes across Aiden's back. Another strikes Kwau.  
*LASHES* alternate between men.

Men grimace or sneer as they are lashed but refuse to cry  
 out.

Aiden directs Kwau's attention to frayed rope on Kwau's  
 wrist. Kwau nods.

They coordinate pulls on rope to lashes.

Rope *SNAPS*.

They slide their hands free.

They charge captain. Crewmen follow.

Captain Norris draws his pistol, *SHOOTS*.

Aiden dives under shot, Kwau sidesteps it. They jump Norris.  
 Aiden punches low and Kwau punches high.

Captain goes down. Nubian is trapped underneath Norris' head.

Sailors are in full mutiny.

MONTAGE:

-Dougal grabs two officers, *BANGS* their heads together.

-Maddox swings down from rigging, releases his line dropping  
 a spar on another group.

-Sam Thorson-Strand hefts one of his casks, uses it to *CRASH*  
 through some other loyalists.

BACK TO SCENE

Aiden reaches down into captain's pockets, pulls out key.

He *UNLOCKS* chains around Kwau's ankles.

They work their way through battle.

MONTAGE:

-Cyril duels loyalist with stolen sword.

-Master Gunner wrestles officer for pistol, positions gun. Gun discharges while in officers hand, *SHOT* clips line and buries officer in yards of rope. Master Gunner smiles with satisfaction.

-Jean-Basile comes up from below with iron kettle in each hand, *BRAINS* loyalists left & right.

BACK TO SCENE

Kwau *OPENS* door to hold, Aiden blocked by door.

Sword juts out from door straight to Kwau's throat. Kwau backs up. Officer holding sword moves forward.

*KRAK*

Aiden slams door, officer falls to ground.

INT. HOLD

Aiden *UNLOCKS* slave's chains.

Kwau motions them up to deck.

EXT. MAIN DECK

Sailors cornered by captain & his loyalists.

Slaves burst through door, flank them.

Nubian cowers behind Captain's head.

Slaves & Sailors move on loyalists. Force them against longboats.

Norris flips longboat overboard.

NORRIS  
Into the longboat men!

Loyalists retreat over side into longboat.

Norris lights torch, throws it toward hold.

Aiden bats torch into sea as he & Norris exchange glares.

Norris steps over side, slides down rope into longboat,  
Nubian holds on for dear life.

BACK TO PRESENT

TINASHE  
That was how the ship was taken by  
Captain Aiden and the rest of us.

MARTA  
Then, you are pirates.

Tinashe, indignant-

TINASHE  
We are free.

Teresa nods.

TERESA  
Of course.

*KNOCK* on door.

Tinashe answers it.

Mr. Ben Zion enters.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION  
I apologize for disturbing you  
ladies, but I must check on my  
patient.

TERESA  
Is someone ill?

TINASHE  
One of our company. She came down  
with a fever that has yet to break.  
Mr. Ben Zion says it shouldn't be  
allowed to spread.

TERESA

I am skilled in medicine. Let me have a look.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Very well.

Tinashe leads them to side door.

INT. CAPTAINS BEDCHAMBER

AFUA (24) African woman, lays on bunk, *COUGHS* heavily.

Glow of single candle lights small windowless chamber.

TINASHE

This is Afua. She woke up three days ago with a terrible fever. Mr. Ben Zion checks on her every other bell.

TERESA

This room doesn't help. It turns the air into miasma. She needs fresh air.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

She needs to stay here so the fever doesn't spread.

TERESA

Well, she should sleep here, but she needs fresh air.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Fresh air?

TERESA

It helped prevent an outbreak of fever in Italy last year.

Ben Zion, impressed.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Indeed. I suppose it's worth a try.

Tinashe, taken aback.

TINASHE

We're not going to take her out onto the deck, are we?

Teresa's eyes search room.



TERESA

Hmm...Do the windows at the back of the room open?

TINASHE

Yes.

TERESA

Let us open some of them and move her onto that table underneath.

Teresa points.

TERESA (CONT'D)

We'll also open the cabin's door to let the breeze pass through. The air should be good for her. Can the mattress she's laying on be moved with her?

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Yes.

TERESA

Good.

She beckons to Marta.

TERESA (CONT'D)

Marta!

MARTA

Si, Ama.

TERESA

Please clear the table and open some of the windows.

MARTA

Si, ama.

Tinashe, Teresa, Ben Zion pick up Afua, She GROANS.

INT. THE GREAT CABIN

Tinashe, Teresa, Ben Zion move Afua toward table which Marta has cleared.

Marta, wide-eyed, blocks them.

MARTA

Ama, please, remember your place.

Teresa, exasperated.

Marta grabs mattress from her, moves Afua to the table.

Teresa opens the cabin door.

Captain appears.

Teresa, surprised.

TERESA

Oh! Capitán!

She curtsies, he takes off his hat.

TERESA (CONT'D)

We are arranging the room so the sick woman may get fresh air.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Our lady seems to be very good at making herself useful Mein Kapitän.

AIDEN

Yes, so useful that you still haven't retired to your bunk to rest as ordered and she has yet to change out of her wet clothes.

Teresa looks down at herself, embarrassed, *LAUGHS-*

TERESA

Oh-ho-ho.

AIDEN

Tinashe, please, get these ladies some dry clothes.

Tinashe smiles.

TINASHE

Of course, Captain.

Aiden nods to Ben Zion.

AIDEN

And you are coming back to your bunk to rest, if I have to strap you down.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Jah Kapitän.

Aiden turns to Teresa,

AIDEN  
Milady, thank you.

Teresa curtsies.

TERESA  
Capitán.

Men walk out, door propped open.

EXT. QUARTERDECK

Dougal plays gentle *TUNE* on bagpipes. Hands all *HUM* along as they work.

COYOTL, (29) Indigenous, descended from Aztecs, a hand in short clothes, approaches the captain.

COYOTL  
Capitán, are you sure about these...Spanish women.

Aiden shrugs.

AIDEN  
They're wealthy ladies who have already offered payment for their passage. Money's money.

Coyotl, unsatisfied.

COYOTL  
Si. Si...If they were anything but Spanish..

AIDEN  
I know. I know. Return to your duties, Mr. Coyotl.

COYOTL  
Si Capitán.

Coyotl salutes, walks away.

INT. THE GREAT CABIN - LATER

Women knit, needlework.

Marta & Teresa are in simple attire. Their gowns hung to dry.

Marta stands over Teresa, undoes her hair.

Teresa sits with Afua, holds her hand.

Marta and Teresa whisper.

MARTA

(spanish)

*Mistress, we have both heard the kind of savagery pirates are given to. We must get away as soon as we can.*

TERESA

(spanish)

*Don't be so fearful, Marta. These people are decent enough.*

MARTA

(spanish)

*Must you see them rip someone's tongue out or feed them to the sharks before you see these men for what they are?*

TERESA

(spanish)

*Now, you are exaggerating, Marta. Enough.*

Door *OPENS*, Jean-Basile appears with steaming pot.

JEAN-BASILE

Mademoiselle.

TERESA

Monsieur.

JEAN-BASILE

Here is the broth you requested.

TERESA

Good. This should help with Afua's cough.

Afua *COUGHS*.

Jean-Basile ladles some broth into bowl, offers it to Teresa.

TERESA (CONT'D)

*Merci, Monsieur. Marta, Tinashe, please help Afua to sit up so she may take the broth.*

Afua *COUGHS*.

Women help her sit up, Teresa spoon feeds her broth.

LOOKOUT (O.S.)  
Sail ho! Sail ho!

JEAN-BASILE  
I must get to my post.

He puts pot down, rushes out.

Teresa, Marta, suspicious.

TERESA  
Tinashe, would you take over for me  
please? I would like to see what's  
happening.

TINASHE  
Of course.

Teresa hands her bowl, heads for door, Marta close behind.

TINASHE (CONT'D)  
You shouldn't go outside. You can  
see everything from the doorway.

Teresa, Marta stop at door.

QUARTER DECK - CONTINUOUS

Captain gathers his crew.

Aiden holds Irish Bodhran, Kwau, African gourd ban-jar,  
Dougal, bagpipes, Sam Thorson-Strand, langeliek, Jean-Basil,  
French horn, Ben Zion, hautbois, Maddox, Welsh crwth, Coyotl,  
Aztec Ocarina shaped like a skull.

Behind them, additional musical instruments.

AIDEN  
Ready yourselves everyone!

MONTAGE:

-Hands shelter behind gunwales. Caucasians paint their faces  
blue, Africans, white.

-Bobby distributes eyepatches to crew, they place them over  
their left eyes.

-Cyril guides wheel of ship with one hand, fife in other.

BACK TO SCENE.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

All right, everyone, strike up!

Aiden *POUNDS* out rapid rhythm on his Bodhran, others join in with merry *TUNE*.

Captain puts down his instrument, mounts forecandle, views ship through spyglass.

ANGLE: CAPTAIN'S SPYGLASS VIEW OF OPEN SEA

Spanish merchant ship sails under colors of Imperial Spain.

The two ships rapidly close.

INT. GREAT CABIN

Teresa and Marta whisper.

TERESA

(spanish)

*Should we not warn our countrymen?*

MARTA

(spanish)

*Then the pirates would turn on us.  
No, mistress, we can do nothing but  
pray.*

Marta crosses herself, Teresa does same.

EXT. FORECASTLE DECK.

Captain views Spanish ship through his spyglass.

AIDEN

Gun crews to the ready!

EXT. MAIN DECK

CYRIL

Gun crews to the ready!

MONTAGE:

-Powder Monkey runs down side of ship, delivers powder packages to gun crews.

-Two gun crews, side by side, clean, load their cannons.

-Men load muskets.

-Bottle is passed around, crew drink.

-Man appears from below, holds large net with grappling hooks.

BACK TO SCENE.

CYRIL (CONT'D)  
Level your heads lads.

*MUSIC* blares over deck.

EXT. FORECASTLE DECK

AIDEN  
Now! Raise the black!

Aiden pulls his eyepatch down from his hat, covers his left eye.

MONTAGE:

A) STERNCASTLE DECK - Green harp flag comes down. Black flag with white crossed bones, skull with eye patch, open mouth is raised.

B) EXTERIOR HULL- All gun ports open, ship bristles with cannons.

C) MAIN DECK - band's merry tune changes to *SCARY TUNE*, deeper and darker. Men *WHOOOP*, *BELLOW* war cries.

D) PORT GUNWALS - Master Gunner sits on cask, jumps up, upends it, *POUNDS* out driving rhythm in time with music.

E) THE WHEEL - Cyril *BLOWS* series of high piercing notes on fife.

END OF MONTAGE.

FORECASTLE DECK

Aiden, on his spyglass, bellows out orders.

AIDEN  
Now! Fire!

EXTERIOR HULL

*BOOM! BOOM!* All guns *FIRE*.

FORECASTLE DECK

Cannon balls fly over Spanish ship's deck.

Spanish ship lowers flag.

Aiden bellows-

AIDEN  
She struck her colors!

Crew *CHEERS*

INT. GREAT CABIN

Marta steps away from door.

MARTA  
(spanish)  
*I think I need to lie down.*

She moves toward captains bedchamber.

EXT. OPEN SEA - LATER

Spanish ship bound to Pirate ship with grappling hooks.

EXT. SPANISH SHIP - MAIN DECK - DAY

SPANISH CREW sit on main deck surrounded by pirate muskets.

SPANISH CAPTAIN (40s) bicorn hat, tied to mast.

Captain Aiden approaches.

AIDEN  
You in command?

SPANISH CAPTAIN  
I am.



AIDEN  
 There any laying in wait below?

SPANISH CAPTAIN  
 None.

Master Mouse scampers up deck, onto gunwale. He gives thumbs up to Captain.

