

SIREN'S GOLD

Written by

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"There are three sorts of people; those who are alive, those who are dead, and those who are at sea." -Aristotle

"What is become of her since, we cannot tell; only this we know, that she was not executed." -Charles Johnson on Anne Bonny

EXT. TYGER - SNOW VESSEL: 16 GUNS, 90 TONNES - FOREDECK - NIGHT

A quiet night at sea -- those not abed wish they were. Sluggish waves lap against the hull. A bell is run halfheartedly -- *ding ding, ding ding.*

ANDREW

(northern accent, mumbling to himself)

Four bells. Four bells and all's... daft and dull, that's what I say it is.

MICK

(cheery scotsman, listening in)

Somebody's nae fond o' the first watch, eh?

ANDREW

(grumbling)

No honest man should be. Only fit for ghouls and ghosts.

MICK

(enjoying his comrade's displeasure)

And drunkards, a' course.

ANDREW

(bitter)

Of course.

Mick pulls an onion bottle from his pocket, uncorks it, and throws back a draught.

MICK

(drunken sarcasm)

Care to join the ranks of the undead, seaman Andrews?

ANDREW

(halfhearted)

Captain'll have my hide if he finds out, Mick...

MICK

Aach, I'm not going to tell him... are you?

ANDREW CHUCKLES, then grabs the bottle from Mick.

MICK (CONT'D)  
 (as andrew drinks)  
 Damm'd queer weather.

ANDREW  
 (confused)  
 What's so strange 'bout it?

MICK  
 This fog. Came up outta nowhere,  
 far as I ken. Thickest I ever seen.

ANDREW  
 (SCOFFS)  
 Someone's never been to London...

MICK  
 ...and counts his self lucky he  
 hasn't.

MICK AND ANDREW CHUCKLE. When they're done, the silence is even more oppressive. They sit in it a moment.

ANDREW  
 (agreeing)  
 Damned queer.

He goes to take another swig as a loud splash is heard off the side of the ship. ANDREW CHOKES IN ALARM.

MICK  
 (unnerved)  
 What in god'sname is that...

Another splash. Andrew and Mick rush to the railing.

ANDREW  
 Mother of... MAN OVERBOARD! MAN  
 OVERBOARD!!

MICK  
 (panicked)  
 He's slippin' under! Someone get  
 help...!

Before he can finish, Andrew has removed his coat and dived in.

MICK (CONT'D)  
 (annoyed)  
 Or ye just can be a damm'd fool and  
 jump before ye think what...

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (irritated at being woken)  
 Landsman MacKay, hat is the meaning  
 of this?

MICK  
 (alarmed, but masking it)  
 Captain! I, uh... it's ah...

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (noticing Andrew in the  
 water)  
 Calamity and damnation, what's  
 Andrews doing in the water on a  
 night like this?

MICK  
 Oh, uh, yes, well, there's a... we  
 saw uh....

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (looking closer)  
 Good heavens, who has he got  
 there?! MAN OVERBOARD! MAN  
 OVERBOARD!  
 (to Mick)  
 Don't just stand there man, throw  
 him a line!

MICK  
 (relieved this  
 conversation is over)  
 Aye, sir!

Mick rushes off, grabs a rope, and throws it into the water.

MICK (CONT'D)  
 Andrew! Grab hold!

ANDREW  
 (sputtering)  
 Got it! Hurry!

MICK STRAINS AND GRUNTS AS HE PULLS. The rope stretches and  
 creaks as he pulls, but eventually, Andrew and the drowning  
 man clear the railing and wetly flop onto the deck.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 Mick, go and fetch the surgeon to  
 my cabin. Now!

MICK  
 Aye, sir!

Mick runs down deck. ANDREW COUGHS UP SALTWATER.

JONATHAN BARNET

(disapproving)

Boatswain Andrews, what in the name of sanity was running through that fool head of yours to make you leap overboard after this man?

ANDREW

(COUGHING)

I really wish I knew, sir. Honest, I do.

Before the captain can respond, THE DROWNED MAN GASPS, THEN TURNS OVER AND VOMITS UP A LITRE OF SEAWATER.

JONATHAN BARNET

Easy, easy man... try to breathe slowly.

THE DROWNED MAN (Eli Barrett) WRETCHES AND COUGHS.

ELI BARRETT

(THROUGH GASPS)

Where am I?

JONATHAN BARNET

You're onboard the snow, *Tyger*. I'm her captain. You're safe now.

ELI BARRETT

Where is she?

JONATHAN BARNET

(confused)

Where is who?

ELI BARRETT

(growing aggressive)

Where is she!?

JONATHAN BARNET

Who!?

ELI BARRETT

Anne Bonny, damnation! Tell me where she is!

JONATHAN BARNET

(SCOFFS)

Bonny? Bonny's dead, and all her foul brood. And good riddance as well.

ELI BARRETT  
 (chilling hatred)  
 No.  
 (pause)  
 No she's not.

## OPENING THEME

INT. TYGER - GREAT CABIN - LATER

The door is thrown open, and Eli is carried in by Mick and Andrew, STILL COUGHING.

SURGEON ARZT  
 Careful, careful! Watch his...

A loud thunk, and ELI CRIES OUT IN PAIN.

SURGEON ARZT (CONT'D)  
 (frustrated with his  
 useless crew)  
 ...Head.

MICK  
 (slurred)  
 Sorry, Captain.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (muttering to himself)  
 Godssake...

SURGEON ARZT  
 (exasperated)  
 Just get him into that chair  
 without further incident, would  
 you?

ANDREW  
 (trying to cover for mick)  
 Yes, Doctor.

Mick and Andrew ease the COUGHING, GROANING ELI into a wooden chair, then step away.

SURGEON ARZT  
 Captain, may I trouble you for a  
 glass of brandy?

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (old argument)  
 Doctor, what have I told you about  
 your drinking while you...

SURGEON ARZT  
 (annoyed and insulted)  
 Not for me, for him!

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (embarrassed, but trying to  
 save face)  
 Oh. Right.

Captain Barnet uncorks a brandy bottle and pours.

SURGEON ARZT  
 Here we are, my good man -- get  
 that in you, quick as you like.

ELI COUGHS ONCE MORE, then takes the offered glass and downs  
 it. HE CHOKES as it goes down.

SURGEON ARZT (CONT'D)  
 Ah, there we are. You'll be all  
 right in just a minute.

ELI BARRETT  
 (irritable)  
 I doubt that.

SURGEON ARZT  
 You'll find there's little that  
 ails mortal man that isn't remedied  
 by a good swig of brandy.

ELI BARRETT  
 (sarcastic)  
 Well. Here's to English medicine,  
 then.

SURGEON ARZT  
 Here here!

Arzt fills a glass and clinks it with his.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (warning him not to drink)  
*Doctor...*

MICK  
 (muttering under breath)  
 Limey gits.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 ("care to repeat that?")  
 What was that, Landsman MacKay?

MICK  
 (growling angrily)  
 I said...

ANDREW  
 (nervously)  
 Uh, he just said: "let's git  
 going," is all, sir.

