

BUC-KID-NEERS

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FADE IN

EXT. FRENCH FRIGATE - DAY

ZOOM in on the name of ship stern, *Vengeur du Peuple*. We PULL BACK and the French flag is burning. PULL BACK farther and the ship is sinking. One last PULL BACK and we see the reason for the disaster - a British man-of-war cannon's smoking from the engagement.

Onboard the burning French ship there is a British BOARDING PARTY, a combination of Royal Navy (blue) and Royal Marines (red).

Sailors are on the bilge pumps and have buckets fighting the fire. Others are pillaging the ship for valuables. The marines are going about the ship bayonetting any Frenchmen who move.

EXT: DECK OF BRITISH MAN-OF-WAR

Two pompous ROYAL NAVY OFFICERS stand, surveying the action. The bell behind them says, *London*. They receive a hand flag signal from the French ship.

LIEUTENANT watches the details through a telescope. He sees the last FRENCH SAILOR (wounded) rise and then he's bayoneted by a MARINE before he can harm the British SIGNALMAN.

LIEUTENANT

It was a touch too much it seems, Captain.

CAPTAIN

Oh, Damn. Very well. Abandon ship.

LIEUTENANT

(to *The London's* signalman)

Signal: Abandon ship.

CAPTAIN

I wanted that for a prize.

LIEUTENANT

The wife, sir?

CAPTAIN

She's incredibly expensive tastes. She wants an estate in the country. She says London is too hectic for her. Last year, she couldn't wait to get there to the city.

LIEUTENANT

Too bad really. A perfectly good ship, destroyed by our cannoneers. Too zealous I suppose.

CAPTAIN

Accuracy is no vice, lieutenant. Give the men my congratulations.

LIEUTENANT

I will and my apologies to your wife.

CAPTAIN

It's quite alright.

(beat)

I guess I should write a letter informing her of the bad news.

The captain takes a step toward his cabin and turns.

CAPTAIN

See that the men get back and make for Port Royal.

EXT. MATE'S CABIN - DECK OF FRENCH FRIGATE

FOUR YOUTH are hiding in the mate's cabin under the quarter-deck; they peer out, watching their ship slowly sink. Three of them look to ASHLING (10) to leadership. Ashling is taking it all in and remains motionless.

MARINE

Abandon ship.

On deck, ANDRÉ (a French sailor) has a 4-inch splinter of wood in his leg. He has been playing dead; he opens his eyes in fright. He watches the beginning of the exit of the British.

The BOARDING PARTY begins to abandon ship; they stop with the fire buckets and bilge pumps. Others pillaging the ship are frustrated by the order.

The ship is listing badly. A small cannonball (12 pounds) rolls across the deck and stops at André's badly wounded and bleeding leg; he winces in pain but if he moves he will be bayoneted.

In the shadows, CALLUM (9), SEAMUS (7) and SHANNON (5) lean toward Ashling, nearly demanding instructions or action. Ashling looks down a ladder and there is water up to the berth deck. On the spar deck, she notices that the battle has shattered both of the French lifeboats.

CALLUM

Ash, what are we gonna do?

She hesitates until the LAST TWO OF THE BOARDING PARTY are about to leave. Ashling jumps from her hiding place.

ASHLING

Wait!

MARINE

What the...

(beat)

You speak English?

(beat)

What are you doing on a French frigate?

(beat)

Were you captured?

Ashling hesitates; things are moving too fast. She finally makes up her mind and she speaks.

ASHLING

We were on our way from Virginia to  
Monserrate.

The sailor whispers to the marine.

MARINE

You're Irish!

Ashling nods in the affirmative.

The Brits scoff and climb down the ladder into a skiff. They have abandoned the ship with four Irish children on board.

Ashling notices the cannon ball laying beside André and she picks it up. Her wrist is grabbed by André, and they look at each other for a second.

Ashling shakes her wrist loose and takes the cannonball to the ladder. She looks down and the skiff is about to push off. She hoists the ball over the side and it narrowly misses the skiff. The ball, however small, would have sunk the skiff.

SAILOR

Shoot her!

A marine calmly rises from his seat in the skiff and fires at an obstinate Ashling. The flintlock ignites, but before the bullet arrives, André has crawled over to her and pulls her hand and body out of harm's way.

Only now her hot Irish temper has ended and we see she's now in shock. Below the railing and safe... all the participants look at each other. They are doomed.

Ashling is pouting. Shannon is sobbing alone. Callum is looking over André's leg wound. SEAMUS is frozen watching Callum.

ASHLING

I should have told him we were English.

ANDRÉ

It wouldn't have mattered.

André gives Callum the signal and he pulls the wood out of André's leg. Blood... tight bandages.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DECK OF FRENCH FRIGATE

The water is a foot above the spur deck, but they have fashioned a raft. There are four barrels and four boards nailed and lashed between them.

ANDRÉ

When we are free you must paddle like hell  
to free us.

The children are in awe/shock.

ANDRÉ

Otherwise, we'll be sucked under.

SEAMAS

You mean paddle?

ANDRÉ

Oui. Yes.

(beat)

You're accustomed to following her...

CALLUM

Ashling?

ANDRÉ

Well, now she's having a pity party about  
what she said or didn't say when we have  
more important des œufs to frire.

CALLUM

Eggs?

ANDRÉ

What's your name?

CALLUM

Callum

ANDRÉ

And his?

SEAMAS

Seamas.

André looks toward the youngest.

ASHLING

Her name is Shannon. She's only five so  
lay off her!

ANDRÉ

That's nice, everyone must row.

The children realize the importance of the task and tighten their grip on the three oars. Two of the passengers have 1" x 4" boards.

TITLES BEGIN

EXT. RAFT - DAY

They are in open water and there isn't a ship in sight. The Irish children are exhausted, possibly sleeping. Andre is doing all the work. Paddling. Navigating. Judging the sun.

ANDRÉ

(singing)

*Pour retrouver ma douce amie  
Oh mes boués, ouh là ouh là là.  
Pour retrouver ma douce amie  
Oh mes boués, ouh là ouh là là.*

*Pique la baleine, joli baleinier  
Pique la baleine, je veux naviguer.*

*Aux mille mers j'ai navigué.  
Des mers du nord aux mers du sud.  
Je l'ai retrouvée quand j'm'ai noyé.  
Dans les grands fonds, elle m'espérait.  
Tous deux ensemble on a pleuré.  
En couple à elle, j'm'suis couché.*

TITLES END

SEAMAS

You took your woman to bed?

ANDRÉ

You speak French?

SEAMAS

A bit.

(beat)

The priest said...

ANDRÉ

It was a bed of algae?

All the children are looking at him. Maternal Ashling is only guessing but she looks cross; she doesn't want Shannon or the others hearing sailor songs. It suggests sex but also drowning.

ANDRÉ

I am French... but I didn't.

SEAMAS

But... *j'm'suis couché* means...

ANDRÉ

*Je l'ai retrouvée quand j'm'ai noyé.*

(beat)

I found my love when I drowned.

(beat)

*Dans les grands fonds, elle m'espérait.*

(beat)

In the great depths, she was waiting for me.

(to Ashling)

I took her to bed... AFTER I drown. *Après.*

André smiles at Seamas, but Ashling remains harsh with André. There will be a battle for leadership between Ashling and André. André will step back when they are out of jeopardy.

ANDRÉ

(to Ashling)

What? We are in such a situation, you know? And besides, it's only a *chanson*.

SEAMAS

(to Ashling)

He's saying it's only a song. He's not going to hell.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RAFT - NIGHT

The moon is out and visibility isn't too bad. A shark swims by near the boat. André carefully takes a rope and a pole; he

plans to lasso it if it swims through the loop. The children are asleep.

André succeeds and hauls the shark up onto the raft. However, it's not as smooth a kill as he expected. The fish thrashes back and forth and it's jaws come very near the sleeping children.

ASHLING

What have you done?

(beat)

You are going to sink us!

Andre hesitates but finally takes his knife and stabs the fish eight times. It doesn't die and it might sink the raft. But finally, he stabs it in the brain. It's a messy kill and he's a bit embarrassed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RAFT - MORNING

Apparently, the children have eaten the shark. They are covered with blood.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RAFT - DAY

The group on the raft look in dire straits, starvation, dehydration, exposure. But on a far horizon, Andre spots land. He gets a second wind and begins to row like mad.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. UN RIOS - JAMAICA - DAY

The raft is beached under sizable cliffs. Andre picks up each of the children and lays them on the shore, high above the tide line. Down the beach wave action has formed a littoral cave (sea cave).

Andre takes his canteen and enters the cave. As he enters the cave, he realizes there is a second (faint) light source. He looks up and there is an ancient volcanic shaft (vent) extending up. Sunlight is pouring in. Freshwater is dripping

down from the ten million-year-old vent. He drinks like mad and then fills his canteen.

He takes the canteen to the children on the beach.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. KINGSTON HARBOUR - JAMAICA - NIGHT

Three years later, the heroes of the film have grown. ASHLING (13) CALLUM (12), SEAMUS (10) and SHANNON (8) have been around Andre for so long that his French accent is slightly noticeable in their accents. *Wean Craic* (small joke) is painted smartly on the back of their single-handler sailboat.

They are now silently sailing, past Port Royal, into the harbour. Kingston is about to be revealed. Frightened, Shannon is quiet and staring at the bottom of the boat.

ASHLING

(whispering)

Hey, Shannon. Look up.

Kingston might have only 1000 people and half of them are at sea at any moment, but still our young heroes have not seen this many lights ever. As wild/uncivilized as Kingston was, it was the largest city in the Caribbean.

SEAMUS

Whoa.

CALLUM

It's worth the trip already. Huh?

They silently sail past the dock and there are two vessels.

ASHLING

It's a man-of-war.

SEAMUS

Is that the... (*London*)

ASHLING

No, it's a different one.

SEAMUS

They left us to die.

CALLUM

Thank god for the Frenchman.

SEAMUS

And the other?

ASHLING

Probably a privateer.

Seamus gestures "pay me" to the privateer.

SEAMUS

(privateer)

One day, I'm gonna captain one of those.

Callum gestures to the naval vessel.

CALLUM

(man-of-war)

And one day, I'm gonna sink one of those.

They sail past the dock and beach their sailboat at Rae Town fishing village. They pull the boat next to the other fishing boats.

EXT. KINGSTON HARBOUR - JAMAICA - NIGHT

They are prowling the streets of Kingson. Navy, the pirates, privateers are asleep or at sea. There are several patrols (or drunken escapades) but the group dodges them perfectly.

Shannon starts to lag. They stop and wait for her.

CALLUM

What did I tell you?

SEAMUS

Just tell her to wait in that stable and we'll come back for her.

CALLUM

If we can.

ASHLING

No.

(to Shannon)

What did I tell you?

SHANNON

You said I could do it, but I'm thinking  
you're wrong.

ASHLING

I expect you to keep up.

(gesturing to the males)

It only gives them ammunition if you lag.

SHANNON

I'll do better.

They proceed. Drunks are wandering about lost. Ladies of the night (also drunk) peer from their balconies. More drunks. They vomit and pass out. They must step over some.

They reach a certain Spanish style home, protected behind a wall. They hesitate at the wall.

A privateer (or pirate) passes; they fear him but he's too drunk to notice them.

SHANNON

Andre says that stealing is wrong.

ASHLING

He also says drinking rum is wrong.

(beat)

But what does he do for a living?

CALLUM

He feeds and clothes us.

ASHLING

(to Shannon)

The man we're burgling tonight is a Brit.

SEAMUS

No one said that.

Another drunk pirate stumbles by.

CALLUM

Was that a privateer or a pirate?

ASHLING

I don't know. It's hard to distinguish.

A pirate-looking mate is helping a soldier walk. Singing. As well, they are too drunk to notice our heroes.

CALLUM

Don't look now but that's a drunken soldier. And he's helping... the soldier walk.

SEAMUS

Now that's *un homme bon*.

SHANNON

What if Andre finds out we're down here?

ASHLING

Look around. You think if these drunken fools will even notice if they're missing anything?

(beat)

Besides, The Wood & Water isn't exactly the island's premier tavern.

CALLUM

It's not even a tavern.

SEAMUS

What is it?

CALLUM

A shack that serves rum. It's listing like that French ship we were on after taking the broadside.