Aiden nods.

AIDEN  
 Apparently, my advance man agrees with you. Mr. Dougal.

DOUGAL  
 Aye Cap'n!

AIDEN  
 Take some men and sweep the hold!

DOUGAL  
 Aye Cap'n!

He turns to left, points to pirates.

DOUGAL (CONT'D)  
 Smith! Jones! and you other lads, come with me.

SMITH/JONES  
 I'm Smith. He's Jones.

DOUGAL  
 Aye, now come along!

Dougal, his men shift their eyepatches from left eye to right, disappear below deck.

Mr. Ben Zion crosses boarding plank, onto Spanish ship.

AIDEN  
 You up for this, Ben Zion?

EZEKIEL BEN ZION  
 I am well enough to read the books, Kapitän.

AIDEN  
 Good enough then.

Mr. Ben Zion heads aft toward Captain's cabin.

Master Mouse scampers up onto Aiden's shoulder, *SQUEAKS* in his ear.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Devil if I know Master Mouse.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION (O.S.)  
Kapitän, There is something here  
you should see.

Aiden walks aft to open door.

Mr. Ben Zion stands, Aiden peers in.

AIDEN  
Mr. Thorson-Strand!

SAM THORSON-STRAND  
Jah, Kaptein.

AIDEN  
Go to the Lady Teresa. Tell her  
there is an injured man over here  
and ask her if she would be kind  
enough to come see to him.

SAM THORSON-STRAND  
Jah, Kaptein.

Thorson-Strand heads for boarding plank.

Coyotl approaches Captain.

COYOTL  
Capitán, are you not being too  
quick to trust this...Spanish  
woman?

AIDEN  
Is there a problem, Mr. Coyotl?

COYOTL  
She is Spanish! They poison  
everything they touch.

Aiden, steely-

AIDEN  
She didn't poison Mr. Ben Zion when  
she treated his wounds, Nor Ms.  
Afua when she treated her sickness.  
Return to your duties.

COYOTL  
Si, Capitán.

Coyotl salutes, backs off.

EXT. SPANISH SHIP - MAIN DECK - LATER

Teresa crosses boarding plank. Marta, Sam Thorson-Strand close behind. They arrive at cabin.

Across deck, Spanish ship's captain, tied to mast, eyes widen.

SPANISH CAPTAIN  
¡Ay! ¡Dios mío!

Aiden turns to him.

AIDEN  
Got something to say?

Teresa screams-

TERESA (O.S.)  
Madre de Dios!

SPANISH CAPTAIN  
Capitán, do you know who that is?  
Do you know what she is worth?

AIDEN  
I know she saved my man with her  
surgical skills and another woman  
with her medicines. I also know she  
promised to make it worth our while  
if we delivered her to a safe port.

SPANISH CAPTAIN  
Pennies, Capitán! A pittance!  
Deliver her to the right party and  
you could own half of Spain!

Two captains lock eyes.

AIDEN  
And would that half of Spain accept  
my ownership? Would they see me as  
a lord and not an Irish pirate  
captain?

Spanish Captain recoils.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Don't try to tempt me with false promises. I know what your world has for men like me. We're not allowed to earn what we need from your kind so we take it, and we don't feel guilty about it. We see what your kind does to those they don't want around.

Teresa approaches, upset.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

How's the injured man, milady?

TERESA

Flogged almost to death.

Teresa, angry, steps up to Spanish captain, *SLAPS* him across face.

TERESA (CONT'D)

(spanish)

*What kind of man are you?! Were you not pious enough to join the inquisition?!*

Spanish captain shakes off blow.

SPANISH CAPTAIN

(spanish))

*Your highness, I know who you are and offer my ship, my life, and the lives of my crew, to return you home.*

TERESA

(spanish)

*I have seen how you squander the lives you rule over! I would not trust you with a dog's life!*

She spins, flounces away.

SPANISH CAPTAIN

(spanish)

*Your highness! Your highness!*

Captain Aiden steps in front of him.

AIDEN

The lady said no!

Mr. Ben Zion appears with large book. He opens it, offers it to captain.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Kapitän, This ship has proven to be an excellent prize. She is full of trade-able goods.

Aiden moves down list.

AIDEN

Hmm, copper, bolts of cloth, trinkets, trade beads, guns and ammunition. Hey those'll come in handy! whale oil, rum...Dougal will be happy. Spices.

He close book.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Hey! Bobby!

Bobby appears at *Princ's* gunwale.

BOBBY

Aye, Cap'n!

AIDEN

Get the crew together and get 'em ready to clear out the hold!

BOBBY

Aye Aye Captain!

Dougal & his men exit hold. Dougal carries big cask over shoulder.

DOUGAL

The hold's clear, Cap'n.

AIDEN

Leave some rum for the rest of us, Dougal.

DOUGAL

Aye, Cap'n.

Teresa appears, approaches Aiden.

Spanish captain begs-

SPANISH CAPTAIN

Su Alteza-

TERESA

Silencio!

Behind her, Smith, Jones lead crew members onto ship, into hold.

She turns to Aiden.

TERESA (CONT'D)

Capitán, I fear the wounded man may get worse if he stays here.

AIDEN

Did anyone say why he was flogged?

TERESA

He was drunk and ...mentioned something he shouldn't have.

SPANISH CAPTAIN

(spanish)

*He mentioned you, your highness.'*

TERESA

(spanish)

*I said Silence!*

AIDEN

If you're asking me to take him with us, his food and water will have to come out of your share. On a pirate ship, everything is split evenly. I've already given you and Marta special treatment. Unless, of course, he'd like to join our crew.

TERESA

He is in no condition to join much of anything at the moment. I am certain that food and water may be provided for him when necessary.

AIDEN

Very well, then.

Smith, Jones pass behind Teresa, with bolts of cloth.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Hey! Smith! Jones!

SMITH/JONES

I'm Smith! He's Jones!

AIDEN

Right. Put that stuff down and help the lady move the wounded man.

SMITH/JONES

Aye Aye Captain!

TERESA

This way, Señores.

Smith & Jones follow Teresa.

SPANISH CAPTAIN

I warn you, Capitán. You are turning your back on the greatest fortune in all the world to become the most hunted man on the seas.

AIDEN

I'm already the most hunted man on the seas. I was when I got up this morning and I will be when I go to bed tonight. We'll be rich enough when the lady is delivered home safely. I trust her to be that honorable. I can't say the same about you.

EXT. OPEN SEA - LATER

*Princ* sails away from Spanish ship. It's colors fly high, band *PLAYS* merry tune, sailors *SING* sea shanty.

QUARTERDECK

Drunken pirates dance, band *PLAYS*.

INT. GREAT CABIN

Teresa bandages *WOUNDED MAN*'s back.

MARTA

(spanish)

*Mistress, What are we going to do?*

TERESA

(spanish)

*About what?*

MARTA  
 (spanish)  
*How will we ever get home?*

Teresa ponders question.

TERESA  
 (spanish)  
*Hmm...Perhaps it is time I spoke to  
 the captain about that.*

Teresa stands.

MARTA  
 (spanish)  
*Do you really believe you can trust  
 him?*

TERESA  
 (spanish)  
*I do. The only time we have seen  
 wanton cruelty practiced was aboard  
 Spanish ships. These men may be  
 pirates, but they are not savages.*

Marta, determined-

MARTA  
 (spanish)  
*Then I will come with you.*

Teresa, amazed-

TERESA  
 (spanish)  
*You? Marta?*

MARTA  
 (spanish)  
*It would be improper for you to be  
 alone in a room with a man.*

TERESA  
 (spanish)  
*Very well, then. Let us go see the-*

She opens door.

Captain appears, hat in hand.

TERESA (CONT'D)  
 Capitán



AIDEN

Milady, I was coming to speak to you. I think it's time you and I ...discussed our...situation.

TERESA

I agree. Marta and I were just coming to see you.

AIDEN

Would you both then join me above in the map room?

TERESA

Of course

They step out.

EXT. QUARTERDECK

Crew *PLAYS* music, *SINGS*, dances, works.

Dougal seizes Marta, dances reel around deck with her.

Aiden, Teresa dance reel right behind them.

After dance, Marta *SMACKS* Dougal, he *LAUGHS*, She pulls his beard, he smiles.

Aiden, Teresa, bow/curtsy.

Teresa smiles-

TERESA

Your crew are a lively lot.

Aiden returns smile.

AIDEN

We take the good life when it comes our way, milady.

He offers his hand, Marta steps between them, takes both their hands.

Aiden shrugs, leads them both up ladder, through door to-

INT. NAVIGATION ROOM

Mr. Ben Zion studies chart at table.

Aiden, Teresa, Marta, enter room, Ben Zion stands.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

You just won't rest, will you, Ben Zion.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

The ache is keeping me awake  
Kapitän. I might as well work.

AIDEN

Well, join us then. You might help  
me explain some things.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Jah Kapitän.

Men pull out chairs for ladies, they sit.

Captain walks to cabinet, pulls out bottle of wine. Ben Zion  
produces four glasses, bunch of grapes.

AIDEN

Wine?

TERESA

Gracias. Capitán, your ship is  
so... musical.

AIDEN

Ships actually run on music. It's  
the only way sailors can keep the  
necessary rhythm to work together  
when raising a sail or working a  
bilge pump. We need to keep in time  
with one another while working  
together. That's why there's always  
at least one man playing music at  
all times during the work day. We  
stop only after the tenth evening  
bell and start again at the sixth  
morning bell.

He pours drinks, sits opposite Teresa.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Now then, my ladies, I think I  
should explain to you both your  
position aboard this ship. Your  
ability as a surgeon, milady, has  
saved me a friend and necessary  
member of my crew, and every man  
aboard this ship knows it. Your  
efforts with the sick woman have  
also endeared you to the women  
aboard.

(MORE)

AIDEN (CONT'D)

But this is a pirate ship, and it's time I explained some things to you about that.

TERESA

Is this about the wounded man.

Aiden nods.

AIDEN

First I should explain to you how this ship works. Pirate ships are not run like other ships though there is one thing they have in common: the crews must be able to rely upon each other in order to survive at sea. On merchant ships and military vessels, everyone is paid a set wage. A pirate ship's crew is made up of people considered outlaw by all the world's crowns. In order for the crew to work together, all must agree on the rules. Those rules are written in a document we call-our Articles.

He pulls document from his coat, spreads it out before them.

Teresa studies the document.

TERESA

Every one among the crew shall have an equal vote in affairs of the moment. All shall have an equal title to the fresh provisions or strong liquors at any time seized, and shall use them at pleasure unless a scarcity makes it necessary for the common good that a retrenchment may be voted. Voted?

AIDEN

That's right. Every pirate ship is run by voting. Every Captain and officer is elected. Every major decision decided upon by the entire crew.

Marta, confused-

MARTA

I have never heard of such a thing.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Most have not, but apparently ships  
have been run this way in the new  
world for maybe a hundred years.

MARTA

(spanish)

*Amazing.*

AIDEN

Yes it is.

MARTA

(spanish)

*You speak Spanish?*

AIDEN

(spanish)

*Yes. Most of us do.*

Marta blushes.

TERESA

Capitán, Tinashe told us how you  
seized this ship from its tyrant  
captain. I'm certain the life of a  
pirate would not be your choice?

Aiden nods.

AIDEN

My entire crew feels that way.  
We've made a point of attracting  
men who have ideals similar to our  
own. The last thing we need is some  
would be scourge of the seven seas  
making mayhem on our backs.

TERESA

What exactly is your agreement with  
Mr. Kwau and his people?

AIDEN

They agreed to help us seize any  
ship and forego any share of the  
wealth if we would agree to take  
them home. That's the primary  
reason we're in this part of the  
world.