MICK  
 (confused)  
 Nae I din'n...

ANDREW  
 (shut up before you get us  
 in trouble)  
 Yes, you did.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (letting it go)  
 That isn't what I heard. But you'd  
 best get back to your duties, in  
 any case. Dismissed.

ANDREW  
 Thank'ee, sir.

Andrew and Mick retreat out of the cabin. As they go...

MICK  
 (whispered)  
 Ye know that's nae what I said...

ANDREW  
 (angry whisper)  
 Well I'd prefer not to get the lash  
*again* for what your drunken Scots  
 tongue decided to...

They shut the door behind them. BARNET SIGHS LOUDLY.

ELI BARRETT  
 (KNOWING CHUCKLE)  
 Just can't get dependable deckhands  
 these days, can you?

JONATHAN BARNET  
 Not for the life of me or them. And  
 not for lack of trying.  
 (pause)  
 I thought you had the look of  
 command about you. Royal Navy?

ELI BARRETT  
Privateer. Pirate hunter, same as  
you.

JONATHAN BARNET  
(surprised)  
How did you know that?

ELI BARRETT  
(amused)  
The *Tyger*? I don't think there's  
anyone in the Caribbean who doesn't  
know that name by now -- or the  
name of her captain.

JONATHAN BARNET  
(uneasy)  
Trust me, I'm hardly looking for  
infamy. I just do my job as best I  
can...

ELI BARRETT  
Capturing Calico Jack, Mary Read,  
and Anne Bonny in one fell swoop?  
I'd say that's more that your duty,  
captain.

JONATHAN BARNET  
I'm afraid you have me at a  
disadvantage then, sir. I don't  
know *your* name, for one thing.

ELI BARRETT  
Barrett. Captain Eli Barrett of the  
*Courser*.

JONATHAN BARNET  
(finally relaxing)  
Ah, now that is a fine little  
cutter. I've seen in at Kingstown  
port more than once. Beautiful  
lines.

ELI BARRETT  
(bitterly)  
Was.

JONATHAN BARNET  
Beg your pardon?

ELI BARRETT  
She *was* a fine little cutter. Now  
she's a fine little wreck, courtesy  
of our mutual friend, Anne Bonny.

There's a moment of uneasy silence.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 Doctor, I think your patient will  
 be fine without you from here on.

SURGEON ARZT  
 (taking the hint)  
 Oh. Quite right, Captain. Call me  
 immediately if his condition  
 worsens.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 ("get out of here")  
 That I shall.

The doctor retreats from the cabin, closing the door behind  
 you. After a moment, BARNET EXHALES SLOWLY.

JONATHAN BARNET (CONT'D)  
 (uncertain)  
 Captain Barrett, I'm not sure how  
 to tell you this, but you seem to  
 be labouring under some... false  
 perception. Anne Bonny the pirate  
 is dead.

ELI BARRETT  
 (annoyed)  
 And I must emphatically repeat that  
*she is not.*

There's a long pause between them.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (authoritative)  
 I suggest you explain your meaning,  
 Captain Barrett.

ELI BARRETT  
 (hesitant)  
 It's something of a long story.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 Then I suspect it will be something  
 of a long night. For both of us.

Barnet picks up the glass of brandy the doctor set down.

ELI BARRETT  
 (amused)  
 What was that you told the doctor  
 about drinking on duty?

JONATHAN BARNET  
 Privilege of command and necessity  
 of duty, Captain.  
 (beat)  
 Begin.

ELI BARRETT  
 (EXHALES)  
 Very well. It was the evening of  
 June the 12th, 1721. The *Courser*  
 had been hired to undertake a  
 pursuit of the pirate Anne Bonny  
 and her crew. I'm sure you're  
 familiar with what happened at her  
 trial?

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (confirming for Eli's  
 sake)  
 Of course. She and Mary Read  
 pleaded their bellies to delay  
 their sentence until they were  
 delivered.

ELI BARRETT  
 (nodding)  
 So it was, and so she did; a scant  
 few days earlier. It was a hard  
 birth, and in the chaos three  
 members of Rackham's crew who'd  
 also escaped the noose were able to  
 sneak her out of the prison. They  
 reached the docks in the dead of  
 night and seized a sloop-of-war  
 called the *Morgan*, belonging to  
 Governor Lawes personal contingent,  
 and sailed into a heavy squall off  
 the coast of Kingstown. Not wanting  
 the humiliation of allowing Bonny  
 to escape, Governor Lawes  
 commissioned the *Cutter* to hunt the  
*Morgan* and recapture Bonny.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (confused)  
 But governor Lawes...

ELI BARRETT  
 (cutting him off sharply)  
 Please. This story will seem  
 strange, but I ask only that you  
 listen and accept it as I tell it.  
 Can you do as much?

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (reluctantly)  
 As you wish.

ELI BARRETT  
 (resuming his story)  
 We pursued Bonny along the course she was last seen: south by east out of Jamaica towards Trinidad. We were not ten days at sea when a storm blew up, faster and fiercer than any I'd seen in all my years. The waves broke over the side of the ship, and we were only hoping to stay afloat when my first mate cried out...

FIRST MATE  
 (fearful)  
 CAPTAIN!

EXT. COURSER - CUTTER VESSEL: 14 GUNS, 70 TONNES -  
 QUARTERDECK - NIGHT

The scene shifts -- a chaotic storm, with creaking ropes and sails, lashing waves, and gusting, snapping wind.

FIRST MATE  
 (repeating himself)  
 Captain!

ELI BARRETT  
 (straining at the wheel)  
 What is it?

FIRST MATE  
*Sail!* Sail off the larboard bow!

ELI BARRETT  
 What?

FIRST MATE  
 Sloop-of-war, flying no colors...  
 It's the *Morgan!*

Before Barrett can reply, there's a rumble of cannons loud enough to be heard over the storm.

ELI BARRETT  
 (shouting to crew)  
*Down!*

Round shot whizzes through the air, splintering wood. One shot hits a sailer in the rigging above, sending him flying with a SCREAM.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
(happy to have caught his  
prey)

There you are, Bonny... Master Sanderson, beat to quarters, run out the long irons and man the swivels in the fighting top!

FIRST MATE  
Sir!?

ELI BARRETT  
That's an order, Master Sanderson!

FIRST MATE  
But the storm is...

ELI BARRETT  
What, afraid of a little rain, man?

ELI LAUGHS HEARTILY... OR MADLY. The first mate hesitates, then...

FIRST MATE  
(retreating down the deck)  
Master Quick! Beat to quarters!  
Look lively men!

ELI BARRETT  
(pleased, to himself)  
You're not getting away this time,  
Bonny...

Cannons rolls up on the deck and are loaded and damped in a minute.

GUNNER  
Larboard Battery ready, sir!

FIRST MATE  
Ready to fire sir!

ELI BARRETT  
Hold fast! Hold fast, lads! Just a  
little closer...

The rigging creaks under the strain, and the storm seems to grow more intense about them.

FIRST MATE  
 (worried)  
 Captain...