ASHLING

So, what you are pointing out is how badly Andre needs the money we'll bring him?

CALLUM

So, why'd he build his tavern up north  
when the pirate capital of the world is  
down here?

SEAMUS

He could have made a ton down here.

ASHLING

You're disrespecting him again.

(beat)

He saved our lives.

The last of a long line of drunks pass them. The coast will  
soon be clear.

ASHLING

The tavern is up there because this is  
down here.

(beat)

Look around it's pure anarchy.

SHANNON

All I know is it smells bad.

ASHLING

Are you with me? Are we going?

SHANNON

Andre said...

Ashling doesn't wait for her to finish. She scales the wall.  
The others reluctantly follow. Shannon is left behind (too  
small to scale the wall) but she walks to the gate and it's  
not locked. Shannon enters and shrugs at the others how easy  
entry was.

EXT. COURT YARD OF THE HOUSE - NIGHT

There is a pause before burglarizing the building.

ASHLING

We're only in trouble if we muck it up.

CALLUM

So, let's not.

SEAMUS

Agreed.

EXT. OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE HOUSE - NIGHT

FLASH: There are two SPANISH YOUTH, probably orphans also. They are picking the lock of the back door.

BACK TO:

EXT. COURT YARD OF THE HOUSE - NIGHT

It's a Spanish mission-style home with a balcony. Ashling shimmyes up the pole first, followed by the others.

EXT. BALCONY OF THE HOUSE - NIGHT

They find the balcony door wide open.

CALLUM

You'd think a scientist would be smarter than to leave a door open.

SEAMUS

Maybe it's a trap.

ASHLING

Only one way to find out.

Ashling offers them first passage. They refuse so she barges into the room, Spanish cutlass drawn.

INT. SCIENCE LAB - SPANISH STYLED HOUSE

The room is full of books and 18<sup>th</sup>-century gadgets. It might be Ben Franklin's laboratory if he were in Jamaica. There is a poster of a diving bell and a submarine. A piano. A tuning fork. A fire extinguisher. A mercury thermometer. A Leyden jar. A windup Jack-in-the-box.

The curious young people must touch everything. A piano key is pressed and there is a pause to wait if the sound has awoken the house. Nothing. Then a tuning fork is chinked. The same pause and nothing. The trigger on the rudimentary (wooden) fire extinguisher sprays the mixture.

A mercury thermometer is knocked off the wall and mercury does "it's crazy thing" on the floor. A black cat springs out of nowhere (from under the table) and strikes the puddle of mercury and it shoots in five different directions; the cat is awestruck.

Shannon cranks on the jack-in-the-box until it opens. She's delighted.

Still, the downstairs is silent. Seamus can't learn a lesson and touches the Lyde jar and takes a shock.

But most importantly there is the atmospheric steam engine. It's a miniature model. It might be two feet tall and weigh 20 lbs. It's a toy and laboratory model. While the others are rattling the place, Ashling lights a small fire (candles) under the boiler and the engine begins to pump coloured water from one container to another. She extinguishes the flame and packs the engine in a large canvas bag.

Shannon takes a mechanical drawing off the wall. She rolls it up and puts it in her sleeve.

Two Spanish teens, VICENTE (15) and DANTE (14), are out on the hall also trying to burglarize the laboratory. They give up picking the lock on the room's interior door; they smash into the room with their English sabres.

Awkward moment. Confronting each other are Spanish teens with English swords and Irish kids with Spanish swords.

VICENTE

*¿Tienes cutlasses españolas? ¿Eres español?*

SUB: You have Spanish sabres. You don't look Spanish.

ASHLING

You have English sabres. You don't look English.

DANTE

*¿Eres inglés?*

Ashling remembers her mistake three years ago when she admitted she was Irish.

ASHLING  
(hesitantly)  
Yes.

Vicente and Dante take a defensive stance. They grit their teeth and show an adversarial face. There may be a fight.

ASHLING  
Irish. We're Irish. Oui, 100% Irish.

DANTE  
*Oui?*

ASHLING  
We're Irish and we're sticking with that.

The Irish kids gesture they might fight.

VICENTE  
*Oh, los irlandeses odian a los ingleses.  
Un enemigo de mi enemigo.*

SUB: Oh, the Irish hate the English. An enemy of my enemy.

DANTE  
Si, but Irish pirates?

VICENTE  
*Seguro, there are a lot on Montserrat.*

The awkward moment ends. Everyone smiles.

SONG: There's A Lot On Montserrat

Now there is activity downstairs. We can hear an elderly BRITISH LORD (the owner) coming up the stairs.

BRIT  
I don't know who's up there but you could  
wake the dead with the racket you're  
making.  
(beat)  
You're not very good thieves.

Quickly Ashling puts a chair against the door. The owner turns the door handle but can't enter. The owner is trying to crash through, but he is elderly and it might take some time, or never.

There is a box of small viles (1 ounce each) of nitroglycerin in a case. Vicente takes one vile and places it on the chair that's keeping the interior door closed.

Shannon watches Vicente and Dante and clearly the viles have some value. So she takes one of viles and looks at it. Her arms are full and she doesn't have a place to store it so she puts it inside the Jack-in-the-box toy.

The nitroglycerin on the chair gets nearer to the edge of the chair and is about to fall off at the owner of the house continues to pounds on the door.

BRIT

And another thing, barring this door is totally uncivilized!

On the floor sits an open box. Ashling reads the outside of a box, "crushed seashells." She passes it by for other items, a sextant and a nautical chronometer.

On the shelf, above the crushed seashells, is a gallon jar of nitroglycerin, it's packed in a box insulated with sawdust.

The Spanish are after the loot too and they begin to pack.

Shannon and Callum and Seamus are all out to the balcony and down the pole. They secure a small waggon or cart. They have it waiting at the bottom for the loot.

Ashling packs up the engine and throws it down. The boys catch it and lash it on Shannons back.

Finally, the vile of nitroglycerin falls off the chair and strikes the floor. It explodes and everyone is thrown off their feet. Even the elderly Brit outside the door is put on his rear end.

Ashling regains consciousness first. She goes to the balcony with the last of the loot. She throws down the clock and the sextant and they are caught by the boys.

Ashling goes back inside for one last trophy. She finds the viles of nitroglycerin have fallen off the shelf into the box of shells and are leaking into the sawdust and seashells. Dynamite has accidentally been invented. Ashling is unaware, she's just grabbing what she can get.

The chair holding the door has been blown up and when the Brit regains consciousness he will be in the room.

Vicente and Dante wake up. They see Ashling taking the sea shell and nitroglycerin mixture to the balcony. They pop up and run after her.

Too late, Ashley drops the box of nitroglycerin and Seamus and Callum ALMOST catch it cleanly. They've tried to catch it like an egg but bobble it.

Ashling is watching from above.

Vicente and Dante dive for cover back inside the house.

The box of nitroglycerin falls from Callum's arms and hits the ground, relatively roughly. Nothing happens.

Vicente and Dante don't hear an explosion and eventually exit to the balcony. Ashley is sliding down the pole.

The Irish kids have been highly efficient. There isn't much left in the room, the piano and a few specimen jars with two-headed snakes and deformed rabbits. The Vicente grabs a preserving jar of jelly. Dante takes a pair of reading glasses.

Vicente and Dante are sliding down the pole. By the time the Spanish boys descend the Irish youth and the carts are far down the street.

EXT. STREETS OF KINGSTON - NIGHT

Vicente and Dante are running down Water Lane.

The cart is fully loaded and heavy; Ashling, Callum, Seamus and Shannon are running beside it down Port Royal lane.

The explosion has woken half the town. Everyone is looking out their windows and doors. Even the pirates passed out in the street begin to rise.

CALLUM

There are a ton of cannons out at the fort, we'll never get out.

ASHLING

Good thing we have an eight-foot ship.

SEAMUS

It's a boat.

ASHLING

They won't be able to hit us.

A marine comes out on the balcony of a brothel (Hotel for Lady Pirates) with a musket. Entirely proper, he takes the time to put on his jacket. He fires the musket and the bullet misses the heroes but impacts the cart.

They pass a HUNGOVER PIRATE.

HUNGOVER PIRATE

You can't get away.

Royal marines emerge from barracks and ANOTHER PIRATE points.

OTHER PIRATE

They went that away.

There is a long chase along both streets.

As the marines narrow the gap, the Irish heroes turn the cart into the cattle pens next to the slaughterhouse. They step in cow manure but lose the marines chasing them. They stop a moment in the slaughterhouse. Erie with cow and sheep heads hanging from hooks.

SONG: A Slaughterhouse Isn't a Great Place to Hide

ASHLING

We just filled a cart with a world of  
treasures. Andre will love us.

CALLUM

Gotta get the booty on the boat and home  
though.

SEAMUS

Will the boat even carry it all?

The Spanish heroes cut through a second brothel (Domestic  
Goddess Inn) and lose their pursuers. The young men stop.

VICENTE

What happened back there?

DANTE

I don't know. We should have all been  
blown to bits.

VICENTE

I don't understand.

DANTE

Libraries are full of things we don't  
understand.

VICENTE

Are you listening to yourself?

DANTE

Not really.

VICENTE

Those Irish kids.

DANTE

They're not Irish.

VICENTE

They said.

DANTE

*Oui?*

VICENTE  
Maybe they're just lucky?

DANTE  
Or charmed?

VICENTE  
Maybe they're spies?

EXT. ALLEYWAYS BEHIND WATER AND PORT ROYAL STREETS

Both groups emerge from the brothel and slaughterhouse in less travelled alleyways.

EXT. ALLEYWAY BEHIND PORT ROYAL STREET

The Irish heroes look down the cross streets and see the Marines who apparently are travelling back to their barracks.

SEAMUS  
They've given up?

Callum looks at the pilfered chronograph.

CALLUM  
It's 3:23 am.

Ashling leaves the leadership bravado for a brief truism.

ASHLING  
We might just make it out of here alive.  
(beat)  
Come one, let's go.

Both groups are leisurely walking down alleyways.

But a group of FOUR PIRATES first hear and then spot the cart.

They run ahead and set up an ambush. They roll a barrel out into the alleyway. The cart's progress stops.

PIRATE  
That's some booty you got there.

ASHLING  
You could say that.

PIRATE

I heard there was some action over at the professor's hacienda.

SECOND PIRATE

Like I heard it was an explosion?

A THIRD and FOURTH PIRATE emerge from the shadows.

PIRATE

Someone, uh, someone woke up the marines, huh?

ASHLING

Is that so?

PIRATE

You've inconvenienced us.

ASHLING

Let sleeping dog lay? I get it.

PIRATE

I reckon you owe us.

ASHLING

The marines were bothering you? They were chasing us.

PIRATE

Hear that, Mango?

MANGO SHIVERS grunts and pulls his sabre.

ASHLING

We don't want any trouble.

PIRATE

You know, in my experience, trouble finds you no matter who or what you are stealing.

ASHLING

There's no reason this has to get ugly.

PIRATE

How about you share a little share of  
what's in your cart there.

(beat)

And we'll call it even?

CALLUM

Absolutely not!

ASHLING

Most of this technological and scientific..  
it's of no value to you?

PIRATE

But you want to keep it, huh?

(beat)

So it has value.

PIRATE

Well, yeah. It wasn't easy to...

There is a protracted sword fight. The four kids are losing to  
four experienced and grown pirates.

EXT. ALLEYWAY BEHIND WATER STREET

The Spanish boys, from two blocks over, hear the clashing of  
the steel and they begin running toward the sword fight.

EXT. ALLEYWAY BEHIND PORT ROYAL STREET

The Spanish heroes arrive.

DANTE

Just a second here.

VICENTE

Why didn't you call us. We had to hear  
that beautiful sound from two blocks away.

PIRATE

Huh?

ASHLING

Huh.

It's a sword fight. There is a massive display of skill and Spanish boys are phenomenal swordsmen. And the tide turns... the young heroes begin to push the pirates away from the cart.

CALLUM

This day's turning out all right after all.

Three of the pirates run.

ASHLING

Wait!

The last remaining pirate's sword is broken and he pulls a second sword.

CALLUM

Who carries two swords?

The last pirate faces five young people. Ashling steps in front of Vincente, Dante, Callum and Seamus. She looks the pirate square in the eye.