TERESA

I see.

Marta points to document, reads-

MARTA

Capitán, this rule here. "If at any time you meet with a prudent woman, that man that offers to meddle with her, without her consent, shall suffer marooning." Is that rule followed?

AIDEN

Faithfully.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Most pirate ships that prey on slavers must have that rule. It's the only way to run a ship with women aboard.

Aiden nods.

AIDEN

Most of us who sail are very superstitious and many believe having women aboard is bad luck. Having such a rule counters the curse, or so it's believed.

MARTA

La sabiduría de Dios

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Yes.

Teresa, wonderstruck-

TERESA

Capitán, who are you that will steal, yet, show mercy and kindness. Where on earth do you come from?

AIDEN

Where do I come from?...I suppose I could answer that...

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. IRELAND - 1705

AIDEN (9) runs through green fields.

He stops in front of a stone building.

PRIEST, (60), Catholic, plays with group of CHILDREN.

AIDEN (V.O.)

I began life fairly simply in a church orphanage in Ireland. The priest who ran it was a fine old man. Always made sure we got fed and clean and learned our letters.

EXT. CHURCH GRAVEYARD IN IRELAND - 1712

TEENAGERS gathered around grave in prayer.

AIDEN (V.O.)

When he passed away, however, the orphanage was closed and most of us had to set out to seek our fortunes. I had the misfortune of being pressed into--

EXT. BRITISH WARSHIP - 1712

AIDEN, (16) dressed in Royal British Navy uniform stands at attention in line with other sailors.

NAVAL OFFICER inspects them.

AIDEN (V.O.)

--the British Royal Navy. An Irishman in the Royal Navy is like a young dolphin in a school of sharks.

Officer stops in front of Aiden, points at Aiden's boots, bellows.

OFFICER

You call those shined?!

Officer points at him.

INT. BRITISH WARSHIP'S GALLEY - LATER

Aiden sits in front of pail, peels potatoes.

AIDEN (V.O.)

Irishmen in the Royal Navy are worked the hardest and paid the least. There's also very little hope of promotion. I might still be in the navy as I really had no place else to go in those days, but one day--

EXT. BRITISH WARSHIP'S DECK

Young Aiden swabs deck.

Officer stops in front of him, snarls, bellows, gesticulates,

OFFICER

What's the matter with you?! Are  
all you Irish this stupid?! How  
many times do I have to explain the  
concept of cleanliness?!

AIDEN (V.O.)

--a near disaster happened.

Officer's gesticulations knock lit candle lantern from hook,  
which rolls across deck toward keg of gunpowder. Aiden darts  
after it, dives on it, stops it. He looks up, meets eyes of  
CAPTAIN.

AIDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The officer blamed me for the  
incident and, being Irish, my word  
was worth nothing, but the captain  
had a shred of honor.

EXT. PORT JAMAICA - BRITISH WARSHIP DECK

Drummer *DRUMS*.

Crew assembled at attention.

Officer strips Aiden of his uniform, he is cast from ship.

AIDEN (V.O.)

I was drummed out of the service.  
It wasn't a good time that ended  
that day, but I did, at least,  
learn to sail from the Navy.

Aiden, indifferent, walks down gangplank.

INT. BAR - EVENING

Aiden stands at bar, receives drink.

AIDEN (V.O.) (CON'T)

I was ashore for maybe an afternoon  
before—

He takes long pull of it, his eyes roll up in his head, he  
collapses unconscious.

AIDEN (V.O.)  
 --I was shanghaied.

EXT. SLAVE SHIP *WHYDAH* DECK - DAY.

Aiden wakes up on deck of ship.

*KRAK!*

Aiden leaps away from reach of whip.

Huge MATE points to rat lines.

AIDEN (V.O.)  
 I awoke aboard a ship named *Whydah*.  
 A slaver that had just sold her  
 cargo in Jamaica.

Aiden climbs rigging.

AIDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Sailors learn fast on a ship to do  
 whatever the man with the whip  
 says.

EXT. SLAVE SHIP *WHYDAH* MAST - DAY

Aiden swabs deck just aft of main mast.

AIDEN (V.O.)  
 I was aboard for maybe a few days  
 when--

*BOOM! ZZZZZZZZ!*

Cannonball.

AIDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 --the ship was attacked by pirates.

Huge mate charges past young Aiden. *THRASHES* whip left and right, screams *ORDERS* inaudible.

EXT. SLAVE SHIP *WHYDAH* DECK - DAY

Aiden, exhausted, wheezes against gunwale under rat lines.

*KRACK!*

Whip strikes deck near his feet, he scampers up rigging.



AIDEN (V.O.)

They drove us like the devil for three days before the pirate fired on us again and the Captain struck his colors.

Cannonball strikes Aiden's previous spot.

EXT. SLAVE SHIP *WHYDAH* STERN

English flag is lowered.

EXT. PIRATE SHIP *WHYDAH* DECK - LATER

BLACK SAM BELLAMY(27), unshaven, long dark hair tied back with black satin bow, long deep-cuffed red velvet coat, sword slung on left hip, four pistols on sash, studies the log book, turns page.

LAWRENCE PRINCE,(51) wiry mustache, long goatee, Gold hoop earrings, broad plumed hat, approaches Bellamy.

LAWRENCE PRINCE

Captain.

BLACK SAM BELLAMY

Captain.

Prince surrenders ships paperwork.

LAWRENCE PRINCE

As you requested.

BLACK SAM BELLAMY

I appreciate the simple transition.  
The Sultana is yours.

Aiden walks past them into hold with cask.

AIDEN (V.O.)

The pirate captain's name was Black Sam Bellamy. You may have heard of him. They called him the Robin Hood of the Seas.

EXT. PIRATE SHIP *WHYDAH* DECK - DAY

Aiden stands in crowd of his crewmates.

Black Sam Bellamy addresses them.

AIDEN (V.O.)  
Commodore Bellamy offered to let us  
join his crew.

Aiden & most crewmates raise their hands.

AIDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Most of us said yes.

INT. PIRATE SHIP *WHYDAH* GALLEY CAPTAINS QUARTERS - DAY

Aiden, stands before Captain Bellamy, left hand on document,  
right hand raised.

AIDEN (V.O.)  
We all swore an oath of allegiance  
on the ship's articles.

Aiden signs his name to document.

EXT. OPEN SEA - DAY

Ships part ways, *Whydah* now flies flag of Black Sam Bellamy.

AIDEN (V.O.)  
Black Sam Bellamy was fair, just,  
righteous, all that every one of my  
former commanders had never been.  
He taught me everything I would  
ever need to know to run a ship.

MONTAGE

A)EXT. *WHYDAH* MAIN DECK - DAY - Captain Bellamy strides  
across deck, strikes impressive image, grabs two brawling  
men, *BANGS* their heads together.

AIDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
How to set an example for men and  
earn their respect.

B)EXT. *WHYDAH* QUARTER DECK - DAY - Band *PLAYS*, Captain  
Bellamy *TAPS* his foot, then dances jig.

AIDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
How to cultivate trust and  
brotherhood in your crew.

C)EXT. *WHYDAH* STERN DECK - DAY - Captain Bellamy peers  
through spyglass, hand raised. Aiden stands by flagpole with  
black flag.

AIDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 How to show your colors at exactly  
 the right moment to make a prize  
 surrender.

Captain Bellamy lowers his raised hand, Aiden raises black.

AIDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Raise them too early and the prize  
 runs. Raise them too late and the  
 prize panics and fights.

D)EXT. SPANISH SHIP DECK - DAY - Sailors and pirates *BATTLE*  
 with swords, other weapons.

Pirates' advances drive ship's crew into corner.

Prize's captain lowers blade in surrender.

Aiden strikes at his head, blocked by Bellamy's sword.

AIDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 How to tell when a fight is over  
 and stop it.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. *WHYDAH* QUARTER DECK - DAY

Aiden *POUNDS* out rapid rhythm on his bodhran, band *PLAYS*.

Captain Bellamy strides, nods his head to beat.

AIDEN (V.O.)  
 Captain Bellamy and the crew of the  
*Whydah* were the first family I'd  
 had since the orphanage. They were  
 my brothers and he was our father.  
 The worst day of my life-

Ship engulfed in fog.

AIDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 -was the day they died.

EXT. OPEN SEA - DAY

*Whydah* leads three ships, engulfed by fog.

AIDEN (V.O.)

We had grown to a fleet of four ships heading up the coast of the American colonies when the wind died and a fog bank overtook us.

EXT. *WHYDAH* - DECK - DUSK

Aiden, crew search fog for other ships.

AIDEN/CREW

Ahoy!...Ahoy!...Ahoy!...

AIDEN (V.O.)

It was just sunset and it didn't take long for the four ships to get separated.

Officer points Aiden to rat lines, Aiden climbs.

AIDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I was known for having good eyes so I was sent up to the crows nest to relieve the lookout.

EXT. *WHYDAH'S* CROWS NEST - NIGHT

Aiden scans fog with spyglass.

AIDEN (V.O.)

I didn't see a sign of the other ships...

He lowers spyglass. Sky, covered with black clouds.

AIDEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...but I sure saw the storm.

Aiden turns.

AIDEN

Storm Ho! Storm Ho!

EXT. OPEN SEA - NIGHT

*Whydah*, besieged by storm. Waves, winds batter her.

AIDEN (V.O.)

Up there, they call a storm like that a nor'easter.

EXT. *WHYDAH* - CROWS NEST -

Aiden holds on to mast.

AIDEN (V.O.)  
 I've seen my share of storms but  
 there was something different about  
 that one. The most I could do was  
 hold on for dear life.

EXT. *WHYDAH* - WHEEL - NIGHT

Captain Bellamy, MATE wrestle wheel.

EXT. *WHYDAH* - CROWS NEST

CRUNCH!

*Whydah* strikes something unknown.

Mast shifts, snaps back, falls.

AIDEN (V.O.)  
 I never even saw what hit us.

EXT. OPEN SEA - NIGHT

Crow's nest hits water, Aiden in tow.

Rip current carries him out to sea.

AIDEN (V.O.)  
 Before I knew it, I was carried out  
 to sea.

EXT. OPEN SEA - DAY

Sky, overcast. Aiden clings to wreckage, damaged ship pulls  
 up beside him.

AIDEN (V.O.)  
 By some miracle, I was rescued by  
 one of the ships of our fleet. The  
*Fisher*.

EXT. *FISHER* - DECK - DAY

Aiden sits amongst crew, blanket around him.

AIDEN (V.O.)

I told the crew what I knew of the shipwreck and we pushed on to Damariscove Island where we had been bound.

BACK TO MAP ROOM

AIDEN

The shipwreck had taken the Captain, the haul, and 144 of my brothers. I swore off the sea and vowed to never sail again. I bummed about the port cities doing odd jobs until the day I was shanghaied for the Profit.

TERESA

How sad.

She reaches for his arm.

AIDEN

Oh...don't feel too badly for me, milady. I since found another family.

He smiles, *CLAPS* Ben Zion on his uninjured shoulder.

Teresa smiles.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

But now, to your situation, milady. You helped Mr. Ben Zion here without hesitation or concern. Almost as if you were... expected to.

Teresa nods.

TERESA

As a surgeon, I was trained to save all the lives that I could. You have some education Capitán. Are you familiar with the Hippocratic oath?

AIDEN

I can't say that I am.

TERESA

It has several translations from the ancient Greek but I prefer the modern, 'I shall use all my devices to treat the sick and injured, first doing no harm.'

Aiden sits back.

AIDEN

I see. That applies even to pirates, does it?

TERESA

That applies to every injured or ill person it is within my power to aid, be they friend or enemy.

AIDEN

And a Spanish lady of your station is allowed to study this in Spain?