ELI BARRETT  
 (mostly to himself)  
 Just a little closer, my Bonny lass  
 -- Just a little...

The *Morgan's* cannons rumble again.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
 FIRE!

The much closer report of the *Courser's* cannons. An instant later, the deck explodes into chaos -- men screaming, wood shattering, and the rattling whirl of chain shot. Then...

KA-BOOM. A little ways off, the *Morgan* explodes.

FIRST MATE  
 (breathlessly relieved)  
 We hit her powder-magazine sir!  
 She's disabled!

Men GROAN on the deck, and ONE OR TWO CRY OUT. Eli ignores them.

ELI BARRETT  
 (enjoying himself)  
 Gunnery crews, reload and prepare  
 to...

CRACK. A bone chilling sound of wood splintering and breaking.

FIRST MATE  
 Captain, they hit the Foremast!  
 It's...

Before he can answer, it falls like the massive tree, groaning and splintering before...

CRASH! The impact shakes and cracks the hull, and one or two SCREAMS are cut short.

Eli leaps aside, GRUNTING as he lands on the deck.

ELI BARRETT  
 Master Sanderson! Get the men below  
 to patch those holes right away!

There's no reply. Eli GROANS as he gets to his feet.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
 (GROANING)  
 Fist Mate Sanderson, when I speak I  
 expect you to...

Eli cuts off short. He's seen Mister Sanderson... or at least what's left of him.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
 (sickened)  
 Oh god.

Across the water, there's a report of cannons.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
 (confused, then panicked)  
 Wha... BRACE! BRACE!

It's too late. The deck beneath Eli explodes, throwing him into the air.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
 (screaming)  
 AHHH!

Barrett splashes down into the heaving sea. The sounds of chaos disappear beneath the waves -- then reappear, farther away, as Eli surfaces, SPUTTERING AND CHOKING. He treads water for a moment, then GASPS as he sinks beneath another wave.

He resurfaces again, GASPING FOR AIR. SCREAMS rise from his shipmates, and something is burning.

Barrett tries to swim back, but only makes it a few feet before another volley of cannon fire strikes the ship. Something flies through the air and strikes Barrett in the head. HE GRUNTS and slips beneath the waves again. In a moment, all sound vanishes.

EXT. DESERTED ISLAND - DAY - MUCH LATER

Muffled and soft rises the sound of waves crashing on a beach. Close and loud, BARRETT GROANS as he wakes. He sits up, and blood rushes from his head, making his ears ring.

ELI BARRETT  
 (pained swearing)  
 Ohhh... god above...

The ringing slowly fades, replaced by waves, wind, and circling gulls. GROANING, Barrett stands.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
 (grumbling)  
 Where in god's name am I?

ANNE BONNY  
 (confused and disoriented)  
 Who the hell are you?

A sword is drawn, ringing out in the air.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)  
 Answer me, or I'll find out by the  
 color of your guts once I've  
 spilled them on the sand.

Eli scrambles as he turns, drawing his sword... then, seeing  
 who it is, LAUGHS.

ELI BARRETT  
 ("this might as well  
 happen")  
 Anne Bonny, as I live and breathe.

ANNE BONNY  
 (angrily)  
 You may not for much longer, if  
 you're the one who sunk my ship.

ELI BARRETT  
 (bitterly)  
 Aye. But since you sunk mine, I'd  
 say all's fair.

ANNE SNARLS, and swings her sword. Eli dances away, CRYING  
 OUT AS HE DODGES.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
 Hold, Hold! Let me speak...

ANNE MAKES A NOISE as she stabs. ELI GRUNTS as he blocks each  
 blow. Their swords clatter as they lock hilts.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
 I don't wish to harm you.

ANNE BONNY  
 (LAUGHING DARKLY)  
 Then you're a bigger fool than I  
 already thought!

ANNE SCREAMS WILDLY as their swords break apart. A quick  
 flurry of blows as ELI AND ANNE GRUNT AND PANT. At last, ELI  
 MAKES A CRY and swings his sword, knocking Anne's cutlass out  
 of her hand. It flies a few feet and lands in the sand.

ELI BARRETT  
(PANTING)  
You're disarmed, Bonny. You're  
beaten. Surrender.

Instead, Anne grabs for her pistol, cocking it before...

ANNE BONNY  
(in pain)  
AHH!

Eli slices the back of her hand with his blade, and she drops  
the pistol. Eli kicks it away.

ELI BARRETT  
No more of that, my Bonny lass.

Eli steps forward.

ANNE BONNY  
Hey! Let me go, you bloody leacher!  
I'll not be...

Eli pulls a knife out of her belt and steps back.

ELI BARRETT  
(sarcastic)  
Is this your knife?

ANNE BONNY  
(muttering)  
Bollocks.

ELI BARRETT  
Hoping to stab me in the back with  
this later, eh?

ANNE BONNY  
(angrily muttering)  
The thought had crossed my mind,  
aye.

Eli picks up her pistol and trains it on her.

ELI BARRETT  
(order)  
Go get your sword.

ANNE BONNY  
(hopeful)  
What?

ELI BARRETT  
 (shutting her down  
 mercilessly)  
 Get your sword and bring it here.  
*Hilt* first.

ANNE MAKES A NOISE IN HER THROAT, then marches over to her cutlass and picks it up. Eli adjusts the pistol and grabs her sword, slipping it into his belt. He looks around.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
 You don't have any idea what god-forsaken rock you've stranded us on, do you?

ANNE BONNY  
 Oh, forgive me if I couldn't shipwreck myself anywhere nicer. And no, I don't.

ELI BARRETT  
 (ignoring the comment)  
 Did anyone else make it ashore?

ANNE BONNY  
 No. Well -- no one living, that is.

ELI BARRETT  
 What do you mean?

ANNE BONNY  
 (SCOFFS)  
 Look to the waves, captain.

Eli turns and GASPS.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 What did you see?

INT. TYGER - GRAND CABIN - PRESENT

The scene shifts, and the sounds of waves disappear.

ELI BARRETT  
 A dozen sailors. My crew. Hers. Floating dead just off the shoreline. And the *Courser*, like a rotting corpse with ribs exposed, aground on a shoal a little ways off.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (horrified)  
 God preserve us.

ELI BARRETT  
 (SCOFFS)  
 Trust me, Barnet -- God had little  
 to do with what happened there.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (trying to change the  
 subject)  
 Where were you?

ELI BARRETT  
 (spitballing)  
 An island off the coast of New  
 Granada, I believe. It was the  
 nearest land to where the storm  
 blew up, at any rate.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (genuinely concerned)  
 Were there any other survivors?

ELI BARRETT  
 None but myself and Bonny. We  
 searched through the remaining  
 daylight for food and water,  
 finding nothing but coconuts for  
 both. I gathered what we could  
 carry and then made camp in a  
 little clearing in the trees near  
 the shoreline. Bonny, of course,  
 was none too pleased with the  
 accommodations.

ANNE BONNY  
 (from another time and  
 place)  
 Are the ropes really necessary?