ASHLING

Don't run away; I wanna see how this ends.

The last pirate backs away and disappears into the dark.

ASHLING

Where is Shannon?

EXT. PORT ROYAL STREET

Shannon has panicked and left the alley. She has only the Jack-in-the-box toy. A FIFTH PIRATE sees her and chases her. She turns the handle a bit... and leaves the Jack-in-the-box in the street. The fifth private can't resist. He cranks it and naturally, the nitro explodes when Jack jumps up. The pirate is left with soot on his face and he's dazed. Shannon escapes into an alleyway.

EXT. PORT ROYAL STREET

The five are looking for Shannon, but working their way back to the fishing village, toward their boats.

EXT. RAE TOWN FISHING VILLAGE

Shannon is waiting in the boat.

SHANNON

I lost Jack-in-the-box.

ASHLING

It's okay. Look at all the stuff we got.

(beat)

Andre will be proud.

SEAMUS

Maybe we can remodel the Wood & Water for  
Andre.

CALLUM

Maybe it will bring in a better clientele.

ASHLING

A better breed of pirate.

SONG: A Better Breed of Pirate

To exit the harbour the vessels must pass in front of Port Royal's fort and the cannon. The four Irish heroes are running a bit behind the Spanish. The contents of the carts must be transferred to the sailboat. The Irish boat with four passengers and all the loot is very low (and slow) in the water.

The Spanish make for their boat and set sail. The Spanish boys will sail the gauntlet first. Both the Spanish heroes give an ominous wave goodbye as they set sail.

EXT. KINGSTON HARBOUR - DAWN

As the Irish set sail, they can see the Spanish hero's boat in the distance; Vincente and Dante are about to come in front of the cannons.

ASHLING

They'll go first, and after they make it,  
then well know we can make it too.

CALLUM

I don't know... this thing is so heavy..

SEAMUS

We can dump all this stuff.

ASHLING

Not going to happen on my watch.

The cannon's roar and in the smoke the Irish boat lose sight of their Spanish friends.

A cannonball smashes the tiny Spanish boat. Vincente and Dante survive but they are treading water.

There is a short calm when the Irish heroes see what's happened... only the splintered wood and sail floating. And they see Vincente and Dante swimming, they are confronted with a dilemma. In twenty seconds they will reach the two Spaniards.

The cannon from the fort erupts again.

CALLUM

What are we gonna do?

SEAMUS

They aren't gonna fit on this boat.

CALLUM

It's either them or the loot.

SEAMUS

We're gonna have to get rid of some of this stuff.

ASHLING

No, let them hang onto the side.

SHANNON

The sharks.

ASHLING

We've done too much work to let this go.

Ashling seems obstinate and she starts to pout before the goods are even overboard. Ashling knows she's lost the argument.

It's inevitable but in a bold explosion of energy, Shannon pushes half the haul (loot) into the ocean.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. UN RIOS - JAMAICA - DAY

Off the coast, directly in front of the cave, the Irish dingy is running as low in the water as it was with all the loot. But we now see it's empty except for the six passengers. They've dumped the goods and picked up the Spanish boys.

The Spanish boys are depressed and embarrassed. But they do see a glimmer of hope. All the items were thrown overboard, except the box of crushed seashells, sawdust and nitro. The box is partially hidden under the mast thwart.

As they sail into the cave..

ASHLING

Andre will be livid about this.

SEAMUS

Maybe not.

CALLUM

Maybe he will be proud of us.

They switch to French so the Spanish won't be offended.

ASHLING

*Je blâme ces pirates espagnols maladroits.*

SUB: I blame these bungling Spanish pirates.

ASHLING

*Kingston est une ville pirate sous la protection de la couronne, de la reine et de l'Église d'Angleterre.*

SUB: Kingston is a pirate city under the protection of the crown, the Queen and Church of England.

CALLUM

*Vous êtes irlandais. Vous ne respectez pas  
la couronne, la reine ou l'Église  
d'Angleterre.*

SUB: You're Irish. You don't respect the crown, the queen or  
the Church of England.

SEAMUS

*Et ils nous ont laissé mourir. N'oubliez  
pas cela.*

SUB: And they left us to die. Don't forget that.

ASHLING

*Mais cela ne donne pas aux Espagnols le  
droit de venir voler notre technologie.*

SUB: But that doesn't give the Spanish the right to come steal  
our technology.

CALLUM

*Je ne sais pas à quel point notre chance  
aurait pu être mauvaise.*

SUB: I don't know how bad our luck could have been.

CALLUM

*Je n'ai pas de problème avec le fait  
qu'ils s'aident eux-mêmes à tout ce que  
les Britanniques laissent traîner... mais  
je n'aime pas que ce soit choisi la même  
nuit que nous.*

SUB: I don't have a problem with them helping themselves to  
whatever the Brits leave laying around... but I don't like that  
they chose the same night as we did.

SHANNON

*Tout le monde va bien. Pas de réel mal*

SUB: Everyone is okay. No real harm.

SEAMUS

*Personne n'est mort.*

SUB: No one is dead.

ASHLING

*Pas encore en tout cas.*

SUB: Not yet, anyway.

ASHLING

*C'est juste que j'ai perdu tous mes biens terrestres pris.*

SUB: It's just that I've had all my earthly goods taken.

CALLUM

*Alors, vous n'aviez rien à l'intérieur et vous aviez vos biens terrestres pendant combien de 30 minutes au maximum?*

SUB: So, you had nothing going in and you had your earthly goods for what, 30 mins at the most?

ASHLING

*Mais vous ne comprenez pas. J'aurais pu être quelqu'un.*

SUB: But you don't understand. I could have been somebody.

CALLUM

*Vous devriez lancer un mouvement politique de personnes qui auraient pu être importantes.*

SUB: You should start a political movement of people who could have been important.

ASHLING

*Je blâme ces imbéciles espagnols.*

SUB: I blame these Spanish fools.

DANTE

*Je parle français, tu sais.*

SUB: I speak French, you know.

Ashling swallows hard as they reach the back of the cave and the ladder up into the vent.

DANTE

In Spain, we...

VINCENTE

You never told me you were in Spain.

DANTE

Everywhere, it's rude to speak a language someone doesn't understand; you know?

ASHLING

(in Galic to Dante)

*Suas an dréimire, mo laoch daor  
Spáinneach.*

SUB: Up the ladder, my expensive Spanish hero.

SONG: Expensive Spanish Hero

INT. WOOD & WATER TAVERN

It's run-down but a typical Irish pub, frequented by pirates.

Andre is the owner and is tending bar.

RAKISH PIRATE

But you're French?

ANDRE

I tried opening a French bistro and the pirates wouldn't come.

RAKISH PIRATE

I see your point; whoever heard of a French pub? No fighting in French grog shops.

ANDRE

Right, they're boring.

Two pirates are fighting in a space reserved for that in the back; it's a boxing ring only with boards for ropes. One

pirate buys a chair with some coins and throws it into the ring for the combatants to smash.

RAKISH PIRATE

Nice business model, you have here. You ever thought of expanding to other cities?

At a table on the other side of Andre's bar are a SCRIBE (writer) and TWO PIRATES, who appear to be the Bonny and Clyde of the Caribbean.

SCRIBE

Well, I, uh, suppose that concludes our business, then. If I can just get paid.

CLYDE PIRATE

Mm. I suppose it does.

SCRIBE

Wait...

Clyde Pirate throws him a light pouch of coins.

SCRIBE

Uh, wait a minute.

The scribe opens the pouch and a few shaved coins spill out. and he's clearly disappointed. Andre from behind the bar notices the expression on the scribe's face.

SCRIBE

This, uh...

(beat)

uh, this... isn't what we agreed on, so...

BONNIE PIRATE

Are you crying?

CLYDE PIRATE

There's no crying in the Caribbean.

BONNIE PIRATE

The Dutch cry.

CLYDE PIRATE

Well, that's after we take their ship.

BONNIE PIRATE

I understand that... but still...

CLYDE PIRATE

That's true but he's not Dutch.

SCRIBE

I wrote letters to Europe in four languages, describing you in the vilest of terms. Ugly, wily and bloodthirsty.

BONNIE PIRATE

Apparently, they weren't vile enough.

SCRIBE

I wrote that you bit the head off a bat and survive the rabies.

BONNIE PIRATE

And we've not seen any uptick in fear.

SCRIBE

I wrote you were racist, sexist and didn't love the church. Not any church!!! Not Catholic OR Protestant.

BONNIE PIRATE

I'm not sure people really care about all that these days.

CLYDE PIRATE

Well, we didn't get the sort of infamy we were counting on.

BONNIE PIRATE

Apparently, demand for stories of cutthroat piracy has dropped since we made our arrangements.

CLYDE PIRATE

So this is what we decided to pay you.

SCRIBE

Uh, wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. We,  
um... We had an agreement. A contract.  
Five hundred *reale*.

CLYDE PIRATE

The PR business in the Caribbean can be  
risky.

BONNY PIRATE

Fifty.

CLYDE PIRATE

It's a fair price.

BONNY PIRATE

I think you should take it.

SCRIBE

No, no, no, no. I can't do that. I can't  
do that at all!

CLYDE PIRATE

Make your choice.

The two pirates grab the hilt of their swords. Andre arrives  
at the table.

ANDRE

Everything okay here?

Andre is a towering and intimidating man. They unhand the  
swords. Clyde is only suave and Bonnie is petite.

CLYDE PIRATE

Leave us.

ANDRE

You sure about that?

(beat)

Looks to me like...

BONNIE PIRATE

Sling your hook over there, mate.

CLYDE PIRATE

Yeah, get stuffed.

ANDRE

Ah. I think I know what you need.

CLYDE PIRATE

You don't seem to listen, barman...

ANDRE

A bit of advice.

(loudly)

Don't steal from the man who's personally  
been responsible for everyone's  
reputation. You aren't the only pirates  
this scribe has helped.

Twenty pirates all turn to gleam at Bonny and Clyde. Some  
touch the hilt on their swords.

CLYDE PIRATE

So you're Andre?

BONNIE PIRATE

The only barman in the Caribbean that  
doesn't cut his rum.

CLYDE PIRATE

I expected we'd run into you.

ANDRE

Why come in here then? We only cater to  
pirates who honour their word.

CLYDE PIRATE

So I guess we're both disappointed.

BONNIE PIRATE

We were just... negotiating.

ANDRE

Now you're speaking my language.

(beat)

How about you just give the fighting  
pencil here the rest of what you owe him,  
(loudly)

And I'll let you walk out of here in one piece?

(beat)

Do we have a deal?

Clyde throws a full pouch on the table and storms toward the door.

BONNIE PIRATE

(whispering to Andre)

Your bar is disgusting.

ANDRE

(smiling)

Voted most charming pirate bar in 1692.

He gestures to a framed newspaper article behind the bar.

He makes eye contact with the BARMAID, who gestures with her eyes down over the bar.

INT. ROOM OVER THE BAR

The young people are sitting around in a moral quandary.

ASHLING

Andre can't hear about this.

CALLUM

No problem there. We now have plausible deniability?

ASHLING

What?

CALLUM

Thanks to you know who...

(to Shannon)

There isn't any evidence.

ASHLING

I knew about the time you got hungry you'd regret it. I tried, to tell you.

SEAMUS

Just because you're older, doesn't mean  
you're always right.

ASHLING

So you say.

SHANNON

We pulled them out of the water so someday  
they can do the same for us?

ASHLING

What are the odds of that ever happening?

The door at the bottom of the stairs opens. Ashling points to  
a dark space under two beds. Vincente and Dante dive under the  
beds.

Andre begins up the stairs. He enters.

ANDRE

Everyone all right?

ASHLING

Never better.

ANDRE

Good.

(beat)

I don't suppose you can explain why the  
Royal Navy is looking for you?

(beat)

Something about an explosion?

SONG: Something about an explosion.

ASHLING

We didn't do that.

ANDRE

What the hell were you thinking?

ASHLING

That we'd remodel your place.

ANDRE

Why, I like the place? You helped decorate it. It's our place.

ASHLING

Most of the pirates that come here ARE Irish.

ANDRE

Yes, you were right. Thank you for the consulting work.

ASHLING

You're welcome.

ANDRE

I love my bar. But you blew up a building.

ASHLING

That wasn't us.

ANDRE

Who was it then?