He leans forward. She turns away.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

I didn't think so. So how is it a woman of clearly high station becomes trained in this art?

She turns, meets his eyes.

TERESA

How is it the business of a pirate Capitán?

Master Mouse runs up, presents stem of five grapes to Teresa.

Marta gasps. Teresa smiles.

AIDEN

Master Mouse seems to like you very much and that will gain you a great deal on this ship, but that doesn't change the fact that everything that happens aboard this ship is my business.

TERESA

Very well.

Teresa accepts grapes, smiles.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. LIBRARY- 1714 - DAY

YOUNG TERESA(10), sits at table. INSTRUCTOR, leans over her, points to page in book on table.

TERESA (V.O.)

My interest in medicine and surgery began with my instruction in languages when I was young. To practice, I was made to read and recite passages from old books.

Library is fill with with books with Caduceus' on the spine.

TERESA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

My teacher's library was filled with medical texts.

INT. LIBRARY- 1714 - NIGHT

Teresa reads medical book.

TERESA (V.O.)

I found them fascinating.

INT. SPANISH HOSPITAL - DAY

TEENAGE TERESA, (16) walks down hallway with SURGEON.

TERESA (V.O.)

When I was older, I began to take an interest in Spain's hospitals.

They walk into surgical theatre.

TERESA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I was even allowed to observe surgeries.

EXT. SPANISH CITY STREET - NIGHT

Teresa sneaks through shadows in voluminous cloak.

TERESA (V.O.)

Of course, even a woman of station isn't allowed to study at the great universities, so in order to study further--

Two OLDER BEARDED GENTLEMAN, bow before Teresa, offer her book. They read together.



TERESA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 --I sought out surgeons of the  
 Israelite or Mohammedan faiths to  
 study with.

INT. SPANISH PALACE- THRONE ROOM - DAY

Teresa stands before her parents' thrones, her eyes downcast.  
 Her PARENTS, on thrones, gesticulate. Marta, stands in back,  
 shakes her head, frowns.

TERESA (V.O.)  
 When I was discovered, I was  
 scolded and Marta was assigned to  
 look after me.

INT. SPANISH PEASANT'S COTTAGE - DAY.

PREGNANT WOMAN, her knees up.

Teresa sits before her, toward her open knees.

Marta stands behind Teresa, covers own face.

TERESA (V.O.)  
 While my surgical studies almost  
 completely ceased, I was quietly  
 allowed to pursue midwifery  
 instead.

Teresa raises birthed newborn baby into air.

TERESA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 I have successfully delivered five  
 babies into the world.

BACK TO PRESENT

Aiden, Ben Zion, eyes wide, nod, impressed.

TERESA  
 Is there...anything else you feel  
 the need to know Capitán?

Aiden's eyes narrow.

AIDEN

Yes. Why did the captain of that Spanish ship tell me that if I delivered you to the right people, I could own half of Spain?

Teresa looks down.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Milady?

Teresa looks him square in eye.

TERESA

Because I am the Princesa Teresa Maria Antonia Gabriella, Infanta de España, Second born child of King Felipe V of Spain and Queen Consort Maria Teresa of Savoy. Great Grand Niece of King Charles II of Spain.

Marta GASPS-

MARTA

Ama!

Teresa shoots her look.

TERESA

Silencio! I am not the direct heir to the throne as yet, but I imagine that could change. The one who controls the Princess of Spain has a great deal of control over the Royal Family.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

How did you come to be here?

Aiden leans forward wide-eyed.

AIDEN

Yes.

TERESA

It was after dark one evening...

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. SPANISH PALACE - TERESA'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Teresa, Marta, dressed as they were when they were pulled from sea.

SERVANT WOMAN rushes in, breathless.

TERESA (V.O.)  
I was informed that an expecting  
mother I had been treating was  
going into childbirth.

Teresa shoots out door, Marta grabs both their cloaks, races  
after her.

EXT. STREETS OUTSIDE PALACE - NIGHT

Marta struggles to get Teresa into her cloak, Teresa  
struggles with her.

Two KIDNAPPERS steps from shadows, pull burlap sacks over  
both their heads.

TERESA (V.O.)  
We were barely outside the palace  
when we were kidnapped.

INT. DUKE'S SHIP - GREAT CABIN - DAY

Sacks removed from Teresa, Marta's heads.

TERESA (V.O.)  
The next time we could see, we were  
aboard a ship.

Teresa attempts to stand, falls. She is tied to chair.

Six MEN in room laugh.

FRANCISCO LUIS DE LA CERDA Y ARAGON (21), Clean shaven, large  
periwig, better dressed, groomed than others, jumps to his  
feet.

TERESA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
The man who kidnapped us was a  
treasonous Spanish 'lord' named  
Francisco Luis de la Cerda y  
Aragón, tenth Duke of Medinaceli,  
or so he claimed. It is well known  
that the ninth Duke died childless.

Duke caresses Teresa's face, she recoils.

TERESA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He hoped to force me to marry him  
or failing that, to ransom me.

INT. DUKE'S SHIP - GREAT CABIN - LATER

Bound ladies tossed around in empty cabin.

TERESA (V.O.)

I would still be a prisoner if the  
ship had not been caught in a  
storm.

Duke bursts into room, cuts ladies free.

Marta grabs chair, smashes it over Duke's head.

Ladies flee cabin.

EXT. DUKE'S SHIP - DECK - DAY

Giant wave capsizes ship, washes them overboard.

BACK TO PRESENT

TERESA

The rest you know.

Men, concerned, turn to each other.

AIDEN

This is too big a decision for me  
to make alone.

He stands, puts on hat.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

This must be taken to the whole  
crew.

EXT. PRINC - MAIN DECK - DAY

Aiden holds court beneath quarterdeck rail, assembled crew  
around him on main deck.

Teresa, Marta stand beside Captain.

AIDEN

Now, I see three options before us.  
One, we take up the princess's  
cause and defend her until such a  
time as we part ways and she pays  
us as she has already offered.

(MORE)

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Two, we find the nearest inhabited land, release the ladies there, trust their fate to God, and remove ourselves from the entire affair. Or three, find out who's offering the most for them and get the most we can. What do you all think?

MURMUR runs through shocked crowd. Out of crowd, Kwau steps forward.

KWAU

Are we slavers now? Shall we dicker and barter for the best price we can get for her? Perhaps we should hold an auction and tear her clothes off in front of all the bidders so they may see what we are selling!

Marta blushes.

COYOTL

You had to live through it! I had to live through it!

He points at ladies.

COYOTL (CONT'D)

Why should they not live through it? I would make all of Spain live through it if I could.

Coyotl sneers, moves toward ladies, they stiffen.

COYOTL (CONT'D)

We watched it happen to our mothers, our fathers, our sisters, our brothers. Why should the same thing not happen to them.

Aiden takes off his hat, steps between Coyotl, ladies, locks eyes.

AIDEN

You forget who we are?

He sheds greatcoat.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Who you are?

He drops his belts with his weapons.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

who you promised to be? When we took this ship, we agreed there would be no more brutality! There wasn't a single one of us who couldn't expect to be beaten to death eventually. To a one we swore an oath-we would live this way no more! Every man who's joined the crew since, including you, has sworn that same oath! Now you wanna break that oath you can settle with me first-

Coyotl thrusts up his hand

COYOTL

--I withdraw my case. I'm...sorry.

AIDEN

Don't be. It's hard to put aside that kind of hatred. I feel the same way whenever we have to deal with an Englishman, but we don't get to break our oaths to each other. We just don't get to do that.

COYOTL

Si Capitán.

AIDEN

Now, if anyone else has similar feelings, speak up. I want no half hearted efforts. Whatever we decide, I want everyone fully committed. If anybody has anything to say for our third option, speak up now.

His eyes search crowd.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

OK. Anybody who has anything to say for the second option, speak up.

His eyes search crowd.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

All right. It's time to take the vote. All in favor of taking up the princess's cause, raise your hand.

Almost entire crew raises their hands.

Coyotl hesitates, raises his hand.

Aiden scans crowd.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

I'm not seeing every hand up.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

I suggest that the ladies take the oath. That way, we will all be honor bound to defend them and they will be honor bound to defend us.

Aiden turns to ladies.

AIDEN

What say you miladies?

TERESA

If it will put everyone's mind at ease.

Teresa turns to Marta.

TERESA (CONT'D)

Marta?

MARTA

Is there a bible we may swear upon?

AIDEN

Bobby, fetch the book.

BOBBY

Aye, Cap'n.

He races off.

AIDEN

All in favor of the ladies taking the oath, raise a hand.

All hands raise.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

We have an accord.

All *CHEER*, except Kwau, who looks justified, & Coyotl.

Bobby returns with book, hands to Aiden who has put his things back on.

Aiden pulls out articles, places them on Bible, turns to ladies.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

My ladies, if you would please place your left hands upon the book and the articles and raise your right.

Ladies do so.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Do you hereby swear to defend the lives of your brothers and sisters, to respect and enforce our articles, to be there for the crew in good times and bad, to celebrate and share in times of prosperity, to hang on and persevere in times of desperation, to respect our friends and our foes, to respect your crew mates rights under the articles as they will respect yours, so help you God?

TERESA

I do so swear.

Marta hesitates.

MARTA

I...do so swear.

AIDEN

Mr. Ben Zion?

Ben Zion produces quill, well of ink, places them on top of document.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Ladies, if you would please sign your names to the document.

Ladies sign their names.

Ben Zion retrieves ink, quill.

Aiden raises document overhead, faces crew.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Behold our sisters!

EVERYONE

Behold our sisters!

*MUSIC* starts.



Aiden shakes their hands, followed by every crew member.

Coyotl scowls.

EXT. QUARTERDECK - LATER

Aiden, Kwau, Dougal, Ezekiel, gathered at wheel. Jean-Basile fishes off the starboard gunwale. Ben Zion checks his instruments then log book.

AIDEN

Any luck fixing our position, Mr. Ben Zion?

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

None Kapitän. I should be able to get a better idea once the sun is down.

DOUGAL

How's the wound, man?

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

Bearable.

JEAN-BASILE

Capitaine, I think I have a bite.

AIDEN

Good, we could use some fresh fish.

LOOKOUT (O.S.)

Sail ho! Sail ho!

All but Jean-Basile move to rail, look out across sea.

On eastern horizon, one three-masted British navy fourth rate under British colors.

DOUGAL

Cap'n, she's a pirate hunter!

Captain peers through spyglass.

AIDEN

She more than that, Dougal. Take a look through the glass.

Dougal peers through glass, black flag with skeleton in chains hangs from stern.

DOUGAL  
 Mother Scotland! That's Captain  
 Norris's ship!

KRAK!

All eyes on Kwau.

He CRACKS his knuckles.

AIDEN  
 Easy Kwau. Mr. Boatswain!

CYRIL (O.S.)  
 Aye Captain!

AIDEN  
 Sound General Quarters!

CYRIL (O.S.)  
 Aye Captain!

Boatswain's whistles *GENERAL QUARTERS*.

Jean-Basile lies on deck trapped beneath great blue marlin

JEAN-BASILE  
 (french)  
*Little help. Little help.*

MONTAGE - VARIOUS:

A) INT. MIDDLE DECK - Sailors run left & right around  
 boatswain.

B) EXT. GUN DECK - Men all prepare their guns, Powder Monkey  
 races through, delivers packages of gunpowder.

C) INT. CREW QUARTERS - Bobby runs through, shakes hammocks.

BOBBY  
 All hands to quarters!

D) EXT. PORT GUNWALES - Hands shelter behind gunwales.  
 Caucasians paint faces blue, Africans, white.