EXT. DESERTED ISLAND - NIGHT - LATER

A small driftwood fire is burning, and the tide is rolling  
 in.

ANNE BONNY  
 (trying to sound harmless)  
 Trust me, I won't...

ANNE GRUNTS as Eli tightens the rope.

ELI BARRETT

I do trust you. I trust you'll wait until I'm asleep to cut my out my heart and feed it to the crabs, and that's about all the trust you deserve.

ANNE BONNY

What if I gave you my word as a pirate?

ELI SCOFFS, then turns back to the fire, stirring the coals.

ELI BARRETT

(muttering to himself)  
Bloody pirates.

ANNE BONNY

(recognition dawning)  
Wait a moment... Don't I know you from somewhere?

ELI BARRETT

(warning)  
If you do, best keep it to yourself.

ANNE BONNY

(on the tip of her tongue)  
God's nose, I know I've seen you by another fire, muttering to yourself...  
(beat)  
Done much pirating in your time?

ELI BARRETT

(muttering)  
None that I'm proud of.

ANNE BONNY

(stunned)  
God... Eli Barrett!?

ELI GRUMBLES and turns away.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)

(genuinely happy to see him)  
Eli Barrett it is! It has to be!

ELI BARRETT

(angrily)  
Think it, if you must.  
(MORE)

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)

And it's captain Barrett to you, in any case.

ANNE BONNY

(still happy to see him)  
I thought you were still on Nassau when Rogers landed.

ELI BARRETT

(smug)  
Indeed I was. Best turn I could have hoped for.

ANNE BONNY

(confused)  
You were? And now you're...  
(beat)  
Ah. So it's true, then. You and Hornigold took pardons and turned hunter.

ELI BARRETT

(self-satisfied)  
Some of us were smart enough to take what the crown offered rather than stealing it. Learned that from your late husband.

ANNE BONNY

(angry)  
Rackham was my husband, fool.

ELI BARRETT

(SCOFFS)  
Right. And I'm sure a marriage by the pirate Calico Jack will hold up under common law about as well as the Pirate Republic did under British cannons.

There's a moment of silence -- then ANNE CRIES OUT IN PAIN.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)

(concerned)  
What is it?

ANNE BONNY

Something bit me!

Eli jumps up and rushes over.

ELI BARRETT

What! Where? I don't see anything?

ANNE BONNY  
It's right...

ANNE SPITS IN HIS FACE. ELI CRIES OUT IN SURPRISE.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)  
Bloody-minded traitor!

Eli rears back and slaps Bonny across the face. ANNE LAUGHS AT HIM.

ELI BARRETT  
(barely contained rage)  
Keep a civil tongue, or I'll be forced to gag you.

ANNE BONNY  
(STILL LAUGHING)  
Oh, I bet you will. You'll find me a bit harder to silence than your own bloody conscience.

ELI BARRETT  
(SCOFFS)  
I won't be scolded on matters of conscious by a murderous, thieving adulteress.

ANNE BONNY  
(SCOFFS)  
At least I never pretended to be anything I wasn't, Barrett. Can you say the same?

Before Barrett can reply, a twig breaks a little ways off in the forest. Both pirate and captive fall silent.

ELI BARRETT  
(nervous whisper)  
Did you hear that?

ANNE BONNY  
(whispers back)  
I'm afraid I did.

Another twig breaks, and a low, padded footsteps are heard. Then -- A LOW GROWL.

ELI BARRETT  
(terrified whisper)  
Mother of god...

A TIGER SNARLS. Eli slowly draws Anne's pistol from his belt, cocking it.

ANNE BONNY  
 (urgent)  
 Cut me loose.

ELI BARRETT  
 (SCOFFS)  
 Not a chance in hell.

ANNE BONNY  
 You'll have better luck with two  
 than one against that thing.

ELI BARRETT  
 (resolute)  
 I'll leave you to the beast before  
 I see you free again.

ANNE BONNY  
 (muttering)  
 Bloody fool.

Eli raises his pistol. THE TIGER GROWLS when they see the gun, padding closer. Eli aims, tenses, and...

CLICK. The hammer falls on wet powder.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)  
 (amused)  
 Huh. Wet powder. Shame.

THE TIGER ROARS. Eli drops the pistol and goes for his sword, but the tiger leaps before he can draw it. ELI SCREAMS as the 300 pound cat slams into him like a cannonball.

ELI BARRETT  
 (desperate)  
 Bonny! For godssake Bonny, help me!

No answer. The tiger slashes at him, ripping his shirt sleeves. ELI CRIES OUT IN PAIN. Suddenly...

A sword stabs into the tiger's side. THE TIGER ROARS IN PAIN, turning from Eli.

ANNE BONNY  
 Oi! Beasty! How'd you like the  
 taste of pirate steel, eh?

THE TIGER SNARLS and swipes at Anne, allowing Eli to draw his sword and stab the beast through the heart. IT ROARS IN RAGE AND PAIN, then collapses.

ELI BARRETT  
 No better than English steel, it  
 seems...

Suddenly, Anne's sword flashes up, stopping Eli short.

ANNE BONNY  
 (PANTING)  
 I wonder how it tastes to you?

ELI BARRETT  
 (angrily)  
 Put that fool thing down, Bonny,  
 before I...

ANNE BONNY  
 (LAUGHING)  
 Before you what, eh? Your sword's  
 stuck fast in the old cat carcass.

ELI BARRETT  
 Quit acting the fool Bonny. When  
 we're rescued...

ANNE BONNY  
 (incredulous LAUGHTER)  
 When we're rescued? Who's looking  
 for us? Your friends? Mine? Last I  
 checked, neither of us have  
 overmany left in this living world.

ELI BARRETT  
 (beginning to be nervous)  
 Bonny, I'm warning you...

Eli is cut off by her sword pressing into his neck.

ANNE BONNY  
 (darkly)  
 I find it's best not to make idle  
 threats with a sword to my throat.  
 It's just you and me on this  
 island, *Captain* Barrett. I suggest  
 you do as I say if you wish your  
 worthless life to continue.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (from elsewhere)  
 She took you prisoner?

INT. TYGER - GRAND CABIN - PRESENT

The scene shifts again. By now a small fire is burning in the grate, and Barnet is pouring another glass of Brandy.

ELI BARRETT

(bitterly)

Only by luck... and a good measure of treachery. I suspect she wished me dead, but needed me for a bargaining chip if a ship of the line ever did happen upon that accursed isle.

JONATHAN BARNET

(putting pieces together)

Much the same reason you wanted to keep her alive, I suppose.

ELI BARRETT

(confused)

Beg pardon?

JONATHAN BARNET

Lawes' commission was to return Bonny to Kingstown alive. You could hardly return with a corpse and expect him to grant you a new ship, could you?

ELI BARRETT

(taken aback)

Well... No. I suppose I couldn't.

(beat, gets his bearings)

Days passed beneath the merciless sun, each worse than the last. We ate off the tiger for as long as we could, with its brothers always watched from the woods. Eventually, we all but exhausted the supply of coconuts near the beach, and desperate thirst forced us to move inland in search of a spring. I was only ever untied when it came time to move camp.