ASHLING

We were there but... I don't think we know their names.

ANDRE

But you were there? Did you ever stop to think about what could have happened?

ASHLING

To them? Eh. No.

ANDRE

Explosions typically don't discriminate.

(beat)

Where did you get the idea?

ASHLING

We heard it at the *Siopa Úsáidte*.

ANDRE

The pawnshop?

(beat)

From?

ASHLING

Buachaill Taino.

(beat)

Don't go beat him up. I took everyone on the raid and the natives have it bad enough already.

ANDRE

I never did that.

ASHLING

You did.

ANDRE

That's because he stole from me.

CALLUM

Exactly, what will you do to him if he almost got us killed?

ASHLING

(to Callum)

You're only making it worse.

(to Andre)

We weren't almost killed.

CALLUM

But you're the one who always says it's a dog eat dog world.

SEAMUS

We was just trying to eat.

ASHLING

Stay out of this.

ANDRE

I also told you time and time again, that Kingston and Port Royal are off-limits.

ASHLING

We can't ask us to stay out of that port.

ANDRE

Why?

ASHLING

They've got everything, while we're up here with nothing.

ANDRE

You're Irish pirates. You're not supposed to have a lot of stuff.

ASHLING

What?

ANDRE

Well, no pirates have anything. Look around.

Long beat.

ANDRE

Look, I've tried to provide you kids with everything you need to be comfortable.

ASHLING

And we appreciate that. But you're not our da.

ANDRE

Everyone out.

Seamus, Callum and Sharron leave the room down the stairs.

ANDRE

Sit down.

ASHLING

I'm fine.

ANDRE

Sit down!

(softer)

Those kids look up to you.

ASHLING

They look up to you too.

ANDRE

I'm trying to do the best I can. I don't think I'm selfish.

ASHLING

No, you're not.

ANDRE

You're right. I'm not. This isn't a bad place, but they follow you and normally that would be good, but...

ASHLING

But?

ANDRE

You say run, they steal a horse.

(beat)

You say swim, they pirate a boat.

ASHLING

Is it the stealing?

ANDRE

No. That's just the economy in this part of the world. Maybe someday it will change...

(beat)

God I hope not.

ASHLING

What is it then?

ANDRE

Whatever happens in Kingston, it's on you.

ASHLING

Okay.

ANDRE

And, you're accustomed to pirates coming in here, clowning and having a good time, but out there... you don't know them so well.

(beat)

Just like it's on me what happens to us here in Un Rios.

ASHLING

So, why do we care again?

ANDRE

We make ourselves a problem for the Brits, and they will send the navy.

(beat)

Half the buildings in town are about to fall down, if they're shelled by the Navy... they WILL fall down and I don't think these lazy Irish rakes...

(beat)

No offence.

ASHLING

None taken.

ANDRE

They won't rebuild them.

ASHLING

They'll just move on.

ANDRE

Everything we've worked to build here and the food security for your hungry little band.

(beat)

I don't remember eating so much when I was a child.

ASHLING

You were never a kid.

ANDRE

Where is the stuff?

ASHLING

I'd guess in about 30 to 40 feet.

ANDRE

You lost it overboard? All of it?

ASHLING

No, there's some crushed seashells.  
Somewhere.

Dante is under the bed hiding and he's hugging the box of dynamite. He clearly knows its value. The nitro is the reason he and Vincente were there in the first place.

ANDRE

What? Throw it on the fire.

ASHLING

Why?

ANDRE

Nothing can tie you to what happened down there. What if the Brits wanna come up here?

ASHLING

(worried)

Ya think they'll come up here?

ANDRE

I'll take care of it.

Andre gets up to leave; halfway down the stairs, he pauses.

ANDRE

Oh, with the guns blazing did you really stop to pull those Spanish sots out of the bay?

INT. WOOD & WATER TAVERN

Andre walks past Callum and Seamus. They try to judge his mood.

CALLUM

He's not too happy.

ANDRE

Get up, we're going to the pawnshop.

SEAMUS

Why?

ANDRE

To talk to that beautiful little native  
grifter, who put it in your head to  
venture into Port Royal.

Andre leads them behind the bar. Behind the bar is a box, the  
lost and found. Andre holds out a canvas bag.

ANDRE

Here hold this.

Andre empties the box into the bag that Callum is holding.

CALLUM

Hey, that's my treasure map.

ANDRE

Well, it's in the lost and found.

CALLUM

Can I have it back?

ANDRE

No.

EXT. WOOD & WATER TAVERN - NIGHT

They exit the bar into the street. At the far end of town, we  
see the pawnshop.

They step over a tiny bridge extending over a small stream.

SEAMUS

Why did they even bother building this  
bridge when anyone can just step over the  
stream?

CALLUM

It's hardly enough water to support even  
this small town.

ANDRE

It's a gift from God.

(beat)

Okay, tell me exactly what happened?

CALLUM

Ashling will kill us if we talk.

ANDRE

Well, I can't get a straight answer from her ever, I've stopped trying.

SEAMUS

What do you want to know?

INT. ROOM OVER THE BAR - NIGHT

Ashling is reading but is glancing over at the dining table often. Vincente and Dante are building sticks of dynamite out of bamboo shafts and candle wax. Shannon is watching intently.

DANTE

Do you know what we have here?

SHANNON

A mistake?

DANTE

This is twice the power and half the price.

SHANNON

I don't know wood is pretty cheap.

VINCENTE

Actually, forty per cent of the price.

DANTE

How is that?

VINCENTE

You mix the nitro at a forty to sixty ratio.

DANTE

And then light the fuse. Her Majesty's Navy goes to the bottom.

It doesn't do anything but frighten Shannon. Shannon runs downstairs and for the security she watches the pirates drink,

play cards and arm wrestle. Ashling follows Shannon downstairs and watches her.

Vincente and Dante continue with the bomb-making.

Ashling returns upstairs.

ASHLING

You frightened her.

(beat)

She's downstairs, hanging out with pirates. I hope you're proud.

DANTE

(chuckling)

She's a little pirate herself.

Ashling pulls her blade and puts it to Dante's throat.

DANTE

We didn't mean to frighten anyone.

ASHLING

Boom? You said "boom" and "to the bottom of the sea."

VINCENTE

So?

DANTE

Don't argue with her?

ASHLING

So, she was on a raft for two weeks.

VINCENTE

Three weeks.

Ashling pulls back the blade

ASHLING

What?

DANTE

We were on a raft also.

ASHLING  
The British navy?  
(beat)  
Get out of here.

The ESL Spanish heroes take it literally and start to leave..

ASHLING  
No. You don't have to leave just don't  
scare Shannon anymore.

INT. THE SIOPA ÚSÁIDTE PAWNSHOPPE - NIGHT

Callum, Seamus and Andre enter. Typical 18<sup>th</sup>-century pirate pawnshop. Lots of large bulky items (not easily traded) Aztech, Mayan and Inca gold. Huge Spanish crosses. Gold eating utensils and plates. Empty wooden chests. Aristocratic fashions, some with bloodstains. Every sort of weapon.

FIONN (fee-in) has the thickest Irish accent ever filmed.

ANDRE  
Fionn, you have a lot of stuff in here.

FIONN  
Most of it needs to be melted down but I  
just can't bring my heart to do it.

ANDRE  
I guess it's the artist in ya?

FIONN  
For me, it's not so much the art of it  
all? I'm an anthropologist?

ANDRE  
Is that even a word?

FIONN  
Sure it means somebody that likes Aztec  
gold.

ANDRE  
Well, that's pretty much everybody, right?

FIONN

I guess.

ANDRE

(to Callum and Seamus)

Watch the door will ya?

FIONN

Who are we looking for?

ANDRE

Unwelcome guests.

CALLUM

Pirates?

ANDRE

No, they're always welcome. Right, Fionn?

FIONN

So long as they have coin... Or maybe something stolen.

ANDRE

Let me give you a hint what's blue or sometimes red and stings like a bee?

CALLUM

I don't know.

SEAMUS

Me neither.

ANDRE

Royal Navy and Marines.

CALLUM

What would they be doing up here?

ANDRE

You invited them last night, didn't you?

The boys become serious and glance out the door. They exit and stand out in front of the store. While that is happening Fionn gathers several items and places them in a secret compartment under the floorboards.

FIONN

Thanks for the heads-up.

ANDRE

Don't you ever close?

FIONN

We're closed in the day.

ANDRE

What's the thinking behind that?

Fionn thinks it's obvious and doesn't answer.

ANDRE

You don't want people seeing what's brought in?

FIONN

Did you ever think of the irony of "privacy" rhyming with "piracy?"

ANDRE

No, I can't say I ever did. But that's interesting.

BUACHAILL TAÍNO is polishing gold and silver in the back room.

FIONN

Buachaill! Get out here.

The old Indian slowly emerges from the back.

BUACHAILL

I'm almost done, boss.

FIONN

I don't care. Entertain them kids out front will ya?

BUACHAILL

Sure, boss.

Buachaill leaves and we can hear Seamus greet him outside.

SEAMUS

Buachaill, good to see you. Tell us a story will ya?

Fionn moves to the door and turns the open/closed sign to closed.

Andre throws the canvas bag on the counter. Fionn digs through the bag and dumps all the items out on the counter.

Fionn throws the treasure map into a bin marked, "12 for 10¢"

ANDRE

Callum, says that map is genuine.

FIONN

Dime a dozen on this side of town, cara.

(beat)

What's this some sort of spice? A bolt of cloth. Six pocket watches, five knives, four pistols and a LADY'S pettycoat? All this from your lost and found, again?

ANDRE

A man's gotta eat.

FIONN

And you also have four extra mouths to feed.

ANDRE

Six now.

FIONN

Those Spanish boys?

ANDRE

They lost their boat.

FIONN

I heard about them. It won't go well if the Brits find them here.

ANDRE

Why? The Brits're not at war with Spain.

FIONN

Well, by next week you don't know who they'll be at war with.

ANDRE

Good point.

Fionn hands some coins over.

ANDRE

This won't go far.

FIONN

No, not with six kids to feed.

Fionn throws another coin on the counter.

ANDRE

Thanks... How could they be so stupid?

FIONN

Young pups is what I call them.

(beat)

I had a pup once and he fell overboard.

ANDRE

Oh.

FIONN

His mum was distraught. I nearly lost an eye on account of it.

ANDRE

You mean... she... the pup was...

FIONN

Hope your pups have more sense than mind did.

EXT. SIDEWALK - THE SIOPA ÚSÁIDTE PAWN SHOPPE - NIGHT

Buachaill is telling the boys a story or preaching.

BUACHAILL

Tamosi doesn't have a body and indeed we believe the creator has never been seen by mortal man.

SEAMUS

But...

BUACHAILL

Your Moses and the elders must have been smoking opium, maybe?

CALLUM

So how did you know about the scientist?

BUACHAILL

Well, his valet came into the shop and sold some items. Needed cash.

CALLUM

And you didn't have to come outside?

BUACHAILL

Fionn only makes me come outside for local customers.

CALLUM

Makes sense.

BUACHAILL

So, you fought the red-coats?

CALLUM

No, just some pirates.

BUACHAILL

Drunk.

CALLUM

Yep.

BUACHAILL

And then you got out of there?

CALLUM

We wouldn't be here otherwise.

Two blue-coats are coming down the street.

SEAMUS

Oh crap.

When Callum and Seamus turn back around. Buachaill has vanished. Seamus tries the pawnshop door but it's locked he knocks three times and then runs.

INT. THE SIOPA ÚSÁIDTE PAWNSHOPPE

FIONN

You think three means?

ANDRE

He wouldn't be kidding.

Fionn finds three additional contraband items and hides them in a second secret place under the floorboards.

FIONN

Unlock that door, will ya?

Andre opens the door just in time for LT GRAYVESONE and CPT HARTWELL (naval officers and horses asses) to enter. Fionn is down on his knees still hiding the goods. It is a close call.

CPT HARTWELL

What are you doing down there?

FIONN

Mice.

Fionn rises painfully.

CPT HARTWELL

Knee and back pain? I have an old remedy for that.

FIONN

What's that?

CPT HARTWELL

Get a cat, man. And get up.

SONG: Get a Cat, Man. And Get Up.