E) INT. GALLEY - Jean-Basile locks down room. Blue marlin  
 hangs from beam

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. WHEEL - DAY

Dougal mans wheel.

Aiden peers through spyglass.

Teresa places her hand on his shoulder, startles him.

AIDEN

Milady.

TERESA

Capitán, What is happening?

AIDEN

You remember that Captain Norris we told you about? Well, you may be about to meet him.

He hands her spyglass, points out to sea.

ANGLE: TERESA'S SPYGLASS VIEW OF NORRIS' SHIP

TERESA (O.S.)

Why does he fly a black flag?

AIDEN (O.S.)

He went pirate after he lost his third ship to a slave rebellion. That flag flying above it marks him as an English pirate hunter. He must have taken the letter of marque so he could hunt his enemies, including us.

Teresa lowers glass, concerned.

TERESA

He is going to attack us, isn't he?

AIDEN

I'm sure he thinks so, but not if we attack him, first.

He puts his hand on her shoulder.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

My lady, would you be willing to move the rest of the women down into the after hold? The boatswain will tell you where that is.

TERESA  
Of course, Capitán.

AIDEN  
Thank you, milady.

She hurries off.

EXT. OPEN SEA - DAY

Pirate hunter approaches stern of *Princ*.

EXT. WHEEL - DAY

Dougal mans wheel while Aiden surveils English navy ship.

DOUGAL  
She still gaining, Cap'n?

AIDEN  
Aye. Ahoy the rigging!

MADDOX (O.S.)  
Aye Cap'n!

AIDEN  
Give us everything you got Maddox!  
We can't let her get her broadside  
to us!

MADDOX (O.S.)  
Aye aye Cap'n!

Aiden peers through spyglass.

ANGLE: CHANGE TO CAPTAIN NORRIS' SPYGLASS VIEW OF *PRINC*

EXT. PIRATE HUNTER - FORECASTLE DECK

Captain Norris, now 46, peers though spyglass then lowers it.

Nubian, sits on Norris' shoulder.

Francisco Luis de la Cerda y Aragón, raises a megaphone to his mouth.

FRANCISCO

Ahoy the *Principle*! Ahoy! Crew of the *Principle*, In my capacity as duly appointed servant of the Spanish crown, I address you directly. Time is short, so I will be plain. It has become well known who sails with you.

EXT. PRINC - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Teresa stands at top of ladders down into hold, motions women down ladder.

FRANCISCO (O.S.)

Surrender her to us, and I am authorized to offer you full, unqualified pardons. Your ship will be commandeered and you will be--

TERESA

¡Oye!

She runs across deck.

EXT. PRINC - WHEEL

FRANCISCO (O.S.)

--given a choice of either entering into my service or being set free at the nearest convenient port, your names cleared and your accounts squared. Refuse and no quarter shall be granted.

Teresa rushes to Aiden.

TERESA

Capitán, Capitán.

Aiden lowers his glass.

AIDEN

What is it, milady?

TERESA

That voice, it belongs to my kidnapper.

Aiden eyes widen.

AIDEN  
Really...

His eyes narrow.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Stay out of sight. I know just how  
to handle this. Bobby!

Cabin boy rushes up.

BOBBY  
Aye Cap'n?

AIDEN  
Fetch the megaphone.

BOBBY  
Aye Cap'n.

He races off.

AIDEN  
Be ready Dougal.

DOUGAL  
Aye Cap'n.

Captain strides to port gunwales.

AIDEN  
Master Gunner, in a moment, I'm  
going to have Mr. Dougal pull to  
port. At that moment, I want you to  
put a shot right over their bow.

Master Gunner pats swivel gun next to him, gives thumbs up.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Good. You remember how we got out  
of Nassau bay last season?

Master Gunner nods.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Good. Once you take your shot, get  
ready to do it again.

Master Gunner gives him thumbs up.

Bobby runs up with megaphone.

BOBBY  
Here's the megaphone Cap'n.

Aiden takes it.

AIDEN  
All right, Bobby. Get below.

Cabin boy takes off.

Aiden steps up to gunwale.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Now! Pull her to port!

Dougal turns wheel.

Ship *CREAKS*.

Master Gunner peers down barrel of swivel gun.

*BOOM!*

Cannonball soars over sea. FOLLOW CANNONBALL

EXT. PIRATE HUNTER - BOW - DAY

Cannonball flies between Norris, Francisco, embeds itself in mast behind them.

They shake.

*SQUEAK*, Nubian dives behind Norris' shoulder.

EXT. *PRINC* - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Ships pulls back to starboard.

*CREAK!*

Aiden raises megaphone.

AIDEN  
I wouldn't get any closer, Norris!  
It's all I can do to keep everyone  
here from opening up on you with  
every gun we can find!

EXT. PIRATE HUNTER - BOW - DAY

Norris grabs megaphone.

NORRIS

So you're still with us, eh  
Shamrock?! I would've thought your  
savage friends would have eaten you  
by now! Or don't they have a taste  
for bogtrotter?!

He lifts spyglass to his eye.

EXT. PRINC - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Master Gunner removes swivel gun from gunwale.

Aiden responds through megaphone.

AIDEN

You get much closer and you'll see.  
They got a hot pot waiting for you  
before we send you to the sharks!  
Ain't nobody here got the stomach  
for the foul piece of meat you are,  
though!

Aiden raises spyglass.

EXT. PIRATE HUNTER - BOW - DAY

Norris raises megaphone to his lips,

Spaniard grabs Norris' arm, shakes head.

Norris nods

NORRIS

Yes, well, all pleasantries aside,  
this doesn't have to end in  
broadsides! You've got several  
things we want and we've got you  
outgunned. There's room to  
negotiate!

He raises his spyglass.

EXT. PRINC - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Master Gunner hefts swivel gun, carries it off.

AIDEN

You're not the worst person I've  
had to deal with though you're  
close! What do you have in mind?



Teresa looks to Dougal who winks.

EXT. PIRATE HUNTER - BOW - DAY

Norris, through megaphone.

NORRIS

Like the gentleman said, there's a letter of marque and full unqualified pardons waiting for every member of that crew if we come to an accord! Furthermore, if you lot were to join up with us in this endeavor, every man involved can expect a hat full of gold for his efforts!

Norris lowers megaphone, raises spyglass.

EXT. PRINC - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Aiden, through megaphone.

AIDEN

The endeavor being to use the princess to leverage the crown of Spain, I take it!

Aiden lowers megaphone, raise spyglass.

EXT. PIRATE HUNTER - BOW - DAY

Norris, through megaphone.

NORRIS

So you do know who you have there!

Norris lowers megaphone, raise spyglass.

EXT. PRINC - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Aiden, through megaphone.

AIDEN

Aye, we know! And she's already promised to pay us to take her home! Why should we share that with you?!

Aiden lowers megaphone, raises spyglass.

EXT. PIRATE HUNTER - BOW - DAY

Francisco snatches megaphone from Norris.

*HISS!*

Nubian, not happy.

Francisco, through megaphone.

FRANCISCO

There is not a port in this part of  
the world that does not know that  
the Princesa sails with you and  
that you are guilty of her  
kidnapping. You will never live to  
collect your money!

Norris snatches back megaphone.

Norris, through megaphone-

NORRIS

And even if you could, How would  
you get away from us?!

Large tarp covers broad mass next to Norris. He yanks tarp  
away to reveal 69 pound chase cannon.

Two MATES push cannon forward, point it out over prow.

EXT. PRINC - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Aiden, through megaphone.

AIDEN

Like this! Fire!

Aiden lowers megaphone, raise spyglass.

EXT. PRINC - STERN - DAY

Window opens in great cabin, swivel gun points out.

*BLAST!*

Shot flies across water.

EXT. PIRATE HUNTER - BOW - DAY

Shot flies lands in barrel of chase gun.

Four men clear deck

*BOOM!*

Gun, prow explode,

Ship, still afloat, without it's prow.

Nubian faints dead away, Norris catches him.

EXT. *PRINC* - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Aiden shouts through megaphone at rigging.

AIDEN

Get us out of here!

Aiden lowers megaphone, raises spyglass.

Every sail on every mast drops to full length, fills with wind.

*Princ* flees at full speed.

EXT. PIRATE HUNTER - MAIN DECK - DAY

Captain Norris, Spaniard pick themselves up, brush themselves off.

FRANCISCO

Well, that was an atrocious failure. I thought you said you knew these men.

NORRIS

Shut up!

*HISS!*

Nubian, not happy.

Norris grabs Francisco by collar, drags him to gunwale, leans him over side.

Sharks swarm beneath him.

NORRIS (CONT'D)

I'll remind you it's a long swim back home from here.

Francisco pales.

FRANCISCO

Of..course, Capitán, of course, but I will also remind you that there will be no home for us in Spain if we do not recover the Princesa.

NORRIS

I know that, and we did our best with them. Now we'll do our worst. Mr. Barnes!

BARNES (O.S.)

Aye Cap'n!

NORRIS

What's the damage look like?

Francisco grabs his head to keep his periwig from falling off.

BARNES (O.S.)

Prow's gone, Cap'n! Blown clean to bits! Hull's still intact though! We won't sink!

NORRIS

Get a tarpaulin over the hole to keep the sea out and get us underway! I want to catch them within the day!

BARNES (O.S.)

Aye Cap'n!

Norris pulls Duke back up.

Francisco brushes himself off.

FRANCISCO

What do you have in mind?

NORRIS

We catch them, board them, fight them, and take what we want in the name of the kings. You really are a landlubber, aren't you.

FRANCISCO

Can you really defeat them?

Norris glares at him.

EXT. PRINC - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Aiden, Kwau, Dougal, Ben Zion, Cyril, Teresa huddle at wheel.

AIDEN

They've got us outgunned and are fast enough to catch us. We'll have to outrun them, or failing that, outmaneuver them.

TERESA

Will they truly be after us?

DOUGAL

This is Captain Norris, lass! He'll follow us to the gates of...well, anywhere.

*CRACK!*

Kwau *CRACKS* his knuckles.

KWAU

Good.

EZEKIEL BEN ZION

If we could find our way back to that strange place in the sea, we might have an advantage.

AIDEN

I think most of the crew would rather face Norris again, Ben Zion.

CYRIL

Maybe, but I don't know as I'm ready to give up and I don't think any of the crew is, either.

Kwau raises his fist, shakes it.

KWAU

I intend to kill Norris if he comes within my reach again and I care not who knows it.

DOUGAL

Aye. Every man jack among us feels that way Mr. Kwau.

AIDEN

Then perhaps we should let all know that. Ben Zion, fetch me the wooden box from my berth.

Ben Zion's eyes widen-

EZEKIEL BEN ZION  
Kapitän?

AIDEN  
Now!

EZEKIEL BEN ZION  
Aye, Kapitän.

Ben Zion leaves.

Aiden moves to rail.

AIDEN  
Boatswain, sound assembly!

Cyril blows his *WHISTLE*.

Crew assembles on main deck.

Ben Zion rushes to captain, hands over box

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Mates, the Princessa's enemies have made the mistake of allying themselves with Captain Norris. We all know him, and we all know what can be expected of anyone who can stand to breathe the same air as him. I think it's time the people of this ship made our intentions clear to everyone outside it.

Aiden motions to Bobby.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Bobby!

Bobby steps forward, salutes.

BOBBY  
Aye Cap'n!

AIDEN  
Lower the green and the black--

Aiden opens box, pulls out red flag with black skull.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
--and raise the red!

Bobby's eyes widen.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
 From now on, it's no quarter asked,  
 none given.

He turns to crew.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
 What say you all?!

CREW  
 Aye!

AIDEN  
 Opposed?!

He scans crew.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
 Right! Return to your duties,  
 everyone...and be ready for a  
 fight!

CREW  
 Aye!