ANNE BONNY

(annoyed)

For godssake Barrett, stop complaining.

EXT. DESERTED ISLAND - DAY

Eli and Bonny are tromping through thick underbrush, parting it with occasional cutlass swings.

ANNE BONNY

You'd think I left you tied up day and night for a fortnight, the way you hobble.

ELI BARRETT

(irritable and dehydrated)  
You did tie me up.

ANNE BONNY

(tired of this argument --  
and just plain tired)  
Only on the watches when I did sleep. And I didn't take nearly enough of those.

ELI GRUMBLES SOMETHING UNINTELLIGIBLE. Anne doesn't rise to it.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)

See that ridge up ahead? The one circling the peak?

ELI BARRETT

(grumbling)  
Aye, I see it.

ANNE BONNY

There's a crack in the rock a little ways up. May be a cave we can shelter in for the night.

ELI BARRETT

(angrily)  
Or it might be a goodly height from which to fall and break our necks.

ANNE BONNY

(sarcastic)  
You have a better notion, *Captain*?

ELI BARRETT

Aye. Turn back and wait at the shore for rescue.

ANNE BONNY

(at the end of her  
patience)  
We need water, Barrett.  
(MORE)

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)

And how many times need I tell you  
that there is no one coming to save  
us?

ELI BARRETT

Always ever once more...

ANNE BONNY

(staccato)

No. One. Is. Coming.

ELI BARRETT

I don't believe you. As ever.

ANNE BONNY

(muttering)

Stubborn English fool.

ELI BARRETT

(muttering back)

Lying Irish whore.

Anne turns around and smacks him with the flat of her sword.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)

Ow! What was that?

ANNE BONNY

(sharp as a knife)

The flat of my cutlass, Barrett.  
Unless you wish to feel the sharp  
of it, I suggest you keep quiet.

ELI BARRETT

(angrily)

How about you give me back my  
sword, and we see who feels the  
sharp first, eh?

Anne thinks for a moment -- then draws the other sword on her  
belt and throws it to Barrett.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)

(not expecting this)

What? I was just...

Before he can finish, ANNE SCREAMS and swings at him. ELI  
YELPS and barely gets his sword up in time. ANNE GRUNTS as  
she swings once, twice, three times, with Eli backpedaling.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)

(with each swing)

Bonny! Wait -- wait!

She twist the third strike and slices his hand. ELI CRIES OUT IN PAIN and drops his sword. Anne kicks it away.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
Okay, okay, I get it, you...

ANNE SNARLS and grabs him, putting her sword along his neck. ELI GASPS AND CHOKES.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
(desperate)  
Bonny, please...

ANNE BONNY  
(barely contained rage)  
Give me one reason I shouldn't spill your worthless blood for everyone in Nassau who died because of your treachery. Give me -- *one*.

ELI BARRETT  
Your mercy Bonny... *mercy*...

ANNE BONNY  
You must've known a different Anne Bonny.

Anne tightens her grip, and the sword draws a little blood. ELI STIFLES A CRY.

ELI BARRETT  
(BARELY BREATHING)  
Anne...

Just then, a LOW GROWL emanates from the surrounding trees. ANNE GASPS and turns, letting go of Eli. He drops to the ground, COUGHING.

ANNE BONNY  
(all business)  
Get your sword, Barrett.

ELI BARRETT  
(THROUGH GASPS)  
What?

ANNE BONNY  
Your sword. Now.

THE TIGER GROWLS -- and then ANOTHER JOINS IT. ELI GASPS.

ELI BARRETT  
(terrified)  
Oh shit.

Eli picks up his sword, standing back to back with Anne. YET ANOTHER TIGER GIVES A LOW ROAR.

ANNE BONNY  
When I say run, make for the ridge.  
We may be able fight them off if we  
reach that cave.

ELI BARRETT  
May?

ANNE BONNY  
Just... *RUN!*

Anne runs through the woods, followed by a slightly slower Eli. The TIGERS ROAR and give chase.

Anne and Eli crash through branches and vines, finally breaking through onto the stone side of the mountain.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)  
There's the cave! Hurry!

A few feet behind them, one of the tigers burst through the underbrush, SNARLING. ELI CRIES OUT IN ALARM, and runs faster.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)  
In here, in here!

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The pair tumble into a dripping, echoing tunnel

ELI BARRETT  
Now what? They're right...

Eli trails off, looking around.

ANNE BONNY  
What is it?

ELI BARRETT  
This isn't a cave -- it's a mine.

ANNE BONNY  
What?

ELI BARRETT  
There's a brace here!

Eli kicks against a heavy wooden post.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
Someone carved these tunnels!

Outside the entrance, the tigers roar as they chase them up the incline.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
(hurried)  
Help me knock it down!

ANNE BONNY  
(panicky)  
Are you mad, man? We'll be trapped in here!

ELI BARRETT  
Better than being eaten alive by *them!*

Eli kicks at the beam again. It's old and splinters easily. The wood groans under the weight of the rock.

ANNE BONNY  
Eli, wait!

Eli kicks again, and the post breaks. A roar of falling rocks fills the cavern just as the tigers reach the entrance.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)  
Get away from the...

ELI YELPS as he jumps back from the landslide. The sounds of the tigers fade as the cave entrance fills up. After a long moment, the tunnel is silent.

ELI BARRETT  
(COUGHING)  
Bonny? Bonny, are you still there?

ANNE BONNY  
Where are you?

ELI BARRETT  
I don't know, I can't...

Suddenly they bump into one another, and GRUNT as they fall over.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
(finishing his thought)  
...See you.

ANNE BONNY  
 Count yourself lucky I can't,  
 Barrett. Otherwise I'd run you  
 through right now.

ELI BARRETT  
 (confused)  
 What for? I saved us.

ANNE BONNY  
 You buried us alive with no food or  
 water to speak of. I'd hardly call  
 that *saving*.

ELI BARRETT  
 (grumbling)  
 "Thank you" would be the proper  
 response. Ungrateful pirate...

ANNE BONNY  
 (angry sarcasm)  
 Oh aye, *thank you* for sealing us  
 into a cold, dark grave to  
 suffocate on one another's stench.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (from somewhere else)  
 That's enough, Barrett, I take your  
 meaning.

INT. TYGER - GRAND CABIN - PRESENT

The scene shifts. In the background, someone rings the ships  
 bell: first twice, then twice again, then once.

ELI BARRETT  
 (reluctant)  
 Oh. Yes, I suppose you do.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 How long were you trapped in that  
 tunnel?

ELI BARRETT  
 Impossible to say in the dark.  
 Could've been an hour. Could've  
 been half the day.

JONATHAN BARNET  
 Damned foolish thing for her to do.

ELI BARRETT  
 (a little embarrassed)  
 Umm... Yes. I suppose it was.  
 (beat)  
 After a long time in silence, I  
 started to notice something odd...

ANNE BONNY  
 (from elsewhere)  
 Do you feel that?