INT. CRAWL SPACE - BENEATH THE PAWNSHOP

Buachaill has crawled under the building and lights a candle. He goes through the hidden contraband and takes a small easily lost item (a ring or a jewel) and puts it in his pocket. But he can hear the conversation above.

INT. THE SIOPA ÚSÁIDTE PAWNSHOPPE

FIONN

Something I can help you with?

LT GRAYVESONE

Some kids destroyed a laboratory last night in Kingston. But you already knew that.

(beat)

We're looking for the culprits.

ANDRE

Got a description?

LT GRAYVESONE

Maybe it was you?

ANDRE

Oh, no. The last time I messed with the Royal Navy, they had to dig a four-inch piece of wood out of my leg.

FIONN

He still limps when it's cold.

LT GRAYVESONE

It doesn't get cold in the Caribbean, you dolt.

FIONN

Look who's the expert on the weather.

LT GRAYVESONE

Listen, you shady son of a...

Grayvesone is about to pull his sabre.

CPT HARTWELL

How about you go for a little walk,  
Grayvesone?

(beat)

Cool off a bit.

Dutifully, Grayvesone leaves.

ANDRE

Lovely second you have.

CPT HARTWELL

You're an intelligent man. I'm sure you  
know the game - good magistrate bad  
magistrate.

ANDRE

You can get more flies with honey.

CPT HARTWELL

Some things are the same all over the  
world.

(beat)

You know someone crossed the line.

ANDRE

Was anyone hurt?

CPT HARTWELL

A laboratory was blown to bits.

ANDRE

I heard it was just a chair.

CPT HARTWELL

That chair belonged to an important  
professor a member of the Royal Geographic  
Society.

(long beat)

It'll get back to the Queen.

ANDRE

Those explorers don't have time to gossip,  
traipsing around the world as they do.  
Making upside down maps.

CPT HARTWELL

Hardly. But to the point; he's also a member of the Queen's Garden Club.

ANDRE

Oh. That would be different.

CPT HARTWELL

You know what kind of technology they had in there? Enough to make my 96-gun-ship look like a French salon.

ANDRE

The navy needs to make an example?

CPT HARTWELL

The professor needs to feel safe.

ANDRE

Then what is he doing in Port Royal?

CPT HARTWELL

We had a deal, no taxes on your rum, in exchange for information.

(beat)

We'll do things quietly. Give me a name.

(beat)

No one has to know where the information came from.

ANDRE

I can't do that.

CPT HARTWELL

You don't seem to grasp how serious this is. If I don't hang someone, the queen will want to know why?

(beat)

The next time I come up here, I'll have marines with me. And we both know how that'll go.

ANDRE

I'm sorry, Captain Hartwell, but I can't offer up my own people.

CPT HARTWELL

So, they were French?

ANDRE

Well, you fretted that out of me. But I can't name names. If they were Irish or Spanish, or even English well that wouldn't be a problem.

CPT HARTWELL

And that's all you can do for me? That the guilty party talks funny and eats snails?

ANDRE

And we can't fight worth a solitary franc.

CPT HARTWELL

But you run pretty fast. I've witnessed that.

ANDRE

In this case, I understand they sailed right past your 145 cannon and your navy couldn't catch them? Talk of the *ville*.

CPT HARTWELL

Very funny.

He spins and leaves.

INT. ANDRE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Andre wakes with a start and he shakes his head. He's in bed listening but it's nothing but chatter. He walks to the window and looks out. All four of his adopted children are out in the street pointing up the mountain.

BANG. There is an explosion up on the mountain. Rocks and trees and debris fly. And then smoke.

VOICE DOWNSTAIRS

That was the second one.

EXT. BLUE MOUNTAIN - JAMAICA - MORNING

Vincente and Dante are blowing up rocks on the side of the mountain. Dante is directing the action and Vincente is lighting the fuses.

DANTE

(pointing at boulders)

I don't like that one and I don't like that one.

VINCENTE

I don't know; they look sort of nice. But okay.

DANTE

No, just a bit to the left.

VINCENTE

Here.

DANTE

There.

MONTAGE: They blow up six more large boulders and water springs from beneath them. They jump a few of the new streams and continue blowing up the uglier boulders.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF THE WOOD & WATER

Andre is steamed he's had to wait. Ashling rushes out 100 yards into the jungle to warn the boys.

ASHLING

Listen he's angry.

DANTE

We woke him?

ASHLING

That and he's had to wait half the morning for you to get done.

VINCENTE

It's a big mountain. From here it looks small but you get up there and it's *muy* big.

ASHLING

But don't worry he's just gonna chew you out.

DANTE

Chew... like?

They arrive at the city.

ANDRE

What the hell have you two been doing?

DANTE

Well, we were doing it sistemáticamente - springs of water from left to right.

ANDRE

What?

DANTE

We're bringing fresh water to your city.

ANDRE

By using explosives? I thought it was the Royal Navy.

DANTE

Seven new springs. You're going to have to rename your city. Ciudad de Dante? Vincentevill, perhaps?

VINCENTE

What about Ocho Rio because now you have eight rivers?

Andre looks at the once small stream and now it's a river. It disappears directly under his tavern.

ANDRE

God sends water and the devil sends Spaniards.

(beat)  
Come here and look at what you've done.

INT. WOOD & WATER TAVERN

Andre leads the Spainards inside the tavern and down into the room under the bar. He pulls up a trap door and shows them the river of water cascading down the stairwell.

ANDRE  
This was my beach access you nimwits. How am I going to reach the beach now?

DANTE  
Aren't you gonna ask us how we did it?

ANDRE  
No.

DANTE  
Good because we can't tell you.

VINCENTE  
But it has lots of practical uses.

DANTE  
Think about water? The power.

VINCENTE  
And the money.

DANTE  
There are machines that use water to crush things.

ASHLING  
Crush seashells to make more of whatever it is.

VINCENTE  
*Dinamita.*

DANTE  
With water, you can cut wood. You can sell lumber to any navy with money.

ASHLING

He means mill lumber.

ANDRE

Navies always have money.

VINCENTE

And we know how to use the sawdust.

DANTE

And if you need investors?

(beat)

Shipbuilders.

ANDRE

Oh, I get it.

(but)

But it's dangerous work... if you blow yourselves up, my kids will never forgive me.

DANTE

No, it's *caja fuerte*.

ANDRE

No?

ASHLING

Da, it's stable.

ANDRE

Did you just call me, da?

VINCENTE

Nitro. See?

Vincente drops a bamboo bomb on the ground. People, including Andre, jump out of their skin. Nothing happens.

ANDRE

Oh. I see.

Andre is now calm and realizes the power (and wealth) he might have. Andre sits in a chair and contemplates things. Vincente and Dante are greeted by the townspeople. All the pirates see the British military in the bay.

EXT. MALARD'S BAY - JAMAICA - DAY

DREAM SEQUENCE: Andre is still on his chair, daydreaming about two new mills side by side where the tavern used to be. Waggon's of lumber and bombs are hauled down to a new dock and are loaded on merchant ships. A shipbuilder is there with a project. Then the dream moves out into the bay, a British ship-of-the-line (over-sized Union Jack) is anchored there. A small girl rows a boat out to the warship, lights a fuse and tosses a bamboo bomb over the railing... it bounces down the stairs under the water line and explodes. The sailors swim to shore and the ship sinks.

INT. BLACKSMITH'S SHOPPE - DAY

Across the street, Ashling enters the business and she finds tiny Shannon giving instructions to the huge BLACKSMITH.

SHANNON

Smaller and lighter, please.

The mechanical drawing is out on a table. Also on the table are three rough/crude Jack-in-the-box toys. Each is better than the other. The blacksmith notices Ashling.

BLACKSMITH

Hey, I think your sister here has something.

ASHLING

Where did you get these?

SHANNON

At the house we blew up.

ASHLING

We didn't destroy it.

SHANNON

I think I shouldn't go on jobs anymore. I just hate boats... ships.

ASHLING

You conducted yourself well, I thought.

SHANNON

And, they blame me for losing the treasure.

ASHLING

No, they don't. And if they do, I think Vincente and Dante's appreciation more than make up for it.

SHANNON

Maybe but the truth is I'm just not cut out to be a pirate.

ASHLING

You don't have to be a pirate.

(beat)

Look what you're building here. Think of the joy you can give children... with rich parents.

(beat)

You'll have more money than all the pirates combined.

SHANNON

(to the jack-in-the-boxes)

They don't work.

ASHLING

But they will.

(to the blacksmith)

Right?

BLACKSMITH

I think so, yeah. Sure. We're building them better and better every day.

INT. SCIENCE LAB - SPANISH STYLED HOUSE - DAY

Some workers are sweeping up the glass and shattered wood. The professor has brought up several Jack-in-the-Box toys. He has one in pieces on the table.

The PROFESSOR'S WIFE enters the lab.

WIFE

Did you really invent this?

(beat)  
Aren't you crafty?

She cranks until it pops open. She's overjoyed and then she's laughing so hard, she almost drops the toy.

PROFESSOR  
Careful, dear. That's our children's inheritance you're dropping.

In walks Cpt. Hartwell and Lt. Grayvesone.

CPT HARTWELL  
Hello, professor. What are you doing?

PROFESSOR  
Reverse engineering this toy. Someone stole my drawings. They were penned right there.

He gestures to an empty spot on the wall.

CPT HARTWELL  
But they left the drawings of the submarine and the diving bell?

LT GRAYVESONE  
That wasn't very military of them.

CPT HARTWELL  
Curiously not.

LT GRAYVESONE  
Do you mind going over the break-in again? It appears to me all that was taken were some toys and drawings of toys.

PROFESSOR  
I'm more than a toymaker. It's far more than that. You have to believe me and go bombard that infernal Irish pirate city in the north.

CPT HARTWELL  
It's just that we can't destroy a city, Irish pirates or not, without orders.

LT GRAYVESONE

What would the world be like if we allowed wars to be started by common criminals?

PROFESSOR

This lab was full of inventions that have military uses... Had military applications.

LT GRAYVESONE

Like?

PROFESSOR

Blowing up bloody enemy ships!

CPT HARTWELL

You used the past tense? "Had military applications."

PROFESSOR

I'm a serious scientist and they've cleaned me out. Look at this place!

CPT HARTWELL

What exactly happened here, professor?

PROFESSOR

Science happened!

LT GRAYVESONE

Science requires explosives?

PROFESSOR

Sometimes! It sometimes very well does.

LT GRAYVESONE

This wasn't approved by the navy, was it?

PROFESSOR

I don't work for you, you work for me!  
Blast it, man!

CPT HARTWELL

Who authorized your research?

PROFESSOR

Who are you anyway that I need your permission to make anything.

CPT HARTWELL

I'm a Captain in Her Majesty's Navy.

PROFESSOR

And who do you work for?

CPT HARTWELL

The Queen and her ministers.

PROFESSOR

I have a mind to complain.

CPT HARTWELL

They are in London and I wish you would complain. My hands are tied. I can't destroy, what are they calling it now.

LT GRAYVESONE

*Ocho Rio*, sir.

CPT HARTWELL

What? This is our bloody island and I will NOT speak Spanish on it.

PROFESSOR

So, go blow it up and you can rename it whatever you like!

CPT HARTWELL

Not without an order directly from the Queen.

PROFESSOR

I have a mind to travel back to England and make my plea directly to her. I know her you know.

CPT HARTWELL

Ah, life onboard a ship. What a curious creative place to be!

PROFESSOR

What?

CPT HARTWELL

When the physical body is confined and set into a rolling motion, such as a ship the mind expands.

LT GRAYVESONE

Most inventions have taken place onboard ships. Did you not know that?

PROFESSOR

I'm seventy-eight years old and no fool, lieutenant.

CPT HARTWELL

We didn't think you are a fool, sir.

PROFESSOR

I believe I've discovered something truly incredible.

(whispering)

A way to make nitroglycerin stable.

CPT HARTWELL

Stable?

PROFESSOR

Yes.

CPT HARTWELL

Stable enough for a ship?

PROFESSOR

How about if I mix some for you and you go try it out on the Irish in the city named by the Spanish? You'll be famous!

Long beat. Hartwell might cave on this issue. He contemplates throwing the regulations book out the window.

CPT HARTWELL

No.

LT GRAYVESONE  
Nitroglycerin is dangerous.

PROFESSOR  
A force of nature. But it can be controlled. I'm close to a breakthrough, I know it.