EXT. PRINC - STERNCastle DECK - DAY

Green harp flag, black flag lower, red flag raised in their  
 place.

EXT. PRINC - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Cyril blows *GENERAL QUARTERS*, crew disperses.

LOOKOUT (O.S.)  
 Sail ho! Sail Ho!

Aiden looks up.

AIDEN  
 The pirate hunter?!

LOOKOUT (O.S.)  
 Nay Cap'n! She's to the west! Wide  
 hull! Three masts! Square rigged!  
 Flying the Spanish flag!

Aiden moves to gunwale, looks through spyglass.

Teresa joins him.

ANGLE: CAPTAIN'S SPYGLASS VIEW OF STRANGE SHIP

AIDEN (O.S.)  
She's a galleon.

TERESA (O.S.)  
Perhaps sent to rescue me?

Aiden lowers glass, squints, takes step back.

AIDEN  
Perhaps, but a galleon is a strange choice for a rescue ship. They move like cows in mud.

TERESA  
You suspect something, Capitán?

AIDEN  
Thanks to that duke, it's the world's belief that we're your kidnappers. We're being made scapegoats. Should you and Marta meet your ends in a battle, they'll have us to blame. Many scoundrels look to profit from your situation.

TERESA  
So what are we to do?

AIDEN  
Stay out of the reach of their guns. If they can be trusted, we'll know soon enough.

LOOKOUT (O.S.)  
Sail ho! Sail Ho!

Aiden looks up.

AIDEN  
The pirate hunter?!

LOOKOUT (O.S.)  
Nay Cap'n! She's to the East! Wide but well-armed! Three masts! Square rigged! Flying the Spanish flag!

Aiden & Teresa move to other side of ship. He peers through glass.



ANGLE: CAPTAIN'S SPYGLASS VIEW OF STRANGE SHIP

AIDEN (O.S.)

First rate ship of the line. That's what I'd send out if I were a king and had to rescue someone.

Aiden lowers glass.

TERESA

Should we signal them?

AIDEN

Not yet. Let's keep to our course for awhile. I wanna see what happens when they catch sight of each other.

Teresa nods-

TERESA

Ahh.

LOOKOUT (O.S.)

Sail ho! Sail Ho! It's the pirate hunter! Still north! Far astern!

AIDEN

More importantly, let's see how they react to Captain Norris...and vice versa.

Teresa nods.

EXT. OPEN SEA - LATER.

All four ships, closer together.

EXT. PRINC - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Dougal, at wheel.

Aiden peers through spyglass.

Teresa approaches him.

TERESA

Capitán?

Aiden lowers glass.

AIDEN  
Yes, your highness.

TERESA  
The women are all quartered as you requested. Has there been any change?

AIDEN  
Thank you, milady. And there has been no change. That tells us a great deal. Here. Look for yourself.

He hands her spyglass, she peers through it.

ANGLE: TERESA'S SPYGLASS VIEW OF OTHER SHIPS

Pirate hunter, galleon, warship roll on sea.

AIDEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
As you can see, none of the three ships are signaling each other. In fact, I'd say they're suspicious of each other.

Pirate hunter crashes through waves.

AIDEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Captain Norris is the only one fast enough to catch us, but to do that, he has to sail between the guns of a galleon and a first rate ship of the line. That's over a hundred guns on him.

Galleon ambles along.

AIDEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
That galleon's a wild card. There's no telling who they are or what they're going to do. If they decide to side with Captain Norris, though, we could have a fight on our hands.

Warship positions itself between pirate ship, others.

DON ANTONIO ROBERTO JAVIER, (55), clean shaven, dressed in captain's formal attire, bicorn hat. Peers in their direction.

AIDEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Now the warship, if that truly is  
 here to rescue you, we'll have a  
 powerful ally in the coming battle.

TERESA (O.S.)  
 Capitán, the Commander of the  
 warship. I recognize him. His name  
 is Don Antonio Roberto Javier. He  
 is a staunch ally of my father.

She lowers glass.

TERESA (CONT'D)  
 I am certain we could trust him.

AIDEN  
 Good.

She hands him spyglass.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
 We'll need all the friends we can  
 find right now.

He raises spyglass, peers through it.

TERESA  
 Capitán, are they loading their  
 cannons?

AIDEN  
 I'm afraid so, milady.

TERESA  
 How likely are they to fire upon  
 us?

He lowers glass.

AIDEN  
 Right now, not very. We're out of  
 their range. That could change  
 though.

TERESA  
 I have an idea. If I were to be  
 seen in my fine gown on the deck of  
 this ship, they may be less likely  
 to open fire. They will only be  
 rewarded if I am returned alive.

Aiden shakes head.

AIDEN

Your Highness, remember, your kidnapper's out there. If you are returned to Spain, he immediately becomes the most hunted man in the world. If you were to vanish in a sea battle, He has Captain Norris to blame. If they have a gunner who's even half as skilled as our own--

Teresa raises her hand.

TERESA

--Don't try to talk me out of this, Capitán. I swore the oath the same as you. Now I shall do what I must to defend my brothers and sisters.

She turns, walk away.

AIDEN

All right!

She looks back over shoulder.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

We'll do this, but only with the understanding that you take cover at the first cannon shot.

TERESA

Of course, Capitán.

She heads toward ladder.

TERESA (CONT'D)

Marta!

DOUGAL

That lassie has the mettle of a highlander!

AIDEN

Aye.

EXT. PRINC - STERNCastle DECK - DAY

Teresa, Marta wear their original clothing, hair properly styled, posture, perfect.

MARTA

Could we not simply stuff these clothes with rags or straw so that they look like us?

TERESA

If we are close enough to see their faces through the spyglass, they are close enough to see ours, and they know us.

EXT. PIRATE HUNTER - MAIN DECK - DAY

Captain Norris's peers through spyglass, Nubian, on his shoulder, shades his eyes, watches.

EXT. PRINC - STERNCastle DECK - DAY

Ladies stand, decks rocks beneath them.

EXT. PIRATE HUNTER - MAIN DECK - DAY

NORRIS

Clever.

He lowers his glass. Duke Francisco stands next to him.

NORRIS (CONT'D)

Very clever, Shamrock. He knows they won't fire on that ship while she's there for all to see. Who would have thought there was half a brain in all of Ireland?

Francisco grabs captain's shoulder.

FRANCISCO

She must be struck down! If she is rescued, we are all dead men!

Norris draws pistol from his belt, points at Duke Francisco's head. Nubian nods.

NORRIS

Not we, you. We honest mariners were told that we would be well rewarded if we helped a castaway rescue a kidnapped princess. How were we to know the castaway himself was the kidnapper.

(MORE)

NORRIS (CONT'D)  
 What's the reward for the kidnapper  
 of the princess of Spain?

Francisco trembles-

FRANCISCO  
 Will it...be as much... as the  
 ransom...for the Princessa?

Captain, Nubian turn toward each other.

Norris points gun upward.

NORRIS  
 Well said, milord. You have until  
 the princess is rescued to salvage  
 this plot. Don't feel too pressed.  
 It will be some time before they  
 allow one of those ships to get  
 close enough to even discuss  
 returning her.

EXT. OPEN SEA - LATER

All four ships, closer together.

EXT. PRINC - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Aiden peers through spyglass. Dougal mans wheel.

AIDEN  
 Dougal, pull 'er to the east. Let's  
 put that first class between us and  
 the others. Stay out of her range,  
 though.

DOUGAL  
 Aye Captain.

EXT. OPEN SEA - DAY.

*Princ* circles warship just out of range.

Galleon, pirate hunter jockey for position.

EXT. PIRATE HUNTER - MAIN DECK - DAY

Captain Norris peers through spyglass, Nubian on his  
 shoulder. Duke Francisco stands next to him.

NORRIS

Another clever move. Well, I suppose he couldn't have gotten any stupider than he was.

Francisco turns toward Norris.

FRANCISCO

You know, if we could get close to their ship, the others wouldn't dare fire on us for fear of hurting the Princesa.

NORRIS

Yer not such a lubber, after all. We move faster than those hulks. If we can stay out of their range, we should be able to get close enough.

Norris turns away.

NORRIS (CONT'D)

Barnes!

BARNES (O.S.)

Aye Cap'n!

NORRIS

Bring 'er about!

BARNES (O.S.)

Aye Cap'n!

Captain, Duke huddle together, whisper-

NORRIS

We'll make them think we're giving up and leaving, then pull back around and come in beyond the range of their cannons. Shamrock'll have no place to run but to the warship and he'll be loath to do that.

FRANCISCO

Capitán Brillante!

They share evil smile,

*HISS!*

Nubian hisses.

EXT. OPEN SEA

Warship, now between *Princ*, galleon.

Pirate hunter steers away from them.

EXT. *PRINC* - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Aiden, Dougal man wheel.

LOOKOUT (O.S.)  
 Captain! The pirate hunter seems to  
 be leaving!

AIDEN  
 What?

Aiden pulls out spyglass, peers through.

DOUGAL  
 It true, Cap'n?

AIDEN  
 Looks like it, but Norris isn't the  
 kind to give up a prize just like  
 that. At the very least, he'd sell  
 the kidnapper to the Spanish. He's  
 up to something.

Aiden lowers spyglass, turns-

Mister Boatswain!

CYRIL (O.S.)  
 Aye Cap'n!

AIDEN  
 Have the Master Gunner keep the  
 cannons loaded, and prepare the  
 crew for battle!

CYRIL (O.S.)  
 Aye Cap'n!

EXT. OPEN SEA - DAY

Pirate hunter, turned about, approaches *Princ* from astern.

EXT. *PRINC* - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Aiden peers through glass.



AIDEN

I knew that snake would slither  
back around. All hands! Prepare to  
defend the ship!

LOOKOUT (O.S.)

She's astern Cap'n! We can't get  
shot at her!

AIDEN

Well, get down from there, man!  
You'll be of more use as a fighter  
today!

Aiden lowers spyglass.

LOOKOUT (O.S.)

Aye Cap'n!

Aiden puts away spyglass.

AIDEN

Hold the wheel steady, Dougal. Time  
I had a talk with the ladies.

DOUGAL

Aye Cap'n!

Aiden turns, walks away.

AIDEN

Bobby!

Bobby runs up behind him.

BOBBY

Aye Cap'n!

AIDEN

Come along!

They head astern.

EXT. PRINC - STERNCastle DECK - DAY

Aiden, Bobby approach Teresa, Marta.

Deck rocks beneath them.

AIDEN

Ladies.

He removes hat, Teresa turns-

TERESA

Capitán.

AIDEN

Things have changed. Old Norris got the drop on us. He's circled around and is approaching from the rear. The warship won't arrive before he's alongside us. Now if he opens fire, we'll know that he intends to kill us all but it's my belief that he intends to board us.

MARTA

Can't you fire on him?

AIDEN

If we do, it'll give him justification to fire on us. Besides, he'll probably approach from the stern and we won't be able to get our guns on him.

MARTA

Can we flee?

AIDEN

He'd be on us before nightfall and there'd be no more ships to aid us then. Now, you've both shown a great deal of courage, but I don't think either one of you is ready for a full blown sea battle. I think it best if you joined the women in the after hold. I'll station Bobby and Mr. Ben Zion there with you.

TERESA

Of course, Capitán.

AIDEN

One last thing.

Aiden pulls two pistols out, offers them handle first to Teresa.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Just in case you have to defend yourselves.

Teresa accepts guns.

BOBBY  
I will be there to help you,  
miladies.

TERESA  
Gracias Roberto.

Aiden offers another two pistols to Marta.

AIDEN  
They're not hard to use, Milady,  
just point and pull the trigger.

Marta accepts.

BOBBY  
This way, miladies.