INT. CAVE - DAY

Back to the dripping, cold, and echoing environment.

ELI BARRETT  
 (even more hungry and  
 irritable)  
 Feel what?

ANNE BONNY  
 I think I just felt a draft.

ELI BARRETT  
 (SCOFFS)  
 Typical of women to fret about the  
 cold. I think we've bigger  
 concerns.

ANNE BONNY  
 (done with him)  
 Trust me Barrett: if I was worried  
 about that, I'd cut you down the  
 middle and wear your skin for an  
 overcoat... Though something tells  
 me your cold heart would make you  
 useless, even for that.

ELI BARRETT  
 (annoyed)  
 Droll as ever, Bonny.

ANNE BONNY  
 (teacher voice)  
 I repeat, as before: there is a  
 draft in this cave.

ELI BARRETT  
 And what does that mean?

ANNE BONNY  
 (frustrated)  
 It means that air is coming *from*  
 somewhere and going *to* somewhere.  
 Or, to put it plainly...

ELI BARRETT  
 (finally getting it)  
 There's another way out.

Anne draws her sword.

ANNE BONNY  
 Follow close behind me.

Anne begins tapping her sword on the cave floor like a cane.  
 With slow, careful footsteps, Eli follows the sound.

Water drips from the walls. The draft can now be heard -- a  
 gentle wind blowing. Eli's heart hammers in his ears, and he  
 BEGINS TO BREATHE LOUDLY.

Anne's sword stops after a few moments.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)  
 Would you care not to breathe quite  
 so loud, Barrett?

ELI BARRETT  
 What, am I breathing wrong now?

Anne doesn't answer, but STARTS PANTING, imitating Barrett.

ANNE BONNY  
 That's what you sound like.

Anne starts down the passage again, tapping her sword.

ELI BARRETT  
 (muttering to himself)  
 Bloody Irishwoman...

ANNE BONNY  
 (calling back without  
 stopping)  
 I can still hear you.

ELI BARRETT  
 (even quieter)  
 Bloody...

ANNE BONNY  
 Still hear you.

ELI GRUMBLES, but doesn't say anything else.

The pair stumbles along some distance, until...

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)

What's that?

They both stop, and the sound of roaring waterfalls can be heard a little ways away.

ELI BARRETT

Sounds like a waterfall up ahead.

ANNE BONNY

I... I think I can see a light

ELI BARRETT

(excited)

I see it too -- Come on!

Eli rushes forward, past Anne.

ANNE BONNY

Barrett, wait!

ELI BARRETT

What...?

Before she can answer, ELI CRIES OUT as he slips over the edge of a precipice. Small rocks dislodge from the edge as he scrambles for a hold.

ANNE BONNY

(genuinely concerned)

Barrett!! Hold on, hold on, I've got you...!

Anne drops her sword and rushes forward, GRUNTING as she grabs his hand and pulls. ELI STRUGGLES AND GASPS as he climbs, then EXHALES, LAUGHING.

ELI BARRETT

(THROUGH LAUGHS)

Thank'ee kindly, Anne.

ANNE BONNY

(almost embarrassed)

Don't mention it.

ELI BARRETT

That would've been quite a fall, if not for...

ANNE BONNY

No really -- never mention it.

Before Eli can argue, Anne stands up and begins on again, tapping her sword.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)

There's a path around this crevice... that light's on the far side. This way.

ELI SIGHS, then stands up and begins to follow Anne.

After a few moments of scraping and climbing, the sound of the waterfall is louder.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)

(apropos of nothing)

Where do you think we are?

ELI BARRETT

(surprised)

What? Eh, I don't know -- on the other side of the island?

ANNE BONNY

(skeptical)

You think we've gone all the way through the mountain by now?

ELI BARRETT

(defensive)

It's possible! Damned tricky telling how long we've been under for.

ANNE BONNY

(SCOFFS)

Yes, it is at that.

Before Eli can ask for clarification, the sound of the waterfalls becomes thunderous as they exit the cave.

ANNE AND ELI GASP OUT LOUD at the sight.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)

(stunned)

Mary, mother of God...

ELI BARRETT

Is... is that...

JONATHAN BARNET  
(from another place,  
CHUCKLING SKEPTICALLY)  
El Dorado?

INT. TYGER - GRAND CABIN - PRESENT

The scene shifts. Someone outside is striking the bell again -  
- three pairs of two strikes this time.

JONATHAN BARNET  
(CHUCKLING)  
Really captain... you expect me to  
believe you found the legendary  
city of gold on this barren island  
of yours?

ELI BARRETT  
(serious)  
I told you the tale would sound  
strange to your ears. And you  
agreed only to listen, not to  
question.

JONATHAN BARNET  
(reluctant)  
Aye. So I did.

ELI BARRETT  
(SIGHS)  
I can only tell you what my own  
disbelieving eyes saw: an ancient,  
crumbling city, either made or  
gilded with solid, untarnished  
gold. It was hidden on three side  
by a steep and narrow canyon, and  
on the other by a thick canopy of  
trees growing above the river that  
passed out of a shallow bay. There  
was a heathen temple at the far end  
of the main road, which was paved  
with white marble and choked with  
living green moss. At the far end  
of the road, at the mouth of the  
river, was a large shipyard full of  
strange, alien watercraft of  
elegant and unknown design. It was  
here that out steps led us almost  
immediately.

ANNE BONNY  
 (from another time,  
 annoyed)  
 Hurry up Barrett!

EXT. CITY OF GOLD - DOCKS - LATE EVENING

ANNE BONNY  
 (urgently)  
 The light is failing!

ELI BARRETT  
 (greedy wonder)  
 Would you just look at this place?  
 Even a common piece of masonry  
 would fetch a king's ransom in  
 London...

ANNE BONNY  
 You can be as rich as you like,  
 after we've checked these boats are  
 seaworthy!

ELI BARRETT  
 (growing annoyed)  
 Don't you see what this place  
 means, Bonny?

ANNE BONNY  
 It won't mean anything if we can't  
 escape it. What's a fortune worth  
 with nowhere to spend it, eh?

ELI BARRETT  
 (realizing)  
 Oh. Right.

Eli rushes over to the shipyard.

ANNE BONNY  
 Damned odd ships... where are the  
 sails?

ELI BARRETT  
 Can't see any... but the hull looks  
 sturdy, if oddly formed.

ANNE BONNY  
 Think we can attach a mainsail to  
 that... whatever that thing is on  
 the foredeck?

ELI BARRETT  
 Looks like a chimney.  
 (beat)  
 I don't see why not, so long as we  
 can find the canvas for it.

ANNE BONNY  
 (almost playful in her  
 excitement)  
 You figure the people who lived  
 here used bedsheet?

ELI BARRETT  
 (excited)  
 Only one way to find out.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
 (narrating from another  
 place)  
 We split up and searched the city,  
 steeple to cellar. As it turned  
 out, its long dead residents did  
 use bedsheets, which we found by  
 the dozen in their rotting homes.  
 We also found strong leather string  
 and needles forged of gold, along  
 with strangely carved torches and  
 candles which, with a little  
 difficulty, we managed to light.