LT GRAYVESONE  
How old did you say you were?

PROFESSOR  
I'm... I'm seventy-eight.

LT GRAYVESONE  
Ah.

CPT HARTWELL  
Well, I am under orders not to bombard innocent cities.

PROFESSOR  
Innocent cities? All my life, I've pursued the mysteries of science, only to discover now that a bunch of Irish pirates have stolen my greatest invention.

(beat)

With this weapon, they might someday demand their independence.

LT GRAYVESONE  
Not likely.

PROFESSOR  
And what will we do for cheap labour then?

CPT HARTWELL  
Tell it to the Queen?

WIFE  
You can show this toy to Her Most Britannic Majesty. She'll love it.

PROFESSOR  
Nice, and then I can take the plans by the patent office.

CPT HARTWELL

Sir, I wouldn't do that.

PROFESSOR

But there are pirates out there and they'll steal my idea.

LT GRAYVESONE

Sir, there isn't a pirate anywhere in the world that can replicate this "wonderful" contraption.

CPT HARTWELL

The Queen, she wants military ideas and toys will only obfuscate things.

PROFESSOR

Are you implying that Her Majesty is dense?

LT GRAYVESONE

No sir. He's saying that she simply will not order anything done to a bunch of toy thieves, Irish or not!

CPT HARTWELL

Tell her your work is dangerous, not only to yourself but to the French, the Dutch, the Spanish and if they ever grow a set to the Germans.

LT GRAYVESONE

But speak nothing of toys.

CPT HARTWELL

Do that and I theorize we'll have our way.

PROFESSOR

Okay, I'm going. But only because you've promised to destroy the pirates.

CPT HARTWELL

Bring back her orders, signed and notarized.

SONG: Queen Ann's Orders

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THRONE ROOM - LONDON - DAY

The professor approaches the Queen. She's smoking a cigarette and looks haggard.

PROFESSOR

For your birthday, Your Majesty.

The professor's wife cranks the Jack-in-the-box and it pops up. The wife is still just as amused as always.

QUEEN ANN

Does it explode?

PROFESSOR

I guess it could be rigged to explode,  
Your Majesty.

QUEEN ANN

But, it's a toy. This is too kind.

She's not enthused.

QUEEN ANN

I was told you blew up your workshop  
making it.

PROFESSOR

Not exactly, Your Majesty.

QUEEN ANN

You don't look so clever.

PROFESSOR

I brought you some coffee beans, Your  
Majesty.

QUEEN ANN

Oh, how lovely. You know how I adore  
coffee.

She hands the package of beans to a SERVANT, who in turn hands her a cup of steaming coffee. She spikes the coffee with rum.

PROFESSOR

And tobacco, Your Majesty.

QUEEN ANN

Thank you.

WIFE

What are you trying to do? Kill her?

QUEEN ANN

Now about this petition to attack the Irish on the north shore of Jamaica. War is incredibly expensive.

PROFESSOR

Yes.

QUEEN ANN

If we go to war then there will be no money for toys, and then what will the toymakers do?

PROFESSOR

I now know my inventions were against navy regulations. And, what I did endangered the pirates.

QUEEN ANN

They're NOT pirates; they're my privateers. Cheapest navy a Queen can have.

PROFESSOR

And entirely loyal, as well, Your Majesty.

QUEEN ANN

I find you reckless and over-the-hill.

PROFESSOR

I ask your forgiveness and I hope that I can persuade you to take naval action.

QUEEN ANN

Do you have anything to show for your work besides an explosion and this toy?

PROFESSOR

Uh, no. Everything was stolen by privateers.

QUEEN ANN

No, they were probably pirates. Privateers work for me.

(beat)

Petition denied. Attack no one!

PROFESSOR

I was trying to create stable nitroglycerin.

The entire Queen's Court gasps in awe.

QUEEN ANN

What?

Suddenly the Queen changes her mood.

QUEEN ANN

And, this is something you've studied?

MINISTER

Your Majesty, he blew up a building.

PROFESSOR

Nothing Royal, Your Majesty. It was my home. And well, if you're going to make an omelette you have to break a few eggs.

MINISTER

Your Majesty, think of the danger of transporting it on your Majesties ships.

PROFESSOR

Your Majesty, think of the power.

QUEEN ANN

Ireland, Scotland and England are NOT enough. I want to rule the seas.

PROFESSOR

And France?

QUEEN ANN

I like croissants.

PROFESSOR

What about Spain?

QUEEN ANN

Certainly, their colonies, if they have gold.

PROFESSOR

A wise and prudent queen.

QUEEN ANN

You've proven it will explode but can it be safely transported?

PROFESSOR

Actually, I believe it is possible.

QUEEN ANN

Has anyone ever tried it before?

PROFESSOR

There are reports of two Spanish youth travelling about...

QUEEN ANN

(shocked and angry)

Spanish!

PROFESSOR

They're supposedly creating water springs for the natives.

MINISTER

Well, case solved. It's simple they are the one's who broke into your lab and stole the secret. They must be hunted down.

PROFESSOR

Hunt them all, your Majesty.

QUEEN ANN

This might be progress and future generations will thank us for it.

PROFESSOR

We must not allow this power to fall into the wrong hands. If the Irish get it...

QUEEN ANN

I'm not worried about the Irish, it's the French and the Spanish we're at war with this week.

PROFESSOR

The Irish...

QUEEN ANN

(chuckling)

If they stab us in the back, who will they have to speak with? The French? The Spanish? The Germans?

(beat)

Tell the Irish if they fight beside us, then when the war with France and Spain is over, we'll give them their independence.

MINISTER

You're going to let them go, Your Majesty.

QUEEN ANN

Of course not. What did I tell you, "TELL THEM," no one said anything about actually doing it.

(beat)

So, Professor. How does it feel you came in here an old fart and now you're leaving a national hero!

The professor and his wife bow and back out of the room. When they're gone, the queen reaches for the Jack-in-the-box and turns the crank, when Jack pops up she chuckles. But looks around to make sure no one had seen.

INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN - HMS ROYAL SOVEREIGN - NIGHT

Cpt. Hartwell and Lt. Grayvesone drink whiskey.

CPT HARTWELL

All this mess over a simple robbery. The Queen's involved.

LT GRAYVESONE

Whatever it was it's VERY dangerous. Every village on the island has a new spring. They can build mills.

CPT HARTWELL

We didn't grant any such permits did we?  
(beat)  
And now the Spanish kids are wildly popular?

LT GRAYVESONE

You don't have to be an Oxford man to know there's power in water. Social and economic. If everyone has it. There will be chaos.

CPT HARTWELL

Can't have that. This is an agricultural island. The occupants must be kept simple and powerless.

LT GRAYVESONE

Literally, sir.

CPT HARTWELL

Is everything is being done to keep it that way?

LT GRAYVESONE

We're importing slaves as fast as possible.

CPT HARTWELL

Well, this rumour of water mills, shipbuilding and cottage industries have the establishment worried. If the industry

comes to this island they demand that they alone own it.

(beat)

The terrorists must be apprehended.

LT GRAYVESONE

Sir, terrorists?

CPT HARTWELL

They have bombs? And they're what?

LT GRAYVESONE

Spanish... Allegedly.

(beat)

Sir, we're doing our best. I assure you.

CPT HARTWELL

Conduct general searches.

LT GRAYVESONE

How many warrants?

CPT HARTWELL

One will do. And I want interrogations and freeze the commerce of the natives.

LT GRAYVESONE

With all due respect, it's not the natives who are hiding them. It's the Irish pirates.

CPT HARTWELL

These Irish kids, are they legally pirates or privateers?

LT GRAYVESONE

If they're privateers, they're working for the French.

CPT HARTWELL

It's that ugly Frenchman up north. What's he doing on an English island?

LT GRAYVESONE

And the culprits are supposedly Spanish.

CPT HARTWELL

Do whatever it takes. Turn *Ocho Rio* upside down if you have to. Just find them!

INT. BACK OF THE SEA CAVE - DAY

The water is cascading down the stairwell and emptying into the sea. It's a large cave and they've set up a gun range with pendulums with sandbags as moving targets.

CALLUM

Andre said to stay out of trouble.

ASHLING

The navy will never come down here, so this is as good a place as any.

SEAMUS

Oh, what's the matter, Callum?

(beat)

You worried Shannon's better than you?

CALLUM

Hey, she's got a smaller gun. It's an unfair advantage.

ASHLING

What we need to go on another raid, right?

SEAMUS

Are you kidding?

ASHLING

That was the best job we've ever done.

ASHLING

Maybe just don't pick up any strangers next time?

Callum fires a rifle and misses.

CALLUM

Um...

Shannon has a tiny pistol; she fires and hits her sandbag.

ASHLING

Get back.

INT. ONE THE BEACH NEAR THE SEA CAVE - DAY

The British naval ship is anchored off *Ocho Rio*. They have landed a skiff with six marines. An 18<sup>th</sup>-century BEACH BUM sees them and runs. He's quickly caught.

LT GRAYVESONE

Tell me where I can find the Spanish kids.

BEACH BUM

You've got ears. They're blowing up every rock on the island. You can't miss them.

A marine puts a bayonet at the man's throat.

LT GRAYVESONE

Give me a location.

The sound of the gun fire spills out from the cave onto the beach.

INT. BOTTOM OF THE SEA CAVE - DAY

Ashling fires her rifle and hits the target. The Marines and Lt Grayvesone are standing behind them.

SEAMUS

Hey, guys?

ASHLING

We don't have anything.

LT GRAYVESONE

What are you holding? Confiscate everything.

ASHLING

You know that's the only thing I hear you say.

LT GRAYVESONE

Naturally, we're the government. And no one complains outside of Virginia.

ASHLING

Okay, then here's my complaint.

Ashling throws her weapon at the Lieutenant and bolts for the stairwell, despite the cascading water.

ASHLING

Go!

CALLUM

Go!

LT GRAYVESONE

Apprehend them!

MARINE SGT

Get them!

There is a path up the stairs through the falling water. Only a light nimble and experienced young person can climb the stairs. They must duck and weave at the right times and places. The pursuing marines can't and they are knocked back by the rushing water. Some marines roll down the stairs; others fall from heights into the water at the bottom of the cave.

MARINE SGT

It's impossible, sir!

LT GRAYVESONE

Fine. We'll go around to get up top.

They leave the cave and start the trek to the city above.

INT. ROOM ABOVE THE BAR - DAY

Emerge into the bar. The pirates dinking there and relaxing see they're wet and the expressions on their faces.

PIRATE

The British are coming! The British are coming!

The barmaid hands the youngsters towels.

ASHLING

We need to find Vincente and Dante.

CALLUM

They're in the interior, doing what they do best.

EXT. INLAND TAÍNOS CITY - JAMAICA - DAY

Vincente and Dante are enjoying a feast. The Taínos have laid out a spread of food. Vincente and Dante are loving it.

TAÍNOS CHIEF

And as the chief of this village, I would like to thank our fine Spanish friends for the spring of water.

EXT. STREETS - OCHO RIO - DAY

The Irish heroes stand on the porch of the tavern and watch it all with enthusiasm for rebellion. The entire pirate city mobilizes and every type of weapon is put in hand. However, then everyone disappears into the jungle. The resistance disappears and the Irish heroes are disappointed.

INT. WOOD & WATER TAVERN - DAY

All the dangerous pirates have left. The only pirates remaining in the bar have wooden stumps for legs or are above seventy. One is blind and one is deaf with an ear horn. However harmless they look, they appear they might want to fight.

The Barmaid slowly walks upstairs. She opens the door and all six of the young heroes know what to do? They scamper out the windows and slide down the side of the building and run into the jungle.

ANDRE

Welcome to the Wood & Water. What can I get you?

LT GRAYVESONE

Two Spanish spies, hung not poured. And four Irish snakes.

ANDRE

Ireland doesn't have snakes. Is Saint Patrick not big in your religion?

LT GRAYVESONE

Search the place.

ANDRE

Protestant Neanderthal.

LT GRAYVESONE

What did you say?

ANDRE

Protest isn't worth it, at all?

The marines fan out and two climb the stairs. They pass the barmaid who is coming down.

LT GRAYVESONE

I ran into an old friend of yours. He had some stories about up north.