Bobby walks away, Teresa, Marta follow.

Aiden pulls out his spyglass, scans sea

DOUGAL (O.S.)  
Cap'n!

AIDEN  
Aye Dougal?!

DOUGAL (O.S.)  
I say we play a tune for our  
visitors!

AIDEN  
Fine idea Dougal! Strike up the  
band!

He lowers spyglass.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS:

A) EXT. *PRINC* - QUARTERDECK - Band, without Aiden or Ben Zion  
play scary *MUSIC*.

B) INT. *PRINC* - AFTER HOLD - Everyone there looks up.

C) EXT. *PRINC* - GUN DECK - Gunners stand ready at their guns,  
*BELLOW* battle cries to music.

D) EXT. *PRINC* - PORT GUNWALS - Hands, faces painted, stand  
behind gunwales, wave their weapons, *BELLOW* battle cries.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. *PRINC* - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Captain Aiden steps onto deck.

AIDEN  
Stand ready!

Deck falls silent.

Captain walks to gunwale, looks out to sea.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Musketeers and grenadiers, at the  
ready!

*CLICK! CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!*

Guns cock.

Aiden, hand in air.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Now! Pull her to port!

He drops hand.

EXT. OPEN SEA-

*Princ* GROANS, turns to port.

EXT. *PRINC* - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Aiden points to port cannons.

AIDEN  
All port cannons! Open fire!

He raises spyglass.

EXT. OPEN SEA - DAY

*BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!*

*Princ's* port side cannons fire.

Explosions pepper deck of pirate hunter.

Pirate hunter advances.

EXT. *PRINC* - QUARTERDECK - DAY

Aiden lowers spyglass.

AIDEN

Hard to starboard! Full sail!

*Princ* GROANS.

EXT. OPEN SEA - DAY

Pirate hunter, closer.

Dozen MUSKETEERS gather on *Princ's* stern. Master Gunner stands in front.

AIDEN (O.S.)

Open fire!

Pirate hunter approaches, musketeers *FIRE*.

Men *WHOOOP, BELLOW* war cries.

EXT. OPEN SEA - SUNSET

Pirate hunter, *Princ* exchange *FIRE, WAR CRIES*.

Pirate hunter now close to *Princ*.

*Princ* pulls to port.

Hunter matches move.

They drift side to side.

*Princ*, dead silent.

Grapples fly from hunter, bind two ships.

Boarders leap from hunter to *Princ*.

Deck, empty.

EXT. *PRINC* - MAIN DECK - DAY

Norris, Duke lead pirate hunter's crew onto deck. They search decks, find them empty.

Norris hesitates.

AIDEN (O.S.)

Now!

Pirates *BELLOW*, swarm deck, attack from every opening.

Maddox & riggers, drop from behind spars, take shots from above.

Kwau, skull painted on his face, leads charge from forecandle, His men, former slaves, brandish sabers, traditional African axes.

KWAU

Norris!

Great cabin door bursts open, Dougal & Sam Thorson-Strand lead charge, their group, faces painted blue.

Aiden leads charge up from below deck.

Smith & Jones lead swimmers up onto starboard deck.

Norris & two large MATES form defensive circle.

Duke leads dozen soldiers toward hold.

INT. *PRINC* - HOLD

Duke, his men stand in darkness, their eyes adjust.

*SHRIEK!*

Match, struck across room.

Coyotl in Aztec Eagle Warrior attire, blows skull shaped *DEATH WHISTLE*.

Cyril & a dozen pirates charge into room.

Soldier squeezes off shot, Coyotl recoils, fall backs.

EXT. *PRINC* - MAIN DECK - DAY

MONTAGE:

-Fire from masts wounds boarders.

-Dougal charges forward, swings his hammer left and right, knocks boarders senseless. Strand, behind him, battles with two belaying pins.

-Kwau battles large boarder with an ax.

-Norris & his large mates move in circle like saw blade, drive back pirates.

-Nubian leaps from Norris's shoulder to deck, attacked by Master Mouse.

-Aiden attacks, saber in each hand, pushes though enemy toward Norris.

BACK TO SCENE

Pirates & soldiers battle onward, stab, shoot, hack through crowd.

Boarders leap to forecastle, sterncastle, attacked by pirates.

INT. PRINC - HOLD

Cyril & Duke duel each other, pirates & soldiers fight around them.

INT. PRINC - GALLEY

Three boarders burst into galley. Room is dark. They point guns, blades cautiously from side to side as they look for inhabitants.

Behind huge hanging blue marlin hides Jean-Basile armed with cutlery & pan.

One of the invaders helps himself to some food.

Jean-Basile bursts from behind fish, throws knives, shouts-

JEAN-BASILE  
Sauvages! You shall have none!

Invaders fire on the cook, who ducks back behind fish. Pistol ball buries itself in fish but doesn't pass through.

Swordsman charges fish, stabs clear through, barely misses Jean-Basile, who kicks head of fish which swings up, hits invader between legs. Fish falls down into Jean-Basile's arms. He swings it's nose up and brains swordsman in the side of the head, then uses it like lance as he charges others.

JEAN-BASILE (CONT'D)  
Vive la Fraaaaaance!

EXT. PRINC - MAIN DECK - DAY

MONTAGE:

-Aiden, Dougal, Strand join together, drive wedge straight for Norris.

-Kwau seizes his adversary, hefts him over his head, casts him overboard. His men keep other boarders at bay, he makes way toward Norris.

-Norris and mates are beset on both sides by Aiden, Dougal, Strand, Kwau.

-Norris turns his defensive circle to face Kwau, they battle. Norris *TAUNTS* him.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. PRINC - HOLD

Duke stabs Cyril who retreats from battle.

Duke breaks away.

INT. PRINC - AFTER HOLD

Ben Zion, Marta treat wounded crewmen, aided by other women.

Teresa treats Coyotl on operating table.

TERESA

Please hold still, Señor.

Duke & soldiers burst through door.

Teresa lays herself across Coyotl to shield him. Marta does same to Teresa

Coyotl pulls pistol from Marta's waste, shoots attacker behind her.

COYOTL

No one hurts a member of this crew.

Duke & his men rush forward, control room.

Duke smiles wickedly at Teresa-



Tinashe appears, leads charge of women with traditional African spears, drives back invaders.

Marta seizes empty soup pot, swings it at invaders left & right.

She brains one man.

MARTA  
(spanish)  
*Scoundrels!*

She hits another.

MARTA (CONT'D)  
(spanish)  
*Wretches!*

another.

MARTA (CONT'D)  
(spanish)  
*Savages!*

Mr. Ben Zion defends Teresa as she performs surgery on Coyotl.

Overhead candle lantern is jarred, nearly falls on Coyotl.

Teresa draws pistol, fires hole through Duke's fancy hat.

Everyone freezes.

She draws, aims her other pistol.

TERESA  
(spanish)  
*I have had enough of you,  
pretender! These men will not die  
for your vanity!*

Room rocks, all thrown back & forth.

EXT. OPEN SEA - NIGHT

Hearty wave fiercely rocks both ships. Sea beneath them glows. Human shapes rise out of water.

EXT. PRINC - MAIN DECK - NIGHT

Fight stops, combatants look to sea's glow, amazed  
Aiden, Dougal, Strand, Kwau, Norris, his mates fight.  
Strand stops dead, points to sea.

SAM THORSON-STRAND

Kaptein!

Aiden spins around.

AIDEN

It worked!

Men stop, shocked, except for Kwau & Norris, embroiled in  
their own fight.

Master Mouse & Nubian roll apart.

Nubian lunges to attack, Master Mouse holds up paw, points to  
gunwale. Nubian's eyes widen.

NORRIS

Somebody get this crazy savage off  
me!

Norris' two henchmen turn to help but feel Aiden's blades at  
their backs.

AIDEN

Touch my man and it'll be the last  
thing you ever do.

Aiden nods to Dougal & Sam.

AIDEN (CONT'D)

Stop him.

DOUGAL

But Cap'n-

AIDEN

Do it. Our sea friends may not  
appreciate it if we drip blood into  
their sea.

Dougal, Sam, push past henchmen, drag Kwau off Norris.

KWAU

No! Let me go! He's lived too long!  
Let me go!

TERESA (O.S.)

Capitán.

Teresa & women force Duke & his men up from hold at weapon point. Cyril has Coyotl's arm around his neck, helps him walk.

NORRIS

You couldn't even handle a princess?! Once a lubber, always a lubber!

Norris lunges forward, half-dozen blades rise to his face.

Harmony of voices sound from sea.

VOICE

Enough.

All turn toward sea.

Majestic WATER SPIRITS rise out of the ocean on pillars of water.

VOICE (CONT'D)

We will bear this conflict no more.  
End it now lest we write it's  
conclusion.

Teresa pushes Duke forward to Aiden, her gun at his back.

Teresa & Aiden whisper-

TERESA

Capitán, what is happening?

AIDEN

We don't know. It happened just  
before we found you, too.

VOICE

We are the spirits of the sea. Your  
kind have many names for ours.  
Selkies, nixies, finfolk, and such.

MADDOX

I knew it.

Spirits' colors intensify.

Pillar of water rises up near captains.

THE LEGENDARY FISH-MAN OF LIÉRGANES, FRANCISCO DE LA VEGA CASAR, (55) pale white skin, red hair and beard, strip of scales from his throat to his stomach, also spine, gills surround his neck, steps onto deck, speaks without moving his lips-

FISH-MAN

Good evening. I am Francisco de la Vega Casar. Some of you may know me as the fish-man of Liérganes.

Marta GASPS, Teresa's eyes widen, Duke's jaw drops.

TERESA

I have heard of you, but I thought you were only a fable.

FISH-MAN

No, I am very real, I was caught in a current when I was young and dragged out to sea. Five years later a kindly fishermen found me and returned me to my parents as I am now. Nine years later I returned to the sea.

TERESA

That is the story we have heard Señor.

FISH-MAN

What was never told was that it was the sea spirits who saved me, took me in, and gave me the ability to live underwater. Nor is it told that I returned to them after the wars of man became too much for me to bear. I am here tonight to inform you on behalf of them that your battle has intruded upon one of our refuges. You will stop now or answer to our defender.

ADARO, twenty feet tall, face, upper body like man with no hair, black eyes, gray skin, shark-like tail, gills behind its ears, rises out of sea.

Ships' crews react with fear, GASP, stare, step back.

FISH-MAN (CONT'D)

This is the Adaro from the East, around the land you know as Australia.

Marta crosses herself, *PRAYS* under her breath in Latin.

FISH-MAN (CONT'D)

It preys upon the wicked and leaves  
only empty husks. Sailors brought  
back from the sea who do not speak  
or move are victims of the Adaro.

Duke springs to life.

FRANCISCO

No!

He seizes Teresa's pistol, aims at Adaro.

FRANCISCO (CONT'D)

(spanish)

*You won't get me!*

*BANG!*

He fires pistol, hits Adaro in forehead.

Adaro's head snaps back, shot passes through it.

Adaro shakes it off. Hole in head closes over.

Francisco panics, jumps away.

FRANCISCO (CONT'D)

Run!

Boarders, including Norris, flee back to pirate hunter.

Nubian scampers at their feet, up onto Norris' shoulder.

Sea spirits melt back into the water.

Master Mouse climbs to Aiden's shoulder.

Aiden, Norris lock eyes, Master Mouse, Nubian, too.

EXT. OPEN SEA - MOMENT LATER

Sea spirits swim around ships, faster and faster.

Sea around ships churns, ships spin.

Ships rise on spinning pillar of water.

EXT. PRINC - MAIN DECK -NIGHT

Norris, Aiden, Master Mouse, Nubian hang on for dear life.

NORRIS  
What's happening?!