The sound of a fire starting.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
 In our excitement, neither of us  
 noted the passage of time. We  
 worked through the night, and, once  
 we'd stitched and hoisted the sail  
 onto the strange ship's semi-mast,  
 we looked up to see the moon, by  
 then full, high in the night sky.

ANNE BONNY  
 (worn out)  
 God's guts, it must be nearly  
 midnight.

EXT. CITY OF GOLD - DOCKS - NIGHT

Eli stands, stretches, and YAWNS LOUDLY.

ELI BARRETT  
 (as he YAWNS)  
 So it must be.

ANNE BONNY  
 (reluctant)  
 I suppose it would be rather  
 foolhardy for us to try and sail  
 out tonight, wouldn't it?

ELI BARRETT  
 (caught off guard)  
 Us?

ANNE BONNY  
 (slightly suspicious)  
 Aye. You and I.

ELI BARRETT  
 Oh.

ANNE BONNY  
 (annoyed)  
 What, did you think you were just  
 leave me here to rot, Barrett?

ELI BARRETT  
 (backtracking)  
 No, I just...

ANNE BONNY  
 (threatening)  
 Need I remind you who just saved  
 your worthless hide in that cave?

ELI BARRETT  
 (tired rage)  
 Well if you regret it so much, then  
 why on God's earth did you do it?  
 Or save me from the tiger, for that  
 matter?

Anne falls silent at that. After a moment...

ANNE BONNY  
 (defenses finally lower)  
 I guess... When it comes right down  
 to it... I don't like seeing people  
 die who aren't trying to kill me.  
 Good or ill.

There's a moment of silence between them. Then...

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)  
 (REGRETFUL GROAN)  
 Godssake, I'm too tired to be  
 talking like this.

Anne picks up a spare bedsheet and walks down the deck.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)

I'm going to take this sheet and  
find somewhere to rest my bones for  
the night.

ELI BARRETT

(mostly to himself)

Aye. Quite right too.

(beat)

Anne?

ANNE BONNY

Aye?

ELI BARRETT

(smiling)

Thank'ee again. For everything.

JONATHAN BARNET

(mocking)

"Thank you?"

INT. TYGER - GRAND CABIN - PRESENT

The captain uncorks the bottle of Brandy again and begins to  
pour. The ships bell strikes seven -- ding ding, ding ding,  
ding ding, *ding*.

ELI BARRETT

(slightly embarrassed)

It seemed the right thing to say at  
the time. God knows why.

JONATHAN BARNET

You let her charm you, that's why.  
Get inside that head of yours.

ELI BARRETT

(muttering to himself)

Perhaps that's it...

JONATHAN BARNET

So, you parted ways with the lovely  
miss Bonny...

ELI BARRETT

(a little uncomfortable,  
eager to resume)

Aye, that I did. She left the docks  
a while before I did, taking one of  
the torches with her.

(MORE)

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)

I watched it retreat down the lane, illuminating the white marble and golden walls until it vanished into a small house halfway between the temple and the docks. I chose to remain near to the ship, sheltering in a hovel I presumed to be the late harbormaster's.

(pause as he puts together his thoughts)

The night rolled by apace, and yet I could not sleep. Something stirred in my mind and refused to settle... a memory of Anne's late husband, James Bonny.

As he speaks, the scene shifts -- the grand cabin melts away, and we're back in El Dorado.

EXT. CITY OF GOLD - STREET - NIGHT

Soft, stealthy footsteps move down the marble lane.

ELI BARRETT

(narrating from the grand cabin)

He was a pirate and a treacherous rascalion -- not a man I'd trust farther than the nearest bar, for certain. But he taught me much, about both piracy and life. He taught me how pirates think; what moves them and drives them and pushes them into their outlaw lives. He taught me how to turn poor situations to opportunities, in spite any cost. And he taught me one thing above all else when he came into my home on the last night of free Nassau and tried to kill me in my sleep.

A wooden door creaks quietly as someone opens it.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)

Trust no man or woman -- and pirate least of all.

INT. CITY OF GOLD - HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ANNE BREATHES SOFTLY IN HER SLEEP. Eli creeps up, draws a knife, and...

ANNE GASPS as he plunges the knife into her back.

ELI BARRETT  
(comforting)  
Shh, shh... no need to cry out.  
Only make the pain worse, it will.

ANNE BONNY  
(GASPING FOR AIR)  
Barrett? What have you... Why...

ELI BARRETT  
(still comforting)  
The same I did for your late  
husband, and for the same reason: I  
didn't trust him to keep his fool  
mouth shut. After all, a secret  
fortune's only worth something if  
you're the only one who knows where  
to find it.

ANNE BONNY  
(THROUGH GASPS)  
How... Could you...?

ELI BARRETT  
Because, my Bonny lass: When it  
comes down to it, you're a good  
person... and I am not.

ANNE LAUGHS. It's a sharp, sudden sound, almost like an  
exclamation. SHE LAUGHS AGAIN -- a chilling, gurgling sound.  
The third time, HER LAUGH IS CONTINUOUS, almost a witches'  
cackle.

As she laughs, the sound of rushing water is heard, growing  
louder and louder.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
(confused)  
What in God's name is...

Suddenly, the room is full of water. ELI SPUTTERS AND TRIES  
TO TAKE A BREATH, but he's engulfed before he can. Sound  
becomes muffled, but Anne's laugh can still be heard clearly.  
Then...

ELI GASPS as he surfaces, treading water. From a little ways  
off, he can hear waves lapping against the side of a ship,  
and...

ANDREW  
Mother of... MAN OVERBOARD! MAN  
OVERBOARD!!

INT. TYGER - GRAND CABIN - PRESENT

The sound of waves fades away, replaced by a little fire crackling.

ELI BARRETT

(wrapping up)

The rest you know. The moment she stabbed me, I found myself in the water beside your ship. I don't know what that witch Bonny did, but I do know that she is alive and in possession of a man-of-war, along with enough gold to draw a hundred ships to her flag. We must find her before she...

JONATHAN BARNET

(cutting him off)

Captain Barrett. As... fantastical as your story has been... I must repeat the point I made at first. Anne Bonny and all her crew are dead. Regardless of whatever it is you saw and heard.

ELI BARRETT

(GROANS)

That's only the official story, Barnet! I told you, she escaped, stole a ship...

JONATHAN BARNET

...And Governor Lawes wanted to it kept quiet. I know. That's why he hired me to hunt her down.

ELI BARRETT

(taken aback)

He... What?

JONATHAN BARNET

You don't really think you were the only ship dispatched, do you? The *Morgan* was the jewel of Lawes' fleet. He'll be rather disheartened when I tell him what's become of her.

ELI BARRETT

(head spinning)

What... What are you talking about?

JONATHAN BARNET

(EXASPERATED SIGH)

The squall Bonny sailed into was far stronger than she anticipated. The *Morgan* capsized and sank in the storm, with all hands lost.