(beat)

You weren't always a barkeeper, were you?

The Lieutenant gestures to the two French light rapiers hanging crossed on the wall above the bar.

ANDRE

Yeah, well, no one ever escapes Canada. No matter how far they go. Right?

LT GRAYVESONE

Be a shame if you had to get them down.

The Lieutenant looks at two French bastard swords also on a wall.

LT GRAYVESONE

Hand and a half?

ANDRE

If I need a two-hander, I use that one.

Andre gestures to yet another wall at a heavy mediaeval sword.

ANDRE

Blood's harder to clean off those old ones.

LT GRAYVESONE

All these swords meant to be a warning?

ANDRE

No, they're just decorations. The pirates like looking at um. I'm retired.

LT GRAYVESONE

You French are all the same, mistaking swagger for a backbone.

(beat)

Your pirate ship...

ANDRE

It's not my pirate ship.

LT GRAYVESONE

Near enough.

ANDRE

Now, what's a Frenchman like me doing naming a ship *The Dubliner*. I've never been there but they tell me the pubs are nice.

LT GRAYVESONE

So what's its name? Well, when they saw us they set sail and ran.

ANDRE

Of course.

LT GRAYVESONE

Of course?

ANDRE

They're pirates, not idiots.

LT GRAYVESONE

Cowards.

ANDRE

If you felt that way you should have given chase.

LT GRAYVESONE

And miss this?

The marines return to the Lieutenant and shake their heads no. Nothing has been found. The Lieutenant storms out of the building.

LT GRAYVESONE

And I'm gonna hang the lot of 'em.

EXT. ROOF - WOOD & WATER - DAY

Andre arrives and finds the six young outlaws sitting on the roof, meditating on their predicament. They can see out into the harbour and there is only a British Man-of-War.

ASHLING

Are they gone?

ANDRE

Are you all okay?

ASHLING

No, we're not okay. They came up the stairs and we had to hide here on the roof. And *The Dubliner* is gone.

ANDRE

Don't worry, the Brits won't be here forever. Our ship will come back. That's what pirates do. They run and hide and then return.

ASHLING

What if they take the Spaniards?

ANDRE

No one is taking anyone. I'll never let that happen.

ASHLING

It nearly happened.

ANDRE

Please come down. Not all of you just  
Ashling.

EXT. JUNGLE SPOT - DAY

Ashling climbs down a tree off the roof. They walk a  
few steps and then sit on some fallen logs.

ANDRE

I got some nice compliments on your  
decorating just then.

ASHLING

From the bluecoat? I saw him.

ANDRE

He was intimidated by the swords. And he  
said he thought I was Irish until I spoke  
to him.

ASHLING

I heard you have a deal with them...

Long beat.

ANDRE

Okay, I'll admit it. I only turned over  
English pirates. And it bought me a  
certain amount of goodwill and lowered  
taxes.

ASHLING

That's gone now?

ANDRE

That's gone now. Correct.

ASHLING

So you don't owe them anything.

ANDRE

I don't think I ever did.

(beat)

So, we're good?

ASHLING

It's just that I need satisfaction.

ANDRE

Like from a dual?

ASHLING

Well, yea. I guess.

ANDRE

You're upset about being pushed out a window onto the roof? It's insulting to you?

ASHLING

No. It's because they abandoned me, and YOU, at sea and because they've enslaved my people for centuries and they are just so damn infuriating. I can't stand the way they talk. Protestants. It's all insulting.

ANDRE

They insult me also. I heard one redcoat call me a "frog." And they said we don't fight but we run.

ASHLING

Yes, you do.

ANDRE

(chuckling)

Sometimes. It's true.

ASHLING

Well, I'm not running.

ANDRE

But you are so young for your heart to be so on fire. It's not right.

ASHLING

You were there on that raft.

ANDRE

Yes, but before that, I was in Canada, with my mother and father. We had it really nice but I was angry, just like you.

(beat)

I walked over a bridge, thinking nothing would happen. If I hadn't...

(beat)

My parents would still be alive.

(beat)

I know you wanna hurt the Brits for what they've done to us. But who are you willing to lose? Callum? Seamas? Shannon?

(chuckling)

You might get me killed. It's bad enough with all the swords in my pub, they invite aggression towards me. And, I'm the one putting food on the table.

ASHLING

I can do that, if I have to.

ANDRE

Nobody wins in war, Ash.

ASHLING

What are we gonna do? The navy will come back.

ANDRE

I... I don't know. I'll, uh, I'll figure it out.

INT. ROOM ABOVE THE BAR - DAY

Ashling hears the footsteps first.

ASHLING

(whispering)

Someone, two people, coming up the stairs.

CALLUM

Andre? And the barmaid?

ASHLING  
That doesn't happen.

SEAMUS  
Marines?

Ashling grabs her swords; same with Callum, and Seamus.  
Shannon has her tiny flintlock cocked and ready.

The two Spaniards have grenades ready. Vincente and Dante are straddling the open windows, with one leg in and one leg out. They are ready to pitch their grenades and dive out.

The door opens and it's a huge relief. It's Andre and Fionn. Fionn has a picnic basket full of food.

The young people sigh and Andre and Fionn give a good time cheer and laugh!

SHANNON  
Da. It's you and Fionn.

ASHLING  
We thought...

ANDRE  
You thought we were the navy. Admit it!

FIONN  
Ha! Scared out a ya boots.

ANDRE  
A da is never welcomed in his own home?  
(beat)  
The Brits are gone and *The Dubliner* has returned.

FIONN  
And we thought we'd take you all on a wee picnic.

ANDRE  
Ever been on a real pirate ship?

ASHLING  
We're gonna picnic on a pirate ship?

ANDRE

Of course. You don't like pirates?

(beat)

You know that ugly gaggle has put a roof  
over our heads for three years now. So  
lets' go.

EXT. PIRATE SHIP - *THE DUBLINER* - DAY

The crew arrives at the ladder leading up to the frigate's deck. The young people climb up the ladder followed by Andre. Fionn suspiciously remains in the dinghy.

Andre is greeted by the vessel's PIRATE CAPTAIN, who doesn't look too scary. He looks more like a trader in an 18<sup>th</sup>-century business suit. Andre hands the captain the picnic basket, a note and a bag of coins. They nod their understanding of a previous agreement. Andre descends down the ladder.

Ashling goes ballistic crying and bolts for the ladder. Ashling panics and if not restrained would be in the water. She's the only young person trying to get off the boat. Two LARGE PIRATES must hold back Ashling. The character we thought was the strongest is actually the most dependant.

ASHLING

Da. No! No!

CALLUM

What's he doing?

ASHLING

He's betrayed us!

LARGE PIRATE

Now, now. Lassie. It's just for a bit.

The only child not to cry is Shannon. She only has a curious abandoned look on her face. Andre shouts up.

ANDRE

I'm proud of you. Always have been.

ASHLING

Why?

ANDRE

I'm sorry, I... This is the only way  
to protect the others.

The other young people run to the rail and cry down. Even the  
older Spanish boys have a tear in their eye.

DANTE

Andre! Don't leave us.

ANDRE

You've got good hearts. Don't ever lose  
it. No matter how the world tries to break  
you.

ASHLING

No.

ANDRE

Protect the family.

SEAMUS

Da.

Ashling continues to struggle.

ASHLING

Let me off this ship. This isn't right.

CAPTAIN

(to Ashling)

I'm taking you to Montserrat for a time.  
You'll be back when things cool off here.

LARGE PIRATE

It's a nice Irish island. 5,000 miles from  
Cork but still it's nice.

The shocked look on the faces of the pirates, who don't have  
families of any sort. They are moved by it. PULL BACK and we  
see all the Irish pirates, the entire town - whole pirates,  
their undone lady friends and most noticeably the lame, blind,  
deaf and elderly pirates.

When Andred reaches the dinghy they shove off and Fionn is handed a set of keys, presumably to the tavern.

INT. WOOD & WATER TAVERN - DAY

The tavern is empty, except for Andre. He sits at the bar pouring rum from one glass to another. He is passing the time, waiting for the British to return.

Lt. Grayvesone enters with an official-looking warrant.

ANDRE

I'm guessing that's for me?

LT GRAYVESONE

You gonna make us arrest you, really?

ANDRE

You'll allow a condemned man one last drink?

Andre downs both glasses of rum.

LT GRAYVESONE

We've been at odds, but I'm not in favour of this.

ANDRE

The Queen needs her scapegoat.

LT GRAYVESONE

The Captain sent word you can remain here.

ANDRE

Just that I have to hand over my family?

LT GRAYVESONE

Your not blood kin to any of them. You're French, and they're Irish...

ANDRE

... and Spanish.

(beat)

No deal.

LT GRAYVESONE

Without you up here, our intelligence network falls apart.

ANDRE

I only gave you information to keep everyone safe. And now that everyone's gone...

LT GRAYVESONE

You'll fall on your sword.

ANDRE

If you want to put it that way.

LT GRAYVESONE

The captain said you'd make it difficult.

ANDRE

If they come back Fionn can handle things.

LT GRAYVESONE

You won't be coming back for a long time.

ANDRE

He has the keys. And that's okay.

LT GRAYVESONE

Why?

ANDRE

It's the only way I see it happening.

The marines handcuff Andre and march him outside.

EXT. OCHO RIO HARBOUR - DAY

*There are now two men-of-war ships off Ocho Rio. The London has arrived.*

ANDRE

I'm so dangerous it takes two men-of-war?  
How very British of you to exaggerate everything.

Lt Grayvesone looks curiously at *The London*. Unexpected.

EXT. WOOD & WATER TAVERN - DAY

Fionn locks the tavern door and turns. Out of the jungle emerge 50 British marines, rifles up. It's no match for the 6 marines escorting Lieutenant Grayvesone.

ANDRE  
What's happening?

LT GRAYVESONE  
Hey. Stop right there!

CPT PIGOT is in command of the large force. Pigot hands Lt. Grayvesone a set of orders.

LT GRAYVESONE  
What the devil...

CPT PIGOT  
That's right this comes straight from the top. I'm to take charge of the prisoner, extract any information. To spare no civility. Sail *The London* to Monserrate and hunt down, what you lazily allowed to escape.

ANDRE  
You're the captain of *The London*?

CPT PIGOT  
No. I'm Fanny Hill.

ANDRE  
Pigot?

CPT PIGOT  
Oh, you remember me?

ANDRE  
Or course you massacred half of Grand Pré.

CPT PIGOT

I remember you. Wasn't Canada fun? The French and Indian Wars, maybe we should do a repeat?

ANDRE

We call it Queen Ann's War. She started it. All that blood is on her.

CPT PIGOT

I like to think, I started it. If you repeat that I'll deny I ever said it. She gets far too much credit for that war.

ANDRE

You're a butcher, an animal.

CPT PIGOT

Well, make up your mind; which is it?

ANDRE

Well for the record, both terms are too good for you.

And Pigot in one swift motion severing Andre's Achilles tendon. Andre only grimaces in pain.

LT GRAYVESONE

Look here, there wasn't any need for that.

CPT PIGOT

He was trying to escape. It's the Queen's own signature.

Pigot reaches for the order and takes them back.

ANDRE

Fionn, stay back.

Fionn pulls a pistol and discharges it, missing Pigot, but injuring a tree. Fionn is shot 14 times by the marines.

LT GRAYVESONE

Captain, I really must protest.

CPT PIGOT

You and your imbecilic captain are the ones who invited all this to happen, allowing the Irish pirates to escape.

LT GRAYVESONE

I can not allow this.

CPT PIGOT

You'd best restrain yourself.

Pigot turns and the Marines drag Andre through the jungle.

LT GRAYVESONE

Wait. I said wait.

Grayvesone follows them until they reach the anchorage. We see in detail the two British warships.

EXT. *THE DUBLINER* - PLYMOUTH BAY - MONTSERRAT - DAY

A LOOKOUT on *The Dubliner* is looking northwest.

LOOKOUT

Long!

In a cabin, the captain throws down a book and scrambles up to the deck. He extends his telescope.

PIRATE CAPTAIN

A 96-gun behemoth. Set sail.

PIRATE MATE

What about those onshore?

PIRATE CAPTAIN

Nothing can be done about that. They'll have us for lunch if we don't leave.