AIDEN  
I don't know but if it means your  
end, I'll take it!

EXT. OPEN SEA - NIGHT

Lines that hold two ships together break, ships separate  
water lowers them to sea level.

EXT. PRINC - MAIN DECK - NIGHT

Pirates find their feet.

AIDEN  
Riggers aloft! Fly the sails! Get  
us underway! With any luck, our sea  
friends will be more interested in  
Norris than they are in us! And  
will somebody please light some  
lanterns!

Crew instantly jump to action.

TERESA  
Capitán, send any who are wounded  
to the after hold and we will see  
to them.

AIDEN  
You heard the lady! Wounded to the  
after hold!

Teresa shepherds wounded down into hold.

LOOKOUT (O.S.)  
Captain! The warship! She's right  
on our larboard!

Aiden turns around.

Warship approaches them through glowing water.

Warship's captain stands on bow of warship, megaphone to his  
mouth-

DON ANTONIO  
 Ahoy the Principle! Prepare to be  
 boarded in the name of Spain.

Pirates reach for their weapons.

AIDEN  
 Hold your positions!

EXT. PRINC - MAIN DECK - NIGHT

Ships are grappled together in glowing sea.

EXT. PRINC'S MAIN DECK - NIGHT

Don Antonio stands on deck of *Princ* surrounded by his musketeers, their guns trained on pirates who stand with weapons lowered.

Teresa, with Marta in tow, Master Mouse on her shoulder, moves between two groups of armed men.

Musketeers part before her.

TERESA  
 (spanish)  
*Don Antonio, you don't understand.  
 These people are not my kidnappers.  
 They are my rescuers.*

Don Antonio draws pistol, points it at her forehead.

Teresa & Marta GASP.

Master Mouse hides in Teresa's hair,

Pirates, including Aiden, take step forward, stopped by guns, bayonets of guards.

DON ANTONIO  
 (spanish)  
*Princess, you do not understand.  
 Spain once held all of the new  
 world for the cross, now it barely  
 holds it's borders. Spain is weak  
 because it's king is weak. Your  
 family has shamed the crown of  
 Spain for the last time. When your  
 corpse is presented to the court,  
 the nation will realize that  
 stronger leadership is needed.*  
 (MORE)

DON ANTONIO (CONT'D)  
*Who will care that your pirate  
 kidnappers were not those who  
 killed you?*

MARTA  
 (spanish)  
*Traitor!*

Teresa SOBS.

AIDEN  
 (spanish)  
*You might not want to do that,  
 captain.*

DON ANTONIO  
 What did you say, dog?

AIDEN  
 You may have noticed the glowing  
 sea.

Sea spirits rise from ocean, surround ships.

Adaro looms over them.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
 Our sea spirit hosts don't like us  
 fighting here. It's the only reason  
 we aren't fighting to the last man  
 for the princess, our crewmate.

Don Antonio, his men back away, pirates move forward.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
 Mates, help me show these gentlemen  
 back to their ship.

*CRACK!*

Kwau cracks his knuckles.

EXT. WARSHIP - MAIN DECK - NIGHT

Spanish boarders lie in heap.

Don Antonio flies over gunwale, BELLOWS-

DON ANTONIO  
 Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaargh!

He lands on top of heap without his weapons.



EXT. *PRINC* - MAIN DECK - NIGHT

AIDEN

Cut us loose and get us underway!  
If they fire on us, they'll have  
the sea spirits to answer to!

Crew springs into action.

Teresa *CRIES* in Marta's arms. Master Mouse pats back of  
Teresa's head soothingly.

Aiden, saddened.

EXT. OPEN SEA - LATER

Sea ceases to glow.

*Princ* sails forward.

Full moon appears from behind clouds.

EXT. *PRINC* - QUARTERDECK - NIGHT

Aiden & Kwau man wheel.

LOOKOUT (O.S.)

Cap'n, the sea's stopped glowing!  
No sign it ever did!

AIDEN

I see it!

KWAU

Do you think we have been released,  
captain?

AIDEN

We may only hope so, Mr. Kwau. We  
may only hope so.

EXT. OPEN SEA - NIGHT

Cannonball *SPLASHES* down in moonlit sea few yards short of  
*Princ's* stern.

EXT. *PRINC* - STERNCastle DECK - NIGHT

Aiden runs astern with spyglass in hand, raises it to his  
eye, scans moonlit sea. Kwau at his side.

LOOKOUT (O.S.)  
 Cap'n, the warship's after us and  
 she's almost in range.

ANGLE: CAPTAIN'S SPYGLASS VIEW OF WARSHIP

Warship, lit by lanterns, approaches.

EXT. PRINC - STERNCASTLE DECK - NIGHT

Kwau stands beside captain.

KWAU  
 Should we prepare for battle?

LOOKOUT (O.S.)  
 Cap'n, the pirate hunter's coming,  
 too! From starboard!

Aiden turns his glass to starboard.

ANGLE: CAPTAIN'S SPYGLASS VIEW OF PIRATE HUNTER

Pirate hunter, lit by lanterns, approaches.

EXT. PRINC - STERNCASTLE DECK - NIGHT

AIDEN  
 Blast! Norris has more lives than a  
 cat.

KWAU  
 You should have let me have him.

AIDEN  
 Hmm.

Captain SNAPS his fingers, eyes wide open.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
 We may yet get our chance. Kwau,  
 get to the wheel and be ready to  
 pull us to starboard. If these men  
 want another chase, they'll get one  
 they won't forget.

Kwau salutes-

KWAU  
 Aye, captain.

He runs off.

AIDEN  
Ahoy Maddox! Run up all the sail we  
have! Give me speed.

MADDOX (O.S.)  
Aye cap'n.

BOOM!

SPLASH!, cannonshot

AIDEN  
Pull us to starboard, Kwau!

EXT. OPEN SEA - LATER.

Moon shines down on ships.

BOOM!

Warship fires it's chase gun at *Princ*. Pirate hunter  
approaches between them.

EXT. *PRINC* - QUARTERDECK - NIGHT

Kwau, Dougal wrestle wheel.

Aiden at gunwale, views through his spyglass.

Next to him, Marta comforts weeping Teresa.

BOOM!, cannonshot

AIDEN  
(bellows)  
Steady as she goes, mates! They  
haven't got us, yet!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

LOOKOUT (O.S.)  
Cap'n, the pirate hunter has her  
broadside to us!

AIDEN  
We're out of their range for now!  
Clear the masts! All riggers to the  
deck! Now!

EXT. *PRINC* - RIGGING - NIGHT

Riggers, lookout scurry down ratlines.

EXT. *PRINC* - MAIN DECK - NIGHT

Aiden peers through spyglass.

Teresa leaves Marta's embrace, wipes her eyes, walks down gunwale toward Master Gunner.

EXT. OPEN SEA - NIGHT

Pirate hunter chases *Princ*, warship close behind.

AIDEN (O.S.)  
Come on you treacherous highborn  
blowhard. I know you can't resist.

EXT. *PRINC* - QUARTERDECK - NIGHT

Marta approaches captain.

MARTA  
Capitán, what do you have in mind?

AIDEN  
Do you know what a fire ship is,  
milady?

Marta shakes her head.

MARTA  
No.

AIDEN  
A fire ship is a ship loaded with  
enough powder, oil, wood, and such  
to be a floating bomb. Norris  
always carries enough materials in  
his hold to turn his ship into a  
fire ship if it were ever taken  
from him. I know that Don Antonio's  
kind, he won't be able to resist  
firing on Norris and with any luck,  
both our enemies will be out of our  
hair.

*BOOM!*, *Princ*'s cannon fires.

All eyes dart toward Master Gunner. He turns, shrugs.

Aiden, angry-

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
I gave no order to fire!

Master Gunner steps aside.

Behind him, tearful princess holds pricker of fired cannon.

Aiden, shocked

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Oh, my lady.

He raises spyglass.

ANGLE: CAPTAIN'S SPYGLASS VIEW OF PIRATE HUNTER

Norris leaps from pirate hunter with Duke in tow followed by crewmen.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
I knew it. All hands, hit the deck!  
Now!

EXT. PRINC - QUARTERDECK - NIGHT

Crew dive to deck, ladies freeze, Captain pushes Marta down, then runs to Teresa, tackles her.

*BOOOM!*, huge *EXPLOSION* rips through night, flaming debris fills night sky, rain down onto deck, into sails.

Crew jump to their feet, rush to put out small fires.

Kwau helps Marta to her feet, Aiden helps Teresa.

Master Mouse shakes himself out.

Teresa, in shock.

Aiden holds her hand.

AIDEN  
Your highness...

TERESA  
Oh Capitán, what am I to do? My whole nation wants me dead. I'll never see my family again. I have no home. I have no....

Teresa breaks down into whimpered sobs.

Aiden holds her close.

Marta moves to intercede, Kwau stops her.

AIDEN  
Your highness...Milady...

He raises her face to his by chin.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Teresa...

She stops.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
There is not a soul aboard who  
doesn't ask that question every  
day. Like you, we didn't turn on  
our nations, they turned on us. We  
take what we want but we know we  
shouldn't have to, and we know  
there's no place for us to spend  
our money that includes a quiet  
life. We all wait for the day  
someone like Norris or Don Antonio  
hang us just for living this long.

Aiden gestures around them.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Look around you.

Crew assembles around them.

Master Mouse scampers up her gown, nuzzles her cheek. She  
smiles sadly.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
We're a rough looking lot, to be  
sure. We've some wealth but none  
that could buy us a future. There's  
not much anyone here can offer  
you... but fellowship.

He turns her face back to his.

AIDEN (CONT'D)  
Will you accept our fellowship?  
Will you... join our ... my family?

Teresa kisses him fiercely, like she's waited her whole life  
to do it, like they both have.

Ship *CHEERS*, Master Mouse jumps for joy on her shoulder.

Marta moves to intercede but Kwau stops her.

KWAU

You know he is worthy of her.

Marta looks wistfully past him at kissing couple, *SIGHS*.

MARTA

Si. Better she loves a hero who will die for her than a prince who would buy and sell her. Oh, Señor Kwau. What kind of world is this?

KWAU

Another question we have never found an answer to, milady.

Teresa & Aiden end kiss.

TERESA

I've wanted to do that since I met you...Aiden...

AIDEN

Gracias...Teresa.

Bobby steps forward.

BOBBY

I say we rechristen the ship the *Princesa*, in honor of our new crewmate!

CREW

Aye!

DOUGAL

Everyone! Let's sing the ladies our favorite song, eh?

Band strikes up, everyone, including Coyotl, *SINGS* song about how they'll one day find somewhere they all can live peacefully. A land called Libertatia.

Teresa smiles, walks to pile of instruments, picks up Spanish guitar, strums along.

Dougal lifts her up onto his shoulder.

Marta soon adds her voice to chorus.

Newly christened *Princesa* sails off into moonlight, while crew *SINGS* tune.

ROLL CREDITS

BEGIN EPILOGUE

EXT. OPEN SEA - LATER

Warship limps through night.

In water, Nubian appears huddled on Norris' floating hat.

Hat moves through water.

Captain Norris bobs up under hat next to warship with blank-faced Duke in tow.

NORRIS

Thank Heaven for English copper  
bottomed ships. Ahoy there! Throw a  
line to a castaway?!

Don Antonio, wounded, bandaged, walks to gunwale.

DON ANTONIO

Who calls there?!

NORRIS

Captain Norris, licensed slaver to  
the king of Spain and pirate hunter  
to the king of England. I offer the  
kidnapper of the princess of Spain  
for my passage

Don Antonio furrows his brow.

DON ANTONIO

(spanish)  
*Cast him a line.*

Crewman throws line to Norris, who grabs it.

FADE OUT.

THE END