ELI BARRETT

(trying to make sense of this)

How do you know this?

JONATHAN BARNET

We followed her course out of Jamaica a few days after you did. We found wreckage off the coast of Hispaniola, less than a hundred leagues out to sea. The *Morgan*. No mistaking it.

Eli is silent. Above decks, the ship's bell begins to sound again -- *ding ding, ding ding, ding ding, ding ding*.  
Midnight.

JONATHAN BARNET (CONT'D)

First watch is ending. I'd best get aloft and make sure Mick's not drunk the entire supply of grog.

ELI BARRETT

(nearly catatonic)

Oh. Right.

JONATHAN BARNET

(concerned)

Are you feeling quite well?

ELI BARRETT

(almost whispering)

Nay.

JONATHAN BARNET

(concerned, but can't deal with this right now)

I'll send the surgeon down in a minute to check on you. Have some more brandy.

ELI BARRETT

Aye.

Barnet walks out of the cabin, closing the door behind him.  
ELI EXHALES, his mind racing.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
 (utterly lost)  
 What in the name of God is  
 happening?

ANNE BONNY  
 (grim)  
 Trust me, Barrett -- God has little  
 to do with what's happening here.

ELI BARRETT  
 AHH!

Eli jumps out of his skin, pressing himself against the wall  
 of the cabin.

ANNE BONNY  
 Whatever's the matter, my bonny  
 lad? Weren't expecting to see me  
 again, were you?

ELI BARRETT  
 (breathless terror)  
 You... you can't be here. You can't  
 be here!

ANNE BONNY  
 (unbothered)  
 Normally I'd be obliged to agree --  
 but seeing as I am...

Anne picks up the bottom, uncorks it, and throws it back.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)  
 (GAGGING)  
 Ugh! Really? Brandy? Limey gits...

ELI BARRETT  
 (horrified)  
 What are you?

ANNE BONNY  
 (SHORT CHUCKLE)  
 I thought that was fairly obvious.  
 I'm Anne Bonny.

ELI BARRETT  
 (horrified)  
 Anne Bonny is dead. Drowned off the  
 coast of Hispaniola.

ANNE BONNY

(darkly)

You really think so small a thing  
as death could stop the pirate Anne  
Bonny?

ELI BARRETT

(emphatically)

You are NOT Anne Bonny.

ANNE BONNY

(sarcastic)

Really? I feel as she did: The  
bastard daughter of lawmen and  
serving woman, disowned of her  
father and orphaned of her mother.  
A lover and fighter and warrior in  
a world that told her to cook and  
clean and care for children -- *Pah!*  
A woman who loved the sea, and her  
crew, and her husbands both to the  
measure that they loved her. All  
these memories are mine, Eli  
Barrett -- and *I am she.*

ELI BARRETT

(horrified)

How?

ANNE BONNY

(CHUCKLES)

That I know not.

(beat)

That bastard Barnett is right: I  
went down with the *Morgan* in that  
tempest. I don't know what I  
should've expected: the men I  
escaped with were the same ones too  
drunk to fight when we were taken  
prisoner. We struck a shoal any  
able seaman could avoid, and the  
ship capsized before we could even  
reach the longboat. A piece of  
rigging wrapped around my ankle and  
began to pull me down into the  
depths. I tried to cut it loose,  
but my knife slipped from my hand.  
And then I heard it...

She falls silent a long moment, clearly disturbed by her  
memories.

ELI BARRETT  
 (horrified fascination)  
 Heard what?

ANNE BONNY  
 The voice.

ELI BARRETT  
 (confused)  
 What voice?

ANNE BONNY  
 (a little angry)  
 What makes you think I know that?  
 (beat, BREATHEs OUT)  
 "And the sea gave up the dead which  
 were in it; and death and hell  
 delivered up the dead which were in  
 them."

ELI BARRETT  
 That's... Revelations, isn't it?

ANNE BONNY  
 (disinterested)  
 Is it?  
 (beat)  
 I was dying, that's all I knew. I  
 was good as dead, and there was no  
 salvation waiting for me on the  
 other side. *It* made sure I knew  
 that. The voice I heard.

ELI BARRETT  
 What... What did it say?

ANNE BONNY  
 Not much. That verse. A few other  
 words... and the question. That's  
 all that really matters, I suppose.  
 (BREATHEs, as though  
 drowning again and trying  
 to get air)  
*What would you do to save yourself?*  
 It asked. *Anything*, said I. *What*  
*would you give to save yourself?* It  
 asked. *Anything*, I repeated in my  
 mind. *Who would you give to save*  
*yourself...?*

Anne trails off.

ELI BARRETT  
 (nervous)  
 What... what did you tell it?

ANNE BONNY  
 (menacingly)  
 I told it... *Everyone.*

ANDREW  
 (from above deck)  
*Sail ahoy! Sloop-o-war, flyin' no colors!*

ELI BARRETT  
 (horrified realization)  
 No...

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (above deck)  
*Landsman MacKay, beat to quarters!*

MICK  
 (above deck)  
*Aye, sir!*

ELI BARRETT  
 No!

Eli jumps up and runs out of the cabin, knocking over the bottle of brandy as he runs. It spills onto the floorboards as he runs...

EXT. TYGER - QUARTERDECK - CONTINUOUS

Mick has already begin to beat the drum to the rhythm of *Heart of Oak.*

ELI BARRETT  
 Where's the captain? Where is the captain!?

Mick ignores him, beating the drum.

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
 What, are you drunk? Where is...  
 (notices Barnet)  
 Captain! Captain, turn this ship about, now! Turn about and fly!

JONATHAN BARNET  
 (calling up to the fighting top)  
 Andrew, can you make her yet?

ELI BARRETT  
 Nay sir, I can't see her clear  
 through the fog!

ELI BARRETT (CONT'D)  
 (yelling)  
 It's the *Morgan*! Bloody hell, why  
 isn't anyone listening to me?

ANNE BONNY  
 Don't you get it, Barrett?

Eli turns to face Anne, now standing on the quarterdeck  
 beside him.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)  
 They can't see either of us. Not  
 unless I want them to. You're like  
 me and that ship on the horizon  
 now: a lure.

ELI BARRETT  
 Stop this. Stop this now! None of  
 these men deserve to die.

ANNE BONNY  
 And I did?

ELI BARRETT  
 (hatefully)  
 Absolutely.

ANNE BONNY  
 (CHUCKLES DARKLY)  
 Even when I was lying asleep, no  
 threat to you and willing to help  
 you escape? A good person, as you  
 put it?

Eli has no answer for that. After a moment...

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)  
 (chilling)  
 There is one truth Eli Barrett, and  
 one alone: We all get what's coming  
 to us. It just takes a little  
 longer to catch up with some  
 people.

ELI BARRETT  
 (terrified and remorseful)  
 I don't want to die. I'm not ready.

ANNE BONNY

(amused)

Really? Well, in that case...

Cannons rumble across the water. Anne leans in close.

ANNE BONNY (CONT'D)

*What would you give to save  
yourself?*

ROLL END THEME  
AND CREDITS.