EXT. *LONDON* - PLYMOUTH HARBOUR - MONTSERRAT - DAY

It's the worst harbour in the Caribbean. Technically, it's NOT a harbour at all.

LT SMITH

Pirate ship leaving their anchorage.

Pigot is looking through his telescope. Saint Andrew's Church and the city. Pigot alternates his view from the island to the pirate ship and back and forth a few times. He's non-committal. He scans the mountain behind the city.

LT SMITH

Sir, should we pursue?

Long pause. Pigot is still alternatively studying the island and the pirate ship.

LT SMITH

Sir, we can catch them.

(long beat)

Sir, a prize.

Suddenly there is a puff of smoke and an apparent explosion on the side of the mountain.

FLASH: Pebbles rain down. Vincente and Dante emerge from their cover. They look like engineers creating a water spring.

The entire deck crew is eyeballing the British captain. They want action, notoriety and they want a prize (\$\$\$).

CPT PIGOT

No, let them go.

LT SMITH

Sir?

CPT PIGOT

Our prize is about halfway up that mountain.

He hands the lieutenant the telescope. There is still a bit of smoke in the air.

The sailors are disappointed.

CPT PIGOT

Disappointed?

(beat)

The men are disappointed. Lieutenant Smith?

LT SMITH  
Forward cannons ready?

The cannoneers signal they are ready.

LT SMITH  
Commence firing.

Two cannonballs narrowly miss *The Dubliner*. No damage.

LT SMITH  
Cease firing.

CPT PIGOT  
Oh, a narrow miss. Nice try, however.  
(beat)  
Douse the sails. Anchorage, Lieutenant Smith.

The ship comes to a halt directly in front of Plymouth.

The Brits are all looking at the island and don't notice, *The Dubliner* fire her stern cannons. Suddenly a cannonball smashes into the quarter deck railing of *The London*. A three-foot section of the rail is splintered and the ball splashes in the bay. The second ball hits the side of *The London* but bounces off. Both balls come within feet of Pigot, but he's unphased.

CPT PIGOT  
Shipwright to the quarter deck.

LT SMITH  
(derogatory)  
Cheeky bog catholics, sir.

CPT PIGOT  
(derogatory)  
Irish courage.

Pigot continues to survey the island through his telescope. He wants the Spanish and their dynamite.

EXT. CITY OF PLYMOUTH - MONTSERRAT - DAY

The city is in chaos. Homes searched. Possessions broken/stolen. The jungle outside of the city is in chaos as marines chop through the forest. Animals and natives running for their lives.

EXT. MOUNTAN VIEW - MONTSERRAT - DAY

All six of the young people have assembled at a mountain cave. There are provisions. Ashling looks down on the situation with her telescope.

Buachaill Táino arrives on the beach in the same small sailboat. Ashling notices.

ASHLING

Buachaill Táino. He'll have news.

The entire island is full of marines. Ashling runs through the jungle recklessly. She's followed by Callum, Seamus and Shannon. Dante wants to follow but Vincente stops him.

A squad of marines cut off Callum, Seamus and Shannon. They stop and see a second squad chopping the jungle with machetes. Callum, Seamus and Shannon return to the cave.

EXT. BEACH - MONTSERRAT

Only Ashling reaches the beach. Buachaill is a senior citizen and suffering from several days in a small boat.

BUACHAILL

I saw everything.

ASHLING

What happened?

BUACHAILL

Fionn. They... I've never seen such a murder.

ASHLING

What about Andre?

BUACHAILL

They took him.

ASHLING

Where?

BUACHAILL

He's onboard *The London*.

ASHLING

And that's *The London*?

BUACHAILL

You're familiar?

ASHLING

You might say that.

INT. BELOW DECK - *THE LONDON*

Andre has been beaten and is bloody. He is shackled to a pillar. Cpt. Pigot is interrogating him, wasting everyone's time.

CPT PIGOT

It's a little crude, I'll admit. But the violence is necessary for order.

ANDRE

You say, "order." I say, "control."

CPT PIGOT

Well, we can both agree the Irish won't submit to either, order OR control.

ANDRE

You'll go bankrupt. Even with your navy, you can't control every island.

CPT PIGOT

We don't have to. We just have to keep them on the run.

ANDRE

How's that working out for ya?

CPT PIGOT

They won't dare set foot on Jamaica again. And that's what I call progress. The queen will be delighted.

ANDRE

You've killed people. For what? The established order?

CPT PIGOT

For law AND order.

ANDRE

The Irish they might have settled down built Ocho Rio into something. Industry, you could tax. And now you have them here with nothing to tax.

CPT PIGOT

Oh, I don't know. If there isn't too much resistance a few might live to pay taxes.

ANDRE

I understand Queen Anne, but why are you doing this?

CPT PIGOT

Well, the powers that be... and the only way to defeat an inferior enemy is to persevere.

ANDRE

Ever consider coexistence?

CPT PIGOT

With the Irish? On the same island? That would only give the enemy an opportunity.

ANDRE

To do what? Build something?

CPT PIGOT

You had my respect fighting in Canada. Why didn't you fight that Lieutenant? You could have taken him.

ANDRE

I'm just... not that man anymore.

CPT PIGOT

You are just the man to write a letter to these pubescent wards of yours.

ANDRE

Fat chance.

CPT PIGOT

It might save them. And you can save yourself.

INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - MONTSERRAT - NIGHT

The cave is Vincente and Dante's new laboratory (ad-hock dynamite factory) and it's full of grenades and various other weapons.

CALLUM

Well, if the marines wanna climb up here, we'll be ready...

There is a sound outside the cave. Ashling arrives.

CALLUM

Ash?

ASHLING

Where's the guard. Someone is supposed to be outside.

CALLUM

Oh, you're back.

SEAMUS

What's the news?

ASHLING

The Indian is dead.

SEAMUS

He was my friend.

ASHLING

A week in a boat without water. Well I don't have to explain to you.

(beat)

He came to warn us.

(beat)

They took Andre.

CALLLUM

Who?

ASHLING

He's out on *The London*.

SEAMUS

That's *The London*?

They react like it's the devil anchored off-shore.

ASHLING

I'm going to get him.

DANTE

We're going with you.

CALLLUM

You're not doing this alone, Ash.

SHANNON

He's our da too.

ASHLING

I need you to sit this one out, Shannon.

SHANNON

What?

ASHLING

You're not coming.

SHANNON

I'm not afraid.

ASHLING

It's too dangerous.

SHANNON

But families stick together. You said it yourself.

ASHLING

I know what I said...

SHANNON

I can carry bombs. I can help.

ASHLING

See all this stuff? It's important.

CALLUM

We can't lose it.

DANTE

And we can't let the British have it. They might discover how it's made.

VINCENTE

Here. If they come up here, light this and run.

SEAMUS

Please.

Ashling nods her approval.

ASHLING

If it happens. I'll find you. I promise.

ASHLING

The marines are all on the island; taking their ship'll be a cakewalk.

(beat)

Two skiffs... one is a diversion and the other will row to the far side of the ship. You'll climb the anchor chain. Okay?

(beat)

Who knows English drinking songs?

SEAMUS

What? We're just kids.

CALLUM

I've heard them in the tavern but I don't know the words.

ASHLING

Those are too Irish.

(beat)

We need a diversion. Portside.

VINCENTE

How about Spanish drinking songs?

ASHLING

Okay. That will have to do.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DECK OF *THE LONDON* - NIGHT

Andre is shackled to a mast. There are FOUR ATTENTIVE GUARDS. In the distance, they hear singing. They all run to the port (island side). A small boat is in the moon rowing out.

VINCENTE AND DANTE

(thick Spanish accent)

*She sometimes forgets to mention the Queen  
When she's being hit on, she's not so polite  
Won't bite her tongue, she speaks her mind  
Curse words fly when cannon go wrong  
Controversial, so outspoken. I'm sold  
She's a lady that likes to drink.  
But she can bring me to my knees  
Got me kicked off the good ship Garden of Eden  
Unfathomable, Unsinkable, HMS Maiden.  
Kissed me like a rum fire  
But moisture can misfire  
She's a lady that likes to drink  
She's a lady that likes to drink*

GUARD #1

They're drunk.

GUARD #2

I hope they brought us some.

The singing becomes more clear.

GUARD #1

Is that a Spanish accent?

GUARD #2 strains to hear. GUARD #1 fires a rifle shot and the bullet whizzes by, just above the Spanish boys. The singing ends abruptly. Beat.

VINCENTE AND DANTE

(mocking a cockney accent)

There once was a pirate named Bonnie  
She was tough though not very brawny  
She liked to chew gum  
And drink lots of rum  
Enough to take down the Armada big or scrawny

GUARD #1

They think we're dumb. What pirate doesn't know that one by heart?

GUARD #2

Pirates!

GUARD #1

(shouting)

It's a ruse! It's a ruse!  
(to the starboard side guards)  
Get back over there. It's a trick. Look out over there!

GUARDS #3 and #4 would return to their starboard watches but just then...

EXT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - MONTSERRAT - NIGHT

Shannon is crying and is incredibly nervous. Waiting. She looks out onto the bay and at the small dinghy approaching the warship. She sees the flash of the musket fired from the warship. And a wild goat steps on a stick. Shannon looks at the goat's eyes shining in the moonlight and she lights the fuse. She grabs four grenades and runs down the mountain.

EXT. DECK OF *THE LONDON* - NIGHT

The cave on the side of the mountain explodes with a huge bang! Guards rush over to the port side. But the dinghy looks

empty. The Spanish boys are in the water, behind the craft pushing to it toward the warship. They have lit a fuse and it's now a mine set to blow a hole in the side of *The London*. Just as the boat contacts the hull of the warship, Vincente and Dante dive and swim off the razor's edge. They make their way to the far side of the ship to the starboard ladders and climb up.

The rifle fire and then the cave explosion wakes most of the sailors on *The London*. By the time the crew rise to their feet, the skiff detonates and the ship is rocked and begins taking on water. Two of the guards on deck are thrown overboard by the concussion.

The cave explosion also allows Seamus to shimmy up the anchor chain. He has some bombs, which he detonates. He pitches two bombs down hatches which destroy the stairs leading to the deck. Seamus unfurls the starboard rope ladder.

When Seamus is confronted by the remaining guards, he throws grenades at them, one a stern and one aft. Rather than be exploded they opt to dive into the water. The deck is clear.

In the mass of confusion, Andre is freed and the four boys lower Andre (by crane and rope) to the skiff.

*The Dubliner* returns in the night and fires a broadside into *The London's* starboard side.

INT. BELOW DECK - *THE LONDON* - NIGHT

LT SMITH

We're doomed, captain.

(beat)

At the waterline, there is a four-foot hole in the port side.

(beat)

And now because of the broadside, the starboard side is leaking badly.

PULL BACK and we see the captain and lieutenant are standing in waist-deep water on the lower gun deck.

CPT PIGOT

There isn't any chance of saving the ship.

LT SMITH

No sir. Not in my opinion.

CPT PIGOT

I'm not asking I'm telling!

LT SMITH

Abandon ship.

The sailors still can't reach the deck. The stairways up are splinters. They begin crawling out the gun ports into the water.

EXT. ONSHORE - PLYMOUTH - NIGHT

The marines occupying the homes in Plymouth awake and get dressed. Once the soldiers leave, numerous fathers go into the jungle and bring their daughters back inside for some dinner and tea.

Looking to row out and defend the besieged ship. There are four royal dinghies at the wharf. The marines are marching to their boats. But Shannon has beaten them there. Shannon is casually pitching bombs into the empty dinghies. Soon they are splinters. Shannon disappears down the beach.

Buachaill Taino isn't dead.

FLASH: Natives emerge from the jungle and give Buachaill water and fruits. He sits up disoriented.

BACK TO THE BEACH

Buachaill finds Shannon on the beach and they sail out to *The Dubliner* in the *Wean Craic*.

One hundred Irish pirates in twenty skiffs row out to the *Dubliner*.

EXT. DECK - *THE DUBLINER* - DAWN

Andre is hoisted up on deck (again by crane). And he's rightly cheered as a hero returned to them. The young people must push their way through the celebrating pirates to reach him. The scribe is trying to take notes but he's being jostled about.

Andre is overwhelmed by kisses from the Irish youngsters and hugged by the Spanish boys.

In the background, *The London* sinks to the bottom.

FADE OUT.